

CENTRE VIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION



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'A Dream Come True'

The King's Chapel holds grand opening.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

During the Sunday-morning service at The King's Chapel, a non-denominational church in Clifton, Gene Heck officially presented the Rev. Bill Jeschke with the key to the building.

Heck was the project manager, overseeing construction of the new sanctuary and, although the congregants have been meeting there since late November, Feb. 1

was its grand-opening ceremony. "God brought us to the consummation of this work ... to build this house for His worship," said Jeschke. Then the members said, "To You, we dedicate this house," and Jeschke continued, "We have come to this day, and it is providence to fulfill a dream that was in the heart of God."

John Collins, one of the founding members, said The King's Chapel is an offshoot of the Christian Assembly Church, which began 30 years ago at Oakton High. Said Collins: "We all came to know the Lord and were reborn and spirit filled."

That church eventually moved to Tysons Corner, where it re

SEE DREAM, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Mountain View graduate Natalie Briseno of Clifton (far right) celebrates with brother Tommy Deantonio, 13, and mom Claudia Escobar.

Mountain View Grads Move On

Principal says: 'Believe in yourself ... never give up.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Mountain View School graduations always tug at the heart. And last Tuesday's, Feb. 3, at Centreville High was no exception.

Principal Jim Oliver began the ceremony by talking about how, during the past year, seniors heard the words "change" and "yes, we can," throughout the country, and how those words relate to them. He also noted that the 58 stu-

dents in caps and gowns entered Mountain View for various reasons.

"You may have been placed here, were pregnant, didn't fit in or just plain hated school," he said. "Many of you were told you would never succeed in school. A change was needed in your life."

Oliver said this change didn't come easy because many of them had the perception that Mountain View was where only bad students went. "We have worked hard to change that image," he said. "I

SEE MOUNTAIN VIEW, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Pastor Bill Jeschke and wife Melanie in the new sanctuary.

Heroin Distribution Cases: Five More Plead Guilty

Eleven pleas so far in Centreville-based drug ring.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Five more local residents have pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Alexandria to distribution of heroin. This brings to 11, so far, the total number of people who've entered guilty pleas in federal court in connection with a Centreville-based, heroin-distribution ring.

Centreville's Tayler Gibson pleaded guilty Jan. 16 to conspiracy to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin, after admitting to

a statement of facts in her case, filed Jan. 16. In addition, both Kevin Zuiker, 20, of Centreville, and Jessica Remington, 19, of Fairfax, pleaded guilty to the same charge, last Thursday, Feb. 5.

As a result, they each could receive as much as 40 years in prison as punishment. Gibson, of Virginia Run, is slated for sentencing on March 27. Zuiker and Remington are on the April 17 sentencing docket.

On Friday, Feb. 6, two more of the co-defendants, Angela Aycock, 20, of Centreville, and Matthew Greenlee, 23, of

Fair Lakes, also entered guilty pleas. In Greenlee's case, he pleaded guilty to giving what was ultimately a fatal dose of heroin to 20-year-old Carmen Somers of Falls Church.

According to court documents, she took the drug in his home, the night of Sept. 6, 2008, and died the next day. Greenlee is scheduled for sentencing, April 17, and Aycock, on April 24.

Also charged with heroin dealing in the local area is Centreville's Andrew Kacvinsky who, on Jan. 28, waived his right to a pre-

liminary hearing. His case now goes to the grand jury for possible indictment.

After last week's guilty pleas, Centreville resident Greg Lannes, whose daughter Alicia, 19, was the first of four people to die in connection with heroin provided by members of the drug ring, praised both local and federal authorities for their diligence and hard work in these cases.

"Fairfax County and the FBI task force have made such an impact in the Centreville/Chantilly community," he said. "We have heard many positive things from the schools and law enforcement that kids

SEE HEROIN, PAGE 3



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People who read me seem to be divided into four groups: Twenty-five per-cent like me for the right reasons; 25% like me for the wrong reasons; 25% hate me for the wrong reasons; 25% hate me for the right reasons. It's that last 25% that worries me.

—Robert Frost

ROUNDUPS

Guilty Pleas in Costco Thefts

Loss-prevention officers in the Chantilly Costco store watched with interest, last June, as two men carried a TV and other electronics out a side entrance without paying for them. The employees chased the suspects into the parking lot, pinning one man to the ground until police could respond.

The incident occurred June 18, 2008 at the Costco at 14390 Chantilly Crossing Lane, and Fairfax County police arrested Edward Clay, 21, and Derek Jones, 25, both of no fixed address, on the spot.

They were each charged with four counts of grand larceny. Most of their charges were later dropped in General District Court but, on Jan. 20, the grand jury indicted Clay and Jones on one count each.

Then last Wednesday, Feb. 4, they each pleaded guilty in Circuit Court. Before accepting their pleas, Judge Gaylord Finch ascertained that they were entering them freely and voluntarily and because they were, indeed, guilty. He then set sentencing for both men for March 27. Grand larceny is punishable by a possible maximum of five years in prison.

Win One, Lose One

On July 6, Fairfax County police charged Jeremy Trujillo, now 24, of 321 Mosby Court, in Manassas Park, with assault on a police officer and destruction of property.

Police had stopped him, around 11:30 p.m., for a traffic violation in Fair Lakes and charged him with DWI. But while driving him to jail, police said Trujillo kicked the officer twice and then kicked out the window of his cruiser.

He had a jury trial, last Wednesday, Feb. 4, before Judge Jane Roush in Circuit Court. He was found not guilty of the assault, but was found guilty of the property-destruction charge, which is a misdemeanor.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections, Thursday, Feb. 12 and Feb. 19, 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. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140 to confirm dates and times.

WFCCA Land-Use Committee

A transportation project and a sign plan for a mixed-use project are on tap for the next meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee. It's slated for Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly. Agenda items are as follows:

* VDOT will give a preview of what it'll present in upcoming, public meetings regarding the Route 50 widening project. This highway will be widened from Poland Road in Loudoun County to Route 50 in Chantilly.

* The panel will review the sign plan for The Shoppes at Commonwealth Centre (formerly called BPG) — a mixed-use development off Westfields Boulevard in Chantilly. The project — already approved by the county — contains six office buildings around the perimeter, with two more inside, plus a strip of retail shops and two hotels.

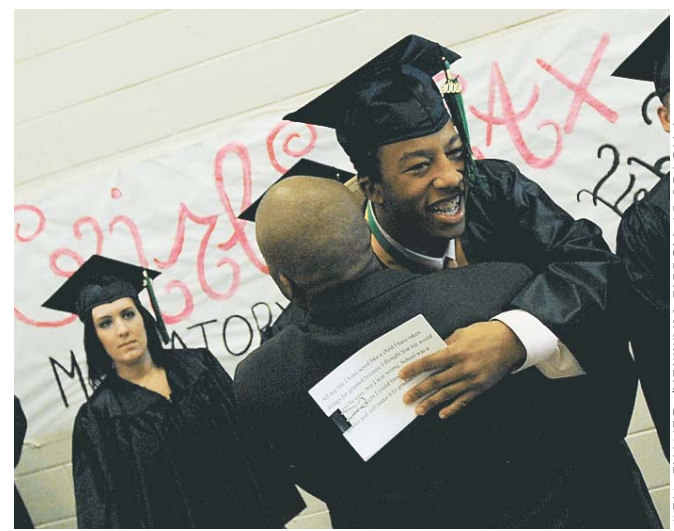
Constituent Viewpoint Hotline

Virginia's General Assembly is again providing a toll-free, Constituent Viewpoint hotline. It will allow citizens the opportunity to express their views on the issues before the General Assembly and provide legislators with information concerning public opinion on these issues.

The toll-free number is 1-800-889-0229. Constituent Viewpoint will receive calls from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., each legislative workday, from now through Feb. 28.



Natalie Briseno talked about how her experience at Mountain View changed her life.



Walter James is congratulated by family members before the start of Mountain View's winter graduation. James was also a featured student speaker.

Mountain View's Winter Graduation

FROM PAGE 1

surely don't see any bad students here tonight. What I see is the future of young adults ready to take on the next challenge in their lives. So, to all the nonbelievers who thought you would never succeed in school, you now have the opportunity to change their attitudes and show them they were wrong."

He spoke of the changes in priorities the students had to make in order to be academically successful and noted how the Mountain View family was by their side, the whole way. "Your teachers were patient, respectful and honestly cared about you as individuals," said Oliver. "Your teachers taught you that, yes, you can pass the SOLs, make honor roll, come back and graduate after having your baby, and go to college."

"As you leave here tonight, remember the changes you made," he continued. "Never underestimate your

potential, believe in yourself and never give up. Hold your heads up high and, now, as you graduate, we can say, not 'Yes, you can,' but 'Yes, you did.'"

THE FOUR, STUDENT speakers then explained what the school had done for them. Nuria Mendez said she worked hard to get an education so her two, young children would have a better future. She also thanked her mother.

"I remember when we cried together in the living room when I told you I was pregnant," said Mendez. "Thank you for showing me how to be a good mother." She thanked her brother Andrew, as well, for helping rock her babies, and her teachers, for keeping her focused on her studies.

"I've proved to everyone I could graduate from school while raising two kids, and I hope I will be a role model to others," she said. "I know now, with

SEE GRADUATION, PAGE 4



Fire at Centreville Regional Library

A fire that started in a wastebasket in the men's bathroom forced the evacuation of everyone in the Centreville Regional Library, last Thursday, Feb. 5. The fire broke out at 7 p.m., setting off fire alarms and sending people in the library outside, to huddle together in clumps in the parking lot in frigid, 22-degree weather. Both Centreville fire stations 17 and 38 responded and put out the fire.

Ceremony Marks Grand Opening of King's Chapel

FROM PAGE 1

mains. But 13 years ago, The King's Chapel came into being as a sister church, meeting first at Lanier Middle school and, later, at Willow Springs Elementary.

Now, after a \$4 million building project which broke ground in April 2006, it has a new home of its own in the Braddock Woods community, at 12925 Braddock Road, between Clifton and Doyle roads. And the church has grown from its 30 charter members to about 150 regular attendees of various races, ages and ethnic backgrounds.

Robson Group Architects designed the new structure, and phase one is the 400-seat sanctuary/fellowship hall, plus classrooms for children and adults. Phase two will be a separate fellowship hall and a kitchen.

DURING THE CEREMONY, Jeschke said the building's "beauty, design and simplicity" have received accolades. But, he noted, "It's almost been made by invisible hands." He then praised and thanked the late Molly Woodell who donated a significant amount of money to help construct the church.

Jeschke also acknowledged the hard work and efforts of many other congregation members and their families who helped the building come to fruition. Then he led the assemblage in prayer, saying, "Lord, be our vision, our director; show us the ways to go in the days ahead."

Afterward, the members enjoyed a reception and chatted about their church. "Looking around, you'll see happy and positive people," said Collins. "Everybody really believes and lives their faith." As for the new sanctuary, he called it "absolutely gorgeous — the most striking part is the awareness of the trees outside through the windows."

"We're just so grateful to the Lord for giving us a place to meet," said Jeschke. "Bill Robson did a beautiful design, and we're relieved that substantial completion is done."



From left are church members Barbara Heck, Becky Fairchild, Sarah Roberts and Michelle Torbert.

"We're thrilled to be here," added Jeschke's wife Melanie. "It's so open and light-filled — just a beautiful space for worship, with the view of nature outside." Agreeing, Oak Hill's Michelle Torbert said she especially likes "the message of the cross in each window."

Denise and Rick Haun were among the dozen or so people who founded the church with the Rev. Jeschke and, said Denise Haun, "This is a dream come true, and we praise God that — with his provision — a little church like us had the means to put all this together."

She said the congregants there "have the love of God in them and they're willing to share that with others. They're generous, and they know how to put God's word into action."

"THIS IS A SPECIAL group of people, very loving and accepting," said nearly 20-year member Sonia Valenzuela of Falls

Church. "You can be yourself — and everything in your life doesn't have to be perfect."

"We love our pastor; his teaching just hits the heart," said Torbert. "And the church isn't so big that you can't know everybody — it really is a family. My husband and I have two teen-agers and what drew us here is that there's a place for everyone to serve and be needed, and that's important to us."

She was also impressed that some members drive to this church from beyond Occoquan — "not just on Sundays, but for everything. The fact that families were that bonded and connected here told us that this wasn't just a church of convenience, but a place where you can really put your heart."

Barbara Heck and grown daughters Becky Fairchild and Sarah Roberts all live in Greenbriar, are longtime members and cater events for The King's Chapel.

Roberts and Fairchild play violin and

viola, respectively, for worship, and Roberts's husband Brian has been the church's associate pastor for 10 years. He's also a Marine lieutenant colonel, currently serving in Iraq.

Roberts said her church is special because "the people really pitch in — it's a service-oriented church."

She said they don't just show up for services, but help minister to the youth and even babysit. And, she said, "Our home groups help each other whenever something happens."

For example, said Fairchild, "If there's an illness, you'll have meals for a month." Delighted to finally have a permanent building for worship, she said, "It's fantastic to not have to set up and take down chairs and the sound system, every week."

AND WHEN it comes to caring and generosity, she said, it's hard to beat their pastor. "He gave away his kidney to a member," said Fairchild. "And when we were at Willow Springs, he'd vacuum the nursery at the end of services."

Heck also appreciates the attitude of the congregants, saying, "No matter what age you are, you're made to feel welcome." She said the new sanctuary will enhance the church's ability to minister to members of the community, such as providing childcare while young mothers listen to speakers relating to their needs. Besides that, said Heck, "Being the wife of the project manager, I'm glad it's finished."

"We have come to this day, and it is providence to fulfill a dream that was in the heart of God."

— The Rev. Bill Jeschke

Dean Pleads Guilty to Robbery

In the early-morning hours of July 10, 2008, a man walking near London Towne Elementary in Centreville was approached by three people. They threatened him with a semi-automatic handgun and a baseball bat and took his belongings.

Now, two of the culprits have owned up to their actions in court. Legally certified as an adult, Julio Cesar Montenegro, 16, of 14119 Honey Hill Court in Centreville, pleaded guilty Dec. 17 to robbery and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

And last Wednesday, Feb. 4, in Circuit Court, Taurus Finley Dean Jr., 19, of 14626 Outpost Court in

Centreville's Centre Ridge community, pleaded guilty to the same two offenses.

In December, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Dylan Gallagher told the court that "Taurus Dean admitted to being the man who'd held the gun. And on Oct. 24, Montenegro told [police] that he'd held the bat." According to Gallagher, the gun was later retrieved from Dean's home and "turned out to be a bb pistol which had been fitted with a cartridge from a real, 9 mm gun." Montenegro is slated for sentencing, March 6, before Judge David Schell. Dean's sentencing is scheduled for April 24 before Judge Gaylord Finch.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Heroin: Guilty Pleas

FROM PAGE 1

in the community are afraid to use, sell or buy drugs. We hope that the community will continue to keep this issue a priority in the months and years to come. We can make a difference in our communities if we stand together as one."

Graduation at Mountain View

FROM PAGE 3

help and motivation, anything can be accomplished."

Walter James said he used to act immature. "I thought I could breeze through school and I had bad study habits," he said. After he and another boy "jumped another student," James was placed in Mountain View. But, he said, "Here, I found a family."

He also read lots of books, achieved a 3.0 GPA and "made the transformation from kid to adult" with help from "my inspiration and my idol, my sister Latoya — you encouraged me after I got expelled [from my former school]," said James. "Mountain View was my final chance to graduate and

SEE GRADUATES, PAGE 19



Chris Thuot plays the "Top Gun" anthem during Mountain View's Winter Commencement Ceremony.

Bulova Sworn In as County Chairman

Democrat won special election by slim margin Feb. 3.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
CENTRE VIEW

Former Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D) was sworn in as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's newest chairman at the county government center Feb. 6.

Bulova defeated Springfield Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R) by 1,217 votes, a margin of less than two percent, in a special election for the countywide seat three days earlier. She replaces now U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who left the office to join the U.S. Congress in early January.

"Working together, we will come through these difficult financial times."

— Fairfax Chairman Sharon Bulova



FAIRFAX COUNTY GOVT.

Judge Jan Brodie swore in Sharon Bulova as the new Fairfax County chairman Feb. 6.

A 21-year county board veteran, Bulova serves as chair of the supervisor's budget committee and was a founder of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), a commuter train to Washington D.C. with stations in southern and central Fairfax.

In opening remarks at the swearing in ceremony, Fairfax County public information officer Merni Fitzgerald also said Bulova had "championed the redevelopment of Tysons Corner as an environmental project," while serving as Braddock District supervisor.

As chairman, Bulova has her work cut out for her in 2009. Fairfax County must close a projected \$650 million budget hole in the annual budget that begins in July.

Approximately 75 percent of the local government's revenue comes from real estate taxes and the county's property values have fallen significantly. The supervisors would have to raise the real estate property tax rate 14 to 15 cents just to keep county revenue at the same level as last year.

ACCORDING TO BULOVA, residents should brace themselves for some cuts to county services, though Fairfax will try to take care of its most vulnerable citizens.

"We will adopt changes that will bring our budget into equilibrium [But we] need to take care of those among us who our help now more than ever," said the new chairman at the swearing in ceremony.

"Working together, we will come through these difficult financial times. ... The darkest hour is just before the dawn," she added.

Though facing a tough situation, Fairfax County's economy is also resilient, according to Bulova.

Hilton Hotels recently decided to move its headquarters to Fairfax over other local

SEE NEW CHAIRMAN, PAGE 17

Centreville, Liberty Offer Joint Concerts

Under the direction of Centreville High Band Director Melissa Hall and Liberty Middle School Band Director Nelson Penserga, the two schools will present joint band concerts next week. Six bands total — three different bands, each night — will participate.

On Wednesday, Feb. 18, two bands from Liberty and one from Centreville will perform. And on Thursday, Feb. 19, two bands from Centreville and one from Liberty will entertain. Both concerts are free and will be held at 7 p.m., each night, in the Centreville High theater.

"The bands will perform various styles of music," said Hall. "Each band will begin with a march, followed by two additional pieces — which are the ones that will be adjudicated at our [competitive] band festivals in March."

Centreville will participate in the festival held at Westfield High, and Liberty will vie in one at Lake Braddock Secondary School. So, said Hall, "Next week's concerts are a dress rehearsal for us, and a panel of mock judges will give us comments and tell us where to improve."

She's hoping for a good turnout, she said, because "The kids have been working really hard, over the past couple weeks, to get ready. And it should be an enjoyable program."

— BONNIE HOBBS

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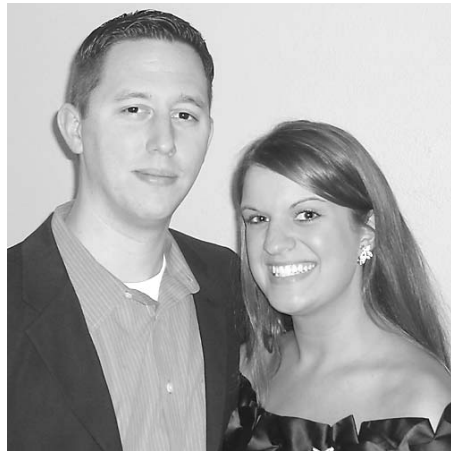
PEOPLE

Rooney and Williams To Wed

Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. James Williams of Centreville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Ashley to Brian Joseph Rooney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rooney of Clifton.

Jennifer is a 2006 graduate of Radford University, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in communications with a concentration in public relations and a minor in marketing. Jennifer is currently employed as a meetings coordinator at the International Sign Association in Alexandria.

Brian is a 2005 graduate of Radford University, and earned a bachelor of science degree in communications with a concentration in public relations and a minor in criminal justice. Brian is currently employed as a security specialist



Brian Joseph Rooney and Jennifer Ashley Williams

with the Office of Naval Research in Arlington.

A June 2009 wedding is planned at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gainesville, with a reception at the Historic Whitehall Manor in Bluemont. Following a honeymoon in St. Lucia, the couple will reside in Arlington.

Kolick and Zimmerman Are Engaged

The parents of Shelli Kolick and Mike Zimmerman are pleased to announce their engagement. Mike is a 2002 graduate of Westfield High School and Shelli is a 2002 graduate of Kempsville High School in Virginia Beach. Both hold degrees from Old Dominion University. Mike is a flight instructor for Tidewater Flight Center in Chesapeake, while Shelli is a financial analyst for the Defense Dept. A May 16, 2009 destination wedding is planned at Capon Springs Resort, WV. The couple



Shelli Kolick and Mike Zimmerman

will reside in Chesapeake.

Urgent Care Donates \$1,000 to CVFD



President Marva Williams, Dr. Seyi Adegoye and Chief Jeff Sargent.

The Annual Centreville Urgent Care Flu Shot Campaign ended with a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to the Centreville Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD), on behalf of patients and staff. Medical Director, Dr. Seyi Adegoye presented the check to President Marva Williams and Chief Jeff Sargent, at the monthly

meeting of the CVFD, on Feb. 2. Dr. Adegoye expressed appreciation for the invaluable services provided by the CVFD, stating that the high quality and reliability lead the community to take it for granted. He hoped that the community would support CVFD especially in these tough economic times.



Finalists Brian Dickinson, Dodge York, and Kyle LeBahn react as their cars cross the finish line.

Pack 1862 Holds Pinewood Derby

Cub Scout Pack 1862 held its annual Pinewood Derby and Scout Bakeoff on Friday, Jan. 30th at Cub Run Elementary school. A key highlight of the scout year, the derby evening made good on its promise of race thrills for scouts and their families, and tummies were well-filled with delicious, prize-winning baked goods.

The 1862 scouts live in neighborhoods around Cub Run Elementary school — and generally meet as a pack at Cub Run every last Friday of the month. The pack provided scouts with their derby car kits in November, and each scout was encouraged to design and build their own car with their parent's help. Some pack parents also hosted a couple of derby car building clinics to lend additional assistance and tools. 1862 scouts produced a wide range of custom cars, each of which was subsequently inspected, qualified, and registered for the evening's events.

As baked goods were readily sampled by discerning judges,



Hefting trophies and pride, winners (from left to right): are Brian Dickinson, Kyle LeBahn, and Dodge York.

scouts and parents alike gathered around the track area and cheered outcomes as each den of scouts undertook races. The Pack 1862 finalists with the fastest times for their den were Dodge York, Kyle LeBahn, and Brian Dickinson. Bake-off winners included Tommy Bolton for his sour cream coffee cake, Nathan Marshak for his double ginger cake, and Henry Marshak won the hotly-contested

pie division with his succulent pumpkin chiffon pie. 1862 wishes to give a special hearty shout of thanks to bake-off coordinators Lois and Jim Hale and derby coordinator Bruce York, for it is through their special kind efforts and personal attention that the event was ensured a success.

The winners will compete at our Sully District Derby and bake-off on Feb. 28 at St. Timothy School.



Elated scouts at the end of a close heat (from left to right): Colby Pritchett, Joe Matteson, Henry Marshak and Kyle LeBahn.

OPINION

Loop Hole Stays Open

It's a common sense measure that wouldn't stop a single qualified Virginian from buying a gun. We have the technology to implement it without massive expense or additional bureaucracy.

Right now, some of the guns sold at gun shows in Virginia are sold without the background check required of gun sales in any other official setting. This allows even convicted felons, stalkers with restraining orders against them, and people with documented mental health problems that could make them a danger to themselves or others a clear path to purchasing a firearm. There is no reason for this.

In November, at the "Nation's Gun Show" the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly was the scene of record gun sales. It was an ebullient gathering of people with shared interests, and no doubt all but the tiniest percentage of participants were law-abiding, responsible people, fully qualified to own the guns they were buying. The record sales were motivated in part

Affront to families of Virginia Tech victims leaves option open for felons and people with documented mental illness to buy guns.

because of concern by some gun enthusiasts about new restrictions on some firearms that could come with Democratic control of Congress and the White House, and in part because of the recession.

EDITORIAL Why would those people want to run the risk that a tragedy like the one at Virginia Tech nearly two years ago that claimed the lives of 33 people would involve a gun purchased without a proper background check at the Nation's Gun Show?

FOR THE RECORD, the Virginia Tech shooter was able to buy his guns legally because his

name was mistakenly not included on the list of those excluded from gun ownership; he was previously ruled a danger to himself or others and should not have been able to buy from a licensed gun dealer. But if he had been excluded through normal means, he could have traveled a few miles from his home to the gun show in Chantilly in search of weapons he could buy without a background check.

IN ANY EVENT, legislation in the General Assembly that would have closed the gun show loophole is dead for this year. Only one Northern Virginia senator, Ken Cuccinelli, voted against closing the loophole.

Cuccinelli Reports From Richmond

To the Editor:

Dear Fellow Virginians,

The General Assembly is in full swing, and we're going to walk through a couple of interesting bills that I've got this year and that I would like your help to pass!

But first, let me update you on the momentum our campaign is building, with two important grassroots endorsements last night.

Yesterday's Good News

Last night, all three A.G. candidates had the chance to speak to a well-attended Chesterfield GOP Committee meeting. We each had seven minutes to speak and then took questions together for another 30 minutes or so — a great way to campaign!

At the committee meeting I was pleased to announce our then-latest endorsement. At about 5 p.m. yesterday, Graham Leonard, the Roanoke County GOP Chairman, endorsed our campaign and committed to help us continue to build our grassroots effort. He joins most of the executive committee of the Roanoke County Committee and Senator Ralph Smith on board the Cuccinelli for A.G. campaign, and we're so pleased to have so many of them on board!

Then, after the candidate forum, Donald Williams, chairman of the Chesterfield County GOP Committee, also endorsed our campaign. He joins Del. Sam Nixon, Sen. Steve Martin, and RPV 1st Vice-Chairman Mike Thomas and many others on our grassroots campaign in Chesterfield. As you might

imagine, we're excited and honored to have such support.

As you all know, at the convention, every locality will vote as a block. E.g., Fairfax County is the biggest block with over 1,200 votes all the way down to the smallest, the City of Norton, with six votes.

We are honored to have the Chairmen of the five Republican Committees with the biggest voting blocks at the convention: Fairfax County, the City of Virginia Beach, Chesterfield County, Henrico County, and Prince William County. We also have the Chairmen of 10 of the 15 largest units publicly supporting our campaign. The key to keeping up this kind of momentum among the grassroots leaders of our party is you!

These local party leaders support our campaign because we have a solid conservative track record of sticking to principles and a track record of winning grassroots campaigns in one of the toughest parts of Virginia. This is a winning formula that will help the whole GOP ticket, but not without your support!

I want to personally ask each of you that have not already done so to join our team. All you need to do is click here and let us know you're willing to come to the convention on May 30th. We'd love to have you on board, and we sure do need your help!

Winning on the petition signatures, the straw poll, and the fundraising competition is nice, but

what matters are votes — and we need yours! Please join us today.

Legislation

I have over 20 bills filed this session, but there are a couple in particular that I would appreciate your lobbying help with. First up will be SB 801, our "Choose Life" license plate bill. This bill has been passed once before, only to die with Mark Warner's veto in 2004. Then-Governor Warner expressed legal concerns with the bill, but rather than try to fix them, he just killed the bill. We have gone back and addressed his concerns, and we would appreciate your lobbying help to get the bill through.

The bill is in the Senate Transportation Committee, so please email some of the members and let them know you'd like to see a Choose Life plate available:

Sen. Chap Petersen at district34@senate.virginia.gov
Sen. Harry Blevins at district14@senate.virginia.gov
Sen. John Miller at district01@senate.virginia.gov
Sen. Phil Puckett at district38@senate.virginia.gov
Sen. Frank Wagner at district07@senate.virginia.gov
Sen. Ryan McDougle at district04@senate.virginia.gov
Sen. Edd Houck at district17@senate.virginia.gov
Sen. Creigh Deeds at district25@senate.virginia.gov
Sen. Y.B. Miller (Chairman) at district05@senate.virginia.gov
Sen. Henry Marsh at district16@senate.virginia.gov

Sen. John Watkins at district10@senate.virginia.gov

The money from these specialty license plates will go to fund crisis pregnancy centers all over Virginia. We are working with volunteers all over Virginia to help get this plate through. Please help our lobby efforts, but not only that...

Please go to www.VaChooseLife.org and sign up yourself to get the plate if the bill passes. We need as many folks signed up as early as possible, so the committee knows that there is a real demand for the plate!

I also have legislation to address the Federal Government's so-called "Real ID" mandates on the Commonwealth. I will address this in a later Compass, as I expect it to come up later than SB 801.

Information on Roanoke City (Feb. 24); Salem (Mar. 10); and Dinwiddie County (Mar. 16), can also be found on our web site at: www.Cuccinelli.com/meetings.htm. Please visit our site periodically to find your local unit's deadline, mass meeting date (if any), and get a copy of the delegate filing form.

If you have any questions about the rules or requirements to become a convention delegate, email Meredith@Cuccinelli.com, and we'll get you answers!

That's all for now. I hope I'll see you on the campaign trail!

Sen. Ken Cuccinelli II
Centreville

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SYA Honors Its Volunteers

The Southwestern Youth Association held its 2008 Volunteer Awards Banquet Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Fairfax Marriott Hotel at Fair Oaks.



SYA Basketball winners are (back row): Dave Scanlan, Dave Vennergrund, Stephanie Ryan, and Donald Kiley. (Front row): Cheryl Belloli, Steve Katchmark, Lorrie Yeo, Robert Korman, and Billy Naylor.



SYA Cheerleading winners are (back row): Karen Trueman, Bobbie Helbringer, Effie Blankenship, Virginia Liddle, and Donna Benucci. (Front row): Marcie Ragano and Cami Ragano.



SYA Little League award winners (from left): Charlie Bond, Bob Woodruff, Preston Bach, Pete Naka and Jack McGuigan.



SYA Lacrosse award winners (from left): Kevin Sikora, John Knowlan and Ken Murphy. Not present: Steven Dulkerian.



SYA Football winners are (from left): Donald Waymire, Jeff Wise, Lisa Wise and Damian Caracciolo.



Hall of Fame Basketball Coach Morgan Wootten and his wife Kathy.



SYA Softball award winners: Wendy Pascual, Jill Sokol and Philip Lott.



(From left): Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully), SYA President Gary Flather and Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield).



SYA Soccer award winners (from left): Hendren Thornton, Fitz Lawrence, Irving Williams and Jeff Stein. Not present: Russ Horn.



SYA Wrestling award winners (from left): Kristen Rom, Joe Nowak and Christina Bennett. Not pictured: Jeannie Donahue and Derek Donahue.



SYA Volleyball award winners (from left): Nick Kokulis and Pat Lowery. Not pictured: Mike Woods, Paul Yu and Tyler Freiheit.



Softball commissioner Jill Sokol (second from left) won the President's Award for longtime, dedicated and outstanding service. She is surrounded by Erich Wiemann (left), Bryan Hunt, Pete Cuomo and Gary Flather.



(From left): Cort Overholt, Gary Flather and Coach Morgan Wootten.

SCHOOLS

Colonnade at Union Mill Donates to Willow Springs

The merchants of Colonnade at Union Mill donated \$1,000 to Willow Springs Elementary School as part of the shopping center's holiday promotion. The school received the donation thanks to Allen Craven of Clifton who listed Willow Springs Elementary as his favorite school on the entry form he filled out for a shopping spree drawing. Craven's son, David, is a third-grader at the school and his other son, Joshua, will be attending Willow Springs in the fall. In addition to a \$1,000 donation to the school, Craven won a \$500 shopping spree to Colonnade at Union Mill for himself.

The money will go toward the purchase of new books for various grade levels. "We are excited to use this money to purchase new books for the kindergarten and the first-, second- and third-grade classes," said Elizabeth Rhein, principal at Willow Springs Elementary.



(From left): Elizabeth Rhein, principal of Willow Springs Elementary; Joshua Craven, son of shopping spree winner; Allen Craven, shopping spree winner.

This is the 13th year Colonnade at Union Mill merchants have hosted this promotion and the third time Willow Springs Elementary School has won. Other winning schools include St. Andrew

the Apostle (three times), Centreville High School (twice), Virginia Run Elementary, Union Mill Elementary (twice) and Centreville Elementary School (twice).

Virginia Run Donates to Kate Hanley Shelter

Virginia Run Elementary School made a donation to the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter on Jan. 23. They delivered about 30 bags full of diapers, socks, underwear, T-shirts, onesies, and other items.

"Wow! The donations from Virginia Run were just dropped off — what a great response. These items are so critically needed by our residents," said Kristen Lenz, community coordinator at the shelter.

The Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter provides a safe, temporary home for families, where they can receive help to assess their needs and develop a plan to locate permanent housing as quickly as possible. Families at the shelter abide by a daily schedule that includes wake-up times; regularly scheduled congregate meals; school, training and/or work activities; special groups (parenting, computers etc.); curfews; and bed-times. During the day, the adults are expected to go to work, if employed, or prepare for and seek



Mrs. Delgrosso's fifth-grade class which helped load the cars.

employment. Children go to school or participate in child-care programs. A van and drivers are available to address residents' transportation needs. The shelter offers case management, training

and other social services for the clients. Volunteers are an important resource to the shelter, serving as mentors and trainers, helping with meal preparation and coordinating donations.

London Towne GEMS

The London Towne Elementary School GEMS (Girls Engaging in Math and Science) are an after-school club of 36 members. They meet once a month to participate in a variety of Math and Science activities. This month they met to design a table that was at least 8 inches high and would hold the weight of their math book using only newspaper and tape.

The first team to complete the design task was (from left): Blanca Alvarado (5th), Elis Kim (5th), Coryn Gregory, (5th), Christina Barnes (6th), Carolina Sosa (6th), and Rianna Van Tassell (5th).



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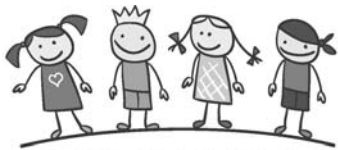
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14920 Jaslow St	\$379,900	Feb 15th, 12-3 pm	Long & Foster	Linda Blakemore	703-365-7537
13653 South Springs Dr	\$459,900	Feb 15th, 1-4 pm	Coldwell Banker	Barbara Blumer	703-691-1400
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Fairfax					
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MILITARY

Air Force Airman Miguel E. Lopez has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, core values, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in

human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate in applied science degree relating through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Marcelo Lopez of Mossy Brook Square, Ashburn, and Cecilia Mendoza of Laura Ratcliff Court, Centreville.

The airman is a 2007 graduate of Centreville High School.

Army Spec.

Kyle A. Davis was one of more than 300 Army soldiers who participated in the "Spirit of America 2008" performance to the citizens of Rochester, N.Y., and Worcester, Mass on Sept. 12 and 13, respectively. The citizens welcomed the soldiers while they paid tribute to the sacrifices and triumphs of the American Soldier, who has remained the U.S. Army's centerpiece for more than 233 years.

During the event, soldiers brought history to life with the Spirit of America performance. The performance cap-

tured the true stories of those who have answered the call to duty for our nation. The soldiers, dressed in historical uniforms, re-enacted key moments in the U.S. Army and American history. The re-enactments included battle scenes, short periods of simulated gunfire, and performances by the Army's elite ceremonial units.

Davis, an infantryman with two years of military service, is assigned to the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

He is the son of Wesley R. and Kimberly M. Davis of Jermantown Road, Fairfax.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Josh E. Dittmar, son of Ceci M. and Charles A. Dittmar of Chantilly, along with members of Patrol Squadron 9 (VP-9) "Golden Eagles" and Consolidated Maintenance Organization 2 (CMO 2), Detachment Bravo, Maintenance Team "Sea Raiders" stationed at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, recently completed a seven-month deployment to Ali Air Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). The squadron deployed 155 personnel from VP-9 including 12 aircrews as well as support and intelligence personnel who continually performed their duties during the 120-degree summer temperatures. Traditionally used for anti-submarine warfare, the PC-3 AIP Orion aircraft flown by VP-9 with upgraded sensor capabilities, are a proven overland asset in the Global War on Terror.

Dittmar is a 1990 graduate of Chantilly High School of Chantilly, and joined the Navy in April 1994. He is a 1994 graduate of U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. with a BS degree and a 2006 graduate of Air Force Institute of Technology, Dayton, Ohio with a MS degree.

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SCHOOLS

Samantha Luffy of Centreville was selected to play Juliet for the University of Mary Washington production of "Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)."



Luffy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Luffy of Centreville and is a 2007 graduate of Westfield High School.

A sophomore biology major, Luffy has performed in the UMW productions of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and "Elegies: A Song Cycle."

The comedy, written by Anne-Marie Macdonald, tells the story of Professor Constance Ledbelly, a Queen's University academic working on a thesis. The professor has a theory that the Shakespeare tragedies "Othello" and "Romeo and Juliet" were originally comedies. Performances will be held Feb. 12-14 and Feb. 19-21 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 15 and 22 at 2 p.m.

St. Timothy School Open House. Feb. 12 from 7-8 p.m. Family Open House for families interested in touring the Preschool, Elementary and Junior High. An art show and science fair projects will be on display. More information is available at www.sainttimothyschool.org or by calling Kim Kovac at 703-378-6932. Address: 13809 Poplar Tree Rd., Chantilly.

Westfield High School International Night will be held on Friday, Feb. 13 from 7-9 p.m. in the auditorium. Intermission offers international food and henna designs as well as exposure to other clubs here at Westfield High.

Pleasant Valley Preschool is a non-profit cooperative preschool that holds its classes in the Greenbriar Community Center. It offers programs for 3-5 year olds and is enrolling for the 2009-10 school year. Call the school at 703-378-6911 or visit the web site at www.pleasantvalleypreschool.com for more information. The Community Center is located at 4615 Stringfellow Rd. in Fairfax.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic School is holding an Open House Session on the following dates:

- ❖ Sunday, Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to noon.
- ❖ Thursday, March 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ Sunday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to noon.
- ❖ Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to noon.
- ❖ Tuesday, May 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

St. Andrew the Apostle School is now accepting new student registrations to fill student vacancies for the 2009-2010 school year for Preschool thru Grade 8. A non-refundable application fee of \$100 will be required at the time of registration. Please submit all applications and fees to St. Andrew the Apostle School, 6720B Union Mill Road, Clifton, VA 20124, or you may drop off applications at the school office.

All registration forms and additional information about St. Andrew the Apostle School may be found on the school's web site, www.standrew-clifton.org.

The Clifton Presbyterian Church Preschool is accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year.

It offers classes for the 3, 4, and 5 year olds. Call the preschool office at 703-830-3175 or email: gretchen-cliftonpc@vacoxmail.com.

Virginia Run Elementary has received the 2009 Board of Education Excellence Award. The award rewards schools that have met state and federal accountability benchmarks for at least two consecutive years, and have made significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded education opportunities set by Gov. Kaine and the Virginia Board of Education.

A community dialogue meeting,

"Say No to the Proposed Bell Schedule," about the early school start time will be held Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 7-9 p.m. at Rocky Run Middle School, 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. To see a list of start times, see: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/start.htm>

To see a list of some of the items that will be effected by the current proposed bell schedule, see: <http://wakefairfax.googlepages.com/home> and <http://www.chantillysports.org/index.cfm?action=main.adnews&ID=84356>

If you are opposed to the current bell schedule proposal, sign the petition (<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/NLST2009/>).

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Now Healthy, Bulldogs Get Six

Westfield wrestling wins yet another Concorde title, edging rival Robinson.

BY JASON MACKEY
CENTRE VIEW

In the moments following the Westfield wrestling team's sixth consecutive Concorde District title last Saturday at Chantilly High School, head coach Chuck Hoskins took turns posing for pictures with seemingly every wrestler on the team.

And why not? The opportunities to have everyone healthy and in once place have scarce this season, so nobody could blame Hoskins for wanting to capture the moment on film.

Out of the 11 dates in Fairfax County that teams are allowed to wrestle, Westfield didn't have its full complement of team members until the 10th one. And the Bulldogs made that issue a distance memory with their 225-209 win over Robinson Saturday.

"It's good to finally get everyone together," said 119-pound John Orchard-Hays. "We've had a lot of incidents and stuff that's been happening and breaking our team apart."

Westfield's "incidents" have varied from skin and bacterial issues to plain old injuries — neither of which are out of the ordinary when it comes to wrestling. At one point Hoskins was missing as many as four of his starters from an already-youthful team.

"The key term this year was perseverance," said Hoskins, whose

team will compete in this weekend's Northern Region tournament at Fairfax. "Do not give up, keep the faith. Because when we get everyone together, we have a good team ... just nobody knows it."

WESTFIELD ENTERED Saturday's final set of matches with an eight-point lead over Robinson, but the Bulldogs had a wrestler in 10 of the 14 weight classes — six that went on to win individual district titles.

Jeremy Ryan (112) atoned for a loss in last year's district final with a 7-2 win over Fairfax's Cory Apps. Orchard-Hays continued the Bulldogs' dominance with another 7-2 decision — this one over Josh Pike of Herndon.

"I should have done it last year, so it's really good coming back this year and doing what I should have done," Ryan said. "It's the greatest feeling that I could've had all year."

Brandon Berling, a 130-pounder, finally broke through after losing in the finals for the past two years, pinning Herndon's Nick Ziegler late in the first period. He was also the one responsible for Westfield's team-unifying act of dying everyone's hair Bulldog gold.

"I've always wanted to get a mohawk or dye my hair, but I was always a younger guy," Berling explained. "Finally, I said, 'Let's just do it.' It was team bonding."

"We didn't do it to be cocky or anything," 145-pounder Nick



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Jeremy Ryan (119) earned a 7-2 win over Cory Apps of Fairfax this past Saturday. "It's the greatest feeling that I could've had all year," Ryan said of his district finals win.

Grinups said. "We just did it for team unity."

Grinups, who missed two weeks back in December as one of Westfield's many casualties, cruised to a 12-4 win over Robinson's Reid Brown, and 150-pound Kevin Koch followed with a pin of Ahmad Elhajj of Fairfax.

Austin Fallon (189) earned Westfield's final first-place finish,

SEE BULLDOGS, PAGE 13

WEEK IN SPORTS Concorde Swim Roundup

At this past Saturday's Concorde District swim and dive championships, the Westfield girls and the Chantilly boys teams posted third- and fifth-place finishes, respectively. The Chantilly girls team finished fifth and Centreville was seventh, and, on the boys side, Westfield was sixth and Centreville placed seventh. Robinson swept both titles.

Individual-event winners included the Chantilly girls 4x400-yard relay team (Maggie Shaw, Alexis Ragan, Becca Yost and Elizabeth Hall), which finished with a time of 3 minutes, 39.96 seconds. Westfield's Kurtis Ratcliff won the 100 butterfly with a mark of 51.45, and Chantilly's Mitch Phillips garnered top honors in the 100 free with his time of 47.07. The Northern Region finals culminate this Saturday at Oak Marr RECenter.

Round Two: Chargers

Despite scare, Chantilly boys basketball wins rematch with Westfield on the strength of May's 30-point night.

BY JASON MACKEY
CENTRE VIEW

Tuesday night's rematch between the Westfield and Chantilly boys basketball teams delivered every bit as much excitement as the first meeting between two of the area's top teams, though Chantilly coach Jim Smith would hardly have complained had it not.

His Chargers relinquished a 14-

point lead — acquired with Justin May's 3-pointer 66 seconds into the final period — and led by only three (52-49) when May was fouled on a shot attempt with 2:18 remaining.

May, a slashing senior guard who finished with a game-high 30 points and showed no ill effects from a hamstring injury incurred after a 61-57 win over Fairfax on Jan. 29, converted both of his attempts, as Chantilly closed the game on an 11-

2 run and walked away with 63-51 win.

"We had to attack their pressure, and we had to get stops on defense," said May, who scored eight of those 11 points. "They got too many transition buckets."

By topping Westfield for the second time this season, Chantilly wrapped up its first-ever perfect district season at 12-0 and will be the top seed during next week's district

tournament. Chantilly can achieve the school's top regular-season record in history if it earns a win over Falls Church on Friday to improve to 20-1.

Westfield, meanwhile, suffered only its second district loss all season. The Bulldogs are now 17-3 overall but can finish the district season at 10-2 and earn the No. 2 seed for the postseason tournament with a win Friday over Herndon.

"The most important thing that we have to do is to try and take care of business on Friday," Westfield coach Doug Ewell said. "Then we're 0-0 and have to start off from there."

CHANTILLY TOOK a 30-18 lead after the opening half, holding

Westfield's leading scorer, senior forward Chris Kearney, scoreless during that time. Meanwhile, May caught fire and finished with 12 points in the first 16 minutes.

"I thought in the first half we came out and did everything that we talked about in practice," said Smith, whose team has now won 10 straight games and hasn't lost yet this year. "I thought we did a good job doing what we needed to do to be successful against them."

"And the nice thing was that they cut it to three and at that point you can go one of two ways — I thought we bucked up."

Six-foot-11 sophomore John Manning (18 points) slammed

SEE CHARGERS, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SPORTS

Bulldogs Get Six

FROM PAGE 12

scoring two late, key points to prevent Robinson's Marcus Hathaway from making a comeback. Fallon, another two-time runner-up, was called for stalling in last year's district final.

"I didn't want that, and I had to take a shot so it didn't look like I was stalling," Fallon said. "I got his ankle, lifted it up and got the two points."

And Westfield, after incurring a wrath of injuries, got healthy and scored yet another district title.

"This was Robinson's year to win it," Koch said. "We were struggling at the beginning of the season and everything was looking downhill, but now we just proved ourselves again."

IN OTHER TOURNAMENT ACTION, Centreville finished seventh in the district with 36 points. Emilio Garcia (171) posted a second-place finish, while 189-pound Martin Seneca finished third.

Chantilly heavyweight Chris Cabe earned a 3-0 win over Zach Patterson of Fairfax. And though he improved to 29-1 this season, Cabe refuses to get complacent.

"You don't ever want to be too satisfied, otherwise you can get lazy," Cabe said. "You can always strive to be better."

Round Two: Chargers

FROM PAGE 12

home a two-handed dunk with 1:55 left in the third to give the Chargers a 41-32 lead but Westfield continued to trail by as many as six but no more than 12.

Then, after May hit his third and final 3-pointer of the evening, Westfield stormed back on a 13-2 run, which was punctuated by senior Jordan Anderson's long ball from the right wing. Kearney scored seven of his team-high 13 points during the fourth quarter and Anderson added five.

"I think being at home with the crowd behind us really helped," Manning said, referencing Chantilly's Purple Platoon, which helped the gymnasium inch near its 2,200-person capacity and started the evening with a LeBron James-like white powder toss.

"We were making some bad decisions on the offensive end and turning it over," Manning said of the final few minutes. "I think that's the only reason they were scoring ... off of our mistakes."

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WORTH NOTING

ONGOING

Smart Markets of Oakton is a year-round market with vendors offering meats, cheeses, breads and bakery goods, pasta, sausages, coffee and Virginia wines. It is held Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Visit www.smartmarkets.org.

Centreville Regional Library will be offering AARP Tax-Aide to walk-in clients on Tuesdays from 1-8 p.m.; Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting Feb. 1 through April 15. The library is at 14200 St. Germaine Dr., Centreville. This year, all tax returns will be electronically filed. All taxpayers MUST bring a government issued picture ID and Social Security cards for all persons included on the tax return. For more information, call 1-888-227-7669 (AARP NOW) or visit the Web site at www.aarp.org/taxaide.

FEB. 12-15

Valentines, Singing Valentines! For that "very special someone" in your life, send an elegantly dressed traditional Barbershop quartet from the Fairfax Jubil-Aires Barbershop Harmony Chorus to serenade your loved one with a Valentine gift that will be cherished and remembered in the years to come. Your very special

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FRIDAY, FEB. 13

Swing Dances are held every Friday night at the Dulles Hilton in the Red Fox Room with Sue and Gary Caley. Drop-in beginner lesson included in price of admission from 8:30-9 p.m. Live music from 9 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$15. All ages welcome, large dance floors, air conditioned. Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Go to www.gottaswing.com for details etc.

FEB. 13-14

The Alliance Theatre will present "Plaza Suite" on Feb. 13-14, 20-21 at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees on Feb. 14 and 22 at 2 p.m. Performances will be held at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. Tickets are \$10 with group discount pricing available and \$8 for seniors and children under 12. For tickets, order online at TheAllianceTheatre.org. This play is directed by Kevin C. Robertson

and produced by Elaine Wilson and Maggie Swan. The small cast includes old and new faces including Jym Newton (Sam), Janet Deweke (Karen), Kelly Ingram (Jean/Mimsey), Ryan Ingram (Bellhop), John Ingargiola (Jesse), Anja Akstin (Muriel), Sean Wilson (Roy), Sarah Daniels (Norma) and Ian Burns (Borden.) For more information about how to join The Alliance Theatre, family visit TheAllianceTheatre.org or call Elaine Wilson at 703-830-1078.

FEB. 13-16

The 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count takes place Friday through Monday, Feb. 13-16. Bird watchers are planning to tally the birds they see in backyards, park, nature centers, and public lands. They will file their reports online at www.birdcount.org where you can see results showing up on our maps in real time. The Great Backyard Bird Count is a citizen-science project hosted by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It includes a photo contest and drawings for great prizes. Visit www.birdcount.org or contact: Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 607-254-2137, pel27@cornell.edu. Delta Willis, National Audubon Society, 212-979-3197, dwillis@audubon.org.

SATURDAY, FEB. 14

Local dance instructors Sue and Gary Caley of Gotta Swing have volunteered their time for the St. John Neumann Theatre Ministry fund-raiser dance party, the Dancing Thru The Decades Swingtacular on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 8 p.m. to midnight at the St. John Neumann Parish Center, 11900 Lawyers Road in Reston. Admission is \$15 and includes a smorgasbord of delectable desserts, coffee, tea and beverages, and dance instruction from 8-9 p.m. Music appealing to all ages will be featured, dance partners are not required and "just watching" seating will be available. Call 703-860-8510, or www.sjntheatremistry.org.

MONDAY, FEB. 16

GFWC-Western Fairfax County Woman's Club, a non-profit organization raising money for local charities, invites all women over the age of 18 to join them on Monday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Greenbriar Community Center, located at 4615 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly. The program is a talk on Gang Activity on our Area and Personal Safety, given by Officer Wayne Twombly of the Fairfax County Police - Crime Prevention Department. Call Cheryl at 703-818-0042.

Assistance League, a volunteer organization that promotes literacy and well-being of women and children in Northern Virginia, is ringing in the

New Year welcoming new members. ALNV runs two reading programs in Fairfax and provides layettes to newborns and comfort items to sexually assaulted women and children and others in need. A meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 16 at 10 a.m., at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Immediately following the meeting, the volunteers will assemble toiletry kits for a program assisting soldiers in transition from rehab back to the field or home. Call Beth at 703-648-1822; alnorthnva@yahoo.com; www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Spring is just around the corner.

The Centreville Garden Club has many activities, speakers, and trips on its calendar for the coming year. The next meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. Free. E-mail centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com or call 703-818-9094.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18

New Neighbors League Club of DC Metro, a non-profit organization, is looking for those women new to the area or newly retired and looking for activities and friends. The club offers Bridge, Mah Jong, Bunco, Book Clubs, Bowling, Movie outings, Bible study, Gardening, Quilting & Stitching. Come to the monthly coffee on Wednesday, Feb. 18 to learn more about the group, or call 703-392-4641.

Communities of Worship
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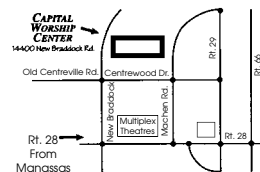
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FAITH

Centreville Community Bible Church invites the community to a special Valentine's Day Movie Night on Friday, Feb. 13. The movie "Fireproof", starring Kirk Cameron, will be featured. This event is free and concessions will be served. Come join us at 7 p.m. at Deer Park Elementary School, 15109 Carlbern Drive, Centreville. Go to www.ccbc-va.com.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church is conducting Dave Ramsey's (of Fox News Channel) Financial Peace University, a video-based small group study, that teaches individuals and couples how to address their debt, begin to build wealth, and how to better manage their finances. Sessions are ongoing on Sunday afternoon from 4 to 6 p.m. at Lord of Life's location on Union Mill Road just south of Centreville High School. Contact the church at 703-323-9500 / www.lordoffielutheran.com.

Westgate Chapel announces 40 Days of Relationships. In 40 days, bring new depth to all of your relationships — from marriage, to family, to friends and the workplace. You'll be equipped with insights and a practical path for fulfilling God's intention for all your relationships — even the difficult ones. Relationship Seminars begin Sunday, March 1 at the Westgate Training Center in Chantilly and continue every

Sunday through April 5.

Rick Warren's best-seller, *The Purpose Driven Life*, profoundly affected many individuals. The Relationship Principles of Jesus, written by Rick's colleague Tom Holladay, has the potential to bring the positive relationship changes you've been looking for. 40 Days of Relationships is based on this new book.

Discussing the relationship principles with others on the same journey will bring this book and seminars to life! Discussion Groups will take place in Chantilly, Centreville, and South Riding. Each week, explore one of six foundational principles that Jesus taught and lived. You're invited to take part in a discussion group, which begin the first week of March and will meet once a week for six weeks.

"Focus On Marriage" Presented by Focus On The Family — Live Simulcast hosted at Cedar Run Community Church.

Mark your calendars and tell your friends Cedar Run will be hosting a landmark Live Simulcast event: Focus On Marriage — Seeing Your Marriage Through The Eyes Of God? This event will show you what your relationship looks like through God's eyes. Focus on Marriage will help you understand the higher purpose of your marriage, while providing practical insights to help with

everyday issues. It will take place at Cedar Run Community Church on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. To purchase tickets go to <http://www.ccn.tv/focusonmarriage>

Wellspring Church celebrates the extravagant hope we know with God's gifts. Especially when times are tough, Christians know that "God is still speaking" and carrying our burdens. Pastor Al Fuertes will preach. Sunday worship is at 11 a.m., at the chapel on Route 29, 13510 Lee Highway, Centreville. The chapel is on the north side of Route 29, just west of the Lee Highway-Union Mill Rd. intersection.

Sunday School for children meets during the worship hour. Following worship today there will be a potluck meal, and the annual meeting of the congregation.

A "Living the Questions" daytime Bible study meets on Wednesdays in Centreville and Tuesdays in Manassas, and there will be a dream interpretation workshop on February 28 in Fairfax. Check the Web site, wellspringucc.org, or call Sara Little at 703-257-4111 for information on these and other special events.

Wellspring United Church of Christ is thoughtful, prayerful, justice-seeking, and Open and Affirming to seekers of all backgrounds. Worship is informal.

BUSINESS NOTES

Chantilly's GoVacuum, a retailer of vacuum cleaners and accessories, celebrated the grand opening of a brand new state-of-the-art warehouse on Saturday, Feb. 7. The new facility in Chantilly, at 14500-G Lee Road, is an upgrade over the company's previous location in Sterling; with 5,000 square feet, it is approximately three times the size of its predecessor.

The Herndon Chamber of Commerce celebrates 50 years with an Anniversary Gala on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. — midnight, at Westfields Marriott in Chantilly. The event is titled Hour Story: Fifty Years at the Herndon Chamber. Each hour will recreate one of the five decades through music, lighting, special celebrity appearances and a cascade of pictures on screen depicting history and chamber events from that decade. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased online at www.dullesregionalchamber.org/ events. Contact the Chamber at 571-323-5304.

Two new businesses have opened at the Franklin Farm Village Center. American Health & Wellness Center, specializing in chiropractic

care and sports injuries, and Homemade Pizza Company are now open.

❖ **American Health & Wellness Center** focuses on all aspects of health through chiropractic massage as well as fitness, nutrition and stress management according to Owner, Dr. Karl Petrie. Petrie is a certified strength and conditioning specialist, which allows him to help anyone from athletes to non-competitors and pregnant women to children overcome injuries, weight issues and cardiovascular health. The center is open Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. and Sunday by appointment.

❖ **Homemade Pizza Company** (<http://www.homemadepizza.com/>) is a new retail concept that provides bake-at-home pizzas. Using all natural ingredients, crews create made-to-order pizzas for customers to pick up and bake at home. In addition to pizza, the menu also features a variety of salads and desserts. Homemade Pizza Company is open Monday through Thursday 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Friday through Sunday 1 p.m. - 9 p.m. Delivery is available for an additional charge.

CENTREVILLE

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11:00 am Contemporary Service

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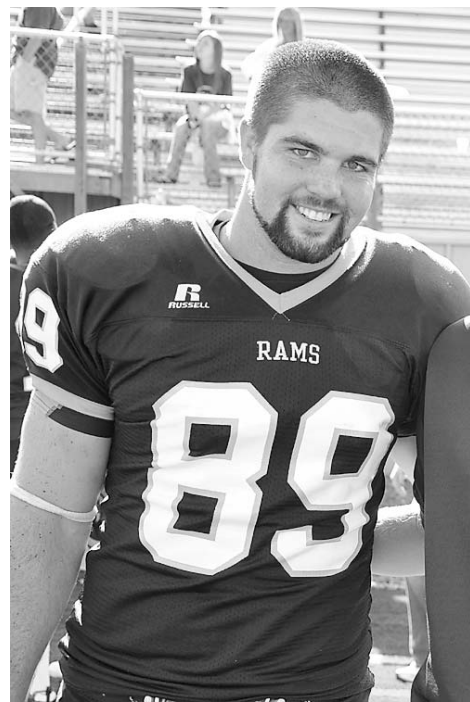
Lavin Named to All-Super Region One Team

Shepherd University senior tight end Ryan Lavin of Centreville was named to the 2008 All-Super Region One Team selected by Don Hansen's Football Gazette.

This marks the seventh year Football Gazette has selected NCAA Division II All-Region teams. The national publication has selected NCAA Division II All-America teams since 1988.

The Super Region 1 (formerly Northeast Region) is compiled of universities from four conferences including the PSAC, WVIAC, NE10 and the CIAA. A total of 108 players representing 35 universities are represented on this team.

In spite of missing five games due to an injury this year, he was also named First Team All Conference (WVIAC) Tight End. Ryan earned a scholarship to play NCAA Division II football. He played tight end for Coach Verbanic on Westfield's 2003



Ryan Lavin

State Championship team and earned 1st Team All Concord District and 1st Team All Northern Region honors as a senior.

Concorde Track Roundup

At the Concorde District indoor track and field championships, held last week at the Prince George's Sports and Leaning Complex, the Chantilly boys team finished second and the Westfield girls grabbed third. The Robinson boys and Oakton girls took first-place honors. On the girls side, Westfield's Kaylin Newman won the shot put (34 feet, 7 3/4 inches) and teammate Rachel Dillon won the 55-meter hurdles (9.34 seconds). Chantilly's Kim Weinberg won the pole vault with a mark of 9-04.

On the boys side, Centreville was led by Dominique Bacote's 55 hurdles (8.20) win and its victorious boys 4x800 relay team. Chantilly's Wesley Sun won the pole vault with a leap of 14-06, while teammates Mohammed Labor-Koroma (500 dash, 1:07.74) and Chris Foley (3,200 run,

9:38.96) also garnered first-place honors. Chantilly's boys 4x400 relay team was first with a time of 3:35.39. The Northern Region meet is scheduled for Feb. 21 at George Mason's Field House.

Area Volleyballers Honored

The Virginia High School League announced its 2009 All-State volleyball teams on Saturday, Jan. 31. Honored were Westfield's Sammy Spees and Chantilly's Samantha Reeves and Allison Williams. Spees and Reeves were first team picks, while Williams made the second team. Spees was named both the Concorde District's and Northern Region's Player of the Year this season, leading the Bulldogs (22-7) to the Virginia AAA state final against Albemarle. Reeves and Williams were first team All-District and All-Region selections, and they return to a Chantilly team that finished 26-2 and reached the Virginia AAA state semifinals.



(Bottom row, from left): Chris Nicoll, RJ D'Andrea, Ben Kandel, Brian Garland and Jake D'Ercole; (Top row), Assistant Coach Sedlock, Matthew Sedlock, Ryan Vierregger, Deion Gresham, JC Cutlip and Coach D'Andrea. Not pictured, Kevin Grimm,

SYA Wildcats Do It Again

Congratulations go out once again to the seventh-grade SYA Wildcats Boys Travel Basketball Team of Centreville for winning the second BRYC Holiday Tournament sponsored by the Braddock Road Youth Club. This was a two-day, four-game tournament with teams competing from around the Northern Virginia area. The SYA Wildcats finished 4-0 with an exciting 41-39 finish

in the championship game to win the tournament. The Wildcats were down by 22 points with eight minutes to go in the game, when Matthew Sedlock hit four straight three-point baskets to begin what turned out to be an unbelievable 25 to 1 point run to defeat a powerful Mercer team from South Riding.

SYA Velocity Wins Thanksgiving Tourney

SYA Velocity won the Annual Braddock Road Youth Club Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament, defeating Herndon, 73-70, in the championship game. Pictured are: (front row) Brian Murphy, Ryan Whitman, Nathan Kiley. Back row: Will Biagi, Christian Gray, Lamar Hardy, Marcus Prater, Coach Bernard Gray.



(First row, from left): Kelly Dabhura, Hiroki Cook, Krissa Rehberg, Daniel Richardson, Manish Kondapolu, Abigail Muller, Taha Hasan. (Second row): Marco Jimenez, Sebastian Brennan, Brian Kasner, coach Neil Ehrlich, Jacob Ehrlich, Max Ehrlich and Jimi Wilson.

Black Belt Academy Sweeps World Cup Finals

The World Cup Martial Arts Organization held its 2008 finals at the Sheraton Reston Hotel On Friday and Saturday, Jan. 16 and 17. More than 500 competitors from as far as Bermuda came to compete in various

martial arts disciplines. Centreville Black Belt Academy students won first places in point sparring, weapons, forms, and three first places in continuous fighting.

SYA Jamboree Goes Undefeated



The U-12 Boys Wildcats won a hard fought championship game of the SYA Jamboree in a sudden death shootout. The Wildcats ended up undefeated with a 10-0 record.

Coach Steve Rondeau (back row) Christopher Fenton, Kyle Artone, Tyler Groves, Michael Santiago, Akashdeep Singh, Peter Cho, and Ben Jordan (front row) Eric Rondeau, Brendan Shea, Luke Masters, Daniel Diaz, and Nicholas Lione.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/CENTRE VIEW

Sharon Bulova addressed the crowd after her swearing in as Fairfax County chairman Feb. 6.

Bulova as New Chairman

FROM PAGE 5

jurisdictions. The military's Base Realignment And Closure process will also bring new jobs and economic development to the southern part of the county, said Bulova.

As chairman, Bulova will also push for the extension of Metro rail west in the Interstate 66 corridor and the expansion of VRE services, she said.

HERRITY, whose father served as board chairman in the 1970s and 1980s, attended Bulova's swearing-in ceremony.

His race with Bulova is the closest high-profile countywide contest between a Democrat and Republican in several years. The last two Fairfax County chairmen, both Democrats, won their seats by a larger margin than Bulova did last week.

Herrity said the election results prove that not all residents are pleased the direction of the county's leadership in recent years.

"I am going to continue to stand up for what I believe in. ... Clearly there is a difference of opinion in the county," he said.

"Clearly there is a difference of opinion in the county."

— **Supervisor Patrick Herrity**

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Dying To Find Out, Sort Of



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

I have to admit, the pain was a bit unusual, and it had migrated so, at my wife, Dina's, insistence, I made the trek to my HMO's emergency room, relayed my symptoms to the receptionist and took a seat in their waiting room.

All things considered, the wait wasn't interminable, nor was it hours; of course, it wasn't minutes, either, but given the holiday-nature of the day, it could have been much worse.

And apparently, so could the diagnosis. After having my vital signs taken by a nurse, and answering questions from a physician's assistant, there was no clear picture (heck, at this point, it wasn't even blurry, it was completely befuddling, even after the chest x-ray was viewed) to explain my discomfort. It was so befuddling that the physician's assistant actually involved a doctor.

He asked me the standard questions. My answers offered no standard help. So much so, that I remember asking the doctor, if it only hurt when I make certain movements, perhaps I shouldn't make those movements; and then watching as the doctor shrugged his shoulders and said, "Yes, probably." And so I was excused, with the ever-popular: "If it gets worse, come back." And symptom-wise, it didn't; it got better, until five days later.

That's when the same physician's assistant called back. Still puzzled by my pain and lack of symptoms, she had, on her own initiative sought out the opinion of a Radiologist to review my chart/x-ray. Based on that consultation, I was urged to go to my nearest HMO pharmacy, that evening, to pick up a precautionary prescription to begin taking immediately. The concern was, despite being asymptomatic, perhaps I had a touch of pneumonia. And so it continued.

The next day, still improving and symptom free, my HMO called to tell me that they had ordered a CT Scan. Somewhat perplexed by their uncharacteristic speed, I nonetheless complied and went the very next day. TWO HOURS after completing the scan, my primary doctor called to discuss the results. Unfortunately — and surprisingly — there was cause (given my age and health history) for concern.

Perhaps I'd like to schedule an appointment to discuss the findings, my doctor suggested. "No, just tell me," I said. And so he did. There were lesions on my lungs that might be malignant. WHAT! Still unsure, however, the doctor scheduled an appointment with a pulmonary specialist as soon as possible. Two hours later, ON THE SAME DAY, the appointment was made for the next afternoon, with a P.E.T. scan to follow, all of which seemed incredibly fast and efficient given my previous experiences with this same HMO. Nevertheless, I was appreciative of their record-breaking haste.

The pulmonary doctor didn't interpret the x-ray and CT scan as the cancer threat that my primary care doctor and radiologist had (canceling the P.E.T. scan in the process), but nonetheless, suggested I return in a week, take a second x-ray and see what develops. And so I did. Still symptom free.

A week later, I'm back with the pulmonary specialist, second x-ray in hand. The second x-ray confirmed the doctor's suspicions that maybe I had indeed had pneumonia and so two weeks after the initial fact, I was once again excused; with the "We'll call you if ... " goodbye.

THE NEXT DAY, the pulmonary doctor calls back to say that, upon further review with yet another radiologist, he now wants to me to see another doctor, a thoracic surgeon.

Five days later, I see the thoracic surgeon, x-rays and CT scan in hand. Likewise puzzled by what he sees, he apologized for his inconclusiveness and says he too, would like to review the x-ray and scan with his radiologist to get a better understanding A biopsy and/or surgery are certainly possible but he's not sure. Moreover, he's not sure another diagnostic test (P.E.T. scan, M.R.I.) would clarify anything. Let him review everything he asks, and he'll get back to me, probably in the next day or two.

THE NEXT DAY, the thoracic surgeon calls back to tell me that he now thinks I should have the P.E.T scan and to schedule it as soon as it's convenient. And so it continues.

Four weeks later and still wondering. I wouldn't say I'm worrying yet, however, but I am beginning to have a little trouble falling asleep.

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

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In execution of a Deed of Trust from Stacy H. King, dated June 23, 2006, and recorded June 29, 2006, in Deed Book 18574 at page 10 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 130, Section 4, Westport as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 6657 at page 505, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 15255 Eagle Tavern Way, Centreville, Virginia 20120.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$60,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.375 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

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Graduates Share Stories

FROM PAGE 3



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/CENTRE VIEW

Nuria Mendez was one of four student speakers talking about their experiences at the alternative high school.

helped me grow as a person.” He advised anyone thinking school is something to waste, to think again, and he recalled fun times with Mountain View’s students and teachers. “Now is the time to appreciate what we have been given and what we have achieved,” he said. “Now is the time to take responsibility.”

Natalie Briseno was scared when she came to the school, a year ago. “I came from a rehab treatment facility,” she said. “My inner demons kept me from what I wanted to do — graduate from high school. I hurt myself and my family.”

At Mountain View, she said, “At first, I had a hard time being myself, because I didn’t know who I was. But people welcomed me and didn’t judge because everyone has problems.”

SHE ALSO PRAISED math teacher Emilie Woolard who became her mentor. “She was the one I laughed and cried to, and she always knew the right thing to say,” said Briseno. “She helped me find my talent in math and cope with life’s challenges better than any rehab counselor I ever had.” Then, thanking her classmates for coming into her life, Briseno told them, “You have helped me save myself.”

Siobhan Russell went through “several, traumatic experiences that caused me to drop out of my base school. On my first day at Mountain View, I was terrified; I didn’t know anyone or what to expect. Then I met Kate Stern who became one of my many friends here.”

At her previous school, said Russell, “I didn’t fit into any cliques and was labeled a loser. Here, there are no cliques, and love and caring flow easily. And the teachers are as cool as the students. Mountain View is the best thing that ever happened to me; my confidence has increased and my happiness hasn’t faltered.”

She said her teachers prepared her well for the future and “I am thankful I had so many people — including my mom and dad and best friend Katie — who supported me. I know that, no matter where I go in my life, the lessons I have learned here will forever guide me in the choices I make.”

World History teacher Steve Tran then presented Citizenship Awards to Katherine Tripus and Briseno, saying they’ve “helped build a positive, community spirit through their examples and care for others.” And math teacher Mike Lukacs gave Personal Achievement Awards to Jessica Galdamez, Julia Edmanson, Bolivia Vega and Russell, saying this honor recognizes those students “who’ve succeeded academically and personally, despite many obstacles.”

Receiving Faculty Awards — requiring a minimum 3.3 GPA — were Wilman Alvarez and Marcelo Santivanez. Presenting Alvarez’s

award, math teacher Emilie Woolard called him a “truly amazing young man.”

He’s been accepted into George Mason’s Dream-Catchers Program, which mentors and supports students during college. He also received a scholarship and, said Woolard, “The donor was so impressed, he offered to give Wilman monetary support for future semesters.”

She said math was difficult for Alvarez but — even though he worked two jobs and became a father during the school year, he “always found the energy to show up to class, ready to learn, with no complaints. He thanked me every time I worked with him and stayed positive and focused in class.”

Instead of dwelling on the hardships and challenges life dealt him, she said, he rose above them to become a better person. Said Woolard, “Wilman once told me, ‘I get up each morning and thank God for what I have and am ready for whatever comes my way.’”

ESOL TEACHER Sandy Valenzuela gave Santivanez his award and described him as “one of the finest students I have had in my 15 years of teaching ESOL. “He’s bright, hardworking, smart, persistent, helpful,” she said. “He is an independent learner who

is curious and wants to excel. But he’s so much more because Marcelo gets into a person’s heart.”

He wanted his writing to be grammatically perfect, thoughtful and interesting, and she helped him all she could. Then one day, Santivanez returned the favor by helping her with a speech she was trying to write in Spanish. “I was in the same situation Marcelo was in every day as he struggled to learn English,” said Valenzuela. He eventually rewrote nearly the whole speech — which she still

uses at every graduation to alert the audience the ceremony’s about to start.

That’s just one of many reasons, she said, why “Marcelo will live on here at Mountain View — not only in our memories, but for the influences he has had on so many of us. For those of us who have known him, we are better for it.”

“People welcomed me and didn’t judge.”

— Natalie Briseno, student speaker

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