

CENTRE VIEW

NORTHERN EDITION



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The dance group Hadippa —Amar Kalbulgi, Ambien Kalbulgi, Supriya Pattanaik, Anusha Ghosal, and Nain Kerawala — performed at last year's International Night.

Program To Show Cultural Pride

WHS International Night performances set for March 25.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County is a melting pot of cultures but, every now and then, some of those ingredients in the mix come to the forefront to show off their own, special flavors. Such will be the case during Westfield High's 10th annual International Night program, Friday, March 25, from 7-9 p.m., in the school theater.

Students will represent a variety of countries and ethnic backgrounds, singing, dancing and wearing colorful costumes while entertaining the crowd. They've been rehearsing since January, and ESOL teacher Carmen Danies says the popular event is not to be missed.

New this year, Westfield's step team will perform a dance with African roots, and two groups will do dances from South Korea. Sisters

Jacqueline and Jennifer Bae will perform a sword dance, and seven other girls will dance to modern Korean music.

Representing Bangladesh, Nishi Begum will perform a traditional, Bengali song and dance portraying the everyday lives of people there. Yara Tawfik will do Egyptian belly dancing, and Valeria Sierralta will sing a romantic, Peruvian song called "Que te Queria."

There'll be three groups from Northern India and two from Southern India. Hari Kappiyour will sing a song illustrating one of the Southern Indian languages, Malayalam; and Lalita Kota will dance to music from Andhra Pradesh in Southern India.

Deepika Ranjit and a friend will dance to a traditional, Northern Indian song from the Ragistan region. Also from Northern India, Ambica Kalbulgi will perform a solo dance number and Supriya Pattanaid will dance to a song telling the story of a girl looking for a loved one.

From El Salvador, four girls will dance together and a second group of 12 people will sing a national, patriotic song from that country. This will

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Involuntary Manslaughter: Jail Time

Guthrie sentenced in firework death case.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Life isn't always fair — and, perhaps, that's the only lesson that can be taken away from the tragic death of an Oak Hill teen and all that's happened since to the Centreville teen being held solely responsible for it.

It certainly wasn't fair that Dennis Ray Ross Jr., 19, lost his life at such a young age in a freak accident that no one intended. And Centreville's Kyle Guthrie — who was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter, jailed and fined for causing Ross's death — says it's not fair that he's the only one being punished for it.

But judges and juries can only deal with the case and the evidence before them. So their decisions are based on what they hear during a trial, not what the defendant wishes they could have heard. Therefore,

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County Financial Picture Improving

'We're better off, but not out of the woods.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County's financial picture seems to be stable and slightly improving, for now, but that doesn't mean there's cause for rejoicing, just yet. So officials addressing a town hall meeting Monday night at Chantilly High were cautiously optimistic, while stressing the need to continue making fiscally prudent decisions.

"We're better than we were, but we're not out of the woods, yet," said Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully). "But we're going to continue progressing upward. Residential prices are increasing and commercial businesses had a better last half of the year."

"The feds are still cutting, but we won't know what it means to us for awhile, yet, so we do need to be prudent," he said. "But we've weathered the past couple years with more stability than some other jurisdictions."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said some homeowners have seen property-value increases, but that's not the



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Chantilly's Sandy Knox (with pencil) worries whether the schools will have enough money to handle rising enrollment.

case for everyone. Besides that, she said, "There'll be state cuts that will affect us. But the Board, [county] staff and community have made responsible decisions and have held the line on taxes."

She was also pleased that, despite tough economic times, the county still managed to fund "critical, quality-of-life things like parks and libraries. We've made almost \$200 million in county spending cuts this year, and I thank our workforce for that, for their reorganization suggestions, and the community for stepping up with their suggestions, too."

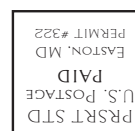
Brian Heffern, a senior budget analyst with the county's Depart

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From left: Budget analysts Christina Jackson and Brian Heffern listen while the school system's Susan Quinn makes a point.

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Chantilly Students To Hold Run-a-Thon Fundraiser

Event honors Telford; helps fund brain-tumor research.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

It's been nearly six years since Fairfax resident BethAnn Telford was diagnosed with brain cancer. But that's only given this athlete even more motivation to compete in marathons and triathlons, thereby raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS).

Chantilly High's Senior Class wants to help her, so on Sunday, March 27, it's holding a Run-a-Thon in her honor, with the proceeds going to the NBTS. It will take place from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., rain or shine, on the school track, and Chantilly and CYA sports teams will participate.

"As class officers, we wanted community service to be our theme, this year," said Senior Class President Jane Muir. "We do one project a month, and this is our project for March."

Now 42, Telford has undergone surgeries and various treatments for her illness, but tries her best not to let the cancer rule her world. Instead, she does all she can to battle against it and to help others do the same. Her personal mantra is "Never, never give up," and she's lived her life accordingly. "I didn't want to be considered handicapped or have anyone feeling sorry for me," she said. "I wanted to fight it, and I wanted other people to fight it, too." She's helped them do just that by becoming the top fundraiser for the NBTS and continuing to bring in money for research.

Chantilly seniors learned about Telford through their class sponsor, Special Education Department Chair Meredith Norris. She and Jen Chapman are sisters, and Chapman



Back row, from left, are sophomore Steven Phan, BethAnn Telford, seniors Jane Muir and Hannah Strub and Senior Class sponsor Meredith Norris; front row, from left are sophomores Elaine Lim and Zak Rhodes.

met Telford several years ago when they did a triathlon together.

Chapman coaches the Sully Station Swim Team and, last July, the team did a swim-a-thon in Telford's honor, raising almost \$5,000 for Team BT, Telford's fund-raising organization for the NBTS. So when Norris told the Chantilly seniors about her, they decided to help, too, by having a Run-a-Thon.

"We've done lots of service projects," said Muir. "We've gone to homeless shelters to read books and do crafts and activities with children. And in December, we went to the Post Office Building in Washington, D.C., to work at the D.C. Candlelighters event. We hosted a night for children who were cancer patients or survivors, and their fami-

lies, and they had dinner and played games."

The students also go to Poplar Tree Elementary to talk to children in that school's Just Say No Club and tell them about the clubs and activities offered at Chantilly. Said Muir: "We opened up these community-service projects to the whole school, even teachers."

In October, the Senior Class officers presented their service ideas to all the seniors, and various speakers talked about the value of helping other people. "We told BethAnn's story, about her struggle with brain cancer, and how she's an athlete training for events every day," said Muir. "Her story touched a lot of students, especially some whose parents had died from cancer. So we ap-

proached her and asked how we could get involved and help, too."

That's when the idea of the Run-a-Thon was born. "At first, it was just for seniors, but then we decided to open it to everyone," said Muir. "So we're reaching out to all our students and teachers, plus the athletic teams and CYA teams, and asking them to participate."

People may either run or walk, and each one taking part receives an information sheet about Telford and solicits pledges, such as 10 cents or more per lap completed. Said Muir: "We're hoping at least 150 people will participate — 200 would be awesome."

Pacers Running Store, which sponsors Telford, is coming to the event and will give out commemorative T-shirts and bracelets to all participants. "The students are excited to do this," said Muir. "It's going to be something fun, and students touched by BethAnn's story want to run to help any way they can."

"Anyone is welcome to participate," she said. "They can just show up and register that day. If they're under 18, a parent must sign the form for them." Donations to the cause may also be made online at www.brainumor.org/giving.

Students will also be setting up and working at various booths, as well as putting up decorations and helping people check in. Refreshments such as fruit, bagels and water will be available. Flippin' Pizza of the Sully Plaza Shopping Center will sell pizza and donate 50 percent of its proceeds toward the NBTS. And Pinkberry of Fairfax Corner will sell frozen yogurt and donate a portion of its sales, too.

"I'm really looking forward to this event," said Muir, who's co-chairing it with Hannah Strub. "We've been working on it since December, getting sponsors and promoting it. And now I get to reach out to my family and friends and ask them to give back to somebody. Even if people haven't been touched by cancer, I hope they'll be touched by BethAnn's incredible story."

ROUNDUPS

Help Plan Centreville Day

Community members are invited to help plan Centreville Day 2011 by attending a meeting Thursday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

The Friends of Historic Centreville are looking for people with imagination, energy and organizational skills who'd like to learn more about and support their community by bringing back Centreville Day.

Committees include entertainment, logistics, history and vendors. For more information, contact Cheryl Repetti at cbrepetti@verizon.net or 703 830-5407.

'Saturday Night in Suburbs'

Learn more about what local teen-agers' behavior is regarding drugs, alcohol, dating and partying at Westfield High's annual "Saturday Night in the Suburbs" program.

It will be held Thursday, March 17, at 7 p.m., in the school lecture hall.

Shaving for St. Baldrick's

St. Baldrick's Day events are fun-filled ways to raise money to fight childhood cancer. People who've solicited donations toward the cause have their heads shaved bald while friends and family cheer them on.

The seventh annual St. Baldrick's Day in Centreville will be held this Saturday, March 19, at 4 p.m., at Fast Eddie's. It's in the Newgate Shopping Center at Routes 28/29, and the public is welcome to join in the festivities.

Immigration Forum March 23

Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF). The group will meet Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m., at the Centreville Regional Library. Frey will speak about the operation of the proposed, day-laborer worker center and its significance for Centreville. He'll also discuss Fairfax County budget issues affecting service agencies and nonprofits, particularly those with outreach to low-income families in the Centreville area.

The nonprofit CIF is supported with donations from the community; no government funding is accepted. For more information, to volunteer or to make donations, see www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org.

Sully District Council Meeting

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet Wednesday, March 23, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

❖ Christina Jackson and Ellicia Seard, both with the Department of Management and Budget, will give a presentation on the Fairfax County 2012 budget.

❖ Fairfax County Redistricting will be discussed by Ralph Hubbard, Sully District's member on the Board of Supervisors-appointed advisory committee to recommend new boundaries.