

CENTRE VIEW

NORTHERN EDITION

MAY 5-11, 2011

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

Celebrating Diversity

Dancers perform the Guatemalan Dance of the Sewing Seeds at the International Dance and Music Festival on Saturday, April 30. More photos, page 15.

Community Mourns Nick Franca

Centreville High grad, 21, loses battle with cancer.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

If ever someone wanted to live, it was Nick Franca. And for the past six years, he fought for his life with everything in him. Trouble was, his opponent didn't play fair.

Cancer didn't care that he had a family and friends who loved him, or that he'd met the girl of his dreams. It didn't care that, at just 21, he was still a young man with decades of life ahead of him.

Early Sunday morning – his body worn out from both the disease and all the toxic treatments he'd endured to fight it – Nick died at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. Shortly afterward, his grief-stricken mother, Caryn Franca, shared the news with all those following



Kelly Embley and Nick Franca together in mid-April 2010.

Nick's battle on the CaringBridge Web site.

"At 3:50 a.m. on May 1, 2011, you had enough," she wrote to her youngest child. "Your heart rate dropped, then stopped with no effort, no struggle. Now fly with the angels, dear son; so many others are there to welcome you."

A 2009 Centreville High grad, Nick had an incurable form of can-

cer called neuroblastoma. It usually strikes toddlers, but his wasn't diagnosed until age 15 and a half. The boy who'd never had a serious illness had Stage 4 cancer in his bones, bone marrow and lymph nodes.

"So Nick and I lived in a Ronald McDonald House in New York from August 2005 to May 2006 so

SEE FAMILY, PAGE 13

'His Passion To Live Was Contagious'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Nick Franca only lived to be 21. But in that brief time, he made an indelible impact upon all those who knew and loved him.

Longtime family friend Donna Netschert of Clifton was one of the first people his mother told when she learned she was expecting him.

"I've watched him grow up in every phase of his life, and he was always pure joy," she said. "Recently, he was showing Kelly where he'd lived on Frog Hill, and he saw me there walking a dog. He stopped, got out of the car and hugged me – he was so spontaneous and warm. He just had a special spirit."

Calling Kelly and Nick a "beautiful couple," Netschert said, "To find your soul mate at such a young age is magical; to lose him



Nick Franca

so soon is tragic. But we all thank God for Kelly – she was heaven-sent. I truly believe she was chosen for Nicky because she never wavered in her devotion to him. It never occurred to her to leave

him; I think he lived even longer because Kelly was the wind beneath his wings."

His parents, Caryn and Jim Franca, chronicled his battle against neuroblastoma via the CaringBridge Web site. "Through this journal, we all felt connected to them and to Nicky and to others visiting the site," said Netschert. "He was such a fighter; he always recovered and defied the odds for so long that his death is just heartbreaking."

One of his closest friends, JMU

SEE NICK FRANCA, PAGE 13

Jagels Takes Helm At Mountain View

Former Westfield High School administrator succeeds Oliver.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

When Dave Jagels was a boy, he wanted to be an airline pilot. That didn't happen, but he still soared in his chosen profession — education. And now, he's the new principal of Mountain View High School.

"I realized early on that I wanted to help people," said Jagels. "Education has been a perfect fit for me. We have the ability to change lives, and I believe wholeheartedly in the work that educators do every

day."

The Gainesville husband and father of three started his career with Fairfax County Public Schools teaching students with learning disabilities at Fairfax High. He stayed seven years, transferring to Westfield High as a special-projects teacher when the school opened.

Jagels was there more than 10 years, the last seven as assistant principal. Then when former Mountain View Principal Jim Oliver announced he'd be retiring in December 2010, Jagels threw

SEE JAGELS LEADS, PAGE 4

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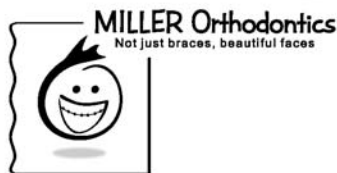
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ROUNDUPS

Man Dies In I-66 Crash

A South Carolina man died Monday afternoon following a two-vehicle crash on I-66 West near Monument Drive. The accident occurred May 2, around 3:43 p.m. According to the Virginia State Police, witnesses reported that, while a 1997 BMW sedan was traveling west on I-66, it was "weaving across the lanes when the driver apparently lost control."

The car ran off the right side of the road and struck the guardrail, then crossed back into the west-bound lanes where it struck a 1999 Ford Explorer. Police say the impact caused the Explorer to spin out and overturn several times before coming to rest in the roadway on its passenger side. The driver was the South Carolina man. Police say he wasn't wearing a seat belt and was partially ejected from his vehicle. He died at the scene.

The male driver of the BMW was not injured, and police say charges against him are pending. The State Police Accident Reconstruction Team responded to the scene to assist with the investigation. The cause of the crash still remains under investigation; however, police have ruled out alcohol as a factor.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, May 5, and May 19, 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.

However, because of time con-

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 3

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ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 2

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

Help the Lions Help the Blind

The Clifton Lions club will hold its annual, White Cane fundraiser, Friday-Saturday, May 6-7, outside the Giant Foods stores at the Colonnade at Union Mill and at University Mall. Lions Clubs have supported blind charities worldwide since Helen Keller asked them to lead a "crusade against darkness" at their international convention in 1925.

Besides cash donations, the Lions will collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids. Donations will be used to support charities that help the blind, including the internationally renowned Lion eyeglass recycling program, Leader Dog training, and county programs that provide reduced-cost glasses to low-income families. For more information, see www.clcv.clubexpress.com.

Conflict, Reconciliation Workshop Planned

Wellspring United Church of Christ and St. John's Episcopal Church are sponsoring a workshop dealing with conflict resolution and reconciliation. It's designed for participants in faith communities, but has broad application.

Called "Conflict, Trauma Healing and Reconciliation," the workshop will be held Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at St. John's Episcopal Church, 5649 Mount Gilead Road in Centreville. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch and materials.

Questions examined will include: What's the connection between conflict and trauma? What is trauma and how does it affect individuals and communities? What helps people survive it? What does healing mean? What does reconciliation require so divided communities may live together again? How does this affect local community outreach? RSVP to Alice Foltz, 703-830-4194 or afoltzva@verizon.net, or to Administrative Assistant, St. John's, 703-803-7500 or SJECCentreville@aol.com.

Clarification

In the story, "Home Incarceration for Fraud," in the April 28 Centre View, although Tammy Cashion and Paul Curcio did plead guilty to criminal charges and were sentenced in federal court, they were not arrested before entering their pleas.

Welcome Bike Riders May 12

The 70 bicycle riders participating in the three-day Police Unity Tour going from Richmond to Washington, D.C., will pass through Centreville along Route 29, next Thursday, May 12, en route to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Traveling with a police escort, complete with sirens and flashing lights, they should be bicycling through Centreville that morning sometime between 9:30-9:45 a.m.

Fairfax County police officers, as well as federal agent Kevin Whalen of Walney Glen, will be among them; and, said Whalen, "It would sure be nice to see people waving as we come through." Then they'll head to the public-safety building on West Ox Road at Alliance Drive (across from the Costco), for an early lunch around 10 a.m., courtesy of Glory Days Grill in Centreville.

WFCM Seeks Food, Volunteers

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry urgently needs donations of jelly, jam, canned pasta, cooking oil (24-48 oz.); mayonnaise (16-32 oz.); ketchup; mustard; juice (64 oz. or smaller); sugar (2-5-lbs.); white rice (1-3 lbs.); instant cocoa; pancake mix; pancake syrup; canned potatoes, collard greens, beets, spinach, mustard greens, carrots, meat and fruit.

Bring all items to WFCM'S food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive (near the Backyard Grill and Bar) in Chantilly.

NEWS

Wedding Gowns in All Sizes

CurvyGirls Bridal opens in Fair Oaks.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Sure, the eyes of the world last week were on the royal wedding in England. But to any woman about to become a bride, the most important wedding of all is her own.

She looks forward to her special day and wearing a gorgeous gown — but for plus-sized women, finding the perfect dress can be both challenging and frustrating. That's where CurvyGirls Bridal in the Pender Village Shopping Center in Fair Oaks comes in.

"The idea is to bring couture fashion to girls who can't usually walk into a bridal shop and find their size," said Director and CFO Bob Sutton. "It's embarrassing and humiliating for them. But here, we make the experience even far more attractive than in a normal, bridal salon."

The almost 5,300-square-foot shop is off Route 50, to the right of Harris-Teeter, and offers a large selection of gowns. Hours are Monday and Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Phone 703-539-877.

"Every day, people walk in and their jaws drop," said Sutton, of Chantilly's Paterra community. "They tell us they can't find this



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

This \$1,100 asymmetrical, ruffled satin gown in size 12, by Sophia Tolli, is shown by Ruth Sutton.



Bob and Ruth Sutton display a size 12, La Sposa by Pronovias gown that costs \$1,700.

anywhere. And although we carry samples of sizes 10-32, we also can order sizes down to zero."

He and his wife Ruth own the shop and, although they've both worked in other fields, as well, she was a bridal consultant years ago. Eventually, they decided to open their own business.

"We started out with just wedding gowns and accessories," said Ruth Sutton. "But as we developed the concept, we added jewelry, purses, bridesmaid's and mother-of-the-bride dresses, formal and prom wear, rental tuxedos and Christening gowns. Our prom dresses go from sizes 10-28, but we can also order them smaller or larger — and they're absolutely breathtaking."

The Suttons hand-picked everything in their store and even had an exclusive line of jewelry created for them. They also have two designers on staff and, within the year, they'll be creating their own line of CurvyGirls lingerie.

But their signature items are their bridal

"We make dreams come true."

**— Ruth Sutton,
co-owner,
CurvyGirls Bridal**

SEE WEDDINGS GOWNS, PAGE 7

CENTRE VIEW NORTH ♦ MAY 5-11, 2011 ♦ 3

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NEWS



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Mountain View Principal Dave Jagels at his new desk.

Jagels Leads Mountain View

FROM PAGE 1

his hat in the ring.

"It was a great opportunity to continue the leadership process," he said. "And I'd heard a lot of wonderful things about the school. I know I have big shoes to fill; Jim Oliver was really well-liked and respected, and he left the school in good shape. Jim and I have talked and he's been very supportive of me."

Jagels took over the reins March 1 and is delighted to be there. "The school's motto is 'Family, love and respect,' and I've been welcomed like a family member," he said. "On my first day, seeing Director of Student Services Eric Kinneman greet everyone by name as they came in, I knew this was a special place."

He's still learning about the building and the programs, but he's met with every staff member and is getting to know them all. Said Jagels: "It's somewhat challenging, coming in the middle of the year as the 'newbie.'"

He said Mountain View finds ways for the students to be successful and breaks down the barriers to whatever prevented them from doing so at their previous schools. "Here, there are solutions and the kids want to be successful," said Jagels. "Mountain View is about giving students second chances. The staff goes out of its way with almost a 'whatever-it-takes' attitude toward helping them."

The students wrote him welcoming letters and told him about their own backgrounds and journeys to Mountain View.

"They were very special; they said things like, 'This place has changed my life,'" said Jagels. "They've been very open to me. This is the epitome of what a school should be — a place where everyone's trying to do what's best for the kids."

"It's about creating relationships within the school among staff and students to meet their individual needs," he continued. "They're still kids — they still want to be nurtured, cared for and accepted, and that's what happens here."

Although Jagels enjoyed his tenure at Westfield, he was ready for a change. "I wanted a smaller venue where I could maybe have a greater impact on a smaller population," he said. "After hearing all the great things about Mountain View, I asked the staff, 'What can we do better?'"

He has a collaborative management style and expects the toughest part of his job to be following as dynamic a leader as Oliver. But he said his confidence will grow with "time in the saddle developing credibility and trust with the students. That will happen as they get to know me, and I believe in being available, accessible and approachable."

His greatest satisfaction, said Jagels, will be "watching kids graduate — being able to hand students their diplomas and knowing the things they've overcome. That will be extremely rewarding. There are a lot of good things happening at Mountain View and I'm excited about being here."

"This is the epitome of what a school should be."

— Dave Jagels, Mountain View principal

PEOPLE NOTE

Robyn Lady, director of student services at Chantilly High School, has been named Virginia High School Counselor of the Year for the Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling. At Chantilly, Lady helped design a schoolwide depression screening program and teaches juniors and seniors about the college admissions process.

She also conducts parent programs on suicide, substance abuse, and stress. Lady

is a regular presenter at professional conferences and in April gave presentations on "The Art of Personal Writing" and "Putting the ME in Recommendations" to attendees of the PCACAC annual conference. She also presented at the Virginia School Counselors Association on how to strengthen the college admissions program and will be presenting at the National Association of College Admissions Counselors conference in June.

Readying for Spring Homes Tour

The 39th annual Clifton Spring Homes Tour will be held Thursday, May 19, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The Paradise Springs Winery will hold the associated marketplace, which includes a boutique and silent auction, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., in its newly completed barn.

And last Sunday, Fairfax Station residents Sharon and Mark Gottlieb hosted a reception for the homeowners whose houses will be on tour. They each received paintings of their homes done by local artists Trudy Arnold and Peggy Cranston. Attendees included Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and state Sen. George Barker (D-39).

The homes tour is organized by the Clifton Community Woman's Club. All net proceeds support its Charitable Trust which, over the past five years, has distributed more than \$100,000 to local charities and student scholarships.

The tour features five homes, plus a log cabin dating back to the early 1800s on land that was part of the original land grants of Northern Virginia. The cabin is currently used for offices, welcom-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Holding paintings of their homes are (from left) Wendy and Tom Burdette, Jane Kincheloe, Rob and Pam Jones, and Michelle and Jeff Stein. (Not pictured are Barry and Sandy Bittner).

ing and hosting guests and as a tasting room for the Paradise Springs Winery.

Advance tickets are \$20; tour-day tickets, \$25; and single-home admission, \$10. The marketplace activities are free. Lunch will be available at Clifton eateries, and the winery will sell box lunches with advance reservations made at 703-860-9463.

Carpooling is recommended, and free shuttle-bus service to the homes is available from the town. For ticket locations and more information, see www.cliftoncwc.org or contact homes tour Chairman Lynne Garvey-Hodge at 703-322-1811 or lynnegarveyhodge@verizon.net.

— BONNIE HOBBS

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ME & MY MOM



Jeanne Marcus with her daughter (Leanne), granddaughters (Lara and Lisa), and great-grandson (Renner). Happy Mother's Day Grandma/Granny we love you!



Robyn Dupont of Virginia Run with sons Conor and Zach in Cape Cod.

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From left: Sydney Bush, 13 years old; Allison Bush, 11 years old, and Jennie Bush (mom) of Virginia Run on April 21, 2011, during Spring Break for Fairfax County Schools overlooking the Shenandoah Valley. Our family took a quirky day trip which included driving part of Skyline drive, a stop at the Apple House in Linden for shopping, lunch in E-hall at JMU and a tour of the campus and dorm rooms, and a tour of Luray Caverns where we listened in awe to the music of the Great Stalacpipe organ and saw spectacular stalactite formations.



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Lara Valosio of Centreville and son Renner (3 1/2) and daughter Makenna (20 months) just this past weekend for Easter.



From left: Brittany Zivic, Deborah Legieza and Stephanie Legieza attending the Women's Tea at James Madison University. Kappa Alpha Theta (Steph's sorority) was raising money for children in foster care.

Wedding Gowns in All Sizes

FROM PAGE 3

gowns. Although more than half the women of marriage age fit into the 12-32 size range, only a handful of bridal salons in the country cater to them. “And none of them are like us,” said Bob Sutton. “We’re at least twice the size of a normal, bridal salon, and we’re incredibly devoted to customer service. Our motto is, ‘No girl ever leaves here unhappy.’ And the salon, itself, has a beautiful design.”

But what sets them apart, even more, said Ruth Sutton, is that “The gowns girls see in bridal magazines we have in sizes 26, 30, 32, etc. But they’re not the ‘women’s lines’ of the bridal manufacturers. These are the actual, couture gowns — in their sizes. And we want people to touch, feel and see these gowns.”

She’s also pleased that their salon has such a warm and intimate atmosphere. The interior walls are curved all over with a circle in the middle containing a large, soft, round bench. There, moms and girlfriends can sit while the brides-to-be try on gowns in four dressing rooms around the circle. There’s a cloud theme, and small hanging lights give the impression of walking under stars.

“People feel comfortable here, like part of a family,” said Ruth Sutton. “When they’re in the circle, it’s like being in a big hug. And when they buy their gowns, they have a champagne toast.”

There’s even a separate “man cave” with a flat-screen TV with games and ESPN, plus a masculine lounge with snacks and water. Plus, there’s a supervised playroom for children, with books, toys and a TV. And the men’s dressing rooms are on a different side of the building from the women’s.

The wedding gowns initially ranged from \$800-\$3,000; but this spring, the store added gowns from designer Manuel Mota ranging from \$4,000-\$8,000. And, said Ruth Sutton, “We have a full-time seamstress on staff, with 30 years experience, for any alterations and custom bustles.”

The Suttons personally selected every bridal gown they sell and are dedicated to helping each customer choose the perfect dress for her special day. “Because my assistant and I are both curvy girls, we know the curvy girl figure,” said Ruth Sutton. “So we can help

a bride get the dress that looks best and is the most flattering to her.”

On Sundays this spring, they’re also starting classes in which professionals will advise brides-to-be on their hair, makeup and flowers, and customers may even take dance lessons. See www.curvygirlsbridal.com for the schedule. “We’ll also have similar things on Sundays for girls looking for prom dresses,” said Ruth Sutton.

Business has been great since the store opened in February, she said. CurvyGirls Bridal is listed on bridal-gown manufacturers’ and designers’ Web sites. And satisfied

customers have helped spread the word to others.

“They’ve come from the Washington Metropolitan area, Pennsylvania and North Carolina,” said Ruth Sutton. “One girl even flew in from

Denver to find the gown she wanted. This is a destination shop.”

The best part, said Bob Sutton, is “when I see a girl who’s tried on something here she couldn’t have elsewhere — and she’s dissolved into tears because, at that point, she has what she always dreamed of — and we helped with that. There’s no better feeling.”

“And she looks gorgeous in her gown,” added Ruth Sutton. “We make dreams come true. From the time they’re little, girls dream of being a bride. And giving that whole experience to them — there’s no greater satisfaction in the world.”

Their first customer, Herndon’s Dragana Pavlovic, called the Suttons “truly amazing.” She wanted a particular, designer gown and called around to see who had it in a price she could afford. “The way Ruth handled my questions was genuine and caring,” said Pavlovic. “My wedding’s July 7, and she went out of her way to find this dress for me; it’s by Maggy Sotero and is my dream dress. I’d definitely recommend their store to others — they treat you like a princess.”

Alexandria’s Jenny Del Cid will be an Oct. 1 bride and is also thrilled with her dress. “When you’re a curvy girl, there aren’t a lot of stores selling bridal gowns in your size, and the last thing you want to do is stress out about your dress,” she said. “I spent lots of time looking and could only find a 12 or 14 — but in reality, they

were sizes 8 and 10, because bridal gowns run two sizes smaller. So it’s frustrating when you’re a full-figured woman and can’t find a dress that’ll zip.”

But at CurvyGirls, everything fit and she fell in love with a beautiful, Spanish-style gown. “They have a huge selection, but what takes the store to the next level is that the people are so friendly,” said Del Cid. “I can’t say enough great things about that shop — it was the best experience. Even my bridesmaids are getting their dresses there. They make a girl feel good.”

Displayed by Ruth Sutton, this Allure, A-line gown in size 22 costs \$2,957. It’s covered in appliquéd and beaded flowers with crystals, lace and organza.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW



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OPINION

World Press Freedom Day

May 3 is World Press Freedom Day, a time to remember that in 2010, 44 journalists were murdered around the world to stop them from reporting the facts. In 2011, so far, 16 journalists have been murdered.

The day serves as a reminder to governments of the need to respect press freedom, also serves as a day of reflection on professional ethics and press freedom for those who work in media, a day of support for journalists and organizations of all kinds who are targets, and a day of remembrance for those journalists who lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

The UN General assembly proclaimed May 3 as World Press Freedom Day in 1993, as a reminder that in dozens of countries around the world, publications are censored, fined, suspended and closed down, while journalists, editors and publishers are harassed, attacked, detained and even murdered.

At the Centre View and Connection newspapers, we are reminded of the importance of press freedom internationally by the daily pres-

ence of Kemal Kurspahic. Of the 50 World Press Freedom Heroes named 10 years ago, who were honored again in Vienna, Austria last September, one is Kemal Kurspahic, managing editor and community editor for the Vienna, McLean, Great Falls, Reston and Oak Hill/Herndon Connections.

In December 1988, Kemal Kurspahic was named editor-in-chief of Oslobodjenje, Sarajevo's 70,000 circulation daily newspaper, the first elected by the paper's staff.

EDITORIALS

Before that, the Communist Party had controlled all editorial appointments.

Then after the communists were ousted and Bosnia's first democratic elections held, Kurspahic battled to maintain editorial independence against a coalition of nationalist parties through a constitutional court case in 1991.

During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite snipers' bullets, constant shelling, and newsprint shortages, the paper's multi-ethnic staff of Bosnians, Serbs and Croats, guided by Kurspahic, worked day and night in a nuclear bomb shelter to put out a daily issue of the

paper, providing one of the city's only sources of information.

In the United States, freedom of the press is protected by the Constitution.

While the challenges in Northern Virginia pale in comparison, we also remember that there are miles to go in openness and transparency in government.

More: www.wpfd2011.org, www.cpj.org, www.freemedia.at/awards/world-press-freedom-heroes

Happy Mother's Day

Around the world, but more so in our area, mothers run the company, the town, the schools, the county, the world, as well as the family, the PTA, the soccer (and lacrosse, softball, baseball, football, track ...) team.

Thanks, moms, for all you do, and for demonstrating to all of us that anything is possible.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Free College Classes for Senior Citizens

Little known "old" law is waiting for "old" folks.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
CENTRE VIEW

If your 60th birthday cake is eaten and if residing in Virginia for at least one year, you can attend courses at any state institution of higher education without paying tuition and fees, such as parking. However, you must pay fees covering course materials.

Any course the senior applicant qualifies to attend on a paying basis may be attended on the non-paying basis. Traditional courses and special courses (such as "adult education" and "continuing education") are included.

Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), George Mason University (GMU) and all other state institutions of higher education conduct this free tuition program for senior citizens. Graduate and professional schools are not excluded.

A couple of general restrictions apply. The non-tuition senior can take no more than three courses each term. Tuition-paying students

must be accommodated before the non-paying senior is admitted to the course; in other words, there must be space in class for the senior citizen.

In some cases, academic credit toward a degree can be earned. One of those situations is where the senior had \$15,000 or less in Virginia taxable income during the preceding year. The Social Security Administration reports the average monthly retirement benefit currently is \$1,178. Factor in the personal exemption and deductions to reach "taxable income" and the potential pool of eligible seniors is sizeable.

Participating seniors often do not seek a degree. They "audit" courses on a part-time basis for personal reasons. These include the pure enjoyment of studying a subject of interest such as art or history, the challenge of learning to converse in a foreign language, and improvement in self-skills (e.g., time management).

The attraction for those re-entering the job market might be a course titled Preparation for Employment.

According to Jessica M. Baxter, NVCC's public affairs officer, available data for recent years show total student headcounts at about 70,000.

Yet, the numbers of free-tuition senior citizens in the current year's fall and spring semesters are 514 and 612, respectively, says Michael

More

Law: Virginia Code Sec. 23-38.54 through .60.

Regulations: The State Council for Higher Education published rules in the Virginia Administrative Code at 8 VAC 40-20-20 and -30.

To Start: Contact the Student Services Center or Registrar at the campus of choice and obtain a catalogue.

A. Blackwell, the NVCC business manager responsible for such filings.

Senior citizen attendees at GMU present a similar picture. Current student enrollment is 32,562, according to Daniel Walsch, press officer. Of the 418 students age 60 or older, he notes that only 185 claim tuition-free attendance.

Although the law has been on the books for more than 35 years, these figures suggest that benefits of the Senior Citizens Higher Education Act of 1974 are underused. The law itself requires that the program be displayed "prominently" in every college and university catalogue; yet, school staff admit to being unfamiliar with the statute.

This general lack of awareness could explain why so few take advantage of the opportunities offered at Virginia's colleges and universities.

The writer has participated in the tuition-free program since 2002, and courses range from "introductory" at NVCC to "graduate" at GMU's School of Law.

LETTER

Common Evil

To the Editor:

I turned on the news to see hundreds of people cheering outside the White House. It was true after all. Osama bin Laden was dead. I felt a great sense of relief and pride being an American Muslim. I was 9 years old when 9/11 happened, bin Laden forever became imprinted in my young mind as the face of evil. President Obama stated to the nation that "Osama was never a Muslim leader. He

was a mass murderer." I sincerely hope that my fellow Americans will see that as Obama said, Muslims have never, and will never look to Osama as a leader. We all must stand united regardless of race or religion and stay loyal to our nation to fight against a common evil: terrorism. Osama may be dead, but his network is very much alive. As an American and a Muslim, I hope and pray that America triumphs.

Saira Bhatti
Centreville

CENTREVIEW

NORTHERN EDITION

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A Connection Newspaper



Teacher APPRECIATION Week

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.” —Albert Einstein

May 2-6,
2011



The parents of Fairfax County love and respect the wonderful job that all of our public school teachers do daily with our most precious resource...our children.

For Teacher Appreciation Week, consider returning the love to our teachers by giving them what they and their families most need:

Money to survive!

- Fairfax County teachers have had no salary or COLA increase in the past two years.
- Teachers in Loudoun (3% COLA) and adjoining Northern Virginia counties are being given raises **THIS** year.
- County workers are being given a raise **THIS** year.
- Many teachers in Fairfax have had to take second jobs to pay their bills and provide for their children, which takes time away from their ability to do extra-curricular work (like sponsoring clubs or mentoring) for FCPS.

Please give back to our hard-working teachers this week: E-mail your School Board members and tell them to make those who educate, love and protect our children their priority in this year's budget!



schoolboardmembers@fcps.edu

Fairfax County Federation of Teachers

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6 13651 Sweet Woodruff Lane, Centreville — \$650,000



**Solds in
March 2011,
over \$600K**



© Google Map data

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7 3756 Picasso Place, Chantilly — \$635,000



11 6180 Hidden Canyon Road, Centreville — \$602,000



12 12525 Lt. Nichols Road, Fairfax — \$600,000

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12 12525 LT. NICHOLS RD	4	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$600,000	Detached	0.22	FAIR OAKS ESTATES	03/29/11

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SCHOOLS



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM BRANNAN

The Chantilly High School Indoor Percussion Ensemble won the Winter Guard International Percussion Scholastic A Class World Championship in Dayton, Ohio.

Percussion Ensemble Wins Championship

The Chantilly High School Indoor Percussion Ensemble just completed an undefeated season by winning the Winter Guard International Percussion Scholastic A Class World Championship in Dayton, Ohio on April 15. The group earned 1st place in their preliminary performance round, giving them a chance to perform in a WGI Semifinals for the fourth time in school history (2006 (PSO), 2007 (PSO), 2008 (PSO), 2011 (PSA)). The group posted the highest overall score in Semifinals, giving the drum line their first finals appearance in the history of the program. The 28- person ensemble competed against 58 other groups from all over the US.

"The feeling of performing in WGI finals was electrifying for the students. After stringing together two incredible performances, they were faced with their biggest challenge of the season, as the amplifier failed about 30 seconds into the show, losing the bass guitar, synthesizer and FRED (Roland SP-555 sampler). The group performed and recovered, fighting to keep the show together. At the end of the performance,

they were upset, but were still proud to be able to say they are the only Chantilly Drum Line to perform in a WGI finals," said band director Drew Ross

But in the end, their performance and body of work was enough to earn them first place overall in the General Effect and Performance Analysis captions and second place in Visual Performance. This was the Chantilly Indoor Percussion Ensemble's first WGI title and is the first Virginia-based group to win a WGI title in any class.

In addition to this award, the Indoor Percussion Ensemble recently won the Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA) percussion open class championship in Virginia Beach.

This was the 11th AIA percussion championship for Chantilly. The group also won competitions at Broad Run High School, Potomac Falls High School, and Powhatan High School.

The Chantilly High School Indoor Percussion Ensemble is under the direction of Gary English and Paul Fadoul and is assisted by William Riddell, Neil Pittman, Tim Nguyen, and Kelsey Woods.

OPEN HOUSES

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MAY 7 & 8



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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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14913 Jaslow St.....\$379,000.....Sun 2-4.....Carol Wilder.....McEneaney Assoc..703-786-8635

Chantilly

13956 Valley Country Dr.....\$590,000.....Sat 1-4.....Ken Isaacman.....Keller Williams..571-235-0129
13905 Castle Ct.....\$525,000.....Sun 2-4.....Barb Chandler.....Keller Williams..703-564-4000

Clifton

13931 South Springs Dr.....\$649,000.....Sun 1-4.....Diana LeFrancois.....Century 21..703-930-6682
7467 Clifton Rd.....\$549,000.....Sun 12-3.....Robin Garbe.....Long & Foster..703-307-5092
11900 Henderson Rd.....\$585,000.....Sun 1-4.....Marsha Wolber.....Long & Foster..703-618-4397
6293 Clifton Rd.....\$1,295,000.....Sun 1-4.....Kim Darwaza.....RE/MAX..703-856-2254

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Manassas

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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.



Huge Variety Sale!

Saturday, May 14 10 am to 5 pm

Vienna Community Center
120 Cherry St. Vienna, VA

Donations accepted Friday, May 13, 1 pm - 9 pm

The Variety Sale features treasures at bargain prices: collectibles, jewelry, china, books, DVDs, small furniture & appliances, apparel, toys, and more!

Proceeds benefit Friends of Homeless Animals, a no-kill shelter for cats and dogs.





www.foha.org

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ENTERTAINMENT

To have community events listed in Centre View, e-mail to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412.

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Centreville Stitchers welcome adults who enjoy knitting, crocheting, or other needlework crafts and conversation. Join us at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville, VA. Admission is free. If you have any questions, contact Jo at 703-803-0595 or email joknitter@verizon.net.

- * Tuesday, May 10 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- * Thursday, May 26 — 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- * Tuesday, June 14 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- * Thursday, June 23 — 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

ZUMBA Classes. 7 to 8 p.m. Latin based dance fitness class. The first class is free; afterward it's \$7-\$9 per class. At Cornerstone Montessori School, 4455 Brookfield Corporate Drive, Suite 201, Chantilly. Visit www.gozumbafun.com.

MAY 5 TO 6

Big Truck Days. Children and their parents can see the Town of Herndon's big trucks and heavy equipment on display. Thursday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. At the Public Works complex, 1479 Sterling Road, Herndon.

"Starmites, a Musical." Rocky Run Middle School presents "Starmites, a Musical," Thursday-Friday, May 5-6, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 7 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7.

MAY 6 AND 7

White Cane Fundraiser. The Clifton Lions Club will conduct their White Cane Fundraiser on Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7 at Union Mill Colonnade and University Mall Giant

Food stores. In addition to cash donations, the Lions will collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids. Visit <http://www.clcv.clubexpress.com>.

MAY 6-7-8, 13-14-15

Capital Cabaret: Presented by The Alliance Theatre at Mountain View High School, this event features music from several Broadway shows, plus favorites from the 1950s, '60s, '70s and '80s. May 6-7 and May 13-14 at 7:30 p.m.; May 8 and 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10; group orders are available via www.thealliance theatre.org or e-mail boxoffice@thealliance theatre.org. Mountain View is at 5775 Spindle Court, behind Glory Days Grill.

FRIDAY/MAY 6

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the band, The Grandsons. Drop-in beginner swing lesson 8:30 to 9 p.m.; dancing 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Virginia Run Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain or shine. Treasure maps will be given out on the corner of Pleasant Valley and Wetherburn Drive. Yard sales will be held at individual residences. Contact Helaine Newman 703-402-3134 or Paula Ferrara-Garcia 703-216-6730.

"Working, the Musical." Presented by Centreville High School. Saturday, May 7, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Based on the book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Studs Terkel and adapted by "Wicked's" Stephen Schwartz, Tony Award-nominated "Working" celebrates the extraordinary people who make up the everyday world. Songs feature music and lyrics by Grammy Award-winner James Taylor and Tony Award-winner Lin-Manuel

Miranda. Tickets are \$12 at the door; for discounted, pre-sale ticket information, go to www.TheatreCentreville.com.

Casino Night and Silent Auction. 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$55/person. Casino games, raffles, cocktails and silent auction. A benefit for A Forever Home Rescue Foundation. At Chantilly National Golf and Country Club, 14901 Braddock Road, Centreville. Visit www.aforeverhome.org or call 703-961-8690 to order your tickets.

FRIDAY/MAY 13

All Members Meeting. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The MOMS Club of Clifton/Centreville South will be holding their monthly All Members Meeting at Little Rocky Run Rec Center #1, at 13775 Little Rock Run Circle, Centreville. This meeting will be open to all new and prospective moms who are interested in learning more about the club. The MOMS Club of Clifton/Centreville-South chapter is for moms living in the 20121 and 20124 ZIP codes. A light lunch and refreshments will be served. Kids will be able to enjoy crafts and games. To RSVP, email Julia Campbell at memberinfo.ccs@gmail.com.

MONDAY/MAY 9

"Swing for Homelessness Prevention." 9:30 a.m. registration; 11 a.m. shotgun start; 4 p.m. reception buffet. Cost per player is \$150. Platinum Sponsors: \$2,000; Gold Sponsors: \$1,500; Silver Sponsors: \$1,200; Hole Sponsors: \$300. At the Chantilly National Golf and Country Club, 14901 Braddock Road, Centreville. Contact Renee Cole at cole_family@verizon.net.

MAY 11 AND MAY 12

Auditions for "Hairspray." Wednesday, May 11 and Thursday, May 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. Presented by The Alliance Theatre, a western Fairfax County community theatre group. At Mountain View School in Centreville. Call backs will be held Saturday, May 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Mountain View School. Contact Sarah Meiburg at 571-213-3170 or sarah.meiburg@hazelnutmarketing.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 13

MOMS Club Meeting. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The MOMS Club of Clifton/Centreville South will be holding their monthly All Members Meeting at Little Rocky Run Rec Center #1, at 13775 Little Rock Run Circle, Centreville. This meeting will be open to all new and prospective moms who are interested in learning more about the club. The MOMS Club of Clifton/Centreville-South chapter is for moms living in the 20121 and 20124 ZIP codes. A light lunch and refreshments will be served. Kids will be able to enjoy crafts and games. To RSVP, email Julia Campbell at memberinfo.ccs@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 14

Spring Jam Fest. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. A Christian rock, alternative, metal and hip hop music outreach festival. Featuring P.O.D., Brian "Head" Welch, Emery, DA T.R.U.T.H., Run Kid Run, War of Ages, and DJ Promote. Conceived by Jonathan Slye, age 17. At Bull Run Park's Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. For tickets, go to <http://springjamfest.com/>.

"Rocknoceros Rocks for Premies." 11 a.m. A fundraiser for the Premies Today Organization, a nonprofit that helps families affected by prematurity. At Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. Afterward, food will be available from Pat Troy's Irish Pub, and there'll be raffles and a huge silent auction. Purchase tickets at www.premiestoday.org. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Centreville's Georgie Heard, whose twin sons were born prematurely, is helping organize the event.

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Family and Friends Mourn Nick Franca

FROM PAGE 1

he could be treated at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center,” said Franca. “We gave up everything to save his life, and he endured chemotherapy, radiation and surgery.”

Finally, Nick was in remission for a year, but his nemesis returned in May 2007. Still, he kept beating it back. He attended a semester at Lynchburg College, met the love of his life – Westfield High grad Kelly Embley – and then relapsed again.

But true to form, he just fought harder – and so did his family and friends from Centreville and Clifton – where the Francas have lived for more than 30 years. While Nick was hospitalized at Sloan, they traveled regularly to New York to donate the platelets and white blood cells he needed to survive.

He was also seen by doctors at hospitals in Fairfax, Philadelphia and the District. His parents tried everything possible to keep the foe at bay and decimate it, if they could. And in the spaces between treatments – when Nick was stabilized and feeling better – he spent time with family, friends and Kelly.

For a couple months, recently, he and Kelly even had some semblance of a normal life together, moving into a small cabin on family friends’ property in Fairfax Station. They bought groceries, set up house and were grateful just to share the every-



Nick Franca

day things of life.

Nick’s parents planned to take him to Florida for a new course of treatment there, after Sloan had done all it could for him. Instead, on April 17, he became severely ill and was rushed to Inova Fairfax Hospital, where he had surgery and it became clear that things internally were worsening.

ON APRIL 20, his father, Jim Franca, wrote on CaringBridge, “For the first time since this all began, it may be that we are reaching the end of the battle. That is a hard reality to consider, but we owe it to ourselves and to Nick to be honest and prepare for that possibility.” Although wanting to keep fighting, he said, “We may have no weapons left.”

He also expressed gratitude for all the blog followers. “We feel your caring and

Celebration-of-Life Service

Nick Franca’s life will be celebrated this Thursday, May 5, at 4 p.m., at Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road (off New Braddock Road) in Centreville. Guests are advised to arrive by 3:45 p.m. because a large crowd is expected. A casual, picnic dinner in Clifton Park will follow; attendees should bring lawn chairs and blankets. It’s the same place where, six years earlier, a vigil was held for Nick as he left for New York to

start treatment. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Band of Parents at www.bandofparents.org to fund new treatments for neuroblastoma. A scholarship has been established at Lynchburg College for students with health conditions. Send contributions payable to Lynchburg College, 1501 Lakeside Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24501, Attn: Gene Frantz, for the Nicholas Franca Memorial Scholarship.

love,” he wrote. “I truly do not believe we would have made it this long without your support. We could not have been all we have had to be emotionally, without your help.”

Still, Nick soldiered on and improved enough to be moved to Georgetown. And on April 26, it seemed as if he’d be able to outrun the disease as he’d done so many times before. But the next evening, his mother wrote, “No one who witnessed Nick’s suffering today would not want him to be at peace.”

On April 28, Caryn Franca wrote, “It is time to accept the things we cannot change. Nick is not going to get better.” Nick’s parents, brother Jeff, sister Alyson Pollard and Kelly all got the news together from the doctors. “Kelly is having the hardest time,” wrote Caryn. “Nick was her knight in shin-

ing armor. They are soul mates and she is feeling very lost, knowing he will leave her soon.”

Two days later, his father noted Nick’s will to live was so strong that his body didn’t want to give up. “That’s what got him through these last six years of tortuous treatments and recoveries,” wrote Jim. “He’s done and we’ve done all there is to do. He’s peaceful and not in pain. He opens his eyes once in awhile, and I’m sure he knows we’re here. We’ve all told him it’s OK to let go; and when he’s ready, he will.”

Nick let go Sunday morning, May 1. That night, his mother wrote, “His spirit busted out and spread through the world today – a joyous, new birth where my son can smile and breathe a new dimension in a spiritual world.”

Nick Franca’s Friends Recall His Spontaneity and Warmth

FROM PAGE 1

junior Chris Gogoel, 20, moved to Clifton in second grade and that’s when he met Nick. “I’d go to his house on Frog Hill and we’d ride his go-cart and play in the woods,” said Gogoel. As teens, they’d hang out on weekends with friends, watch TV and play video games together.

Later, said Gogoel, “I’d see Nick in New York or at home. And when he was feeling good, he’d come to JMU and me and my roommates would take him out and show him a good time. He was happy and outgoing.”

Before the cancer, said Gogoel, Nick had lots of energy and always wanted to try new activities. Afterward, “He didn’t want to talk about his treatment or worry about what could be in the future,” said Gogoel. “So I learned from him to live in the moment and make the most of the time you have here.”

On Saturday, Gogoel and other friends said goodbye to Nick in the hospital. “That was pretty emotional – it was hard,” he said. “But I’m sure, on some level, he knew we were there. He heard our voices and opened his eyes.”

Thanks to Nick, he said, “I’m more outgoing now. He taught me to open up, be yourself and do what you want to do, without worrying about what others might think of you.”

Kevin Farrish coached Chris and Nick for eight seasons of SYA soccer when the boys

were in elementary school. Parents could request a particular coach for their child, and Nick’s mother, Caryn, called him.

“She said Nick was best friends with Chris and it was important that they be on the same team,” said Farrish. “So I got Nick on that team, and he became a leader and one of the hardest-working kids on the team. I’ve been friends with the Francas ever since. Nick also met my son Ryan through soccer and, since then, they and Chris have been attached at the hip.”

When Nick’s condition was diagnosed six years ago, said Farrish, “We were all devastated. “But Nick lived every moment like it was his last; he wanted to just be with his friends. He never backed off from any challenge, and it spoke to his character. And at 21, to handle his illness with the strength and dignity that he did was nothing short of amazing. He and the Francas are family to us, and we will definitely see Nick again.”

Ryan Farrish, 21, is now a junior at St. John’s University in New York City and also knew Nick since childhood. “We’ve been tight since the beginning,” said Ryan. “He was hilarious and his passion to live was contagious. We’d go fishing, golfing, ATV-ing, paintballing, and we’ve always been together on big birthdays. I have lots of memories of him to treasure.”

Whenever Nick came home from the hospital, said Ryan, “He didn’t want to talk about it; he just wanted to be a normal teen-

ager. During spring break of my freshman year in college, he’d just gone through a pretty aggressive round of chemo and was sick as a dog when he finished. But he still went on a snowboarding trip to Wyoming with my family and friends, and it was an awesome time. We’d race down the mountain to see who could get to the bottom first.”

He, too, was happy that Kelly came into Nick’s life. “Girls always liked him, but he wasn’t a settling-down kind of guy until Kelly,” said Ryan. “She took him by the heart and kept him. And she put her own life and schooling on hold to take care of him.”

Ryan said Nick never wanted pity and was “the guy with nine lives, so I was always optimistic about him.” But Friday, Ryan said farewell to his friend. “He was responsive to me and opened his eyes to let me know he was still present,” said Ryan. “He was an awesome guy and I’ll miss him a lot.”

Nick’s cousin, Greg Miller, 22, of Fairfax, described him as selfless, caring and honest and recalled the times they’d spent at each other’s homes as children, during the summer. He, too, went on the snowboarding trip with the others, plus Nick’s good friend Michael Brown. “We all love the outdoors and enjoyed the beautiful scenery and the time spent together,” said Miller. “Nick got the most out of the time he had, and everyone loved him. He taught me to enjoy every moment.”

Peter Noonan, FCPS Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, was Nick’s principal at Centreville High, and he, too, was saddened by Nick’s passing. He was also one of the many people who traveled to New York to donate blood and platelets to Nick when he was hospitalized at Sloan-Kettering.

“I had the distinct honor and privilege of knowing Nick for many years in a variety of ways,” he said. “When he was a student at Centreville, I was struck by Nick’s confidence and his ability to always have a smile on his face and be in his element around friends and teachers. This confidence later translated into a heroic fight for six years against a dreaded disease.”

“His spirit during his fight for life never changed, and his engagement with friends and family didn’t, either,” continued Noonan. “While Nick is gone, he has reminded me through his actions how important it is to embrace every day and always approach it with a smile. His journey and life has taught all who knew him many lessons, and for that I am ever grateful.”

Accordingly, instead of having a funeral, Nick’s family is holding a celebration-of-life service for him, followed by a picnic dinner in Clifton Park. It’ll be fun and casual, just the way Nick would want it, said his mother. Added his sister, Alyson Pollard: “We’re looking forward to celebrating Nick’s life with all the people his life has touched.”

SCHOOLS

Chantilly High's 25th annual Jazz & Pizzazz show, featuring the Chantilly Jazz and Touch of Class Show Choir, takes the stage Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 25, 26, 27 and 28, at 7 p.m. each night, and Sunday, May 29, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each at www.chantillychoral.org. They're going fast, so buy them soon, while they're still available.

It's time to sign-up for Oak Hill Elementary's 5th Annual Howlin' and Prowlin' 5K Fun Run on May 7. New this year: timing and event support provided by Potomac River Racing and an option to purchase an upgraded Nike Dry Fit T-shirt. Online registration is open and strongly preferred. Visit <http://www.prraces.com/oakhill/> to register for the race.

Those registering by April 15 will receive a discount and are guaranteed a T-shirt. If you plan to

register four or more members of your family for the 5K, email Scott at Potomac River Running, scott@potomacriverrunning.com for a special discount code to use while registering online only. Want to volunteer for the event? Visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/howlin> to sign up.

Chantilly Academy Animal Science students, Kelsey Kallapos, Danielle Stoffelen and Jessica Hong took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes in the state of Virginia for Veterinary Assisting. Kelsey, Danielle and Jessica were required to measure vital signs, height and weight, demonstrate restraint and first aid techniques on a dog and cat as well as take a written exam on animal anatomy and physiology. Kelsey's first place finish qualifies her as the first veterinary assisting champion in the Virginia from Fairfax County Public Schools.

Chantilly Academy Carpentry student, Mitchell Rickard won the first-place gold medal in carpentry. The competition against the other 15 district winners, consisted of building a "scale" house, beginning with nothing but a set of blue prints and a stack of lumber. For finishing first, Mitchell received a gold medal, new tools, and the honor of being the best carpenter in the state. He will now be competing against the other 49 state champion winners at the National Competition in Kansas City in late June. To make this even more special, Mitchell is the first carpentry champion from Northern Virginia in more than a decade.

Greenbriar East Elementary School will be having its Kindergarten Registration/Orientation on Monday, May 16 at 2 p.m. Call the school office at 703-633-6400.

Westfield High School graduates Taylor Blake and Kristin Larkin received their White Coats from VCU School of Dentistry. Both girls are in the Class of 2013 at VCU School of Dentistry and now begin the operative part of their dental school education. Taylor, daughter of Kim and Marie Blake of Sully Station and Kristin, daughter of Michael and Terry Larkin of Fairfax National Estates, met when they were on the swim team at Sequoia Farms at the age of 5; they attended elementary, middle and high school together. Taylor attended UVA and Kristin JMU for undergrad.

Eileen D. Foley of Herndon has made **Bucknell University's** dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2010-11 academic year. Foley is the daughter of Thomas and Linda Foley of Herndon, and a graduate of Chantilly High School, Chantilly.

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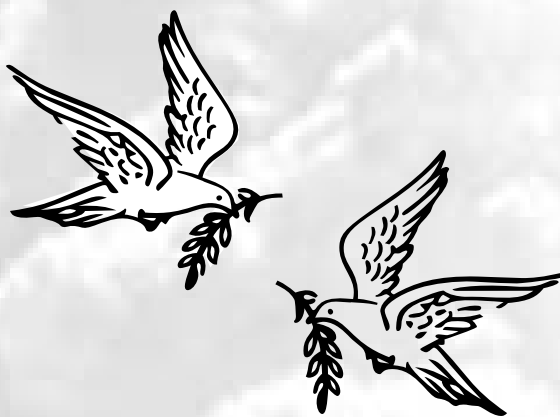
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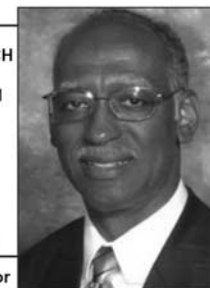
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PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW



The Korean dance group RSVP from Centreville High School performs in front of a crowd at the International Dance and Music Festival. From left are Centreville residents: Sallie Kim, Carina Kang, Amy Shin and Stella Kim. Not pictured is Grace Jung.

Celebrating Diversity

The Centreville Immigration Forum hosted the International Dance and Music Festival on Saturday, April 30 as a celebration of Centreville's diversity and to raise funds for the newly renamed Centreville Labor Resource Center, formerly known as the Centreville Worker Center. Almost \$4,000 in donations were collected. Featured during the event were several traditional Guatemalan dances, music and a performance RSVP a dance team from Centreville High School who performed to Korean pop music. More than 100 people attended the event at Centreville United Methodist Church.



Alberto Vincente Ramirez, a Centreville resident, performs a popular Guatemalan song Norte by Guatemalan singer Ricardo Andrade.



Nancy Rice of Vienna sits as vendor Pedro de Leon places a traditional headress from the Nebaj Quiche in Guatemala into her hair at the International Dance and Music Festival. Not confident that she could reproduce his efforts at home, Rice nonetheless, "likes to support craftsmen and microbusinesses."



Dancers perform the Guatemalan Dance of the Sewing Seeds.



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Westfield Grad Royster Selected by the Redskins

Running back is Penn State's all-time leading rusher.

BY RICH SANDERS
CENTRE VIEW

Evan Royster, one of the greatest high school football players to ever come out of the Northern Virginia area, will one day, hopefully soon, be adorned in a burgundy and gold football uniform — the team colors of his home town NFL team, the Washington Redskins.

The former Westfield High star running back, who went on to break the all-time career rushing record at Penn State University, was selected by the Redskins, one of the NFL's oldest and tradition-rich franchises, in the sixth round of last week's draft.

Once a new NFL agreement is ultimately reached between the players and management, teams will be able to begin preparations for offseason workouts and look ahead to the upcoming NFL season this fall. If no agreement is reached in the weeks or months ahead, there could be a work stoppage and possibly a season lockdown, which would mean drafted players such as Royster would have to put their NFL dreams on hold for a while.

Royster, who resides in Fairfax, was the second running back chosen by the Redskins in the draft. The first was Roy Helu, Jr., a fourth round selection and the first of three consecutive University of Nebraska players chosen by Washington.

Royster was thrilled to be chosen by his local hometown team.

"I think I had the most contact with the Redskins leading up into the draft," said



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Evan Royster (pictured) and older brother Brandon are both a part of the Centre View's All-Time 'Greatest top 100 Athletes' from the Northern Region.

Royster, in a draft story reported on the Washington Redskins' Official Website. "It was a team that I was hoping for because it would make my family happy. I'd be close to home. And a lot of my friends were hoping I'd go to Washington."

ROYSTER, a 2006 graduate of Westfield, played football for the Bulldogs under head coach Tom Verbanic. He finished his stellar high school career with 6,384 yards and 90 touchdowns. As a senior, he was named the Northern Region Offensive Player of the Year, rushing for 2,161 yards and 30 touchdowns.

Royster received heavy interest from colleges nationwide towards the end of his

high school career. His final two choices were Penn State and Nebraska, and he ultimately chose to become a Nittany Lion under legendary coach Joe Paterno.

Royster rushed for over 1,000 yards in each of his final three college seasons at Penn State, the first Nittany Lion running back to ever do so at the school which has traditionally emphasized the running game. He finished his Penn State career with 3,932 yards and 29 touchdowns.

Royster, who is 6-1 and 228 pounds, is the second outstanding Penn State running back in recent years to come out of the Northern Region. The other was former T.C. Williams High standout Tony Hunt, who is Penn State's third all-time leading rusher

behind Royster and former Seattle Seahawks great Curt Warner. Hunt was a third round selection of the Philadelphia Eagles in the 2007 draft.

Evan is the younger brother of Brandon Royster, another former star running back from the Northern Region. Brandon, a 2000 Fairfax High graduate, was part of a Fairfax High football team that went 10-0 in both his junior and senior seasons under coach Verbanic. For his Fairfax career, Brandon rushed for over 5,300 yards and 60 touchdowns. He went on to play collegiately at Stanford University under former Cardinal coach Tyron Willingham.

Evan Royster, as a sophomore at Westfield, helped lead the Bulldogs to the state AAA football title. He averaged over 150 rushing yards per game that fall.

"He got the taste of the limelight — the taste of winning," said Verbanic, years later.

The state crown was not only the first for Westfield, but also the first for Verbanic.

Prior to Royster's first year at Penn State, Verbanic was asked how he believed Evan would fare as a running back at a big-time college.

"It's always hard to predict no matter how good a kid is in high school how well he is going to do at the next level," said Verbanic. "But he has some things going for him. One, is his physical strength. He's a hard worker in the weight room. That gives him a big heads up on a lot of kids. The second thing is that he wants to win. I think that puts him apart from other kids — his competitive nature."

Both Evan and older brother Brandon were named to the Centre View Newspapers' "Greatest of All Time" top 100 athletes from the Northern Region in the summer of 2006. Brandon was No. 41 on the list and Evan was No. 28.

Paul Frommelt contributed to this story.

Win Over Stone Bridge Worth Wait for Chargers

Chantilly pitcher Bashaw holds down Bulldogs in baseball win.

BY RICH SANDERS
CENTRE VIEW

Chantilly High senior baseball pitcher Will Bashaw, in his longest outing of the 2011 season, tossed five effective innings of relief to lead the Chargers to a 6-2 win over Stone Bridge High this past Monday evening, May 2 in Ashburn.

The non-district game had originally started way back on March 21. But rain forced the game to be halted after two innings. The suspended game was resumed again in pleasant weather conditions on



CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Chantilly High baseball will host Centreville this Friday night.

Monday, with the five remaining innings being completed in less than 90 minutes.

Chantilly, which went on to lose the following day at Concorde District opponent and front-runner Oakton, 5-3, stands at 11-5 overall and 4-3 in the district going into this Friday night's 6:30 home game versus district and local rival Centreville.

In the suspended game win over Stone Bridge, Chantilly senior Dan Lawler was the starting pitcher over the game's first two innings on March 21. When the game got stopped, Chantilly held a 4-1 lead, thanks to a four-run, five-hit first inning. First inning highlights included singles by Jamie Danehower and Brian Morrow, RBI singles

from Kevin Johnston and Tom Wood, and an RBI double by Collin Ryan.

In Monday's continuation of play, Bashaw, a right-hander, took the mound and gave the Chargers a strong showing, earning the win. Over his five innings of relief work, Bashaw allowed one run and two hits (both singles) while walking two and striking out one.

"That's the most he's pitched all year," said Chantilly coach Kevin Ford. "He threw a lot for us last year. That's the best he's thrown this year. He threw three pitches for strikes and his breaking pitch was real good."

Chantilly made several key defensive plays to help keep the Bulldogs at bay. The first came in the bottom of the third inning when Danehower, the Chantilly shortstop, made a diving catch to his left on a line drive off the bat of Brady Orrison. That was Stone Bridge's first at-bat of the resumed game and the first of six straight retired by

SEE CHARGERS, PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SPORTS NOTES

The **Chantilly Chargers** played an aggressive, never-quit game and downed the visiting Herndon Hornets, 5-0, in Concorde District girls' softball action last Tuesday evening, April 26. The Hornets' bats fell cold and they had difficulty getting the third out in many innings as all five Chantilly runs were scored with two outs. The Chargers combined eight hits with five stolen bases to cause havoc throughout the game. The aggressive play netted them five runs and the win. On the defensive end, the Hornets were unable to get runners on base. The few times Herndon did get runners on, they were thrown out stealing or doomed by lack of clutch hitting.

The upcoming **Northern Region boys' and girls' lacrosse tournaments** are scheduled to be played on the following dates: Tuesday, May 17 (first round); Thursday, May 19 (quarterfinals); Tuesday, May 24 (semifinals); and Thursday, May 26 (finals).

The first two rounds of both the boys' and girls' 16-team tournaments will be played at the sites of the top-seeded teams. The girls' semifinals games will be played at Robinson Secondary (5 and 7 p.m.). The boys' semifinals will take place at Oakton High (5 and 7 p.m.). The championship games

for both the boys' and girls' will take place at Robinson - the girls' game at 5, followed by the boys' game at 7. There will also be consolation games for third place on both the boys' and girls' side. Those contests will take place at Oakton High - girls' game at 5, followed by the boys' at 7.

The top three team finishers at regionals will advance to the state playoffs.

Chantilly Youth Association will be conducting interviews on Wednesday, May 18 and Thursday, May 19 for prospective coaches for its 2011-12 winter travel basketball program. Currently, coaches are needed for 5th grade boys and 5th and 6th grade girls. Interested candidates should go to www.chantillyyouth.org/basketball and click on either Boys Travel or Girls Travel for more information.

The **Northern Virginia Volleyball Association**, based out of Sterling, will be hosting a junior girls' volleyball tournament the weekend of May 21-22, partnered with the Sideout Foundation (www.side-out.org). The tournament will involve girls in age groups from U-12 to U-16. Each participating team is working to raise funds to support the Dig Pink Foundation. Check the Northern

Virginia Volleyball Association's website for more information.

Baseball Coach's Poll: The following is the Northern Region Baseball Coaches poll for the week of April 25: No. 1. South County; 2. Lake Braddock; 3. WT Woodson; 4. Westfield; 5. Stone Bridge; 6. Madison; 7. West Springfield; 8. Oakton; 9. Hayfield; 10. Herndon. Others teams receiving votes: McLean, Washington-Lee, Yorktown, Robinson.

MILITARY NOTES

To have military news listed in Centre View e-mail centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos, especially color, are encouraged. Deadline is one week before publication.

Air Force Airman Nick J. Mylius graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Tina Mylius of Commons Square, Chantilly. Mylius graduated in 2010 from Freedom High School, Chantilly.

Win Over Stone Bridge Worth Wait

FROM PAGE 16

Bashaw.

A second defensive gem came in the bottom of the sixth inning when, with two outs, Chantilly executed a fundamentally sound defensive play on a slow ground ball off the bat of the Bulldogs' Sid Harvey. Chantilly second baseman Jake Acosta aggressively approached and fielded the ball before tossing to first base where Bashaw was covering, barely beating Harvey's bid for an infield single. Earlier that same inning, Chantilly catcher Kevin Johnston had thrown out a Stone Bridge runner attempting to steal second.

Stone Bridge scored its only run off Bashaw in the fifth inning, the stanza in which the pitcher gave up his only two hits. He allowed a leadoff single to center field by Ryan Johnston, who ultimately scored on a looping, two-out single into center by Spenser Rositano. But at the end of Rositano's run-scoring base hit, another Stone Bridge base runner was thrown out at third base for the final out of the inning.

CHANTILLY, at the start of

Monday's resumed game, made a statement right away with a run in the top of the third inning to increase its lead to 5-1. Sonny Romine singled to left field with one out. Two batters later, he scored on a groundball off the bat of Acosta which resulted in an error. The Chargers scored again in the fourth inning. Collin Ryan grounded a single into left field and, two outs later, was perched on third base with two outs and Morrow at the plate. Ryan then scored on a wild pitch, giving his team a 6-1 lead.

Chantilly knocked around five more hits, singles by Romine, Danehower, Ben Langford, Sam Zimmerman, and Sam Hellman, over the final three innings but did not score. But it didn't matter much because Bashaw and the Chantilly defense had things well in control.

"He used the cutter and got a lot of ground balls," said Lawler, of his teammates' mound outing.

Chantilly is hoping to continue on what has been a successful winning season.

"I think we've had a really good

season," said Lawler, of a Chargers' team which was 5-4 through nine games before reeling off six straight wins. "We started slow but have really heated up. It's about momentum and confidence. Our hitters are doing good going to the opposite field now. Pitching wise, were getting more and more confidence."

The win over the Bulldogs, a heralded program in recent years, was a nice one for the Chargers.

"Stone Bridge is a good team," said Langford, Chantilly's third baseman and No. 3 hitter in the batting order. "We want to show everyone we're a team to beat. I feel we're a little underestimated. We just need to stay focused and concentrate on finishing games out strong."

Ford, the Chantilly coach, said he and Stone Bridge coach Sam Plank were not certain the game between their two teams would ever be continued following the stoppage of play on March 21.

"I didn't know," said Ford. "There's been a lot of rain lately. We both said let's get through spring break and see where we are."



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