

Top outdoor athlete to speak at Winter Lecture Series

The Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department will host Will Gadd as a lecturer during its 2008 Winter Lecture Series on Fri., Mar. 14, at 7:30 p.m., at Monacan High School, 11501 Smoketree Dr. This event is free and open to the public.

Gadd is one of the top outdoor sports athletes in the world, as well as an award-winning filmmaker and writer. He is the host of the recent series, "Fearless Planet," on the Discovery Channel. He has flown his paraglider over the Grand Canyon, climbed icebergs in the north Atlantic, won the X Games, set the world distance record for

paragliding, written a best-selling outdoor instructional book and regularly writes for the New York Times and other international publications.

His presentation will take a no-holds-barred look at the fundamental question: "How much risk is life worth?" According to Gadd, successful risk taking comes down to analyzing potential problems and rewards, and then either going for it or not. He will discuss various decision-making tools that are applicable to any decision in life.

For more information, call 748-1623 or e-mail parksrec@chesterfield.gov.

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said Reid.

County parent, Frannie Suggs, knows full well how important it is to talk to children about this issue. She was the victim of indecent exposure as a teenager. "I was playing tennis with a girlfriend when this man in his raincoat flashed us. I ran home and told my dad, who explained that we had to call the police right way to report the incident."

"I learned that there were dangerous elements out there in society, and so I reared my children to know that if something [like this] happens to them, they should seek the support of law enforcement. It's a mother's job to protect her child through sharing and knowledge. It's our job to keep them safe," said Suggs. "Years later, my daughter came home one night and said, 'You won't believe this but...' while describing that the same thing had just

happened to her."

If it happens to you

So, what should someone do if they are a victim of indecent exposure? Shield recommends the following actions:

- Do not confront the perpetrator, as this person is demonstrating a psychiatric abnormality which could potentially lead to a psychotic episode.
 - Exit the situation and area immediately.
 - Put yourself with other people as quickly as you can.
 - Report the incident to the authorities and don't try to handle it yourself.
- "If this happens to a person, it is unpleasant and unexpected," acknowledged Shield, "but again you shouldn't ever try to deal with the person doing this but rather report it to the authorities."

Teddy bear clinic



Lisa Billings/Chesterfield Observer

Marilou Halye, R.N., stitches up a student's teddy bear during Bensley Elementary School's visit to the teddy bear clinic at St. Francis Medical Center. The clinic educates children on safety, including why they should wear seat belts and bike helmets.

Artists sought for annual festival

John Tyler Community College is counting down to its Third Annual Fool for Art Festival, and art and craft vendors are invited to participate. The festival will be held at the college's Midlothian campus on Apr. 19 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. In addition to celebrating the arts, the festival will also feature interactive exhibits

and free special interest classes perfect for all ages, food, music and games. Fool for Art is free and open to the community.

Space is available for artists and craftspeople to rent. For more information visit www.jtcc.edu/foolforart or call Lisa Kendrick, 594-1527 or foolforart@jtcc.edu.

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