

APRIL 18-24, 2013

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



**Tara (center) with (clockwise from top left) teacher Vicki McGorty, mom Tammy, parents Tammy and Craig Sankner, and mom and teacher.**

PHOTOS BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

## Tara Sankner, 'Warrior Princess'

**Second-grader battles brain cancer.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**J**ust 8, Tara Sankner tires easily these days, doesn't always feel well and even looks a bit different. But she's still the same sweet, cheerful girl and, as far as her mother's concerned, she's "my warrior princess — the bravest girl I know."

That's because Tara, a second-grader at Lees Corner Elementary, is in the fight of her life, battling brain cancer.

"My day depends on how she's doing," said mom Tammy Sankner. "If she's having a good day, I'm fine."

"If not, we cry and scream with pain sometimes," added Tara.

So, said Sankner, "We do a lot of cuddle time together."

Tara enjoys painting and drawing, pitching in the Vienna Girls Softball League and reading the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series. She also likes "Mickey Mouse and all the Disney charac-

ters more than princesses."

But that's when she's not worn out from the chemo. Her problems began March 8, 2012. Her dad Craig is a letter carrier with the U.S. Post Office in Oak Hill and her mom's a medical biller who works out of Inova Fair Oaks Hospital. So Tara goes to a babysitter in Chantilly after school.

"She and the other children were outside and she'd fallen and scraped her elbow," said Sankner. "Then she said she didn't feel good, and she had

a seizure — her whole body convulsed for 10 seconds. I was already driving there to pick her up and arrived immediately afterward. We called an ambulance and went to [Inova] Fair Oaks's emergency room."

A CAT scan revealed a spot on Tara's brain, so the ER doctor called her pediatrician — who'd done her 7-year checkup, the week before, and given her a clean bill of health. The pediatrician ordered an MRI done and it found two spots on her brain. But at that time, said Sankner, doctors thought Tara had encephalitis caused by a common cold.

"They then did a spinal tap and transferred her to Inova Fairfax [Hospital] for 10 days

SEE SECOND-GRADER, PAGE 3



**Lees Corner second-grader Tara Sankner before chemo affected her hair.**

## 30 Years Prison for Handyman's Death

**Champean sentenced for homicide.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**J**ose Cardona was a handyman and gardener on a huge, Centreville estate. On May 17, 2010, he also became something else — a hero who died protecting his employer's son from armed intruders.

And last Friday, April 12, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, the second of the two men responsible for his death was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison. The first one, Reynard Prather, received the same sentence in June 2012.

Before learning his fate last week, Tasheik Ashanti Champean, 46, told Judge Anthony Trenga that what happened to Cardona wasn't planned. No one was supposed to die.

But Trenga wasn't buying that argument. "This was a home-invasion robbery," he said. "This defendant was involved in devising a serious, criminal scheme he knew would likely result in a confrontation with the homeowner and his family."

Cardona, 39, a married father of two, lived in Manassas Park and sent home money to his family in Guatemala. His employer owned several check-cashing stores in Northern Virginia, and the conspirators believed he kept cash from those stores in his 9,000-square-foot mansion on Compton Road. So they decided to rob him at gunpoint and flee with the money.

On May 17, 2010, Prather and Champean drove from Prince George's County, Md., to a strip mall in Virginia. During the drive, Champean, of Suitland, Md.,

promised Prather \$50,000 if he'd help rob the homeowner. Champean was armed with a loaded, semiautomatic pistol and gave Prather a duffel bag containing the same thing.

A third co-conspirator, identified by authorities as Stacy Lorenzo Reed of Manassas, then picked up both of them at the shopping center and dropped them off in the vicinity of their target's residence.

The two, armed men then walked to the Centreville house and saw the homeowner leave. He left one of the garage doors open, so the intruders entered the garage to wait for him to return. According to court documents, Champean told Prather "his role in the robbery was to restrain [the homeowner's] younger son upstairs in the residence, and he would take care of [the homeowner] upon his return."

But around 10 a.m., before the homeowner got back, the intruders were discovered by Cardona and one of the sons.

"The four paired off in a struggle: Prather and the son and Champean and Cardona," the documents state. "While so involved, Prather heard a shot fired and saw Cardona lying dead on the driveway in front of the garage." Within minutes, he and Champean fled on foot through a wooded area next to the home.

Cardona's autopsy revealed that a 9-mm bullet passed through his left hand into his head. Authorities said a magazine containing seven live rounds of .45-caliber ammunition was found on the driveway near where Cardona was shot.

SEE 30 YEARS, PAGE 11

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## NEWS

# Fenn Convicted of Child Porn Charges

**A** former special-education teacher at Poplar Tree Elementary has been convicted in federal court of two, child-pornography charges. He is Robert C. Fenn, 27, of Emerald Chase Drive in Oak Hill.

Fairfax County police arrested him June 12, 2012 at the school, capping a week-long, joint investigation by members of the police department's Child Exploitation Unit and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents.

Fenn had been a substitute teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools since 2009 and was hired full-time in the summer of 2011. He was just completing his first year at Poplar Tree, where he taught special-ed students in kindergarten through third grade.

Police charged him with 10 counts of possession of child pornography. After his arrest, the school system suspended him without pay and assured parents that no images of students were found on his

computer and school computers were not used.

According to authorities, Fenn's online activity was uncovered after he accessed a particular, child-pornography Web site that was being investigated by Italian law-enforcement officials. His case was then taken over by the federal government for prosecution.



Fenn

On Dec. 6, 2012, he was indicted by a grand jury in U.S. District Court in Alexandria on one count each of possession and receipt of child pornography. The indictment stated that he received this material between March 3, 2012 and May 6, 2012 and further possessed such pornography on June 12 of that year.

Fenn had a jury trial in that court, April 2-3, before Judge James C. Cacheris. After hearing arguments from both sides, the jury deliberated and returned April 4 with a verdict of guilty on both counts. Following his conviction, Fenn now faces as much as 30 years behind bars when he's sentenced on June 21.

— BONNIE HOBBS

## ROUNDUPS

### Route 50 Traffic Delays

From Friday, April 18 at 8 p.m. and continuing through the day on Saturday, April 20, VDOT will be doing signal work at the intersection of Route 50 and Lee Road in Chantilly as part of the Route 50 widening project. The permanent signal poles and signal heads will be removed, and new temporary

signal poles will be installed with new overhead span wire and temporary signal heads.

Lane closures will occur in both the eastbound and westbound directions of Route 50 until completion. In addition, police officers will be stopping traffic periodically so the permanent poles can be removed

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7

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# Enjoying Frozen Treats to Help Local Girl

## Rita's Italian Ice raises money for Tara Sankner.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**S**tanding on a crate behind the counter of Rita's Italian Ice, 8-year-old Tara Sankner, a second-grader at Lees Corner Elementary, scooped the cool, frosty treat into cups for customers.

Some came there, last Monday evening, April 8, because the weather was warm and they enjoy Rita's offerings. Many others came because the Fairfax location was holding a fundraiser for Tara, who was recently diagnosed with brain cancer.

"We just opened last summer and our philanthropy is kids with cancer," explained the store's co-owner, Rico Vicencio of Fair Lakes. "On opening day, we gave a check to the National Brain Tumor Society and collected hats for children being treated for cancer at Children's National Medical Center."

The other co-owners are his wife Kristen and their friends, Ed and Jacque Whang of Fair Lakes Glen. The Vicencios have three young sons and the Whangs have three young daughters, so it's not surprising that Tara's plight touched them.

The event came about via Fair Lakes resident BethAnn Telford, who's battling brain cancer, herself. She and Rico used to work together and have known each other 10 years; and after Telford's recent surgery, he



**Having fun together at Rita's are (from left) Tessa Topscher, 7; Will Barnhart, 2; Tara Sankner, 8; Zach Topscher, 6; brain-cancer survivor Madeleine Baet, 9 and Dorian Baet, 6.**

paid her a visit.

"About three weeks ago, he came to see how I was doing and delivered Rita's Ice to make me feel better," said Telford. "That's when we discussed doing this for Tara." The other owners agreed.

"This is close to our hearts because we all have kids," said Jacque Whang, who works out with Telford at Life Time Fitness in Centreville. "BethAnn is such an inspiration to us and we want to give back however we can. And being able to do this for Tara, in conjunction with BethAnn, makes this all the more special."

So on April 8, from 6-8 p.m., Rita's donated 20 percent off all sales to Tara and

her family toward their medical bills. Contributions were also collected during the day, after a woman called to say she couldn't come to Rita's during the fundraiser, but wanted to donate.

"She said, 'We need to put an end to [childhood cancer],' " said Jacque Whang. "So we put together a donation bin." And, added Rico Vicencio, "People have been donating since 2 p.m."

Across Route 29 from Paul VI High, Rita's has 60 different flavors of ices rotating and changing daily, with 12 flavors always available. The store also offers old-fashioned frozen custard in various flavors, plus custard cakes and custard cookie sandwiches. There



**Rita's Italian Ice co-owners are (from left) Ed and Jacque Whang and Kristen and Rico Vicencio. They live in Fair Lakes and their children attend Colin Powell Elementary.**

are cones and sundaes with unlimited toppings; but, said Vicencio, "We're most known for our gelati — layers of custard, Italian Ice and more custard."

The evening of April 8, people of all ages flocked to Rita's, and both Tara and Telford were "celebrity scoopers." Meryl Bisaga and Sigrid Rodgers came from Centreville just for the fundraiser.

"I'm on the board of directors of Bite Me Cancer [started by Chantilly thyroid-cancer survivor Nikki Ferraro], so I've met all these wonderful people through it," said Bisaga. "I'm also a thyroid-cancer survivor and I want to do whatever I can to help — espe-

SEE ICY FUNDRAISER, PAGE 11

# Second-Grader Tara Sankner Battles Brain Cancer

FROM PAGE 1

for IV antibody treatment," said her mother. "Then she got post spinal-tap headaches and anemia and needed a blood transfusion."

Returning home, Tara had follow-up exams by the Neurology Department of Children's National Medical Center and MRIs every three months. In August 2012, she had a 48-hour EEG (electroencephalogram) to make sure she wasn't having any silent seizures. Then her care was transferred to Dr. Roger Packer, head of that hospital's Neuro Oncology Department.

"There was no change until the beginning of December 2012," said Sankner. "I noticed Tara was having short-term memory issues and problems in school remembering what she'd just heard in class. So I called Dr. Packer and, on Dec. 18, he did another MRI and a full neuropsychological evaluation, as well."

That's when doctors realized that the front left cortical lesion on Tara's brain had grown. "Then a third spot popped up," said Sankner. "They'd thought it was a cyst, the year before, but it looked like the other two spots now. So we went to the neurosurgeon, Dr. John Myseros, at Children's; and on Feb. 13, he did a brain biopsy at Inova Fairfax."

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It was sent to Johns Hopkins Hospital for a clear determination and, on Feb. 26, Tara was diagnosed with an astrocytoma, a type of brain cancer that's treatable, but never goes away. "It can potentially go into remission and resurface 10 years later," said Sankner. "Because she has a spot in her brain stem, they can't operate there. Another's in her mid-thalamus and the other's in the left front cortex."

And for all they know, there could be more. Said Sankner: "Dr. Peter Burger at Hopkins thinks all three spots are connected underneath and are just what's visible on the MRI."

**AFTER SUCH A DIAGNOSIS**, Sankner wondered why and how something so terrible had happened to her only child. "She had no other symptoms — no headaches, weaknesses or other seizures," said Sankner. "I couldn't talk, I felt lost, I was crying. I was thinking, 'This can't be; no, they've got the wrong diagnosis.' It didn't click to me that day that it was cancer until the nurse practitioner said, 'We've got to stop these cancer cells from growing.'"

"Once I realized it, I was completely devastated," said Sankner. "But I decided we'd take it a day at a time and see what the

doctors wanted to do." Tara's now under the care of Dr. Jeffrey Knipstein, an oncologist at the cancer center in Falls Church affiliated with Children's. And Sankner's compiling a binder of her test results, consults, bills and any organization that's helped their family.

Tara knows she has cancer, said her mom, "But not to what extent — she's 8. She said, 'Mommy, I'm sorry this happened,' and I tell her it's not her fault. I call her my rock star because she's been a rock through this whole thing. She's not letting this get her down; she's telling me, 'We're going to get through this.'"

She started chemo March 13 and, in preparation, her class at school gave her a backpack full of arts and crafts to do to keep her occupied, as did her mom's co-workers. "Her teacher, Vicki McGorty, has been phenomenal," said Sankner. "She calls me every night before and after chemo — and even during spring break — to check on Tara."

And, added Tara, "She visited me and gave me the last three 'Wimpy Kid' books." McGorty also joined Tara and her mom last Thursday, April 12, after Tara reached a milestone in her condition.

"Tara decided to take charge of her hair,"

said Sankner.

"It was really falling out, so we went to get it shaved off. She was awesome and I couldn't be prouder of her. I get a lot of my strength through her."

Since Tara's medical bills are more than her family can afford, McGorty and Fair Lakes resident BethAnn Telford — also fighting brain cancer — put in motion some fundraisers for them. Rita's Italian Ice held one last week, and on Saturday, April 20, from 6-9 p.m., Tara will have a fundraising table at Chantilly High's annual Track-A-Thon. She'll also receive part of the proceeds from the Joe Cassella Foundation 5K Race, May 19, in Great Falls.

"I think it's amazing how the community has come together to help, and so quickly," said Sankner. "I never thought, in a million years, that I'd have a child battling any sort of condition and that we'd need help. She's my only child — my life revolves around her."

"When Tara's having a tough time, I sit there helpless and think, 'Why can't I take this away? Why can't it be me, instead of her?' That's my hardest part. I'm a mom and that's what moms do — but it doesn't make it any easier or make the tears stop flowing."





Some of the leads of Chantilly High's upcoming Cappies comedy, "You Can't Take It With You."

Stephanie Feedback (as Alice) and Matt Calvert (as Tony) in a tender moment from the play.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTINE CHOI

# 'They Love Each Other with All Their Hearts'

## Chantilly High presents 'You Can't Take it With You.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

A funny and heartwarming story of an American family is portrayed in Chantilly High's upcoming production of "You Can't Take It With You." It's the school's Cappies show and, said Director Ed Monk, "It's double-cast because we have such a huge group of talented juniors and seniors."

Show times are Friday-Saturday, April 26-27, and Thursday-Friday, May 2-3, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door and \$8 online at [www.chantillyhsdrama.com](http://www.chantillyhsdrama.com).

Rehearsing this comedy since February, the cast and crew of 45 will show the life of the eccentric Sycamore family in 1937 New York. The daughter falls in love with the son of a wealthy banker and hilarity ensues. "It's the most-produced play in American history," said Monk, and there's a reason why.

"The writing's so good and the characters are so funny, and that's why this play's been around for 75 years," he said. "It also has an important message about priorities in life which still resonates. People need to make sure that work doesn't consume their lives so they end up with nothing at the end. And since the story takes place during the depression and financial crisis, it's even more relevant today."

The scenes take place in the Sycamore family's house, and students Chloe Vasquez, 4 ♦ CENTRE VIEW NORTH ♦ APRIL 18-24, 2013

Josh Lutz, Drew Pardo and Mia Rickenbach designed the massive set showing the home's interior. "It's 16 feet tall and 54 feet wide, and they've done a beautiful job," said Monk. "And because the family's eccentric, their home's filled with funny and goofy objects."

The costumes will also illustrate that time period. The students researched what people wore in the 1930s and then found and created all the outfits. So the women in the show wear mid-calf dresses, and the men wear suits, hats, pleated khakis and suspenders.

Senior Josh Lutz plays Ed, who marries into the Sycamore family and relies on the grandfather to support him. "Everybody in the family has a good time," said Lutz. "Ed's a quirky character who loves to play the xylophone. He has a printing press and prints anything he hears and likes. It's challenging to not exaggerate his quirkiness, but playing the xylophone is always fun."

Lutz and his fellow set designers began with concept drawings until they developed a design they all liked. They then built a model of it out of foam and the real thing out of wood for the stage. "It's a 2D house, but the walls actually curve out," he said. "There are two floors, several sets of stairs, a trap door and a big, stained-glass window above the front door."

The lamps, tables and paintings are from the 1930s, and Lutz says the audience will like how odd the house is. "My favorite part of set design is taking a blank stage and filling it up with your imagination," he said. "It's really exciting to see it all come to fruition."

Portraying Tony Kirby, with whom the Sy-

camores' daughter Alice falls in love, is senior Matt Calvert. "He's from a rich family and is upright and proper," said Calvert. "He has good manners and is a genuinely kind and happy person."

Kirby's father owns a business on Wall Street but, although he's vice president, he doesn't like working there. "When he meets

important than money and business."

Senior Matt Manalel plays Mr. De Pinna, the iceman. "He came to the Sycamore house one day to deliver ice and liked the family so much that he stayed for eight years," said Manalel. "He helps Alice's father, Paul, make fireworks."

Manalel likes his character because "he's got all these goofy lines, and he really loves the family and cares about their safety. He's also awkward and makes himself uncomfortable, and I like playing Paul's loyal, but slow, sidekick. The audience will like how close-knit the family is. Despite how wacky they are, they're doing what they love and, in the long run, that's what makes you happy."

Playing the mother, Penny Sycamore, is senior Katie McVicar. "She's nosy about Alice's love life with Tony, but oblivious to what's going on when she walks in on them," said McVicar. "She often says embarrassing things, but doesn't realize it. I enjoy playing her because she has funny dialogue, but she brings the family together because she loves and cares about everyone in the household so much."

McVicar said Penny's also writing plays, but not to sell — just because she finds it amusing. "I like playing a comedic role and hearing the audience laughing because of my different choices and the things I'm saying. We feed off their laughter and the cast's energy comes way up."

Offstage, she said, "All of us are such close friends that I think that comes to life through our characters onstage. The audience will like how each, individual character is in their own world, yet is part of one warm, loving family. It's a really incredible play and the writing is brilliant."

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**"People need to make sure that work doesn't consume their lives so they end up with nothing at the end. And since the story takes place during the depression and financial crisis, it's even more relevant today."**

— Ed Monk, director

Alice there, falls in love and then meets her family, he seeks a new way of life," said Calvert. "I like playing the nice guy and being the love interest — a simple, genuine character."

Since Kirby's really cute, said Calvert, "The audience will connect with him. They'll love all the characters because it's the best of both worlds. For example, the Sycamore family does all these weird, fun things, such as making fireworks in their basement. But they love each other with all their hearts. Tony's family is lame and boring; he loves Alice's family and learns that family is more



## NEWS

# Track-a-Thon Tackles Brain Cancer

Students of all ages are invited to participate.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Area residents can get some exercise, have fun and fight brain cancer, all at the same time, by participating in Chantilly High's annual Team BT Track-a-Thon. It's slated for this Saturday, April 20, from 6-9 p.m., at the Chantilly High track.

Team BT is the nonprofit fundraising organization of Fair Lakes resident BethAnn Telford, who's battling a brain tumor, herself, and will be at the event. All proceeds go to Accelerated Brain Cancer Cure and the National Brain Tumor Society.

The main event, for middle- and high-school students and adults, goes from 7:15-9 p.m. But elementary-school students are invited to join in the fun, too, by participating in the Super Hero Fun Run, on Chantilly High's tennis courts from 6-7 p.m.

The older participants obtain pledges to walk a certain amount of laps or get per-lap donations. Students will receive Track-A-Thon information flyers, plus parental consent forms and pledge forms so runners may get friends and families to sponsor them.

The Track-a-Thon is open to the public and is being organized by Chantilly senior Samantha Roe, on her school's SGA executive board, Peer Mediation teacher Shannon Khatcheressian and special-education chair Meredith Norris. Many Chantilly students are participating and, said Roe, "We want the elementary and middle-schools to get involved, too. And people can either walk or run. There'll also be fun activities for children, including games run by the Peer Mediation group."

Norris encourages elementary-school students and their teachers to be as creative as they can and dress up as super heroes to "help us fight for the cause." Each participant will receive a certificate, and gift cards will be awarded to the elementary student who ran the most laps and the student with the most creative super hero costume.

In addition, said Norris, "The coveted, Super Hero Golden Cup trophy will go to the elementary school with the most participants, including staff and students." The school that wins will get to display this golden cup at their school until next year, when the competition is back on — and then the trophy is up for grabs."

She said organizers are "looking forward to the entire community participating in an evening of fun, education and support for this great cause. There'll be food, entertainment, live music, face-painting and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Chantilly High students participating in the 2012 Track-a-Thon at the school.

information booths throughout the event."

Middle- and high-school students were encouraged to form teams of four, with team names, and to create their own fun and unique uniforms. And to solicit student participation, Khatcheressian's Peer Mediation students went to Franklin and Rocky Run middle schools last week during lunchtimes to promote the event.

Peer Mediation also promoted the Track-a-Thon throughout Chantilly High by handing out flyers and talking to students during lunches. The group also posted signs and banners around the school.

"The best part about this event is bringing in the community as a whole," said Roe. "I have classmates whose parents have had brain cancer, so it's something that affects us all and we want to spread awareness of it. And it's very exciting to see everyone come together for one, big cause."

Among children and young adults under the age of 20, brain tumors are the most common form of solid tumor and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths. And both ABC2 and NBTs are nonprofits committed to finding a cure for brain tumors.

ABC2 invests in research targeting the quickest route to a cure. NBTs drives strategic research, provides patient information and advocates for public policies meeting the needs of the brain-tumor community.

Those unable to attend Chantilly's Track-a-Thon, but wishing to donate to either of the charities, may do so at their Web sites: National Brain Tumor Society, <http://www.braintumor.org/> and Accelerated Brain Cancer Cure <http://www.abc2.org/>. For more information about the Track-a-Thon, contact Meredith Norris at [mcnorris@fcps.edu](mailto:mcnorris@fcps.edu) or 703-222-8149.

## WFCM Needs Donations, Plans Food Drive

During the month of March, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) served 328 households — representing 1,028 people — with food from its food pantry. But it needs help from area residents to continue to help people in need in the local community.

Summer will be here in a couple months, and that's a critical time for children who'll no longer receive breakfast and lunch at school and may otherwise go hungry. So WFCM is gearing up now to stock its shelves. On Saturday, May 4, WFCM will hold a food drive as part of the Chantilly Day celebration in the Kmart parking lot in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center. Co-sponsored by the Dulles Chamber of Commerce, "Fill 'er Up at Chantilly Day" will run from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Residents are asked to bring

nonperishable items for the food pantry.

In the meantime, the food pantry urgently needs donations of spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, rice (2-lb. bags), jelly, canned pasta, peanut butter, canned tuna and meat, hot and cold cereal, fruit juice, and pancake mix and syrup. Bring all items to WFCM's new food-pantry location at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center.

WFCM also operates a thrift store nearby at 13939 Metrotech Drive, by the Lotte Market in Sully Place, and residents may help out here, too. Volunteers are needed to staff the thrift store for two- to four-hour shifts, Fridays and Saturdays. Contact Annette Bosley at [abosley@wfcma.org](mailto:abosley@wfcma.org). — BONNIE HOBBS

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# OPINION

## Value-Added Evaluation?

### TJ admissions illustrate growing gap between “haves” and “have-nots.”

**M**ore than 181,000 students attend Fairfax County Public Schools. So why do the 480 students who were accepted for next year's freshman class at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology seem so important?

Fairfax County Public Schools have a single elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson, and TJ is frequently referred to as the top high school in the country. Dramatic disparity in the makeup of admissions at TJ is an indicator of disparity in early identification of students as gifted and talented, of access to advanced classes and enrichment, and in the basic education that the Fairfax County Public school system offers to all of its students.

❖ Fully 25 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. Less than one percent of the incoming class at TJ is similarly economically disadvantaged.

❖ White students will make up just 25 percent of the incoming freshman class at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; 43 percent of FCPS students overall are white.

❖ Asian students will make up 66 percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 19 percent of FCPS students overall are Asian.

❖ Hispanic students will make up just 3.1 percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 22 percent of FCPS students overall are Hispanic.

❖ Black students will make up just one percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 10 percent of FCPS students overall are African American.

The local chapter of the NAACP and a group called Coalition of the Silence led by former school board member Tina Hone last year filed a civil rights complaint with the Justice Department alleging that FCPS is essentially running “separate-but-unequal” schools systems.

In a statement this month, Hone recently said there is “stark underrepresentation of Black and Latino students at the elementary and middle school level who are identified as eligible to receive instruction at a Gifted and Talented and/or Advanced Academic Program center. ... Because so few Black or Latino students (or poor students) receive instruction through these centers and because the instruction in these centers is so robust, the pipeline of talented Black, Latino and poor students who are able to compete successfully for admission to TJ is choked.”

The underrepresentation of poor students is in many ways more disturbing than the racial disparities. While the concept of “value added” has been controversial in teacher evaluations

### Demographics

	FCPS	INCOMING TJ
African American	10.4%	1%
Asian American	19.3%	66%
Hispanic	22.1%	3%
White	43.1%	25%
Subsidized Meals	25%	1%

(the sample size is too small for that) FCPS could rightly be evaluated on the value added.

Are its top performing schools really based on the value that relatively wealthy families are able to devote to their children's education? Books, computers, tablets and more at home, enrichment programs and camps, tutors, and attention from well educated parents are the main ingredients to FCPS success.

Perhaps it is best to measure the value added by FCPS based on the performance of its poorest students, the 25 percent who qualify for subsidized meals, and who bring the smallest resources from home to the table.

The School Board has named a new superintendent, pending some final details. She is Dr. Karen Garza, currently superintendent of the Lubbock Independent School District, which serves approximately 30,000 students in Lubbock, Texas. Before that she served as the chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh largest school district in the country with more than 200,000 students. She faces tremendous opportunity here in Northern Virginia.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Police activity looking down Boyston Street. The finish line is in the distance.**



PHOTOS BY KEVIN CHARLES WASHBURN

### At Boston Marathon

To the Editor:

The following account is from Centreville resident Kevin Charles Washburn who ran in Monday's Boston Marathon.

Due to cramping, I was 30 - 40 minutes behind the time I thought I would run. That put my finish only 10 minutes before the bomb went off.

I walked through the finishing chute and then around a side street. I was back at the point of the first photo when I heard a loud boom, followed by a second one. I thought maybe it was a cannon from a boat, being Patriot's Day

and having historic boats nearby. If I had just turned my head to the left, I would have seen the smoke down Boyston Street.

The Boston Marathon is an amazing event, with 27,000 runners and another 500,000 spectators. It's a shame that someone would do this. I really feel sorry for all those who were injured and killed.

Security is really tight in Boston and at the airport. At the airport a police officer saw my Boston jacket and interviewed me to see if I saw anything suspicious. So I'm guessing they don't have many leads right now.

**Kevin Charles Washburn**  
Centreville



**The day before the race with a group of Reston Runners underneath the finish line. The bomb went off to the left of this photo. All the runners from Reston Runners and The Morning Stars, a group of runners from Reston, have been accounted for and are safe.**

### Unfathomable

To the Editor:

It is incredibly hard to fathom that such a brazen act of violence could happen again. It does not feel so long since the Newtown shootings and once again the country's wounds have been torn open. Two explosions right in the middle of the Boston Marathon, a day that was meant to be felt with excitement and fun. Too many casualties, too many questions but not enough answers. Answers to explain who would do this and equally as important why would

they do this. It is hard to believe that a human being lacks a heart and soul to commit such evil. Even more disgusting: extremists groups like al-Qaeda praising the act.

As a Muslim, I am angered that such people dare consider themselves humans to condone such violence. As a young American woman, my hope is that the perpetrators, whoever they are and wherever they may be from, are brought to justice.

**Saira Bhatti**  
Centreville

**CENTREVIEW**

NORTHERN EDITION

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A Connection Newspaper



## NEWS

# Celebration Time in Centreville

## International Music and Dance Fiesta is April 27.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

A variety of ethnic songs, dances, food and fun are on tap for the third annual Centreville International Music and Dance Fiesta. It's slated for Saturday, April 27, from 7-10 p.m., at Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road.

Hosted by the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) and the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC), the event is a fundraiser for both entities. The festivities will be in the church gym and are free and open to the public.

"It's a great event," said CLRC Director Roberto Fernandez. "It originated with the workers, themselves, to showcase their cultural heritage for the Centreville residents. It's also a way of them interacting with the community and bringing different cultures together in one place to celebrate diversity."

Most of Centreville's day-labor community comes from Ixil, a small area of northwestern Guatemala. During the first fiesta, the workers and their families shared their talents with the local residents. Last year, though, other groups joined them to share their music and dances, as well.

This year's emcees will be Hubert Graves and Luis Flores. The entertainment will include the following: Alberto Ramirez, °Guatemalan folk singing; Isabella Ventura and Mia Junio, "La Raspa," Eastern Mexican folk dancing; Maehwa Dance Group, traditional Korean dancing; and Joongong Presbyterian and St. Paul Catholic churches, harmonica ensemble.

Also performing will be Guatemalan traditional dancers from Ixil (workers from the CLRC); the Indian Culture Club from Thomas Jefferson High School; Benito Chavez, a Guatemalan singer; Arnoldo Borja and Friends; Mexican traditional dancing; and the senior singers from the Korean Central Presbyte-



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

**Jazmin Rocha did a dance from Jalisco, Mexico, with Arnoldo Borja (not pictured) during last year's fiesta.**

rian Church, folk music. The deejay for the evening will be Myra Flemister. ° °

There'll also be a silent auction organized by the ADK Sorority and volunteers. Items up for bid will include: A week at Cowan's Gap State Park, lunch with state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), a golf outing at Laurel Hill Golf Course with Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) and chamber music performers for an event. °

Several gift baskets will also be in the silent auction; themes will include tea time, Pampered Chef, children's games, Trader Joe's gourmet, "Pamper Yourself" cosmetics, and country with pottery and Yankee Candle.

Central American food, such as tamales, will be available during the evening, as will other refreshments such as hot dogs, chips and soda. For more information, go to [www.centrevillefiesta.org](http://www.centrevillefiesta.org).

report of several sheep in the roadway.

Although it was a "baa-pling" occurrence to see sheep in a residential area, the four roaming sheep were corralled and taken to the county Animal Shelter. At press time, the owners had not been identified.

## Sully District Meeting

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131. Agenda items are as follows:

\* Fairfax County's Fairfax Forward plan to replace the APR (Area Plans Review) land-use process is ready for a public hearing. The panel will receive an update briefing.

\* Verizon Wireless has identified a gap in wireless coverage and service in the local community. Verizon Wireless and Milestone Communications have applied to have a wireless telecommunications tower at London Towne Elementary.

## ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 2

and the new temporary signal poles and span wire installed. Drivers are therefore advised to take alternate routes.

## Ahmadiyya Muslim Conference

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is hosting a conference to respond to allegations against Prophet Muhammad and educate people about him and his peaceful ways. It's scheduled for this Thursday, April 18, from 7-9 p.m., at the Masjid Mubarak mosque, 555 Ahmadiyya Drive in Chantilly.

## Where's Little Bo Peep?

It's not every day that sheep are on the loose in Centreville's Virginia Run community. But that's what happened last Saturday, April 13, around 9:15 a.m. Fairfax County police Animal Control officers were called to the 6500 block of Marston Cluster for a

<b>Free Estimates!</b> Patios, Walls, Walkways, Paver Driveways, Landscaping and So Much More!	<b>New Shipments of Annuals and Perennials!</b>
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NEWSPAPERS

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## PHOTO GALLERY! "Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and Centre View will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com)

Or to mail photo prints, send to: Centre View,

"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery", 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314  
Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.



# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

The **Airbus IMAX Theater at National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center**, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway. "Oblivion" will begin with an 8 p.m. show Thursday, April 18. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy/> or call 703-572-4118 for schedule. Throughout the month of April, **Our Military Kids** has partnered with **Glory Days** restaurant at 13850 Braddock Road, Centreville. The restaurant is participating, and is donating 10 percent of diners' total receipt to the charity. Diners need only to submit receipts to Our

Military Kids, 6861 Elm Street, Suite 2A, McLean, VA 22101. Visit [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org).

## REGISTER NOW

**Young Actors' Workshop.** June 24-28 from 9 a.m.-noon at Westfield High School. Grades 3-6 can discover their inner artist through games, acting exercises and more. \$125. Call 703-488-6439 or visit [www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com](http://www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com). Register early as space is limited and camp sells out.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 19

**ESL Conversation Group.** 12:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can practice with others learning English. Free. 703-830-2223.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 19-21

**Chantilly Library Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Huge selection of adult and children's fiction and non-fiction books, plus audio/video recordings. Sponsored by the Friends of the Chantilly Regional Library to fund special programs, renovation projects, activities and equipment for the library. Call 703-502-3883 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/) events.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**Thriving 3-5s: Spread Your Wings.** 10:30 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive.

Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities about things that fly. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

**ESL Conversation Group.** 3:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can practice with others learning English. Free. 703-830-2223.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 21

**Pancake Breakfast.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m., the Clifton Lions Club annual pancake breakfast will be held at the Clifton Presbyterian Church.

**5k Walk.** 4:30 p.m. at Fairfax Corner. Enjoy a resource fair, live music and more. Hosted by the Victims Services Section of the Fairfax County Police Department and the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation.

Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/crimevictimsrights.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/crimevictimsrights.htm).

**Party Planning Expo.** Noon-4 p.m. at Geshar Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Browse through vendors including DJs, caterers, party favors, photographers and more. Free. Visit [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org) or 703-323-0880.

## MONDAY/APRIL 22

**Sully Book Club.** 1 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can discuss "The Interruption of Everything" by Terry McMillan. Free. 703-830-2223.

**Writers of Chantilly.** 6:45 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can share their work and receive feedback. Free. 703-502-3883.

**ESL Book Club.** 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Ask for title. 703-830-2223.

## TUESDAY/APRIL 23

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

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

**Thriving 3-5s: Spread Your Wings.** 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities about things that fly. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

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

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

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 24

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

**Bravo for Spanish.** 1:45 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities in Spanish and English. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

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

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

**A Novel Society.** 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can discuss "The Night Stranger" by Chris Bohjalian. Free. 703-830-2223.

**Girls Book World & Guys Read.** 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Girls and boys in grades 5 and 6 can participate. Call for title. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 25

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

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

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# Countdown to Decision Day

Local college counselors offer advice on making the right choice.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
CENTRE VIEW

**M**arta Daniels recalls the day when her son Will received his first college acceptance letter. “He was thrilled,” she said. “It was a huge relief to know that he had been accepted somewhere.”

But elation soon turned to stress when Will learned that he’d been accepted into all five schools to which he’d applied. “We went from being relieved that he would be going off to college next fall to panicking over whether or not we would choose the best school for Will,” said Daniels.

As the May 1 national college decision day looms, the day students must shell out hefty deposits to secure their spots at colleges and universities, students like Daniels are feeling pressure. Most college counselors agree that it’s important to make sure the school is a good fit for the student academically, financially and socially, and local counselors share ideas for making the decision less daunting.

They urge students to do a thoughtful assessment of who they are and what they need to thrive in an academic environment. “From community college to the ivy leagues, every school has success stories,” said Mike Canfield, director for undergraduate admissions at Marymount University in Arlington. “You can be successful at any school if it is the right one.”

Brie Jeweler-Bentz, Psy.D., a psychologist at The School Counseling Group encourages students to ask, “Where to I want to be geographically? Do I need a large campus or a school with an urban campus? Will I go crazy in a small town? Do I want to paint my face and cheer on my Division I sports team?” The school’s political and religious climates matter, she said, as does the local weather.

She also stressed that a school must be a good fit both socially academically. “A big rah-rah school is great, but academically will the student get lost in a big lecture hall with 400 other students?”

Michael Carter, Ph.D., director of college counseling at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, said that fit and balance also matter. “Does the student mesh with the school’s programs academically and extracurricularly? Is there a good blend academically, socially and extracurricularly so that the student can have balance?”

One way to answer these questions is to spend time on campus. “Sit in the cafeteria, have lunch and look around at the students,” said Jeweler-Bentz. “How do the students dress and talk? Do they have piercings, tattoos and nose rings? Does the school click for you? Does it feel like home?”

Randy Tajan, director of college counseling at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., said students should look at colleges through a new lens, that of admitted student. “What is student life like?



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN’S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL  
**As the May 1 national college decision day looms, high school seniors like Jack Phillips and Elizabeth Cornick of St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School must decide which colleges they will attend in the fall.**

What about access to professors? Can you be a student and an active citizen? They should think about again why they applied to those schools originally.”

A school’s atmosphere should not be underestimated, said some counselors.

“Given that our environment often affects us, for better or worse, is this school a good fit for my goals and values?” asked Michael Hude, college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. He said that students should also ask, “Does it foster an environment that will facilitate the type of growth I’d like both to experience [in college] and take with me for the rest of my life?”

Hude said that the cost of the school is an important consideration: “Will I be going into debt? Does the quality of the education and the school’s reputation justify the expense and debt?”

Meg Mayo, director of college counseling at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md.,

agrees. “I think any type of scholarship money if awarded should play into a decision,” she said. “I really worry about kids coming out of college loaded down with debt and not finding work right away.”

Jeweler-Bentz adds the prospective students should take a look at those who have graduated from the institution. “Some schools have amazing [alumni] networks that can hook graduates up with job opportunities,” she said. “It’s also important to look at statistics on job and graduate school placement to see how good of a job particular colleges do with their students post-graduation.”

Canfield said that once a student has selected a school, the next step is to connect. “Plan for orientation,” he said. “Learn the process for registration. Check out the school’s fan page on Facebook. Some schools host invitation-only closed social media sites.”

Students should also start planning for life on campus. “What [activities are] they going to join when they get to campus? Students who are involved in campus activities or have a job on campus that is limited to 10 hours a week are significantly happier and do better in their classes than their counterparts who have neither,” said Canfield.

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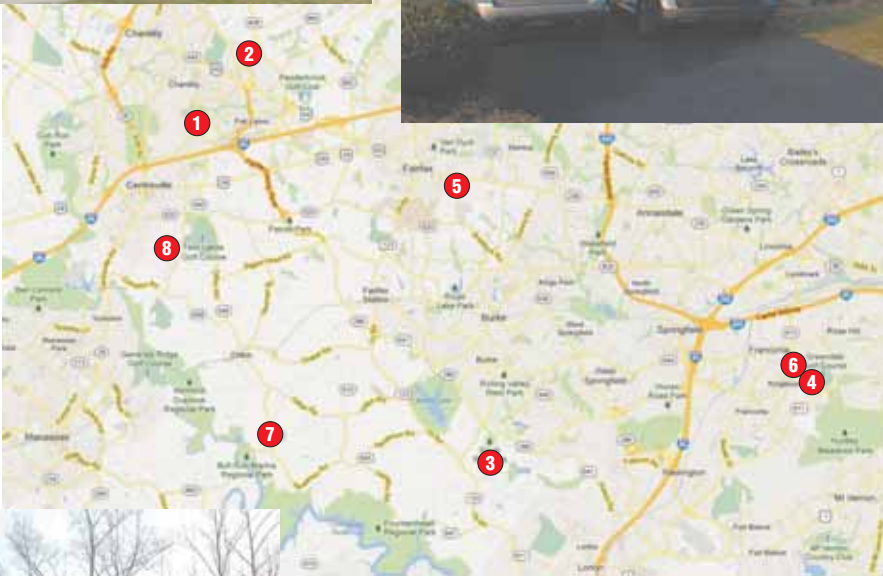
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# Icy Fundraiser Helps Local Girl

FROM PAGE 3  
cially little children."

"I lost family members to cancer, so anything I can do to help, I will," added Rodgers. "We're so advanced in so many other things, but not in curing cancer."

"There needs to be more money for research," said Bisaga. "And events like this bring more public awareness."

By last week, Tara had already had three weeks of chemo and it was taking a toll on her slender body. She's been tired, has had headaches and back pain and had to have her hair cut short after it began falling out. But that didn't stop her from pitching an inning Saturday, April 6, with her youth-sports team, the Vienna Galaxy, or attending a Girl Scout, father-daughter dance that evening with her dad at Franklin Middle School.

Still, Tara struggles with jaw, mouth and throat pain, nausea and fever; and after Wednesday chemo sessions — she has to do seven, 10-week cycles — she needs to take naps at school, Thursdays and Fridays. She gets her chemo infusions at Children's Hematology/Oncology Clinic in Falls Church.

"The doctors said, at her age, radiation would damage her too much," said her mom, Tammy Sankner. "It could even lower her IQ by 20 percent, so we're praying for the best with the chemo."

Telford understands firsthand what Tara's enduring, so she was particularly pleased to see such a good turnout at Rita's. "I think it's wonderful that the community reaches out to help children in need

— especially right now when this child is going through the worst part of her chemo," she said.

It was also good for Tara in another way. "For her to come out and be scooping ices and putting smiles on people's faces is helping her forget about how she feels and what she's going through," said Telford. "So helping with that is the least I can do. I'm glad I have such great friends that want to do these fundraisers for children. This is making Tara so happy, and other kids coming in can see what it's like to give back and help others."

Indeed, Tara said she had fun "playing with the other children, making ices, helping and eating. I liked the lemon flavor the best."

Also there that evening was Springfield's "Tattoo Tom" Mitchell, who's become one of Tara's champions. On Sunday, April 7, he ran the Cherry Blossom 10-Miler in Washington, D.C., in her honor and then came to Rita's for the fundraiser and to give her his race medal.

He, too, was touched by cancer when his daughter Shayla, 16, died of the disease in 2009. He then started the Stillbrave Childhood Cancer Foundation, providing non-medical support for families going through cancer. "I also do volunteer work for Children's National Medical Center, and they referred me to Tara's mom, Tammy, to fix some leaky faucets for her," said Mitchell. "That's how I met Tara. She gave me one of her pink, 'Pray for Tara' bracelets, and I wore it in the 10-Miler and ran that race faster than I'd ever done it before."

## 30 Years Prison for Handyman's Death

FROM PAGE 1

In an Oct. 18, 2011 affidavit, Fairfax County police homicide Det. Stephen Needels wrote that, according to the homeowner's son, "At one point, Cardona gained possession of the handgun carried by the man he was struggling with. Moments later, however, he was fatally shot by one of the two intruders."

Prather, 23, of Oxon Hill, Md., was arrested Oct. 25, 2011. On Feb. 22, 2012 in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery and using a firearm in the commission of that crime. And on June 1, 2012, Trenga sentenced him to three decades behind bars.

On Dec. 12, 2012, Reed, 43, was charged with robbery. He's scheduled for a June 12 jury trial in federal court and Trenga will be his judge.

Champean — also known as Ashanti Champean and Douglas A. Howell — pleaded guilty Dec. 7, 2012 in federal court to conspiracy to commit robbery and use of a firearm in a crime of violence causing death. And last Friday, he, too, was sentenced.

At the outset, Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Rich clarified an important point. "When Prather was sentenced, I accused Champean of being the shooter and he was taken aback," said Rich. "Then, in the presence of his attorney, Prather admitted the round was fired from his weapon, not Champean's. So it might have gone off accidentally — there's no certainty as to how it occurred."

Defense attorney Frank Salvato said Champean's been "steadfast that the gun he had during the incident didn't fire the fatal blow. Mr. Cardona's death was caused by a 9-mm bullet, and there's no doubt that Prather had that particular firearm."

Salvato said Prather also lied by saying he was only a "passive participant" in the crime. "There's no doubt this was an inherently dangerous situation and there was no intent to fire a weapon," said the attorney. "But there was a struggle and Prather's gun went

off; Champean didn't pull the trigger."

Noting that information from his client led to Reed's arrest and "more charges coming down the road," Salvato asked that Champean receive "a substantial amount of time less than the 30 years Prather received." Then Champean stood and addressed the judge. "I take complete responsibility for what I've done," he said. Insisting that Cardona's death "was not intended," Champean said his weapon "wasn't even operable. I am sorry for what happened."

But Trenga had the last word. He agreed that the fatality wasn't planned. "The wound to Cardona's hand wasn't a defensive wound, making it less likely that he was intentionally shot," said the judge. "Nevertheless, the senseless tragedy of this crime cannot be overstated."

Furthermore, said Trenga, Champean "armed his accomplice, and it could have been foreseen that an innocent bystander would be hurt or killed."

He said Champean was raised in New York and has limited education and work experience. But, said Trenga, "He had two convictions in New York for weapons possession; and in 2007 in Washington, D.C., he was convicted of possession of weapons by a convicted felon. The judge also said that, when Champean was charged in connection with Cardona's death, he was in custody in the District, where he'd been held since Nov. 19, 2010 on unrelated charges for which he's currently awaiting sentencing."

Trenga then sentenced Champean to 20 years in prison for the robbery offense and 10 years behind bars on the firearm charge, running consecutively, for 30 years total. He also placed Champean on three years supervised release and ordered him to undergo whatever drug testing his probation officer directs.

"Mr. Champean played a more prominent role than Mr. Prather in devising and orchestrating this crime," said Trenga. "And given the defendant's history, it was, frankly, only a matter of time before he was involved in someone's death."



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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Centreville junior AJ Catalano had four hits against Langley on April 13.

Centreville sophomore Nate Nguyen pitched 3 2/3 innings of relief against Langley, earning the victory.

# Wildcats Slug Saxons in Comeback Victory

Centreville averaging more than 8 runs en route to 9-2 record.

BY JON ROETMAN  
CENTRE VIEW

**T**he Langley baseball team jumped on Centreville pitching for three runs in each of the first three innings during the teams' Saturday afternoon matchup.

Despite facing a 9-3 deficit entering the bottom of the fourth inning, the Wildcats weren't worried. After all, they still had multiple opportunities to "swing the sticks."

Centreville scored five runs in the fourth inning and followed with seven in the fifth as the Wildcats roared back for an 18-13

victory over Langley on April 13 at Centreville High School. Both teams entered the contest ranked in the Northern Region top 10, but only the Wildcats remained in this week's poll. Centreville is ranked No. 5

in the Northern Region coaches poll, the Wildcats' highest ranking of the season.

"We've hit all year, so we know we can hit," Centreville senior Matt Whalen said. "We just wanted to get some outs and get

**"We've hit all year, so we know we can hit. We just wanted to get some outs and get out of there so we can come into the dugout and swing the sticks a little bit. Our pitchers know we have their backs."**

— Centreville senior Matt Whalen

out of there so we can come into the dugout and swing the sticks a little bit. Our pitchers know we have their backs."

Whalen finished 3-for-4 with five RBIs. The 6-foot-2, 225-pound first baseman hit an opposite-field three-run homer to right-center in the bottom of the sixth, producing Centreville's final runs.

"As a big man, everybody thinks I'm going to be pulling the ball," he said, "but I look away."

Centreville head coach Scott Findley said the Wildcats look to hit the ball to the opposite field.

"We hit top to bottom," Findley said. "Even the guys that don't get a lot of reps,

SEE WILDCATS, PAGE 13

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### SYA Summer Sports Registration Open

Registration for SYA summer sports is now available online at [www.syasports.org](http://www.syasports.org). Summer sports include basketball, travel basketball and track and field. Register early to ensure team placement. Note that registration for travel basketball will take place after tryouts are held. Check the website for the tryout schedule.

### Centreville Spring Track

Junior Maryn Wood and senior Mike Wright met the regional championship qualifying times this past weekend at the Northern Virginia Invitational. Wood qualified for the postseason in the 200-meter sprint with a time of 26.0, and Wright met the standard in the 200- (22.78) and the 400-meter run (50.87).

In the freshman 1600, newcomer Brent Bailey placed second with a 4:49.02 in

the boys' race, while Kayley Bogemann finished sixth with a time of in 5:37.02.

### Centreville Tennis

Centreville boys' tennis made up a weather-delayed match against Herndon on April 8. Sung Do Kim, played No. 6 singles and had the first win in the singles lineup. Kim had a strong match, giving his opponent a lot to think about with his top spin groundstrokes and serves.

The Wildcats' doubles courts were once again close. Dustin Dull/Luke Wilbur won 8-6. No. 2 doubles Chris Brown/Pranay Apparaju lost 8-5, and rounding things out, No. 3 doubles Joseph Ju/Kim won their match, 9-8.

Next, the Wildcats faced the Robinson Rams on April 11. The Wildcats had a rough day in singles, but in doubles, on court No. 1, Dillon Dull and Ju handily won, 8-2. On court No. 2 Apparaju and Ady Sethi had a very competitive match. They were in the lead by a break but Robinson came back and tied the score, 8-8, and the Wildcats

lost the tie break 7-5. On court No. 3, Kim and Brent Rushing played well. They were ahead, had long rallies and good net play where all four players were involved, but that was not enough as they lost, 8-6.

The Centreville girls' tennis team had an outstanding match on April 8 against Herndon. The team came away with a stellar 9-0 win over the Hornets. This big win came on the warmest day of Centreville's 2013 season. On court No. 1, senior Jamie Schoshinski had a decisive 10-3 win. Coming in on court No. 2, Carlota Perez-Carpio followed suit with a 10-3 victory over Zena Greer. Junior Jessica Jassal got a strong 10-2 victory over Natalie Doucette. Also contributing, junior Kimberly Townsend struggled but regrouped and came away with a 10-5 win over her challenging opponent Kelly Harrington. Rebekah Lee made tennis look easy as she secured the fifth court win with a score of 10-2 over opponent Talei Moore. Junior Tanya Kamar closed out the singles sweep with a 10-3 court No. 6 win over Rebekah Haynes. The doubles lineup kept up the strong showing with Schoshinski and Perez-Carpio winning easy on court one with a score of 8-2 and

Jassal and Townsend, in record time, winning 8-1 on the second doubles court. Sierra Dimmer and Katy Kowalski secured our 9-0 victory with a decisive 8-1 win on court 3.

On April 11, No. 1 singles senior Schoshinski took down her opponent, quickly winning 10-2. The No. 3 doubles team of Dimmer and Kowalski had a very competitive match and took home the win, 8-6. They have quickly become a solid team and enjoy playing together.

Centreville will face Westfield on April 18. The boys are at home and the girls are away.

### Centreville Boys' Varsity Lacrosse

The Centreville boys' lacrosse team concluded a stretch of three away games this past week. The Wildcats emerged victorious over all three opponents, improving their record to 8-2 for the season.

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 13



# SPORTS

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW



Members of the Centreville baseball team congratulate senior Matt Whalen (25) for hitting a three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning against Langley on April 13.

## Wildcats Pull Comeback Victory

FROM PAGE 12

they hit too. ... All of our guys are really buying into our hitting approach — gap away for the most part. We're not really pulling the ball a whole lot — not to say we can't — but we've been more disciplined."

Centreville's approach at the plate has paid off. After beating Langley, the Wildcats defeated Herndon 14-2 and Westfield 2-0, improving their record to 9-2 overall and 3-0 in the Concorde District. Centreville is averaging more than eight runs per game and has scored at least 10 runs in five contests.

Against Langley, Centreville junior AJ Catalano had

four hits and senior Danny Russell had a pair of doubles and three RBIs. Junior Scott Walter had a hit and three RBIs, senior CJ Evans had a three-run double and junior Jimmy Nicholas had a two-run triple. Junior Matt Sedlock delivered a run-scoring double.

Sophomore pitcher Nate Nguyen earned the win in relief.

Centreville will host No. 3 Oakton at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19 and Chantilly on April 23.

"Everybody says we're an underdog," Whalen said after the Langley game, "but we know we can beat anybody if we have a good day."

goal to the final tally. Freshman Brett Clark, Marks, Balberde and Tyler Vennergrund all had assists. Goalie Prosser had eight saves during the game, and the CVHS defensive starting unit of Jake Hyde, Antonio Choi and Ben Kandel once again came through. They were relieved in the second half by Nathan Covert, who had some great take-away checks, with additional help from Josh Kim and Charlie Suarez on defense and goalie Kent Roy.

Centreville finished the week with its first Concorde District game against an undefeated Oakton team. The Wildcats defeated the Oakton Cougars in a back-and-forth game, 6-5. Prosser had 13 saves during the evening. Oakton led the game 3-1 at halftime, but Centreville came back with four unanswered goals during the third quarter, leaving the Wildcats up 5-3, heading into the fourth. Oakton was able to tie the game, 5-5, during the last few minutes of the fourth quarter. However, Centreville's Danny Meador, with an assist from Nathan Marks, was able to score the winning goal with seconds left on the clock. Meador led the Wildcats in scoring with three goals for the game. Brett Clark, Balberde and Nathan Marks each had a goal and Marks and Balberde had assists. John Clements, Sean Doyle and Kainoa O'Connor had strong face-off performances throughout the evening. Choi, Ben Kandel and Jake Hyde stifled Oakton's attack, with key defensive midfield help from Wakefield, Pat Lilburn and Nick Ziegler.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 12

CVHS began its week at the Mount Vernon Lacrosse Tournament against an undefeated Madison team, defeating the Warhawks 6-4. Senior midfielder Andy Balberde was the leading scorer for the Wildcats with three goals, while Danny Meador, David Weisbrodt and Tyler Vennergrund each contributed a goal. Kyle Richbourg, Logan Wakefield and Danny Meador each had assists.

The Centreville Wildcat defense was rock-solid throughout the entire game, eliminating any threat posed by Madison's settled offense. Senior goalie Pat Prosser led the defense with impressive saves throughout the night. Defensemen Ben Kandel, Jake Hyde and Antonio Choi shut down the Madison attack, while defensive midfielders John Clements, Logan Wakefield and Phil Anderson eliminated the scoring threat from the Madison midfield. Long stick midfielders, Kainoa O'Connor, Pat Lilburn and Nick Ziegler were instrumental in the victory. Although the Wildcats had several penalties throughout the game, the CVHS man-down defense shut down all of the Madison extra-man opportunities.

Less than 24 hours later, the Wildcats played Mount Vernon, defeating the Majors 12-3. Senior attack Nathan Marks led the scoring with four goals. Sophomore Carson McEver had two goals and Wakefield, Andrew Belloli, Richbourg, David Weisbrodt, Balberde and Tyler Vennergrund each contributed a

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## A False Sense of Security



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that there's anything wrong with that; in fact, as a four-year, stage IV, non-small-cell lung cancer survivor, it's amazing to have any security, false or otherwise, whatsoever. And that's the point, really: how amazingly fortunate yours truly is to still be writing columns, if you know what I mean? Moreover, being relatively asymptomatic (as I've mostly been) is all it's cracked up to be, and I say that with utmost respect, sincerity and appreciation. Yet, unless this particular survivor is delusional, incredibly naive (my two main self-preservation/defense mechanisms) or a lucky aberration beyond any statistical reference (within my limited knowledge of such references), one day – sooner rather than later, the other shoe will most likely drop; and you do know what I mean, don't you?

A few weeks back, I published a column entitled, "Definition of Slippery Slope," which discussed the range and depth of emotions a cancer patient/survivor (let's be honest: this cancer patient/survivor) feels waiting to hear back from the oncologist concerning the results of his most recent diagnostic scan ("CT" for me), the results of which will determine your most immediate future (I'd say between living and dying, but that sounds so dramatic). I readily admit though, I can now absolutely appreciate the anxiety many woman feel awaiting the results of their mammogram. Been there, and thankfully, still doing that.

One of my standard answers to queries about my overall health is: "I'm fine until they tell me otherwise;" this column's true context and another place I can go – figuratively speaking (sort of like "Strawberry Fields" and "A Glass Onion") to endure the ongoing stresses and pressures of being a terminal cancer patient who has so far outlived his oncologist's original prognosis: "13 months to two years." Even though living remains the best reward (I did not say revenge), it also exerts the greatest sense of inevitability, if certain statistical measures/ references are to be considered (nor did I say, believed).

Not that I want to buy into that "sense of inevitability," but cancer is likely not most persons' favorite word, and presumably one of their least favorite diagnoses – for a reason. Though more and more cancer patients are living longer (see graph referenced in a previous column entitled "14.8 Percent" citing a National Cancer Institute SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009), you'd just as soon not take your chances with a malignancy. But sometimes, maybe oftentimes for all I know (and I know very little), diseases/ diagnoses really are just a function of chance (nature vs. nurture?) and perhaps so too is surviving beyond the mean (and I don't "mean" unpleasant, either) number of years or months "prognosed" at one's original date of diagnosis (rationalizing is another one of my tools).

I guess what I'm looking for is a guarantee, or at least a fair warning before – you know what (and I'm assuming you know "what" is) But I don't suppose that's realistic, so trying to enjoy the good days and not worry/anticipate the bad days ahead is my M.O.; which I imagine is somewhere between a wish and hope. And in between of course is "a false sense of security," the bane of my existence.

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



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