



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/CENTRE VIEW

### Moving Forward

Inderpreet Kaur and Gagandeep Jathoul were among the 554 students participating in Centreville High School's graduation ceremony at GMU Patriot Center on Tuesday, June 18.

MORE GRADUATION PHOTOS, PAGE 4.

## Fighting for Children's Lives

**Centreville's Crossett lobbies Congress to improve children's cancer treatments.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
 CENTRE VIEW

**I**t's too late to save her own child. Meg Crossett's daughter Rachel died of a cancer called neuroblastoma on July 3, 2001, at age 6. But she's doing her best to improve the quality of care for other children battling the same disease that took Rachel's life.

On Tuesday, June 18, this resident of Centreville's Pleasant Hill community joined forces with more than 150 patients, survivors and their families on Capitol Hill to ask Congress to continue supporting initiatives to improve the treatment and outcomes for children with cancer.

"I came to Capitol Hill today because I do not want any other family to suffer like our family has suffered with the loss of Rachel," said Crossett. "Her siblings and her father and I live with her death every day, and especially this year when she would have graduated from high school and be moving on toward college."

"We need to put more money into researching new cures and to implement palliative care programs for all children," she continued. "I work with DC Candlelighters to help families whose children currently have cancer, and I can see there are no new cures for these families, even 10 years after Rachel's death."

So Crossett participated in Tuesday's second annual Childhood Cancer Action Day event in



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEG CROSSETT

**Rachel Crossett as an angel in a Christmas pageant at her church.**

Washington, D.C. It was coordinated by the Alliance for Childhood Cancer to try to advance legislation to benefit the 13,500 children diagnosed with cancer each year. Families with deep, personal connections to this disease came from 31 states to ask their congressional representatives to co-sponsor the following acts:

❖ **H.R. 460, Patients Access to Treatments Act:** Would require insurers to charge no more than what they currently charge for non-specialty, tier brand drugs. For example, if an insurer is currently charging \$30 for non-specialty tier brand drugs, and 50 percent of the price of a specialty drug (i.e., for a \$7,000 drug like Gleevec, \$3,500 patient out-of-pocket), HR 460 would require in-

SEE LOBBYING, PAGE 7

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## ROUNDUPS

### Fair Oaks Townhouse Fire

Fire officials say a blaze last week at a Fair Oaks townhouse caused an estimated \$50,000 damage. The single-family home is at 4815 Green Duck Lane, and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to the townhouse last Thursday, June 14, around 8:05 a.m. Firefighters encountered smoke and fire coming from the rear of the first floor of the middle, two-story townhouse upon arrival.

Firefighters conducted an aggressive attack and brought the flames under control in approximately 10 minutes. Officials say the blaze began near the stairs leading to the second floor. Smoke alarms were present. No one was home when the fire broke out, but one person was displaced. There were no injuries.

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat

inspections Thursday, June 20, 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.

### Frey at Sully Council

Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) will discuss the state of Sully at the next meeting of the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations. It's set for Wednesday, June 26, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 5

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# 'Mountain View Dramatically Changed My Life'

Students overcome adversity, persevere to graduate.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Student Ana-Lycia Pena was just about to sing the last word of the National Anthem during Mountain View High's graduation last Friday at Oakton High, when the auditorium went dark.

A driver had struck an electric pole in front of the school, knocking out all power to the building. But that didn't faze the students of Mountain View. They're used to dealing with obstacles, adapting to new circumstances and, ultimately, succeeding.

So no one panicked or complained. Instead, while electricians worked to solve the problem, the ceremony moved across the hall to the gym, which had emergency lights. And there, things went off without a hitch.

"We're extremely proud of your accomplishments," Principal Dave Jagels told the students. "I've seen your struggles and how you came to this school not able to speak English. I've seen you take two jobs to support your families and work with teachers on Saturdays to achieve your goals."

"I'm blown away, completely amazed and humbled to be at a school that gives students a second chance," he continued. "This is why we go into education — to help hardworking and dedicated students like you."

Then, in keeping with Mountain View tra-



Ana-Lycia Pena of Centreville's Lakeside community poses with her family after graduating from Mountain View. Back row, from left, are her mother, Elenor Carter; aunt, Stephanie Ulloa; Ana-Lycia; brother, Matthew Pena; grandmother, Theresa Brown; and cousin Syparia Harris holding cousin Morgan Harris, 1. Front row, from left, are Ana's niece, Madisen, 6; and Ana's sister and brother, twins Kaylen and Jayden, 7.

dition, three graduating students shared their personal stories. Speaking first June 14 was Delsidia Avelar.

## DELSIDIA AVELAR

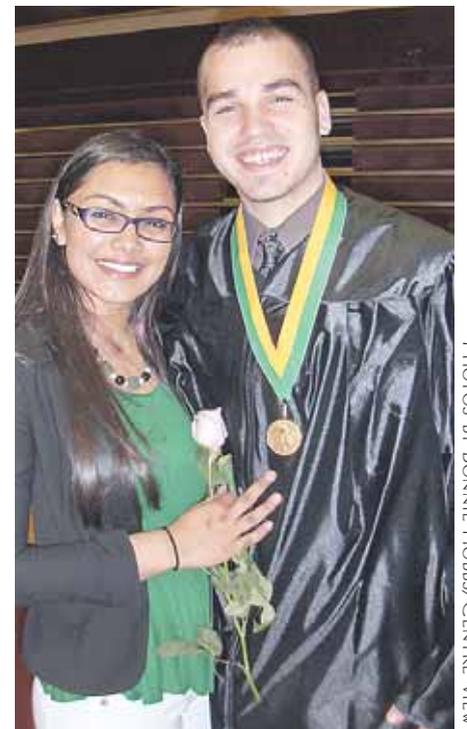
"I come from a humble home in El Salvador and a family of eight," she said. "My dad lives in the U.S. and my mom has diabetes and anemia so, growing up, I had to help her."

But the family needed more money so, at age 16, Avelar came to America where friends had a job for her. She went to high

school, too. "But I wasn't learning anything because I wasn't putting in the effort or getting support from my parents and teachers," she said. "I felt like I was alone in the world."

So she quit school and, two months later, got pregnant. "I cried myself to sleep and got no support from the father of my child," said Avelar. "I felt like a total failure, went into depression and even thought about suicide."

Overcome with emotion, tears rolled down her cheeks and she stopped speak-



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

New Mountain View grad William Parrella of Fair Oaks with his girlfriend, Narisa Chowdhury.

ing. Then a girl in the audience yelled out, "You can do it," everyone applauded and Avelar continued. In her condition, she said, she didn't want to go to work or leave the house, but she began meeting with a social worker.

"I now had a second baby, so I had to go back to school so I could get a better job later on," she said. "The social worker gave me information about Mountain View, and I was happy because I'd be with students my own age. I never got along with my  
SEE STUDENTS PERSEVERE. PAGE 11

## Mountain View Students Receive Special Awards

Principal urges graduates to never give up.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Since a power failure delayed the start of last week's Mountain View High graduation, Principal Dave Jagels gave an abbreviated version of his prepared speech.

Quoting 40-year teacher Rita Pierson, who now conducts professional-development workshops and seminars for thousands of educators, he said, "Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be."

Jagels then thanked Mountain View's teachers and staff "for the many hours you spent helping these students, including Saturdays and Sundays when you gave up your



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMEN/CENTRE VIEW

Mountain View High School principal Dave Jagels speaks to his students about obstacles that students may face in their lives following a power outage at Oakton High School that forced the moving of the school's graduation ceremony from the auditorium to the gymnasium after the ceremony had begun.

own time to be with them. And thank you for being their shoulder to cry on or the person there to give a hug when things were beyond bearable."

"Thank you for mentoring these students, calling home when they weren't in school and giving so much of yourselves to help them get to where they are right now," he continued. "I see your efforts on a daily basis and I'm humbled to be part of such a giving staff."

To the students, Jagels said, "The stories you share about your lives and the obstacles you've overcome demonstrate, in a way, that you've already taken some of the first steps to being successful in life. Let Mountain View's motto of 'Family, love and respect' be among your guiding principles. But what you've accomplished doesn't stop now and it doesn't stop here — don't you ever give up."

Before the graduating seniors received their diplomas, five students were given special awards. Math teacher Anne Hoffman presented the Citizenship Award to Delsidia Avelar.

SEE JAGELS, PAGE 13

# GRADUATION '13



Members of the Centreville High Senior Class Board (back row): April Lee, Melissa Millis, Isabella Medina-Maté, Sydney Pryor and Sabrine Ahmed Iqbal. (Front row): Summer Thrasher, Kendall Carlson, Monica Nazir and Lexi Moles



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/CENTRE VIEW

The Centreville High School Choral Department sings the National Anthem.

## Centreville High Graduates 554 Students

Centreville High School graduated 554 students at the GMU Patriot Center on Tuesday, June 18. Centreville High students received a total of \$3.8 million in scholarships.



Chris Gahumah, Will Fulton and Jake Fulkerson



Members of the Chantilly Academy AFJROTC (from left): Josh Gragg, Tanya Kumar, Sebastian Quintana and Calvin Kim.



Puja Thapa, Courtney Thurston, Kenyari Tibbs and Daniel Tillema



Daniel Weisz, Nathan West and Matt Whalen



Chris Sokol, Haley Spencer and Katie Steinbach



Monica Nazir and April Lee



Sabetta Singh and Valerie Cateriano



Fatoumata Barry and Jasjeet Kaur



Madison Warhurst



Sungdo Kim and Sungjun Kim

# ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 2

## Fair Oaks CAC Meets

The Citizens Advisory Council of the Fair Oaks District Police Station will meet Tuesday, June 25, at 7 p.m., in the roll-call room of the police station. It's at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in Chantilly.

## Food Donations

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry urgently needs donations of oil,

canned fruit, rice (2-lb. bags), peanut butter, canned tuna and meat, macaroni and cheese, sugar, fruit juice, Hamburger Helper, and pancake mix and syrup. Also needed are toothpaste, deodorant and diapers, sizes 5 and 6. Bring all items to WFCM'S new food-pantry location, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center.

## Food Drives Needed

Summer is when WFCM is most in need

of food donations. Children are home from school and need three meals a day, but many come from homes where both money and food are scarce. So WFCM is hoping local residents and businesses will hold summer food drives to help it restock its food pantry so it can provide food to local families in need. Email tkelly@wfcma.org.

## Volunteers Needed

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and

Fairfax. Contact 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteersolutions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteersolutions.htm).

## Break for Caregivers

Fairfax County needs Respite Care volunteers to give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.



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CENTRE VIEW

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## Talking, Acting To Keep Them Safe

### Reducing drug- and alcohol-related fatalities.

The pages and covers of most of this week's Connection Newspapers, including the Centre View, show the joy and accomplishment associated with high school graduation. The day celebrates graduates who accomplished much just by finishing, graduates headed to college and more.

Most area high schools also celebrate with an all-night graduation party, an event designed and coordinated by parents to provide graduates with safe and appealing fun, with many schools organizing an annual party for more than 20 years.

It was, for example, the 25th annual All Night Drug and Alcohol-Free Graduation Celebration for T.C. Williams High School when the class of 2013 held its party on Saturday, June 15. Since 1989, when this tradition began at T.C. Williams, there have been no drug or alcohol-related graduation night fatalities.

Herndon High School parents have been providing a memorable evening for our graduates in an alcohol and drug free atmosphere for more than 20 years, and report that, "since the All Night Grad Celebrations began, we are happy to say there have been no alcohol or

drug related fatalities on graduation night."

Summer is the beginning of many celebrations for young people in this area, and many of them, whether underage and over 21, admit that they celebrate with alcohol. Chances are that if your household includes a high school student, that student sometimes consumes alcohol. Graduation night is not the only danger lurking, as everyone knows.

All night graduation parties provide not only a safe place on graduation night, but also many opportunities before and after to talk about drinking and driving. There is no substitute for parents talking to their children about drinking, no matter how awkward, no matter how many eye-rolls you must endure. Driving while under the influence, or getting into a car as a passenger with someone who is impaired, is not the only danger of drinking, but it is one of the most avoidable.

On graduation day in 2007, West Potomac High School endured the unimaginable tragedy. Two young women who had graduated just hours before died in a car driven by another young woman who had alcohol in her system. The driver and another passenger, a 2005 West Potomac graduate, also died in that crash.

If you've successfully raised a teenager through high school graduation, it is unbearable to think of losing him or her now. Talk. Tell them you love them. Tell them it's been

way too much trouble to get to this point to risk losing them now. Tell them that you will come and get them, without consequences, any time they need a ride to avoid getting in a car with someone who has been drinking and/or otherwise under the influence. Look them in the eyes. Say the words.

### For Adults Who Need a Reminder

Washington Regional Alcohol Program will provide free rides for those over 21 who find themselves out celebrating on the Fourth of July without a safe ride home.

The 2013 Independence Day SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. Thursday, July 4 until 4 a.m. Friday, July 5.

To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30.00 fare), please call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service.

WRAP's SoberRide has helped to ensure greater Washington, D.C. residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays. Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 57,990 safe rides home, keeping impaired drivers off the road.

SoberRide operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day and Halloween.

See <http://wrap.org/soberide>

#### EDITORIAL

### LETTER Valuing Education

To the Editor:

Many of us will go to great lengths in the pursuit of education. Sometimes these sacrifices may be small things for others, but big things for us. For me, it was taking a summer class when I really could use vacation time after a rough spring semester.

However, a saying of the Prophet Mohammed comes to mind whenever I feel a need for that extra motivational push. He said, "Seek education even if you have to travel to China."

Luckily, I do not have to go that far as George Mason's campus is only half an hour away from me. Still, I realize that this opportunity to study is a great blessing for me and that I should appreciate every moment of it. As others around me still struggle to afford higher education, even in these great United States, I for one am very lucky and grateful.

**Saira Bhatti**  
Centreville

## Cox Farms Owners Honored

### Eric Cox, Gina Richard named Sully Lord and Lady Fairfax.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
CENTRE VIEW

In 1979 Eric Cox and his wife Gina Richard purchased 116 acres in western Fairfax County. Having founded Cox farms with his brother seven years previously, the new property was considered by some to be too remote to be successful.

More than 30 years later, Fairfax County has grown around them, and Cox Farms have been a go-to place for outdoor recreation and locally grown produce.

"There's always a reason to come by Cox Farm, for anything you need during the year," said Amy Burke of Manassas, who visited the farm's Corner Market recently. "We get our Christmas trees here in the winter, I get flowers for my mother and sisters in the spring, we buy produce here in the summer and try to come to the Fall Festival every year."

Burke is one of thousands of people who have come to the farm since 1983, when Eric Cox's decision to give a hayride to a local group led to the creation of the Fall Festival.

Cox and Richard were honored by Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully) on Tuesday, June 4, as Lord and Lady Fairfax from the district. The annual recognition is given to a man and woman each year by each supervisor for their community efforts.

"In addition to growing and selling their own produce, Cox Farms supports numerous community ini-



**Eric Cox and his wife Gina Richard are awarded Lord and Lady Fairfax for the Sully District Tuesday, June 4.**

tiatives," Frey said. "They lend tremendous support to Westfield and Chantilly High School. Each year they help Westfield's Mulch Day fundraiser by providing trucks and drivers to haul the mulch. In addition, they purchase program advertisements and allow theater boosters from both schools to use the farm property to promote upcoming theater shows."

Cox and Richard currently run the farm with their three children Lily, Aaron and Lucas.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEG CROSSETT

**On Capitol Hill: Meg Crossett (fifth from left) with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine's aide, Russel Wade, and Virginia families who have children with cancer, who've lost them to the disease or are survivors.**

## Lobbying for Children's Cancer Treatment

FROM PAGE 1

surers to charge no more than \$30 for specialty drugs.

❖ **Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Reauthorization Act:** Developed by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) to expand childhood-cancer research, improve efforts to identify and track childhood-cancer incidences, and identify opportunities to expand the development and research of therapeutics necessary to treat children with cancer.

❖ **H.R. 2058, Childhood Cancer Survivors' Quality of Life Act:** Introduced by Rep. Jackie

Speier (D-CA), it would provide resources for research and survivorship programs to improve the quality of life for all childhood cancer survivors. It would also increase access to the long-term, comprehensive, health-care services they need and enhance understanding of the late effects of their childhood diseases and cancer treatments.

"Each of these pieces of legislation has the power to make a difference in the lives of the 40,000 children treated for cancer each year," said Crossett. "That's why we're here — to make sure Congress does everything in its power to help kids who are fighting cancer each and every day."

## Ziegler To Lead Swim Clinic

World Record holder, two-time Olympian, and Great Falls native, Kate Ziegler, is visiting the Virginia Run Riptide Swim Team on June 30. Ziegler, who was a member of the 2008 and 2012 Olympian Teams and currently holds the World Record in the 1500 meter freestyle, is conducting a swim clinic to encourage and inspire young swimmers to reach their greatest potential, while learning to overcome adversity.

Ziegler grew up as a member of the Great Falls Rapids Swim Team. On numerous occasions she returned from international competitions to compete in the Saturday "A" meets for the Rapids. By relating her experiences growing up in the Northern Virginia Swim League, Ziegler's goal is to show the Riptide swimmers that anything is possible with a goal, hard work, and determination.

The clinic will be at the Virginia Run Community Center from 9-11 a.m. on June 30. Ziegler will speak, answer questions, and get in the water with swimmers to discuss drills and proper technique, then sign autographs and take pictures with athletes.

Community groups interested in arranging a visit may email Ziegler at [katezieglerswim@gmail.com](mailto:katezieglerswim@gmail.com).

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# Rising to Boys & Girls Clubs' 'Youth of the Year'

With help of Boys & Girls Clubs, local immigrant student receives full college scholarship.

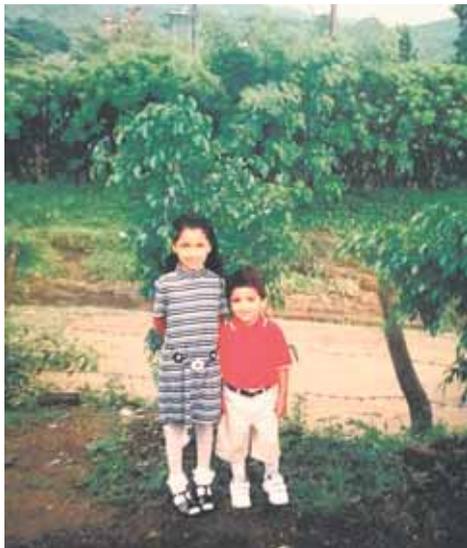
BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
CENTRE VIEW

**T**oday, Henry Lopez has a bright future, complete with a full scholarship to college. It wasn't always that way, however, and he remembers being a preschool student in a foreign country, unfamiliar with the language and culture, fighting to learn, to fit in, to avoid falling into a gang.

The Boys & Girls Clubs proved an invaluable help to him in this struggle, and Henry was just selected as the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year for District of Columbia and Commonwealth of Virginia.

"For my family, the American dream when we came here in 1999 was survival," said Henry, who graduated from JEB Stuart High School in Falls Church last week. "In Guatemala, my parents realized that there was no money [or] opportunity to obtain it, so the only way to care for my [family] was to come to the United States."

**THAT DREAM** has gone far beyond survival, as Henry was accepted into George Mason University's Honors College and awarded a full academic scholarship to the Fairfax school as a University Scholar. Henry was one of 21 students selected from a pool of 1,500 applicants who were expected to "possess exemplary records of academic achievement ... demonstrate evidence of intellectual vision, a commitment to the obligations of citizenship and the potential to overcome obstacles and solve challenging problems," according to Anthony Dyer



**Henry Lopez (pictured here in Guatemala with his sister Yuri) moved with his family to Falls Church in search of the American dream. Earlier this month, he graduated from high school with a 4.3 G.P.A., was awarded a full scholarship to George Mason University and was selected as the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year for District of Columbia and Commonwealth of Virginia.**



**Henry Lopez (center) is pictured at home with (from left) with his mother Emerita, his brother William, his sister Yuri and his father Arnoldo. Henry, who was selected as the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year for District of Columbia and Commonwealth of Virginia, credits his parents and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fairfax with helping him realize his dreams.**

Hoefer, Ph.D., the director of Mason's University Scholars Program and an Old Town Alexandria resident.

His college application wasn't the first time he impressed George Mason officials, however. While still in the eighth grade, Henry was accepted into George Mason's Early Identification Program, which supports and enriches students who will be the first in their families to attend college.

"He was an exceptional first generation college student," said Lewis E. Forrest II, the program's executive director. "Recently, I was looking over his eighth grade application and he stated that his number one goal was to go to college. Not only has he met that goal, he has gained a positive reputation before he has even enrolled in classes here at Mason."

Henry graduated with a 4.3 GPA as a member of the National Honor Society, as well as vice president of the JEB Stuart High School's chapter of the Spanish Honor Society. Among a lengthy list of academic and extracurricular accomplishments, he also served on his high school's Student Government Association and ran on the varsity cross-country team. While he's proud of his accomplishments, he gives much of the credit to the support he received from his parents and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW), Fairfax region located in Falls Church, Mount Vernon and Herndon.

Henry says his appreciation of hard work came from his parents: Emerita Lopez, who works as a housekeeper, and Arnoldo Lopez, a day laborer.

"Witnessing my parents physically push themselves every day had a tremendous impact on me," said Henry. "I saw their situation and they constantly reminded me that they didn't want me to clean houses or mow lawns."

Emerita said she and her husband had loftier goals for Henry, his 21-year-old sis-

ter Yuri and his 13-year-old brother William. "I came here with my husband because it meant a much better life for my kids, but I had to work hard every day," she said.

**THE LOPEZ FAMILY** moved to the Culmore neighborhood of Falls Church 15 years ago. It's an area with affordable housing, but also gang activity, so the Lopezes found protection for their children in the form of the Culmore Chapter of the Boys & Girls Clubs.

"I start working at 8 in the morning and finished at 8 at night," said Emerita. "I work as a housekeeper so we don't have much money for babysitters. I was looking for a safe place for my kids while I worked long hours. When [they were] at the club, I knew that [they were] safe."

Henry says that at the time, he was unaware of the danger that lurked in Culmore. "I had to grow up at a young age," he said.

The Boys & Girls Clubs not only provided safety, it taught him to dream. "It would have been very easy to be influenced by gang activity because my parents were working all the time," he said. "The Boys & Girls Clubs gave activities, provided me a place to go to learn about college and explore careers. Had it not been for the Boys & Girls Clubs, I would not have had the vision of going to college."

Wonhee Kang, regional director of the Fairfax County Region Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, has served an important role in Henry's life. "When I first met him, he was 4," she said. "It was right after he arrived in this country from Guatemala. When he first came to the club, he didn't speak any English. He was hiding and he was very shy."

Over the past 14 years, Kang has watched Lopez evolve from that shy little boy into an eloquent orator and a proficient scholar. "I've been watching him grow year after year. He learned slowly about culture, cul-

ture of the club and community," she said. "There were times when he didn't have appropriate clothes for speaking engagements and competitions so we made sure that he had a suit. I took him to our Youth of the Year competition in Newport News, Va., and that was his first time staying a hotel. The kids may not have [much] financially, but these are amazing young people."

Kang said that Henry was always interested in academics. "He enjoyed the power hour, which is time for studying and homework. That made him strong academically and helped him earn a scholarship to George Mason University. He got into five universities, but he got a full scholarship from George Mason."

Henry was selected to speak at the 28th Annual Tim Russert Congressional Dinner presented by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington last month, an annual fundraising event for the Boys & Girls Clubs. Kang also invited Henry's family "because this is a once-in-a-lifetime event for Henry.

It was the first time in Henry's life his father was able to attend one of his activities. "It is not that doesn't want to," Kang said. "A lot of times his work schedule doesn't allow it, but he is also afraid to go to events where the majority of people speak English and he doesn't."

Kang's effort to ensure that Henry's family attended the dinner proved to be a profound gesture. "I was overwhelmed the whole time because I had never gone to such an elegant event," said Henry's father, Arnoldo, through an interpreter. "Tears could not stay away as [Henry] spoke. It was hard for me to believe that he was talking in front of so many people."

**DURING HIS SPEECH**, Henry told the crowd about the challenges he faced growing up in Virginia as an immigrant with financial limitations. "Looking back, the Clubs taught me to channel my responsibilities and develop a balance, providing me with a normal childhood. If it were not for the Boys & Girls Clubs, I would not be pursuing every resource to make a better future for myself and others."

Representatives from George Mason were in the audience for Henry's speech. "There were members of Congress, multimillionaire donors and representatives from the community who spoke," said Hoefer. Henry, however, "was the one person who blew the crowd away. People were teary and getting choked up. He's the best example of what those programs can do for kids who don't have opportunities."

When Henry begins college this fall, he will be embarking on a lifetime of potential and fulfilling one of the first goals that he set for himself. "The chance of college is a real opportunity and I'm willing to work for it," said Henry. "It is personal story for me, but it is [also] a story for other youth in search of the American dream even if you have even if they have financial limitations."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HENRY LOPEZ

# ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos welcome.

## ONGOING

The **Airbus IMAX Theater at National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center**, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, is showing movies including "Hubble," "Fighter Pilot," "Space Junk," "Air Racers," "The Dream is Alive" and "Star Trek: Into the Darkness". Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy/> or call 703-572-4118 for the schedule.

## REGISTER NOW

**Young Actors' Workshop.** June 24-28 from 9 a.m.-noon at Westfield High School. Students in grades 3-6 can discover the artist inside themselves through games, acting exercises and more. \$125. Visit [www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com](http://www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com) for an enrollment form or call 703-488-6439. Register early as space is limited and camp sells out.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 20

**All Creatures Great and Small.** 10:30 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive Meet local animals from the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center. For children ages 6-12. Registration required, 703-830-2223.

**Pajama Storytime.** 7 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 3-6 can wear pjs and enjoy bedtime stories. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 22

**Master Gardeners.** 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get tips, information and advice on their home gardens. Free. 703-502-3883.

**Peaceful Paws.** 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children on the autism spectrum or with other developmental challenges meet and read to a trained therapy dog Dakota, a gentle giant Bernese Mountain dog. Reading is not required, but can read from a library book or already owned one. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

**Hidden Pond: Bird's Nests.** 2:30 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades K-6 can learn about birds and their nesting habits, and then try and make one. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 22-23

**Plein Air Festival.** The festival is open to all levels of painters including amateur, intermediate, teens and more. Enjoy a silent auction, artist competition with prizes and awards and more. Call 703-830-1480 or visit [www.artguildofclifton.org](http://www.artguildofclifton.org) to register or for information.

## MONDAY/JUNE 24

**Bouncin' Babies.** 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

**Thriving Three to Fives.** 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

## MONDAY/JULY 1

**Centreville Toastmasters.** 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Overcome your fear of public speaking in a proven program that has helped thousands over the last 89 years. All welcome.

## MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 8-12

**Summer STEM Workshop.** The Chantilly Science Department will be conducting a week-long summer STEM workshop from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. for rising sophomores who are taking honors chemistry during the 2013/2014 school year. Students will learn to use a variety of computer interfaced sensors to collect and

analyze data. \$40. There are a limited number of spaces, and applications will be accepted on a first in, first accepted basis. Apply at [www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS](http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS). Contact Ina Koppel at [irkoppel@fcps.edu](mailto:irkoppel@fcps.edu).

Children age 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

**Small Wonders.** 11:30 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.

**Sully Book Club.** 1 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can discuss "Lolita in Tehran" by Azar Nafisi. Free. 703-830-2223.

**Eat My Dust.** 2:30 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 6-12 can meet Charlie Williams, vocal sound impressionist and noise making children's comedian. Free. 703-502-3883.

**Writers of Chantilly.** 6:45 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. Ask for title. 703-830-2223.

## TUESDAY/JUNE 25

**Uno, Dos, Tres con Andres.** 10:30 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. All ages can sing and move with music and dance from Latin America. Free. Registration required, 703-830-2223.

**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.

**Bouncin' Babies.** 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

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

## JUNE 25 THROUGH JULY 26

**Summer Workshop.** Children in rising grades 3-8 can enjoy a workshop at Mountain View School, 5775 Spindle Court, 6:30-9 p.m. \$400. Children can learn more about acting, improvisation, musical theatre, home movies and play production. Contact [workshops@thealliancetheatre.org](mailto:workshops@thealliancetheatre.org) or 703-220-8101 for a registration form.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 26

**Toddlin' Twos.** 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 2 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

**Bouncin' Babies.** 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, 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 Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can discuss "The Tiger's Wife" by Tea Obreht. Free. 703-830-2223.

## SATURDAY/JULY 13

**Self Defense Seminar.** 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the nZone in Chantilly. Designed for women ages 13 and up. To register visit [www.thenZone.com](http://www.thenZone.com) or 703-266-0118.

## JULY 29-AUG. 2 OR AUG. 12-16

**Summer Sports Camps.** Jubilee Christian Center is holding summer sports camps (basketball, flag football, & soccer) for grades K-6 (as of fall school year) from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

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How can one day of fun last an entire year? Virginia residents can now visit Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center for one year for the price of one day — **\$20.50 for adults and \$10.25 for ages 6-12** — available only online.

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[GaylordNational.com](http://GaylordNational.com) or call (301) 965-4000  
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\*Price is per room, plus tax, parking, and resort fee for maximum of four people per room. No additional tickets are available for purchase outside of the package. Based on availability, for a limited time, and price will increase closer to event date. Not valid in conjunction with groups or other offers. Atrium upgrades may be available at an additional cost. Advance deposit required. Must cancel 72 hours prior to arrival for refund. Not retroactive. Event will occur rain or shine. No pets, personal fireworks, outside food and beverage, lawn chairs or coolers permitted. All bags are subject to search before entering the event area. \*\*One (1) \$100 resort credit per stay, applied upon arrival and valid toward food and beverage. No cash refunds for unused resort credits. Other restrictions may apply.

# BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

The cost is \$160 per week, which includes a T-shirt. Pre-registration required by June 21. Before care & aftercare will be available for Aug. 12-16 only: cost is \$25 per day for before care & \$25 per day for aftercare (or \$45 per day for both). Jubilee Christian Center is at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Call 703-383-1170 or visit [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum** needs volunteers to work on Sundays at 13938

Braddock Road, Centreville. The museum is open from 1-4 p.m. on Sundays, when volunteer help is needed the most. Civil War buffs who want something worthwhile to do on Sundays are perfect candidates. Generally at least two volunteers are on duty for each day of coverage at the museum. The museum is also open on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Mondays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 703-785-5294 or visit [www.stuart-mosby.com](http://www.stuart-mosby.com).

**Respite Care Volunteers.** Give a family caregiver of a frail, older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the

older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods in Fairfax County. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or [Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov). Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm>.

**Advocates.** 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. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/vol\\_ombud\\_program.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/vol_ombud_program.htm).

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

## ONGOING

**Clifton Day 2013.** Vendor applications are online at [www.cliftonday.com](http://www.cliftonday.com). Barbara Hutto is the new chairperson. E-mail [cliftonday2013@verizon.net](mailto:cliftonday2013@verizon.net) to

volunteer to chair a part of the day. Clifton Day 2013 is Oct. 13, 2013.

**Senior Fall Prevention Classes.** Mondays (2-3 p.m.), Tuesdays and Thursdays (1:30-2:30 p.m.), Fridays (11-11:45 a.m.) 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. At The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive. Registrations are required. Call 703-667-9800 to register as space is limited. Free trial first class then register on site. \$10 per class.

**Centreville Garden Club Meeting.** 7 p.m. every third Monday at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Learn more at [centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com](http://centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com) or e-mail: [centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com). Visitors welcome. Phone 703-830-2942.

The **John Witt Chapter of the Colonial Dames** of the 17th Century is accepting new members. Colonial Dames is a patriotic, genealogical and heraldic society for women of lineal descendants of an ancestor who lived and served prior to 1701 in one of the original colonies in the geographical area of the present United States. The chapter meets four times a year usually in January, May, September and November. For more information contact [jsmithtot@aol.com](mailto:jsmithtot@aol.com).

The **Clifton Presbyterian Church Preschool** has openings in all classes for the fall. Schedules and classes have been adjusted for greater flexibility to meet the changing needs of the area. Pass the word along to any families who may be looking for a preschool home for their kids. Visit [www.cliftonpc.org/cpcpreschool.html](http://www.cliftonpc.org/cpcpreschool.html) or call Gretchen at 703-830-3175.

**Pleasant Valley Preschool,** 4615 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly is now accepting registrations for the 2013-14 school year. The goal is to provide a learning environment that promotes social development and a nurturing preschool education. Pleasant Valley also currently has limited openings in its 2 and 3 day programs. Visit [www.pleasantvalleypreschool.com](http://www.pleasantvalleypreschool.com) or call 703-378-6911.

**NAMI Northern Virginia Connections** is a free education and support program for individuals living with mental illness at the Chantilly Library 4000 Stringfellow Road Chantilly, every Tuesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the conference room. Visit [www.NAMI-NorthernVirginia.org](http://www.NAMI-NorthernVirginia.org) for more.

**Northern Virginia Neighbors Club.** A non-profit organization offering an opportunity to meet new friends. Activities include book clubs, card games, crafts, fitness, gardening, mah jong, needleworks, rummoli, theater and more. Meet members at one of the monthly luncheons, coffees or mixers. Email [nvn156@yahoo.com](mailto:nvn156@yahoo.com).

**The National Alliance on Mental Illness Northern Virginia Connections** groups are free, bi-weekly groups for adults living with mental illness. Second and fourth Tuesdays 12-1:30 p.m. Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Contact Janette at 703-631-2410 or [NAMINorthernVA@gmail.com](mailto:NAMINorthernVA@gmail.com)

**Fair Oaks Parkinson Support Group** for people living with Parkinson's disease, caregivers and family, meets on the fourth Saturday monthly, from 10 a.m.-noon at Sunrise at Fair Oaks, 3750 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-378-7221. [ParkinsonFoundation.org](http://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 Dr. People living with Parkinson's \$10, caregivers \$5. Registration required. Sonia Gow 703-378-7221.

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

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Lord of Life Lutheran Church...  
703-323-9500

St. Andrew Lutheran Church...  
703-830-2768

## METHODIST

Centreville United Methodist...  
703-830-2684

Pender United Methodist Church...  
703-278-8023

Pleasant Valley United Methodist...  
703-327-4461

## NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Centreville Community Church...  
703-580-5226

Christian Life Center...703-754-9600

Clear River Community Church...  
703-881-7443

Covenant Christian Center...703-631-5340

Fair Oaks Church...703-631-1112

New Life...703-222-8836

Tree of Life Bible Church...703-830-4563

## PENTECOSTAL

Capital Worship Center...703-530-8100

Church of the Blessed Trinity...  
703-803-3007

## ORTHODOX

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church...  
703-818-8372

The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County...703-421-7515

St. Raphael Orthodox Church...  
703-303-3047

## PRESBYTERIAN

Centreville Presbyterian Church...  
703-830-0098

Chantilly Presbyterian Church...  
703-449-1354

Clifton Presbyterian Church...703-830-3175

Young Saeng Korean Presbyterian Church...  
703-818-9200

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wellspring United Church of Christ...  
703-257-4111

## ANGLICAN

Church of the Epiphany...703-481-8601  
Christ the Redeemer...703-502-1732

## ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Centreville Assembly of God...703-830-1841

## BAHA'I

Baha'i Faith...1-800-22-UNITE

## BAPTIST

Centreville Baptist Church...703-830-3333  
Chantilly Baptist Church...703-378-6880  
Clifton Baptist Church...703-263-1161  
Second Baptist Church...703-830-1850  
Mount Olive Baptist Church...703-830-8769  
Ox Hill Baptist Church...703-378-5555

## BIBLE

Chantilly Bible Church...703-263-1188  
Community Bible Church...703-222-7737

## CATHOLIC

St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church...  
703-817-1770

St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church...  
703-266-1310

St. Paul Chung Catholic Church...  
703-968-3010

St. Timothy Catholic Church...703-378-7461

St. Veronica Catholic Church...703-773-2000

## EPISCOPAL

Church of the Epiphany...703-715-6070  
St. John's Episcopal Church...703-803-7500

## JEWISH

Congregation Yad Shalom...703-802-8901  
Temple Beth Torah...703-263-2252

## LUTHERAN

King of Kings Lutheran Church...  
703-378-7272

# GRADUATION '13

## Students Persevere To Graduate

FROM PAGE 3

teachers until Mountain View.”

When Avelar first started there, she said, “I had to look up almost every word in the dictionary to understand it. I thought I’d graduate in 2015, so I pushed myself to learn English to graduate faster.” Within months, she advanced to ESOL 3 and then to ESOL 4.

“I’m now more mature and more capable of making choices good for me and for the future, not just for the moment,” she said. “I’m confident I can accomplish what I want and give my sons a better life. Thank you, Mountain View.”

### ADA RAMIREZ

Next at the podium was Ada Ramirez, 24, who described herself as a “friend, daughter, wife and mother of three.” From a small village in El Salvador, she grew up in poverty. First, her dad left the family for the U.S.; then when she was 11, her mother did, too.

“My heart fell out of me,” said Ramirez, in tears. “I couldn’t understand why she had to leave. I felt abandoned, with no hope. And as the oldest daughter, I had to take care of my younger siblings. But in El Salvador there’s a saying, ‘Do what you have to do’ to survive.”

So at age 13, she and her brothers also headed for America, but it was a tough and perilous trip. “It was a long journey and I walked barefoot part of the way,” she said. “But after no sleep and some danger, my brothers and I entered the U.S.”

Attending high school, Ramirez met her future husband, Luis, and had a son. Some 18 months later, she was pregnant again; and when their oldest child was 3, the family moved to Virginia. She heard about Mountain View and enrolled.

“School was challenging — especially since I was pregnant for the third time,” she said. “I was working 24 hours a day as a wife, mother and student. But Mountain View dramatically changed my life. It’s a school with a family atmosphere where students are treated with love and respect — and where students not born speaking English get all the support they need.”

Now, she’s planning to become an elementary-school teacher. Yet back then, said Ramirez, it would have been easy to give up. “But I didn’t, because of



**Mountain View grad Nickole Caballero of Chantilly with her family. From left are her brother, Chris Azenas; mother, Ana Llanos; Nickole; husband, Elvis Almendarez, and brother, Jean Pierre Caballero.**

my school, my family and my faith,” she said. “When I was 12, I was a mother to my brothers; and now I’ve learned, you have to do what it takes to reach your goals.”

### JAMIE FREAR

When she was younger, Jamie Frear was a follower, not a leader. “I was making poor choices and, at age 15, I was pregnant,” she said. “I couldn’t believe it. I took eight pregnancy tests, but it still didn’t feel real. I felt alone, embarrassed and ashamed of what I’d done. I hid it from my friends, and I was tired and sick and couldn’t focus on my classes.”

With three years of school left, she knew her base school wouldn’t be best for her. “I wanted a new place so I could have a fresh start and concentrate on school and my future,” she said. At Mountain View, counselor Sue Houde welcomed her and told her about the school’s pregnant and parenting students program.

“School was much better here; chemistry was my favorite subject,” said Frear. “I took assignments home and worked hard. I made friends and worked part-time and the feeling of aloneness was gone.”

She, too, wants to teach elementary school and knows she must make wise choices to achieve her objective and make a good life for her daughter, Abigail.

“I’ve learned that, if you focus on the negative, things will stay that way,” said Frear. “But you have to focus on the future, and I’m ready to keep moving forward.”



**Nickole Caballero is congratulated by her family following her high school graduation from Mountain View High School.**



**Virgilio Daniel Vasquez and Dai Tran listen to the student speakers during the 2013 Mountain View High School graduation ceremony held at Oakton High School.**

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## OPEN HOUSES

### SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JUNE 22 & 23

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

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10100 Waterside Dr.....\$1,245,000...Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-216-4949  
6014 Deep Creek Way.....\$793,435...Sat 12-5.....Clark Massie.....Tetra..703-391-6245  
9223 Burke Rd.....Call Agent.....Sat 2-5.....Dorota Khan.....Samson Props..703-226-9043

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6615 Harness Hill Ct.....\$669,000...Sun 1-4.....Barbara Blumer..Coldwell Banker..703-405-5993  
13802 Choptank Ct.....\$545,000...Sun 1-3..Kim & Javen House.....Long & Foster..703-201-8660  
13220 Maple Creek Ln.....\$524,900...Sun 1-4.....Beth Marra.....Samson Props..703-927-7777

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12970 Wyckland Dr.....\$1,749,000...Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-216-4949  
12025 Seven Hills Ln.....\$1,424,000...Sun 1-4.....Wade Gilley.....National..703-400-4892  
12130 Sangsters Ct.....\$1,380,000...Sat 1-4.....Leslie Thurman.....Long & Foster..703-895-6000  
7242 Archlaw Dr.....\$1,075,000...Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365  
6127 Clifton Rd.....\$985,000...Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365  
7513 Tutley Terr.....\$940,000...Sun 12-3.....Sharon Mills.....RE/MAX..703-296-1676  
13520 Mallard Watch Way.....\$374,900...Sat 1-4.....Chris Smith.....Long & Foster..703-375-9227

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10600 Sandy Run Trl.....\$1,575,000...Sun 11-3.....Vicki Frank.....Keller Williams..703-636-7300  
9740 Thorn Bush Dr.....\$1,395,000...Sun 1-4.....Meghan Wasinger.....Jobin..703-828-5660  
10415 Dominion Valley Dr..\$1,250,000...Sun 1-4.....Dana LaFever.....Weichert..703-609-3479  
11090 Sandy Manor Dr.....\$1,200,000...Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-216-4949  
10712 Ox Croft Ct.....\$1,150,000...Sun 2-4.....Cheryl Kenny.....Golden..571-379-4734  
10101 Van Thompson Rd.....\$899,900...Sat 1-4.....Margaret Bodge.....Keller Williams..571-249-6205  
7908 Greengrook Ct.....\$875,000...Sun 1-4.....Mary Anthony.....Keller Williams..703-636-4998  
11566 Clara Barton Dr.....\$849,900...Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986  
11501 Lilting Ln.....\$849,000...Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365  
10990 Clara Barton Dr.....\$624,950...Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

#### Franconia/Kingstowne

6256 Traci Joyce Ln.....\$504,000...Sun 2-4.....Laurie Hailey.....Century 21..703-528-8195

#### Lorton

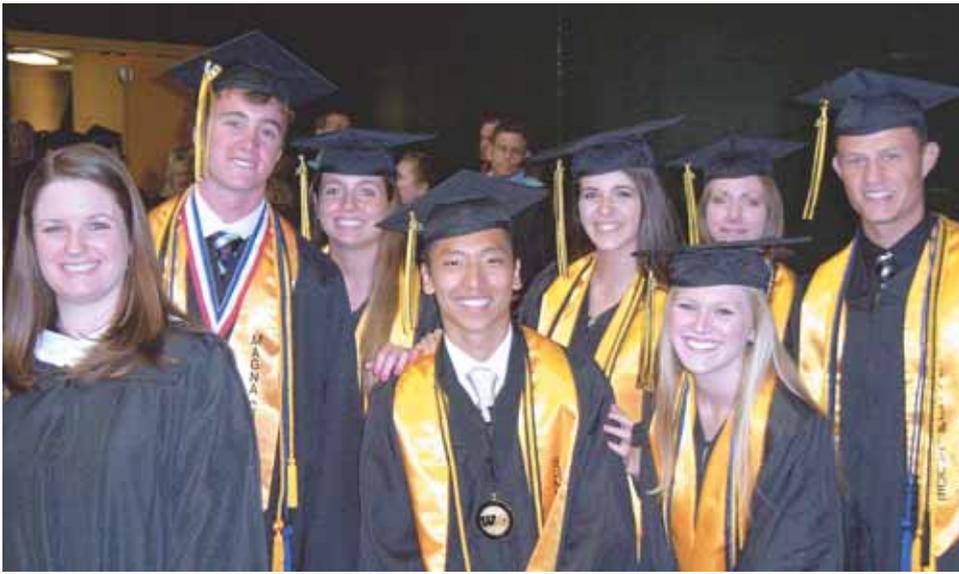
9511 Peniwill Dr.....\$1,179,900...Sun 1-4.....Monica Adams.....RE/MAX..703-434-9400  
6842 Tiddle Way.....\$575,000...Sun 1-4.....Stephanie Rush..Coldwell Banker..703-451-2500  
8970 Fascination Ct #315.....\$363,101...Sat 11-4.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990  
8970 Fascination Ct #311.....\$299,345...Sat 11-4.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990

#### Springfield

7100 Granberry Way.....\$1,199,000...Sat 1-4.....James Lee.....Infinity..703-354-7515  
7313 Golden Horseshoe Ct..\$419,900...Sun 1-4.....Laura Sabo.....ERA..703-359-7800

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# GRADUATION '13



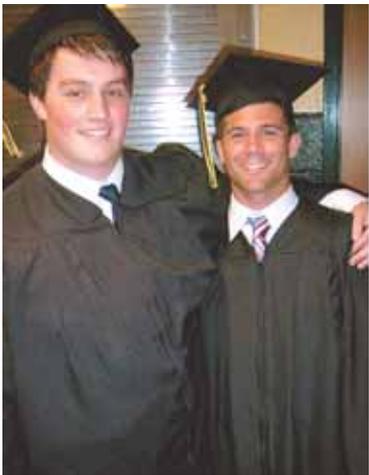
**Westfield Senior Class Officers (from left): Brandon Fiala, Katy Dunigan, Andrew Kim, Rebecca Lawson, Kelly Duncan, and Reid Koutstaal**



**Members of the Chantilly Academy AFJROTC Color Guard: Christian Dela Cruz, Sebastian Bonilla, Joshua Gragg, Jacob Payne, Calvin Kim and Staycha Harris.**

## Westfield High Graduates 637 Students

Westfield High School graduated 637 students during graduation ceremonies on Monday, June 17 at the GMU Patriot Center. Westfield students received \$4.8 million in scholarships.



**Peter Donovan and Beau Donahue**



**Zachary Ferguson and Mohammed Faruq**



**Victoria Druffel, Samantha Drew and Lauren Drew**



**Kelsey Stanton and Jessica Starkey**



**Jacqueline Given and Andrew Gidzinski**



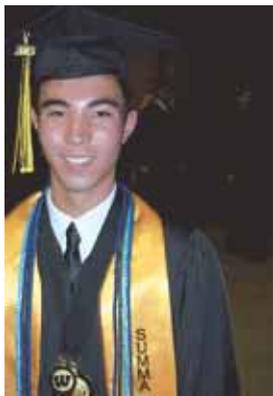
**Hannah Boateng and Madeleine Bloxam**



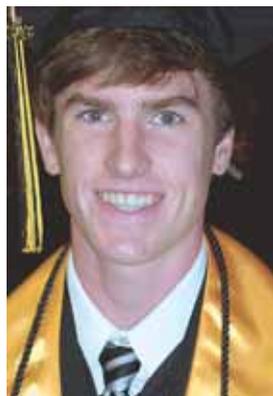
**Anmol Gupta, Nandun Gunawardhana, Kaj Gumbs and Johnny Gullette**



**Christina Beiene**



**Daniel Coo**



**Jeffrey Edmondson**



**Jennifer Kim**

PHOTOS BY  
STEVE HIBBARD  
CENTRE VIEW

# GRADUATION '13

## Jagels: 'Never Give Up'

FROM PAGE 3

"Delsidia helped build a positive school community," said Hoffman. "She's a leader and a doer. Despite what would be overwhelming challenges, she persevered and achieved her goals. She also modeled family, love and respect on a daily basis by her care and compassion for her Mountain View family."

Giving the Personal Achievement Award was physics teacher Jeff Jones. "Many Mountain View students wrestle with family, job and adult responsibilities, and this award recognizes that," he said.

He then presented it to Nofa Elias and Catie Chase. "Nofa is a working mother of two, elementary-school students and sets high standards for herself," said Jones. "And Catie works nights and weekends at a veterinary clinic while caring for her family's health needs."

ESOL Department Chair Corri Reamer gave the first two Faculty Awards for academic and personal achievement to Ada Ramirez and Noelia Amurrio. "Ada started at Mountain View three years ago with no English, but helped her peers at every turn," said Reamer. "She was a determined learner and, by the end of her first year, she passed her geosystems SOL."

Reamer said Ramirez also mentored other young mothers and "her compassion and generosity of spirit have made her universally respected here at the View. She was once too timid to speak, but is now a bold and confident woman. She even wrote to President Obama and received an answer."

"She received the highest score on the writing SOL of all Mountain View students, this spring," continued Reamer. "She'd be a phenomenal teacher; and we're certain that, wherever she goes, success will follow."

As for Amurrio, Reamer called her a "uniquely tenacious student. Her drive for excellence is unyielding." Amurrio, too, didn't speak English when she came to the school, but Reamer said an "internal motivation" to do her best propelled her forward.



**Jamie Michelle Frear talks about challenges she has faced early in her life and how her transition to Mountain View High School has helped her.**



**Delsidia Maricela Avelar holds one of her sons after giving one of the student speeches during her graduation ceremony for Mountain View High School last week. Avelar talked about the challenges she has faced in her life that forced the delay of receiving her high school diploma for many years.**

"It hasn't always been easy, but Noelia's persevered and also made time to help other students with lesser skills," said Reamer. "In December, she spoke at the ESOL students' meeting and told her story of growth, setbacks and success."

Noelia's passion to be the best and determination to succeed has made her a role model at Mountain View.

Presenting the final Faculty Award was school social worker Cynthia Crissafulli. The recipient was Jamie Frear, who came to Mountain View in her sophomore year.

"Her resilience, generosity and integrity make her a role model to her daughter," said Crissafulli. "And her compassion, honor, diligence and enthusiasm made her a leader among her peers."

Frear was also president of the school's Environmental Club, and her academic ability enabled her to graduate a year early with a 3.76 GPA. Said Crissafulli: "It has been a pleasure and an honor knowing her, and we look forward to hearing about all her future accomplishments."



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/CENTRE VIEW

**Mountain View High School graduates move their tassels marking the official end to their high school careers as members of the class of 2013.**

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**Testing, 1, 2, 3;  
Testing, 4, 5, 6;  
Testing 7, 8, 9...**



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Different from last week's column on the testing subject, "Full Circle," this week's column addresses another emotional battleground: the unknown. Other than selling computers out of Frank Costanza's house and reaching a "Serenity Now"-type nirvana with each sale, outlets available to yours truly – one of many terminal cancer patients anticipating results from a CT scan of my lungs/upper torso, and in turn awaiting the electronic exchange from my oncologist advising me of said results – are difficult to come by. And even though I'm experienced at this process, four-plus years and counting, literally; and accustomed as well to the "cycle of loom," familiar it has become; easier however, it has not.

In effect, this testing and waiting for the results is its own test: of patience, self-discipline, endurance, forbearance; so I tell myself: "Serenity Now," and hope there's not insanity later, as there was for Lloyd Braun on this most memorable Seinfeld episode.

However much I want to pretend, deny and minimize the significance of these results, the reality is, my life sort of depends on them. Moreover the digital images that will appear on the computer screen in the doctor's office will indeed tell the tale, hopefully not of woe. Yours truly hemming and hawing and being asymptomatic are all irrelevant once the radiologist hits send and the images/results end up in my oncologist's inbox. That's when the rubber will truly hit the road and I will learn if my future is now or later.

So you bet it's a test, and it's no stinkin' multiple guess/multiple choice test either. It's a test of character, of will; you against yourself. And though you'd like the best man to win and for you to be the best man, the reality is: cancer may be the man and you may not be. As much as you try, there's an inevitability to science and medicine and not always does the best man win. Death and taxes are inevitable, as the old joke goes – for a reason!

Unfortunately, in many patients, cancer kills; it's not a feeling, it's a fact. My job as a cancer patient is to resist and not succumb to its devastating devices. Every day is a test, physically and especially emotionally. One's effects I can attempt to semi control, the other, not so much. As I cycle around to my next scan, I am reminded of how challenging this whole cancer trip has been. And though I've been there and been doing it now for nearly four and one half years post-diagnosis, each scan presents new risks. For cancer patients though, these scans are a necessity of life. Unfortunately – and this is our harsh reality, they may also be a precursor of death. Try studying for that.

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

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# Balmoral Elegance

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tion room perfect for a pool table. Enjoy the stone patio overlooking the private treed lot. Appreciate the hardwood floors, French doors, dual staircases, and other wonderful features of the home. The home has a three-car side-load garage. The lot is over an acre and the home includes over 6,000 square feet of finished space.

## RE/MAX Allegiance



**Sharon Mills**

**Realtor**

Associate Broker VA & DC

MBA Finance

Direct : 703-296-1676

E-Mail: Sharon.Mills@rmxtalk.com

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A donation to Children's Miracle Network will be made when the home is sold.

