

CENTRE VIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION

DECEMBER 22-28, 2011

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

Union Mill Elementary School Principal Kathleen Case — former vice principal at Lees Corner Elementary School — catches a ride in the side-car of the motorcycle that Santa Claus has borrowed from the Fairfax County Police Motorcycle Unit for the 25th Annual Santa's Ride for Children on Dec. 13.

ONC Brings Holiday Joy

Volunteers value opportunity to help.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Christmas is still a few days away, but the volunteers of Our Neighbor's Child have already delivered thousands of presents to 633 local families who, otherwise, wouldn't have much of a holiday at all.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 14-15, the ONC warehouse was a flurry of activity, as students and adults, alike, walked among tables laden with toys, gathering up the gifts to go into each particular family's bag.

And although they had plenty of their own holiday preparations to attend to, they willingly gave up their time to brighten Christmas for others.

"It is such a privilege to be a part

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 4

Santa Trades Sleigh for Motorcycle

Santa Claus traded in his sleigh for a Harley Davidson motorcycle on Dec. 12-14 in an effort to bring holiday cheer to deserving children. The Fairfax County Police Motorcycle Squad, in cooperation with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Fairfax City Police, Town of Vienna Police, Falls Church Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police, escorted Santa on the 25th Santa's Ride for Children, the capstone event of a three-week long

Police deliver toys in 25th Annual Santa's Ride for Children.

toy drive organized by the Motorcycle Squad. Police stations, government offices, nine Fairfax County public elementary schools — Mount Eagle, SEE POLICE ACCOMPANY SANTA, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Veronica Delaney (left) and Marjorie Willard man one of the tables where volunteers pick up any batteries needed for the toys.

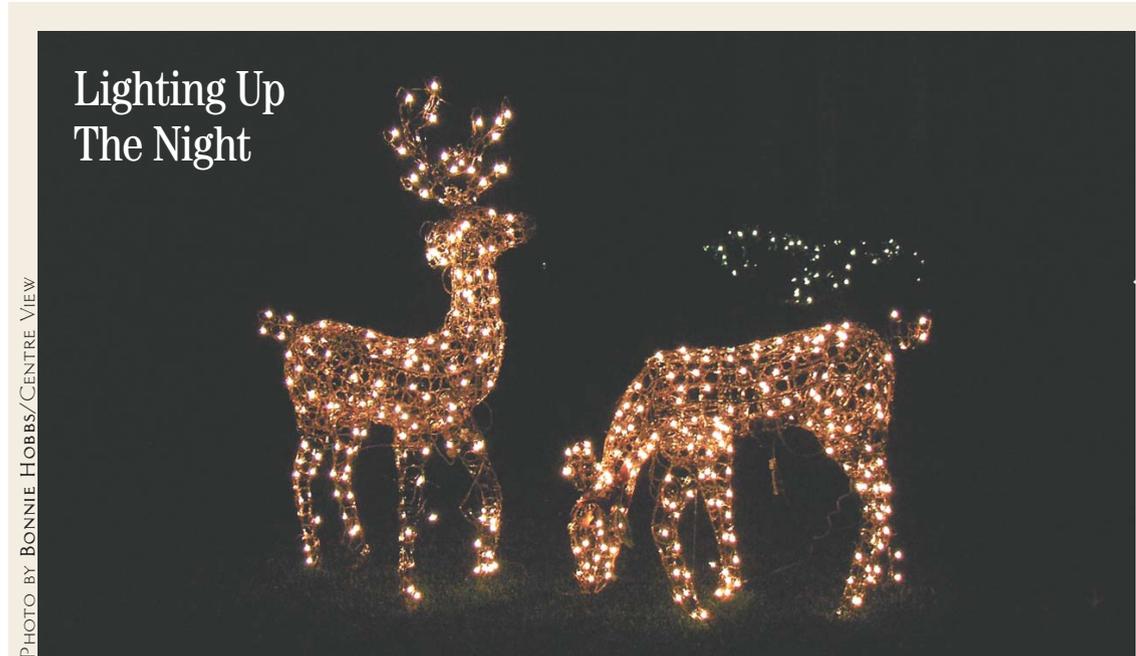


PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Lighting Up The Night

Lighted deer graze gracefully in the front yard of this Virginia Run home.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 3.

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PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addressed attendees at the Inauguration Ceremony held at the Fairfax County Government Center on Dec. 13.

County Officials Inaugurated

All local elected officials will take office on Jan. 1, 2012.

The inauguration ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Fairfax County Government Center for the 15 recently-elected officials was filled with all the pomp and circumstance of any official celebration.

“Almost three years ago when I addressed you for the first time as your chairman, it was to a backdrop of troubled and uncertain times,” Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) told the crowd of several hundred spectators in her inaugural address. “The world and our nation were roiling from a breakdown in our lending and financial institutions that was unprecedented in most of our lifetimes. Fairfax County, along with all state and local governments in the U.S., was seriously affected by this downturn,” she said.

In addition the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County constitutional officers, and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District directors all took their oath of office.

Fairfax Circuit Court Judge Jan L. Brodie administered the oath of office to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and 14 other elected officials, who each swore to support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The ceremony also included musical performances by harpist Christine Van Dyke from Fairfax County’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, the Frost Middle School Advanced Symphonic Orchestra, Langley High School Madrigals, South County Secondary School Chamber Orchestra and Captain Matthew Lopez of the Northern Virginia Firefighter’s Emerald Society Pipe Band.

The colors were presented by the Fairfax County Public Safety Honor Guard and PFC Laura Redman of the Fairfax County Police Department sang the national anthem. The evening concluded with a reception.

“The ceremony was beautiful and I especially enjoyed the high school musical performances. What a great way to begin this four-year term,” Bulova said after the ceremony.

All elected officials will take office on Jan. 1, 2012.

— VICTORIA ROSS



Michael Frey, Sully District Supervisor, is sworn in by the Hon. Jan Brodie, Judge of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County.



On Dec. 19, a new school board is sworn-in at Jackson Middle School. Back row, from left, are: Megan McLaughlin, Braddock District; Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield District; Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District; Ted Velkoff, at-large; Tammy Kaufax, Lee District; Pat Hynes, Hunter Mill District; Patty Reed, Providence District, and Ryan McElveen, at-large. Front row, from left, are: Kathy Smith, Sully District; Sandy Evans, Mason District; Ilryong Moon, at-large, and Jane Strauss, Dranesville District.

School Board Sworn In

The Hon. Dennis J. Smith administers the oath of office to Kathy Smith on Monday, Dec. 19, at Jackson Middle School. Smith was re-elected as the Sully District Representative to the Fairfax County School Board.



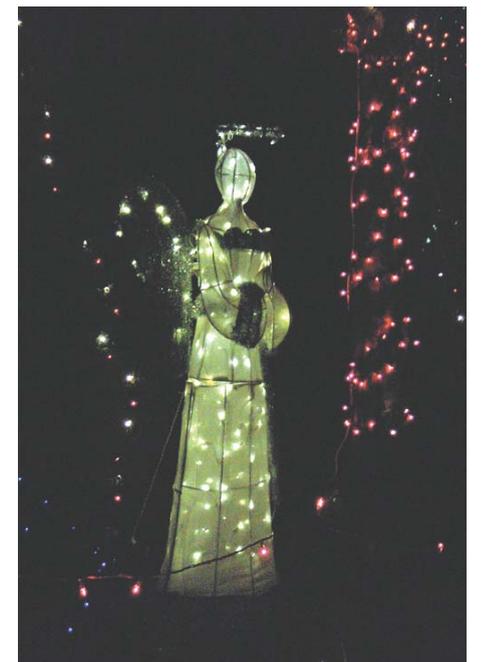
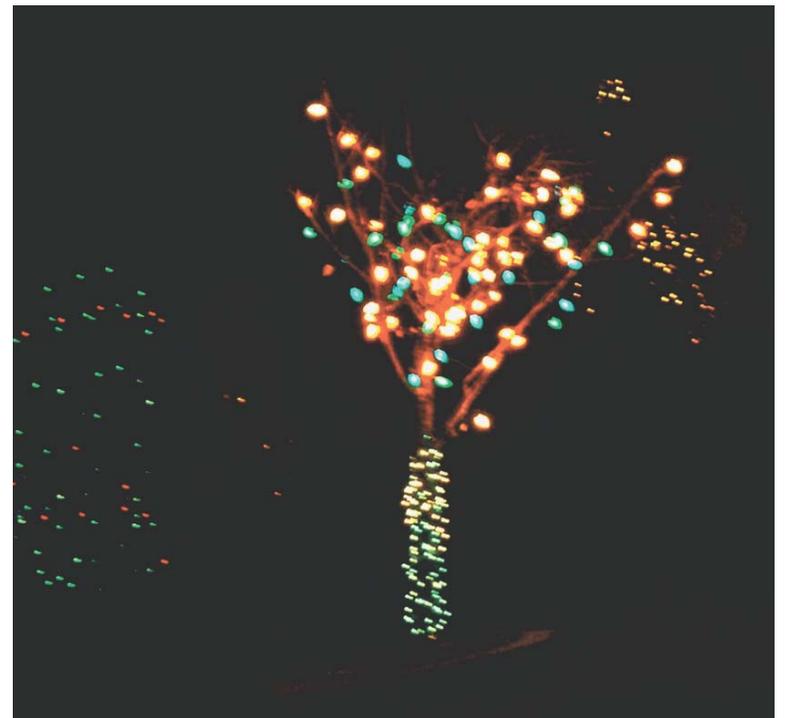
Ryan McElveen is sworn in by the Hon. Dennis J. Smith on Monday, Dec. 19, at Jackson Middle School. McElveen was elected as an at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board. This is his first term.



The Hon. Dennis J. Smith administers the oath of office to Ilryong Moon, the returning at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board.



The Hon. Dennis J. Smith administers the oath of office to Theodore Velkoff on Monday, Dec. 19 at Jackson Middle School. Velkoff was elected to his first term as an at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board.



Virginia Run Lights Up the Night

Homes in Centreville's Virginia Run and Pleasant Hill communities are all decked out for the holidays.

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW





ONC volunteers Jeanne Fields (left) and Barbara Levermann with the bicycles donated for children in need.



Preparing to pack up some dolls are (from left) Nancy Di Pietro, Jackie O'Shea, Bella Muzo and Trish Coritz. Jackie and Bella are Centreville High freshmen.

Volunteers Value Opportunity To Help ONC

FROM PAGE 1

of Our Neighbor's Child," said Marjorie Willard of Centreville's Sully Station II community. "This is 'loving your neighbor' in not just words, but in action."

It's her first year as an ONC volunteer, and she plans to do it again. "I'd heard about it and had worked doing an angel tree with Samaritan's Purse," she said. Then she met ONC Executive Director Kelly Lavin, who asked her to come and help. So she and her son Winston, a Westfield High senior, both did.

"It's just awesome to help people in your community," said Willard. "My son unloaded trucks with the Westfield football team bringing presents here to the warehouse. I decorated the hospitality room where the volunteers have food and snacks

and also sorted the [recipient families'] gift bags and put them on the spots where their family numbers are."

Since the families are identified to the volunteers only by number, each number is placed on the warehouse floor, and then all the gifts for the individual families are placed into huge, trash bags.

Then last Sunday, Dec. 18, more than 200 volunteers loaded the bags into cars, trucks and SUVs for delivery. Armed with addresses and maps, hundreds of local residents brought them, along with homemade cookies, plus wrapping paper so parents could wrap their children's gifts, themselves, to give to them at Christmas.

First, though, came the sorting and packing. And last Thursday, Willard and Veronica Delaney worked together at a bat-

tery table where other volunteers could come get batteries for any gifts needing them before being given away.

An ONC volunteer for seven years, Delaney, also of Sully Station II, said, "It could be any of us, in any given year. It's hard times, and you never know what'll happen — and every kid deserves to have a great Christmas and be happy. Kelly's got her heart and soul in it — she hasn't slept in six months."

Delaney was also one of the people who called the families on ONC's list, verified their information and asked their children's ages, genders and gift wishes. "A lot of times, the parents didn't speak English, so they put their children on the phone and they told us, themselves, what they wanted," she said. "They were very excited."

Delaney enjoyed talking with the children. "Parents will tell us to just get the necessities, like food and clothes," she said. "But we want to find out what the child wants — and then we'll take care of both. We get a lot of requests for video games — which may seem unusual for poor families. But lots of times, the kids come home to an empty house after school, and the video games keep them out of trouble."

Sometimes, ONC receives special requests and it still does its best to fulfill them. For example, a grandmother taking care of all her grandchildren didn't have a table large enough for them to all sit down and eat together. She didn't even have a frying pan large enough to cook for them all, so ONC

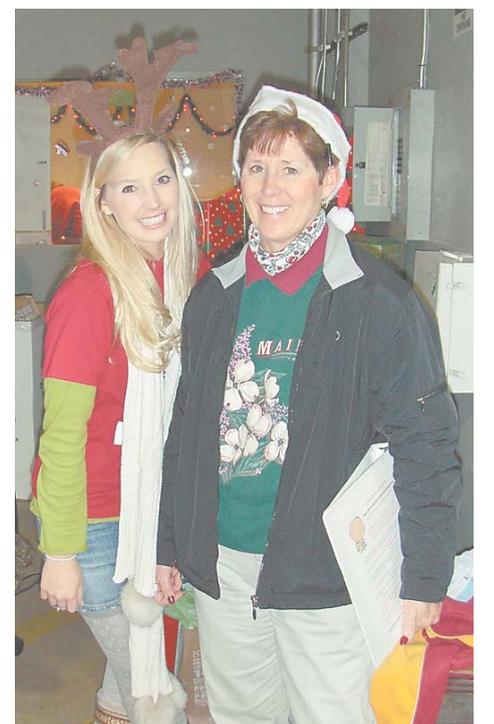
SEE ONC, PAGE 13



Westfield High students (from left) Chaz Coffin and Colby Dezelick and Virginia Run's Geri Lightburn (center) will place these toys in the families' packages.



Standing at a table of toys for boys are (from left) Westfield theater students Erica Schmidt, Bryan Pitt and Madeleine Bloxam.



ONC's Brooke Caskey (left) and Pat Shaw are in the holiday spirit.

PEOPLE

Kaylor, Loeffler Engaged

Mike and Roxanne Kaylor of Clifton are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Cindy R. to Matt Loeffler, son of Randy and Eileen Loeffler of Carnegie, Pa.

Cindy is a 2004 graduate of Centreville High School and a member of the most-wins CVHS Girls Soccer Team. She went on to continue her soccer career at Duquesne University and graduated in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Cindy is presently pursuing a master's degree in nursing education at Robert Morris University. She is currently a nurse employed on a trauma/vascular unit at UPMC Presbyterian, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Matt is a 2007 graduate of Penn State Behrend in Erie with a bachelor's degree in plastics engineering technology and is employed with Phillips Respironics in production control.

The couple is planning an October 2012 wedding and will make their home in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Cindy Kaylor and Matt Loeffler



In Honor Society

Mark Trimakas, son of Ed and Debbie Trimakas of Centreville, was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society on Oct. 19, along with 55 other students. He will graduate from James Madison University in May 2013 with a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting. Trimakas is with Dean Robert Reid.



Colonial Dames

The Centreville-based John Witt Chapter, National Society Colonial Dames 17th Century held a joint meeting with the Necostin Chapter. Jamestown Chapter President Virginia Rouse presented a program titled "In Search of Armigers." Necostin Chapter President Eloise Brooks introduced the honored guests: Chaplain General Nan S. Ackerman (John Witt Chapter member), Virginia State President Jodi C. Killeen (Necostin Chapter member), Virginia First Vice President Kathy L. Deegan (Virginia Colony Chapter member), and Assistant Librarian Lea Fowlie (Necostin Chapter member). John Witt Chapter members collected games, puzzles and sporting goods to be sent to a troop in Afghanistan. Members also received years of service certificates. Above, from left, back row, are: Brenda DeJarnette, Van Lee, Eleanor Hurt, Dorothy Hunter, Kathleen Sievers, Jennifer Smith, Ginni Sievers, Sharon Rasmussen, and in front row, Historian General Nan S. Ackerman, Virginia State President Jodi C. Killeen, Virginia First Vice President Kathy L. Deegan and Patricia Wissinger.



Church of the Holy Comforter
The Rev. Richard A. Lord, Rector

CHRISTMAS EVE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24:
11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
4:00 p.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
7:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist
10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

CHRISTMAS MORNING (Episcopal)
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25:
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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Share Your New Year's Resolutions

What were top events, accomplishments of 2011 in your opinion?

This is the last regular edition of the Centre View for 2011. Between Christmas and New Year's, we'll deliver the Children's Centre View, an annual tradition, with pages filled with the artwork and writing of local students.

Meanwhile, we are preparing for the first issue of 2012, sharing views of what were the most important happenings of 2011 and what to look for in 2012. We'll also share a variety of New Year's resolutions.

We invite our readers to help in this endeavor.

For some, local elections were likely the top event of 2011. For advocates of families of the fallen, like the Tragedy Assistance Program (TAPS), the end of 2011 brings the end of the Iraq war and the complex emotional and practical issues that come with that. For non-profits and charitable organizations, 2011 brought greatly increasing numbers of people in need. For your family, the top events of 2011 might have included the birth of a child or a graduation or the completion of a marathon.

Share your joys and milestones with us, not

only from the year that's past, but also your expectations of 2012.

Answer one or all of these questions:

1) What were the (one, two or three) most significant happenings of 2011 for you in your community? Why?

2) What do you think our readers should know to watch for in the coming year (up to three issues)? Or what do you think the top (one, two or three) happenings of 2012 will be locally? Why?

3) What is your New Year's Resolution? (Feel free to share more than one)

Please include your home address with your

responses, we'll only print your town name. And we'd also love to have a photo of you, your family and/or events or places in your community that you reflect upon in your answer.

Please send photos and answers via email. For McLean, Vienna/Oakton, Great Falls, Reston, Oak Hill/Herndon, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, send to Kemal Kurspahic, kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

For Arlington, Alexandria, Mount Vernon, the Centre View area or Potomac, email to Steven Mauren, smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Free, Safe Ride Home from Holiday Celebrations

Once again, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will provide a safety net for those who might celebrate the holiday season with alcohol and unexpectedly need a safe ride home.

WRAP's 2011 Holiday SoberRide program will operate each night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The program began Friday, Dec. 16, and will continue until Jan. 1, 2012.

To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. All requests for SoberRide service must be called

Free, Safe Ride Home

to and dispatched from 1-800-200-8294. Callers will be responsible for any amount over \$30.

WRAP's SoberRide has helped to ensure local residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays, keeping likely impaired drivers off the roads.

Since 1993, WRAP has provided nearly 53,000 safe rides home. SoberRide operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day and Halloween.

For details, see <http://wrap.org/soberride>

'Christmas Carol' at Centreville High

BY AMANDA MIESNER
CHANTILLY HIGH SCHOOL

Christmas is in the air — well, for everyone but Scrooge, that is. Centreville High School's production of "A Christmas Carol" showed Scrooge's stingy ways, as well as the ability inside every person to change.

"A Christmas Carol" was written by Charles Dickens in 1843, and has been adapted numerous times

since. From movies to radio series, it has long been a holiday classic. The story revolves around

Ebenezer Scrooge, a bitter businessman who scoffs at the idea of holiday cheer. He is visited by three spirits of Christmas, who help him to see the error of his ways and lead him to change his outlook on life.

Centreville's production was able to highlight the nature of Scrooge (Daniel Lindgren) and contrast it with a real sense of Christmas cheer. Every member of the cast was very involved in his or her role, and brought energy to the stage.

The overall production was greatly enhanced by Daniel Lindgren as Scrooge. He brought urgency, passion, and a true sense

of fear to the role, and made it believable. Argun Rao as Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's destitute employee, brought a meekness and sense of loss to his role that made him very relatable and sympathetic.

Another standout performer was Maddie Assel as the wife of Fred, Scrooge's nephew. Assel was spirited, lively, and stood out clearly in every scene. Anthony Ingargiola as Marley, Scrooge's dead business partner who warns him of his fate, was also noticeable. He brought fire to his ghostly demeanor, and helped to bring his scene to life.

The age makeup used in this show was truly outstanding. Every character's makeup was detailed, specific, and helped to bring additional depth to their roles. The special effects in this show were also used to a great advantage, from thick layers of fog to real fire, and from various illuminatory techniques to a dusting of snow that fell on the audience.

"A Christmas Carol" is a classic story that has been told for many years, and its meaning has never gone out of style. Centreville High School told this story with nuance, and maybe just a touch of magic. After all, who can resist the spirit of Christmas when it's manifested in three physical spirits who haunt you?

LETTER

A Muslim's View Of Christmas

To the Editor:

I do not actually celebrate Christmas, because I am a Muslim. Nevertheless I always feel a certain excitement this time of year for my fellow Christians. Growing up, I remembered hearing a lot about going to church and Jesus from my Christian friends. However, as I grew into adulthood, this remembrance of Jesus has become less significant. In middle and high school all the kids talked about what gifts they were expecting. After the holidays they would report if they got everything they wanted on their lists. Now that I'm in college, the tune hasn't been that different. What I grew up hearing was that Christmas is all about the presents, even though in theory it was really about celebrating Jesus.

As a Muslim looking in from the outside, Christmas has become really commercialized. Now obviously, every holiday in every country will have some level of commercialism attached to it and that is expected. So, why is a Muslim so overly concerned? In Islam, Jesus is regarded as a very special and dignified prophet. In the Holy Qur'an it explains the following, "When the angels said, 'O Mary, God gives thee glad tidings of a word from Him; his name shall be the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, honored in this world and in the next, and of those who are granted nearness to God,'" (3:46) Now while I do not believe in the divinity in Jesus, nor that his birth date was in December, I still feel since there is a whole holiday dedicated to his birth, it should be more visible. As a Muslim, I just feel that Jesus was such a special person who is followed by billions of people all over the world, by Christians and non-Christians alike. There is nothing wrong with having sales and getting gifts for loved ones; this is a special occasion after all. However, when those gifts are being given and received and whether we celebrate Christmas or not, we should all take time to remember and reflect on the man this whole holiday is dedicated to.

Saira Bhatti
Centreville



Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, Merry Claus, Frosty, and Rudolph with their escorts on Dec. 13 for the 25th Annual Santa's Ride for Children during which Claus visited seven Fairfax County elementary schools that collected toys for the Fairfax County Police Motorcycle Squad's annual toy drive.

Police Accompany Santa

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

FROM PAGE 1

Bush Hill, West Springfield, Woodburn, Navy, Churchill Road, Crossfield, Union Mill and Forestville —and several local businesses and individuals collected toys for the drive.

On Monday, Dec. 12, the toys were collected from all sites, on Tuesday Dec. 13, students from the Robinson High School Criminal Justice program sorted the toys by age group while Santa Claus and his entourage, including Mrs. Claus, "Merry" Claus, Frosty and Rudolph visited seven of the schools that donated toys to the drive, escorted by the police.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, and Thursday, Dec. 15, Santa Claus hopped back on the Harley and delivered the toys to patients at INOVA Fairfax Hospital for Children and the Georgetown Hospital Lombardi Cancer Center.

"FOR US to be able to put a smile on these kids' faces is something great ... to make them happy for just a little bit, so they don't think about their pain," said Officer David Pierce who coordinated the event.

Toys are also given to several local charities, including the Ronald McDonald House and the Reston F.I.S.H. (For Immediate Sympathetic Help).



Rudolph plays some "reindeer games" with the students at Union Mill Elementary School.



Santa Claus and pops the side car of his motorcycle up as he leaves Union Mill Elementary School.



"Thank you for everything you do, it means the world," whispers Elizabeth Hensley into Santa's ear. Santa has just visited her daughter who is a patient at INOVA Fairfax Hospital for Children.



Hoang Nguyen of Fairfax gets a visit and some gifts from Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus on Dec. 14 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital for Children.

ENTERTAINMENT



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TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Centreville Stitches welcome adults who enjoy knitting, crocheting, or other needlework crafts and conversation. Join us at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville. Admission is free. Contact Jo at 703-803-0595 or email joknitter@verizon.net.

- ❖ Thursday, Dec. 22 - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- ❖ Thursday, Jan. 12 - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- ❖ Tuesday, Jan. 24 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

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

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. 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 Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 28

Holiday Concert — IONA. 1 and 2 p.m. One of the top rated pan-Celtic groups in the world, IONA treats its audience to high energy entertainment featuring Scottish fiddling, percussion and vocals. Refreshments served in the 18th century kitchen. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Call 703-437-1794.

FRIDAY/JAN. 6

International Night. 7 p.m. Westfield High School celebrates its International Night with performances by Krisnia LaFuenta, Bolivia; Viswaja Kaja and Lalita Kota, Southern India; Shilpa Gokhale, Lalitha Gururuju 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, plus hot chocolate, coffee, tea and water, will be served during intermission.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 11

Preschool Fair. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. MOMS Club of Centreville North is hosting a free Preschool Fair. Come and meet representatives from local preschools who will be prepared to answer questions. At 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Visit www.centrevillepreschoolfair.webs.com

JAN. 13, 14, 20, 21

"A Chorus Line." 7:30 p.m. and matinees on Jan. 15 and Jan. 22 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$15/door. For this show, two disciplines — Dance and Musical Theatre — have collaborated to produce what should be a fine evening of entertainment. Performers represent 13 Fairfax County High Schools: Annandale, Centreville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Hayfield, Lake Braddock, Langley, Madison, Robinson, South Lakes, West Springfield, Westfield and Woodson. Contact amheininge@fcps.edu or by phone 703-219-2270. At Fairfax High School Academy.

SATURDAY/JAN. 14

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With cellist Sergey Antonov. Glazunov's Chant du Ménéstrel, Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11, "The Year 1905." Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

Do you like to sing? Have you been looking for a way to show off your voice in your own community in the new year? Then look no further! A community choir is coming to Clifton and needs people of all ages to join. This choir will be all about making music fun again! The music selection will range from folk to modern to pop, and all styles in between. Email Helen Santoro at helentsantoro@gmail.com for more info, including info sessions and starting dates.

Recovery Support Group. 12 to 1:30 p.m. Free. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is offering a free weekly recovery group for adults living with mental illness. At Chantilly Library conference room, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Contact Janette at 703-631-2410 or NAMINorthernVA@gmail.com.

The Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum at 13938 Braddock Road in Centreville is now open, Saturdays and Mondays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Still needed are docents and additional volunteers, plus people willing to donate or loan artifacts; call Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984.

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 chorale 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.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Northern Virginia Connections groups are free, bi-weekly recovery support groups for adults living with mental illness. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 12-1:30 p.m. Chantilly Library (conference room), 4000 Stringfellow Road. Contact: Janette at 703-631-2410 or NAMINorthernVA@gmail.com

Senior Fall Prevention Classes are held in a heated indoor pool and are designed to work on balance and core muscles in order to prevent injuries and falls. Classes are held Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Mondays and/or Fridays from 2-3 p.m. at The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Registration required. Call 703-667-9800 to register as space is limited. Cost is \$10 per class.

Fair Oaks Parkinson Support Group for people living with Parkinson's disease, caregivers and family, meets on the 4th Saturday, from 10 am-noon at Sunrise at Fair Oaks, 3750 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-378-7221. www.ParkinsonFoundation.org

Parkinson Aquatic Exercise Classes for people living with Parkinson's disease and caregivers meets 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, The Woodlands, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. People living with Parkinson's \$10, caregivers \$5. Registration required. Sonia Gow 703-378-7221.

Centreville Ladies! Are you a lineal descendant of an ancestor who lived and served prior to 1701 in one of the Original 13 Colonies? If so, the John Witt chapter of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century is looking for you. To learn more, contact johnwittchapter@aol.com.

Nonprofit Seeks Donations

Stop Hunger Now of Fairfax, a nonprofit, international hunger-relief organization, will host a Casino Night & Silent Auction on Saturday Jan. 21, from 7-11 p.m., at the Chantilly National Golf & Country Club. The goal is to raise \$25,000, but silent-auction items — whose value is tax-deductible — are still needed. They could be sports tickets, memorabilia, weeks in vacation homes, concert tickets, golf outings, gift certificates, etc. No item is too small. To donate an item for the silent auction or to purchase tickets, contact Lisa Hollen at hollens4@verizon.net.

SHARING



Benefit Shows

The Mia Saunders School of Ballet continued its winter tradition of performing as a gift for others. Two benefit presentations of "The Nutcracker" were held Dec. 10 and 11, at Centreville High School theater. The performances raised \$ 9,502 to benefit the Centreville High School Drama scholarships and the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.



'Cut Out' Neuroblastoma

Salon Khouri held its Fifth-Annual Cut-a-Thon to "cut out" neuroblastoma recently in Fairfax. In four hours, the salon raised \$1,800 for pediatric cancer research in honor of Taylor Love of Ashburn. This year, the event was combined with a fall festival, a visit from the Fairfax County fire and rescue squad, as well as a performance by local teen musician Abby Miller — who through her YouTube videos has helped raise over a quarter of a million dollars in pediatric cancer research funding. Stylists of Salon Khouri donated their time and tips, cutting hair for \$25. The guest of honor, Taylor Love, made a special appearance with her two brothers, Kyle and Adam, and mom Aimee. Taylor's perseverance and energy has inspired the staff at Salon Khouri for five years. Diagnosed with neuroblastoma at 18 months, Taylor has been fighting this pediatric cancer for over five years. In the summer of 2010, Taylor was diagnosed with chemo induced leukemia, which she got from the treatment for neuroblastoma.



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SCHOOLS

Collecting Gifts for Our Neighbor's Child

Virginia Run Elementary School held a Community Outreach Program collection the first week of December. The students brought in new, unwrapped gifts for the children that Our Neighbor's Child supports. Our Neighbor's Child is a non-profit, community-based organization, which started out in 1992 by providing holiday gifts for children in low-income families in western Fairfax County. Last year, ONC and their volunteers served more than 2,300 children in our communities. The Student Council Association members Tanner Lydic, Bobby Pickett, Michael Leo, Maggie Masterson, Nancy Mullins, and Kari Cochran were responsible for collecting the gifts every day from the classrooms. More than 1,000 new gifts were collected. The school's mascot, Victor the Viking, was on hand to promote the collection.



Fundraising Family Night

Virginia Run Elementary School had a PTA-sponsored fundraiser at Chick-fil-A on Dec. 1. The Chick-fil-A cow came to the school to drum up enthusiasm. Teachers Suzanna Poch, Carol Englebrecht, and Amy Rhee made it a family night.



Creating Care Packages for Troops

On Nov. 30, Libby Wayne's 5th grade class at Virginia Run ES took time out of their schedule to do show their appreciation to some of America's finest. One of her students, Jonathan France, and his sister, Lauren, volunteer with the USO (United Service Organizations) several times a year stuffing care packages for troops deployed overseas. This year, the class was invited to help in creating items to send in the care packages. The class created and donated handmade cards, thank you notes, and artwork to the troops to thank them for their service and wish them happy holidays. The students pictured are: Seated (from left) Devin Stotser, Jonathan France, Ainsley Miller and Jake Richardson, and standing (from left) Marshall Reed, Katherine Hemsworth and Helmand Azizi.



Just Like Coach

Enjoying a football season that has lasted through all of Thanksgiving and well into December due to the team's success, the Centreville High School faculty and students participated in one last Spirit Week before the State Finals game on Saturday, Dec. 10 in Charlottesville. While Monday through Thursday featured themes like "Hiltons and Hicks" and Jersey Day, the highlight was Friday's new and all-too-appropriate theme, the "Haddock Out." All students and teachers were invited to dress like Coach Chris Haddock does on game days: white shirt, khaki pants, sweater vest, tie and sneakers. Here are just a few of the coach look-alikes spotted in the hallways; Haddock himself can be found with his fans.



On Parade

Deer Park Elementary School participated in the Westfield High School Homecoming Parade on Friday, Oct. 14. It's one among the group of "feeder" schools to participate. Spectators enjoyed the deer mascot; the banner was donated to Deer Park through the efforts of the PTA. Above are Precious Crabtree, Peggy Van Cleave and Catherine Schubert (the deer), SCA sponsors and Toni Rose, assistant principal, carrying the banner.

Sharing Poetry

Kalli Dakos, former Fairfax County Public Schools teacher and now poet, came to Union Mill Elementary to share her poetry with fifth graders. Her books of poetry include, "If You're Not Here Please Raise Your Hand" and "The Bug in Teacher's Coffee." She also shared her newest book of poems, "A Funeral in the Bathroom," where she explained the setting of all of the poems in the book is the school bathroom. The students were able to participate in several poems and principal Kathleen Case was called into action by kissing Hamlet, the pig in the poem "Our Principal Kissed a Pig." Dakos explained that the poem is based on a real experience where a school principal promised to kiss a pig if the students read 10,000 books that year. Her poem is told from the point of view of the pig who does not want to be kissed by the principal. Dakos encouraged the students to find poetry everywhere they look and to write it all down in a special notebook.



Sully Police Discuss Crime Stats

Lowest number of "index crimes" in the county.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW



Dawson

As 2011 draws to a close, Fairfax County police recently released its 2010 annual report and, according to the top officers at the Sully District Police Station, it's largely positive.

In law-enforcement lingo, "index crimes" are the ones tracked by the FBI and include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor-vehicle theft. And according to the statistics, the Sully District Station has the lowest number of index crimes in the county. Next lowest is Reston, followed by Fair Oaks.

In 2010, Sully had three murders, seven rapes, 29 robberies, 27 aggravated assaults, 89 burglaries, 1,139 larcenies and 81 motor-vehicle thefts.

That same year, Fair Oaks had one murder, four rapes, 25 robberies, 31 aggravated assaults, 112 burglaries, 1,505 larcenies and 95 motor-vehicle thefts.

Capt. Purvis Dawson, commander of the Sully District Station, and Lt. John Trace, the assistant commander, presented these and other statistics at a recent meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee. The 2011 figures weren't yet available.

In 2010, said Dawson, "The county Motor Squad issued 26,000 traffic tickets. More than 800 [commercial, big-rig] trucks were inspected and more than half were taken out of service for unsafe conditions. Not all Virginia jurisdictions have a Motor Carrier Safety Unit like we do."

He said there were 33 traffic fatalities, down from 50-60 in past years. And, he added, "Underage alcohol stings resulted in 38 arrests."

Altogether, the county's Explo-

BUSINESS NOTES

Fair Oaks Mall welcomes two new stores: Elite Jewelers and Love Culture. Elite Jewelers features high-quality jewelry designs and brand names at affordable prices. Elite Jewelers offers an extensive assortment of certified diamonds, colored precious stones, necklaces, bracelets, earrings and pearls. Love Culture has the latest styles for fashion-conscious women at affordable prices. Love Culture features a selection of fashions and accessories, including clothing, jewelry, bags, sunglasses and more.

sive Ordinance Disposal Unit handled 287 incidents, including eight bomb threats and eight barricade situations. Police department K-9s handled 3,549 incidents.

"The serial burglar was the most-intense investigation I remember here, except for the sniper," said Dawson. "He entered homes through unlocked doors. But on Nov. 17, 2010, he was arrested by a joint task force that saw him commit another crime in Maryland."

Dawson said 2nd Lt. Paul Cleveland of the Sully District Station, and his team, apprehended the burglar. He was later convicted in Maryland and still has some cases pending here.

Furthermore, said Dawson, "Officers in Fair Oaks and Sully collaborated with the county's robbery squad and FBI to solve a series of bank robberies in several areas, including Fair Oaks."

Trace noted that, in 2010, auto thefts were down 43 percent and burglaries were down 54 percent over the previous year. However, he added, "Property destructions and robberies have increased slightly over the past two years."

He said there was a 25-percent decrease in sex offenses and peepings. "But we're now starting to handle massage-parlor and hotel-prostitution crimes," said Trace.

"The last six months, we've been educating the hotels about what's happening," he said. "Women advertise on the Internet, fly in from another state, make a date, meet in a hotel and fly out. As for massage parlors, most are legitimate.

But there are some where, if you say the right buzzword and pay extra money, you get extra services. So twice a month, a police team makes sure their permits and so forth are up to date."

Praising two Sully officers, he said Officers Silvana Masood and Joseph Woloszyn made more, individual DUI arrests than anyone else in the county. Masood made 32 such arrests, and Woloszyn, 33. They've also received awards from MADD for their work.

Noting other Sully District Station cases, Trace said officers were tracking the movements of the "Pathway Sex Offender" partial to the Sully Station II community and hoped to arrest him soon. Regarding a series of robberies along the Route 50 service road, he said immigrants buying groceries and walking back home were the targets. But Trace said police believe they have the perpetrators identified.

Dawson said a small group of people was "ripping off pharmacies for Oxycontin to resell for \$20/pill in some areas. We did surveillance and formed a task force with the FBI and were able to make arrests — some, as far as the Shenandoah Valley."

"There've been 56 total arrests stemming from this case," said Cleveland. "The FBI has taken it over now."

But, added Dawson, "The guys on the local level, working to develop information, really started this case taking off."

All in all, the Sully District Station handles a wide variety of cases, to keep local residents safe. "We want to get the word out about drinking and driving and its effects on people's lives," said Dawson. "We're also desperately trying to figure out how we can do things with budget cutbacks. We continually want to improve this station."

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High School Basketball Season Is Underway

Local boys and girls teams preparing for holiday tournaments.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CENTRE VIEW

The Northern Region high school basketball season is currently in its early pre-Christmas stretch and coaches of the local teams are getting a feel for their squad's personnel, strengths and weaknesses. Many of the boys' and girls' teams will participate in upcoming holiday tournaments before diving into the bulk of their schedule with a steady portion of district games upon the arrival of the new year. By mid-February, coaches will hope their respective teams are playing at or near the tops of their games just in time for the start of postseason play's district tournaments.

Here is a look at some of the local teams.

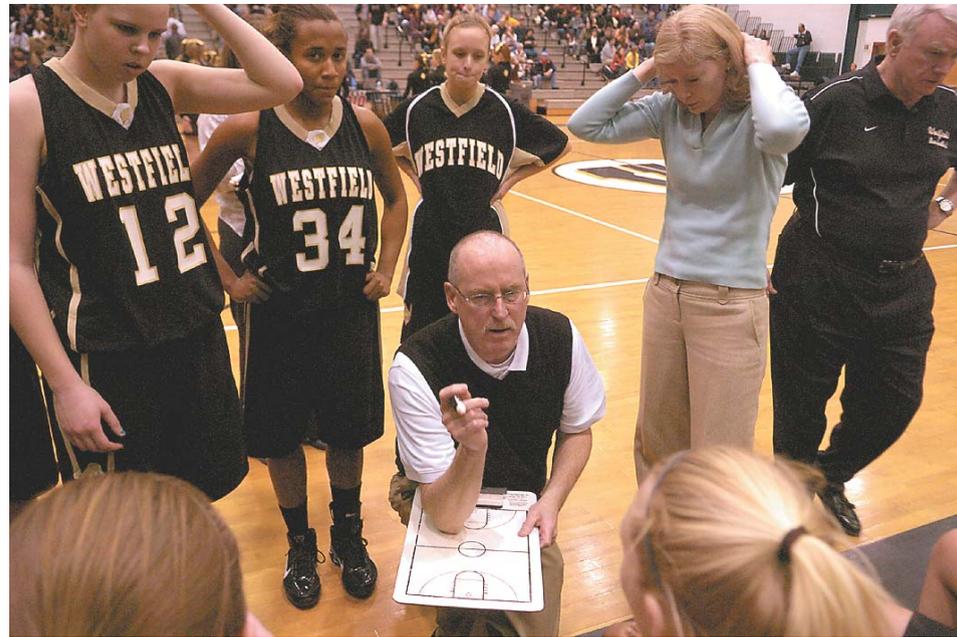


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Westfield High girls' basketball coach Pat Deegan and his Bulldogs were competing at a tournament in Orlando last week. Westfield is 6-2 to start the season.

CENTREVILLE GIRLS

The Wildcats are off to a terrific start, having gone 6-1 over its pre-Christmas schedule. They were scheduled to play their final game prior to the holiday break on Tuesday, Dec. 20 of this week at Marshall High.

Centreville, under sixth-year head coach Wally Horton, has a good blend of experienced and newcomers on the varsity this season. The Wildcats have two returning starters — senior post player Chaney Forbush and sophomore point guard Jenna Green — from last year's 14-10 team.

In all, the Wildcats have six returning players to the varsity. The squad also has six new varsity players who were a part of Centreville's undefeated JV team a year ago.

So the season's outlook is certainly bright as Centreville prepares for the tough Concorde District schedule ahead following the holidays. Thus far, teams within the Concorde District have accumulated a 26-6 overall record over the first three weeks of the season.

"The Concorde is the toughest district in girls' basketball in Northern Virginia," said Horton, whose team will open the district season on Jan. 6 versus visiting Robinson. "There are no nights off in the Concorde District."

Horton is pleased with his team's fast start to the season but realizes the overall young Wildcats, who have three seniors on their roster, still have plenty of work to do and areas to improve on.

"While we have quite a bit of basketball experience we are still quite young," said Horton. "We are optimistic that we have an opportunity to have a successful season if we continue to progress and develop as a team."

Centreville has received a balanced scoring attack with three of its players averaging double figures in Green (14.2 points per game), Forbush (12.3 points, 8.3 rebounds), and sophomore guard Katie Blumer (10.5

points).

Centreville opened the season with three straight wins — at home over Lake Braddock, 51-37, on Nov. 29; at McLean, 51-43, on Dec. 1; and at home over Yorktown, 43-36, on Dec. 6.

The Wildcats, a day after defeating the Patriots of Yorktown, lost for the first time, 73-58, at Fairfax High. But since then they have won games over visiting non-region opponent Broad Run, 70-42, on Dec. 12; at South County, 64-37, on Dec. 13; and at home over Washington-Lee, 53-35, last Friday night, Dec. 16.

Four Wildcats — Forbush (14 points), Blumer (13), Green (11), and Caroline Wakefield (11) — scored in double figures in Friday's win over the Generals of Washington-Lee (National District).

Earlier last week, in Centreville's win over South County, big games for the locals came from Green (23 points) and Blumer (15). Ashley Brusick and Forbush both contributed seven points and Tori Collar added six in the victory over the Stallions, who are under new head coach and former Marshall High coach Noel Klippenstein this season.

Next week, Centreville will take part in the annual Raytheon Bulldog Bash Holiday Tournament, hosted by Westfield High School. The Wildcats will play their first tournament game on Tuesday, Dec. 27 at 9 a.m. versus Madison High.

The Bulldog Bash, now in its 10th year, will take place Tuesday, Dec. 27 through Thursday, Dec. 29. Other participating teams at the tournament will include Battlefield High (Manassas), Flint Hill School, Annapolis Area Christian School, Potomac High (Prince William County), Sewickley Academy (Pittsburgh), Freedom High (South Riding), Bishop Ireton (Alexandria), and Paul VI (Fairfax).

Championship games on both the girls' and boys' side at the Bulldog Bash are sched-

uled to take place Dec. 29 at 7:30 p.m. (girls' finals) and 9:15 p.m. (boys' finals). Admission will be \$6 per day. A three-day tournament pass is also available for \$15. Free admission will be granted to children under age six, adults over age 62, and any travel or house youth basketball players wearing their uniform top and accompanied by a paying adult.

The Bulldog Bash Tournament Director is Lee Cooper. For more information on the Bulldog Bash, go to the tournament website at www.bulldogbashtournament.com or go to www.Facebook/BulldogBash.com. Westfield High School is located at 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly.

WESTFIELD GIRLS

Another local girls' team off to a strong start to the season is Westfield (6-2), which has wins thus far over South Lakes, Lake Braddock, Washington-Lee, and Annandale, as well as non-Northern Region opponents A.N. Myer and Parkland.

The wins over A.N. Myer, a 41-24 win, and Parkland, 32-27, came last Thursday and Saturday, respectively, in Orlando, Fla., where Centreville was taking part in the KSA Invitational. On the trip, the Wildcats went 2-1 overall with the loss coming to Avon Grove, 33-30, last Friday.

"We have started the year by improving with each game," said Westfield veteran head coach Pat Deegan. "I am not sure that I would have predicted that we would be 6-2 at this time, but we could have easily been 8-0 or 4-4. We are very young and inexperienced but have made up for that with hard work. We only have one starter returning [from last year] and none of the other starters [this season] got very much playing time last season."

Deegan said his Bulldogs' squad is made up of team-oriented, hard working players.

"We are definitely an ensemble cast, no leading ladies, just a bunch of serious role

players," said the coach. "Maggie McInturff and Lauren Hayden have to be considered our top two returnees and they have provided most of the ball handling, scoring from the perimeter, leadership on the floor. In the post, Jules Abruzzo is logging in some serious playing time. She is our leading rebounder. She is a nifty passer and has been our leading scorer several times. Meghan DiPippa and Kiki Laux have provided solid defensive play, rebounding and some clutch scoring. Providing a spark off the bench has been allocated to freshmen Emily McInturff, and sophomores Amanda Nelson and Ashley Little."

Deegan is cautiously optimistic that his team can find success in the always-tough Concorde District this winter. The Bulldogs' first district game is set for Jan. 6 at Chantilly.

"Expectations for this season are compartmentalized, we are looking to be successful each week and focus on the opponents at hand," said Deegan. "Hopefully, as we continue to improve we will make some noise in the Concorde District. Right now I think only our team believes that we can be a factor in the district and we hope to win over a few people as the season progresses. All the players have been resilient as well as resourceful and I am looking for us to surprise some people before the season is over."

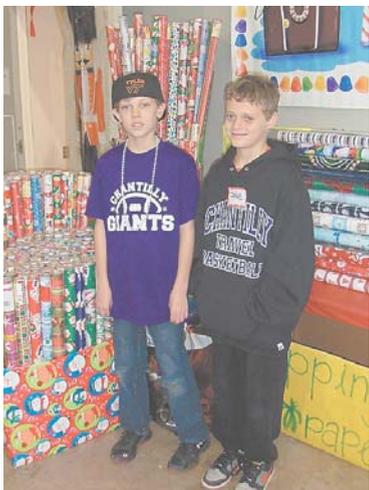
Next week (Dec. 27-29), Westfield High will be hosting the Bulldog Holiday Bash. There will be both a girls' and boys' tournament bracket. The Westfield girls are scheduled to meet local private school opponents Bishop Ireton (Alexandria) and Paul VI (Fairfax) in their first two games.

POHANKA CLASSIC

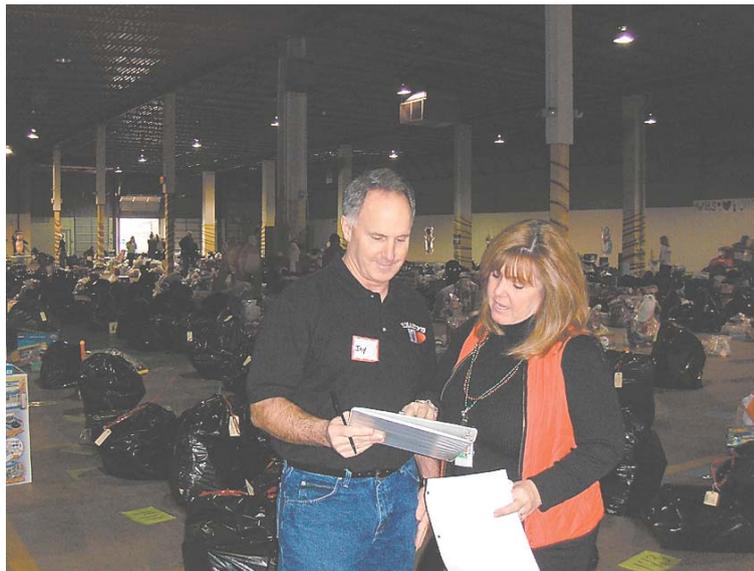
The Pohanka Classic will take place at Chantilly High School from Dec. 27 through Dec. 29. This will be the 19th year of the Pohanka Holiday Classic, which features both girls' and boys' tournaments. This year's showcase will feature 16 schools from Northern Virginia, Virginia Beach, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

Admission is \$6 for an all-day pass and \$15 for a 3-day pass. Concessions will be open and feature many of the area's local restaurant menu items. The first day (Tuesday, Dec. 27) schedule of games are as follows: Georgetown Visitation versus Langley (girls' game, 9 a.m.); Deep Run versus Thomas Jefferson (girls' game, 10:45 a.m.); Mills Godwin versus Robinson (girls' game, 12:45 p.m.); Mills Godwin versus Mountain View (boys' game, 2:15 p.m.); Wilson versus Forest Park (boys' game, 4 p.m.); Green Run versus South County (boys' game, 5:45); George Mason versus Chantilly (girls' game, 7 p.m.); and Stuart versus Chantilly (boys' game, 9 p.m.).

For updated bracket information throughout the tournament, call the Chantilly High sports hotline at 703-448-4909 or go to chantillysports.org.



Franklin Middle seventh-grader Tyler McMichael (left) and Navy Elementary sixth-grader Jake D'Alessandro with wrapping paper collected for ONC by the Chantilly High SGA. Families will be given paper to wrap their children's gifts, themselves.



Jay Coakley confers with ONC Executive Director Kelly Lavin. Behind them are some of the packages for the recipient families.

ONC Brings Holiday Joy

FROM PAGE 4

came through and took care of both wishes. Also helping last Thursday were Tom and Lynette Pamperin of Little Rocky Run. "We get a family's list and check it to make sure everything's in their bag, and then we go 'shopping' at the tables to fill it out a little bit more," said Lynette Pamperin. "We also try to make sure there are some books because we're avid readers. It's the first year we've volunteered with ONC; I saw it [written about] in Centre View." "We both retired this year," added her husband. "We've been very blessed. We had good jobs and our kids are successful, so we want to give back a little." Lynette Pamperin even baked 10 dozen cookies — sugar and spritz — to contribute to the gift bags. "I was glad to do it," she said. "It just made me feel good, and I could bring a little Christmas cheer to others." Repeat volunteer Pat Shaw, also of Little Rocky Run, helped fill the families' bags, too. "And this year, I'm also delivering them," she said. "This is a great organization because it actually gives to children in need in the local area. I volunteer with Our Daily Bread, and this is my day to be there, but I got someone to sub for me today so I could do this." "I wanted to do something within the community," continued Shaw. "It's important that we help the children because, otherwise, they'd get up Christmas Day and have nothing — and that would break my heart." Sarah Frazier and Mitchell Buckley were also busy

selecting presents to fulfill children's wishes. Frazier, a 2011 Westfield grad now attending High Point University in North Carolina, was volunteering for her second year. "I know what presents I'd want, as a little girl," she said. "So I want to give the children the things that, otherwise, they can't have." For Westfield junior Mitchell Buckley, it's his third year as an ONC volunteer. "It feels good to pick out the toys for the kids and get the things they want," he said. Jay Coakley, whose wife Jenni is the principal of Cub Run Elementary, was hard at work, as well. As a new volunteer, he was impressed by what he saw inside the warehouse. "It's unbelievably organized," he said. "And [Wednesday], there were over 150 high-school kids here helping to package things." Gesturing at row after row of brand-new bicycles, Coakley said, "To me, the most amazing thing was coming here and seeing all these bikes. There's even a Mongoose mountain bike that costs over \$100. That says a lot about people's generosity." Last Thursday, he brought pizza from Paisano's to feed the volunteers and then browsed through the tables of games, toys and dolls to find the items on specific children's wish lists and bring them to their families' numbered locations. "And if it's not here, shoppers will go out and buy it," said Coakley. "Some teens asked for deodorant and toothpaste — so they're not asking for the moon. And look at how many gift bags are here — but think what it would be like if they weren't here, at all."

ROUNDUPS

Teen Charged With Destruction

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department fire investigators have charged a 17-year-old boy with setting a fire inside Centreville's Braddock Park. The incident occurred Tuesday, Dec. 13, and authorities charged him two days later. The fire started in a men's restroom inside the park. It was primarily contained to the trash receptacle; however, authorities say it caused an estimated \$5,000 residual damage to the building. The teen was charged with one, felony count of burning or destroying a building or structure.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Dec. 29 and Jan. 12., 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.

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Living Proof



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or just plain dumb luck (which I don't take personally), or inherited genes (for which I am fortunate) that have so far fended off the cancer due to their DNA profile – or whatever, or the cumulative effect of the diet and lifestyle choices I've made, or the ingenuity of the design of the chemotherapy initially and then the anti-angiogenesis maintenance treatment I've been infused with – going on nearly three years, or everything together or some other things I've done separately, or a higher power simply blessing me for reasons I couldn't begin to understand. Why ever, how ever, I am grateful life goes on; thank God!

Woe is not me so I have never wondered why it has been me so seriously and unexpectedly afflicted. Certainly I've been curious and at the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist, questions were asked but answers were not really provided. My oncologist was more interested in treating the disease going forward rather than determining a cause for this effect reviewing backwards. It was of no interest to him, so by association – or influence, it likewise became less so to me. And so was born – and has evolved, my attitude toward being diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer at age 54 and one half. It's my problem, but I can't really worry about it – sort of, somehow.

On the one hand, whatever will be will be and attempting to control the uncontrollable (cells in my body) will likely mentally-anguish even a patient patient like me. On the other, giving up and/or giving in to this terminal disease doesn't make much sense either. I didn't (don't) want to be a victim of my own circumstance. Nor do I want to be an answer to anybody's prayers, except my own. Everybody has their own problems. Cancer has become mine and it's a problem I have assimilated into my life. I wouldn't say I've embraced it but I have accepted it and moved on, you might say.

Writing these columns and sharing with all of you has likely contributed as well to that acceptance as much as anything has. Not taking my diagnosis/prognosis lying down (in fact, I was sitting at the time), might have started the proactive peace with which I presently exist – and formerly as well, ever since that first this-is-what-you-have/this-is-what-we-should-do-about-it meeting occurred with my oncologist. He set the forward-thinking tone at that meeting and I have, to the best of my ability – despite some valleys along the way, remained vigilant, trying to appreciate the present while constantly thinking about the future. A future once filled with hope, but now one filled with anxiety and uncertainty.

Managing that anxiety has been, and continues to be, my greatest challenge, a challenge I never anticipated given that my parents' ages when they died were 87 and 86 and their health history had not included any cancer. And though it doesn't appear as if I've inherited their long-living genes, I have most definitely inherited their senses of humor and positive attitude. Maybe that's why I've outlived my prognosis. I think I thought: why not me? And then joked about it. (I remember asking my oncologist if it were OK for me to buy in bulk, among other similar kinds of queries.)

At the end of the day, the whole thing has probably been out of my hands. But accepting that wouldn't have been any fun.

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

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Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/REDEVELOPMENT

On December 6, 2011, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) held a public hearing regarding an ordinance to establish exclusive water service areas and maximum allowable rates, fees, and charges within Fairfax County for water service. At the same meeting, the BOS enacted the ordinance as Section 65-6-13 of the Code of Fairfax County. Section (a) of the ordinance provides that effective 12:01 a.m. December 7, 2011, Fairfax Water will be the provider of retail public water service within Fairfax County, Virginia, for any new construction or redevelopment of any dwelling unit and any residential or non-residential structure, unless Fairfax Water determines it cannot make water service available due to a utility-related reason.

The ordinance requires that any determination by Fairfax Water that it cannot make service available be made in accordance with policies, rules, or regulations established by Fairfax Water for the purpose of establishing when a utility-related reason exists that prevents it from supplying water. The ordinance further requires that the policies, rules, or regulations be adopted by Fairfax Water after notice and a public hearing.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/ REDEVELOPMENT. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

A copy of the proposed rule can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed rule should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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NOTICE

Edward E. Gahres, MD is closing his medical practice at 5021 Seminary Rd, Ste 109, Alexandria, VA, on December 31, 2011. Patients interested in requesting copies of their medical records should call (703) 931-7515 between 10 am and 4 pm, Mon., Tues. and Thurs.

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MILITARY NOTES

Aimee Hollander of Clifton received her Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from VCU/MCV on Dec. 10 in Richmond. She is a former Centreville High School graduate. She has a B.S. in Biology from Virginia Tech.

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.

Sung Cho, a freshmen from Centreville, majoring in architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech.

Air Force Airman Anthony R. Watson Jr. graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Watson is the son of Loretta White of Oakdale Crescent Court, Fairfax. He is a 2009 graduate of Seneca Valley High School, Germantown, Md.

Navy Seaman Toria A. Avent, stepdaughter of Juan Rosado of Centreville, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Avent is a 2011 graduate of Paint Branch High School of Burtonsville, Md.

Navy Lt. j. g. Andrew T. Radcliffe, son of Jen and Roy Radcliffe of Clifton, Va., and fellow Sailors of Pa-

tron Squadron 10 "Red Lancers" (VP-10), Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., recently completed their six-month deployment operating from bases in Qatar, Bahrain and Djibouti. Radcliffe joined the Navy in May 2008.

Marine Corps Pfc. Mark J. Mitchell, son of Angela Mitchell of Gainesville, and Paul Mitchell, of Fairfax, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., designed to challenge new Marine recruits.

Lance Corporal Christopher Ryan Thuot, a U.S. Marine, who grew up in Virginia Run in Centreville, was recently selected as the Marine of the

Quarter for Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron 22, located in Jacksonville, N.C. Thuot, a MV-22 Osprey Airframes Mechanic, was nominated for this honor due to his superior job proficiency, work ethic, maturity and performance. He competed in a competition against several of his peers and was evaluated on his basic military subject knowledge, personal appearance and military presence. Thuot is the son of Pierre and Cheryl Thuot.

Army Reserve Pfc. **Michael T. Weigle** has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. Weigle is the son of Walter Weigle Jr. of Santa Clara Drive, Fairfax. He is a 2008 graduate of O'Connell High School.

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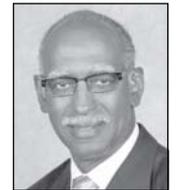
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8:00 am & 9:30 am Celebration Service	Dec. 17 & 18	6:00 pm Dramatic Christmas Presentation
11:00 am Contemporary Service	Dec. 24	4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm & 8:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Services
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Spiritual 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)