

# CENTRE VIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION



The exterior of the Pletchers' house is all decked out for Halloween.

## Final Haunting for This House

After 20 years, Halloween scaremongers to move on.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Each year on Halloween, residents of Centreville's Sequoia Farms community look forward to visiting Linda and Bob Pletcher's home. And if something scares them on the way to the front door, so much the better.

"They've been doing it for 20 years and really

go out of their way," said friend Lynne Merritt. "They serve 'eyeball punch' in the garage and have hands coming out of the lawn. Easily, 1,000 kids come by every year."

This Halloween, though, will be the last time they'll do it. "We're planning to move to Delaware in a couple years and my husband is close to retirement," said Linda Pletcher. "So we're getting things ready to sell our house."

But not before they decorate their home's exterior for Halloween one more time, get the candy ready to pass out and prepare a multitude of tricks to spook and surprise all their visitors.

"We started when our sons, Jason and Tom, were 8 or 9," said Pletcher. "They really liked Halloween and were very creative, and it got to be a family affair. They bought lots and lots of props and did lots of arts and crafts. For example, they painted gauze yellow and green and strung it under the porch, along the front of the house and the garage. It's all black-light lit, so it's a really eerie effect and looks cool. When the kids come up for candy, their clothes glow, and they think it's the neatest thing."

For many years, one of the highlights



Bob and Linda Pletcher welcome visitors to their "haunted home" on Halloween.

SEE LAST CHANCE, PAGE 13

## New Vision Awaits Word from VDOT

Church application faces concerns about increased road congestion.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

New Vision Community Church would like to build a place of worship along Route 29 in Centreville, near the Gate Post Estates community. But it has so far failed to receive approval from either a local land-use group or Fairfax County staff. That's because VDOT's still looking at the plan and may ultimately decide its fate.

Part of the reformed Presbyterian Church, New Vision's 300 members currently meet in office/industrial flex space in Fairfax. But

they hope to have a permanent home on a little more than 10 acres between the NOVEC substation and the Cub Run bridge.

First, though, they must receive a special-use permit from the county. However, with several unresolved issues — transportation being the biggest — New Vision faces a tough road ahead.

When land-use attorney Amber Scharn explained the proposal last spring to the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee, the church planned to construct a 43,500-square-foot facility, at build-out,

SEE ROAD BLOCK, PAGE 5

## Fantasy Pumpkins Aglow

Centreville man's Halloween creations thrill.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

As Halloween approaches, local residents are busy putting the final touches on their costumes for the big night. Centreville's Noel Dickover is using every minute he can to finish carving his pumpkins.

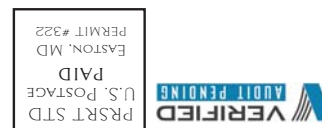


Jack Skellington

And not just garden variety Jack-O-Lanterns, either, but the kind of pumpkins that attract droves of

SEE FANTASY, PAGE 4

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## NEWS

### Committee To Celebrate 25 Years

For 25 years, the Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee has assisted minority students in the Centreville, Chantilly, Oakton and Westfield cluster schools. And on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 3 p.m., it will celebrate its anniversary in the Commonwealth Ballroom of the Fair Lakes Hyatt.

Shirley and Johnny Nelson, of Chantilly's Poplar Tree Estates community, founded CPMSAC in 1984 to help close the minority-student achievement gap in Fairfax County Public Schools. To do so, CPMSAC offers numerous academic enrichment programs — which are open to all students.

Three Saturday mornings a month, in partnership with Westfield High, CPMSAC services are available via the Bulldogs Instructional Tutoring of Students (BITS) for middle- and high-school students. And in partnership with Chantilly High, tutoring is given through The Saturdays Toward Excellence Program (STEP). In addition, STEP designed a reading program in partnership with the Chantilly Regional Library to help students improve their reading skills.

CPMSAC offers the Summer Math Institute, as funds are available, for students in middle and high school who want a head start in pre-algebra, algebra and geometry. There's also an annual Academic Awards program, plus a Youth Enrichment Teach-In program.

For more information, see [www.cpsmac.org](http://www.cpsmac.org). Contact Barbara Tyler at 703-450-2547 or [btlyer@nvcc.edu](mailto:btlyer@nvcc.edu) for more information about CPMSAC's 25th anniversary event.



**Trick or Treat! Halloween Candy Buy Back**  
**November 2-4th from 8-5pm**

Kids bring in their candy and receive \$1 per pound up to 5 pounds. Parents that bring their kids will also receive \$50 certificate towards whitening.

All candy is being donated to Operation Gratitude. It will be individually boxed and sent to soldiers, giving them a memory of home.

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

And they're off! Runners in the 5K race leave the starting line under a balloon arch.



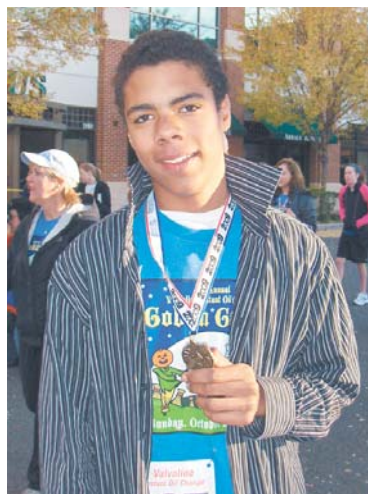
From left are Kenzie Clifford, 3, of Oak Hill; Rei Linam, 7, Reston; Laney O'Neal, 4, Centreville's Newgate community; and Chloe Gagnon, 6, of Rumson, N.J.

# Superheroes, Princesses and Pumpkins, Oh My!

The 16th annual Goblin Gallop for the John Quadrino Foundation to Benefit Children with Cancer was held Sunday morning, Oct. 25, at the Fairfax Corner Shopping Center. The 5K winner was Abiyot Endale, 23, of the Bronx, N.Y., in 15:41. Alexandria's Kelly Sykes, 15, a freshman at Edison High, won the 1K fun run in 4:01.



Fairfax's Megan Prosser, 10, who came as an aquarium, won the costume contest. She's a fifth-grader at Laurel Ridge Elementary.



Kelly Sykes, 15, of Alexandria, won the 1K fun run.



From left: Teddy Schroder, 4; Jacob Robinette, 7; and Tyler Schroder, 7. Brothers Teddy and Tyler are NASCAR drivers, and Jacob's a Clone Trooper. He and Tyler are first-graders at Union Mill Elementary; Teddy attends Clifton Presbyterian Church's preschool.



From left are Yuta Fujimoto, 2 and a half, and brother Kosei, 8, of Fair Oaks. Kosei is in second grade at Waples Mill Elementary.



From left are the Susann siblings of South Riding: Superman Chris, 3; Batman Will, 2; and Spider-Man Michael, 7.



From left are the Smith siblings of Fairfax's Forest Hills community: Clare, 4; Sarah, 3, and Sean, 7.



From the City of Fairfax are Alison Robertson, 4, as Belle, and sister Madison, 3, as Tigger the tiger.



The fun run's starting line, just before the beginning of the race.

## Meeting about Local Schools

A meeting of the Southwestern Regional Planning Study Committee will be held Thursday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. at Liberty Middle School, 6801 Union Mill Road (just past Centreville High). Two representatives from each of the 23 elementary schools involved in the study will be there to learn about possible changes in the school boundaries and populations. Schools involved include Clifton and Colin Powell elementaries.

## Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Nov. 5 and Nov. 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.

However, because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the proper use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

## Westfield Community Coalition

The Westfield Community Coalition will meet Monday, Nov. 9, at 6 p.m., at Moe's Southwest Grill, 505 Westone Plaza in Chantilly. For more information, contact Jennifer Cooper at [jalcooper@aol.com](mailto:jalcooper@aol.com).

## Protection from Holiday Crime

The SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) Council is a partnership between senior citizens and law enforcement to inform seniors about crime prevention projects and recruit and train volunteers to work with local law enforcement. The Sully SALT council meets monthly, and the next meeting is slated for Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 12:30 p.m., at the Sully Senior Center, 5690 Sully Road in Centreville. The topic is "Protecting Yourself from Crime during the Holidays."

## Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings Time will end, Sunday, Nov. 1, at 2 a.m. So after Halloween's festivities, remember to turn clocks, watches and other time-telling devices back one hour. And change the batteries in smoke alarms.

## Centreville Farmers Market Ending This Friday

Fresh fruits, vegetables, cheese, pasta and sauces, meats, wine, honey, soaps, baked goods and coffee are all available at the Centreville farmers market. It's off Route 29 in Trinity Centre, behind Life Time Fitness, at 5875 Trinity Parkway. Last day of the season is this Friday, Oct. 30, from 3:30-6:30 p.m.

## Conflict Resolution Workshop

A Conflict Resolution workshop will be held Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch and materials. Any proceeds will benefit Wellspring United Church of Christ's Immigrant Ministry in Centreville. Pre-register and send questions to Alice Foltz at [afoltzva@verizon.net](mailto:afoltzva@verizon.net)

Leading the workshop will be the Rev. Al Fuertes, who holds a Ph.D in conflict analysis and resolution and teaches a course on conflict, trauma and healing at GMU.

The workshop will offer a more holistic understanding of conflicts, especially within the context of faith communities or con

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 5

# Fantasy Pumpkins Aglow

FROM PAGE 1

people each year, from far and wide, to see his latest creations. And with more than 30 intricately carved pumpkins featuring everything from Mickey Mouse to movie characters to the hottest figures in science fiction, this Halloween's offerings should be every bit as exciting as previous ones.

Although some parts of the country had a pumpkin shortage, Dickover had no trouble finding what he needed. "At the beginning of October, I got my three large pumpkins in Manassas — a 148-pounder and two 80-pound pumpkins," he said. "On the 148-pound pumpkin, I'll do the Death Star from 'Star Wars' for the last time. I created it and, since I put a free tutorial for it on the Internet, it's gotten over 60,000 hits."

Dickover, 42, of the Westbrooke community, has been designing and carving pumpkins for 11 years and has developed quite a following. "People send me photos of my patterns that they've carved into pumpkins," he said. "It's neat to have people carve my stuff."

This year, he's planning to create the Starship Enterprise on one of the 80-pound pumpkins and a dragon from Forest Walk on the other one. "A famous fantasy artist, Anne Stokes, does a lot of the cover art for Wizards of the Coast — which did the artwork for the card game, 'Magic: the Gathering,'" said Dickover. "A few years ago, I did a scary picture called Arachnoid — a woman who'd become part of a spiderweb. I e-mailed it to Stokes and she was blown away. So this year, I wanted to do one of her dragons from her new painting, Forest Walk. She said, if I send her a picture of the carving, she'll send me a signed print of Forest Walk."

It takes him anywhere from one to 12 hours to carve each pumpkin, depending on the degree of difficulty and complexity. The ones he completes earlier are kept in the refrigerator to preserve them. He coats the cut parts with Vaseline and sprays them with a bacterial solution to keep the pattern moist and prevent fungus from growing.

**THIS YEAR**, two of his masterpieces will be sculptures, where he's turned the pumpkin, itself, into an object, instead of putting a picture on top of it. "One is the inside of the egg from the movie, 'Alien,'" said Dickover. "I also have an ORC — a nasty, green, gorilla-like thing with huge tusks for teeth



Spider-Man



Catwoman



Mickey the Pirate

— from 'World of Warcraft.'"

There'll be carved pumpkins representing several, popular movies, including "Transformers," "Coraline," "Up" and "Snow White." Also on display will be a couple pumpkins from "Batman," including one showing actress Michelle Pfeiffer as Catwoman.

Not surprisingly, Dickover's whole family is also involved in the carving and have shown quite a bit of talent, themselves.

His son Justin, 16, a junior at Centreville High, did Jack Skellington from "The Nightmare before Christmas," plus a flaming skull, and will also probably do a pumpkin representing the cover of

## Directions

The Dickover home is at 14223 Hartwood Court in Centreville. From Route 28 south, turn left on Compton Road, go down the hill and up again. Take the first left onto Hartwood Lane. The third right is Hartwood Court, and the house is on the corner of Hartwood Lane and Hartwood Court.

To view Dickover's previous, Halloween creations, go to [www.fantasypumpkins.com](http://www.fantasypumpkins.com). To see his current pumpkins, add /2009-pumpkins/ to the end of that Web site.

the computer game, Diablo III. Daughter Sarah, 11, a sixth-grader at Centreville Elementary, carved a Goth version of Tinker Bell and a pumpkin honoring the Dr. Seuss classic, "Green Eggs and Ham."

"My nephew attending GMU, Joseph Chang of Clifton, did a full, cut-through Spider-Man," said Dickover. "He also did an intricate carving of [the video game] Castle." And my wife, Nam, carved Bob the Blob from the movie, 'Monsters and Aliens.' She also did the 'Cat in the Hat.'"

**ON HALLOWEEN**, the pumpkins are all aglow on the front lawn of the Dickovers' home, with creations to please adults through the youngest children. Nam did a cute carving of Mickey Mouse as a pirate, and Dickover is making a detailed, fantasy fairy.

"We're also doing Tom and Jerry, and we'll probably do Elmo and SpongeBob, too," he said. "And I did some Disney ones, including Tinker Bell playing with a crocodile from 'Peter Pan.' So there'll be something for people of all ages."

He also plans to create a 360-degree carving of author Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are." It'll portray the scene where the boy, Max, and the monsters are all up in the trees together. "Making a pattern that fits the pumpkin is challenging, as is tracing it," said Dickover. "I've spent six or seven hours on the pattern already and am not done, yet. The carving will take over 10 hours."

Yet despite all the hard work, he wouldn't dream of not celebrating Halloween this way. "You get stressed from work and stuff but, when you get to start carving a pumpkin, it's so relaxing," he said. "And it's a nice, family-oriented activity. My whole family joins in, and we're all sitting around the kitchen table, carving and talking."

# Road Block for New Visions?

FROM PAGE 1

with 600 seats. But the WFCCA contended it was too intense a use for such a small parcel of land.

Since then, New Vision shaved some 8,000 square feet off its proposed building and returned recently to the WFCCA to discuss the revisions. The work would be done in three phases. The first entails renovating the existing, circa 1946, 3,500-square-foot, frame house currently on site for offices and the minister's residence. Up to four, 1,500-square-foot trailers would serve no more than 100 people for worship. There'd be 58 parking spaces.

**IN PHASE TWO**, that house would be demolished and a two-story, 27,565-square-foot church, with up to 300 seats and 123 parking spaces, would be constructed. A private school of general education for 90 students would also be added, and the trailers would be removed. Phase three would bring an additional 8,320 square feet to the church for a total of 35,885 square feet. It would seat 500 people and add 70 more parking spaces for 193 total.

"For all three phases, the church will be on public sewer," said Scharn. "[County] staff is recommending denial based on transportation issues, so it's basically resting on VDOT right now. Staff will approve if VDOT says yes."

To ease access into the site from Route 29, she said, "We're proposing to move the median break as

far over as possible, for as much turning space as possible. But according to the new, national requirements, for Route 29, the distance between median breaks must be 1,320 feet. It's about 1,100 feet now and would be about 975 feet [once we moved it], so we're asking for an exception."

Additionally, the church is allow-

**"Centreville's traffic is already bad, and a waiver would only make things worse."**

— Carol Hawn

ing 300 feet for its left-turn lane, with 100 feet of taper. But federal regulations require 485 feet for the turn lane. "So we're asking for a waiver," said Scharn. "And we've requested a reduction for the right-turn lane, too. If VDOT doesn't approve the waiver for the left-turn lane, the church wouldn't be able to locate there because it would involve bridge reconstruction — which the church couldn't afford to do."

**WFCCA'S** Mark McConn was concerned that, with so many churches already in existence along that stretch of Route 29 (i.e., Centreville Baptist and Centreville Presbyterian) or under construction — the Korean Central Presbyterian church — yet another church would only exacerbate Sunday's already heavy traffic along that road. And panelist Carol Hawn worried that road changes there would result in drivers trying to make U-turns near the new church.

According to the Sept. 22 county staff report, "VDOT be-

lieves the existing median break, as the church proposes to use it, is substandard and would not support the use, as requested." Noting that both the right- and left-turn deceleration lanes are also "substandard," the report states that VDOT might take as long as six months to render its ruling on these issues.

"Without a median break for [this] site, staff would not support this use with a right-in/right-out entrance," said the report. "Route 29 is a principal arterial and special-permit uses that result in U-turns are not supported."

County staff therefore recommended New Vision construct a third, through-lane on Route 29 across the site's entire frontage, concurrent with phase one. The church agreed to build it partially across the frontage, but not until phases two or three.

At the land-use meeting, McConn made a motion to disapprove the application and Hawn seconded it. "Nothing has changed for me since the first presentation of this application," she said. "Centreville's traffic is already bad, and a waiver would only make things worse."

"There are too many things — transportation, sewer, water — not in place," added WFCCA's Judy Heisinger. "We're just not ready to approve this."

Agreeing, WFCCA Land-Use Chairman Jim Katcham said, "There are too many unanswered questions." The WFCCA then voted to recommend denial of the proposal to the county Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) which will have the final say. The BZA held a public hearing on the matter, Sept. 29, but deferred decision until Nov. 17 — after it's received and had time to read and evaluate VDOT's report and ruling on the waiver requests.

## ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 4

gregations. It will also familiarize participants with various interventions, skills and tools.

## How To Help WFCM Food Pantry

The Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) food pantry is in great need of food to help serve its many clients in the local community. Especially needed are: Soup, canned meats and tuna, dry pasta, dried beans, oil, pancake mix, syrup, baked beans, Hamburger Helper, canned fruits and beans, and cake and frosting mixes.

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# OPINION

## Vote Nov. 3 Outcome of governor's race depends on who in No. Virginia turns out to vote.

It's all about turnout. Statewide, voters in Virginia will pick a new governor and attorney general, vote for lieutenant governor, plus one House of Delegates seat. Turnout for these "off year" elections is notoriously low, meaning every vote will count.

The outcome will also count. Both statewide and in delegate races, there are stark differences between candidates. In a very tough economic environment, those who are elected will have tremendous influence on some very important details of living and working in Virginia.

You can find a link to all of our election coverage, plus to the Voters Guide of the League of Women Voters, which was published last week in Centre View, at [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com).

**VOTERS' RIGHTS**, excerpts from the State Board of Elections:

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by the election officials

- ❖ To seek help from the election officials if you are unsure about anything relating to the voting process.

- ❖ To be given a demonstration of how the voting equipment works.

- ❖ To enter the full name of a write-in candidate.

- ❖ To have a ballot brought to your vehicle instead of entering the polling place if you are 65 years of age or older, or if you are disabled.

- ❖ To vote even if you have no identification with you at the polling place. You must sign the "Affirmation of Identity" statement before voting if you have no ID.

- ❖ To vote by provisional ballot if your status as a qualified voter is in question, and to be present when the Electoral Board meets to determine if your ballot will be counted.

- ❖ To bring your child age 15 or younger into the voting booth with you to observe you vote.

- ❖ To vote if you are in line by 7 p.m. when the polls close.

**IF YOU FEEL** your voting rights have been violated or that you may have witnessed an election law being broken, it is important to report the incident before the polls have closed, preferably while you are still there. Contact the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745, or via email at [info@sbe.virginia.gov](mailto:info@sbe.virginia.gov).

If you still believe your voting rights may have been violated, you have 10 days to file a formal complaint with the State Board of Elections.

For more information and to find your polling place, go to [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov) and click on "voter information." Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, or consult the local office of elections:

Fairfax County Office of Elections  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323  
Fairfax, VA 22035-0081  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/>  
703-222-0776 phone  
703-324-4700 for 24-hour recorded information.

## Seeing Freedom More Clearly

To the Editor:

Since the 4th of July fireworks, I have felt compelled to speak out for the good I see in America every day. I must confess that before, 9/11/01, I held most government officials accountable for society's problems.

As I again witnessed the attack on New York City and Washington, D.C., on 9/11/09, it brought tears to my eyes and rage to my heart. Most of my life, I was told being an American was my birthright and I was entitled to all the wealth the United States could supply me. I lived my life to advance my agenda.

However, after watching the events unfold on Sept. 11, I began to see people in a different light. The brave men and women were showing me daily that being an American is not an inheritance at all, but a gift and privilege, given to few. Until that day in September, I watched men and women go and return from Viet Nam, the Gulf War, and Afghanistan. When they returned home, I was not present to mourn their passing or praise their heroic efforts. I believed I was entitled to have others protect me and keep me comfortable at any cost. I realized, for the first time in my life, after Sept 11, America the land, is not what was being sung about in songs, but the people who live here.

I grew up with my parents talking about how Americans joined forces to become one people during WWII. I had only seen Americans banded together at sporting events or concerts. In fact, all I saw everyday was America being portrayed negatively by countless cover-ups and corrupted citizens. My distorted view interpreted our government as not able to protect us and seeing the World Trade Center collapsed only affirmed my belief. Over the past eight years, I see America and its people in a way I have never seen before and I have changed for the better.

Everywhere our flag is proudly displayed on

people, cars, trucks, in yards, on trees, in flower-beds, in the sky, and even on the sides of buildings. On one day in October 2001, I counted some 432 flags in a six-hour period. Now, seeing the stars and bars anywhere causes the hairs on the back of my neck to do what I should have been doing all my life, coming to attention in the presence of my flag and what it stands for, our freedom.

America is blessed, but God blessed Americans.

**Michael Burnett**  
Centreville

## Restaurant Supports CVHS

To the Editor:

Outback Steakhouse in the Colonnade Shopping Center got a taste of Centreville Monday night. The word got out that Outback Steakhouse was donating a portion of their sales to the Athletic Booster Club and the fans responded ravenously.

Centreville High School Wildcats, their families, and friends showed up in droves. The place was packed.

Cheerleaders, Field hockey players, football players, volleyball families and too many parents to count all crowded around their tables wolfing down tasty steaks, burgers, and my personal favorite, blooming onions.

There were so many cars in line at the curb ordering takeout it resembled DMV inspection lines at the end of the month. Only this line moved! With this many gluttonous people in one place you would think that the service was slow, but you couldn't be more wrong. The wait staff was hopping, food was flying out of the kitchen and it couldn't have been better.

The new menu was fantastic. Mr. Sanabria ordered the New York strip and let me tell you that when the waiter brought it to him I think he had tears in his eyes. His knife and

fork started moving so quickly sparks were coming from his plate. When he was finished, the smile on his face looked like Mr. Campbell's on the last day of school.

Peter Dittamo, the proprietor of Outback Steakhouse, could not have been more gracious. His support for Centreville High School has been exceptional. It is no surprise to know why Outback Steakhouse has been voted number one Best Steak in a 2009 Zagat survey of National Full Service Restaurant Chains.

Peter thank you very much for all of your support. Fans, thanks for coming out. And the next time you decide to "live adventurous and go outback," let them know you appreciate all that they do.

**Dennis T. Legendre**  
President

Centreville High Athletic Booster Club

## Choose Wisely

To the Editor:

Due to Virginia's off-year elections, candidates have to battle the previous year's election fatigue and having voting decisions based on federal issues that may or may not affect the leaders of our Commonwealth. While it is true that all issues affect us as U.S. citizens, let's not lose sight of who is running and what they stand for in 2009 ....

So please do your homework.

In the last few weeks of this campaign, read both candidates Web sites, all of the newspapers covering the campaign (no matter your preference), and please make an informed decision on Nov. 3.

With access to the Internet and the ability to review the positions and experience of the candidates, our Commonwealth deserves no less.

**John J. Byrne**  
Centreville

# CENTREVIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Newspaper of  
Centreville / Clifton  
Little Rocky Run  
A Connection Newspaper

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.  
1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

## PEOPLE

### Denbrook and Hansen Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Denbrook of Centreville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Regina Denbrook to Brett Hansen, son of Mr. Ron Hansen of Durant, Iowa, and Mrs. Nancy Thoma of Alexandria. Regina is a 2002 graduate of Westfield High School and is currently employed by Blue Water Grille and Chantilly National Country Club. Brett is a 2005 graduate of Virginia Tech and works for Corbett Technology Solutions Inc., a Chantilly-based technology and communications solutions provider. The couple has a beautiful 7-month-old daughter, Skylar Michelle Hansen. A May 2010 wedding is being planned.



**Regina Denbrook and Brett Hansen.**

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## 4th Annual Halloween Candy Buy Back

Halloween is approaching and Dr. Aunon's dental office is again buying your child's Halloween candy. Bring in your child's candy from 11/02 thru 11/06 and receive \$1.00 for each pound. All the candy will be donated to our troops in Iraq. It is a great way for our kids to say Thank You.

**Jose Aunon, D.D.S. & James Moshier, D.M.D.**  
6134 Redwood Sq. Center Suite 202  
Centreville, VA 20121  
**703-266-2483**

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[www.valonsalon.com](http://www.valonsalon.com)

The talented staff of 23 work as a team to make the salon and spa experience as enjoyable and satisfying as possible.

"I love coming to work everyday. My top priority is to help clients look and feel their best," says Raquel LaMay, Senior Stylist at Valón for over 11 years.

Valary Brown, has owned the salon for 13 years and is a firm believer in advanced education. She and her staff are passionate about their work, regularly attending seminars and classes to stay up to date on the latest techniques and hairstyles. "We are proud to offer a wide variety of innovative services to keep you looking great from head to toe. Through consultation, in-depth communication and fresh ideas, we set ourselves apart from any other salon."

**Valón Salon & Day Spa**

(703) 266-7660  
5708 Pickwick Rd. Centreville

# Communities of Worship

To highlight your faith community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

**CENTREVILLE**

 **Centreville Baptist Church**

---

**Worship Services**  
8:00 & 9:30 am Celebration Service  
11:00 am Contemporary Service

**Bible Study**  
9:30 am & 11:00 am

**Men in the Community!!!**  
An open time of Prayer  
5 - 8 am any Thursday morning  
Come when you can, pray for as long as you can.

---

15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120  
703-830-3333 [www.cbcva.org](http://www.cbcva.org)

*Warm People ~ Hot Coffee  
Come in for a serving of both this Sunday*

 **Centreville United Methodist Church**

**Sunday Worship Services**  
8:15 AM  
9:30 AM  
11:00 AM  
Contemporary Service in the ROC  
11:02 AM



**Worshipping God ~ Serving Others**

703.830.2684  
[www.centreville-umc.org](http://www.centreville-umc.org)  
6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville VA 20121  
Corner of New Braddock Road & Route 28

**Saint Andrew Lutheran Church**

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.  
Christian Education for All Ages: 9:45 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study: Wed. 9:30 a.m.

*Our mission is to welcome all people,  
to grow in our relationship with Christ,  
and to serve the Lord*

Braddock Road and Cranoke Street  
Centreville, VA 20120  
[www.saintandrewlc.org](http://www.saintandrewlc.org)  
703-830-2768

 **Centreville Community Bible Church**  
*A Family Church Where Every Person is Loved And Cared For*

*Meeting at Deer Park Elementary School  
15109 Carlbern Drive Centreville, VA 20120*

*Bible Study-9:30 a.m.  
Worship- 10:30 a.m.*

- Programs for Children, Youth & Adults
- Nursery Provided

(703) 815-8860 [www.ccbc-va.com](http://www.ccbc-va.com) Pastor, Gary L. Maines

**Spirit Filled - NonDenominational**

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**Home Cell Groups**

[www.WestgateChapel.Net](http://www.WestgateChapel.Net)  
4500 Southgate Place - Chantilly, VA - (703) 773-0456

**Tree of Life Bible Church**

*In Historic Centreville at Lee Hwy & Braddock Rd*

13924 Braddock Road  
Centreville, VA 20120  
**(703) 830-4563**


Pastor James & First Lady Ada Vanison, Founders

**Worship Services:**  
Sunday Services 11 AM & 4 PM  
Wednesday Service 8 PM

Visit us on-line at [www.treeoflifebiblechurch.org](http://www.treeoflifebiblechurch.org)



**THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

 **Traditional Anglican Service**

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9:00 - Morning Prayer & 11:00 - Holy Communion (1st, 3rd, 5th weeks of the month)  
11:00 - Morning Prayer & 9:00 - Holy Communion (2nd, 4th weeks of the month)

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**703-830-3176**



**CENTREVILLE**

 **Centreville United Methodist Church**

**11:02 AM**  
**Contemporary Worship Service**

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**Come Worship with us at Centreville Presbyterian Church**


**Sunday Services**  
8:15 & 9:45am Praise & worship  
11:15 Traditional

15450 Lee Highway  
Centreville, VA 20120  
**703-830-0098**  
[www.centrevillepres.com](http://www.centrevillepres.com)





**Mount Olive Baptist Church**  
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**SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE AT LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

Sunday School:	9:00-9:45 AM
Worship Service:	10:00 AM
Children's & Youth Church:	10:00 AM
Youth Minister: Rev. Bobby Joe Ford, Jr.	
Wednesday Bible Study (Includes Youth Classes)	7:00-9:00 PM

**MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Administrative Office:  
13924 Braddock Road Suite 201  
Centreville, VA 20120  
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[www.mountolive-church.org](http://www.mountolive-church.org)  
Email:  
[mtolive@mountolive-church.org](mailto:mtolive@mountolive-church.org)

Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson, Pastor

6600 OLD CENTREVILLE ROAD CENTREVILLE, VA 20121





# WORTH NOTING

## ONGOING

**Our Neighbors Child (ONC)** is the local organization coordinating holiday assistance (new toys and clothing gifts) for children of families in financial crisis in Centreville, Chantilly and Western Fairfax. Assistance is made possible through the generous support from local churches, schools, businesses and individuals each year. In its 18th year, ONC is looking for groups or individuals to "adopt" the special needs of local children this holiday season. There is an especially urgent need for winter coats, blankets and other warm clothing. Specific information (sizes, etc.) will be available by Thanksgiving. If you are willing to help, contact Denise McInerney, ONC Clothing Coordinator at oncdenise@aol.com. For other volunteer opportunities or to make a donation, visit [www.ourneighborschild.org](http://www.ourneighborschild.org).

## THURSDAY/OCT. 29

**Haunted House and Wax Museum.** 5-8 p.m. Attractions include a Haunted House, Living Wax Museum and Witches' Cave. At the Westfield High School Black Box and auditorium. Tickets are \$5. Families are \$12. Go to [www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com](http://www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com) or call 703-488-6439.

**BNI "1-to-49" Power Networking Event.** 6-9 p.m. Meet business people from all of BNI's 49 Northern Virginia chapters. Everyone invited. Register at [www.bninova.com](http://www.bninova.com), \$25 before Oct. 15; \$30 after. Attire: business, business casual or Halloween costume. Dulles Hilton, 13869 Park Center Rd, Herndon. Contact: [info@IMPACTme.com](mailto:info@IMPACTme.com) or 703-731-7200.

## Protection Planning in Uncertain Times.

6:30-8 p.m. presented by Gayle Thompson, RiverSource Insurance. At Ameriprise Financial Services Inc, 5870 Trinity Parkway, Suite 100, Centreville. RSVP to Christopher D. Allen at 703-825-2382.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 30

**Halloween Haunting.** 6-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5. For ages 8 and older. Roasted marshmallows. Park staff will share tales of the park's ghosts. Dress in costume and prepare to be tricked or treated through very dark woods. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road in Chantilly. Call 703-631-0013.

**Howling Halloween Hop.** 8:30 p.m. Jitterbug lesson. 9-midnight dancing with King Teddy. \$15. There will be a costume and dance contest with prizes. At the Washington Dulles Hilton, off Route 28 in Herndon. Go to [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com).

## OCT. 30-31

**Trick or Treat.** Friday from 4-7 p.m. Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free. Costumes are encouraged. At the National Firearms Museum, at NRA Headquarters, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax. Call 703-267-1620 or visit <http://nra.nationalfirearms.museum>.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 31

**Trick or Treat.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All-day trick-or-treating at Cox Farms. For children wearing a costume, each time they go down a slide, he/she will collect a Halloween treat. The Fall Festival runs thru Nov. 8, 2009. Hours are 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. through October 31, and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Nov. 1-8.

SEE WORTH NOTING, PAGE 10

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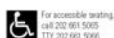
**Mask giveaway**—first 10,000 fans receive Gilbert Arenas masks

**Hershey's candy giveaway**—trick-or-treating and in-game tosses

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the image  
of the  
mind. As  
the man  
is, so is  
his talk.**

—Publilius  
Syrus

**WORTH NOTING**

FROM PAGE 9

Admission is \$15 on weekends; \$9 on weekdays. Children under 2 years of age are free.

**Community Clothing Giveaway.** 8 a.m. Free clothing for anyone in the community who has a need. At Centreville Baptist Church. Call 703-830-3333.

**Teen Volunteer Fair.** 10:30 a.m. to noon. Middle and high school students and their parents are invited to meet representatives from local organizations that offer volunteer opportunities. At Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Call 703-502-3883.

**Mall-O-Ween.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Kids are invited to dress up in costumes and fill their trick-or-treat bags. At Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax.

**MONDAY/NOV. 2**

**Cheerleading Fund-raiser.** 7 p.m. SYA Extreme Cheerleaders are hosting a fund-raiser at Pacino Ristorante Italiano. 15 percent of the proceeds go to support SYA Extreme in its effort to fund their competitions and warm-ups. Go to [www.pacinooristorante.com](http://www.pacinooristorante.com). At 5653 Stone Road, Centreville.

**THURSDAY/NOV. 5**

**Woman's Club Day Meeting.** 9 a.m. Malou Innocent, a foreign policy analyst with the Cato Institute, will be speaking about her experiences and the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan. At the Fairfax Station Museum. Contact Membership Chair, Linda Beckman at 703-266-0213.

**FRIDAY/NOV. 6**

**Under the Big Top.** 6-9 p.m. Celebration recognizes adoptive families as part of National Adoption Awareness Month. Children who have talent and an interest in showcasing their talents at the event, are asked to contact Stephanie Pegues with the Department of Family Services at 703-324-7792. Clowns, face-painting, circus foods and prizes. At the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway.

**SATURDAY/NOV. 7**

**Burn-a-Thon.** Starts at 9 a.m. Fund-raiser for diabetes. At Golds Gym Chantilly, 14290 Sullyfield Circle in Chantilly. Visit <http://www.diabetes.org/tour-burnathon>.

**Relay for Life Meeting.** 10 a.m. to noon. At the Clifton Café on Main Street in Clifton. The American Cancer Society invites the community to learn about its fund-raiser coming to Centreville High on May 22-23, 2010. Drop by and pick up information and talk to Co-Chair Marion Rantis.

**Colonial Day.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$8/adults, \$6/children. This family-friendly program highlights daily life in northern Virginia between 1775 and 1785. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly. Call 703-437-1794.

**CASA Info session.** 11 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed to serve as Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Call 703-273-3526, ext. 22, or email [ekosarin@casafairfax.org](mailto:ekosarin@casafairfax.org).

**Lane's Mill Chapter DAR Meeting.** Ladies interested in learning about the DAR and membership are welcome to attend. At the Sully Government Center, Chantilly. Email [jsmithtot@aol.com](mailto:jsmithtot@aol.com)

**Book and Author Luncheon.** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$38/person. Presented by the Fairfax City Branch of AAUW. This annual event is sponsored by AAUW Fairfax City Branch to raise funds for scholarships for women in our area. At the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3445.

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# SCHOOLS

The Centreville Wildcat Band department is holding its annual citrus sale. Band students and the wildcat band boosters will be taking orders from Nov. 4-23, 2009. Fruit will be available for pick-up at the school in the band room on Friday, Dec. 4.

A full case contains 50 to 56 oranges or 30 to 35 grapefruit and sells for \$30. A half case contains 25 to 28 oranges or 15 to 20 grapefruit and sells for \$20. New this year are mixed full cases selling for \$35 and mixed half cases selling for \$25.

If you are interested in ordering, you may contact your neighborhood band student or contact Tricia Cruz at 703-266-6748 or e-mail her at Va\_Cruz@cox.net. Make all checks pay-

able to Wildcat Band Boosters. Delivery can be arranged for hardship cases within a five-mile radius.

**Junior Kellie Sanders**, the daughter of Jim and Kathy Sanders of Centreville, was appointed to the position of Medical NCOIC with the rank of cadet technical sergeant in Randolph-Macon Academy's (R-MA) Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC). She received her promotion at a special ceremony held Aug. 27, at the Academy. Only students with records of strong academics and leadership abilities are eligible for the Academy's cadet officer and non-commissioned officer ranks.

Kellie is a member of the Academy's

varsity volleyball, cheerleading and softball teams. She was named MVP of the softball team for the Academy and to the Delaney Athletic Conference (DAC) softball team during her sophomore year. Kellie was also named to the DAC cheerleading team.

**Lee Teng of Centreville** graduated from the 2009 Governor's School of Agriculture held at Virginia Tech on June 28 to July 25. Teng, a senior from Centreville High School, was one of 96 rising junior and senior high school students from across the commonwealth selected to participate in the month-long summer residential program for gifted students interested in agriculture and natural resources.

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# Westfield Captures Concorde Crown

**Bulldogs field hockey wins second straight district title in thriller with Centreville.**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
CENTRE VIEW

Before Westfield High School's 1-0 victory against Centreville High School in the Concorde District Championship on Oct. 22, Westfield head coach Terri Towle gave her team a pre-game history lesson.

"Ten years ago, one of our goals as a team was to get the ball across the mid-field line," Towle said. "For our team to come this far and have our goal be to win a district title, it's just a credit to all of the girls who have played here."

Towle said that many of the girls, members of a team that has had no problem working the ball down the field, couldn't believe her statements about their school's field hockey history.

"I'd tell the girls it's all in [the book], that's really how it was," Towle said. "My assistants would back me up and say, 'It's all true.'"

**NOW TOWLE** can add another district title to her book after a thrilling 1-0 game that came down to the final minutes. And her players can rest easy knowing that they've helped write another chapter in that book.

The game's scoring started, and ended, with 7:08 left in the first half, when senior forward Molly Gift put in a shot off a passing play from Kelsey Grainer, the 2009 Concorde District Player of the Year.



SUSAN SPENCER/CENTRE VIEW

**Westfield's Kelsey Grainer battles for the ball during the Bulldogs' 1-0 victory against Centreville. Grainer was named the Concorde District Player of the Year after the game.**

"Kelsey Grainer had it and passed it diagonally to the right hand side of the goal," Gift said. "That's my favorite spot to shoot from. No one was on the far post and I aimed for the corners like coach tells us to do."

After Gift's goal, the Bulldogs' stiff defense, which has not given up a goal since Oct. 1, sprung into action to defend the lead.

The Bulldogs' defense frustrated

Centreville's offense, but the Wildcats' chance to tie the game came on a penalty stroke attempt by Haili Hartman with 6:30 left in the game.

Hartman stared down Westfield goalie Katie Fiely for a tense moment before ripping a shot wide of the goal.

"It was scary because I had [a penalty stroke] against Centreville in our last

game," Fiely said. "I slid to get the ball, but I was so happy that it went wide."

After the failed penalty stroke, Hartman buried her face in her hands before springing back to continue the Wildcats attack.

"I knew where I wanted to put the ball, but it went a little too far left," Hartman said. "It just didn't go as I planned."

**CENTREVILLE CONTINUED** to pile on the pressure with three penalty corners in the final two minutes, but Fiely held her ground and turned away all seven shots the Wildcats took.

When the final whistle blew, a raucous Westfield fans rushed the field and surrounded their field hockey heroes.

"Our senior class of boys, we call them the 'dog pound', helped make the game more intense," Gift said.

The sight of stands filled with parents and students lined up against the field's fence also caught Towle's attention.

"This is the most fans that some of these girls will ever play in front of," Towle said. "It's just a great experience. There were a lot of people talking about [this game]. It was the same for Centreville. They had a large group of fans here, too."

Although Centreville did not take home the district title, Centreville head coach Meg Doran was honored as the Concorde District Coach of the Year after leading the team to a 14-2 record.

Despite Centreville's disappointing finish, Doran is looking forward to continuing the season in the Regional Tournament.

"Good athletes enjoy good competition, and we always enjoy playing Westfield," Doran said.

"We're looking forward to the Regional Tournament so that our season doesn't have to end with a loss [in the District Tournament]."

## A Royal Retirement

**Former Bulldog, current NFL receiver, Eddie Royal's number honored during half-time.**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
CENTRE VIEW

Former Westfield High School Bulldog and current Denver Broncos wide receiver Eddie Royal enjoyed a personal homecoming on Oct. 23 during Westfield's 17-14 victory over Chantilly High School.

With the 6-0 Broncos enjoying a bye week in the NFL, Royal planned to return home to visit his family, relax and watch a Westfield game.

What he didn't know was that the Westfield football team had really invited him to the game because the school planned to retire his number.

"It's a great feeling to come home and you're still showed the love that [Westfield High School] has shown me," Royal said. "It's amazing to be back on this field where I have so many memories."

During a half-time ceremony, Royal, accompanied by his family, was presented with a framed No. 5 jersey. The school also unveiled a banner to hang in the end zone featuring Royal's name and number.

During the ceremony, the Westfield announcer rattled off a list of Royal's achievements as a Bulldog, Virginia Tech Hokie and Bronco.

Royal, along with future Virginia Tech team

SEE ROYAL, PAGE 15



COURTESY PHOTOS

**Former Bulldogs, Sean Glennon and Eddie Royal, pose for a photo during Westfield's 17-14 victory against Chantilly. Glennon played quarterback with Royal at Westfield and at Virginia Tech.**



**Royal and his mother, Pearl, share a moment on the field during the retirement ceremony.**



**During the half-time ceremony, Royal was presented with his No. 5 jersey by head coach Tom Verbanic.**



The exterior of the Pletchers' house is all decked out for Halloween.

## Last Chance To See Halloween Haunted House

FROM PAGE 1

was the Pletchers' "eyeball punch." They stopped serving it, after awhile, but so many people kept asking for it that they're resurrecting it, this Halloween, to the delight of their neighbors.

"We pour lemon-lime soda into a punch bowl and float plastic eyeballs in it," said Linda Pletcher. "We light the bowl from beneath with dry ice, so people see this eerie green, glowing punch. Then we drop in dry ice that bubbles and boils and causes steam and fog to roll over the edge, making it look really creepy."

Coffins, skeletons, mummies and spiders will be all over the front yard, as well as a graveyard with hands wiggling out of the ground. "It looks realistic when it's dark," said Pletcher. "The kids all want to touch the hands. We also have fog machines and a guy sitting in an 'electric chair' being electrocuted. So there's a lot of things to see."

The coffins both contain skeletons, and the Wicked Witch of the North sits on her broomstick atop the roof. Said Pletcher: "We also have ghosts and goblins and all kinds of ghouly things."

Now empty-nesters, she said the hardest part for her and Bob is getting all the props and decorations out of their boxes and then spending two days setting up everything. "But we really enjoy seeing everybody enjoy it after we get done. We see all our neighbors at least once a year, that way. And we love watching the kids — they have so much fun."

And when this Halloween's hoopla is done, the Pletchers and their visitors will have a lifetime of happy memories from this annual event.

"We would like to let all our friends and neighbors know that we have thoroughly enjoyed seeing them at our Haunted House, these past 20 years," said Bob and Linda Pletcher in a prepared statement. "We started decorating for Halloween when Jason and Tom were in grade school and, over the years, our Haunted House grew and grew. Thanks to all of you for your support over the years. We hope to see you one more time, this year."

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## Less Turns Out To Be More



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Chronicling, as I have, my unexpected ride on the cancer train these past three months, I thought I'd acquaint you, in this column, anyway, with some of the unexpected benefits I've enjoyed, benefits I never would have thought would have mattered under such trying (I'm trying, I'm trying) circumstances.

Chemotherapy causes problems/has side effects (front effects, back effects, too): nausea, vomiting, fatigue, loss of appetite, increased risk of infection, nose bleeds, loss of hair, and the list goes on. The prospect of losing my hair, however, didn't sit well with me initially, but as the follicles fell, that hairy loss (scalp, eyebrows, eyelashes, nasal, body and anywhere else hair grows) created certain opportunities/efficiencies that I didn't anticipate:

No more shampooing and conditioning, no need for more shampoo and conditioner; no more shaving, no more shaving cream and razors needed; less deodorant used since less in its glide path, less deodorant purchased; less soaping since less hair/obstructions to absorb it (and more sedentary lifestyle), so fewer bars bought. In summary; less time, effort and money spent on hair-related personal hygiene (and believe me, no one suffered as a consequence).

Surprisingly, I began to realize other advantages of my condition: much less appetite so much less time and money spent on food and food preparation; commuting to work one day a week instead of five leading to much less wear and tear (stress) on the driver (yours truly) and of course on the vehicle, too, including much lower commuting costs for gas, oil, tolls, etc; fewer in-office and business appointments as a result meant less dressing for success and less laundering of "success" efforts, so less time and money spent on clothes and their cleaning and maintenance; and most importantly, greater control of my life and more freedom, too; for appointments; business, pleasure and medical; for errands; banking, shopping, activities of daily living; and so forth, all at my convenience.

To summarize further: I am now spending much less time doing the things that I don't want to be doing and spending a lot less money not doing them. Moreover, regaining freedom from my previous nine-to-five focus and in turn now being able to spend more time at home, doing more of the things that I never had time to do while working — and never being at home, has enhanced my life immeasurably, health and budget constraints/realities notwithstanding. Control and independence, that's what I feel. Empowered, too. As odd as it might sound, the stress/reality of the lung cancer is almost offset by the corresponding reduction in stress brought on by this change in lifestyle.

As my oncologist first advised, in response to my first question after hearing him read the reports from all the various doctors/scans (X-Ray, C.T., P.E.T, biopsy) identifying my cancer: "No, you shouldn't be working, and should also consider taking that vacation you've always dreamed of." WHAT!

It was brutal to hear. So unexpected, too. Surreal was the first word that came to mind to describe my/our emotional state. But eventually, over time, over treatment (it's now been seven months since I started chemotherapy) and over the fear, you find a place for it (I did, anyway). And the place that I have found, and chosen to focus, are the positives that have resulted, some of which I've listed in this column. Perhaps in your reading of them, they seem rather insignificant in the scheme of things. Not to me. To me, they feel like building blocks of normalcy, fuel to energize my emotional engine and salve to soothe my furrowed brow.

I have to admit, though, a furrowed brow is the least of my problems (heck, I don't even have a brow). Nevertheless, life is easier. Much less stress and a lot more control. Who says cancer is a bad thing? (Everybody, I know, and of course, it is; just go with my flow.) But my post-diagnosis life has been all right. It may be a funny perspective for a cancer patient to have but if humor is indeed the best medicine, then I am happy to over medicate.

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

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# A Royal Retirement

FROM PAGE 12

mate Sean Glennon and current Penn State running back Evan Royster, was a member of Westfield's undefeated 2003 Virginia AAA State Championship team.

After a successful college career, Royal was drafted 42nd overall by the Denver Broncos in the 2008 NFL Draft.

Since then, Royal has flourished as a wide receiver and a kick return specialist. He set a Broncos record for most touchdowns (five) and receiving yards (757) by a rookie receiver in a season.

**THE CEREMONY** brought back memories of his playing days as a Bulldog, Royal said.

"Every moment [on the Westfield field] is something that I remember," Royal said. "The State Championship game was my favorite. We worked so hard to get there and it was a total team effort."

The moment also was shared by his former teammate, quarterback Sean Glennon, who is now helping the Bulldogs as a volunteer consultant.

"[Royal] deserves [the retirement]. Everywhere he's gone, he's made an impact," Glennon said. "He had a heck of a career here, he had a heck of a career at Virginia Tech, and it looks like he's going to have a heck of a career in the NFL. I'm very proud of him."

Glennon took time before the ceremony to

reflect on his playing time with Royal.

"We played together for eight years and I wish I could still be playing with him now," Glennon said. "I just remember how much fun it was to throw the ball 10 yards to [Royal] and watch it turn into an 80-yard touchdown run."

Perhaps the person most affected by the ceremony was Royal's mother, Pearl, who shared stories about her son's football career from when he was a child.

"Tonight means so much," Pearl Royal said. "I just can't describe the feeling. It is absolutely wonderful."

Royal said she thought her son might have the talent of an NFL star when he was young because of his passionate refusal to lose games.

"He never wanted to lose," Royal said. "If he lost a game as a member of [Reston Youth Association] or at Westfield, we couldn't talk to him. His face would be twisted for two or three days. I'd have to remind him that if you gave your best, then you have nothing to feel bad about."

Although the main ceremony took place during the Friday night game, Eddie Royal met with Westfield players before their match with Concorde District rival Chantilly.

"I spoke to the team before the game and told them that they have my full support and that I've been watching from Denver," Royal said. "I remember being in their shoes. This was a great time in my life and I enjoyed every minute of it."

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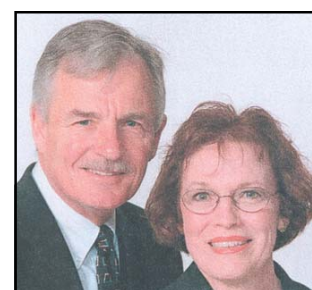
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