



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE KLAMAR/AFP/GETTY

Michael League (in purple shirt, far left) and his band, Snarky Puppy, pose with their Grammy for Best R&B Performance.

CVHS Grad Wins Grammy

**R&B Performance:
 Michael League and
 band Snarky Puppy.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

Sometimes, good guys do finish first — and Centreville High grad Michael League and his band Snarky Puppy are proof.

Besides making music, they pass on their knowledge to young musicians worldwide. And Sunday, Jan. 26, they won a Grammy award for Best R&B Performance.

The 56th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony was held that night at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. But earlier that day, Snarky Puppy was honored for its cover of Lalah Hathaway's song, "Somethin'."

"We've made seven albums and played over 1,000 shows," said League on Tuesday. "It really

SEE CENTREVILLE HIGH, PAGE 4

An Interview with Michael League

Following Snarky Puppy's Jan. 26 Grammy victory for Best R&B Performance, the band's founder, Centreville High grad Michael League, responded to the following questions.

Q: How did it feel to win the Grammy? Did you think you had a chance?

A: "It felt unbelievably fulfilling. I use that word because this band has spent almost 10 years working harder than any other band I've ever seen in some of the least glamorous conditions you can imagine for a touring group.

To be honest, I thought our odds were very, very slim. Besides Macklemore [and Ryan Lewis], we were the only group in the top 60 categories on

an independent record label. That makes a difference.

And as the award ceremony went on, we saw that every single act that performed live ended up winning in their category. Hiatus Kaiyote, a great band from Australia, was in our category and performed right before the announcement. I was sure they'd win."

Q: What do you think set your song apart from the others in your category?

A: "Well, the category is called Best R&B Performance, and our song was the only one recorded live, with no overdubs. I think that made a huge difference. Also, Lalah is one of the greatest sing

SEE LEAGUE, PAGE 4

Debate Over School Budget Continues

Later start times, class size among topics at School Board public hearing.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
 CENTRE VIEW

Later start times, class size, and cuts to needs-based staffing were major themes of the testimony given at the Jan. 27 public hearing on Superintendent Karen Garza's proposed budget.

Members and representatives of SLEEP in Fairfax, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Coalition of the Silence, and many other groups spoke at the public hearing.

Several SLEEP advocates at the hearing said that Fairfax County should follow the example of other school systems in the area and

adjust middle and high school start times, beginning in Fall 2014.

Catherine Pournelle, an eighth-grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School, said most teenagers only get around seven hours a sleep per night, which leads to several problems while in school.

"I know from experience that this then causes us all to feel drowsy and not pay attention as well during morning classes. It especially becomes hard when homework piles up, causing us all to get to bed later and creating a spiral of sleepiness until the weekend," Pournelle said. "Overall it does not create a healthy environment for leaning."

Stuart Orloff, a 10th-grader in Fairfax County Public Schools, agreed. "School is a great idea. Sure there are flaws, but it is an important part of growing up. The problem is, I'm only half awake to experience it. In class, I can hardly focus because I'm trying too hard to stay awake," Orloff said.

Another concern several speak

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 11



BY JANELLE GERMANOS/CENTRE VIEW

Dr. Lolita Mancheno-Smoak of Coalition of the Silence speaks at the Jan. 27 public hearing on the proposed budget.

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Natural, Organic Store Opens in Fair Lakes

VIP guests and the store's "Vine Lady" joined the crowd, on Thursday, Jan. 23, for the grand opening of Mrs. Green's Natural Market in the Fair Lakes Shopping Center. From left are James Zambora, director, Life with Cancer of Fairfax; Rick Hoffman, regional manager, Mrs. Green's Natural Markets; Rodney Lusk, director of national marketing, Fairfax Economic Development Authority; Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and Jesse Hilliard, Mrs. Green's store manager.

The exterior of Mrs. Green's Natural Market, between DSW Shoe Warehouse and World Market, in the Fair Lakes Shopping Center.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MRS. GREEN'S NATURAL MARKET



BUSINESS NOTES

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

HomeAid Northern Virginia, which builds and renovates homeless shelters, transitional houses and other facilities that help homeless families and individuals, announced that **Mike Cleary**, vice president of production and purchasing, Stanley Martin Homes, has won its annual Presidents' Award. The Presidents' Award, presented to an individual, a company or an organization that has shown exceptional dedication to the goal of ending homelessness with service to HomeAid Northern Virginia, is the organization's highest honor.

The **Business and Technology Resource Group** opened its newest office in Chantilly, 14900 Conference Center Drive, Suite 360. This office will serve as BTRG's Oracle Practice headquarters to support their Oracle Platinum Partnership and clients throughout the Northern Virginia and Greater D.C. areas. Visit www.btrgroup.com

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative's **Operation Round Up** fund has helped local community members stay warm during the winter. NOVEC customers may join ORU online at www.novec.com/oru or call the customer service center, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., at 703-335-0500 or toll-free: 1-888-335-0500. Customers who sign up to participate by Dec. 2, 2013, will be entered into a drawing for one of 10 \$25 VISA gift cards. Individu-

als who are not NOVEC customers, but would like to donate, may send checks payable to NOVEC, Operation Round Up, P.O. Box 2710, Manassas, VA 20108.

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative members elected **C.W. (Skip) Albrite, Jr.** to serve on the NOVEC board of directors. Albrite, a self-employed businessman, will represent co-op members who live in District 8, which includes southern Prince William County, Stafford County, and Fauquier County.

CMIT Solutions is launching a new office in Centreville. Local resident Chris Albright is the president of CMIT Solutions, which offers a broad spectrum of proactive computer maintenance, monitoring, and virtual technology packages, along with quick response services when unexpected crises occur. For more information on CMIT Solutions of Centreville and the services it offers, visit www.cmitsolutions.com, call 703-881-7738, or email calbright@cmitsolutions.com.

Lotte Plaza International Grocer has leased approximately 47,000 square feet at Centreville Square II. Scheduled to open in the spring of 2014, the Asian market will join Party Depot, Sleepy's Mattress Professionals, Five Guys, Wells Fargo, Hair Cuttery and The UPS Store. Lotte Plaza International Grocer offers fresh produce, a variety of hard-to-find international brands like the popular Korean brand "Assi," an in-

SEE BUSINESS NOTES, PAGE 13



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ROUNDUPS

One Charged with DWI

On Saturday, Jan. 25, police officers from the Fair Oaks District Station patrolled Fairfax County searching for drunk drivers. As a result, they charged one driver with DWI. In addition, seven summonses and 14 warnings were issued. Police also made four criminal charges.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Jan. 30, 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.

What's Next for I-66

VDOT will hold a public information meeting on the next steps to identify potential traffic improvements in the I-66 Corridor. It's set for Thursday, Jan. 30, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road in Vienna. (If cancelled due to weather: Tuesday, Feb. 4).

VDOT and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation have identified 10 concepts to increase capacity within the I-66 corridor, plus options to increase travel-mode choices, improve individual interchanges, address spot safety needs and enhance travel efficiency.

County Transit Network Study

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is conducting the Countywide Transit Network Study to determine the type of transit systems needed throughout the county over the next several decades. It includes a preliminary recommendation for enhanced transit in the Dulles Suburban Center linking the future Silver Line's Innovation Center Metrorail Station to points throughout the Dulles Suburban Center and into Centreville.

A meeting on this topic will be held Thursday, Feb. 6, from 7-9 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. There's an open house, followed by staff presentations at 7:30 p.m. For more information or to comment, contact Clara Johnson or Tarek Bolden at 703-324-1380. Or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/dullessuburbancenter/comments.htm.

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry urgently needs donations of cooking oil; sugar; flour; canned fruit, meat, tuna and greens (spinach, collards); fruit juice and cold cereal. (Also needed are toothpaste, deodorant, baby wipes and shampoo).

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.

Thrift-store needs include coats, fall and winter clothing, socks and underwear for adults and children, plus Bibles in English and Spanish. The store is at 13939 Metrotech Drive. In addition, Thrift Store volunteers are needed for two- to four-hour shifts Fridays, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Saturdays, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

How to Hire CLRC Workers

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) serves businesses and homeowners needing help with just about any home remodeling or maintenance project. Call 703-543-6272 or go to www.centrevilleLRC.org and click on the "How to Hire" link. Tell what kind of work, how many workers are needed and when.

WINTER FUN

CENTRE VIEW EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN
703-778-9415 OR CENTREVIEW@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Some of the performers at last year's Centreville High Choral Cabaret.

CVHS Choral Cabaret Nears

Event includes music, silent auction, raffle and desserts.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Featuring young, musical talent and homemade desserts in a cozy, intimate atmosphere, Centreville High presents its 10th annual Choral Cabaret.

Show time is Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m., in the school cafeteria. Tickets are \$10 at the door and cover the entertainment and refreshments.

"About 22 students will be performing," said Choral Director Lynne Babcock. "They auditioned with the song they'll sing for the Cabaret. There's a variety of music; students choose pop, jazz, country, R&B, theatrical or rap songs."

The students will perform solo or as part of duos or trios. And each song will be accompanied by either live or recorded music.

"The kids are so talented and they get to do their own thing and be showcased as individual singers, instead of as part of a large group," said Babcock. "And this gives them the chance to do the styles of music they like best."

The desserts are donated by the parents and served by the students, and Babcock said the evening is always fun with a special ambience. "We completely transform the cafeteria into a cabaret setting with decorations," she said.

There'll also be door prizes, as well as a raffle for gift certificates and merchandise from local businesses. And, said Babcock, "The parent committee

works very hard to make that happen." Raffle tickets are \$1. The raffle will feature about 25 prizes ranging from \$10-\$20 each; and at the end of the night, there'll be a 50/50 raffle.

In addition, Cabaret attendees may bid on an assortment of items in some 30, themed gift baskets available in a silent auction. Each choir assembles one or two baskets and the others are contributed by businesses and families.

For example, the Symphonic Choir is donating "Death by Chocolate" (chocolate treats) and "Color My World" (art supplies) baskets, and the Women's Ensemble created a "Valentine's Day" basket. Members of the Men's Ensemble are contributing a "Day at the Beach" basket (featuring items needed for a day of surf and sand), and the Concert Choir created "Cinemaniac" (movie-themed) and "Sound Bytes" (music-themed) baskets.

Bella Voce is donating a "Girls' Night In" (things for a cozy night at home with friends) basket, plus "Bella Bakery" (filled with baking supplies and accessories). Also up for bid will be several restaurant baskets, plus wine-and-beer baskets.

The event is a fundraiser for Centreville's choral program. The money raised pays for items including sound equipment, extra music, senior scholarships, a choreographer and fees for competitions.

Babcock and then Choral Booster President Susan Rigby founded the Choral Cabaret a decade ago, and it's grown in popularity ever since.

"It's fun and entertaining, and I hope the entire CVHS community comes out to see it," said Babcock. "There's lots of talent in this department, and this event gives us an opportunity to show off our choir kids in a whole, different setting."

"There's lots of talent in this department, and this event gives us an opportunity to show off our choir kids in a whole, different setting."

— Choral Director
Lynne Babcock

League Describes Snarky Puppy's Journey

FROM PAGE 1

ers in the world. The fact that she sang three notes simultaneously didn't hurt, either."

Q: Where's your next tour, and when?

A: "We head out for about 6 months [Jan. 29], starting in Virginia. It will take us through the U.S., Canada, Eastern and Western Europe, Russia, China, Indonesia, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand — lots of places."

Q: How did your experience at Centreville High help lay a foundation for your later success?

A: "I can't overemphasize the effect that studying music at Centreville had on me. When I joined the CVHS Jazz Band, director Dave Detwiler went above and beyond to give myself and Andrew Pangilinan (who is now in a military band in Sicily) extracurricular learning experiences."

He would invite us to rehearse and perform weekly with the Georgetown University Jazz Band, and even got us on a gig performing with the legendary Dave Brubeck Quartet at Constitution Hall. This night changed my life.

In my senior year, I decided to switch from guitar to bass and played in one of the orchestras under Cheryl Cooley. I had never played acoustic bass in my life and couldn't



Centreville High 2002 grad Michael League (in green shirt, in center) with some of his Snarky Puppy band mates.

read music. She had me come over to her house before the school year began and gave me private lessons. She also gave me a bunch of books that help you learn to sight-read. It was incredible.

I could share similar experiences I had with [Choral Director] Lynne Babcock, [guitar teacher] Bill Burke, [former Band Director] Beth Boivin and Theatre Directors Mike Hudson and Marc Rogers. All of these teachers went beyond the curriculum to help expand my love of and passion for art.

I also need to show my gratitude for non-

art-department teachers John O'Rourke and Judy Condon, who supported my career throughout my CHVS career. They had a huge impact on me as a person and musician.

I loved music before, but high school is when I actually became obsessed with it. This is why it breaks my heart when I see music programs being cut across the country. Art inspires people — not just artists, but all people — to become better human beings. It lifts us up. It's not a thing to be discarded, but rather cherished and pro-

tected like the invaluable asset to our society that it is."

Q: Any advice to other young, aspiring musicians?

A: "Yes, loads! In fact, Snarky Puppy is writing a book called 'Van Days' that looks back on this first decade of the band's existence. A lot of the book focuses on the things we've learned from falling on our faces, time after time."

The first thing I would say — and this isn't just for musicians — is that hard work pays off. Consistency and perseverance will set you apart from the majority of people in the world. Don't quit! Terrible bands have become famous simply because they kept at it. Imagine what happens if your band is great and it doesn't quit.

Another important thing is to learn the mechanics of music. Your ability to express yourself deepens when you have fundamental musical knowledge. It's just a tool, not the end result, but it's vital.

And lastly, surround yourself with musicians who inspire and challenge you. Growth is the thing that keeps music fresh. And making sure that they're good people is huge. After all, in a normal day on tour, you spend only about 90 minutes performing, vs. 14 hours just being around each other."

— BONNIE HOBBS

Centreville High School Graduate Wins Grammy

FROM PAGE 1

felt incredible to be on that stage with my musical family and to share in the joy of being recognized for our consistent, long-term effort."

Playing a mix of jazz, funk and world music, Snarky Puppy is a Brooklyn, N.Y.-based, instrumental-fusion band led by League, 29, an award-winning bassist, guitarist, composer, arranger and producer. He started the band 10 years ago while attending the University of North Texas.

It's comprised of about 40 musicians who play a variety of instruments ranging from guitars to pianos, keyboards, strings, woodwinds, percussion and brass. It's also become a trailblazer for fellow, independent-label artists.

Snarky Puppy performs its own music all over the world and, last year, it gave nearly 200 performances and workshops on four continents. The group's live DVD/CD, "GroundUP," hit number 14 on the Billboard jazz charts and shot to number three on the iTunes jazz charts. And its new release, "We Like it Here" — in homage to the 18 different countries the band's toured in Europe — drops Feb. 18.

In addition, Snarky Puppy functions as a production team and session band for other performers, including Justin Timberlake, Snoop Dogg and Erykah Badu. But what sets it apart from other bands is its community outreach and commitment to music education.

Believing in nurturing young talent, while

on tour Snarky Puppy has held more than 100 workshops, music clinics and master classes for aspiring music students. They've done so in the U.S. and Canada, as well as in the Netherlands, Scotland, England, France, Belgium and Germany.

League's paying forward the lessons learned and experience received while he was a student at Centreville High. (See Q&A sidebar with League). He graduated in 2002, but he left his mark there and his teachers still remember him fondly. And they, too, are overjoyed at his success.

"We're all so thrilled for him," said Choral Director Lynne Babcock. "He was and still is an absolutely stellar human being. He's a hard worker, a wonderful young man and a consummate musician."

League played bass with Centreville's orchestra, jazz band and choir back-up band. He was also a four-year member of the Theater Department. "He was a great kid; we all adored him and loved working with him," said Babcock. "He was involved in pretty much every aspect of the Performing Arts program."

Besides that, she said, "He was kind, friendly with everyone, accepting and open-minded. He was really a special kid — even in high school, he behaved like a professional." She also recalled something that happened one year while he was playing back-up bass for one of her choirs during a choral competition.

Although it was a singing event, said Babcock, "The judges were so impressed

with Michael that they took him aside and spoke with him and encouraged him to do something with his music in the future."

Now, League and his band have won national acclaim with their Grammy award and, said Babcock, "Everyone in the whole Performing Arts Department is really excited. 'We're all so proud of him — he's very deserving of this honor.'"

His brother Patrick, another Centreville grad, plays 40 instruments and is currently working on his Ph.D in ethnomusicology (the study of ethnic music) at Harvard. Drummer and former Centreville High English teacher Ron Goad taught them both.

"Michael and his brother were two of my brightest and most well-mannered students at Centreville," he said. "They were both teenage musical prodigies and Michael's bass playing was extraordinary, even back then."

Goad said Michael also "played bass with some of us when he worked at Ben's Whole Hog BBQ in Manassas. He might be chopping meat behind the counter one minute and then accompanying various music acts, the next. Sometime I'd back up a singer on hand drums and Michael would jump in on bass. He didn't need to rehearse; his intuition was uncanny."

"Many musicians are happy to 'get through a song,' and they breathe a sigh of relief when they make it to the ending successfully," continued Goad. "But Michael toyed with the instrument with a whimsical exuberance that is rare."

Mom Sylvia League of Little Rocky Run says both her sons got their musical genes from her father. "My dad was an Army Air Corps band director in WWII for the 29th Infantry," she said. "He later became a high-school and elementary-school band director and a high-school choral director in Florida for 30 years."

Originally, though, said League, Michael was a guitar player until fate intervened. "Before his senior year at Centreville, they needed a bass player for jazz band," she said. "They had three guitarists, but no bass player."

So then Centreville Orchestra Director Cheryl Cooley gave him lessons that summer on the upright bass — and that turned out to be his forte. Later, instead of majoring in guitar jazz performance in college, he switched to bass — and the rest is history.

Sunday afternoon, rooting for her son and Snarky Puppy, Sylvia League watched the pre-Grammy Awards ceremony online. "They had a gig in Denver, Saturday night, flew to California and took a limo to the red carpet," she said. "Michael called right before the ceremony and asked me to thank all the family members for their encouraging e-mails and text messages."

When Snarky Puppy was announced the winner for Best R&B Performance, League was beside herself. "I screamed for a solid five minutes," she said. "I kept saying, 'Oh, my God, they won, they won, they won.' We're all so proud and just ecstatic."

SCHOOLS

Beatty Earns Statewide Honor

CVHS teacher named outstanding mathematics educator.

Kathy Beatty, a math teacher at Centreville High School, has been named the recipient of the 2014 William C. Lowry Outstanding Mathematics Educator of the Year Award by the Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics. She will receive her award at the VCTM annual conference in Harrisonburg in March.

Beatty, who has taught at Centreville since 1991, serves as an instructor in Fairfax County Public Schools' Great Beginnings program for new teachers, and serves as a Teachers for Tomorrow instructor at her school, instructing students in the foundations of education to prepare them for internships in local elementary and middle schools. "Kathy is a teacher and mentor to students and teachers alike in the truest sense of the word," said Centreville High principal Martin Grimm, citing Beatty's recent mentoring of a new calculus teacher while rewriting the school's Advanced Placement calculus scope and sequence program. "Kathy, of her own volition, took on the task of re-engineering our calculus program to match the needs of all of our students" while addressing their differing levels of math skills, said Grimm. He praised her mentoring skills, saying she is able to "draw out the best in the teachers she works with." Colleague Jessica Wallace, who requested the opportunity to collaborate with Beatty, worked with her to re-sequence the calculus curriculum for Centreville High and co-sponsors the school's chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, the high school mathematics honor society.



Kathy Beatty

"Kathy's tremendous leadership for our chapter has provided struggling math students in the school with support through the peer tutoring program she envisioned and organized," said Wallace, who notes that membership has increased to 190 stu-

dents

Beatty is skilled at helping teachers meet challenges in the classroom, according to Kate Wolling, FCPS high school mathematics specialist. "Students aren't engaged? Kathy shared ideas on different approaches to content through the use of Kagan structures or paired activities," said Wolling. When proving trigonometric identities in precalculus honors, Beatty has students work in groups to solve problems, then present their approach and "discover there are multiple ways to prove the same identity. This allows multiple solution strategies to be revealed to the same problem through the discussions in which the students engage," said Wolling.

Teacher Susan Rigby, a former electrical engineer who now teaches math at Centreville High, says Beatty was instrumental in encouraging her to pursue her teaching certification after serving as a substitute teacher. "She offered continual support and guidance and shared many of her teaching strategies with me throughout the (first) year," said Rigby.

Beatty was a finalist for FCPS Teacher of the Year in 2011. She earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Gettysburg College and a master's degree in education for secondary mathematics in curriculum and instruction from George Mason University.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Some of Centreville Elementary School's students dressed in traditional clothing.

Gathering for International Night

Centreville Elementary School held its 3rd annual International Night after-school on Friday, Jan. 10. The event included families who brought display posters with facts about their country, clothes, artifacts and samples of food. Students also performed on the cafeteria stage.

The sixth grade orchestra performed a variety of songs from around the world and other students danced or sang a cultural song.

At the end of all the performances, students who were dressed in traditional clothing were invited to go on stage and then participated in a fashion show walk around the cafeteria.

With the help of third grade teacher Steve Thorne, PTA grant writer Nadine Kaiser, and school counselor Esther Kang, Centreville Elementary won a \$5,000 Sharing-the-Dream grant from MetLife. The money was used to purchase 12 iPads for International Night so that families and visitors could scan QR codes for each country. With the incorporation of iPads and QR codes in International



During International Night, a banner was placed at the entrance of the cafeteria for families to write the word "welcome" in their country's language.

Night, people had more access to each country's information through the web and were able to learn and view things that can't be glued onto a poster such as a video of a dance, song or the making of a traditional dish.

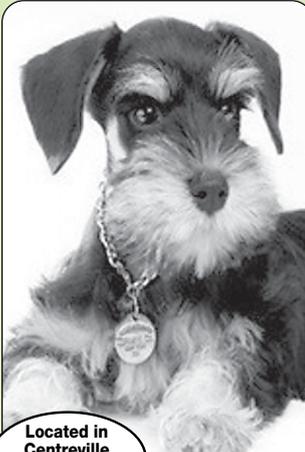
SCHOOL NOTES

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

Matthew Gilroy, a sophomore majoring in civil engineering, from Centreville, was named to the dean's list at Virginia Tech.

Israel Rodriguez, of Centreville, was named to the dean's list at Wilkes University.

Woo Chul Chung, of Centreville was named to the dean's list at Pratt Institute.



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6 Costly Mistakes to Avoid Before Buying a Home

Centreville – A new report has just been released which identifies the 6 most common and costly mistakes that home buyers make before buying a home. Mortgage regulations have changed significantly over the last few years, making your options wider than ever. Subtle changes in the way you approach mortgage shopping, and even small differences in the way you structure your mortgage, can save or cost you literally thousands of dollars and years of expense. Whether you are about to buy your first home, or are planning to make a move to your next home, it is critical that you

inform yourself about the factors involved before you buy. In answer to this issue, Industry Insiders have prepared a FREE special report entitled "6 Things You Must Know Before You Buy." Having the right information beforehand can undoubtedly make a major difference in this critical negotiation. To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-393-7105 and enter 1004. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out what you need to know before you buy a home.

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For Nonpartisan Redistricting

Virginia is a purple state, gerrymandered to bleed red.

Consider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

Almost none of these elections was by a wide margin, but it's clear that Virginia is a purple state leaning blue.

Here are the actual numbers:
2013

McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389

Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R) 980,257

Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

2012

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522

Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

EDITORIAL

The split in the Virginia Senate makes sense, a 20-20 split with a Republican Lieutenant Governor breaking tie votes the last four years and a Democratic Lieutenant Governor poised to break ties in the coming four years (pending this week's recount in the special election in District 6 to replace Lt.

Gov. Ralph Northam).

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should be split about evenly. You could understand a split five Dems and six Republicans; or five Republicans and six Democrats. A four and seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the electorate. It is especially damaging in a Dillon rule state, like Virginia, where localities have only the power explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly,

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scam Alert

To the Editor:

I wanted to alert residents of the Sully District Station about a telephone scam. We have recently seen an influx of phone calls from subjects who claim to be from the IRS. The subjects will demand money and claim you will be arrested if you do not pay. I have included a warning from the IRS below. Please take a few moments to read the message. Should you receive a phone call from anyone claiming to be the IRS, follow the instructions in the message below.

Please help me spread the word by passing this information along to your family and friends.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me.

PFC T.M. Gerhard,

Crime Prevention Officer
Sully District Station, 703-814-7018

IRS WARNS OF PERSASIVE TELEPHONE SCAM

The Internal Revenue Service is warning consumers about a sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, throughout the country.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

Other characteristics of this scam include:

- ❖ Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They generally use common names and surnames to identify themselves.

- ❖ Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's Social Security Number.

- ❖ Scammers spoof the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling.

- ❖ Scammers sometimes send bogus IRS emails to some victims to support their bogus calls.

- ❖ Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.

- ❖ After threatening victims with jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and the caller ID supports their claim.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what you should do:

- ❖ If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue — if there really is such an issue.

- ❖ If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats as described above), then call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800.366.4484.

- ❖ If you've been targeted by this scam, you should also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

Taxpayers should be aware that there are other unrelated scams (such as a lottery sweepstakes) and solicitations (such as debt relief) that fraudulently claim to be from the IRS.

The IRS encourages taxpayers to be vigilant against phone and email scams that use the IRS as a lure. More information on how to report phishing scams involving the IRS is available on the genuine IRS website, IRS.gov.

You can reblog the IRS tax scam alert via Tumblr.



STEVEN G. ARTLEY/THE CONNECTION

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A Connection Newspaper



WINTER FUN

'A Children's Story Come to Life'

Chantilly High presents 'The Reluctant Dragon.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Of course, dragons are scary creatures. After all, they're big and scaly and have long, pointy tails. Just the way they look makes them something to be feared, right?

Well, maybe not. And that's the premise behind Chantilly High's upcoming children's show, "The Reluctant Dragon."

The curtain rises Friday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 8, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 9, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door or via www.chantillyhsdrama.com.

Director Ed Monk adapted this play from one written by Kenneth Graham, author of "The Wind in the Willows." The story takes place in "olden times" in a village town square, the dragon's cave and a farmhouse.

"It's about a dragon who wants to write poetry and not fight, and the little girls who becomes his friend," said Monk. "But the townspeople think all dragons are bad and want to slay him."

There's a cast and crew of 60. "It's double-cast because we had so many good kids," said Monk. "All the actors are freshmen and sophomores, so we have lots of fresh, new talent, and they're doing a really nice job."

Calling this play enjoyable for the whole family, he said it's got "lots of silly humor for the kids, jokes for the adults and a nice message about accepting people who are different. And it's just an hour and 10 minutes, so families can come in out of the cold and do something fun together."

Daniel Richter plays the dragon as a male named Fred; however, sophomore Hannah Warnick's dragon is a female, Francesca. "She's a little quirky, talks with a lisp and likes to write poems and have fun," said Warnick. "She's also a little nerdy and her favorite snack is herbal tea and Fig New-



The cast and crew of Chantilly High's upcoming children's play, "The Reluctant Dragon."

tons. She lives in the woods in a cave. And when a dad finds the dragon, he thinks she's mean and ferocious and tells his daughter Charity to stay away from her. But she comes and makes friends with the dragon."

It's Warnick's first major part and she's enjoying making new friends while working with her best friends. She also loves making the role her own. "The costume's fun and there are no boundaries," she said. "I get to paint the picture of what this dragon is like, and I try to make my movements upbeat, happy and bouncy."

She said the audience will like that the characters are "different from what they expect them to be like. And the story's about friendship, having fun and doing the things you like to do."

Sharing the role of Charity with Grace Mattes is sophomore Kristen Popham. "Charity's a farm girl, about 11, trying to find herself," said Popham. "She absorbs

everything and is open to what her parents and society think until she realizes what's wrong with society. Then she goes on a journey to prove the townspeople – who judge everybody before they know them – wrong."

Popham says Charity "represents the innocence in children. She's caring, doesn't give up and sees people for who they truly are. I love playing kids because you can embody them and the children in the audience won't judge you because they'll know your character. And I can go back and remember what it was like to be a child, play games and be content."

She said the audience will enjoy the cast's interaction with them. And, she added, "It's better than a storybook because it's a children's story come to life."

Freshman Adam Lekang and sophomore Lana Blinova both portray Mayor Leech. "He's determined to be the best mayor and tries to fix the townspeople's language –

they pronounce 'W's as 'V's," said Lekang. "He's kind of goofy and doesn't remember stuff. He's just trying to do what's best for the village."

Lekang likes playing the mayor because "he's so forgetful and has really weird speech. So it's a challenge to learn the lines, but definitely fun." He said the show even has some political jokes for the parents and "we make big, oversized motions so kids are drawn into the play."

Blinova plays the mayor as a young woman. "She's really ditzy and doesn't know what she's doing, but tries to be official," said Blinova. "She depends on Jenkins, her assistant and advisor, to tell her what to do."

It's her first, big role and, she said, "It's a funny character that kids will like and I get to be really expressive." Overall, she said, the show's "silly and fun, but has an important message."

Celebrate Valentine's Day at Westfields

Friday, February 14 & Saturday, February 15 • 5pm-9pm

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SCHOOLS

Virginia Run Students Perform in Variety Show

Virginia Run Elementary School held its annual Variety Show at Westfield High School on Saturday night, Jan. 25, to a sold out crowd of friends, family and faculty. More than 140 students participated in the show with children performing various skits, singing, dancing, playing the piano, among other talents.



PHOTO BY ROBIN OSTERHOUT

Katie Conway demonstrates gymnastic skills with her "High Flyer" act at the show.



PHOTO BY KELLY BOBEK

The variety show performers gather on stage.



PHOTO BY KELLY BOBEK

Julia Vu wows the audience with her performance of "Rolling Rocks" on the piano.



PHOTO BY ROBIN OSTERHOUT

Savannah Jefferies shows off her tap dancing talent to "Tappin' Tonight."



PHOTO BY KELLY BOBEK

A few 4th grade boys crack up the audience with their Whistling Hat Men act: Owen Thomas, Nick Benucci, Andrew Boyle, Harrison Beach, Michael Hart and Jason Cheifetz.



PHOTO BY KELLY BOBEK

Sophia Caballero and Isabel Angulo hit every note as The Sapphires.



PHOTO BY KIM O'CONNOR

A troupe of 2nd grade girls get ready for summer by dancing to Disney's "Surfs Up!" From left are Summer Reinecke, Isabella Bertuflo, Ali Harkins, Hannah Ohanian, Emily Bobek, Grace Ramey, Allison Nguyen, Emma O'Connor, Natalie Orwat, Ginny Fitch, Bella Konchar, Samantha Etzler, Sarah Van Buren, Ella Thomas and Alisa Calabro.



PHOTO BY KELLY BOBEK

Katie Migliozi, Christine Chiapponi, Alison Tannenbaum, Tatum Bulger, Samantha Robinson, Madison Sparks, Leidy Chiapponi, Claire Marshall, Peyton Smith, Ella Proper, Emily Bachman and Erin Magrath dance to "Applause."

WINTER FUN

Email announcements to 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 "Hunger Games: Catching Fire", "Hubble," "Fighter Pilot," "Air Racers" and "The Dream is Alive". Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy/> or call 703-572-4118 for the movie schedule.

Super Science Saturdays. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the second Saturday of each month at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy>.

Exhibit. See an array of colorful nesting dolls on display at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Exhibit runs through Jan. 31. Enjoy a guided tour of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first congressman, Richard Bland Lee. \$7/adult; \$6/student; \$5/senior and child. Hours are daily, except Tuesdays, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-437-1794.

Art Exhibit. See "Songs of the Shore," archival inkjet prints by Chantilly resident Peter Toth in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Runs Feb. 7 through March 16. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 30

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 a.m. or 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.

Lego Block Party. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades 3-6 can build. Free. Call for this month's theme. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Digital Photography for Teens. 7 p.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Teens age 12-18 can learn how to make memorable pics with a digital camera. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

FRIDAY/JAN. 31

Ready for School Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 4-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/FEB. 1

Lunar New Year Festival. 1-5 p.m. at Fair Oaks Mall, off I-66 and Route 50 at Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. Families can enjoy traditional Chinese dragon dances, music and dance performances, arts and crafts, lantern festival, demonstrations and more. Free. 703-359-8300 or visit www.ShopFairOaksMall.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 2

Lunar New Year Festival. 1-5 p.m. at Fair Oaks Mall, off I-66 and Route 50 at Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. Families can enjoy traditional Chinese dragon dances, music and dance performances, arts and crafts, lantern festival, demonstrations and more. Free. 703-359-8300 or visit www.ShopFairOaksMall.com.

Celebrate Groundhog Day. Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn about the groundhog with stories, games and more. \$5/person. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes for more.

Dance Class Starting. Couples and adults can learn West Coast Swing and Country 2-Step at Clifton Dance Academy, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton. Reserve a space by e-mailing vadancing5678@gmail.com.

MONDAY/FEB. 3

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.

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.

Frying Pan Farm. 2 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades K-6 can learn about a small farm animal, hear a story and take home a craft. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Bookalicious! Book Group. 2:15 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades 3-4 can discuss a book. Free. 703-502-3883 for title.

TUESDAY/FEB. 4

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 a.m. or 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.

Time for Tots. 11 a.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. 703-830-2223.

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

Pajama Storytime. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 3-5 can wear pjs and bring a cuddly friend and blanket and enjoy bedtime stories. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Lecture. 7 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Enjoy an illustrated lecture "Hand on and Took with Her: African American Dress, 1790-1840" by Dr. Ann Wass. Using autobiographies, published travelers' accounts, and newspaper advertisements seeking the return of slaves who ran away, the lecture highlights the variety of clothing worn by African-American men and women 200 years ago. Reproduction slave clothing will be available for viewing. For reservations, 703-437-1794. Space is limited.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 5

Read, Build, Play. Duplo Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 18-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Mystery Book Group. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults call for title. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Starlight Storytime. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children of all ages can wear pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed friend and enjoy stories and fun. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

THURSDAY/FEB. 6

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 a.m. or 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.

Small Wonders. 11 a.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 13-23 months can enjoy stories and activities. Free. 703-830-2223.

Teen Book Club. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. For teens in grades 7-9. Call for title. Free. 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/FEB. 7

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.

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. meet Chantilly resident Peter Toth, artist of "Songs of the Shore," archival inkjet prints in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html for more.

Art Exhibit. 6-9 p.m. at Photoworks, 2a Loudoun St., S.W., Leesburg. Local photographer Stephen Heyl will showcase "When Polaroid Transfer Meets Digital." Free. Visit www.photowork.net for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Art Exhibit. Noon-4 p.m. at Photoworks, 2a Loudoun St., S.W., Leesburg. Local photographer Stephen Heyl will showcase "When Polaroid Transfer Meets Digital." Free. Visit www.photowork.net for more.



Employment Expo for Veterans & Military

Friday, February 7th

7:30 - 08:15 a.m. Registration & Networking

8:15 - 09:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker

9:00 - 11:30 a.m. T3 Employment Expo

Sheraton Reston

11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston

\$20 including continental breakfast

FREE to Vets/Military

Presenter: Carlton W. Kent,

16th U.S. Marines Sergeant Major

First 80 Veterans to register receive a **FREE 4-hour session** on February 6th. Get help creating a marketable resume reinforced by professionally coached **"mock interviews."**

Session held at **Northrop Grumman** in Herndon, VA. Session attendees will need to provide **DOB** at time of registration for security purposes.

Sponsors: Citibank, Odin Feldman & Pittleman, PC; Watkins Meegan, LLC, The Insurance Exchange, Thompson, Greenspon & Co., PC, FEDMINE.US, CBS-WNEW, Northern Virginia Community College, General Dynamics Information Technology, CACI, Raytheon IIS, Evoke Research & Consulting, Deltek & The Merritt Group

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Register at www.dullesregionalchamber.org

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

MONDAYS/JAN. 13-MARCH 31

Conversational English. 7:30-9 p.m. at Chantilly Bible Church, 4390 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. There are four levels: beginning, basic, intermediate, and advanced. There is also a citizenship class. This is the eighth year church members have offered this free program. Childcare provided. Call 703-263-1188, ext. 15.

FRIDAY/JAN. 31

Application Deadline. Juniors at Herndon, Chantilly and Westfield high schools who are in good standing and have an interest in history are encouraged to apply for this paid nine-month internship that runs April through December 2014. Up to three interns will be hired. Participants will gain experience in museum operations, public speaking, historic object collections, event programming and museum store and visitor center operations. Sully Historic Site, which is owned and operated by the Fairfax County Park

Authority, will begin accepting applications for this internship program in December 2013. Candidates will be asked to provide a completed application, written essay, and teacher recommendations by January 31, 2014 for panel review. For further information e-mail either Carol McDonnell, site manager at Sully Historic Site (carol.mcdonnell@fairfaxcounty.gov) or Noreen McCann, visitor services manager (noreen.mccann@fairfaxcounty.gov). 703-437-1794.

Preschool Open House and

Registration. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Learn more about Pleasant Valley Preschool and the programs for 3- and 4- year-old children.

SATURDAY/FEB. 1

Safe Sitter Course. Children 11-13 years old can learn how to handle crises, how to keep their charges secure and how to nurture and guide a young child. Located at Temple Beth Torah, 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. Pre-registration required. E-mail safesitter@gmail.com or visit tysonscornerkiwanis.org to register.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 5

Meeting. 7 p.m. at Rocky Run Middle School, 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Kathy Smith will hold an informational meeting on the 2015 proposed budget.

Free Seminar. 7-8:30 p.m. at 12700 Fair Lakes Circle, suite 120, Fairfax. There will be a 90-minute review of 1031 Tax-Free Property Exchanges and investment information. Register by calling 703-818-9624.

THURSDAY/FEB. 6

Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germaine Drive. For people who have lost a loved one within the past two years. Free. E-mail ktyner@capitalcaring.org or 703-396-6198.

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

5K Mall Walk. 9-10 a.m. at Dulles Town Center Mall. Walk in memory of Siobhan Russell. \$15. Visit www.datingabusestopshere.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 12

Fairfax County Park Authority

Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herry Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting materials, archives and more. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

TUESDAY/FEB. 18

Presentation. 7 p.m. at Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club (WFCWC) will host a presentation on "Library Update: Not the Library of Your Youth." Daria Parnes, branch manager of the Chantilly Regional Library, will discuss how libraries are changing to meet societal demands, and, specifically, the exciting things that the Chantilly Regional Library is doing for the community. Free. Visit www.wfcwc.org, call Marion at 703-631-7093, or e-mail us at westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germaine Drive. For people who have lost a loved one within the past two years. Free. E-mail

ktyner@capitalcaring.org or 703-396-6198.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Free Parent Education Seminar. 9-1:30 a.m. at Montessori of Chantilly - Casa Dei Bambini, 4212F Technology Court, Chantilly. Learn about the impact of screen-time and technology on children. Visit www.mcdbc.com or 703-961-0211.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herry Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting materials, archives and more. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

MONDAY/MARCH 3

Application Deadline. The online application for the Military Officers Association of America Educational Assistance Programs for the 2014-2015 school year is now available online at <https://scholarship.moaa.org/login.aspx>. Students can apply for the interest-free loans and grants, which are awarded annually for up to five years of undergraduate study (or until a student graduates.) Applicants must be graduating high school seniors or full-time college students working toward their first undergraduate degree. Students may apply online at www.moaa.org/education. The application deadline is Monday, March 3 at noon. Visit www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund or e-mail edassist@MOAA.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 6

Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germaine Drive. For people who have lost a loved one within the past two years. Free. E-mail ktyner@capitalcaring.org or 703-396-6198.

FRIDAY/MARCH 7

Silent Auction. Navy Elementary School, 500 W. Ox Road, is sponsoring a silent auction with proceeds benefiting the school. Visit navypt.org or 703-927-9606 to find out if you can donate items.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 12

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herry Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting materials, archives and more. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germaine Drive. For people who have lost a loved one within the past two years. Free. E-mail ktyner@capitalcaring.org or 703-396-6198.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herry Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting materials, archives and more. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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Debate Continues over Start Times, Class Size

FROM PAGE 1

ers have with the budget is the cuts to need-based staffing.

Dr. Lolita Mancheno-Smoak of Coalition of the Silence stressed the importance of closing the achievement gap in Fairfax County, which she said cannot be done with the proposed budget.

“We all accept the premise that education is the great equalizer. However, over the years, we keep seeing budget cuts that weaken the progress towards leveling the playing field for all children,” Mancheno-Smoak said.

Avis Catchings, also of Coalition of the Silence, said that while COTS supports some aspects of the budget, including the decision to pay teachers fairly, she is disappointed with some of its other aspects.

“This is about life choices for COTS kids. When COTS kids fail in school, too often they also fail in life,” Catchings said. “Proposing any cuts to needs-based staffing when the FCPS student population has increased by the thousands, and when most of this growth is in our neediest communities, is just not a good choice. It means larger class sizes in needier schools and fewer teachers to give these children the extra help they need to transition successfully in school.”

Several students also advocated for children who are underrepresented and disadvantaged.



Janet Laubgross and Fairfax County Public Schools student Stuart Orloff spoke in support of later high school start times at the public hearing.

PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS CENTRE VIEW

Alanna Brown, a ninth-grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School, spoke about the digital divide in Fairfax County.

Brown said she thinks that while digital textbooks are helpful, it is unfair for poorer students who don't have access to the internet at home.

“Although there are low-income students at Lake Braddock, I don't believe there are that many, but there are other places like Alexandria and other areas in Virginia that have many more poor students,” Brown said. “Many of these students may not have access to the internet at home, and I don't believe it is fair that they may get bad grades because they can't do their homework be-

cause they don't have access to the internet at home.”

Ryley Bendewald, a freshman at Langley High School, believes it is wrong to cut class sizes in one area of Fairfax County, but not in another.

“Every student in Fairfax County, no matter what their facial features, height, family, house size, or academic advancements, deserves the opportunity to learn and to better themselves in the public schools in this county,” Bendewald said.

At the hearing, Steven Greenberg, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, praised Garza for her budget proposal.

“School is a great idea. Sure there are flaws, but it is an important part of growing up. The problem is, I'm only half awake to experience it. In class, I can hardly focus because I'm trying too hard to stay awake.”

— Stuart Orloff, a 10th-grader in Fairfax County Public Schools

“Dr. Garza's budget is the best lemonade anyone could possible make, considering the rotten lemons we've been given,” Greenberg said.

However, former school board member Tina Hone, a founder of Coalition of the Silence, said that the organization is struggling with the proposed cuts to need-based staffing.

“Even Jack didn't cut needs-based staffing,” said Hone of the former Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale.

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Centreville guard Jenna Green scored 20 points during Tuesday's victory over Chantilly.



Centreville girls' basketball coach Tom Watson on Tuesday called Caroline Wakefield "the best defensive player in the region."

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Centreville Girls' Basketball Avenges Loss to Chantilly

**Green scores 20,
Wakefield's
defense praised.**

BY JON ROETMAN
CENTRE VIEW

Centreville girls' basketball coach Tom Watson said a loss to Chantilly three weeks prior provided no additional motivation for Tuesday's rematch. His players, on the other hand, felt differently.

Chantilly defeated Centreville 46-45 on Jan. 10. It was one of only two losses for the Wildcats this season and one of only five since the start of the 2012-13 campaign. The two teams met again Tuesday and an injury-riddled Chantilly team kept the game close for a half. But in the second half, Centreville pulled away like a team with legitimate hopes of making a deep postseason run.

The Wildcats defeated the Chargers 58-39 on Jan. 28 at Chantilly High School. Centreville led 29-25 at halftime, but built a comfortable lead by outscoring Chantilly 18-6 in the third quarter.

"We definitely owed them from last time," Centreville junior Caroline Wakefield said, "and we worked 10 times harder to beat them."

Centreville has many of its key players back from last season's team that finished 24-3 and reached the region semifinals. The Wildcats were 10-1 this year when they lost on their home floor to Chantilly. Since that loss, Centreville has won six straight games, including a 55-38 victory against perennial power Oakton.

"There really wasn't any added motivation [to beat Chantilly]," said Watson, who is in his second season as Centreville head coach. "We have a goal and our goal is to get deep into the regionals, so I'm not really trying to get somebody back because they beat me. Actually, I was happy that Chantilly won. I've coached a lot of girls on that team for Chantilly in AAU and they hadn't beat us in about four years and, you know what, a loss doesn't hurt once in a while. That loss motivated us and I think the reason that we beat Oakton handily is because of that loss to Chantilly."

Chantilly entered Tuesday's rematch without the services of starters Kelsey Young (knee) and Mary Clougherty (elbow), who are out for the season with injuries. A third starter missed the game for team reasons. Still, the Chargers hung around for a half and were within three points late in the second quarter.

"I came out and challenged the girls in the third quarter," Watson said. "I said this is your season. If you go out there and throw an egg out there, win by two points, nobody's going to respect you."

The Wildcats responded with a strong second half and improved to 16-2.

Centreville point guard Jenna Green, who said the Wildcats had "a lot of motivation" to win Tuesday, led all scorers with 20 points. Senior guard Ashley Brusick, who recently made her 100th career 3-pointer, scored 10 points and made a trio from behind the arc. Senior guard Katie Blumer, who is approaching 100 career 3-pointers, finished with 10 points and made two from long range.

While there were some strong offensive performances, Watson and Green made an effort to praise the defensive performance of Wakefield, a 5-foot-8 forward.

"I think we played a lot better on defense," said Green, comparing Tuesday's performance to the early-season loss against Chantilly. "Defense was huge this game. Caroline played an awesome defensive game."

Wakefield scored six points and grabbed five rebounds to go with her strong defensive effort.

"I think Caroline is the best defensive player in the region," Watson said. "Caroline is the reason we're winning these games — I truly believe that. I know Jenna is the stud of the team, but without Caroline, we don't get the rebounding. I put her on the hardest player on every single team and she shuts them down. ... Without her, we're sunk."

Injuries have taken a toll on Chantilly, which has dropped five straight games after winning 10 of its first 12.

"We took a huge hit last week with all the injuries that we have, so our goal today was to get out and contain and maintain the best that we could against a team that is one of the top in the region," Chantilly head coach Kurt Sporkmann said. "... We're rebuilding. We're trying to figure it out. I'm proud of my girls. They did what they had to do."

Senior post Shawnice Gresham led Chantilly with nine points.

"Shawnice is my go-to player right now, she really is," Sporkmann said. "We hope that we can continue to go to her for the remainder of the season."

Chantilly guard Allison Kemp has been playing through a hip injury, but Sporkmann said the senior will soon undergo a corrective procedure that will end her season. Kemp finished with seven points on Tuesday.

Sporkmann, who is in his second season



Centreville guard Ashley Brusick made a trio of 3-pointers during Tuesday's victory against Chantilly.

as Chantilly head coach, said the team's 10-2 start makes things even more disappointing for the Chargers.

"My heart breaks for them," he said. "... What hurts is all the work that these girls did, the trust that they put into me, the belief they put into this system."

Centreville will travel to face Westfield at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31. Chantilly will travel to face Herndon.

OBITUARY

Dennis Haywood Tyler

Dennis Hayward Tyler; caring and compassionate teacher, devoted husband and father, and friend to all died on Jan. 14, 2014. Born Oct. 5, 1932 in Beaverdam, Va., he was the eldest of two sons born to John and Nancy Tyler of Montpelier, Va.

Dennis attended Virginia State College to study music education. After a year of college, he enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nev. As a member of the Air Force band Dennis performed at military and community functions. After 3 and a half years of military service, he returned to Virginia State College where he went on to graduate with a bachelor of science in music education with a focus on instrumental music, orchestra, and band.

Following his graduation from Virginia State he received his master's degree in education administration and supervision from Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J. While pursuing his degree, he began his career as an educator, teaching music to elementary, middle school, and high school students in Patterson, N.J. He went on to receive his doctoral degree in educational administration, teacher training, and program development from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Dennis' life was devoted to public education as evident of his years spent working at the elementary, high school, and college levels. His professional endeavors took him from teaching band in Patterson, N.J., to working for the president of Miles College in Fairfield, Ala., and finally to Centreville in the late '70s.

For the next 18 years Dennis worked as an assistant principal in the Fairfax County public school system, spending time at Chantilly High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, and Robinson Secondary School. After retiring he continued to pursue his

love of music and teaching as a private music teacher for elementary school children in Fairfax County.

Dennis was a dedicated public servant and held leadership roles in a variety of community service organizations. A 60-year member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Dennis was an active member of the Alexandria-Fairfax Alumni Chapter. He loved his fraternity and was the coordinator for the fraternity's scholarship fund for several years. Dennis was also active in the Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee which provides educational programming to children in the Fairfax County school system.

A man of strong faith, Dennis was a charter member of St Andrew Lutheran Church of Centreville. Dennis served in a variety of leadership roles at the church, including church council secretary, stewardship drive chairman, and head usher. He was an active member of the evangelism ministry and performed in the yearly production of the play "The Last Supper."

One of Dennis' most treasured memories was the trip he took to Namibia in southern Africa to visit his church's sister congregation. Because of his leadership at the church, he was asked to serve on the board of trustees for Gettysburg College, an honor he held for five years.

For 47 years Dennis enjoyed a rich and beautiful home life with his wife Barbara Tyler (formerly Perry) of Queens, N.Y. From this loving union one daughter, Kendra Lea, was born. He is survived by his wife Barbara, his daughter Kendra, his Aunt Mariah White, his niece Charlene Tyler, and many loving family and friends. He is predeceased by his mother Nancy, his father John, his brother John, and his niece, Iris Brown. Dennis will be remembered as a dedicated, kind, and loving husband and father, and a committed patron and friend. He will be deeply missed.

BUSINESS NOTES

FROM PAGE 2
store meat shop and a food court, including Japanese, Korean and Chinese fare.

HomeAid Northern Virginia has been honored with the 2013 Top-Rated Award by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations. The Top-Rated Nonprofit award was based on the large number of positive reviews that HomeAid received. While the Top-Rated Awards run through the end of October, HomeAid was part of the inaugural group to qualify for the year. HomeAid Northern Virginia leverages the resources of the homebuilding community and its corporate partners to undertake new construction or major renovations to homeless shelters, transitional houses, and other facilities that help homeless people gain stability and a roof over their heads. The organization also operates Women Giving Back, a program that provides free clothing and accessories to homeless women and children.

CORT Business Services, has opened its new dual location showcasing both a furniture rental showroom and a furniture clearance center under the name CORT Furniture Rental and Sales in Chantilly, right around the corner from their company headquarters. The 5,053-square-foot showroom is located at 13946 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. For more information and store hours, visit www.CORT.com or call 703-818-2678.

Within the last year, **NOVA Field House**, 14810 Murdock St., Chantilly, www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

opened its doors. The facility has two large indoor synthetic turf fields and an indoor NBA regulation-sized basketball court. In addition, it contains a multi-purpose room to host parties or clinics and an area dedicated to strength and conditioning. NOVA Field House is dedicated to providing the Region with a year-round indoor multi-sports facility that promotes athletic participation, skills training, teamwork, fitness and good sportsmanship. Visit www.novafieldhouse.com or 703-865-8925.

The Michael & Son Fun Zone, a play area designed for youngsters is now open at Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax. Children will be able to crawl through oversized tape measures and colorful rolls of electricians tape or sit atop large antique shower knobs. The centerpiece of the Michael & Son Fun Zone is a 15-foot long replica of Michael & Son's signature blue and white truck, giving children a chance to get behind the steering wheel or climb into the truck by way of a stair made of a 17-foot long hammer and then slide down the back of the play vehicle. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com for more.

Jon Harman has been hired as global account manager for Destination Services at **CORT**. As global account manager, Harman will be responsible for managing and developing relationships with key CORT Destination Services clients. Prior to joining CORT, Jon served as director of relocation services for Move One Relocation in Dubai, where he managed relocation opera-

tions on special projects in 22 countries across Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the Gulf region. During his eight years with Move One, the relocation division was recognized with 19 awards for excellence and innovation in relocation service delivery.

Kriti R. Rao has been elected to banking officer and promoted to manager of Cardinal Bank's Fairfax Corner location. Rao began her banking career as a teller with SunTrust Bank more than a decade ago. While at SunTrust, she was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility in the branch. Rao joined Cardinal Bank in June 2012 as the Fairfax Corner Banking Center's assistant manager.

Rao, a longtime resident of Fairfax County, received her education in Kalimpong, India, and studied Textile Design at South Delhi Polytechnic in New Delhi. She has been an active participant in fundraising efforts for the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Army Vet's Remodeling announced the launch of www.armyroofingsiding.com as an information portal for Fairfax and Centreville area homeowners to find information about remodeling and roofing repairs solutions. Future plans include educational guides on selecting a remodeling and roofing repairs contractor, professional advice from local experts, and a question and answer forum for Centreville and Fairfax area homeowners.

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Confused and then Infused



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Since March 6, 2009, nearly five years now, save for nine months when I was taking an oral chemotherapy medication at home, every three weeks I have been infused with some sort of chemotherapy drug. In that time, I have certainly become familiar and fairly well-known to the various staff at The Infusion Center. What follows is the most recent exchange with the receptionist in Oncology, as best as I can recall it.

Receptionist: "Hello, Mr. Lourie. How are you?"

Me: "Lovely. Happy to be here."

Receptionist: "That's nice."

Me: "Actually, I'm not happy to be here. I mean I'd rather not be here. But since I'm here, it's better that I'm here than not here, as in unable to get here because I'm not here anymore."

Receptionist: "I understand."

Me: "Really? Because I'm not sure I understand. I know what I'm thinking, but...What I mean to say is that I don't want to be coming here to the Infusion Center, because that means I'm being treated for cancer. But if I do have cancer, I guess I'm happy to be still alive, in order to be able to get here for treatment."

Receptionist: "I understand."

Me: "I think I'm confused. I don't want to be coming here because I have cancer. I'd rather not be coming here at all. But since I have cancer, I suppose I'm glad I'm able to still get here. I think I'm going around in circles."

Receptionist: "No, you're fine. I understand completely."

Me: "Really. 'Cause I'm not sure I do. It seems like I'm talking to myself, repeating myself. I'm a writer and often I use double-entendres in my column, which seems sort of what I'm doing here. Although I'm not intending it. I was more realizing/thinking aloud as to why I was here, whether I wanted to be here and the reasons why I was fortunate - so to speak, to even still be here and/or how unfortunate I was to be here being treated for terminal lung cancer - as opposed to being healthy and not needing to be here. I feel as if I'm rambling here. Am I making any sense?"

Receptionist: "Not to worry. (Smiling, laughing.) I do understand exactly what you're saying."

Me: "I'm not sure I do. Maybe I should just stop talking and sit down and wait for Ron (my oncology nurse) to come and get me."

Receptionist: "Ron's running late. He's stuck in traffic. He'll be here soon."

Me (to myself): Great (chagrined.) I suppose I should probably stop pacing then and just sit down and try to relax. I'm here. I'm checked in. Besides, I have to be ready for my blood pressure check. If my vitals (and/or lab results, appearance, etc.) are not normal, protocols will prevent any infusion today (which has happened to me twice; very disappointing, especially considering that you think your life depends on receiving the treatment that day). If the patient doesn't pass muster, however, the oncology nurse has no choice: there will be, to invoke the "Soup Nazi" from "Seinfeld": "No chemo for you."

Fortunately, for this infusion, I have once again managed to "Pass the audition," as John Lennon so famously joked at the end of the live roof-top version of The Beatles' song "Get Back" at the end of the "Let It Be" album.

Life goes on though - for me, thank God!, despite my confusion. Thanks to the staff for continuing to take me in stride.

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

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According to the Lease by and between (3109) Terry Glover/Terry D Glover and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: totes, bike, toys, boxes, suitcase, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday February 21, 2014 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

In addition we will be auctioning unit 2031 whereby the proceeds will go to local charities. For more information regarding "Charity Storage" feel free to contact us at: 703-352-8840 ext 2

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left: 2nd Lt. Michael Ziegler, Greg Ziegler, Matthew Ziegler, and 1st Lt. Mark Ziegler.

Ziegler Earns Rank of Eagle Scout

Four brothers have attained Scouting's highest honor.

Gregory D. Ziegler, 16, of Virginia Run in Centreville was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor ceremony on Dec. 29, 2013 at the Virginia Run Community Center.

Greg led his fellow Scouts in an Eagle Scout Project which created a technology center at the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter in Fairfax. By providing the residents with computers and the latest software, he gave the adults the resources they need to look for housing and employment, and enabled the children to complete their homework and receive tutoring assistance. This Eagle Scout project combined Greg's desire

to complete a lasting project to benefit the community with his love of technology.

Greg started in Scouting as a Tiger Cub with Cub Scout Pack 1682 at Virginia Run Elementary School. He crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 1137 where he earned the ranks leading up to the Eagle award and earned 132 merit badges, the World Conservation and U.S. Heritage Awards. He was elected to the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts National Honor Society. Greg has held a number of leadership positions in the troop including Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Instructor, and Bugler. This past September, Greg satisfied an Eagle Board of Review that he has lived up to the Scout Oath and Law and was awarded the Eagle Rank.

Greg's three older brothers, all Eagle Scouts of Troop 1137, were home for the holidays to join in the Court of Honor. Mark J. Ziegler, U.S. Military Academy (USMA) Class of 2010, is a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and is stationed in Ft. Bliss, Texas. Michael T. Ziegler, USMA Class of 2013, is a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and is currently attending Infantry Officer Training in Ft. Benning, Ga. Matthew S. Ziegler, USMA Class of 2016, is a cadet at West Point, N.Y.

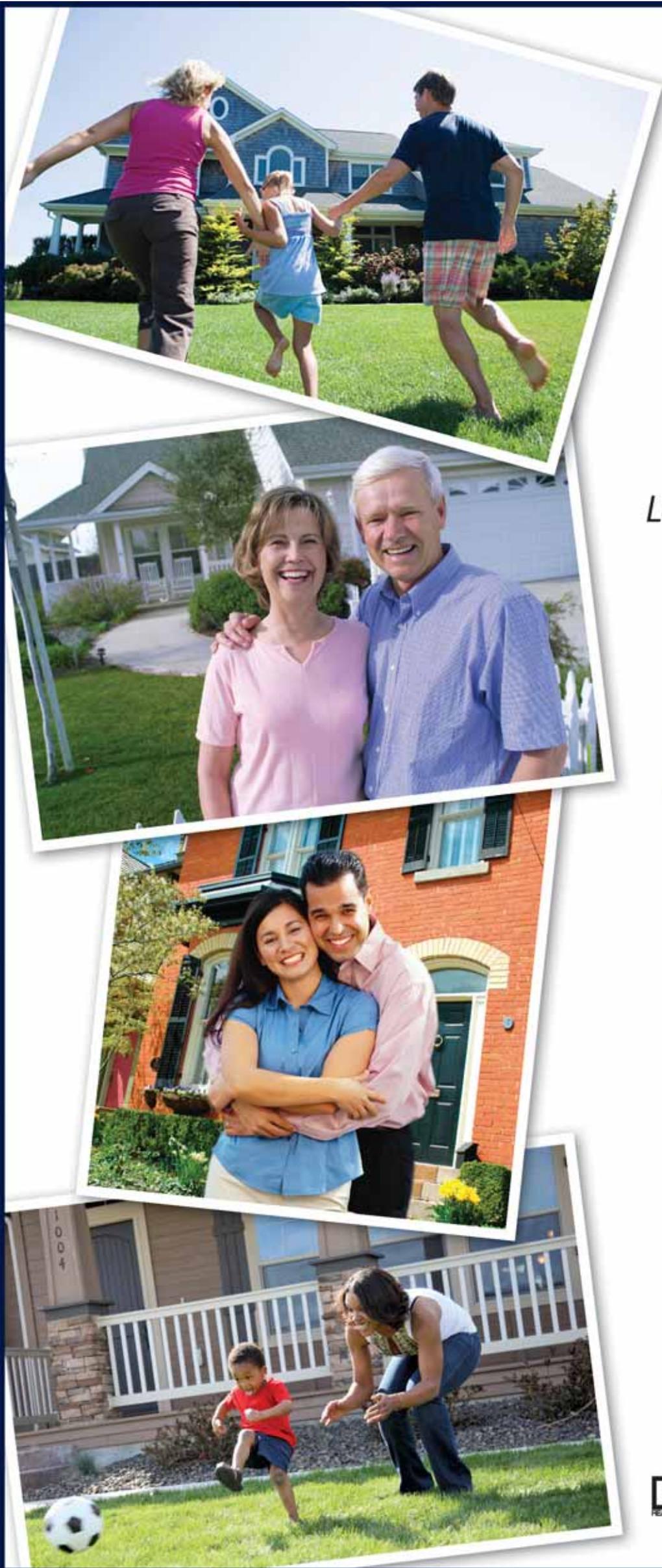
Greg is the seventh of the eight children of Barbara and Mark Ziegler. He is a junior at Westfield High School where he is pursuing an advanced studies curriculum with a focus on technology. In addition to his scholastic endeavors, Greg is a member of the Westfield High School Cross Country team and actively participates in numerous community service clubs and events. He is president of Westfield's Habitat for Humanity Club and a member of the Bulldog Buddies Club. Recently Greg was recognized by the Fairfax County Park Authority as the "2013 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year" for his participation in the Adaptive Aquatics Program for the past three years.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

The following students made the president's list at James Madison University for the fall 2013 semester: **Caroline Cook**, of Centreville, a freshman; **Rafael Fuentes**, of Centreville, a sophomore; **Shannon Hardtke**, a sophomore; **Katie Malinowski**, of Centreville, a senior; **Maggie McInturff**, of Centreville, a sophomore; **Sarah Schweit**, of Centreville, a freshman; and **Jordan Snyder**, of Centreville, a junior.

The following students graduated from James Madison University on Dec. 14: **Austin LoCascio**, of Centreville, with a degree in communication studies - BA; **Eun Joo Lee**, of Centreville, with a degree in computer info systems - BBA; **Amber Sizemore**, of Centreville, with a degree in social work - BSW; **Andrew Bulas**, of Centreville, with a degree in health sciences - BS; **Samantha Berkley**, of Centreville, with a degree in modern foreign language - BA and a degree in biology - BS; **Brian Gay**, of Centreville, with a degree in biology - BS; and **Judy Choi**, of Centreville, with a degree in psychology - BA.



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