Remembering Two Fallen Heroes

Armel’s and Garbarino’s names adorn arena race car.

By Bonnie Hobbs  Centre View

In spring 2006, the community united in grief for two Sully District Station police officers, Det. Vicky Armel and MPO Mike Garbarino. Both of them were killed in the line of duty on May 8, 2006, when a mentally unbalanced 18-year-old with an AK-47 assault weapon and enough ammunition to fire 70 rounds at police before they could bring him down. Armel, 40, left a husband and two children under 7; Garbarino, 53, was survived by his wife and two daughters, then 10 and 14. Armel died soon after being shot, but Garbarino — who managed to warn other officers about the shooter after taking five bullets, himself — held on nine more days before succumbing to his injuries.

Since then, life has moved on, but the two officers will never be forgotten by all those who knew and loved them. In addition, their names are inscribed on memorials at the station, at the Massey Building in Fairfax and in Washington, D.C.

Now, a fellow officer has honored them in a more-lighthearted, but still meaningful, way. MPO John Alford has been a Fairfax County police officer for 18 years and, when he’s not busy with his duties at the Mclean District Station, he’s an arena race-car driver.

Before each of his races, he decorates his race car with the name or names of a particular county’s fallen police officers and firefighters. And last Thursday, Jan. 17, he visited the Sully District Station to unveil his car adorned with both Armel’s and Garbarino’s names.

“It really is an honor for Mike’s and Vicky’s names to be on the race car for all to see,” said Station Commander Ed O’Carroll. “It’s a great way to acknowledge the service our fallen officers have provided the community.”

— Station Commander Ed O’Carroll

They Treat Him Like One of Their Own

Centreville High football players mean the world to Juwaan.

By Bonnie Hobbs  Centre View

J uwaan Espinal, 15, was born with cerebral palsy and is wheelchair-bound. But that doesn’t mean he can’t live a life as full of joy and meaning as possible.

Now 15 and a sophomore at Centreville High, he has a loving family and has been unofficially adopted by both the Wildcat varsity and freshman football teams. And both he and the players couldn’t be happier about it.

“This school has done so much for him,” said Juwaan’s mother, Ibis Espinal-Banks of Centreville’s Singleton’s Grove community. “Both the freshman and varsity teams went out of their way to make him feel a part of them.”

Born at only 5 months gestation, Juwaan weighed just 2 pounds, 12 ounces at delivery. “But he was a little fighter,” said Espinal-Banks. And as he grew up, he always loved sports.

His sister, Shanelle, a 2012 Westfield High grad, now attends Mary Baldwin College. But when she was younger, she played SYA soccer and basketball, plus basketball at Westfield, and Juwaan was her biggest cheerleader. The family later moved to Centreville’s boundary area and, now in high school, Juwaan wanted to be part of a team, too, like his sister was.

“I told him, he might not be able to see CVHS FOOTBALL. Page 7

Katcham Receives McDonnell Award
Honored for his long-time community service.

By Bonnie Hobbs  Centre View

J im Katcham has been serving his community for years, so it’s only fitting that he was honored Monday night with the James D. McDonnell Award for dedicated and outstanding community service.

Katcham is the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) president and chairman of its land-use committee, and so was McDonnell, who lived in Centreville’s Virginia Run community and died several years ago.

“Jim McDonnell set a fine example for participating and being active in one’s community, and he’d approve of this selection,” said At-Large Planning Commissioner Jim Hart, who presented a plaque to Katcham during the Jan. 21 WFCCA quarterly meeting.

“Jim Katcham has been involved in his community, Centre Ridge
See Katcham, Page 4

See CVHS FOOTBALL, Page 7
Hilarious, Mixed-Up Bedtime Stories

Chantilly High presents children’s play, Feb. 1-3.

By Bonnie Hobbs  
Centre View

Mixed-up tales and laughs galore are in store for those attending Chantilly High’s upcoming children’s play, “Bedtime Stories.”

Show times are Friday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 2, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 3, at 2 p.m. Tickets are $5 at the door or at www.chantillyhsdrama.com.

Written by Chantilly Theater Director Ed Monk, it’s the story of a dad who comes home from work and finds his pregnant wife tired and not feeling well enough to put their three other children to bed. They each want him to tell them a different bedtime story, and he does. But he messes up the details and hilarity ensues while he tells them about “The Princess and the Pea,” “Chicken Little” and “The Boy Who Cried, ‘Dinosaur’” — all of which are acted out for the audience.

The play is double cast, with 20 students in each cast. “We have so many talented kids, I didn’t want to leave anybody out,” said Monk. “So I wrote in some extra parts so we could get everybody in. It’s fun to see the students from last year who’ve grown and matured as actors, plus the freshmen, to see what they can offer.”

Monk said the play should have something for everyone. “We have silly, goofy stuff for the very little kids,” he said. “But there are also funny jokes for the older ones, as well as things the parents will enjoy.”

Sophomore Marcellus Willoughby portrays the father. “He’s a good dad, but he’s also a hardworking accountant who just wants to go home and sleep,” said Willoughby. “It’s really fun playing him — I get to yell at the kids, telling them not to wake up their mother. And the kids bring out the dad’s imagination.”

Everything in the play happens so fast, said Willoughby, that “the audience will feel like they’re actually in the story. Mr. Monk writes wacky children’s plays, so you never know what kind of part you’ll get. And you act in a funny voice for the children.”

Playing the prince in “The Princess and the Pea” is sophomore Thatcher Furgerson. “He’s a snobby, rich prince who doesn’t want to get married unless he’s truly in love with a princess,” said Furgerson. “But he eventually meets the princess of his dreams.” He said it’s a terrific part “to get lost into and just enjoy yourself. He’s different than my real-life personality. And in children’s shows, you get to let yourself loose and do whatever you want, as long as it’s funny. Kids will be able to relate to being told a story by their dad. So they’ll have a connection between what happens in the story and what goes on in real life.”

Sophomore Karin Frizzelle portrays the queen in that story. “She has a fine kingdom, but acts younger than she is and just wants to go and have fun, while her son takes over the kingdom,” said Frizzelle. “But he can’t do that until he’s married, and he can’t find the right girl.”

She loves her role because “there are so many different things you can do with her character. And there are many comedic bits that I can really accentuate because of the way Mr. Monk wrote the script.”

Frizzelle said characters are “so overdone, crazy and extravagant in children’s shows that it’s great to play in them. It’s entertaining for the audience and for ourselves. In our show, children will like the colors, characters and plot; there are so many stories inside the main story that this play is very appealing to any listener.”

Playing the prime minister and a servant assistant to the queen is junior Madison Kambic. “She also helps the prince find a princess,” said Kambic. “When she’s around the queen, she’s loyal and subordinate. But when the queen leaves, she can relax and be goofy.”

“It’s my biggest part, so far, at Chantilly, and I have a lot of lines to memorize,” continued Kambic. “But since my character’s lines aren’t very exciting, I get to create an exuberant personality for her.”

She likes being in this type of show because “the costumes and makeup are bright, and there’s nothing like making little children laugh and being a goofball on stage. They’ll like how the stories are kind of mixed-up. For example, the boy cries, ‘dinosaur,’ instead of ‘wolf,’ and the dinosaur is really friendly.”

Similarly, said Kambic, “In ‘Chicken Little,’ the characters think the sky is falling, but it’s really something else that’s funny. And in ‘The Princess and the Pea,’ the characters are different, too — the prince isn’t perfect and the queen wants to go to Vegas.”

Sophomore Mia Rickenbacher plays Bo Peep in “The Boy Who Cried, ‘Dinosaur.’” Calling her a “simple-minded shepherd,” Rickenbacher says Bo Peep is bored watching sheep all day. And when she sees a dinosaur and tells her parents, they don’t believe her.

“This role has a lot of opportunities for comedy,” said Rickenbacher. “I use a funny voice and walk.” She said children will love the show because “they’re stories they’ve heard and know, but they’ll be surprised by all the plot twists.”

In “Chicken Little,” sophomore Hannah Grudi plays the title role. “She’s nerdy, dorky and not the brightest,” said Grudi. “She doesn’t like to go places, and she follows around her friend, Peter the Raccoon. There’s a lot of funny, physical stuff that goes along with my character.”

Overall, she said, “We’ve got lots of silly characters, great jokes and crazy costumes, and I think children will really enjoy it all.”

“Bedtime Stories,” are having fun with their roles.

Chantilly High’s children’s show includes “The Princess and the Pea,” “Chicken Little” and “The Boy Who Cried, ‘Dinosaur.’”

Some of the leads in Chantilly’s children’s show, “Bedtime Stories,” are (back row, from left) Madison Kambic, Diego Encarnacion and Grace Mattes; and (in front) Karin Frizzelle.
Free Carseat Inspections
Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Jan. 24, and Feb. 14, 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.

Help Assemble Food Bags
Each week, more than 70 Centreville Elementary students who receive free and reduced-price lunches also receive food in their backpacks on Fridays so they won’t go hungry on the weekend. To help this program, Mount Olive Baptist Church has purchased and donated the foods needed to go into the backpacks.

But volunteers are needed Saturday, Jan. 26, starting at 9 a.m., to help assemble more than 1,200 food bags at the church at 6600 Old Centreville Road in Centreville (A sign outside the church will identify which doors to use). These bags will then be driven to the school for distribution by the school counselors.

Fair Oaks CAC to Meet
The Citizens Advisory Council of the Fair Oaks District Police Station will meet Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m., in the roll-call room of the police station. It’s at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in Chantilly.

Making Children Resilient
Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will host a presentation by resiliency expert Nan Henderson, “Resiliency in Action: How Families, Schools and Communities Create ‘Bounce Back’ Kids,” on Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 7-8:30 p.m., in the Robinson Second- ary School cafeteria. Robinson is at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. (From the main entrance, turn left and the cafeteria is on the right).

This free workshop is designed for parents, school staff and community members. The goal is to help students develop social competence, problem-solving skills, self-awareness, control and initiative. These are all traits that resilient individuals possess to bounce back and overcome challenges and adversity, including trauma, crises and stress. Register at www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/resiliency/ workshop/HendersonWorkshop.shtml.

Improve Transportation for Elderly, Disabled
Local residents’ answers to a brief survey will help Fairfax County improve transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities in this county and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The questionnaire consists of 27 mostly multiple-choice questions. It takes 5-10 minutes to complete.

Take the survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mobilityoptions. It’s sponsored by the Fairfax Area Mobility and Transportation Committee, which reports jointly to the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board and the Fairfax Area Long Term Care Coordinating Council. For an alternate format of the survey, contact Jill Clark at 703-324-5874, TTY 703-449-1186.

Advocates Needed for Elderly
The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities throughout the area. Training is provided in Spring 2013. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) would lose Centreville and gain Woodbridge.
Katcham Honored for Long-time Community Service

Regent, for several years and represented it on the WFCCA, added Hart. “He’s been on the WFCCA Land-Use Committee for 18 years and its chairman for more than 10 years.”

Hart noted, as well, that Katcham chaired the Sully District’s APR (Area Plans Review) Task Force multiple times and also served on other entities, including the VRE Task Force. He was recognized by a local paper as its Citizen of the Year in 2004 and was honored by Virginia’s General Assembly in 2005.

“His leadership style works well with controversial subject matter,” said Hart. “He listens to everyone’s point of view and is always fair. His characteristics embody those we look for in the McDonnell Award recipient and we’re pleased to present it to him.”

Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) then presented a plaque to Katcham. Frey also told him his name would be inscribed on another plaque listing all the McDonnell Award recipients throughout the years and hung on a wall inside the Sully District Governmental Center.

Shaking Katcham’s hand and thanking him for his many years of service to the community, Frey added, “This is certainly an appropriate way to recognize you.”

Pleased, Katcham said, “I saw Jim McDonnell at WFCCA meetings and saw his passion. So getting this award in honor of someone like that is a great honor.”

Jim Katcham (second from left) receives the James D. McDonnell Award from (from left) WFCCA Land-Use Committee member Judy Heisinger, Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey and Planning Commissioner Jim Hart.

Armel’s and Garbarino’s Names Adorn Arena Race Car

MPO John Alford Fairfax County Police motorman, sits in his race car painted with the names of fallen Fairfax County Police Officers MPO Mike Garbarino and Detective Vicky Armel at Sully District Police Station.

Family members of fallen Fairfax County Police Officer MPO Mike Garbarino look at the race car painted with his name and that of fallen Fairfax County Police Detective Vicky Armel at Sully District Police Station.

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Jim Katcham (second from left) receives the James D. McDonnell Award from (from left) WFCCA Land-Use Committee member Judy Heisinger, Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey and Planning Commissioner Jim Hart.

From Page 1

came a cop,” Alford told them. “But I al-
ways loved racing and the adrenaline rush, so I found the Arena Racing League. It has
miniature racing cars, half the size of
NASCAR cars, and talented, professional
and aggressive drivers. But we have full gear
and equipment.”

“There are 14 cars on the track at a time, and my car only has a 14 horsepower Honda
motor,” he continued. “On the track, we get
to 55-60 mph; but on a straightaway, we can go 100 mph. The track is the size of
a professional hockey rink, and it’s a lot of
action and fun.”

But Alford has gone the extra mile to
honor fallen public-safety officers on his race car. “I select a different firefighter and
police officer each week to ride in their
honor,” he said. And last Saturday, Jan. 19,
he raced on the indoor track of the Rich-
mond Coliseum in his car bearing Armel’s
garbarino’s names.

“I’ve gotten a lot of ‘attaboys’ from people
who appreciate what I’m doing,” he said.
“It’s also been a big joy because, the first
time I drove it, it got voted the Most Beau-
tiful car. When I was coming up with its design, I called Sue Garbarino [Mike’s
widow] and asked for her help.”

Her daughter Natalie came up with the idea. She told Alford to paint the car black,
with a blue stripe on one side and a red stripe on the other, similar to Fairfax County’s
police cruisers, and he did.

And last week, Sue Garbarino, with daughters Natalie, 17, and Katie, 21,
were at the Sully District Sta-
tion, along with Armel’s sis-
ter, Betty Owen Chase, for
the unveiling of the race car
embellished with their loved
ones’ names. The hood was
adorned with the words, “Fallen Heroes,” in gold, flanked by police- and fire-
department logos.

Chase wore something
special to the ceremony — a
necklace with miniatures of
her sister’s and her son’s po-
lice badges. “My son John
just became a police officer
at the Mount Vernon District
Station and he loves it,” she said.

Chase added, “If anything ever happened to him
in the line of duty, he’d want his actions to
be remembered and people to learn from
them. And now, seven-and-a-half years later, he and Vicky are still being remem-
bered by people like John — who combined his passion for racing with honoring and
remembering our fallen heroes.”

She said her family still receives a great
desal of support from the police. “They still
come and check on us,” said Garbarino. “[Former] Chief Dave Rohrer has been there
for us through everything. I spoke at his
tirement and got a chance to thank him
and the department.”

So what do Natalie and Katie think about
their father’s name being on a race car? “I’ve
seen my dad’s name memorialized in a lot
of ways, but this is the coolest,” she said.
“I love it,” added Katie. “It’s a fun way to remind
him, with no pomp and circum-
stance.”
Students and parents at Bull Run Elementary showed their cultural pride last Thursday, Jan. 17, at the school’s Family Heritage Night. The event included ethnic food, a “museum” displaying items from various countries, plus songs and dances by students wearing outfits reflecting their heritage.

Hugo Trinidad and daughter Leila, in second grade, stand by a display of items from Brazil.

Back row, from left, are Simran Darhele, Alina Satiyd and Stephanie Brobbey. Front row, from left, are Sammy Darhele and Sanjana Subbanna. Stephanie represented Ghana and the others represented India.

Bull Run Elementary Heritage Night

Student Katie Lenshin sings a Russian song onstage.

Third-grader Santiago Crespo Aguilar wears a devil outfit from Bolivia to perform a special dance.

Twin sisters (from left) Sanju and Sanyu Srikanth, both fourth-graders, pose before performing a classical, Indian dance.

Student Katie Lenshin sings a Russian song onstage.

Third-grader Santiago Crespo Aguilar wears a devil outfit from Bolivia to perform a special dance.

Twin sisters (from left) Sanju and Sanyu Srikanth, both fourth-graders, pose before performing a classical, Indian dance.

Julianne Shrank and son Caden, a sixth-grader, serve spaetzle in chicken broth. They represented Alsace-Lorraine, a city on the border of Germany and France.

Third-grader Rosalyn Shin wears a traditional Korean dress for young girls.

From left: Fifth-graders Vedant Balu, Jay Sharma and Suchet Sapre are garbed in Indian attire.

Your Local Upscale Resale Store

Shop at The Treasure Hound resale store, where you’ll find a variety of beautiful treasures at great prices.

Tax-deductible donations are accepted during store hours.

Adopt, Donate, Volunteer... and Shop!

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

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Friends of Homeless Animals
www.foha.org
Expanding Medicaid Good for Virginia

Real health coverage for an additional 400,000 people is in reach.

Virginia has an opportunity to expand Medicaid in a way that could extend health coverage to more than 400,000 residents who currently have no health insurance while the Federal government picks up the tab; Virginia would pay 10 percent of the additional cost after 2020.

The Medicaid expansion would give medical insurance to 25,000-30,000 Fairfax County residents, where more than 132,000 have none.

More than one third of the slightly more than 1 million people who live in the wealthiest county in the nation are without health insurance. Households income in Fairfax County averages more than $122,000 a year.

In Arlington, 17 percent of adults under age 65 lack health insurance.

Let me be clear: by refusing to guarantee that those who need treatment receive it, and by placing other budgetary priorities above the care that these youth and young adults need, we are ensuring that serious emotional and mental disturbances go unaddressed. And while the typical sufferer of depression or anxiety is no more dangerous than you or I, the small fraction of the mentally ill who we consider profoundly disturbed are much more likely to be aggressive or even commit mass violence. Don’t we want to do everything we can to address serious mental illness in its earliest stages?

The signs that a child may have a serious problem are often there even at preschool age, and a preponderance of evidence shows that early intervention is key. We must adjust our course, and do everything we can to ensure that we provide needed care for troubled youth and young adults, not to mention the supports their families need to cope. This must be our highest priority if we are to provide a safe, healthy environment for all of our children.

Kristen Brennan, Centreville

Lack of Neighborly Respect

To the Editor:

I have lived in Country Club Manor over 20 years. I have very good memories and I am sure they will continue. Over the years, we have been of lesser means than many that surround us. This has never bothered me until I was told about a recent incidence.

But this is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy. Expanding Medicaid coverage would allow far less expensive preventative care and lead to better health outcomes.

A new analysis by the Commonwealth Institute shows that expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty level would generate state general fund savings and new revenues that would total $2.08 billion and more than offset the state’s share of expansion costs over the next eight years, plus provide significant numbers of new jobs and economic growth.

Expanding health care will add tens of thousands of new jobs. People with access to preventative and early health care use fewer sick days and are more productive on the job as well.

From a practical perspective, declining federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation because you don’t like the feds telling you to wear your seatbelt.

From a human perspective, passing up the chance to offer health coverage to 400,000 Virginians is inconceivable.

— Mary Kimm, mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Letters to the Editor

Fewer Mental Health Resources

To the Editor:

It’s the same story, over and over again. As an advocate for youth, I give presentations to parents, counselors, and other professionals about mental wellness resources for our community’s children, teens, and young adults.

I have made it my business to connect them to needed resources and therapy in order to prevent and address depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.

Every time I meet a new group of concerned adults, I hear the same story: “Our insurance is not connecting us to a therapist who can treat the person in need. The in-network providers don’t work with kids his age, they don’t treat his condition, they have a waiting list, or they don’t accept insurance or work with Medicaid clients at all.”

According to the Surgeon General and SAMHSA, 1 in 5 kids has a mental or behavioral health problem, and of those, only 1 in 5 gets the treatment he or she needs. The most troubled kids, those with aggression, delusions, or antisocial characteristics, can be the most difficult and expensive to treat. Yet, as parents are telling me every chance they get, few of the providers qualified to address these types of behaviors are accessible for parents who can’t pay the hourly fees of $300-$500 out-of-pocket, or $15,000 – $25,000 per year. That’s most of them.

In these times of economic hardship, budgets for such “extras” as mental health programs have been slashed everywhere, and American families are expected to absorb the cost when they, too, have fewer resources at their disposal.

We have no home owners association. This is a benefit in some ways and a major detriment in others. We can not control our crazy house colors, ludicrous lawn ornaments not to mention forests planted in the front yard. Fortunately, these do not make up the majority of our neighborhood. Most of us take pride in how we are maintained.

Unfortunately, the residents of Sully Station that back up to us have decided they should add to the negligence our worst neighbors show.

Their border our neighborhood, have parking for 4-6 in the driveway, a garage for two and have street parking. Their reasoning for parking on our street behind them is that they have cars that leak oil and do not want them on their street. One barely has moved and is storing “junk” in the back. The other rarely moves. This neighborhood has overload parking streets for trucks and such things as extra “oil leaking” cars that are used rarely or should be fixed. I am sad that I feel our streets are the best for their “junk” as most of us want our neighborhood to be the best we can have.

How are we to do that when you add to our situation? I really want to get the answer why you want to litter our neighborhood instead of your own. Why does your oil have to leak in our “front yard” instead of yours? We are not perfect but we would never do that to you … we do not park our junk in the public streets near your house when we do not live there.

Why are you? It makes me sad. Our kids know each other. Mutual respect would be much preferred and appreciated. Please reconsider who we are and who you can be.

Vicki Darby, Centreville
CVHS Football Players Mean the World to Juwaan

By Bonnie Hobbs
Centre View

Not only was Juwaan Espinal’s association with Centreville High’s football teams meaningful to him, it meant something special to the players, too. They learned about compassion, as well as acceptance of someone different from themselves.

“At was a pleasure having Juwaan involved with our team,” said Wildcat Varsity Football Coach Chris Haddock. “He is a special young man who, like many others, loves his high-school football team. His mom contacted me over the summer and I worked out some ways he could be involved.”

Dock gave Juwaan a football jersey to wear at home and on the road so he could match the team. And Juwaan gave the players his devotion and dedication.

“Juwaan involved with our team,” said Espinal. “He is a special young gentleman who is also our No. 1 fan,” said Barron. “When I got the news that he would be joining us this year, I knew it would be a special season. And the players went on to have great friendships with Juwaan, especially Matt Laurence and Zach Kehoe, who spent time with him and made him feel even more a part of the team then he already was.”

Barron said Juwaan would lead the team up to the football field before cheering on the players to victory. “He would be down next to the field for all of our home games,” said Barron. “And he always had a smile on his face when the Wildcats were playing.”

“At our year-end banquets, we presented him with a championship sweatshirt like the players got because he was part of our team — part of our family,” added Barron. “Hopefully, he can return next season and make new friends.”

Juwaan Espinal and Centreville High’s jubilant, undefeated freshman football team celebrate the season together.

From Page 1

to compete on a team like she did, but he could still be part of one,” said his mother. “So I talked to the varsity basketball coach, Drew Murphy; and Juwaan’s freshman year, he became an honorary team manager, wore a jersey and sat behind the team bench.”

Juwaan was also a huge football fan. He knew Westfield grad Eddie Royal — who went on to become a wide receiver for the San Diego Chargers; and through that acquaintance, he’d developed a love for football.

“So this year, I reached out to Varsity Football Coach Chris Haddock and, with no hesitation, he gave Juwaan a jersey with No. 1 on it and made him co-captain of the first game,” said Espinal. “He also introduced the players to him and gave him the game ball.”

From there, things took off. “Freshman Football Coach Thomas Lamb e-mailed me, asking me to bring Juwaan to meet his freshman team, and they adored him, too,” said his mom. “They adopted him completely and wanted him at every home game and in the locker room for speeches. They won the championship undefeated — and they took team pictures, the players insisted that Juwaan be in them. They wheeled him to the center of the photo, themselves.”

She said both the freshman and varsity teams went out of their way to make her son feel like one of them. For example, said Espinal, “Juwaan couldn’t make it to the last two varsity games because the weather was too cold for his 46-pound body. So one of the players had his girlfriend Facebook-friend Juwaan and give him the play-by-play. And at the end, she wrote to him, ‘We missed you; the game wasn’t the same without you.’

The players also made the homecoming dance special for him. Juwaan went with his aide and a friend, and almost all the members of the freshman team, plus some of the varsity players, were there. “They were so loving to him,” said Espinal. “When Juwaan came in, they all went over to see him, take pictures and dance with him. He smiled, laughed and screamed with joy.”

He’s been on Facebook since seventh grade, but only had about 40 friends. Since homecoming, that number has rocketed to 400. Juwaan’s nonverbal, but very smart, said his mother. “He can nod or shake his head to answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’ questions,” she said. “He also has a communication device to click on pictures and words to make sentences. His wheelchair has switches attached to it and he hits them with his head to operate them.”

He’s now learning to use an electric wheelchair so that, someday, he can “run out” on the field with the team. “That’s his dream,” said Espinal. “He can’t do that alone in a manual wheelchair.”

At school, Juwaan attends some regular classes, plus smaller, slower-paced classes for English, reading and math. “We’re happy with the school, administration and students,” said Espinal. “Centreville High has done so much for him. Some of the freshmen players sit with him at lunch. And when he’s wheeling around school, the team, cheerleaders, classmates and friends say ‘Hi’ to him; he’s very popular.”

He also boasts a 3.8 GPA. “He’s doing well in school and I attribute that to his having all these kids around him, encouraging him and being his friend,” said his mom. “He especially likes science and English and wants to be a sports announcer. Juwaan’s in the communication class at school that does the announcements and in-school TV program and loves it. He did it at Centreville Elementary and Stone Middle School, too.”

Basically, said Espinal, “He wants to be like everybody else; that’s why I wanted him to be included. Whatever’s possible for him, I will make happen for him. As a parent, you want to provide the best for your kid and protect him. But he has a great support system at school — the administrators, teachers, students, coaches, his peers — and that’s what makes a family. They treat him like one of their own.”

He also participates in Best Buddies. “Centreville High was the top school for the most money raised for it,” said Espinal. “And Juwaan won a trophy from the Virginia Best Buddies; he raised more than $2,000 for its October (2012 fundraising) walk. And he got to meet President Obama when he came to Centreville High.”

Before Juwaan started high school, his mother worried about him, envisioning her child sitting alone in a corner. “But the acceptance they gave him at Centreville is just awesome,” she said. “It makes me happy to see it. The parents there should be proud of their children. Juwaan’s so happy, too; he loves school. He wakes up at 5 a.m. and he’s ready to go. I’m so grateful to all of them.”

CVHS Football Players Mean the World to Juwaan
Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.

The Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement (CPMSAC) Committee held its 19th annual King Festival on Sunday, Jan. 20, at Westfield High.

Brookfield Elementary’s fifth- and sixth-grade chorus sings “One Candle, One Flame.”

Westfield High senior Harri Kapiyoor plays the veena, an ancient Indian instrument.

The Levy sisters, Jessica of Oakton High and Justine of Franklin Middle, perform together.

Chantilly senior Matt Calvert leads the a cappella group, Unaccompanied Minors, in singing “Some Nights.”

Some members of Westfield’s Step Team strike a pose.

Chantilly High grad Edward Betancourt is a college student on route to becoming a professional Gospel singer.


Juliette Barber sings “Dream the Impossible Dream.”

Sisters Anupa and Anjala Sharma of Westfield do a dance from Nepal, India.

Chantilly’s Chamber Chorale performs the spiritual “Walk Together, Children.”

Bill Burke conducts the Centreville High Wildcat Guitar Ensemble.

Mount Olive Baptist Church’s Children’s Choir sings “Oh, King.”

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Award-Winning Centre View

More Reasons the Connection Newspapers are the Best-Read Community Papers
Winners of Awards in the 2011 Virginia Press Association and Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association Editorial Contests

To see award-winning entries: www.connectionnewspapers.com/2011Awards

Centre View

Michael Lee Pope, FIRST PLACE, Breaking News Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, FIRST PLACE, Government Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, FIRST PLACE, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, FIRST PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, FIRST PLACE, Local Column, Potomac Almanac
Montie Martin, FIRST PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Montie Martin, FIRST PLACE, Personal Service Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Deb Cobb, FIRST PLACE, Feature Writing Portfolio, Centre View North
Deb Cobb, FIRST PLACE, Feature Writing Portfolio, Centre View North
Deb Cobb, FIRST PLACE, General News Photo, Fairfax Connection
Deb Cobb, FIRST PLACE, Online Slide Show, Fairfax Connection
Deb Cobb, FIRST PLACE, Photo Illustration, Burke Connection
Amber Healy, FIRST PLACE, Multimedia Feature Report, Fairfax Connection
Alex McVeigh, FIRST PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, Great Falls Connection 
Mary Kimm, FIRST PLACE, Local Column, Potomac Almanac
Montie Martin, FIRST PLACE, Local Column, Potomac Almanac
Kenny Lourie, FIRST PLACE, Sports Column, Potomac Almanac
Kenny Lourie, Local Column, Potomac Almanac
Ken Moore, Mary Kimm, FIRST PLACE, Continuing News Coverage, Potomac Almanac
Robbie Hammer, FIRST PLACE, Sports Writing Portfolio, Fairfax Station/Lorton Connection

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Centre View

Louise Krafft, SECOND PLACE, Picture Story or Essay, Mount Vernon Gazette
Ken Moore, Laurence Foong, SECOND PLACE, Infographics, Potomac Almanac
Carole Dell, SECOND PLACE, Local Column, Potomac Almanac
Susan Belford, SECOND PLACE, Feature Story, Profile, Potomac Almanac
•Louise Krafft, THIRD PLACE, Pictorial Photo, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, THIRD PLACE, Breaking News Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, THIRD PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, Mount Vernon Gazette
Mary Kimm, THIRD PLACE, Editorial Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Mary Kimm, THIRD PLACE, Editorial Writing, Burke Connection
Victoria Ross, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, Fairfax Connection
Kemal Kurspahic, Laurence Foong, Anna Rehmatulla, THIRD PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, Reston Connection
Kemal Kurspahic, Laurence Foong, Anna Rehmatulla, THIRD PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, Reston Connection

The Connection to your community

www.connectionnewspapers.com
**Schools**

**Winter Concert**

Virginia Run Elementary School students, staff and parents enjoyed a rousing Winter Choral Concert last month that included a skit of the Grinch that stole Christmas and other holiday favorites. Mrs. Everton and Mr. Tyler, the school’s music teachers, directed the choral performance.

**School Notes**

- Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos welcome.

**Branch to the dean’s list at The Citadel:**

- Harding University was named to the communications at Virginia Tech.

** ware:**

- to the dean’s list at University of Delaware.

**Honor Society.** He is a freshman at Academy chapter of the National Junior Justice at Youngstown State University, 

**dean’s list at the University of New Ha:**

- Ryan Hilker, daughter of Ri-

**Deely**

- Jacob C. Harrell

**Luncheon and Meeting.**

- SATURDAY/JAN. 26

**9:30-1:30 p.m.** at **Clifton Children’s Academy, 14315 Compton Road,**

**Northern Virginia's **

- Springtime in the Greenhouse: Primrose, Cyclamen, Citrus

**30% OFF Japanese Maples or Buy 1 Get 1 Free** 

- *Off regular price*

**www.ChildrensAcademy.com or 703-631-9688 to register for one of the open houses. Visit**

- www.childrensacademy.com

**Program Information.** Learn about Lifetime Leadership Program at 11 a.m. at Leadership Fairfax, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350, Vienna.

**SATURDAY/FEB. 9**

- Second Saturday, 9 a.m. at Marriott Courtyard, 11220 Lee-Jackson Highway, Fairfax. Professionals speak towards educating sponsors about separation and divorce process in order to encourage them to be civil and reasonable for their pockeepacks, emotional health and children. RSVP to clapham@beankinney.com.

**SUNDAY/JAN. 27**

- Trial Class. Todd tots is holding free trial classes of their program for children ages 2.5 years through pre-k and their parents at 11 a.m. at 44212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. No registration required.

**THURSDAYS THROUGH JAN. 31**

- Registration Open House, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Clifton Children’s Academy, 14315 Compton Road, Chantilly. Come tour the school and register for morning, afternoon or full-day preschool classes. Visit www.childrensacademy.com or 703-968-8455 to register for one of the open houses.

**SATURDAY/JAN. 26**

- Luncheon and Meeting, 1:30 p.m. at Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. The GFWC-Western Fairf

- Visit our new Web site: www.careensnursery.com
Manner’s 37 Points Lead Oakton Past Centreville

Cougars beat Wildcats in battle of Concorde’s top two teams.

By Jon Roetman
Centre View

The Centreville girls’ basketball team, owner of an up-tempo style and winner of 14 of its first 15 games, approached Friday’s contest confident it could beat Oakton despite a losing streak against the Cougars dating back to 1995. But after the opening tip, the Wildcats’ confidence turned to timidity against 6-foot-1 Oakton senior Elizabeth Manner and the eight-time defending Concorde District champion Cougars.

Manner scored 37 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as Oakton defeated Centreville 65-48 on Jan. 18 at Oakton High School. The defending state champion Cougars improved to 14-2 overall and moved into sole possession of first place in the Concorde District with a 4-0 mark.

The Wildcats had no answer for the physically-imposing Manner, who burned Centreville in the paint, from the perimeter and at the free-throw line. At the other end of the floor, head coach Tom Watson said the Wildcats weren’t their usual attacking selves.

“I think we came out scared in the first half,” he said. “I think we were awful. I think we didn’t bring our game. We were afraid to penetrate — that’s not our game. I think that big girl from Oakton intimidated [our players].”

Manner scored 16 points in the paint, made one jumper, knocked down one 3-pointer and went 16-for-19 at the free-throw line.

“We don’t have bunches of plays for her,” Oakton head coach Fred Priester said. “We’re an equal-opportunity offense. But when things break down, the kids have great trust in her and great faith in her. She’s a big girl, but she’s extremely agile and she moves around that basket very well. … She has worked as hard and has come as far as, really, any kid I’ve ever coached.”

Oakton led by 12 at halftime, but Centreville pulled to within five on three occasions late in the third quarter and trailed 43-36 entering the fourth. Manner extended the Oakton lead with a pair of buckets in the opening minute and finished scoring 11 points in the quarter to make the score 39-34 and junior guard Jenna Green finished with 12 points for Centreville tallied 21 in the third quarter to make things interesting. Sophomore guard Caroline Wakefield buried a 3-pointer to cut the Oakton lead to 37-32 with 1:37 remaining in the quarter. Senior forward Tori Collar scored her 10th point of the quarter to make the score 39-34 and junior guard Jenna Green’s bucket cut the Oakton lead to 41-36, but the Wildcats got no closer than five.

“I don’t think we really came to play today, especially me,” said Green, who was born in 1996, one year after Centreville last beat Oakton. “My shot was off. We weren’t playing our usual game. I don’t know if it was because we were intimidated; I don’t know what it was. I definitely think that we can beat them and I can’t wait to play them again.”

Green finished with 12 points for Centreville. Collar scored 10 points, junior forward Ailyn Kelly finished with eight, and Wakefield and sophomore guard Chrissy Jacksta each added five.

Centreville defeated Chantilly 48-28 on Tuesday, improving the Wildcats’ record to 15-2 overall and 4-1 in the district. Centreville will host Robinson at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25.

The second meeting between Oakton and Centreville will be Feb. 5 at Centreville High School. “I can’t wait,” Watson said.
For high-school students, a great deal rides on doing well on the SAT test. But it can be both a daunting and an intimidating experience.

And that’s where Westfield High counselor Dan Harris and English teacher Greg Greentree come in. Together, they’ve developed an SAT prep course.

“There are test-taking skills that have nothing to do with the content and everything to do with the way the answers are written,” said Greentree. “It’s overlooked by a lot of people, but is actually teaching a smarter way to take a test.”

Harris is in his 16th year in Fairfax County Public Schools and Greentree is in his 17th. Harris has been a counselor all of his six years at Westfield, but obtained a master’s in both counseling and math education from UNC Chapel Hill and still helps students with math.

Greentree has a master’s in secondary education, with a focus in English instruction, from GMU. He’s been at Westfield since it opened, nearly 13 years ago, and teaches freshman honors English, plus a class of English to juniors.

“Dan and I had been working with kids, separately, for years,” said Greentree. “I did private SAT tutoring and charged far less than the market average. One kid’s SAT score went up 100 points and more people started coming.”

But most formal SAT prep classes in this area cost $1,500-$2,000, said Harris, and “We wanted to create something more affordable. Ours is just $150.”

“I felt people were overcharging for this, and I didn’t think it was fair that the cost should be a barrier to education,” added Greentree. “And I knew significant parts of the population needed access to the instruction, but didn’t have the money.”

So he and Harris discussed it and decided to pool their expertise in math and English and develop their own SAT prep class to reach as many students as possible. In addition, students attending other prep classes go once or twice a week for two or three hours at a time.

“Our is just one, two-and-a-half-hour session on a Saturday,” said Harris. “Kids in this area are very involved in sports, clubs, band, theater, community service, etc., and don’t have a lot of time. So our class is rapid-paced and packed with information. Kids can come to one session and be done with it.”

The two educators created their program, Turbo Tutoring, last summer and 70 students attended their first four sessions in the fall. It’s open to all students in public and private schools in seventh through 12th grades. But it’s mainly geared toward juniors and seniors because they’re the ones taking the SAT.

“We tell them how to eliminate answer choices and move through the test sections quicker,” said Harris. “And we talk about styles of questions that repeat on the test.”

They also do a PowerPoint presentation and let students see what kinds of questions they’ll be seeing. And students receive a packet of information, including handouts of the PowerPoint, that they may take home.

“The class is interactive; we don’t just lecture,” said Harris. “It’s class participation, Q & A and more con”

Educators offer “Turbo Tutoring” prep seminar.

By Bonnie Hobbs

Centre View

Gaining Confidence for SATs

Educators offer “Turbo Tutoring” prep seminar.

Greg Greentree and Dan Harris, who developed the SAT prep seminar, Turbo Tutoring.
News

Gaining Confidence for SATs

By KENNETH H. LOURIE

Regularly, throughout my now nearly four years of living as a stage IV non-small cell lung cancer “diagnosee”/survivor, I have had conversations with the person with whom I’ve been speaking – in response to a query of mine, said about a particular set of their circumstances. “Oh, it’s nothing, really, you mean, it’s not cancer, so it’s not as bad as what you’re (meaning me) going through.” Said with the utmost sincerity and sensitivity to me of course, and with my feelings/reaction most definitely in mind; for a long time, I simply acknowledged their empathy/sympathy and continued on with our conversation as if no emotional pot – of mine, had been stirred.

As time has passed, however, and I have continued to evolve as a cancer patient, meaning it wasn’t about me all the time any more, responses to questions I asked, like the one inferred in the previous paragraph, began to irritate me – regardless of how well-meaning they were. Granted, a cancer diagnosis is bad news, but there’s always worse in my mind. And when people would self-censor their answers to me about something bad in their lives – which from their perspective was not as bad as receiving a diagnosis of terminal cancer as I had, it began to have the opposite effect on me. I felt worse for their not having said whatever their bad news was as if I was (A) inadvertently responsible for not answering their question and (B) since I was the ultimate bad situation, not many were ever worse than my situation, so it seemed inappropriate somehow to consider even mentioning it. In short, I became the measuring stick for “bad,” and since people rarely shared their bad news with me (out of kindness, I know), it meant – to me, anyway, that my news/situation was worse. How would you like to be the bad news/situation against which all presumably bad situations are compared? Every time I hear “Well compared to your…” I feel even worse than I try to never let myself feel. Internally I can manage it. But when external forces – random though they may be, context me in a depressing and disappointing way, I feel depressed and disparaged; two feelings which I fight hard to avoid. Cancer already has a hold. I’m trying to prevent it from having a stranglehold.

As a cancer patient, one has sufficient challenges and surmises navigating through the various treatment protocols/require-
ments/appointments/scans, etc., attempting to assimilate the unthinkable into the “first-thing-you-thinkable.” The experience is sort of like going from the sublime to the ridiculous except there’s nothing sublime or ridicu-
lous about it. And by the way, your life depends on it. Ego, reinforcing a negative; as in my diagnosis being a conversation stop-
er or re-director – takes me to a place, emotionally, that I never want to go to or be perceived as having been. I’m not sure if this is ego or naïveté or denial, but I can manage my feelings better when I bring them on myself rather than when others do so.

Now whether I am emotionally, or how I got there really matters in the short term I almost say. But if there’s going to be a long term, I need to feel better about my cir-
mstances, not worse. They’re bad enough on their own; I don’t need any help making them worse.

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

Jobs By KENNETH H. LOURIE

Mentoring Students To Succeed in School - Motivation comes from within a person, but parents can cultivate qualities that help children become motivated to learn, including a sense of self-worth and perseverance in the face of challenges. Identify ways to encourage these qualities in children. Topics include goal-setting and positive self talk. Room 123.

8-8:45 BM. - SESSION TWO

Practicing Positive Discipline - Learn age-appropriate limits for children and get pointers on how to set and maintain them. Recognize the difference between discipline and punishment and the subsequent outcomes they generate. Strategies for encouraging positive behavior and discouraging negative behavior will be discussed. Cafeteria.

Improving Study Skills - Learn strategies to help children develop effective study skills for lifelong learning. Topics include goal-setting, time management and study strategies. Room 106.

Anyone needing translation services or childcare for school-aged children only should contact school counselor Lee Kaiser at LRKaiser@fcps.edu by Feb. 13.

For More Information, Call 703-778-9431 for details.

Connection Newspapers in Old Town Alexandria has an immediate opening for a Bookkeeper. Duties include payroll, tax filings, accounts receivable and payable, invoicing, general ledger and financial statements. Applicant must be an expert in Quickbooks and proficient Microsoft Excel. Applicant must possess a strong work ethic, people skills, team attitude and be able to multi-
task. Near King Street Metro. Free parking. Flexible hours, 24-20 hours/week. Email cover letter, resume to resumes@connectionnewspapers.com.

Employment

Carla Fabian

**FULL-TIME**

Cafeteria Helper - A person, but parents can cultivate qualities that help children become motivated to learn, including a sense of self-worth and perseverance in the face of challenges. Identify ways to encourage these qualities in children. Topics include goal-setting and positive self talk. Room 123.

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Anyone needing translation services or childcare for school-aged children only should contact school counselor Lee Kaiser at LRKaiser@fcps.edu by Feb. 13.

For More Information, Call 703-778-9431 for details.
SUNDAY, JAN. 27
Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. $8/advance; $10/door, children under 12 free. Browse sculpture, glass, jewelry, photography and more. There will be children’s activities, artist meets and more. Visit www.sugarloafcrafts.com for more.

THURSDAY, JAN. 31
New Exhibit. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly, is displaying 80 dolls, some antique, in an exhibit called “Doll Crazy.” The dolls belong to local collectors. Tours are $7 per adult, $6 for students 16 years and older, and $5 for seniors and children. Sully is open daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed Tuesdays. Visit www.fairfaxmuseum.gov/parks/sully or call 703-437-1794.

SATURDAY, JAN. 26
E-book Help. 2 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get any questions about their ebook reader answered. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.


Book Buddies. 3:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. First and second graders can enjoy a book discussion. Call for title. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

SUNDAY, JAN. 27
Sully Book Club. 1 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can discuss “Jerusalem: The Biography” by Simon Sebag Montefiore. Free. 703-830-2223.

Sunnyside Crafters. 3:30-5 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can share their work and receive feedback. Free. 703-502-3883.

ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Teens age 12-18 can take home a free book, make something, catch up with friends. Free. 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY, JAN. 29
English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Put on Your Hat! 11 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Hats. Free. 703-502-3883.

Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Bouncing Babies. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

A Novel Society. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can discuss “Doctor Zhivago” by Boris Pasternak. Free. 703-830-2223.

THURSDAY, JAN. 31
Storytime. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

THROUGH FEB. 1
Art Exhibit. Paintings by Rosemary Gallick celebrate the second inauguration of President Barack Obama. See 23 portraits of President Obama, Michelle Obama, Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and more. The exhibit is free and located at the Woodbridge campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 15200 Neabsco Mills Road.

SATURDAY, FEB. 2
Animal Program. 1:30 p.m. at Ellanor Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Participants 3 years and older can learn about the animal and the story behind Groundhog Day. $5/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parcrows with code #271879701. Call 703-631-0013.

SATURDAY, FEB. 9
Lunar New Year Festival. From 1-6 p.m. celebrate the year of the snake with Code #2741879701. Features traditional Chinese dragon dances, music, martial arts demonstrations, and more. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parcrows with code #271879701. Call 703-631-0013.

Purple Tie Bash. 6:30 p.m.-midnight at Westin at Washington Dulles. Chantilly High School presents an evening of fun with dinner, dancing silent and live auctions and more. Proceeds benefit the athletic program at the high school. Visit www.chantillysports.org to buy tickets.

Choral Cabaret. 7 p.m. at Chantilly High School. Enjoy dessert, coffee and tea while listening to the choir perform. There will be a silent auction and raffle. Adult, $10/child, $5 student. CVHS students who buy tickets during lunch will get a free raffle ticket.