

West County: Eighth-grader takes part in first White House Science Fair

By MARIE TAYLOR

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Tristan Carmean, an eighth-grade student at Chesapeake Science Point Public Charter School in Hanover, was honored by President Barack Obama at the inaugural White House Science Fair on Oct. 18. Tristan was one of 24 students from across the nation and the only student from Maryland invited to attend.

Obama extolled the importance of science, technology, engineering and math education at a White House reception honoring the students for their achievements in science and math competitions. "It's hard to describe just how impressive these young people are," said the president. "We welcome championship sports teams to the White House to celebrate their victories. I thought we ought to do the same thing for the winners of science fair and robot contests and math competitions, because we don't give these victories the attention they deserve."

Tristan, a member of the winning 2009 Mathcounts Online Challenge team, attended the event as a representative of Mathcounts Foundation. Mathcounts is a nationwide club and competition program that motivates and rewards middle school students for their math achievements.

"It was an honor to be selected," said Tristan. "I've always been good at math and begged my parents to teach it to me when I was only 3," he shared. "Because of working with my math coach, Mr. Avsar, and our school's math team, Team Infinity, I've been able to really challenge myself."

Tristan's family moved to Maryland in 2005 and he started attending Chesapeake Science Point in 2008. "My parents found out about this school and I was excited about attending."

"Tristan really started to come into his own as a student there," his mother Leslie Carmean said. "He finally was in a school where he was challenged and he began to thrive."

In addition to his love of math challenges and competitions, Tristan also enjoys playing rugby, snowboarding and swimming.

Post party for kids

The Howard L. Turner American Legion Post 276, 8068 Quarterfield Road in Severn, will host a Halloween party for children from 1 to 4 p.m. today.

Children can enjoy a costume contest, pumpkin decorating, games and other activities.

Admission to the party is the donation of a non-perishable food item for the North County Emergency Outreach Network.

For details, call the post at 410-969-8028.

Halloween bash

Arundel Mills and the Simon Kidgits Club will host a Halloween Boo Bash for children from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today in the mall's food court.

The morning will kick off with a safety fair in the food court parking lot.

Children are invited to participate in crafts, activities and a costume contest at 1 p.m. Participants can enjoy mall-wide trick or treating from 3 to 4 p.m.

Boo Bash guests are asked to take a nonperishable food item for the mall's Scare Away Hunger Food Drive. Donations can be dropped in the bin at the Kidgits registration table or at guest services.

For details, visit www.arundelmills.com.

Gate changes

Starting Monday, the main gate to Fort Meade, located at Reece Road and Route 175, will be reduced to one lane from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays while improvements are made to the gate.

The Mapes Road and Route 175 gate will remain open 24/7 during the construction period.

The Llewellyn Avenue gate will remain open to inbound traffic only from 5 to 8 a.m. and for outbound traffic from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The public should expect significant delays to traffic, especially during rush hour periods.

Improvements to the Reece Road gate are expected to take approximately 30 to 45 days. Operations at the Fort Meade visitor control center will not be affected by this change.

For details, visit www.ft.meade.army.mil or call Veronica Castro at 301-677-1465.

Flea market

Meade High School, 1100 Clark Road, Fort George G. Meade, will host a shop 'til you drop flea market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. next Saturday.

A wide variety of vendors and crafters will be selling their wares, including homemade gifts, jewelry, holiday wreaths, toys and many more.

Early bird admission from 8 to 9 a.m. is \$2.

Proceeds of this event will benefit the school's International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

For details, send e-mail to MeadeFleaMarket@gmail.com.

To submit news items for Severn, Hanover, Fort Meade, Jessup and Harmans, contact Marie Taylor at 410-551-5974 or taylorMDgazette@aol.com.

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