



PHOTO COURTESY OF TINA DEMPSEY

Gathered 'round the tree are Westfield's "Ho-Ho Holiday Show" directors (from left) Dieter Stach, Colby Dezelick, Joey Biagini, Nick Burroughs, Chaz Coffin, Erica, Schmidt, Bryan Pitt, Sophia Alam and Corrine Holland. (Not pictured are Kelsey Thompson and Stage Manager Sarah Schweit).

'Ho-Ho Holiday Show'

Westfield High presents six children's plays.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Featuring five Christmas plays and one about Hanukkah, Westfield High presents its annual "Ho-Ho Holiday Show" in the school theater. More than 100 theater students will take the stage, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 17-18, at 2 p.m., in a production directed by seniors and geared for children.

They'll perform "The Grinch," "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "Frosty the Snowman," "The Hanukkah

Story," "Twas the Night before Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Tickets are \$5; groups of 15 or more are \$4/ticket. E-mail westfieldtheatreboosters@gmail.com.

'FROSTY THE SNOWMAN'

Directing "Frosty the Snowman" are Joey Biagini and Erica Schmidt. The nine-person play stars Megan McMahon as Frosty, Estella Massey as Karen and Aidan Quartana as Professor Hinkle.

"There's lot of slapstick comedy, and the actors make big motions for the little kids," said Biagini.

"We're learning about directing scenes, in class, and it's fun," said Schmidt. "Having to look at the big picture is different from being an actor. You have

SEE WESTFIELD HIGH, PAGE 14

20 Months Prison For Chantilly Man

He accepted bribes from Iraqi contractors

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Thomas Aram Manok of Chantilly was sentenced last Friday, Dec. 9, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria to 20 months in prison. He was convicted in September of conspiring to receive bribes from Iraqi contractors involved in U.S.-funded reconstruction efforts.

Manok, 51, of the Estates at Leeton Manor community, was a dual citizen of the U.S. and Iraq. He worked for the Army Corps of Engineers as a project engineer and contracting officer representative, stationed at the International Zone Resident Office at the Victory Base Complex.

When he entered his guilty plea in federal court, Sept. 19, he admitted using his official position to garner cash bribes in exchange for his recommendation that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approve contracts and other requests for payment submitted to the U.S. government by the contractors.

Court documents explained that, in March and April 2010, Manok agreed to receive a \$10,000 payment from a contractor who'd been involved in building a kindergarten and a girls' school in the Abu Ghraib neighborhood of Baghdad.

The contractor sought Manok's influence in having requests for payment approved by the Army Corps of Engineers. Manok was to receive an additional bribe payment from that contractor once the contractor's claim had been approved. Manok further admitted that he intended to conceal the

SEE 20 MONTHS, PAGE 14

Local Man Convicted of Conspiracy, Tax Crimes

Fair Oaks resident secretly represented Pakistan.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

A Fair Oaks man is facing a possible eight years behind bars after pleading guilty last week in federal court to secretly conspiring to act as an agent of the Pakistani government in the U.S., without telling federal authorities about this affiliation, as

the law requires. He is Syed Ghulam Nabi Fai, 62, a U.S. citizen and resident of the Penderbrook community.

He also pleaded guilty to tax violations in connection with a decades-long scheme to conceal the transfer of at least \$3.5 million from the government of Pakistan to fund his lobbying efforts in

SEE 20 MONTHS, PAGE 14

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NEWS



Using computer controls, hundreds of lights, and self-designed and welded frames, Jerry Martoncik has animated the crèche scene with Mary and Joseph arriving at the stable, the child being born, a star shining, angels appearing, shepherds appearing and even wise men arriving on camels, dismounting and genuflecting.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

In Santa's Toy Shop, elves prepare gifts that are then sent by conveyor belt to be put into Santa's sleigh. In the foreground a rabbit is about to take off, running across the yard away from the fox.

A Christmastime Wonderland

Clifton homeowner animates his holiday decorations.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

There are homes decorated for the holidays — and then there's Jerry Martoncik's house. Not only does he have a vast array of holiday sights and scenes adorning his front yard, but he designed, built and animated them.

"It takes 25 full days to get everything up and working," he said. "People tell me they have to come back two and three times to see it all."

Martoncik, 68, is a former computer-systems developer who, for 11 years now, has put his skills and experience to good use creating a winter wonderland outside his Clifton home. The lights went on the day after Thanksgiving, and stay on through Jan. 2.

"When my son was 10 or 12 years old, he wanted me to build some yard displays, but I didn't have the time," said Martoncik. "But when I retired and he was 17 or 18, we started building them together."

Since then, word's gotten out about the holiday fantasyland in his yard and, each year, people come from miles around to see the colorful animations. "But you can't just drive by, or you'll miss a lot of it," he said. "You've got to stop, take time and really look

at things."

Of course, there are lots of lighted stationary items, such as candy canes, Christmas ornaments and poinsettias, plus small-scale animations. But the show-stoppers are the 11 illuminated, computer-controlled, animated scenes. They include a ski jump, a fox chasing a rabbit and a snowball fight during which the snowballs usually miss their targets but, every so often, hit their mark.

A girl in a sled rides downhill and penguins slide down a glacier into a pond of water. Two reindeer ride on a seesaw, alternating being up and down, and there's a scene of a one-horse, open sleigh loaded with presents.

"A big crowd-pleaser is the flying Santa," said Martoncik. "He goes from the North Pole to my house with a sleigh and a team of reindeer. Then Santa walks across the roof to the chimney, goes down it and back up and then walks to his sleigh. When I first put him up, about four years ago, tons of people came by. For about 2 and a half hours on Christmas Eve, 70-80 adults with toddlers were watching him from my driveway."

Also popular is the skating snowman. With his hands on his hips, he turns to his right and his feet go into a skating position. Then he skates down the ice, slips, tumbles and lands on his head and hands, upside down in the snow. Then a sign comes on reading, "Oops." Martoncik said people also like the sign saying, "Hey, kids, watch me." And then children enjoy watching the snowman's antics because "he's

SEE CLIFTON HOMEOWNER. PAGE 5

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Koroma Indicted for Murder

A Fairfax County grand jury has indicted Gbassay “Omar” Koroma, 18, for the murder of his father, Francis Koroma, 38, who was stabbed to death, May 27, in their Centreville apartment. The incident occurred late that night, and the victim died, early the next morning, at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Police arrested Gbassay Koroma and charged him with murder. He was indicted Nov. 21 and is now scheduled for a five-day, jury trial, April 23, 2012, in Circuit Court.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Dec. 15, 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 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, to confirm dates and times.

Sully District Council Meeting

To avoid the winter holidays, the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet on the third Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

Three presentations are scheduled:

- ❖ I-66 Automated Traffic Management plans;
- ❖ Outside the Beltway Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement from I-495 to U.S. Route 15;
- ❖ Proposal to construct and operate a wireless telecommunications facility at Centreville United Methodist Church.

Help WFCM Provide Meals

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) is providing holiday meals for more than 700 local families, but it can't meet the demand without help from the community.

❖ Food baskets, boxes or bags may be dropped off Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at the WFCM food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar).

❖ Those unable to provide a whole basket of food – or who don't have time to go shopping – may contribute gift cards to local grocery stores, in any denominations.

❖ Grocery-store gift cards may be mailed with a note saying “food basket program” to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153.

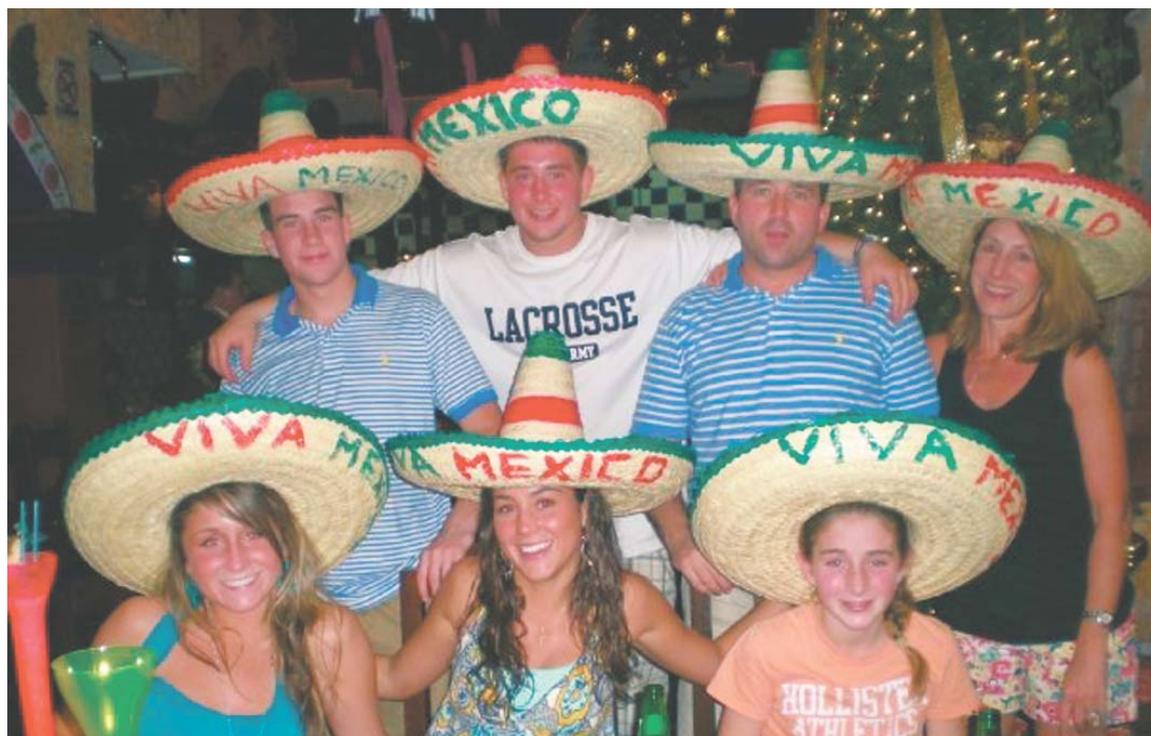
❖ For more information or to sponsor a family, contact Terri Kelly at 703-988-9656, ext. 105, or via tkelly@wfcmv.org. If donors want to shop for holiday-meal items and put together the food boxes or baskets, themselves, she'll suggest items to include.

ONC Planning for Delivery

Our Neighbor's Child will be delivering Christmas presents this Sunday, Dec. 18, from 1-4 p.m., to families in need in the local area. But since this all-volunteer organization has some 633 families on its list, it could use lots of help from the community to get the job done. People interested in lending a hand with the deliveries should go to www.ourneighborschild.org.

Adopt a Shelter Animal

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter has launched “Operation Empty Cage” as part of its “Home 4 the Holidays” adoption push. As part of this event, the shelter – at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax – will offer free spay/neuter for the first 100 dogs and cats adopted from it until Dec. 31. Animals available for adoption at the shelter may be seen Tuesdays through Fridays, noon-7 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 703-830-1100.



Mandy O'Sullivan saved money from each of her paychecks to treat her family to Christmas in Cancun in 2008. “The memories are among our family's favorites,” said Katie. This photo shows the family enjoying an authentic Mexican dinner. Standing, from left are Ryan, Sean, PJ and Mandy; seated, from left, are Amanda, Katie and Molly

Centreville Woman Fights for Life

Family holding fundraiser for her on Friday.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

The O'Sullivan children don't know how much time they have left with their mother. But they're hoping a fund-raiser planned for this Friday, Dec. 16, will yield enough money to pay for medical treatments to keep her alive as long as possible.

The event is from 5:30-10 p.m. at Centreville Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Highway in Centreville, and the family's hoping for a huge turnout. (See below for details.)

A wife and mother of five children, Mandy O'Sullivan has devoted her life to taking care of them. Now, battling pancreatic cancer at age 51, she's fighting for her own life, and they're doing all they can to

help her.

“This diagnosis was terrible because she was always healthy and physically fit,” said daughter Katie, 24, a 2005 Westfield High graduate. “So it took us by surprise to have this happen to someone so young and healthy. Pancreatic cancer is usually a death sentence, but I'm hopeful for the future and very thankful for the time we've had together.”

Married 24 years, Mandy and husband PJ O'Sullivan live in Centreville's Pleasant View Estates community. PJ O'Sullivan works for a pharmaceutical company, was an All-American lacrosse player at West Point and helped coach lacrosse at Westfield. They're longtime members of St. Timothy Catholic Church and, until she became too ill to continue, Mandy O'Sullivan was a maternity-ward nurse at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital.

All five of their children played lacrosse at Westfield; four already graduated from there, and the fifth, Molly, 15, is a sophomore. Katie's also a

SEE FUNDRAISER. PAGE 6

Getting Involved in Mandy O'Sullivan Benefit

The fund-raiser for Centreville's Mandy O'Sullivan is this Friday, Dec. 16, from 5:30-10 p.m., at Centreville Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Highway in Centreville.

❖ From 6:30-8:30 p.m., there'll be a silent auction (pay by cash or check). At 9:30 p.m., the winner of a 50/50 raffle will be announced (the winner need not be present). The event also includes a buffet dinner and nonalcoholic drinks. Entertainment will feature local deejay Lauren Bobby.

❖ Admission is \$15/person or \$60 maximum per family. Pre-registration for admission is available via PayPal: People should log on to their PayPal accounts, click the “Send Money” tab, and enter

TheMandyFund@gmail.com.

Label the payment as “personal-gift” and include in the note section the family name of the ticket purchaser, i.e., “Smith family's tickets for the benefit, five people.”

❖ To donate silent-auction items, e-mail Lara Weatherholtz at kylaroy7@aol.com with information about the items to be contributed.

❖ To volunteer for the event, sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DA4AE292-osullivans>.

❖ The family requests this invitation be extended to anyone in the community who's been touched by the O'Sullivan family, their friends and family or pancre-

atic cancer. An Evite invitation is at http://new.evite.com/#view_invite:eid=00CAAA-RBSZI3CIJ6KEPBFAQJOKGM4.

❖ Those who cannot attend the event, but would like to support the cause may donate at <http://www.payitsquare.com/collect-page/4464>.

“Everyone's support is graciously appreciated and no amount donated is too small,” said Katie O'Sullivan. “People can also help by sending this information to their online distribution lists.”

For more information, call Laura Christie at 703-217-8126, Katie O'Sullivan at 571-289-4785, or email themandyfund@gmail.com.

PEOPLE

Campbell Honored as Secondary Level Volunteer

State award spotlights commitment to schools.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Jennifer Campbell began volunteering in Fairfax County Public Schools when her daughter was in kindergarten. Some 17 years have passed since then and, last month, she was honored as the Virginia PTA Secondary Level Volunteer of the Year.

She and her husband Ron live in Centreville's Sully Station community. Daughter Olivia is now a second-year nursing student at Tennessee Wesleyan College and son Ben is a UVA freshman who plans on becoming a doctor.

But Campbell was also a mother to three other children — and it's because of all of her children that she became a school volunteer.

"When my sister died suddenly at age 40 — and her husband died a year later — I raised their three children, summers and holidays, since the youngest was 2," she said. "I did that for 17 years. And I got involved with the schools because I loved kids. I wanted to be connected to the community, but be close to home and have a flexible schedule so I could be there for the children."

Campbell has a background in social work, went undergrad to Cornell and did grad work at Boston College. She was a PTA

volunteer and Executive Committee member at Cub Run Elementary, Stone Middle and Westfield High School, often serving as PTA president.

At Westfield, she wrote newsletter columns, raised funds and organized installation of the school's marquee. She also worked closely with the Westfield Community Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Youth to produce parent-education programs.

"It was so parents would be alert and aware and get their kids help, if needed," said Campbell. "Prevention is free, and it's so important to keep drug and alcohol education out in the open and on parents' minds. We connected people to resources and programs and made them feel they were part of what was happening in their children's school life."

She's also pleased that, at all the schools she was involved with, she "always got good people to do the appropriate jobs, including finding volunteer coordinators for the schools." And at Westfield, she did her best to make a big school smaller.

"Westfield is a huge place, so I worked hard to make parents feel welcome and that they should get involved," said Campbell. "I put parents in touch with people who could answer their questions or resources that could help." Although parents might not agree with something, she said, "Sometimes, if they could understand the process,



PHOTO COURTESY DEBBIE KILPATRICK

At the awards ceremony are (from left) Fairfax County Council PTA President Ramona Morrow; Jennifer Campbell and Northern Virginia District PTA Director Denise Bolton.

they felt better about it."

She's also proud of her ability to remain calm under pressure. "Looking back at all the crises we had in our community — the Virginia Tech shootings, the sniper, the shootings at the [Sully District] police station and 9/11 when the Pentagon was hit — I was volunteering in the schools then. I maintained continuity and a sense of normalcy for the kids, while keeping the lines of communication open between parents and administration."

On a lighter note, Campbell was both thrilled and relieved to be able to pull together Westfield's all-night grad party in just a week when the original venue pulled out of its agreement to host it.

In addition to all her volunteer work, she started substitute teaching in FCPS in 2000.

She currently works in Westfield's Guidance Department, generating and preparing transcripts for students' college applications.

Campbell received her statewide honor Nov. 5 at the Virginia PTA Convention at the Koger Holiday Inn in Richmond. And as far as Westfield PTSA President Mary Coleman is concerned, "I cannot think of a better person than Jennifer for this honor and award. She's such a wonderful person and a great leader, and she was a true asset to Westfield."

The two first met when their children attended Cub Run elementary together. "In fact, Jennifer's the reason I got involved with the PTA, beginning at Cub Run," said Coleman. "She made everyone feel welcome and valued. Over the years, I've worked with her through the PTA or PTSA as our children moved through Stone and finally to Westfield."

Coleman said both students and parents think highly of Campbell. "She was an outstanding member of our Westfield community," said Coleman. "Jennifer had a knack of being able to keep the PTSA focused toward always helping our children and school staff in the best way possible."

She said volunteers like Campbell don't come along frequently. "If the school was in need, Jennifer was there," said Coleman. "Many times, in the summer, I'd go past Westfield and find her trimming the trees or pulling weeds. Jennifer inspired parents to participate and help make Westfield a better school for all."

Clifton Mom Honored as Elementary-Level Volunteer

Award recognizes her dedication to school, community.

BY JENNIFER FEDOR
CENTRE VIEW

Kate Trussell, mother to a third grader at Union Mill Elementary in Clifton, has always been involved — as a room parent, library volunteer, on the school's PTA executive board. At the Virginia PTA State Convention, held Nov. 4 and 5, Trussell was honored for her school-focused endeavors, as a 2011 recipient of the elementary-level PTA Volunteer of the Year Award.

Dana Hubchen, PTA President at Union Mill, is excited Trussell was chosen for this award. "We're very proud of her. We're very fortunate to have her as part of the Union Mill family and we're not surprised by this honor because she is such a special person."

A self-described Army brat, Trussell recalls her mother signing up for volunteer activities wherever they moved. Today, Trussell heads the Bread Basket program at Union Mill, organizing students, parents, and staff in a weekly effort to provide sandwiches to a local food bank, Food for Others. "Every Wednesday morning we have a class come into the cafeteria. The parents donate all of the lunch meat and cheese and



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBBIE KILPATRICK

From left are Trussell's mom, Mary Rhoades; Kate Trussell and her daughter Sarah, 8, a third-grader at Union Mill Elementary, at the awards ceremony.

the PTA provides the sandwich baggies and sanitary gloves for the kids to wear while they're making the sandwiches," she said.

The PTA also provides items like bread and mustard packets for the sandwiches. Once the students have prepared as many sandwiches as they can based on meat and cheese donations from their parents, the food is transported to the food bank. According to Trussell, "Last school year Union

Mill provided over 11,000 sandwiches to the food bank."

Hubchen said, "That's amazing that our school is able to give back that way. Kate's the one that organizes it all and encourages everyone. She makes it so everybody wants to beat their previous records, so it's fun." For example, Shannon Whitney's fifth grade class made more than 1,100 sandwiches in about an hour and a half, bringing the school's October sandwich total to 3,500 this year.

NOMINATED BY TWO MEMBERS of the Union Mill executive board last year, Trussell was selected by the Northern Virginia district PTA for the next level of consideration. She felt "pretty humbled" when a Virginia State PTA member called this October to inform her she'd won the PTA Volunteer of the Year Award.

"It sounds so strange to me [to win this award] because I do this because I love it. I do this because the kids are learning so much from all that we do at the school and so it seems weird for me to receive recognition for that and there's such a large community here at Union Mill that is so involved in the school in all different volunteer positions," Trussell said.

She is grateful for the support of the school staff and administration, as well as a "fantastic committee" that works on the Bread Basket program with her.

Hubchen describes Trussell as "one of those people that you can rely on to do what needs to be done at all times. Her interests are always with the school and with making sure that the kids have a great experience."

Trussell's own daughter is learning the importance of giving back; she assists her mom with carrying supplies to the car each Wednesday and regularly checks in to see how many sandwiches were produced for the week.

Trussell emphasizes parents, grandparents, and family friends participating in the school environment as a way to know what their children are learning and to teach by example the importance of being a good citizen. There are many ways caring adults can help — donating time and resources — to support both the school and the overall community, through school programs like Bread Basket at Union Mill.

Hubchen said, "Union Mill is so very fortunate to have someone like Kate working with our PTA and working with our school and making it better for our children and being so involved. I think we're extremely lucky to have her."

Clifton Homeowner Animates His Holiday Decorations

FROM PAGE 2

like a clown on ice.”

But, said Martoncik, “The highlight of the whole thing is the Nativity scene. Inside are 86 different characters, either moving in unison or at different times. There are descending angels, shepherds walking, plus wise men riding camels.”

He and his son, daughter and wife plan out the entire, yard display each year. Almost 100,000 lights and more than 10,000 feet of wire make it all “come alive.” And for 1 and a half months, Martoncik’s electric bill increases by about \$170/month. But he doesn’t mind because he knows it brings so much joy to others.

“There’s a lot to it,” he said. “A couple years ago, a guy and his family who’d just come back from Disneyworld said Disney didn’t have anything for the holidays as extensive and detailed as this.”

That’s why Martoncik’s so proud of his display. “I make it all,” he said. “I’ve always been mechanically inclined. I’d start with an idea and figure out how to do it.”

Each animated scene is operated by a computer called a microcontroller, programmed to cause each character in each scene to move and to go on and off at cer-



A snowman built by Jerry Martoncik waves to passersby as part of the elaborate, computer-animated light display Martoncik has built in his yard for the past 12 years.

tain times.

“I created all the circuit boards to make the computer operate,” said Martoncik. “But

I used to develop computer systems, so that was right up my alley. And I enjoyed the mere challenge of taking it on and seeing if

I could do it.”

So what’s his favorite part? “I like the Nativity scene best because it’s the reason for the season,” he said. “And when you watch it, you can see the whole story of the Nativity taking place.”

Still, it’s a tremendous amount of work, each year, to make the display possible. “We started repairing things in October and setting it up outside, Nov. 1,” said Martoncik. “It’s such a big job and a time-consuming effort. But it’s a good hobby and I’ve always liked to do it. I also enjoy talking to the people who come by. And I want to give people who’ve never seen it before the opportunity to do so.”

However, for their own safety, visitors are not allowed to walk down Martoncik’s driveway or go inside the display, itself. They’re encouraged to get out of their cars for a better look, but they should remain on his cul-de-sac’s gravel road. If it’s raining, the lights won’t be on. But, said Martoncik, “The lights look great in the snow.”

His address is 6512 Hanover Heights Trail. From Clifton Road, at the triangle before the Town of Clifton, turn left onto Newman Road, right on Fairfax Station Road and left on Hanover Heights. “The house is on the left,” said Martoncik. “You can’t miss it.”

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Fundraiser for Centreville Mom This Friday

FROM PAGE 3

JMU grad now living in Boston and working for a professional lacrosse organization. Sean, 22, attends Loyola University; Amanda, 20, is at Colgate University; and Ryan, 18, is at Bridgeton Academy.

Mandy O'Sullivan's sister, Laura Christie, also lives in Centreville. "She and I have always been close," said Christie. "She's my best friend and, always, my protector." Christie said Mandy O'Sullivan's normally private, selfless and humble; so for her to agree to the fund-raiser in her honor is "a big thing. But it will also bring attention to pancreatic cancer."

She said Mandy O'Sullivan was a volunteer religion teacher at St. Timothy and worked with dogs up for adoption at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. She was also the team mom for many of her children's lacrosse and football teams.

"She's pretty quiet until you know her," said Christie. "But she's funny, witty and strong. With everything she's gone through, she's never complained or griped."

In March 2010, Mandy O'Sullivan was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. It's the fourth most-common cause of cancer deaths worldwide, and 95 percent of people diagnosed aren't alive five years later. It's often

called the "silent killer" because of its lack of symptoms, and its causes are mostly unknown.

"She was shocked by it, but then she started fighting," said Christie. "She's very positive, and her faith has been a huge help for her. Putting together this fund-raiser, I've learned their family's touched so many people in Centreville and the Westfield community. Lots of people wanted to be involved, and that says so much about her."

Westfield High field hockey Coach Starr Karl also hopes the community will come out in droves for the event. Said Karl: "The O'Sullivans are a phenomenal family who have given back in many ways at Westfield, St Tim's and on the lacrosse field."

After Mandy O'Sullivan's diagnosis, doctors operated and removed the cancer from her pancreas, only to discover it had already spread to surrounding organs. She then underwent 11 months of chemotherapy, plus radiation.

"Though she's tenaciously overcome a great deal of setback throughout her journey, the disease continues to spread," said Christie. "And tra-



The O'Sullivans during Christmas 2007. Standing, from left are Katie, Ryan, Amanda and Sean; seated, from left, are Molly, PJ, Mandy and her mother Anne.

ditional medicine — which breaks down the body's cells, both good and bad — has not worked as efficiently as originally hoped."

So Mandy O'Sullivan has just begun treatment at Natural Horizons, an integrative medical and wellness center in Fairfax that takes a multi-pronged, holistic approach to cancer. Therapy at Natural Horizons seeks to help strengthen Mandy O'Sullivan's immune system to help her body fight any new cancer cells.

But the facility is an out-of-network center not covered by the O'Sullivans' insurance. So 90 percent of the proceeds from the fund-raiser will go toward Mandy O'Sullivan's treatment there, as well as her previously accumulated medical bills. The other 10 percent will be contributed to pancreatic-cancer research toward a cure.

"I'm thankful for my mom being the fighter she is, and I hope for as much time as we can get with her," said Katie. Crying, she called her mother "absolutely the most influential woman in my life. She's always been there for all us kids. She's somebody to lean on, a shoulder to cry on and someone to walk you through the big decisions in your life."

Christie, Katie and her mom's brother Russell came up with the fund-raiser idea, and the whole family will attend. "I think it's amazing," said 2009 Westfield grad Amanda O'Sullivan. "I'm in awe of how ea-



Mandy O'Sullivan

ger people are to help with anything and everything they can. This whole process really opened my eyes to how openhearted people are, and it's a beautiful thing to see."

Amanda said she's trying to be strong for her mom. "She shaped who I am as a young woman," said Amanda. "She taught me how to be strong, and it's definitely helping me now. She loves her children more than anything, so this fund-raiser is our way of showing her how much love we have for

her in return."

She called her mom both the "rock" and the "glue" that's held their family together. "And now, when she can't carry the whole world on her shoulders, we want her to know we can handle the weight," said Amanda. "Her illness created a strong team among all of us. There's no sense having negative thoughts when there's still time to fight. We'll deal with this card we were dealt and keep our heads up."

She said she doesn't know how her mom managed "with five kids and all our activities, going to a million places at once." And, said Amanda, "I want to spend the rest of the time we have together happy and smiling."

Her brother Sean, a 2007 Westfield grad, also praised their mom. "She's the epitome of a mother," he said. "She dedicated her life to raising us and we're five good kids. We're a close family with good morals and good academically and athletically."

When he was in sixth grade, he played on four sports teams in the spring. His dad was busy working, so his mom drove him and his siblings to their various practices. "She came to all our games — and from fifth to eighth grade, I had baseball double-headers every Sunday, all summer," said Sean. "But she was there, for four or five hours at a time."

Learning of her cancer, he "couldn't believe it because she's so active and seemed so healthy. That really crushed me. After that, how I was doing depended on how she was doing. It's gotten worse recently, and everyone came home for Thanksgiving, and now we're all home again for winter break. We all left school early to be here, and our extended family is here, too."

Hopefully, said Sean, the upcoming fund-raiser will help his mother's spirit and morale. "I think it's awesome, and everyone's been so generous with donations," he said. "Two of my lacrosse coaches at Army and Loyola together gave me \$2,000 worth of lacrosse clothing and equipment for the silent auction. And this event will be a chance for my mom to see everyone at once who cares about her and to know how many people support her."

Salon Teams with Catholic Charities

After a successful Thanksgiving food drive in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus and St. Andrew the Apostle in Clifton, Salon Antoine and Spa will now be a food donation center for the Christmas season on behalf of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington.

Individuals who would rather drop off their food during the evening are invited by Salon Antoine's Tony Chahine to leave the food donations in bins on the front lawn of his home at 13915 Rock Brook Court in Clifton between now and Jan. 6.

While there, donors are welcome to enjoy a light show every hour and half hour

from 6–11 p.m. and tune to 89.1 in their car, to listen to music synchronized to the kaleidoscopic lights. The music and light show runs to 2 a.m. on Dec. 24.

The lightshow and sounds are provided by the AV company iHomeIntegration based in Burke.

The Diocese informs that food pantries are in need of food products like canned meat and tuna, soups, peanut butter and jelly, pasta, rice, hot and cold cereals, juice, canned veggies and baby food. Personal care items like toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, shampoos, bathroom goods and laundry items are also appreciated.

PEOPLE



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

WFCCA Celebrates the Holidays

The WFCCA (West Fairfax County Citizens Association) held its annual holiday party, Sunday evening, Dec. 11, at the Virginia Run home of Tami and Ted Trosciancki. Pictured (from left) are Jim Neighbors, Ed McConn, Tami Trosciancki, Jeff Parnes, Judy Heisinger, Yom Kim, Ted Trosciancki, John Litzenberger, Noemi Rodriguez, Stephen Chulick, Carol Hawn and Jim Hart. Barking in foreground is the Troscianckis' dog, Max.



Standing Up to Bullying

Deer Park Staff shows its support for "Stand Up to Bullying Week" by wearing pink. The school celebrated all week by having special dress-up days and classroom activities.

In Honor Society

Li-Cheng Liu, daughter of Cheng-His and Ku-Ping Liu of Centreville, was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society on Oct. 19, along with



55 other students. She will graduate in May 2013 with a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting from James Madison University, Harrisonburg. Above, Liu is with Dean Robert Reid.



Andrew Shaw of Little Rocky Run's Boy Scout Troop 577, as his Eagle Scout project, led a massive cleanup of the Little Rocky Run watershed.

Eagle Project Cleans Up Watershed

Andrew Shaw's Eagle Scout project to clean up the Little Rocky Run watershed was completed on Dec. 3 with assistance from Friends of Little Rocky Run president Ned Foster. Andrew and his fellow Troop 577 scouts removed trash from the watershed in the area between New Braddock Road and Compton Road — over a mile of stream valley.

Andrew's group also cleaned up a well-known hangout near the power station on Bay Valley Lane. There were a large number of beer bottles, chairs, and more on the sheer cliff at a place known as "The Hole."

The trash tally included: 24 full orange VDOT bags, one bicycle, one scooter, one propane tank, one wooden pallet, one wire cage, 16 linear feet of 2X4s, eight linear feet of 4X4s, one 24-foot aluminum ladder, one 50 gallon plastic trash can, three deck

chairs, one plastic laundry tub, and two 5 gallon buckets. The total weight was 600 lbs and cost \$30. in dump fees.

Volunteers included: Scouts Andrew Shaw, Timothy Kim, Anthony Troong, Nate Pascoe, Spencer Horn, Collin Nelson, Eshaan Shetty, David Bunin, Jake Murdak, Gannon LaCroix, David Schoskinski, Jacob Kintzing, Prashant Desai, Michael Scheider, Collin Henson, Drew Boland, Chris Marty, Marcus Devos, Lucas Devos, Jacob Peterson and Andrew McLenigan, and adults Stacy Bunin, Chris Henson, Brian Boland, Kerry Peterson, Lee Devos, Mike McLenigan, Martin Muradaz, Mike Horn, Vinnie Caporale, Martin Shaw, Janice Shaw, Lindsay Shaw and Ned Foster, sponsor.

The Friends of Little Rocky Run want to also thank the Navy Federal Credit Union whose grant money paid for the disposal fees.



Perfect Season The SYA Centreville Wildcats won the championship game against their cross-town rival CYA Chantilly Chargers recently at James Madison High School. The game was neck and neck throughout the first three quarters of the game, until the 4th quarter when the Wildcats pulled away winning the game with a score of 30 to 16. This ended their season with a perfect record of 10 and 0. The SYA Wildcat are coached by Damian Caracciolo, Mike Clark, Tom Healy, Coach Ryan and Coach Sheil. The boys on the team are: Hunar Berzangi, Christian Brooks, Devon Brough, Daniel Carracciolo, Neil Chambers, Brett Clark, Joe Cuccias, Iman Dastagirzada, Ryan Estep, Gregory Holmes-Brown, Shane Martin, Carlos Martinez, Joel Moreno, Charles Nguyen, Dominique Pearson, Salia Samura, Tyler Scanlon, John Schmank and Zackary Willis.

OPINION

Five Suggestions for the New School Board

Half of the School Board members are new.

On Monday, Dec. 19, the newly elected members of the Fairfax County School Board will be sworn in, marking the largest number of new members at one time in memory.

The change on the board comes from open seats with previous members deciding not to run. Fully half of the board will be new members, although most are also familiar faces.

But it was apparent from the election that voters were motivated by the school board races, turning out to have their say. It's a mistake to view the election as a vote of approval for all current policies or as a repudiation of particular policies. The level of interest and controversy indicates that it's a great moment for the new board to engage the public.

The fact that 70 percent of voters supported the school bond for county schools shows that county residents understand the importance of quality schools.

The school board consists of three at large

members who represent the entire county, plus nine district members. Each voter had the opportunity to vote for four, three at large and one for their district.

Iryong Moon is the one incumbent remaining at large; Ryan McElveen and Ted Velkoff will join the board at large. District members are: Megan McLaughlin, Braddock; Janie Strauss, Dranesville; Pat Hynes, Hunter Mill; Tammy Kaufax, Lee; Sandy Evans, Mason; Dan Storck, Mount Vernon; Patty Reed, Providence; Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield, and Kathy Smith, Sully. Moon, Strauss, Evans, Storck, Reed and Smith are returning members.

It's important to respect the dedication and motivation of school board members. It's hard to understand why anyone would want these jobs. The hours are never ending. The pay is symbolic. Few decisions will come without acrimony from some quarters. These are people who really are dedicated to service.

That said, we offer a few suggestions, some very general, some very specific, for the new board as it steps up to serve.

1) On with the campaign. Begin with a listening tour. Hold some full-board listening sessions around the county. Hold some regional listening sessions in schools and parents' liv-

ing rooms. Listen in small groups and individually. Invite teachers and administrators to come out on tour with you. Don't forget to listen to teachers as well as students, parents, administrators and more.

2) Fix large classes. You don't have to reduce the "average" class size. But do something about every class of 30 students or more. It's the exceptionally large classes where students don't even fit in the room that drive parents wild. It doesn't matter if it's a classroom of poor students or wealthy students or something in between, really large classes are not appropriate.

3) Are surveillance cameras really the best use of scarce dollars? No matter what the current board decides to do later this week (likely vote on Dec. 15 after Connection deadline), set the decision aside until after the listening tour.

4) Don't wait for a state law. Instruct administrators to call parents to be present if they plan to question a student about behavior that could result in serious disciplinary measures or legal action.

5) Celebrate the specific and varied successes in Fairfax County Public Schools.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deepest Sympathies

To the Editor:

An unspeakable tragedy has unfortunately occurred again, Dec. 8, at Virginia Tech. The VTV Family Outreach Foundation extends its sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Officer Deriek W. Crouse. We recognize Officer Crouse to be the first Virginia Tech campus law officer to have been killed in the line of duty and extend our deepest sympathies to the law enforcement community.

The Foundation was created by families and survivors directly impacted by the April 16, 2007 tragedy at Virginia Tech. We are well aware of the horror that the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities felt [on Thursday]. We know that the loss of these two victims will resonate forever and understand the struggles that officers,

students, faculty and staff will have as a result of this day.

Family members are willing to visit, meet with, write a letter or speak by phone to anyone who needs our help and support. Our mission is to assist those victims of a tragedy with which we are all too familiar.

Please know that our thoughts are with the families of the victims, campus law enforcement and the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities at this time.

Joseph Samaha, President,
VTV Family Outreach Foundation
Board of Directors

Lori Haas, Vice President,
VTV Family Outreach Foundation
Board of Directors,
www.vtvfoundation.org

Religious Background

To the Editor:

It is indeed a tragic incident to witness the incident at VA Tech, especially when nearing the holidays. I feel for the loved ones of the fallen and my sincerest condolences go out to them. Our culprit has been identified as Ross Truett Ashley, 22 of Spotsylvania County, but one interesting thought came to mind. Obviously the media wants to know everything about this person and why he did what he did, but there's been no mention of his religious

background. Had this person been a Muslim I'm betting religion would be one of the first things we would hear among his description. Ashley could be a Catholic Christian for all we know, but there will be no mention of it anywhere, so why is it that religion only becomes an issue when a Muslim comes into the scene? I'm not saying religious background should be brought up when a crime is committed, but there seems to be a selected stereotype here.

No religion has or ever did preach causing harm, especially not Islam. Each religion has been introduced at a time when it was needed, when people forgot how to live in peace, when they neglected their humanity. Basically religion was there for the reformation of man, and to encourage a closer connection to our Creator. It is very easy to misunderstand and misinterpret what was taught many, many years ago, so much so that one manages to stray so far from it and goes against logic.

Ashley's acts will never sit well with anyone, but he is proof that anyone can go off the rails, and that it's not a religious thing.

Seher Chowdhry

Pass It On

To the Editor:

My son and I left Westfield High School at the sound of the 2:05 bell today and drove to FFC, Fast

Food Central, for a bite to eat. We took turns talking to the speaker at Burger King to order our food and pulled around to pay at the drive through. The young man, cashier, said something that I thought I miss-heard and I said, "What?" He repeated it again, "The person in the car ahead of you paid for your food. You know, Pass It On."

I looked ahead quickly so I could get out and rush up to this person to thank them profusely, and the person was quickly turning out of my eyesight. I immediately looked in my rearview mirror to pass the act of kindness on, but there was no one in line. I asked the young worker, how can I thank that person? He said, "I told her, God Bless You," and I could tell that he was as excited and touched by this act of kindness, as I was.

I've heard of people doing anonymous acts of kindness, but when it just happened to me, I feel inspired, energized, and my son and I are humbled to our core. I immediately called my sister to tell her about this beautiful act of kindness and hurried home to tell my daughter (who both were also awed by it). I hope this person reads this and realizes she has helped me look for ways to help others and hopefully all of the people I tell and read this will want to do acts of kindness as well.

Sherry Watkins
Centreville

CENTREVIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION

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HOLIDAY GUIDE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Todd Kashdan, Ph.D. professor of psychology at George Mason University has studied the link between gratitude and happiness and says that people who are grateful tend to be less depressed and anxious.

The Art of Appreciation

Teaching children to have an attitude of gratitude during the holidays.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

From Christmas lists to piles of presents under the tree, the last thing on a child's mind during the holiday season might be expressing appreciation. In fact, mental health experts say, it is one of the hardest concepts to teach children.

Dr. Todd Kashdan, Ph.D., professor of psychology at George Mason University, has studied the link between gratitude and happiness and says that people who are grateful tend to be less depressed and anxious.

"When people are mindfully recognizing and appreciating the benefits they receive from other people, positive events linger longer, [and] it is enhancing and strengthening those relationships. There is a strong link between being a grateful person and having the experience of gratitude and having more happiness in your life," said Kashdan, who is also the author of "Designing Positive Psychology" (Oxford University Press) and "Curious? Discover the Missing Ingredient to a Fulfilling Life."

DURING THE SEASON of giving, Kashdan and other mental health professionals offer tips for parents for teaching gratitude to children.

Children often hand their parents lengthy Christmas lists. Experts say it is difficult for children to feel grateful when their every wish is granted.

"Allow them to [identify] certain things on the list that might be most important to them," said Annette Kielkopf, a marriage and family therapist based in McLean. "[Say to them] 'If Santa isn't able to bring you everything on the list, what would that be like for you?' And talk with them about how to cope and allow them to appreciate the smaller things. What you're trying to do is teach coping skills. You're teaching them how to accept a disappointment and find a

diamond in the rough."

Raising grateful children requires that parents model the behavior.

"As parents, talk about things that you're grateful for and not strictly material things. That sets a good example so children don't only hear you complaining or nagging them. Kids really do notice what their parents and the significant people in their lives talk about," said Karen Prince, MSW, LCSW-C, a Kensington-based clinical social worker who specializes in treating children with anxiety and depression.

Kashdan says parents should encourage children to elaborate on why they like a particular gift.

"Spelling out what makes [a gift] a good thing for them gets them to bookmark and underline it in their brain," he said. "You want them to elaborate on it and what they are going to do with it. Having them say thank you without an elaboration is just one more thing that [their] parents are telling them to do."

This strategy works even when children receive gifts that they don't like.

"Sometimes it is difficult [for children] to receive a present that they don't like," said Kielkopf. "Take the gift and notice and recognize the good things about it. Maybe it is your child's favorite color. It is good to have discussions about gift-giving so that it doesn't become about the gift; it becomes about the gesture."

"I'm forever hearing kids in my office saying to their parents, 'But everybody in my class has an iPad.' And these are kids who are like 8, 9 and 10. The grass always looks greener on the other side. So the idea is to focus on what you have and what you need. It is a good lesson for kids to learn early on," said Prince.

KASHDAN BELIEVES that one of the things that makes children grateful is taking inventory of their day.

"One of the things that we do at my house is, at the end of the day, we ask our 4-year-old twins, 'What was the high point of your day? What was the best thing that happened to you today?' You can make sure that the positive things that happened to them as a result of other people stick out more," said Kashdan.

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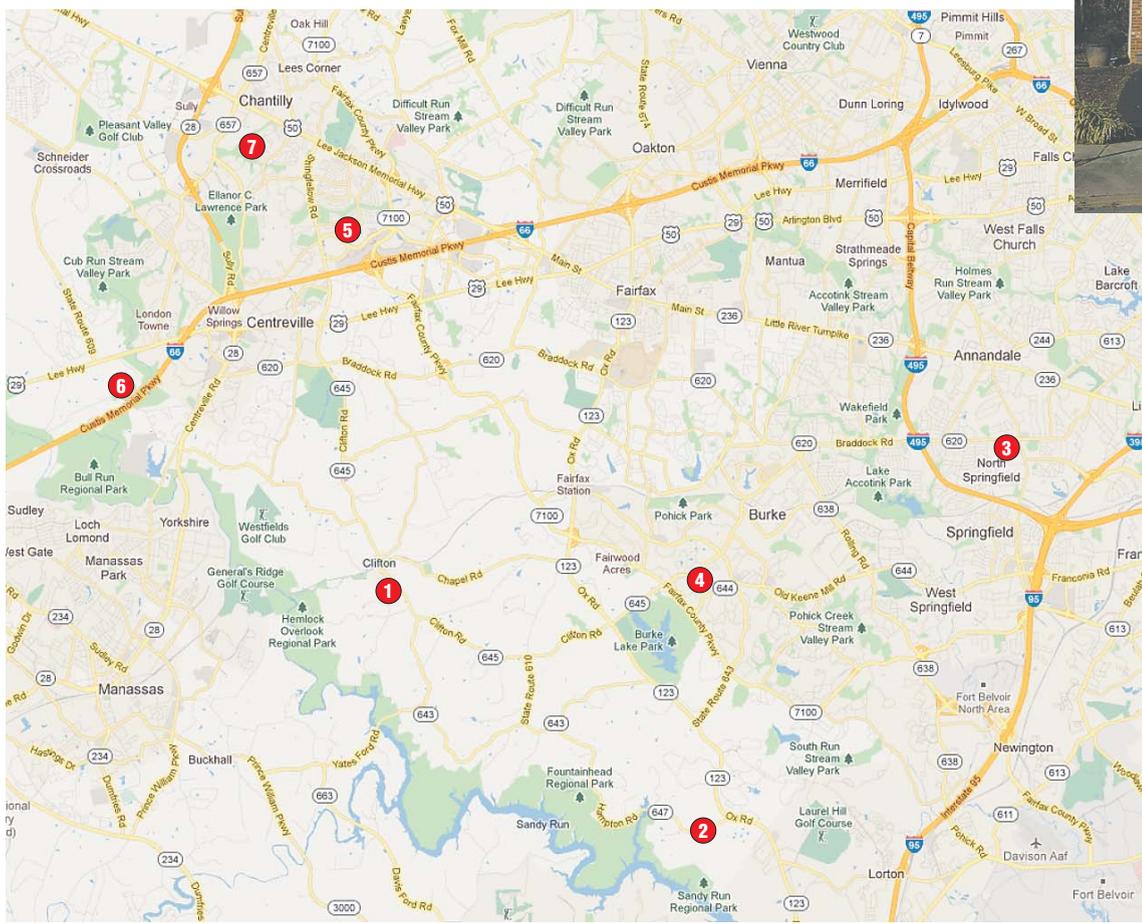
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NEWS



From left: Kim and Steve Bittner with Homes Tour Chairman Jennifer Chesley.



Chuck and Helen Rusnak are all ready for the holidays.

Homes for the Holidays

The Town of Clifton wore its seasonal finery, Saturday, Dec. 3, during the Clifton Candlelight Homes Tour.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW



Jeff Stein and wife Michelle (not pictured) decorated their dining room for Chanukah.



Royce and Margie Jarrendt in their dining room decorated for Christmas.



The Christmas tree in Jeremy and Jennifer Lustman's family room.

Gift Ideas

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PEOPLE

The best in the sport of purebred dogs will flock to Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 17-18, to strut their stuff at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship. Chantilly resident Maria Royal and her dog Ch High Pines Hush Puppy will compete against the top show dogs in the country. The show will air on the ABC-TV on Feb. 4, 2012.

The AKC/Eukanuba National Championship is the largest prize money dog show in the world, with cash and prizes awarded totaling more than \$225,000. This prestigious competition is invitation-only.

After a full day of Pokémon Trading Card Game battles in New Holland, PA, **Joseph Moretto**, 11, of Centreville, clinched second place at the 2011 New Holland Pokémon City Championships, earning a top city ranking and Championship Points which count toward a potential invitation to the Pokémon U.S. National Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana next summer.



Maria Royal and her dog Hush Puppy.

ENTERTAINMENT

TUESDAY NIGHTS

World-Class Jazz. 6 to 9 p.m. Paul Langosch on bass and Rick Whitehead on guitar. At the Copper Canyon, 5815 Trinity Parkway, Centreville. Call 703-830-6600 for reservations.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 25

Enchanted Ice Palace. 10 a.m. At Fair Oaks Mall's Grand Court, the Ice Palace features falling snow, interactive elements, footage of arctic animals and landscapes along with stories and fun facts. The stroll concludes with a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Guests will have four opportunities to have their pets' pictures taken with Santa. Visit www.ShopFairOaksMall.com.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 8

Bull Run Festival of Lights & Holiday Village. Admission: Monday - Thursday \$15 Cars or vans (1-14 people), \$25 Van (15-34 people), \$50 Bus (35 or more people); Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays \$20 Cars or vans (1-14 people), \$30 Van (15-34 people), \$55 Bus (35 or more people). Monday - Thursday: 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Fridays - Sunday and holidays: 5:30 to 10 p.m. At Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

O'Sullivan's Benefit to Beat Pancreatic Cancer. A benefit for Mandy O'Sullivan. 5:30-10 p.m. Features a silent auction, 50-50 raffle, buffet dinner and drinks. Admission is \$15/person; \$60/family max. Call Laura Christie at 703-217-8126, Katie O'Sullivan at 571-289-4785, or email themandyfund@gmail.com. To be held at Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Highway in Centreville.

Holiday Choral Concert. 7:30 p.m. Free. The choral program at Westfield High School will be performing a concert of traditional and modern Holiday songs on Friday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Holiday Candlelight Tour at Sully Historic Site. 5 p.m. Historic holiday candlelight tours of the home of Northern Virginia's first congressman. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Call 703-437-1794.

Ice Skating Night. 7:30 to 8:40 p.m. Bull Run Elementary

School is sponsoring a community-wide skating night. Tickets are \$7/person, which includes admission and skate rental. At the Ashburn Ice House in Ashburn. Email: bresptavp@gmail.com

DEC. 17 AND 18

Ho-Ho-Holiday Show. 2 p.m. Westfield High hosts its annual Ho-Ho Holiday Show. Tickets are \$5; groups of 15 or more are \$4/ticket. More than 100 theater students will perform "The Grinch," "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "Frosty the Snowman," "The Hanukkah Story," "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Email: westfieldtheatreboosters@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Christmas Bird Count. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will mark the 112th anniversary of the Christmas Bird Count. Volunteers will count birds in a circle around Centreville. The area includes Manassas National Battlefield, Bull Run Regional Park, undeveloped areas around Bull Run Post Office Road and Dulles Airport. ASNV is seeking volunteers to help. Contact ASNV at info@AUDUBONVA.ORG or call 703-438-6008.

Christmas Cantata. 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. Jubilee Christian Center Music Department will perform the Christmas Cantata, "Joy to the World." Jubilee is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Rd., Fairfax. Call 703-383-1170 or see www.jccag.org

WWII Christmas at Sully Historic Site. 5 p.m. Sully Historic Site is all decked out for a WWII era Christmas at home of Northern Virginia's first congressman. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Call 703-437-1794.

DEC. 19-20

Holiday Spectacular. 7 p.m. Chantilly High presents its annual Holiday Spectacular. It features more than 300 students from the school band, choir, theater and orchestra programs in a festive, fun-filled, family event. Tickets are \$10/person at www.chantillychoral.org. Click on the "Buy Tickets Now" tab on the left side of the main page. This show usually sells out prior to the event, so patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance.

FRIDAY/DEC. 23

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

SCHOOL NOTES

Centreville High School is having its Annual Christmas Tree Sale. All proceeds will benefit the Centreville High School Turf Field Fund. Hours are Thursday and Friday, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fraser Furs sell for \$55 (5-6 ft.), \$60 (6-7 ft.), \$65 (7-9 ft.) At Centreville High School.

Clifton Children's Academy will be holding a Registration Open House for Kindergarten and morning, afternoon and full-day preschool classes Thursday, Jan. 12 and Thursday, Jan. 26, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. This is for registration for Fall 2012. There will also be limited registration available for this Winter - 2012. Bring your child and come to tour the school. The school is located at 14315 Compton Road in Centreville. Call 703-968-8455 or visit www.childrensacademy.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 6

International Night. 7 p.m. Westfield High presents its International Night in the school auditorium. Performing traditional dances from their countries will be Krisnia LaFuente, Bolivia; Viswaja Kaja and Lalita Kota, Southern India; Shilpa Gokhale, Lalitha Guruju and Ambica Kalburgi, Northern India; and Lidiya Kelsseya, Tezeta Mela and Maeza Tesfaye, Ethiopia. Two different and ancient musical instruments will be played by Alborz Shirms and Omid Khaksavtard, representing Iran. Singing will be students Hari Kappipor, representing Southern India, and Valeria Sierralta, Peru. International food will be served during intermission.

Fairfax County Public Schools teachers earned certification from the National Board for Professional

Teaching Standards (NBPTS) in 2011.

The board-certified FCPS teachers, with their schools in parentheses, are:

- ❖ **Kristin Cagle** (Centre Ridge Elementary School);
- ❖ **Barb Caley** (Robinson Secondary School)

In addition, the following board certified teachers have renewed their board certification for an additional ten years:

- ❖ **Nancy Holincheck** (Chantilly High School);

The Centreville High School PTSA

will be hosting one-hour college workshops on these dates immediately following the regular PTSA meetings which begin at 7 p.m. followed by the college workshop at 8 p.m. Kaplan Test Prep Educators will present the free workshops.

- ❖ Feb. 21: SAT or ACT 10 Question Challenge
- ❖ March 20: Accepted - Getting into your First Choice School
- ❖ April 17: SAT or ACT Essay Writing
- ❖ May 15: SAT Critical Reading

Timothy Eisenhardt and Joseph Lang

Centreville natives and senior engineering students at James Madison University, are working on completing their Capstone Projects. The will be part of JMU's first graduating class of engineering students. Eisenhardt is working with his team to design, build and test a Piezoelectric Oligonucleotide Synthesizer and Microarrayer. Lang is working with a team to design and construct a robot to enter into The Trinity College Fire Fighting Robot Competition (FFRC). The FFRC is a yearly competition in which teams construct robots that can maneuver through a simulated home with four rooms, hallways, rugs, furniture, wall hangings, and uneven flooring.

Kristina Massie from Fairfax worked on the production of a student-produced sitcom at Drexel University that made its network television debut on Philadelphia's local CBS affiliate The CW Philly 57 this month. "OFF CAMPUS" is a sitcom produced by students in Drexel's Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design. The storyline centers around the adventures and misadventures of recent college graduates and roommates Claire, Dean, Felix, Hailey and Nick.

Lee Seidner, a senior from Centreville, majoring in music in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech.

Tommy Polson, a senior from Centreville, majoring in economics in the Pamplin College of Business, has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech.

Carolyn Korch, a junior from Centreville, majoring in hospitality and tourism management in the Pamplin College of Business, has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech.

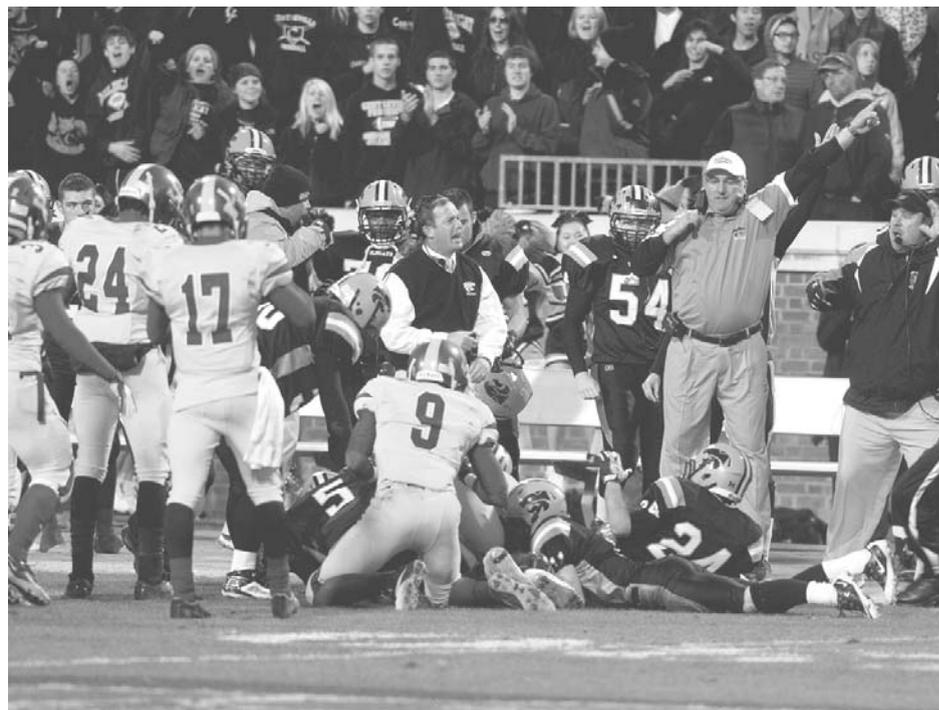
Sarah DeVito, a junior from Centreville, majoring in mathematics in the College of Science, has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech.

Chelsea Croll, a junior from Centreville, majoring in management and Spanish in the Pamplin College of Business and College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech.

 An advertisement for McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants. The top part shows a group of people smiling and clinking wine glasses. Below the image is the text "Make Us Part of Your Holiday Tradition" in a cursive font. Underneath that, it says "Open Christmas Eve, Christmas Day & New Year's Eve" and "MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY". The bottom part of the ad lists several restaurant locations: Washington, D.C. (K Street, F Street), Crystal City/Arlington, Reston Town Center, Tysons Corner/McLean, and National Harbor, along with their phone numbers. The website www.McCormickandSchmicks.com is listed at the bottom.



They might not have won the game, but Centreville's players and fans sure had some great moments in Charlottesville on Saturday.



Centreville recovered a second quarter squib kick moments following a Chase Walter touchdown catch which pulled the Wildcats within 21-9.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

What a Football Season for the Wildcats

State finals loss does not diminish 2011 storybook campaign.

BY RICH SANDERS
CENTRE VIEW

By the positive demeanor of the Centreville High football players and their fans during the latter stages of the Wildcats' 47-21 state AAA championship game loss to Oscar Smith High (Chesapeake) last Saturday evening at Scott Stadium on the University of Virginia campus in Charlottesville, one might have been under the mistaken impression that the Centreville team was winning the game.

Players did not have their heads down, postures were not slouched, and there were no sign of teammates complaining or pointing fingers for the way the game had evolved.

The Centreville team, although too far behind to realistically come back and win, was playing all out on each play. Ball carriers were running hard, linemen, both on offense and defense, were bursting off the line, and receivers were running crisp, precise patterns or helping out with blocks.

On the Centreville sideline, players were encouraging one another with pats on the backside and paying attention to the play on the field. Meanwhile, directly behind the team's bench, the Wildcats' large contingent of fans, made up of the student body as well as parents and other Centreville faithful, cheered on the team as heartedly as they had when the score was tied at the start of the game.

Coaches were still coaching, players were still playing, and the fans were still cheer-

ing. It didn't matter what the scoreboard read. The overall mindset seemed to be upbeat in nature because of what the Centreville team, with the rampant support of its adoring community, had accomplished over the course of this championship season.

There was, during Saturday's game, a can't-miss connection between the team and fandom which had been apparent all season long and was still vibrant as the final minutes of the 2011 season ticked away in Charlottesville.

The season-long refrain of the Centreville High football community — players, coaches, school personnel, and fans — being "family" might seem corny to opponents or fans of other teams. But it was a bond which played a tangible role in the team's breakthrough season which saw the Wildcats, under second year head coach Chris Haddock, capture their first Div. 6 Northern Region title in 11 years and qualify for states.



Connor Coward runs to daylight as Oscar Smith players pursue.

"We fought and left everything on the field," said senior team leader and running back Manny Smith, who led his teammates into the stadium prior to the state finals game, waving a large Centreville team flag — a banner adorned with a black Wildcats' paw with a Columbia blue back drop — and eventually going towards the sideline and directly towards the Centreville fans where he waved his arms to fire them up more than they already were. "We don't quit and we won't give in. As a leader on this team I try to put as much emotion into the game as possible."

A day earlier Smith had asked if the Wildcats could display the flag upon coming into the stadium.

"I'm an emotional guy and I talked to coach Haddock and asked him if we could bring the flag," recalled Smith. "I didn't have to be carrying it out."

Haddock eventually decided it would be a good idea and, on the morning of the game, asked Smith if he would carry the

flag and lead the team onto the field. When Smith led the Wildcats onto the stadium, it was a moment he and Centreville fans will always remember.

"It was great running out of the tunnel with our fans, family and friends in the stands," said Smith. Smiling, he said, "Seeing our crowd there — those are the craziest people you'll ever meet."

THE PREGAME EMOTION carried over into the game for Centreville. On the game's opening kickoff, Wildcat senior Connor Culleiton flew down the field and made a sparkling tackle of the Oscar Smith kick returner, who had just barely crossed the five yard line. Then, on the Tigers' first play from their own six, quarterback Jaylian Williamson, back in shotgun formation, was unprepared for the center snap. The ball went right past the startled QB and out of the end zone for a stunning two-point safety which gave Centreville the game's first points.

As the rules of a safety apply, Oscar Smith was then required to punt the ball to Centreville. Chase Walter further ignited the crowd with a 31-yard return to the Tigers' 38 yard line. Unfortunately from a Centreville perspective, the Wildcats were not able to score on that possession.

Oscar Smith would go on to score touchdowns on its next three possessions, surging ahead 21-2, behind the play of Williamson, a quarterback with a Div. 1 college caliber arm and an ability to evade pass rushers. Williamson, who has committed to play college football in-state at Hampton University next school year, went on to have a phenomenal game, completing 17 of his 20 passes for 240 yards and two touchdowns.

"He's a good football player, no doubt about it," said Haddock. "He stepped up and SEE CVHS'S STORYBOOK, PAGE 16

Westfield High Presents Show of Six Children's Plays

FROM PAGE 1

to consider each actor, not just what you're doing."

Biagini directed Westfield's VTA competition piece, "Oleanna," so this play marks his second time at the helm. Toughest, he said, is "dealing with the actors' time-schedule conflicts, because this isn't someone's entire life. But I enjoy seeing things come together."

Schmidt said the audience will like their play's humor and the overall variety of shows in the whole production. "They're not just about Christmas," she said. "And 'Twas the Night before Christmas' is a dance show."

As for "Frosty," added Biagini, "I think the kids will enjoy the big personas the actors bring to the stage."

'A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS'

Nick Burroughs and Chaz Coffin are directing "A Charlie Brown Christmas" together. The cast of 11 features Brandon Sanchez as Charlie Brown, Madeleine Bloxam as Lucy, Mitchell Buckley as Linus, Rachel Moser as Sally, Julian Sanchez as Schroeder and David Koenigsberg as Snoopy.

"Things are going well," said Burroughs. "We're putting final touches on the show now. Because it's such a classic and so famous, the audience will enjoy seeing it onstage and recognizing some of the differences between the cartoon and our version."

"The children will like the slapstick, the colorful costumes and the comedy," said Coffin. "And we'll also have some holiday music playing."

Thrilled to be a director, he said doing so as a student "makes me feel like I've grown

in this department and have finally gotten to the place every actor waits for — being a director." Coffin said the most difficult thing about directing is "organizing everything onstage so the audience will respond to the play positively."

"Directing is a lot harder than I realized," said Burroughs. "It's not just the staging, but getting everybody in the same place at the same time and focused on the same objective."

Regarding their play, said Coffin, "The children attending the show will flip over all these characters they usually see on TV and read about in storybooks."

Added Burroughs: "A lot of people come back to see this show, year after year, like a holiday tradition for them, and new audiences will be able to do the same thing."

'THE HANUKKAH STORY'

Although the subject is serious, "The Hanukkah Story" is presented as a comedy. Directed by Bryan Pitt, it has a cast of 13, including Zoe Hawryluk as Judy Macabee, the leader of the Jews, and Zack Walsh as King Antiochus, the king of the Greeks.

"It's the story of how the Greeks invaded Israel and took over their land, and how the Israelites got it back," said Pitt. Narrating are Sy and Celia, portrayed by Alex Mann and Ali Koenigsberg, respectively.

"They're an old, Jewish couple telling this story to the audience while the actors show what happened," said Pitt. "It's a split stage where half is the real world and half is the flashback world. I think the audience will love it. There are a bunch of clever bits, jokes and puns we put in for the adults, plus plenty of physical comedy for the kids."

He said directing's fun because "you get

to work with so many different people. It's more about teamwork and getting a group of individuals who don't have anything in common, besides a love of theater, to work together to make the best story possible."

'NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS'

Directing "Twas the Night before Christmas" is Corinne Holland, and the story is told mainly through dance. "There are narrators and a family with children," said sophomore Emily Tobin. "It's the children's dream of the fairies vs. the rats, but the reindeer, rats and fairies don't speak."

In this vignette, the nutcracker and the rat king fight, and the fairies all turn into reindeer. Santa Claus brings presents and all the reindeer do a kickline dance led by Rudolph.

"It appeals to kids because it's almost all music and dancing," said Tobin. "The girls will like the fairies and the boys will like the rats." Regarding the whole "Ho-Ho Holiday Show," she said, "It will be wonderful because we have great actors and it's just fun stuff to watch."

'RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER'

The 12-person cast of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" includes T.J. Vinsavich as Rudolph; Annie Snyder as an elf; Olivia Joseph as Rudolph's love interest, Cupid; and Taber Singh as Rudolph's arch enemy, Blitzen. Directing are Kelsey Thompson and Sophia Alam.

"The plot follows the song, and we added how Rudolph interacts with the other reindeer," said Alam. "We also added an elf and an elf helper — an elf-in-training who tries to be like the leader elf."

Besides that, she said she and Thompson gave this story more modern jokes that the audience will understand and relate to. They also made it more humorous than in past years so, said Alam, "The stereotypical characters are really funny. And hopefully, at the end, the children will learn a nice lesson that we're all different, but we're all friends."

She said directing is challenging because "you want everyone to have fun and the actors to be comfortable. But at the same time, they need to be focused and ready to work and make a commitment. So that can be a bit stressful. But I enjoy helping actors find their voice and teaching them ways to act in front of other people. I try to bring the best out of them and show them they can do it."

'THE GRINCH'

Directed by Colby Dezelick and Dieter Stach, "The Grinch" has nine characters and stars Dezelick as the Grinch, Sam Dempsey as Cindy Lou Who and Bryan Pitt as Max. "The actors are picking up things really quickly," said Stach. "They bring a lot of good ideas to the table so the group dynamic is fun."

Stach is typically a sound engineer, so this show marks his first time directing. "I'm glad to be working with Colby," he said. "We share a lot of the same ideas, and it's fun to watch our initially rough ideas come together."

In this vignette, Stach reads the story and the actors react to it. "We're also putting in some quirky acting bits and scenarios that should be fun for the audience," he said. "It's a classic, Dr. Seuss tale that shows what Christmas is all about."

Resident Secretly Represented Pakistan

FROM PAGE 1

America related to Kashmir.

Fai served as the director of the Kashmiri American Council (KAC), a non-governmental organization in Washington, D.C., that purported to be run by Kashmiris, financed by Americans and dedicated to raising the level of knowledge in the U.S. about the struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination. But according to court documents, the KAC was secretly funded by officials employed by the government of Pakistan, including the Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate (ISI).

"For the last 20 years, Mr. Fai secretly took millions of dollars from Pakistani intelligence and lied about it to the U.S. government," said U.S. Attorney Neil MacBride. "As a paid operative of ISI, he did the bidding of his handlers in Pakistan while he met with U.S. elected officials, funded high-profile conferences and promoted the Kashmiri cause to decision-makers in Washington."

"Mr. Fai purposefully hid financial transactions from the U.S. government, with intentions that his scheme to fund lobbying efforts by a foreign government

would go unnoticed," said FBI Assistant Director in Charge James McJunkin. "[But] the FBI will detect and defeat those who attempt to surreptitiously exert foreign influence on our government by using agents who conceal their foreign affiliation."

Arrested July 19, Fai appeared last Wednesday, Dec. 7, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria and entered his guilty pleas before Judge Liam O'Grady. He could now receive as much as five years in prison for the conspiracy offense, plus a possible three years incarceration for the tax violation, when he's sentenced on March 9, 2012. As part of his plea agreement, Fai will forfeit \$142,851.32 seized from him by the government in July.

"The Tax Division is committed to prosecuting any individual who illegally uses the tax-exempt status of charitable entities to promote or conceal federal crimes," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General John DiCiccio.

Doing so, added IRS Special Agent in Charge Jeannine Hammett, "harms all Americans, as we all have to pay our fair share for the government services and protections that we enjoy."

Fai admitted in court that, from 1990 until about July 18 of this year, he lied to and defrauded the U.S. government. And according to court documents, Fai told FBI agents in March 2007 that he'd never met anyone who identified himself as being affiliated with the ISI. Then in May 2009, he falsely denied to the IRS on a tax return for the KAC that the KAC had received any money from foreign sources in 2008.

Furthermore, court documents state that, in April 2010, Fai sent a letter to the Justice Department claiming that the Pakistani government didn't fund the KAC. He also told the IRS that the KAC hadn't received any money from foreign sources in 2009. Again, in July 2011, Fai lied to the FBI that neither he nor the KAC received money from the ISI or from Pakistan.

But in fact, U.S. authorities say he repeatedly submitted annual KAC strategy reports and budgetary requirements to Pakistani government officials for approval. In 2009, they say, these documents included his plans to "secure U.S. congressional support for U.S. action in support

20 Months Prison

FROM PAGE 1

payments from authorities by transferring them, via associates, from Iraq to Armenia.

Manok was sentenced last week by U.S. District Court Judge Anthony J. Trenga. Following completion of his prison term, he'll be on three years supervised release. A forfeiture hearing is slated for Jan. 13, 2012, to determine how much money he owes the federal government because of his crime.

This case was investigated by the FBI's Washington Field Office, the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General, the Army Criminal Investigation Command and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul J. Nathanson and trial attorney Mary Ann McCarthy of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section.

This prosecution is part of efforts underway by President Barack Obama's inter-agency Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force. Obama established this task force as a way of waging a coordinated effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. For more information, go to www.stopfraud.gov.

SEE CONVICTED, PAGE 18

Getting into the 'Right Fit' Private School

Experts explain how to navigate admissions process for area's most elite schools.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

Each year, parents who opt out of their neighborhood public school in favor of an independent school must sift through the long list of the Washington area's independent schools to find one that meets the needs of their child.

They must then navigate the lengthy application required by most schools, and hope that their efforts are deft enough to gain acceptance in a competitive environment. Some schools report receiving as many as nine applications for each available slot.

Even for prospective pre-kindergarten students, the independent school admissions process often includes a written application, admissions tests, parent statements, student interviews, parent interviews, playdates, school visits, transcripts and teacher recommendations.

"What we're trying to do is get a whole picture of a child and look at information from a variety of different sources," said Christina Tait, director of admission and financial aid at The Langley School in McLean.

THE APPLICATION PACKETS provide insight for both the school and the applicants. "We have a fairly detailed process so that we get to know the girls and they get to know us," said Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, head of the Madeira School in McLean. "Our goal is to find girls who are the right fit for our school and for whom our school is the right fit."

The role of each component of the application varies depending on the age of the applicant. "The admission [process] for young children is especially complex and difficult because we have to use both explicit and intuitive measures because we have less data," said Diane Dunning, director of admission and financial aid at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "If you were looking at a ninth grade [admissions] folder, you would have eight years of report cards and maybe four years of standardized testing. You are also able to interview [older applicants] in a different way than when you are interacting with the young children."

Why is so much probing necessary?

"Schools are looking for consistency in grades, attitude, testing and recommendations," said Lindsay White, educational consultant with the School Counseling Group in Washington, D.C. "[For example] If there is a huge difference between a [teacher] recommendation and what they are seeing on the grades, that is going to be a red flag."

Most schools want prospective applicants to spend time on campus. "The [school] visit is important to us. It gives the boy and his family a chance to experience the Heights first hand," said Richard Moss, director of admission at the Heights School in Potomac, Md. "On the flip side, it gives us a chance to really get to know the boy. How is he interacting with his peers? Is he friendly? Is he courteous? Does he have a good, firm handshake? Does he look the teachers in the eye when he greets them in the morning?"

Most applications ask parents to answer questions describing their children. Here are two questions from the Langley School's application: What do you believe is your role as a parent in your child's education? What qualities do you consider to be most important for your child's education?

Consultants say schools look at the way parents answer questions. "There are a lot of parents who regurgitate the school's mission statement and all the language that is used on the school's website. Schools can see right through that," said educational consultant Clare Anderson, of Chevy Chase, Md. "They want to know that the family is in line with how [the school] works with students and [their] approach to education."

Schools also pay attention to a parent's evaluation of their child. "Red flags go up when everything is just perfect and they've never encountered a setback or difficulty," said Anderson. "[Schools] are looking for honest, candid responses. Obviously parents are going to frame it in a positive light, as they should."

Most schools require admissions tests. Depending on the age and grade of the child, these tests include the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI-III), Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) and the Secondary School Admission Test for (SSAT).

"Testing often creates the most anxiety," said Dunning, of St.

Stephen's & St. Agnes.

THE TESTS are used differently depending on the age of the applicant. "Tests for [young children] are used as standardized tools to give an overall picture of a child's learning profile. These are not predictors for academic success. They give broad overviews of how a child learns," said Anderson. Tests given to middle and high school applicants are more meaningful. "Those tests measure how well your child has done with the information he or she has learned in school. If they see an eighth grader who has only average grades, but remarkable SSATs, they are going to ask, 'Is this an underachiever? Why is this child not excelling in the classroom?'"

SO WHAT can parents do to make sure their child's application shines in a pool overflowing with many attractive applicants?

"It is always nice to think about what is special about your child,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

The Madeira volleyball team recently won the Independent Student League title.

said White. "What is the one special strength or talent your child might have, whether it be academics or an extracurricular interest? What is the potential for your child to contribute to the school?" Anderson says she encourages

parents to view admissions procedures as multi-pronged. "My hope is to help parents understand the process and see that there really is a method and [schools] are looking to get the best from your child."



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Two Weeks of Free Tuition!

Bring in this ad when you enroll your child to start by January 3, 2012, and receive two weeks free. Offer expires December 30, 2011. Restrictions apply. See Director for details. New families only. Code CV DEC.




CVHS's Storybook Campaign

FROM PAGE 13

made some nice plays.”

The Centreville defense applied good pressure on the 5-foot-10 inch senior signal caller and did record three sacks — two by senior linebacker Zach Sikora and one from senior defensive back Brett Martin. But on numerous other occasions, Williamson was somehow able to elude the Centreville pursuers and throw the ball downfield.

“We had a game plan all week to put pressure on him and hopefully flush him [outside],” said Matt Vissides, a senior linebacker for the Wildcats. “The game plan was to blitz him the best we could.”

The worst moment, in regards to chasing Williamson when he was looking to pass, came during Oscar Smith's first scoring drive of the game in the first quarter. On a second down play, Williamson, because of good pressure, moved outside of the pocket and was moving towards his left. Centreville senior end/linebacker Ken Ekanem, this year's Northern Region Player of the Year, was hotly in pursuit of the quarterback and nearly pulled him down upon reaching him. Williamson, with Ekanem right on him, unloaded the ball for an incompleteness but was penalized for intentionally grounding the ball.

But the play had a bad ending for Centreville because Ekanem injured his knee while attempting the tackle (see related story on website at connectionnewspapers.com). The standout playmaker did not return, a tough blow to the Wildcats.

CENTREVILLE, following an Oscar Smith touchdown early in the second quarter which made the score 21-2, answered with its first touchdown drive of the game, one that covered 67 yards over 13 plays. The Wildcats, with senior quarterback Mitch Ferrick under center, converted two fourth down plays on the scoring possession, the latter the result of a defensive pass interference call on a ball thrown to Walter in the left corner of the end zone.

That penalty set up a first-and-goal for the Wildcats at the one. Three plays later, on a third down at the one, Centreville

found the end zone when Ferrick zipped a short pass to Walter, who was running a slant pattern from the right. The receiver, in traffic, reached over his head to pull in the ball for the score which came with three minutes, 53 seconds remaining in the half.

Moments later, Smith, making his mark on special teams, recovered Jared Rondeau's squib kick off to the left side of the field. But Centreville's chances of capitalizing ended with a turnover.

On the second play of the second half, Oscar Smith built a 27-9 lead on an interception return for a touchdown. The lead increased to 34-9 with another Oscar Smith touchdown later in the quarter. But Centreville came back with an 80-yard drive, capped by a one yard quarterback sneak touchdown run by Ferrick with 1:12 left in the quarter. On the scoring possession, Ferrick (7-of-18, 65 yards for the game) connected on pass plays of 16 yards to both Smith and Walter.

Oscar Smith scored two fourth quarter touchdowns to go ahead 47-15 with less than two minutes left in the game.

On the ensuing kickoff, Connor Coward made a long return to the Tigers' 40. From there, Centreville needed just four plays to score, the touchdown coming on a 13-yard sweep play to the right in which Coward crossed the goal line standing up with 27 seconds left to play.

While the game was not what Centreville would have hoped, it did end on a bright note with the late touchdown.

Coach Haddock was gracious in postgame comments to the press.

“We want to thank the University of Virginia for having us today,” he said. “The game obviously didn't go our way. Turnovers hurt us today and they took advantage of them. Oscar Smith is a good football team.”

“But I couldn't be more pleased with our team this year,” said Haddock. “[In 2008 and 2009, Centreville] won four games total. Now we're playing in a state championship game. We're really happy. We've changed the direction of the program. We have great kids and, in my opinion, the best fan base. These guys are great football players, but also great individuals.”

BY KAREN FULKERSON
CVHS

WRESTLING: Although medals usually define the success of a wrestler and a team, the Centreville Wildcat wrestling team tasted success in many different ways this past weekend at the NOVA Classic, held at Fairfax High Dec. 9-10. Overall, 32 teams participated in the tournament. For Centreville, the experienced Wildcats did what was expected of them, and the new Cats found some victories along with many things upon which they can build.

For freshman and first-year wrestler Devante Wright, things could not have gone better. Wright, who went 0-2 just a week ago, avenged his slow start in his new sport to go 5-2 and earn a seventh place finish in the 195-pound weight class. Wright's picture-perfect tackles led to countless takedowns and ultimately to his position on the podium.

Joining Wright on the podium were freshman Tyler Love and junior Joey Steinbach. Love took over where he left off last week and powered his way to a bronze medal in the 160-pound weight class. Love brings a wealth of experience and a willingness to implement new techniques to the mat, which has contributed to him winning early on this season.

Steinbach, as the No. 5-seed in his 220-pound weight class, turned his season around and cruised his way to a bronze medal. Steinbach's counter-offense was impressive as he scored on most of his opponents' feeble shots, keeping leads on his opponents most of the time.

The rest of the Wildcat wrestlers also tasted success. Chung Do Kim picked up a couple of wins as did Joey Nowak, Connor Mitchell, and Will Johnson, who picked up a pin on his way to the quarterfinals before suffering his first loss of the young season.

Andy Soon and Jason Park had their hands raised for the first time this year. Soon, a strong athletic freshman with no previous wrestling experience, is competing at the 170-weight class. Park has even less experience but has great commitment and motivation for improvement.

Centreville will next mix it up at the Appalachian Duals at Skyline High in Front Royal on Dec. 21 and 22.

BOYS BASKETBALL: On Friday, Dec. 2, Centreville High's varsity basketball team beat JEB Stuart High in the South Lakes Tip Off Tournament, 44-37. The team went on a 16-3 fourth quarter run to erase a four-point deficit at the end of three quarters. They also had a 65 percent free throw percentage, hitting 13 of 20 from the stripe.

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, the Wildcats defeated Yorktown High on their home court by a score of 50-41. Three players hit double digits in points. Evan Fuller had 14 and Robert Coker had 11 while Hunter Campbell had 10. Rahji Johnson had six assists, and Campbell led the Wildcats in rebounds with seven. Centreville overcame a sloppy first half performance and played shut-down defense in the decisive fourth quarter. Campbell's 10 points scored was a career high, and the team's overall shooting percentage of 54.5 percent is a season high.

Finally, the boys defeated Fairfax High, 49-47, in an overtime thriller on Friday, Dec. 9th. The Wildcats surrendered a 10-point second half lead, but held on to defeat the Rebels in their home opener. Evan Fuller scored in double figures for the fifth straight game.

GIRLS BASKETBALL:

Led by senior Chaney Forbush's 15 points and 10 rebounds, the Centreville Lady Wildcats varsity basketball team improved their season record to 3-0 with a hard fought 43-35 victory over the Yorktown Patriots on Tuesday, Dec. 6. Sophomore guard Jenna Green added 12 points for the Cats.

The next night, the Lady Wildcats lost their first game of the year, 73-58, to an inspired Fairfax Rebels team playing at home. Forbush led the Cats with 24 points and 12 rebounds, her second double-double in as many nights.

GYMNASTICS: The varsity gymnastics team was scheduled to compete this week on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at Thomas Jefferson High. Opponents were to include Jefferson, Edison, West Potomac, Westfield, and Hayfield.

INDOOR TRACK: The varsity indoor track team has its next meet on Friday, Jan. 6 (5:30 p.m.) at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Opponents will include Fairfax and Madison.

SWIM/DIVE: Centreville's swim meet was held on Friday, Dec. 9 against Robinson Secondary School at Lee District Recreation Center. Centreville, according to head coach Lauren Depont, had “amazing times, and many improvements were made even from just last week. The spirit the swimmers and divers showed was second to none, and I am extremely proud of our accomplishments.”

Girls first place finishers: the 200 medley relay of Brooke Worley, Logan Ross, Abby McCranie, and Shannon O'Donnell; Abby McCranie (50-free); Abby McCranie (100-backstroke); and Logan Ross (100-breaststroke).

Boys first place finishers: Michael Helme (100-fly) and Jonathan Clark (100-freestyle).



Joey Steinbach

PHOTO/COURTESY OF CENTREVILLE HIGH

SYA Free Throw Fundraiser To Benefit Wounded Warriors

BY KARA STAMPER
SPECIAL TO THE CENTRE VIEW

The Southwestern Youth Association basketball league is embracing the holiday spirit by combining fun, fundamentals, and fundraising. The first annual Free Throws for Wounded Warriors program, benefitting local veterans, will kick off this Friday, Dec. 16. Every one of the 1,700 players in SYA's basketball league, ranging from first graders to high school seniors, will attempt 20 free throws during their practice time. For each shot made they will collect on pledges from family, friends and community members for two worthy and important organizations: the Virginia

Wounded Warrior Program and Friends of the Wounded Veterans.

SYA seventh grade commissioner and coach Charlie Velasco credits his son Nicholas as the inspiration behind this inaugural program. “He wanted to figure out a way to work together to help all of the men and women coming back from war,” said coach Velasco. “We want to lead by example and teach the kids that there is more to sports than X's and O's. This will be a wonderful gift from the SYA family with the help of our generous community.”

FOTWV is based in Centreville and raises money to benefit 400 soldiers in the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Belvoir. Financial aid is provided for emergencies, airfare

to reunite families, holiday gifts, and legal services as needed. In an effort to improve morale, FOTWV organizes entertainment opportunities such as a pig roast and crab feast at Bull Run Park for recovering soldiers.

President Bob Froehlich said, “These soldiers joined the United States military voluntarily and willingly but none of them thought about life without an arm or a leg or both. Serious head trauma has impaired their ability to think and perform everyday tasks. It is these warriors that we want to assist, so thank you for helping us toward that goal.”

Funds directed to the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program will assist wounded vet-

erans with emergency financial assistance for such things as car repairs, transportation, and utility payments. There is also a growing need to support veterans with children who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

While the state provides an array of services for our nation's veterans, there are still unmet needs and the number of veterans in Northern Virginia alone has now grown to one in every 10 people.

Regional Director Jim Thur said, “Events such as the Free Throws for Wounded Warriors clearly demonstrates the phenomenal support that our community gives to our servicemen and women and is greatly appreciated.”

NEWS

During Diwali (new year) festivities, Indian people create designs in sand (rangoli) on the stone floors of the entryways to their homes to welcome visitors. From left: Heena Patel, Goldie Agnihotri, Kunjal Patel and Angela Bareque make colorful sand designs on paper plates.



PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS/
CENTRE VIEW

Mehendi Night in Centreville



Kunjal Patel shows a Mehendi (henna tattoo) of ink and glitter. When the glitter's washed off, the ink underneath is red, maroon or orange.

Goldie Agnihotri, owner of Radiance Salon in Centreville, hosted a Mehendi night at her salon, shortly before Diwali (Indian New Year), Oct. 25. Guests enjoyed a feast of homemade Indian foods, the night before an annual, one-day fast by married women so their husbands will have long lives.



Good friends (from left) Lucy Nathaniel, Heena Patel, Goldie Agnihotri and Sowjanya Kotakonda.



The staff of Radiance Salon, 14641 Lee Highway, No. 102, in Centreville, (from left) Vipan Aulakh, Goldie Agnihotri, Lucy Nathaniel and Anjana Prajapati.

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CENTRE VIEW

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FROM PAGE 14

of Kashmiri self-determination.”

Fai also admitted not telling the IRS that, from 1990 until July 18, he arranged for at least \$3.5 million to be transferred to the KAC from ISI and Pakistani government employees. Court documents explain that he did so via his co-defendant Zaheer Ahmad, 63 — a U.S. citizen living in Pakistan — plus middlemen (straw donors), whom Ahmad reimbursed with ISI and Pakistani-government funds for their alleged charitable — and therefore tax-deductible — “donations” to the KAC.

Conducting the investigation into this case were the Washington field offices of the FBI and the IRS criminal-investigation division. Prosecuting it are Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gordon Kromberg and Daniel Grooms; trial attorney John Gibbs of the Counterterrorism Section of the Justice Department’s National Security Division; and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison Ickovic from the Justice Department’s Tax Division.

AT THE LIBRARIES

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Toddlin’ Twos. 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Stories and activities. Age 2 with caregiver. 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Practice Your English Conversation Group. 3:30 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-830-2223.

MONDAY/DEC. 19

N2Reading: Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements. Age 9-12, accompanying adults welcome. 703-830-2223.

ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Ask for title. Adults. 703-830-2223.

Kinder-Budds: Book Buddies for Kindergarteners. 2 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. “Hi! Fly Guy” by Tedd Arnold. 703-502-3883.

Number One Budds: Book Buddies for First Graders. 3 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. “Diary of a Killer Cat” by Anne Fine. 703-502-3883.

Mysterious Monday Book Club. 4 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Book discussion group for 3rd-4th graders. Ask for title. 703-502-3883.

TUESDAY/DEC. 20

Time for Tots. 11 a.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Stories & activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/DEC. 27

Thriving Three to Fives. 11 a.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-830-2223.

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Abstract or Intact



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How does one not become consumed with something that is all-consuming? Moreover, how does that same one take certain information in stride that potentially is anything but stride-worthy? And if one were not to be all-consuming by the information that, disturbing as it was, was in fact taken in stride, how does that one not feel guilty and/or responsible about neglecting to act – if there was even anything to be done about the unsettling news that may have spawned this initial paragraph? I don't. I can't. I won't. Somehow.

Not that I received any news of late that was particularly jarring or life-abbreviating but, as a terminal patient, so far as I know (and how far do I really know, since I've never been a terminal patient before), information that is not positive is negative (almost by definition) and the fine line of life upon which I straddle every minute of every day becomes that much more difficult to sustain, especially if the negative begins to overtake the positive. I have equated the sensation to taking the first few curious steps across a newly frozen pond – in winter, each step more precarious than the last, waiting for the cracking – or not, and the associated fear. You want to go forward, but not at your own peril. Yet going backward seems equally ill-advised. I mean, you've been there and done that. Backwards represents the past. Forward represents the future. Personally, I don't want to live in the past. I want to live in the present/future. Receiving results which prevent you from going forward – which may stop you in your tracks, are not so much safe as they are insecure. For me, it's all about momentum. I don't want to lose what progress I've gained, nor do I want to retrace my steps. However, survival may be about knowing when to redirect those energies/treatment, to rest and/or retreat (to fight another day) and to work with your body, not against it.

But who knows? For a terminal patient, changes in anything are disproportionately significant. It could mean anything. It could mean nothing. Objectivity disappears the day your oncologist tells you have an incurable disease. Accordingly, it's extremely difficult to shrug off any abnormal medical findings. How do I not think that the beginning of the end starts at the end of the beginning? The point at which my body begins to weaken and reveal indicators that reflect a body in distress and one whose underlying diagnosis is starting to assert itself and break down all the barriers that have been constructed (metaphorically speaking) over the previous 34 months?

In summary, how do I interpret change? For the better? The worse? Meaningful? Meaningless? As a cancer patient who has now outlived his original prognosis ("13 months to two years") by a rather significant amount of time, how do I remain objective about lab work, urine specimens, diagnostic scans, etc.? I can't. However, worrying about any or all of it likely produces no real tangible benefit either, whereas not worrying about it, not stressing about it might, anecdotally speaking, anyway. Unfortunately, worrying and stressing are not simply emotions I can switch off, especially when you're consumed by a terminal disease, whether figuratively or worse, literally.

Diagnosis to date, my cancer-related problems have been figurative, mostly. Nevertheless, it's difficult to not react negatively when results are changing right before your eyes, literally. Yet somehow, I have to. If I don't, I'll likely make matters worse. And given my underlying stage IV lung-cancer diagnosis, I probably don't need to go out of my way to cause any more trouble. It's already found me.

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

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Shelter House Inc. and Barnes & Noble Fairfax are partnering together to ensure that homeless children at Shelter House's the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter receive books for the holiday season. From now through Jan. 1, 2012, customers entering Barnes and Noble Fairfax will be given the option upon checkout of donating a book to a child in the shelter. All books collected will be given to the children residing in the shelter. The Book Drive for the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter will run at the Fairfax Barnes and Noble store in the Fair Lakes Promenade Shopping Center at the Corner of Monument and Fair Lakes Parkway.

The Chantilly Carolers bring cheer to holiday events and enliven festivities with their renditions of timeless, seasonal classics. Whatever the occasion — corporate function, community event, private party — these singers from Chantilly High's nationally acclaimed,

advanced-choral performing groups add a special touch to holiday gatherings. To hear a sample of their singing, go to www.chantillychoral.org. To book one of the caroling ensembles, e-mail caroling@chantillychoral.org. Proceeds from their performances help raise funds for their annual trips to compete against choral groups from around the nation.

White House Ornament Sale. The Western Fairfax County Woman's Club is selling 2011 White House Christmas ornaments. This year's ornament honors the 26th president, Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. This ornament features a view of the White House with Santa approaching carrying a bag full of toys. The 2011 ornaments cost \$19. Proceeds benefit charity. Order yours now by calling 703-378-6841 or 703-378-6216. It is possible to order previous years' ornaments.

HomeAid Northern Virginia of Chantilly, which builds and renovates homeless shelters, transitional houses, food banks, medical clinics, counseling centers, and other facilities that help homeless families and individuals, announced that Doug Smith, president, Miller & Smith, has won its annual Presidents' Award and that John Darvish Construction has won its Trade Partner of the Year Award.

The Presidents' Award, presented to an individual, a company or an organization that has shown exceptional dedication to the goal of ending homelessness with service to HomeAid Northern Virginia, is the

organization's highest honor. The Trade Partner of the Year Award is presented to a vendor, trade partner or industry partner who has gone above and beyond in their service to HomeAid.

Want to improve one's communication skills? Then visit the TASC Toastmasters Club and learn how membership can help one succeed. Meets Wednesday afternoons from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Northrop Grumman Building, Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. Contact Adim Okwudishu at 410-227-0177 or Email: adimkris@gmail.com. Visit www.tasctoastmasters.org

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

CENTREVILLE

THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Traditional Anglican Service
1928 book of Common Prayer

One Sunday Service - 10:00 am
(CHURCH SCHOOL & NURSERY)
13941 Braddock Road, (north off Rte. 29) Centreville, VA
703-830-3176
www.thechurchoftheascension.org

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



Centreville United Methodist Church



Sunday Worship Services
8:15 AM
9:30 AM
11:00 AM
Contemporary Service in the ROC
11:02 AM

Worshiping God ~ Serving Others

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

Sunday Services at Centreville Presbyterian Church





Loving Christ Loving People Serving the World

Sunday Worship Services
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



www.centrevillepres.com
15450 Lee Highway,
Centreville, VA 20120
703-830-0098

Centreville
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Christian Education for All Ages: 9:45 a.m.
Adult Bible Study: Wed. 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM:
Family Worship with Live Nativity
9:00 PM & 11:00 PM:
Carols, Candlelight & Communion

Braddock Road and Cranoke Street
Centreville, VA 20120
www.saintandrewlc.org
703-830-2768



Celebrate Christmas at Centreville Baptist Church

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 am & 9:30 am Celebration Service 11:00 am Contemporary Service Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am & 11:00 am	Dec 3 & 4 6:00 pm Children's Musical	Dec. 17 & 18 6:00 pm Dramatic Christmas Presentation	Dec. 24 4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm & 8:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Services
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 15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120
703-830-3333 www.cbcva.org




Mount Olive Baptist Church
6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, VA 20121
Phone: 703 830-8769; Fax: 703 830-6718
www.mountolive-church.org
E-Mail: mtolive@mountolive-church.org




Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson, Pastor

Service Times:
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 AM
Children's Church and Jr. Youth Church-
During regular Worship Service
Sunday School (9:00-9:45 AM/ All ages)
Spiritual Development Courses: (8:45-9:45 AM)
Youth Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
(Rev. Bobby J. Ford Jr., Youth Minister)
Holy Communion (Third Sunday) 10:00 AM
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study
and Spiritual Development Courses: 7:00 PM
(Includes Youth Bible Study)