

PHOTO BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

Keegan, Fairfax County's accelerant detection dog, is paired with handler Terry Hall, an investigator out of the Fire Marshal's Office.

Partners, Not Pets

Canines team up with officers.

BY DEB COBB
CENTRE VIEW

Every day in Fairfax County, dozens of specially trained dogs are on the job, using their noses and, in some cases, their teeth to keep Fairfax County safe.

"We're looking for a dog that works as hard on his last hour of work as his first," said Michael Szubinski, course development instructor at the Customs and Border Protection Canine Training Center in Front Royal, June 22, as he explains the puppy selection that is underway

SEE PARTNERS NOT PETS, PAGE 10

Police Kill Armed Man in Centreville

"He was screaming and yelling."

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Had Rico Leon not walked toward police officers with a shotgun — and had he dropped it when they ordered him to — he might still be alive today. But he did not; so fearing for their own lives, the officers shot and killed him.

A former Marine, Leon, 34, was a lieutenant with the Naval Observatory Police, which guards the U.S. vice president's home. But this tragedy occurred at his own house on Kendra Way in Centreville's Asher View community, across from Centre Ridge.

And according to neighbors, the man who flew into a rage in the early-morning hours of Thursday, July 21, was not at all the friendly, likable person they'd come to know. Instead, he was someone

out-of-control who frightened them.

"I never saw him that way," said next-door neighbor Syed Ahsan. "It wasn't the same person that I've known for five years. I couldn't believe it — all of a sudden, he changed."

Fairfax County police rushed to the townhouse Leon shared with his wife after receiving two phone calls around 1:35 a.m. reporting a disturbance. One call was from the wife, still inside the home; the other was from Ahsan.

Shortly after officers arrived, they reportedly saw Leon armed with a shotgun inside his open garage. According to police, "The officers took cover as the man approached them with a shotgun. They ordered [him] several times to stop and drop his weapon; he refused to comply with their com

SEE POLICE, PAGE 5

Davidson Named Top Firefighter

Colleagues, family and friends celebrate his award.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

In 1985, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department established the Career Firefighter of the Year award to honor a member whose outstanding service and selfless dedication reflect the highest traditions of the department.

It's the highest commendation the department bestows upon one of its own — and for 2011, that person is Lt. Marc Davidson, an instructor/officer in the Basic Training Unit at the Fire and Rescue Academy.

"Marc is a natural leader," said Battalion Chief Jim Hedrick, during a ceremony for Davidson, last

SEE DAVIDSON, PAGE 5

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Lovely, move-in ready 3-level TH in great location! New carpet & paint. Pergo floors on main level & throughout the upper level. Spacious LR with large bay window. DR w/sliding glass doors to deck. Updated eat-in kitchen w/ granite, new floor, & updated appliances. MBR w/full, private BA. Finished walk-out basement features rec room w/FP, exit to fenced backyard, powder room w/tub rough-in and tons of storage. Close to commuter routes!



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\$549,900 VIRGINIA RUN
Gorgeous sunlit home with lots of curb appeal! Classic brick front. Cul-de-sac street. Nicely landscaped lot backing to trees. 2 decks + private screened-in deck with hot tub. Gleaming hardwood floors. Main lvl study. Updated kitchen w/granite & stainless steel. Family room with brick FP. Recessed lighting. 4 BR's up including MBR w/3 closets & full BA. Finished walk-out basement. **FX7635046**



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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.

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.

THURSDAY/JULY 28

Story Time. 9 to 10 a.m. Free. Emmie the Clown will be conducting a children's reading club called Red Nose Readers. At Chick-fil-A at Chantilly Place, 4412 Chantilly Place, Chantilly. Call 703-631-2253.

FRIDAY/JULY 29

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the band, The Nighthawks. Beginner swing lesson from 8:30 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road (Route 28 near the airport), Herndon.

JULY 29 TO AUG. 7

"Hairspray." The Alliance Theatre presents the hit, Broadway musical, "Hairspray," this summer at Chantilly High. "Hairspray" has delighted audiences by sweeping them away to 1960s Baltimore where change is in the air. Lovable, plus-sized heroine, Tracy Turnblad, has a passion for dancing and wins a spot on local, TV dance program, "The Corny Collins Show." Overnight, she's transformed from outsider to teen celebrity. Can a larger-than-life teen manage to vanquish the program's reigning princess, integrate the television show and find true love while singing and dancing, without musing her hair? Performances are Friday, July 29, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, July 30, at 4 p.m.; Sunday, July 31, at 2 p.m.; Monday, Aug. 1, at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday-Friday-Saturday, Aug. 4-5-6, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 7, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16, adults; \$14, children 12 and under; and senior citizens, \$14. Those ordering 10 or more tickets online receive a \$2/ticket discount. (Use coupon code 10PLUS when checking out).

JULY 30

Pole Dancing Classes. 2:30 to 4 p.m. Free. Drop in and experience the latest in pole fitness. Sponsored by DivaFit Studios in Chantilly. Visit www.divafitonline.com or email info.ashburn@divafitonline.com.

SUNDAY, JULY 31 TO THURSDAY, AUG. 4

Vacation Bible School. Centreville Community Bible Church invites rising K-6th grade children to join in adventures and fun at its Vacation Bible School — Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street. Meeting at Deer Park Elementary, 15109 Carlbern Drive, Centreville. Sunday, July 31 through Thursday, Aug. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. Contact Brooke at brookeashley29@yahoo.com; or 703-727-2009. Visit www.cccb-va.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 5

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 11

Story Time. 9 to 10 a.m. Free. Emmie the Clown will be conducting a children's reading club called Red Nose Readers. At Chick-fil-A at Chantilly Place, 4412 Chantilly Place, Chantilly. Call 703-631-2253.

FRIDAY/AUG. 12

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

SATURDAY/AUG. 13

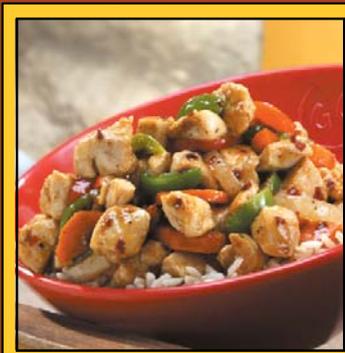
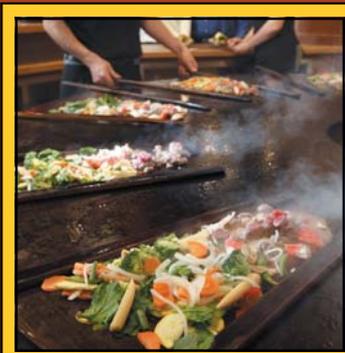
Super Science Saturdays. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. The theme is "Energy." Super Science Saturdays take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month, offering activities focused a different science concept. Through demonstrations and hands-on activities, visitors will become immersed in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) topics related to aviation and space exploration. At the National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Visit: <http://www.nasm.si.edu/events/superscience/>.

Sully Civil War Weekend. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Troops recreate Civil War daily life as re-enactors demonstrate the varied work of the army. House tour includes artifacts rarely on exhibit belonging to the Haight family, mid-19th century residents at Sully. \$8 adults, \$6 seniors and children. 703-708-0861.

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ROUNDUPS

Police Seek Serial Cutter

Fairfax County police are investigating reports of a man who follows young women in retail stores, cuts them and slips away. Most recently, officers responded to the Forever 21 Store in Fair Oaks Mall on Monday, July 25, around 5:30 p.m., for a report of a woman who suffered a one-and-a-half-inch wound in her buttocks.

The 18-year-old victim was shopping when she noticed clothes that had fallen off of a rack behind her and saw a man bending down to pick them up. She abruptly felt a sharp pain and believed one of the hangars had struck her. A short time later, she discovered her denim shorts had been slashed and her buttocks had been cut and were bleeding.

Store employees quickly contacted security, who summoned police. Detectives believe this attack may be linked to four others that have taken place in Fairfax County retail stores since February. The most recent one occurred in the Marshall's store in the Greenbriar Town Center, June 20, around 2:45 p.m.

In each case, the suspect distracts his victim before cutting her. The victims have all been teenagers or women or in their early 20s. The suspect is described as Hispanic, in his late 20s, around 5 feet 6 inches and heavyset. On July 25, he was wearing white shorts and a short-sleeved shirt.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, email at <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org> or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, July 28, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. Residents should install the child safety seats themselves, so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed. Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140.

Centreville Farmers' Market

The farmers' market has returned to Centreville. Every Friday from 3:30-6:30 p.m., local vendors sell their wares at the Trinity Centre office park, 5875 Trinity Parkway (off Route 29). The market features a variety of items, including fruits, vegetables, meats, baked goods, sweets and spices. The next farmers markets' are July 29 and Aug. 5. A partnership of Smart Markets Inc. and Trinity Centre, it will run through October. For more information, contact Jean Janssen at jean@smartmarkets.org.

Clarification

In the story, "Speaking Out to Prevent Tragedies," in the July 21 Centre View, in the 2009 FCPS survey, of 42,582 students total, nearly 67 percent of all high-school seniors, 8,641, had used alcohol, and 38.2 percent, 4,960, had used marijuana. Nearly 5 percent — almost 4,000 students — said they'd been raped in their lifetime.

Shelter Cat Adoptions Resume

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter has reopened for cat adoptions. In celebration, it's hosting ExtravaCATza! 2011 and will also extend summer adoptions through August. As part of the event, the first 100 cats adopted from the shelter during July and August will receive a free spay or neuter at the shelter's veterinarian. There will also be no adoption fee for cats 7 years or older.

The facility is reopening for cat adoptions after closing temporarily in June after an outbreak of suspected virulent systemic Calicivirus. After the outbreak, the shelter enacted a very strict cleaning regimen to eliminate the virus from all cat housing areas. No signs of the feline illness have been present in the shelter among its cats since the June outbreak.

The shelter will be open its normal adoption hours for cats, dogs and other animals throughout the month: Tuesdays-Fridays, noon-6:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-830-1100.

NEWS

Community's Help Needed

WFCM seeks 1,300 backpacks for local students.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

For many children, the start of a new school year is exciting because they get new outfits, pencils, notebooks, lunch boxes and backpacks. But for those whose parents can't afford to buy them these things, it can be embarrassing.

However, thanks to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) and the local community, that doesn't have to be the case. It may be summertime outside, but the WFCM is already focused on September — hard at work collecting backpacks for the 24 elementary, middle and high schools in Centreville, Chantilly and Clifton.

School counselors tell WFCM how many backpacks are needed, and, this year, it's more than 1,300. "It's the same amount as last year," said WFCM's Terri Kelly, organizing the backpack drive. "So the need hasn't lessened any."

Centreville, Chantilly, Westfield and Mountain View high schools requested 340 total, and the four middle schools need 185. The 16 elementary schools asked for a total of 780 backpacks.

The new packs are provided at no cost to those students receiving free or reduced-cost lunches. Filling them with new school supplies is the Reston-based nonprofit, Kids R First, which services the Chantilly, Centreville and Westfield school pyramids.

But with so many students in need of backpacks, WFCM needs help from local residents to meet the demand. "We're very appreciative of all the churches, businesses, individuals and organizations that have supported and continue to support our program," said Kelly. "But the need is so great that we need the community at large and individuals to pitch in and drop off a backpack or two and help these kids start the school year right."

Especially in demand are large-sized backpacks with no wheels. "Middle- and high-school students say the smaller ones aren't big enough to hold more than two or three textbooks," said Kelly. "And in the elementary schools, fifth- and sixth-graders need the larger sizes, too."

Donations may be dropped off any time before Aug. 12. They'll be delivered directly to the schools, where school staff and PTA members will fill them with supplies. Bring backpacks to the Centreville WFCM office at 14631 Lee Highway, No. 313, Monday-Fri-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEANETTE NAGEL

Terri Kelly holds some of the backpacks that have been donated.

day, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information or directions, call 703-825-1996.

All backpack donations are tax-deductible, and WFCM will give receipts to contributors to use for tax purposes. Besides holding a student's books, papers and other items for schools, new backpacks also serve another important function.

"It's helpful for kids to have a sense of starting fresh," said Kelly. "And for a lot of these kids, it may be the one thing they get new. They may get hand-me-down clothes and shoes; but if they have a new backpack and supplies, it gives them a good foundation for the school year."

With so many families living on the edge of a financial precipice, these days, any extra expense — an illness, car repair, Christmas presents or back-to-school costs — could push them over the edge. That's why Kelly says community support of the backpack program is so vital.

"WFCM's main ministry is to provide food for these families and to help them save money for their other expenses," she said. So in these tough, economic times, if residents can lend a hand by contributing some backpacks for children in need, said Kelly, "It helps their families keep to their budgets and puts a little money in their pockets for rent, utilities and gasoline — the basic necessities."

TIME TO HELP

WFCM Seeks Food, Volunteers

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry urgently needs donations of jelly; jam; spaghetti sauce; dry spaghetti/pasta; canned meats, fruit, spaghetti and vegetables (no green beans); pancake mix and syrup; and cereal. Also needed are deodorant and toilet paper. (Toiletory items cannot be purchased with food stamps). Bring all items to WFCM's food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive (near Backyard

Grill and Bar) in Chantilly. Volunteers are also needed:

Food Pantry:

❖ Baggers are needed Mondays, Tuesdays and the first and third Thursdays, from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

❖ Baggers/stockers are needed on the first and third Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., plus a stocker on Wednesdays, from 10 a.m.-noon.

One-day volunteers:

❖ On Aug. 3 and Sept. 7 — Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-noon — four to six strong people are needed to help receive and shelve

cases of USDA food.

Thrift store:

❖ General assistance needed Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. A regular weekly volunteer is needed Thursdays, from 1-6 p.m., as well as Saturdays, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, contact Volunteer Manager Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656.

❖ Donations of furniture in excellent condition for resale in the thrift store are especially needed, as well as one volunteer to help move furniture to be given to clients.

BULLETIN BOARD

TUESDAYS, AUG. 2, 9, 16

Men, do you like to sing? 7:30-9 p.m. Want to try your hand at a cappella singing? The Fairfax Jubil-Aires are offering five free one-hour singing lessons. Instruction provided by their internationally known, award-winning directing staff. Male singers of all talent levels are welcome. No experience necessary. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church (West), 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton (one traffic light south of Centreville High School, Union Mill Road). Email Aaron Watts at adwatts78@yahoo.com if you plan to attend. Call 703-793-7166 or go to: www.fairfaxjubilaires.org.

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

ESL Classes. 7 to 9 p.m. Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels. Cost is \$10 registration fee, \$25/book fee. Starts Sept. 13 through Nov. 17.

Registration is Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church in both Fairfax and Clifton locations: At 5114 Twinbook Road, Fairfax, and 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. Call 703-323-9500 or visit www.lordoflifelutheranva.org

JULY 31 TO AUG. 4

Vacation Bible School. 6 to 8 p.m. Centreville Community Bible Church invites rising K to sixth-grade children to join in adventures and fun at Vacation Bible School — Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street. Meeting at Deer Park Elementary, 15109 Carlbern Drive, Centreville. Sunday, July 31 through Thursday, Aug. 4. Contact info: Brooke-brookeashley29@yahoo.com or 703-727-2009. Visit www.ccbc-va.com.

AUG. 8 TO 12

Music Camp. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Centreville United Methodist Church is sponsoring its 2011 Music Camp. Children who will be in grades 2 through 6 (in the 2011-2012 school year) are invited to participate in a week of fun music activities. During the week, campers will learn the musical, "Daniel Chapter Six," the story of Daniel in the lion's den, and present it at Friday afternoon's closing program. Daily activities will include singing, handbell ringing, crafts, movement, and snacks. There will also be guests demonstrating a variety of instruments. The cost per camper is \$20 with a \$50 family maximum. Registrations will be accepted through July 29. Download Music Camp registration forms on the church website, www.centreville-umc.org, or stop by the church office between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Centreville UMC is located at 6400 Old

Centreville Road at the corner of Centreville Road and New Braddock Road. Call 703-830-2684.

NOW THROUGH AUG. 22.

Divorce Care Class. 7-9 p.m. Centreville UMC, Room 215. Cost is \$12 for workbook. The class meets weekly for 14 weeks and walk-ins at any time during these 14 weeks are welcomed. Call 703-830-2684, ext. 1878.

JULY 31 TO AUG. 4

Vacation Bible School. 6 to 8 p.m. Centreville Community Bible Church invites rising K-6th grade children to join in adventures and fun at Vacation Bible School — Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street. Meeting at Deer Park Elementary, 15109 Carlbern Drive, Centreville. Contact brookeashley29@yahoo.com or 703-727-2009. Visit www.ccbc-va.com.

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Children's & Youth Church	10:00 AM
Youth Minister: Rev. Bobby Joe Ford, Jr.	
Wednesday Bible Study (Includes Youth Classes)	7:00-9:00 PM

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Administrative Office:
13924 Braddock Road Suite 201
Centreville, VA 20120
Phone: 703-830-8769
Fax: 703-830-6718
Website:
www.mountolive-church.org
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mtolive@mountolive-church.org



Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson, Pastor

6600 OLD CENTREVILLE ROAD CENTREVILLE, VA 20121

Davidson Named Career Firefighter of the Year

FROM PAGE 1

Wednesday, July 20, at the Massey Building. “He leads by example and really enjoys his job and wants to be totally proficient at it. He also takes initiative to make things better.”

At the academy, Davidson, 46, teaches recruits the skills required to become a firefighter/EMT. He also mentors them during their 20 weeks of training. But he was recognized for more than his three years there; he was feted for the entirety of his 16 years with the Department.

Noting all the skills Davidson brings to the table, Hedrick told him, “You’ve earned this award.” Hedrick, who supervised him at the Dunn Loring Station from 2001-03, said Davidson always placed his family first. “He shows that you can take care of your family and still do an outstanding job,” said Hedrick. “He always thought of his co-workers, too, and that made him special throughout the years.”

Capt. Chester Waters, Davidson’s immediate supervisor at the academy, said he “not only rose to the level of instructor, but raised the bar. I’m blessed to have him on my team. He always seems to have his hands in a lot of projects at once and is one of the hardest-working people I’ve ever met. His work ethic and passion prompted me to nominate him for this prestigious award.”



Lt. Marc Davidson

Davidson began his career at the Tysons Corner fire station, and technician Jacques Cochran, of that station, also had high praise for him. “Although he went out on his first call with his hat on backwards, everything in his life and career with the Fire Department has led up to this award,” said Cochran.

He said Davidson’s mother instilled his love of teaching in him, and his experience in the Marine Corps made him value organization. Also stressing Davidson’s leadership abilities and devotion to family, Cochran called him “a template for what a firefighter should be. I’m grateful to have him as a friend and proud that he’s receiving this well-deserved honor.”

County Fire Chief Ron Mastin said there are so many excellent people in the Department, it’s a challenge to select just one for this award. But among its 1,400 members, he said, Davidson is one of the most outstanding.

Davidson and his family live in Howard County, Md., so he has quite a long drive to and from his job each day. But, said Mastin, “That’s the type of dedication he has. He comes in early and stays late to make sure everyone he’s working for and with will be successful. He has a positive influence on everyone he comes in contact with, and we appreciate all he’s done for this organization.”

Mastin then presented the Firefighter of the Year helmet to Davidson, along with a

savings bond contributed for this award each year by an anonymous donor. Afterward, Davidson stepped to the podium and addressed the crowd.

He thanked his family “because all the work I did came at a cost.” He called his mother “the biggest influence in my life, the way she cares for people. And I learned a lot about work ethic from my brother.”

In the Marines, Davidson was a member of the elite Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Co. (ANGLICO) unit, and retired Marine Warrant Officer III Dan Hazeltine – who served in ANGLICO with him – was at last week’s ceremony. Acknowledging his presence, Davidson said, “Those influences helped me step up to the next level.”

He also thanked all the speakers for the things he learned from them, as well. “This is all about working hard and providing the best services you can,” said Davidson. “Thank you very much for this award. I appreciate the honor and the opportunity to thank everyone who’s been an influence on my life.”

Afterward, his 12-year-old son, Marc Daniel, said he was happy about his father’s honor. “He definitely deserves it,” said Marc.

Agreeing, Davidson’s daughter, Victoria Marie, 14, said her dad “downplays it, but he works really hard, and I’m proud of him.”

Denise, his wife of 20 years, was overcome with emotion as she saw her husband being recognized by his colleagues and su-



Lt. Marc Davidson with his family, (from left) daughter Victoria Marie, wife Denise and son Marc Daniel.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

supervisors. “He’s quite possibly the best father in the world,” she said. “Once he’s home, he’s there 100 percent – except when his pager goes off.”

Furthermore, she added, “He’s supported my career as a physical therapist at Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland. He’s allowed me to be a mom to the best of my abilities, and he’s such a good role model for our children. He’s the love of my life; and if there’s such a thing as a soul mate, then I’ve been lucky enough to find mine. I’m so proud of him.”

Police Kill Armed Man in Centreville Neighborhood

FROM PAGE 1

mands. The officers subsequently shot [him].”

Afterward, police provided first aid to Leon until fire and rescue personnel arrived. But he was pronounced dead at the scene. Police spokeswoman Tawny Wright said he was shot “in the upper body.”

Police said it wasn’t yet clear which particular officer fired the fatal shot, since more than one officer fired his weapon. Meanwhile, four officers involved in the shooting were placed on administrative leave, as is routine procedure in cases involving shootings by police.

Just before this incident occurred, Ahsan was getting ready for bed, and his wife, Sarwar Jahan Choudhury, was checking the weather on TV. Then Ahsan heard a sound, like someone running, and initially thought somebody might have broken into their house.

“I told my wife, ‘Don’t turn on the lights,’” he said. Then he looked out a window from their top floor onto the street below. “I heard this banging sound outside, like someone breaking something,” said Ahsan. “It was

pretty scary.”

So he opened the blinds in their living room, which faces the backyard, and Choudhury opened that room’s door, leading to their deck. To her surprise, she said, “I saw [Leon] throw a chair onto our deck.” Ahsan saw Leon throw another chair — one of the chaise lounges from Leon’s deck — and, said Choudhury, “It broke my glass table on our deck.” Indeed, the next day, thousands of bits of glass were still embedded between each of the deck’s wooden slats.

“I got scared and called 911,” said Ahsan. “I thought he might come over and break into my house. He was screaming and yelling.”

He said Leon’s behavior was out-of-character for him and, hours earlier, things had been fine. “I saw him around 5 or 5:30 p.m., when I came home from work,” said Ahsan. “We shook hands and said hello.”

But Friday, the evidence of Leon’s anger was unmistakable. Nearly every window in his home was broken from where he’d thrown various objects through them, said his neighbors. Glass shards filled his front yard and rear deck, and a floor ashtray flung



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Nearly every window in Rico Leon’s Centreville townhouse is broken.

some 50 yards from his deck still lay in the glass in the common area behind the townhouse, as did a lamp.

“He was totally out of control,” said

Choudhury. “He threw things all over the place.”

Pointing at Leon’s deck, where a full-sized refrigerator stood, with its freezer door taken off, Ahsan described his neighbor as “strong and muscular” and said Leon “broke [his] refrigerator and pushed it onto the floor. He also threw a barbecue off his deck, between our two houses, and pushed over the gas grill on his deck.”

In the wee hours of July 21, Ahsan checked on his 8-year-old son to make sure he was still asleep, and then he and his wife watched in horror from their home at the scene unfolding below. “The police came, and then I saw [Leon’s] wife coming outside and running toward them,” said Ahsan.

Around 2 a.m., he said, “I saw the police in front with their guns pointed at [Leon’s] house, but he wasn’t there. He was yelling and screaming in the back. All of a sudden, I noticed he was going to the front and he opened his garage door. I heard a lot of police clearly saying, ‘Drop the gun.’ Maybe 10 seconds later, I heard maybe three shots. I turned to my wife and said, ‘I think he’s

What's Your Advice?

Be part of the Centre View Insiders edition.

The Centre View staff and interns are already preparing the annual newcomers and community guide. We invite our readers to help with providing insiders' advice and information.

Below are several suggested questions, but we encourage you EDITORIAL to participate in any way.

We'll print selections from the answers along with your name. Answer one question or all of them; give as many answers as you'd like to each question.

What "insider's tip" about your town would you share with a friend? Places to go, things to do, can't-miss events, ideas on what it means to live here.

What advice would you give new residents on how to make themselves at home and get involved here?

What tips do you have for someone new to your town? What interesting, almost secret places would you like to have learned about earlier when you moved in?

We invite you to share the expertise you've gained in living in your hometown with your

neighbors and with people new to the area.

Send us a short letter: what do you love about your community? Tell us about one special place you've discovered. Does your family have different favorites in different seasons? How did you get involved in your town? Share your favorite park. Tell us about your favorite annual event. Send us a photo of your family at one of your favorite spots or engaged in a favorite activity.

We also ask for input from local arts organi-

zations, civic organizations, houses of worship, clubs, schools, businesses and other community institutions. Send us information on dates and details for major events for the upcoming year, information on how to get involved in nonprofits and charities, details about your club or other organization.

The Insiders Guide will publish the last week in August. Send in your tips and answers by Aug. 17 to smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

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Email your name, your snail-mail address,

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Improve Teacher Working Conditions

To the Editor:

I am a rising senior at Westfield High School and this coming election will be my first opportunity to vote. At first I was disappointed it was an off year election but once I looked into what we had an opportunity to vote for I became a bit more excited. This year we get to vote for school board, and having attended a Fairfax County school my entire life I understand the importance of this office.

I live in the Sully District and am considering voting for Mrs. Ratnam this November. Her position to make the support provided to teachers and students an important part of her candidacy interests me. Supporting our teachers is important to me because I do not believe they have as good of working conditions as they deserve. For example, they have work overload in regard to classroom size and the limited availability of needed resources to properly educate students such as updated computer software and the latest classroom enhancement technologies. Ratnam thinks she can address these issues and secure appropriate funding within the budget to fix these issues.

I know our school system is renowned for its quality of education, but I believe we could do even better if we improved conditions for teachers which are the foundation of our system. I feel that Ratnam genuinely supports teachers and she believes in their cause. In November, I will be supporting Ratnam and I encourage fellow students to do the same as

she places a big emphasis on education, and the working conditions for teachers. I believe the education of my generation and in the next generation is the key to the success of this nation, Ratnam agrees with this idea and what I stand for. I hope the senior class across the county votes in this election and votes for strong school board candidates.

Aveen Bhatia
Centreville

Reduce County Spending

To the Editor:

As a student in the Sellinger School of Business at Loyola University of Maryland, I hope for a future in the business world. With that being said, I look forward to a stronger labor market to be available to me not only to make it easier to get a job but to expand my opportunities and do something I really enjoy. I believe that the most qualified candidate that supports my values and beliefs is Spike Williams.

I proudly support Spike Williams who is running for chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for various reasons, starting with the budget. Spike's vision for a massive budget reduction is one main reason for my support. In 2001 the budget was at \$2.135 billion, compared to \$3.319 billion this past year. For almost a decade, the budget consisted of outrageous real estate tax and wasted surplus. Our government's spending has made our labor market more rigid by holding back the efficient flow of workers from declining industries to expanding commerce. I believe Spike

Williams is here to reform and reorganize Fairfax County's budget. He is a businessman at heart, and I have faith in his visionary leadership to develop our budget in a more sensible way to create a better job market.

The current board has a spending dilemma and a lack of understanding of what it takes to grow a job market. Spike Williams will work until he reaches the apex, which can set an example for this nation. As a student I feel it is necessary to address issues in my community that may affect me now, or in my near future. Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, or Independent, I encourage you to find something that interests you. Do some research on how you can make your community a better place, and make your voice heard. Make sure you get out there and vote!

Tyler Fisher
Clifton

Write Us

Centre View welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
Centre View
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.
By e-mail:

CentreView@connectionnewspapers.com

NEWS

Rico Leon

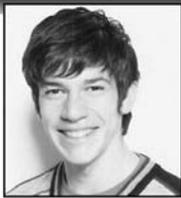
FROM PAGE 5

gone,' because then it got quiet." From their vantage point, the couple couldn't see inside Leon's garage, so, at first, they were unaware of his behavior toward the officers. Afterward, said Choudhury, "I thought he might have committed suicide; I couldn't believe the police had shot him. I didn't know why they would have wanted to kill him; it happened very quickly."

"I still cannot believe he died," said Ahsan. "He was a nice guy. In 2007, our whole family went to Europe for four or five weeks and we left our house key with him. He was dependable."

"He was a really good guy; we trusted him," added Choudhury. "And this is a nice neighborhood — very friendly and peaceful."

Meanwhile, police say their investigation into this incident is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, email at <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org> or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.



Patrick from France, 17 yrs. Loves the outdoors and playing soccer. Patrick's dream has been to spend time in America learning about our customs and attending American high school.



Elisa from Italy, 16 yrs. Likes to play tennis, swim, loves to dance. Elisa hopes to play American softball and learn American 'slang' while in the USA.

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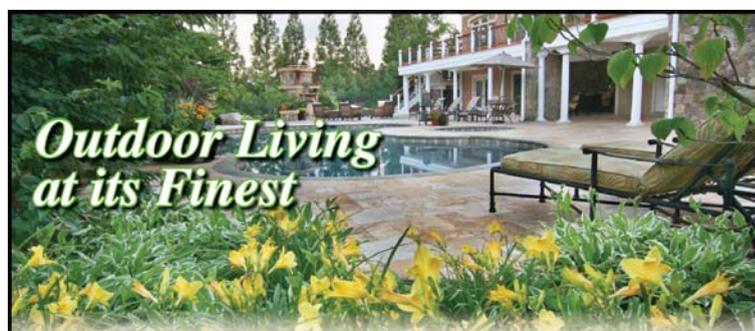
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Sales in June Between \$850K and \$1 million



5 8138 Rondelay Lane, Fairfax Station — \$875,000



4 6490 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke — \$945,000



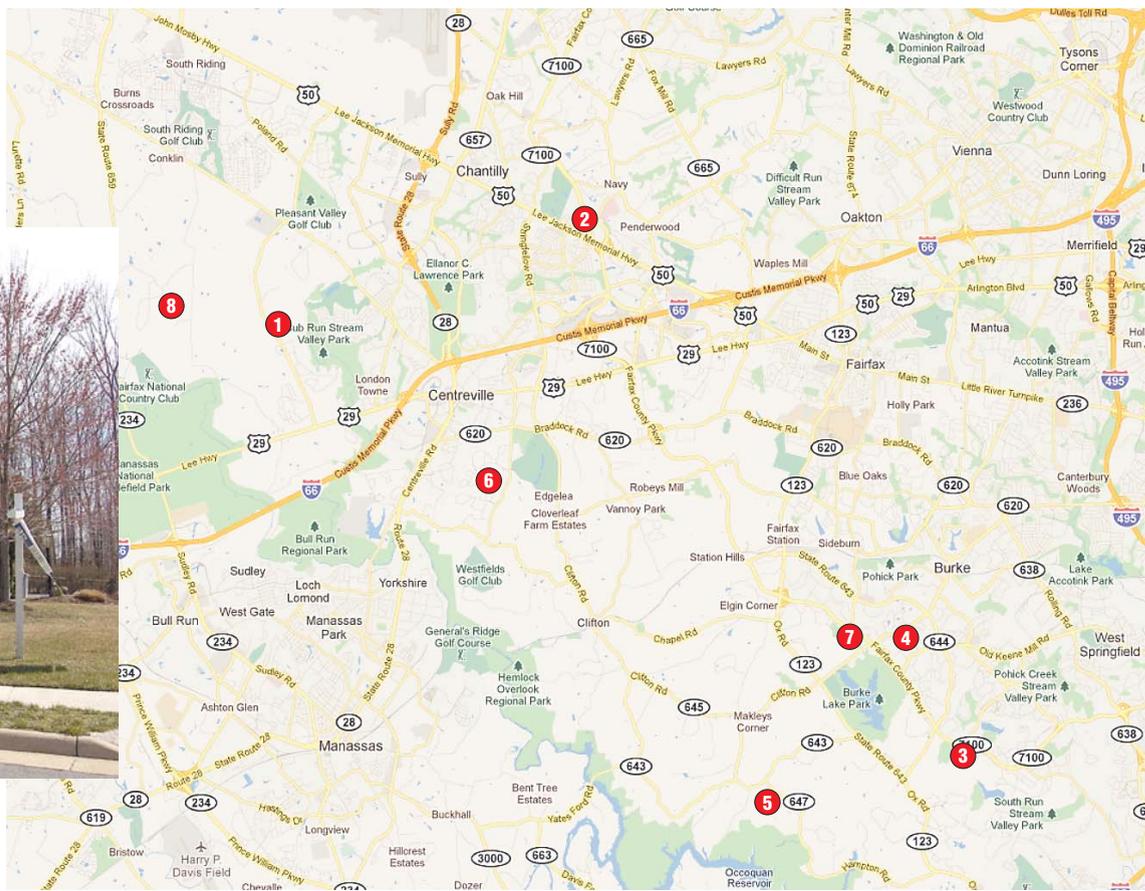
3 7708 Huntsman Blvd., Springfield — \$950,000



1 5877 Iron Stone Court, Centreville — \$955,000



8 6309 Fairfax National Way, Centreville — \$850,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 5877 IRON STONE CT	5	5	1		CENTREVILLE	\$955,000	Detached	0.84	VIRGINIA RUN (THE RIDINGS)	06/01/11
2 3963 WOODBERRY MEADOW DR	4	1			FAIRFAX	\$950,019	Detached	0.24	KENSINGTON MANOR	06/24/11
3 7708 HUNTSMAN BLVD	6	6	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$950,000	Detached	0.26	LAKEWOOD HILLS	06/28/11
4 6490 LAKE MEADOW DR	5	4	1		BURKE	\$945,000	Detached	0.58	EDGEWATER	06/30/11
5 8138 RONDELAY LN	5	4	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$875,000	Detached	5.00	RONDELAY	06/23/11
6 6417 DEEPWOOD FARM DR	5	4	2		CLIFTON	\$870,000	Detached	0.24	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	06/17/11
7 10328 REGENCY STATION DR	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$860,000	Detached	0.60	REGENCY STATION	06/30/11
8 6309 FAIRFAX NATIONAL WAY	4	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$850,000	Detached	5.66	FAIRFAX NATIONAL ESTATES	06/30/11

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

PEOPLE

Balthrop, Higbie Mark First Anniversary

Keely Jane Balthrop and Michael Patrick Higbie celebrated their first anniversary Monday, June 6, 2011. They were married in Charleston, S.C., at Magnolia Plantation on the banks of the Ashley River on the Carriage House lawn.

Keely is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Balthrop of Goodlettsville, Tenn.

Michael is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Higbie of Centreville. He is a graduate of Westfield High School, Chantilly. They are both 2009 graduates of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn. Upon graduation, both earned B.S. degrees in civil engineering and were commissioned as ensigns in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Keely is currently a lieutenant junior grade serving as project engineer at the Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit in Providence, R.I. Michael is a lieutenant junior grade serving as executive officer of



Keely Jane Balthrop and Michael Patrick Higbie

the Coast Guard Cutter Tybee in Woods Hole, Mass. They are living in New Bedford, Mass.

SCHOOL NOTES

Chelsea Gray of Little Rocky Run in Clifton is enrolled in SEA Semester, a study abroad program through Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, MA. Chelsea has successfully completed the Sea Semester's four-week shore component earning academic credit for curriculum in oceanography, nautical science and maritime studies. Chelsea is a rising junior at Mary Washington College majoring in biology.

The Junior League of Northern Virginia is hosting a **Back-to-School Health Fair** for uninsured or underinsured children

residing in Herndon, Reston, Chantilly or Centreville. Saturday, Aug. 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Suite #103, Herndon.

Andrew Garcia of Centreville was named to the Dean's List at Villanova University.

Alexander Martello of Centreville was named to the Dean's List at James Madison University.

Kellie Sanders, daughter of Kathy Sanders of Centreville, graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy. She was named to the Dean's List during the final grading period.

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Sully police department through July 22.

LARCENIES

14300 block of Chantilly Crossing Lane. Cell phones stolen from business.

4300 block of Chantilly Shopping Center. Copper wire stolen from business.

6300 block of Generals Court. Bicycle stolen from residence.

6000 block of Little Brook Court. Tools stolen from vehicle.

13500 block of Point Pleasant Drive. Wallet stolen from business.

4900 block of Stonecroft Blvd. Dog stolen from residence.

4000 block of Stringfellow Road. Laptop computer stolen from library.

14000 block of Walter Bowie Lane. Laptop computer stolen from vehicle.

5100 block of Woodmere Drive. Tools stolen from vehicle.

VEHICLE THEFTS

14400 block of Golden Oak Road. Motorcycle.

6100 block of Strasburg Drive. 1990 Ford Aerostar.



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Centreville

14158 Compton Valley Way\$324,900...Sat 2-4.....Thomas Hennerty.....NetRealtyNow.com...703-652-6040

Chantilly

13714 Adelphi Ct\$339,900...Sun 1-4.....Jon Butt.....Long & Foster..703-625-6040
3820 Lightfoot St #314\$160,000...Sat 12-2.....Candace Woodson.....Weichert..703-819-8399
25638 Creek Run Terr.....\$479,000...Sun 1-4.....Suzanne Burch.....Century 21..703-328-5606

Fairfax

11836 Robertson Farm Cir.....\$799,000...Sun 1-4.....Sara Mirza.....Long & Foster..703-887-4616
12571 Cerromar Pl.....\$795,000...Sun 1-4.....Debbie Kent.....Cottage Street..703-740-7654
3518 Schuerman House.....\$1,299,999...Sun 1-4.....Kathy Shea.....Weichert..703-795-3946
8810 Lynnhurst Dr.....\$895,000...Sun 1-4.....Anne Harrington.....Long & Foster..703-585-8595
4858 Sideburn Rd.....\$625,000...Sun 1-4.....Stan Goldberg.....Weichert..703-731-4230
12520 North Lake Ct.....\$395,000...Sun 1-4.....Jim Souvavis.....Long & Foster..703-919-9191
4224 Majestic Ln.....\$479,900...Sun 1-4.....Greg Connarn.....Century 21..703-850-4484

Clifton

13935 South Springs Dr.....\$600,000...Sun 1-4.....Karen Gales.....RE/MAX..703-403-0992
5710 Regal Crest Ct.....\$599,990...Sun 1-4.....Hall Wang.....UnionPlus..202-276-6928
6800 Glencove Dr.....\$719,900...Sun 1-4.....Dan Mleziva.....Jobin..703-380-9915
6918 Clifton Rd.....\$659,500...Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Fairfax Station

11115 Devereux Station Ln.....\$1,299,900...Sat 12-3.....Frank Madden.....Century 21..571-221-2062
7013 Sylvan Glen Ln.....\$830,000...Fri 6-9.....Dallison Veach.....RE/MAX..703-477-7920
7511 South Reach Dr.....\$799,950...Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
8914 Magnolia Ridge Rd.....\$597,500...Sun 1-4.....Kathy Peters/Ed Hillebrand.....Long & Foster..703-915-2165
9011 Banyon Ridge Rd.....\$524,900...Sun 1-4.....Kelli Orford.....Long & Foster..703-895-8970
11523 Wild Acre Way.....\$624,000...Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Burke

5822 Shana Pl.....\$285,000...Sun 1-4.....Bob Dooley.....Samson Properties..703-581-5758
6054 Heathwick Ct.....\$385,000...Sun 1-4.....Debbie Kent.....Cottage Street..703-740-7654
9901 Coffer Woods Rd.....\$574,900...Sun 1-4.....Diana LeFrancois.....Century 21..703-930-6682

Springfield

5609 Rolling Rd.....\$425,000...Sun 1-4.....Janice Buckley.....Long & Foster..571-239-2792
6030 Queenston St.....\$379,000...Sun 1-4.....Charlie Rose.....Long & Foster..703-919-9361
8624 Etta Dr.....\$569,000...Sun 1-4.....Christine Stephenson.....Weichert..703-901-0944
8118 Ridge Creek Way.....\$689,900...Sun 1-4.....Beckie Owen.....Long & Foster..703-328-4129
8205 Taunton Pl.....\$399,900...Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Lorton

10413 Midway Ln.....\$699,000...Sun 1-4.....Dane Work.....RE/MAX..703-869-4567
6710 Red Bird Woods Ct.....\$368,972...Sun 1-4.....Malia Eckert.....Long & Foster..703-573-2600
9068 Arch Hall Rd.....\$584,000...Sun 1-4.....Susie Zinn.....RE/MAX..703-403-2524
9108 Wildwood St.....\$649,900...Sun 1-4.....Dane Work.....RE/MAX..703-869-4567
9264C Cardinal Forest Ln #301.....\$215,000...Sun 1-4.....Pat Dewey.....Long & Foster..703-919-4952
9615 Sloway Coast Dr.....\$590,000...Sun 1-4 by appt.....Audrey Funk.....Weichert..571-335-6075

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6327 Still Spring Pl.....\$749,950...Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
6412 Caleb Ct.....\$659,950...Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Woodbridge

12233 Stevenson Ct #12233.....\$104,900...Sun 1-4.....Ciara Lascano.....RE/MAX..703-798-2696

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All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

PET CONNECTION

Partners Not Pets: Working Dogs in Fairfax County

FROM PAGE 1

on this day at the facility. Over the course of five hours, instructors will run six to eight 1-year-old dogs brought by breeders contracted with CBP through a series of tests to see if the dogs have the aptitude to become narcotics detection dogs.

The instructors are playing a basic game of fetch with these dogs. They have several “toys” of different materials: rubber, wood, aluminum, all about 12 inches long. First, they bring the leashed dog into a fenced-in area, talk to it, try and get it excited about the toy, and then they toss the toy into tall grass. They let the dog see where the toy

FIRST IN A SERIES

lands, and then release the dog’s leash and let it seek the toy. Each throw, they make the game a little more challenging, not letting the dog see where it lands, and maybe adding some distractions.

What are the instructors looking for? How does the dog search; does the dog use its eyes or its nose to search; do the tall grass or other environmental factors bother or distract the dog; how long does it take the dog to find the toy; does the dog maintain interest in the game; what is the dog’s level of confidence in this new environment and situation?

If the dog passes these initial tests, more follow. Instructors will throw a toy past a bowl of water and then past dog food and see if the dog stays focused on the toy. If the dog passes these tests, there are environmental tests they’ll do: conveyor belts, cars with running engines, wet cement floors — all tests to see if the dog has the interest in the game despite environmental



“This dog has such a play drive he’d chase and fetch the ball until the sun set,” said Fairfax County Detective DJ Kline of his CBP-trained narcotics dog Stuart. The 9-year-old Lab and his handler Kline work in the Organized Crime and Narcotics Division of the Fairfax County Police Department.



“The great thing about these dogs is their ‘life-switch’ ability. When I put these pants on and he hears the jingling of the buckle he gets ready for work. Everything about this job is a game for him, he does everything for his reward,” said Fairfax County K-9 Officer Jason Herbert of his partner Thunder. They are pictured at a July 18 training session at the Fairfax County Police Facility in Chantilly and are working on building searches for narcotics.

changes. “That translates into the dog’s ability to stay focused on the job,” Szubinski said. To weed out aggressive dogs, they’ll crowd a dog, shoot blanks out of a gun and open an umbrella to see how it reacts.

If the dog passes all of the preliminary tests and the health review, it is purchased by CBP and begins training.

THESE WORKING DOG TEAMS are trained in a variety of specialties — narcotics detection, explosives detection, accelerant detection, tracking, bedbug detection, termite detection, and contraband agricultural product detection. The dogs received extensive scent training. They were generally exposed to desired scents and trained to respond certain ways when they smelled them, such as with a passive response, like pointing the nose at the source of the scent or an aggressive response like scratching at the scent. When dogs successfully find the scent, they are rewarded with praise and either their toy and a game with their handler or some kibble. Whether the dogs are rewarded with play or food depends on their occupation, breed and, to some de-



Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Officer Cpl. Jeff Richards and his dog Rex work through a training exercise at the MWAACanine Facility at Dulles Airport on June 7. Rex is an explosives detection dog. Richards points to the areas along the suitcase where scent is likely to leak — in this case, the zipper — and Rex is trained to follow with his nose. The teams train regularly to search vehicles, luggage, cargo, freight, the airport terminals (Dulles and National), wide-body and narrow body aircraft. When Rex finds and raises an alert to explosives in the suitcases in this training exercise, he is rewarded with his favorite toy, a rubber ball — and a lot of praise.

gree, the choice of the organization that trained them. All of these dogs work with a singular focus to get their reward.

“You train, train, train, train. 10-hour days of training every other Monday, 20 hours a month,” Officer Damien Austin of the Herndon Police Department said. His partner is Smokey, a bi-colored German shepherd. They have been on the street since January 2009. Austin said he became a police officer so that he could work with a police dog. Austin and Smokey trained with the Fairfax County Police Canine Unit, and regularly train with Fairfax County K-9 teams.

“The calls we go on are usually the worst of the worst — you have to have courage. We go into dark places. We have to trust the dog,” Austin said.

KEEGAN is the Fairfax County Fire Marshal’s newest accelerant detection dog. He is the fourth such dog the County has had, in the longest-running program of its kind in Virginia.

“My training exercise starts at 4 a.m. and goes through a 24-hour day,” said Investi-

gator Terry Hall, Keegan’s handler. Keegan is food-rewarded, which means every time he finds a scent he’s trained on — one of 21 ignitable liquids (products that contain hydrocarbons) — he gets a food reward. It also means that Hall must schedule training exercises at least twice a day for 15-20 minutes, so that Keegan gets his two cups of food.

“Through the month, fire debris from accidental fires of all characteristics that are negative for liquid accelerants is collected,” Hall said. “All different articles: clothing, shoes, things from the Salvation Army that they can’t use, is what I use to train Keegan every day.”

He sets out 20 items, burned down to 20 percent, and then adds a pin drop of a partially evaporated solution of a liquid accelerant.

Fire investigators use a number of investigative techniques to determine the cause of fires in Fairfax County. When a structure has been destroyed, and there are no physical indicators of the nature of the fire left — such as burn patterns — Keegan can find

SEE CANINES TEAM UP, PAGE 11

PET CONNECTION

Canines Team Up with Officers

FROM PAGE 10

chemical residues under heaps of ash and debris. He alerts when he finds the odor of an ignitable liquid.

On the scene, Keegan pinpoints where to collect the evidence so the lab can identify the accelerants. The investigators may see burn patterns that indicate flammable liquids, but because of the nature of fire, it is very labor- and resource-intensive to collect and process samples from a fire scene to locate the residual accelerant. Keegan can pinpoint it in moments, reducing the time it takes to collect evidence. If Keegan doesn't find anything, it makes investigators more comfortable ruling out incendiary liquids as the cause of the fire.

IN 2010, the Fairfax County Police Department had 13 Patrol K-9 teams on active status. They were called to service 3,549 times. Of those calls, the dogs were deployed on 1,473 calls, 450 of which were "tracks," where a dog team was sent to look for someone or something — like a cast-off article relating to a crime; 246 were searches for people; 605 drug searches were conducted; 60 were tactical deployments, when K-9 teams were deployed with SWAT teams, all of which resulted in 140 felony charges being placed and 185 misdemeanor charges being placed.

"They provide an added layer of safety because dogs can quickly locate a perp and

take away his advantage — they take away the ambush advantage," said Lieutenant Shawn Martin, a Fairfax County K-9 officer and supervisor of the Canine Unit. "A dog is also a force multiplier. A dog will clear and search faster and more effectively. Dogs are more efficient, particularly when clearing buildings, tracking individuals and doing narcotics searches."

Martin and canine partner Nero received a Silver Medal of Valor and a Meritorious Award, respectively, in 2008, after they subdued an armed and violent man who had stolen and crashed a Prince William County police cruiser. "The biggest reward is finding the bad guy," Martin said. "We have made arrests that never would have happened without dogs."

WHAT IS THE HANDLER'S role? "You've got to know how to walk and chew gum at the same time," joked Officer Jennifer Jones about the skills a canine handler must have. She is a CBP agriculture detection dog handler at Dulles Airport — once known as the Beagle Brigade. She and her partner, Hudson, inspect incoming international passengers at Dulles to ensure that fruits, plants and meats do not enter the United States, bringing harmful animal, pests, or plant diseases.

She watches him work, looks for alerts, making sure he doesn't eat things off the floor, watches passengers, and ensures that

he remains safe in the busy airport environment.

"It is important to understand his viewpoint. The dogs will work until they fall down, so you have to see whether he's hot, tired, sleepy. He's not just a tool. For me, I have a job to do. For him, it's his life," she said.

A handler needs to be empathetic, patient, enthusiastic — "You have to be a partner," Jones said. And, working with a beagle, you must have a sense of humor.

Jones and Hudson work during the peak times that international passengers arrive at Dulles. He alerts around 20 times a day and his accuracy is about 90 percent. Every time he alerts, he gets some kibble. How do passengers react when he alerts to their bags? "You never know what the trigger will be or who will get upset," said Jones.

Beagles are ideally suited for this work, Jones said. They are friendly, cute, and they have the drive and the ability to deal with the chaos of the airport; they are perfect for this job, and there is always an abundance of them to be adopted and trained for the work.

This is the first part of a series of photo essays that Deb Cobb is doing about working dogs. Subsequent articles will explore assistance dogs, medical detection dogs, and search and rescue dogs. If you have a dog in any of these fields, or work for an organization that trains dogs for these jobs, send an email to Cobb at: dcobb@connectionnewspapers.com



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

"The best part of this job is that you get to work with your best friend," said Cpl. John Creager of partner Radja, a 7-year-old German shepherd. **"This is not a job for everyone. If you're not a dog person, you're going to have a big issue. She's at my side all the time. It's the ultimate retirement reward — when the dog retires, you get to keep them."** Creager and Radja work for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority at Dulles Airport. Radja is an explosive ordinance dog. Radja and Creager were trained by the TSA in Texas at Lackland Air Force Base. Creager and Radja train every shift at Dulles Airport, and are recertified each year by the TSA.

READERS' PETS



"Sprite is a 10-year-old domestic shorthair. He was diagnosed at the age of 3 with kidney disease. He has responded wonderfully to treatment over the years and continues to live a happy life at home. Sprite is an amazing cat and a great companion. He was adopted from a humane society in South Carolina when I was in college and has lived with me in many states since then. The picture is of him on my couch at our previous home in Michigan. We currently live in Clifton."

— Penny Besley



Caroline Harley, 14, and Harriett the dog, a 4-and-a-half year old rescue dog. Harriett is a German short-tailed pointer. They live in Centreville.

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Clothes to a Decision



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

To say that I have a tired wardrobe is an affront to all wardrobes, tired or otherwise. To say that my clothes could use a bit of an update is a bit like saying Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie were undermanned at The Alamo. My lack of initiative with respect to such purchases has been a problem my entire life, beginning with my involvement in the "Husky" department at a very young age. It was primarily my mother's problem until I left home to attend college. College presented its own unique set of circumstances which prevented any significant clothing evolution (maturation?) – on my part. Marriage, a few years later, further complicated these clothing indecisions. Though I held fast and firm to my lack-of-clothing instincts – and deferred my purchases as much as possible, eventually, there were fissures and newer clothes occasionally were purchased, against my worse judgment. However, my wardrobe was never one to be proud of; it was – simply put, one that couldn't be avoided, by my wife, Dina, which of course presented all kinds of discussions.

Time passed. Heck, decades passed; there were some good clothing purchases and some not so good. Generally speaking, it wasn't pretty. After so many years, it became apparent – even to my wife, that perhaps she didn't have the proper training to deal with my preference for "casual attire," shall we say. Juxtaposing the fact that she always dressed nicely and appropriately for the situation, my clothing appearance left a lot to be desired, to put it kindly. To put it succinctly: it was atrocious. But I didn't care too much. I always rationalized that "It's what's inside that counts." I was never a clothes-make-the-man kind of person. I was more of a clothes-cover-the-man kind of person.

Then two-and-a-half years ago, I was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer, "a terminal disease," according to my oncologist, if there ever was one; rather convincingly when he suggested that perhaps I should take that trip I've always dreamed of taking. "WHAT!" At that point, normal had left the building, and whatever "normal" life I thought I had – good or bad, was over and subject to major re-evaluation. There was a new sheriff in town and his name was cancer. Everything changed, especially priorities. And new clothing was hardly a priority, and unlikely to move up the list of things I now cared about, given the seriousness of my diagnosis/prognosis. And when I stopped working and began chemotherapy the next week, followed soon thereafter by a deteriorating physical condition, my house-bound status didn't seem to necessitate much of a clothing upgrade.

Eventually I got off the couch and out of the house and tried to resume/re-start a semi normal life (the new "normal," diagnosed-with-cancer normal). I happily wore what clothes I had and didn't concern myself – too much, with my outward appearance, other than always wearing a ball cap to cover my bald head. More time passed and I lived (survived seems so negative) beyond the back-end of my oncologist's original prediction: "two years." Accordingly, Dina has started suggesting that since I'm still alive, perhaps I should buy some new clothes. After all, if I've lived this long, maybe I'm going to live a little bit longer, and dressing like I have a future might help me in the present. A present which I'm grateful to have and a future I always hoped to see.

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

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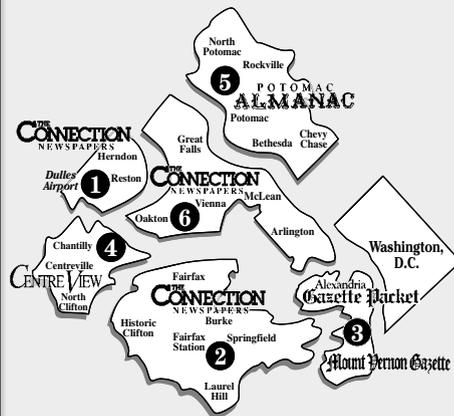
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PHOTO COURTESY OF SULLY STATION II

Five Sully II records were broken in the last dual meet of the season by (from left) Scott Baxter, Carli Molano, and Nick Campbell.

Piranhas Capture Fourth Straight Division Crown

The Sully Station II Piranhas swam away with the Div. 5 championship last Saturday, July 23, defeating neighbor Sully Station, 223-179, in front of an electric hometown crowd. The victory capped an undefeated dual season and brought home Sully II's fourth straight NVSL division title. The Piranhas are on a 14-meet win streak over the past three seasons.

Family, friends, and alumni turned out to cheer on the team and the Piranhas responded by winning eight of 10 freestyle races and sweeping six events throughout the meet. Five individual team records fell, including two by 12-year-old Scott Baxter in the freestyle (28.60) and breaststroke (37.84); two by Carli Molano in 15-18 girls free (27.24) and fly (30.47); and Nick Campbell in 15-18 boys backstroke (29.55). Two relay records were broken as well, including the 11-12 boys medley of Scott Baxter, Harmon Saint Germain, Nick Jiang, and Jack Jiang (1:08.94); and the 13-14 boys squad consisting of Michael Jiang, Connor Pangman, Austen Bundy, and Anthony Wu (1:00.32).

The 13-14 girls had an outstanding meet, capturing 35 of 36 points in the individual events. They swept the freestyle, led by Madisyn Graham (30.68), Lauren Harkes (33.02), and Caitlin Campbell (34.71); captured the backstroke with Caitlin Campbell (38.32), Emily Cervarich (38.74), and

Lauren Harkes (41.25); and brought home the breaststroke with Dasom Lee (43.51), Ryan Cho (44.29), and Emily Cervarich (44.47). Madisyn Graham (34.85) and Dasom Lee (37.86) also finished first and second in the fly.

The 9-10 boys similarly inspired their teammates with two sweeps, including backstrokers Kellen Campbell (40.87), Brody Campbell (41.86), and Brantley Cervarich (46.08), and fly guys Kellen Campbell (18.81), Brody Campbell (19.00), and John Henry Stamper (21.76). The 8-under boys recorded a sweep as well in the breaststroke with Aidan Crisci (26.05), Harrison Saint Germain (29.09), and Carson Saint Germain (30.50).

Eight Piranhas were double event winners, including Faith Alston in free (17.35) and breaststroke (22.59); Aidan Crisci in back (22.85) and breaststroke; Flynn Crisci in free (34.39) and breaststroke (45.31); Kellen Campbell in back and fly; Scott Baxter in free and breaststroke; Georgia Stamper in free (33.89) and breaststroke (42.35); Madisyn Graham in free and fly; and Carli Molano in free and fly. Eight more teammates brought home single wins, including freestylers Carson Saint Germain (20.11) and Connor Pangman (29.38); backstrokers Lauren Peters (39.52), Austen Bundy (33.29), and Caitlin Campbell; breaststrokers Dasom Lee and Erin Schulte (38.36); and fly swimmer Lily Li (37.50).

Divisionals are set for this Saturday, July 30 at Cardinal Hill.

The Piranhas would like to thank Sully Station for being gracious hosts and welcoming the Piranhas to their community celebration and picnic.

Brooke Feichtl, 15-18 girls fly, IM, medley relay, free relay; Kelsey Hamer, 11-12 girls' free relay; Jessie Heise, 13-14 girls back, free relay; Amanda Karstetter, 15-18 girls medley relay; Jennifer Steinhilber, 15-18 girls medley relay.

On the boys' side individual records were harder to come by. But each of the boys in the 15-18 age group - John Bounds, Brian Chapman, Carlo Paraggio, and Will Steinhilber - were part of a medley relay team record.

During the Colonial League Divisional Meets, held throughout Northern Virginia last Saturday, outstanding personal performances in the Blue

SEE SEQUOIA FARMS, PAGE 15



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIPTIDE

Virginia Run Riptide ladies prepare for their races. From left: Katie Schmank, Alexa Tucker, Alicia Loebel, Jessica Scheftel, Morgan Tweddle and Reilly Tweddle. Down front is Sierra Higinbotham.



Virginia Run Riptide boys, from left: Matt Picarsik, Matt Glowacki, Lucas Fulton, and Michael Gay after winning the 200-meter medley relay last Saturday.



The Virginia Riptide started a new charity project this season - collecting over 800 pounds of food and delivering it to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. Throughout the season, each member of the team was asked to bring in a can of food or other item as their "admission pass" to fun Friday practices. Here, Riptide coaches stand in front of the weekly collection.

SPORTS

SYA East Utilizes Long Ball In State Semis Baseball Win

BY RICH SANDERS
CENTRE VIEW

The Southwestern Youth Association (SYA) East All-Stars utilized an age-old successful baseball formula for winning a big game in their Virginia State Tournament Little League Majors (11-12 year olds) semifinals playoff encounter versus the West Springfield Americans on Tuesday night. The formula of success: home runs and strong starting pitching. SYA East, in the game played on Steve Reavis Field at Freedom Park in Leesburg, knocked out four home runs and received a solid outing on the mound from starting pitcher Sam Ryan.

The result for SYA East was a 10-4 win which advanced them to the state finals the following night (Wednesday, after deadline) versus the Reston Nationals. The state finals winner was set to move on to the Southeastern Regionals tournament beginning Aug. 5.

"That's kind of been our mojo right there," said SYA East Manager Jamie Brusick, of his team's keys to winning throughout the postseason All-Stars district and state tournaments. "We try to stay in the game with pitching and defense, and eventually our bats will wake up."

SYA East, with its semifinals win over West Springfield American, was one win away from successfully defending last year's state crown. Two of SYA East's players — second baseman Ronnie Orié and shortstop Ryan Brusick — were a part of the 2010 state champions, which went on to win two and lose two at the Southeastern Regionals. While the player makeup of this year's SYA East All-Stars is much different from last year's squad, the one common element is a knack for winning.

Brusick, the team's manager, said the expectations have been huge for his team to live up to the success of last year's All-Star squad, but that the 2011 All-Stars have shined nonetheless. The team, at the recent District 10 Tournament, went a perfect 4-0, including a finals win over



CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW
Ronnie Orié.

Chantilly. At states, following the win over West Springfield American, SYA East was 4-1.

Over the nine postseason games (8-1 record overall), SYA East had belted an incredible 30 home runs. Ten of those have come from left-handed hitting Brusick, who bats in the No. 3 position of the team's batting order.

Brusick and three teammates — lead-off hitting center fielder Tyler Gambone, No. 2 hitting first baseman Tommy Bradley, and No. 9 hitting left fielder Steven Kirk — each homered in the semifinals win over West Springfield American.

SAM RYAN, SYA East's starting pitcher in the semifinals game, earned the victory, going 5-2/3 strong innings — just one out away from a complete game. Ryan had struggled in his previous start last Sunday in his team's victory over Abington. And things started out rough in Tuesday's game when the first batter he faced in the bottom of the first inning, West Springfield American shortstop Billy Cook, sent a home run over the center field fence to give his team a 1-0 lead.

But Ryan did not allow any more runs until the fifth inning when he was touched up for three. But by that time, SYA East, which scored six runs in a breakout top of the third inning, had pretty good control of the game. The West Springfield American three-run rally in the fifth inning cut the SYA East lead to 6-4.

In that West Springfield American fifth inning, Ryan retired the first two batters by strikeout before singles by leadoff man Cook and Sam Smith put runners on first and second. A wild pitch moved both runners up a base before West Springfield American catcher Michael Morgan sent a towering shot over the center field fence for a three-run homer which got West Springfield American back in the game at 6-4. Ryan, however, fanned the next batter to retire the side, and SYA East went into the final sixth inning with a two-run advantage.

SYA East, in the top of the sixth inning, effectively put the game away with a four-run outburst to make the score 10-4 going into West Springfield American's final at-bats.

West Springfield American, in its final at-bats, got a leadoff infield single from Lewis Holzemer to begin the bottom of the sixth. Following a double play, Ryan was taken out of the game for reliever Brandon Luke, who got the final out of the game on a groundout to shortstop Brusick.

Ryan, in his outing, gave his team a solid effort, allowing four runs and eight hits while striking out six and walking one. Ryan was backed by an offense which batted around twice - in the third and sixth innings.

The huge third inning put SYA East in the driver's seat for good. Trailing 1-0, the inning began when left-handed hitting Kirk, the No. 9 batter, homered over the center field fence to tie the game at 1-1. Gambone, also a left-handed batter, followed Kirk's round-tripper with one of his own — an opposite field homer over the left field fence to make it 2-1. Bradley then fisted an inside pitch into center field for a single. That brought up Ryan Brusick, who homered over the left field fence — the third SYA East home run of the inning — to make the score 4-1. Later in the inning, Orié and Gambone, the latter player hitting for the second time in the inning, would both plate runs with RBI infield singles to make it 6-1.

SYA East never lost the lead, although West Springfield American got within striking range with three runs in the fifth.

In all, SYA East tallied 16 hits in the game, three from Gambone and two apiece from Bradley, Brusick, Luke, Kakar, and Kirk.

SYA East lost its first game of the state tournament to Bridgewater, but came back with wins over Danville Nationals, Abington, Loudoun County South, and West Springfield American.

Sequoia Farms

FROM PAGE 14

Division were turned in by swimmers battling to qualify for All-Star status. Qualification earned them the right to swim in the league-wide, All-Star Meet. Sequoia Farms swimmers who qualified for All-Star participation were: Lucy Blazquez, Kate Croxton, Brice Harris, John Bounds, Sydney Fish, Kristen Blee, Diane Sellars, Kelsey Hamer, Jessie Heise, Brooke Feichtl, Julia Barrett, Travis Blee, Caroline Santilli, Sean Bartro, Lauren Chin, Georgia Cerisano, Will Steinhilber, Connor Croxton, and Avery Harris.

There were other performances by Sequoia Farms swimmers at divisionals which broke team records. The Stingray boys' were Blue Division champions in the 15-18 age category. This group is comprised of John Bounds, Brian Chapman, Matt Cohen, Blake Feichtl, Danny Flannery, Brian Murphy, Conner Murphy, Chris O'Brien, Carlo Paraggio and Will Steinhilber.

Brooke Feichtl continued to break her own 15-18 butterfly record at divisionals. Finally, Jessie Heise broke a team record in 13-14 girls' backstroke which stood for 10 years.

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