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Education could be ticket to citizenship

Undocumented youths see opportunity in bill

By SUMMER HARLOW
The News Journal

Anabella drinks iced caramel lattes. She watches "Grey's Anatomy" and "The Tyra Banks Show."

Like many other 20-year-olds, she listens to popular music and shops for trendy designer knock-offs.

She's an average American girl, she says. Except she's not.

When she was 7 years old, her mother smuggled her, along with an older brother and a younger sister, across the border from Mexico and eventually to Elsmere.

Now, more than a decade later, Anabella has graduated from McKean High School and enrolled at Delaware Technical & Community College to study nursing. She'd rather go to the University of Delaware and become a doctor, but it's too expensive, and too risky, she said.

Sometimes she wonders what the point is. After all, as one of the country's 12 million undocumented immigrants, she won't be able to work as a nurse when she graduates.

She tries not to think about that possibility, and instead clings to a piece of federal legislation that has been percolating for five years: the DREAM Act.

Today, the Senate is expected to vote on moving forward with the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, which would offer a limited path to citizenship for youths who have been here at least five years, entered the country before age 16, are younger than 30 on the day the law is enacted, and who have completed two years of college or military service.

"The fact I don't have papers isn't going to stop me from going to school or make me give up," said Anabella, who asked that her last name not be used for this story because of her legal status.

"But you're always wondering, worrying. There are so many deserving students, so we're constantly thinking about the DREAM Act. It's no guarantee, but at least it's something."

Estimates, including from the Congressional Budget Office, anticipate anywhere from 60,000 to 500,000 students nationwide would benefit from the DREAM Act.

But the Washington-based Center for Immigration Studies, which favors immigration limits, pegs that number at 2.1 million people who would be eligible.

Critics contend the bill is just amnesty in sheep's clothing.

"Since the defeat of the big Bush-Kennedy amnesty bill in June, their strategy has been to break it up in bite-size pieces," said Ira Mehlman, spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which favors immigration limits. "The American public gagged on the whole enchilada, but they think if they cut it up, maybe we'll swallow it."

Once students obtain their green cards, it will mean de facto amnesty for their parents

See STUDENTS — A6



"Our general manager tells me all the time that she's our angel in the outfield, and yeah, there's one or two things every game when I smile and shake my head."

Will George, on his wife, who died May 22 of brain cancer

Milford scout, son show faith after heartbreaking loss



The News Journal/GARY EMEIGH

Colorado Rockies scout Will George of Milford and his son Dante will travel to Denver on Saturday for the World Series. George's wife, Florinda, died of brain cancer in May.

Rockies' winning season may be heaven-sent

YOU CAN HELP

By SCOTT LAUBER
The News Journal

In memory of his wife, Florinda, Will George and several baseball scouts are organizing a golf tournament Nov. 8 at Ocean City Golf Club in Berlin, Md. There will also be a silent auction of donated memorabilia to raise money to help find a cure for cancer.

For more information, check George's Web site, www.scoutingforacure.com.

As the Colorado Rockies batted in the second inning Oct. 3, the sun slipped behind the clouds and the shadows that had been making life so miserable for hitters suddenly faded. Will George looked skyward and smiled.

"I feel her presence all the time," George, a Rockies major-league scout, said of his late wife.

On May 22, Florinda George, wife of Will and mother to 10-year-old Dante, died of brain cancer. She was 44.

Now, on the unseasonably warm autumn afternoon of Oct. 3, Will and Dante sat behind home plate at Citizens Bank Park and watched Game 1 of the National League Division Series. In the second inning, a cloud obscured the sun. The Rockies' hitters,

no longer blinded by shadows, scored three runs against Phillies ace Cole Hamels.

An inning later, and for the rest of the game, the sun reappeared. Colorado won 4-2 and then won the next two games to eliminate the Phillies.

The Rockies then swept the Arizona Diamondbacks to win the National League pennant and a berth in the World Series, which begins tonight against the Red Sox in Boston.

"I have a strong belief in heaven and that she's in a better place," Will George said. "Our general manager tells me all the time that she's our angel in the outfield, and yeah, there's one or two things every game when I smile and shake my head."

There have been many seemingly heaven-sent moments for the Rockies over these past five weeks. Just to

See ROCKIES — A12

DSU teen dies from shooting injuries

Student hit by bullet Sept. 21

By RACHEL KIPP
The News Journal

Shalita Middleton, the Delaware State University freshman who suffered serious abdominal injuries in a campus shooting last month, died Tuesday afternoon at Christiana Hospital, according to a statement from her family.

Middleton's family said the internal injuries the 17-year-old suffered during the Sept. 21 shooting were "in the end too critical to overcome."

"At approximately 3:30 p.m. [Tuesday] Shalita K. Middleton passed from this world into God's arms," the family said in the statement released by DSU. "She struggled valiantly over the last several weeks and she was an inspiration to all her friends, both in Washington, D.C., and Delaware, as well as her family members."

The Washington native — a biology major and DSU cheerleader — was one of two students injured in the shooting on the Dover campus. Freshman Nathaniel Pugh, 17, was shot in the ankle.

Middleton recently took a turn for the worse, her uncle Joe Smith said.

The teen had been on a ventilator, but sometime Tuesday "they pulled her off the machine" and she was

See VICTIM — A11

U.S. deaths in Iraq down for 2nd month

Troop increase, citizen support credited

By STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — October is on course to record the second consecutive decline in U.S. military and Iraqi civilian deaths, and Americans commanders say they know why: the U.S. troop increase and an Iraqi groundswell against al-Qaida and Shiite militia extremists.

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch points to what the military calls "Concerned Citizens" — both Shiites and Sunnis who have joined the American fight. He says he's signed up 20,000 of them in the past four months.

"I've never been more optimistic than I am right now with the progress we've made in Iraq. The only people who are going to win this counterinsurgency project are the people of Iraq. We've said that all along. And now they're coming forward in masses," Lynch said in a recent interview at a U.S. base deep in hostile territory south of Baghdad. Outgoing artillery thundered as he spoke.

Lynch, who commands the 3rd Infantry Division and once served as the military spokesman in Baghdad, is a

See IRAQ — A9



AP/CAPT. ALLIE WEISKOPF CHASE

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch enlists the help of Sunni Sheik Emad Ghurtani last week. "You've got our total support," Lynch said.

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HIGH LOW
69 50
Details on A4

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