

Ashburn CONNECTION

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Family Fun

COMMUNITY, PAGE 4

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inside



**2008
PIGSKIN
PREVIEW**

Lunch Date

NEWS, PAGE 3

Follow the Money

NEWS, PAGE 3

Finding ENDependence

NEWS, PAGE 3

Please DO NOT Play, Sit or Stand on the stage.

Thank You
Dulles Town Center
Management

Travis Smith of Ashburn tries plate spinning at the family entertainment stage Inova Loudoun Hospital Family Fest at Dulles Town Center, Saturday.

inside

E Teaching the Lost Art of Etiquette

W National League of Junior Golfers shows children proper etiquette and construction.

R Ready, Set ... Pull That Plane

10th Annual Plane Pulling Social (Chapin, Virginia)

PHOTO BY JENNIFER LESINSKI / THE CONNECTION HEALTH & FITNESS, PAGE 5 ❖ FAITH, PAGE 5 ❖ REAL ESTATE, PAGE 14 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 9 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 17

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Campaigning for Yourself

3rd Annual Coffelt Cancer Survivorship Conference

2008



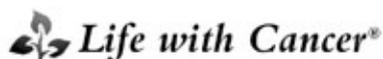
Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008
 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Marriott Fairview Park
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Inova Cancer Services invites cancer survivors, patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and family members and friends of cancer patients and survivors to its annual survivorship conference.

Highlights include:

- Keynote address by actor and cancer survivor Richard Roundtree
- Presentation on survivorship and advocacy by national healthcare leader and cancer survivor Connie Curran
- "Healing with Humor," presented by Lyn Hester
- Sessions on current initiatives at Inova Cancer Services, employment and insurance issues, complementary and alternative therapies, and much more

To register, call 703-750-8812



HEALTH & FITNESS

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to *The Loudoun Connection*, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or e-mail loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call 703-917-6454.

INMED Partnerships for Children (INMED) and Loudoun County **Department of Family Services (DFS)** will collaborate to provide intensive case management services to pregnant women and families with young children in Loudoun County's emergency homeless shelter and transitional housing programs, through a \$50,000 grant to INMED from The Freddie Mac Foundation.

During the first year of the grant, the program expects to serve 25 families

with the goal of attaining personal and financial stability.

DFS will provide preferential placement into transitional housing programs for families who agree to participate in the Open Door Program operated by INMED. DFS will also provide staff consultation and support as well as data collection.

Loudoun Dads is a Northern Virginia support group for new fathers and for expectant fathers. The group meets **every Tuesday**, 8 p.m., at Inova Loudoun Hospital's Lansdowne Campus, 44045 Riverside Parkway, Leesburg, family education classroom on the second floor. The group's facilitator is Dr. Damon Moore of Pediatric Healthcare, P.C. Participants can call 703-858-6360 or visit the Web site at www.thebirthinginn.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/AUG. 30

AWARENESS EVENT. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Trailside Park, 20375 Claiborne Parkway, Ashburn. This event is to help raise the awareness of the unsolved murder of Erica Heather Smith, daughter to Will and Pamela Smith, six years ago. Visit www.ericatheathersmith.com.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 2

ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP. 7 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road. Informal conversation circle for non-native speakers to practice speaking English. This is not a class, but an opportunity to meet new people. Only English will be spoken

and all levels are welcome. Recommended for adults.

ADULT BOOK CLUB. 7 p.m., at Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro. Call 703-737-8100.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 3

STATE OF EDUCATION. 8-10 a.m., Loudoun County Public School Administration Building in Ashburn. Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce will host its annual State of Education presented by Dr. Ed Hatrick, Superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools. RSVP to Ashlie Vickers, events coordinator, at 571-209-9036 or via e-mail avickers@loudounchamber.org.

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Feeding the Working Poor

Catholic Charities begins program to help feed those in need.

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI
THE CONNECTION

About a month ago, Dawn Dumas, social services manager for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington's western regional office, was getting information from a mother while her three children were playing in the other room. The woman was facing eviction and was seeking emergency assistance.

While talking to the woman, Dumas said her stomach was rumbling so loud that Dumas finally had to ask if she was hungry.

The mother said she had been eating only rice so that she could give her children a mixture of rice and chili.

"That's when I decided everybody was going to leave here with a bag of food and a card with Loudoun Interfaith's [the county's only food pantry] number," Dumas said of the visitors to the Leesburg office. "There is a lot of that out there. We see it daily."

In an effort to help the homeless and working poor who may have to forgo a meal in order pay for another pressing need, Catholic Charities has partnered with the Loudoun County drop-in center to provide

a brown-bag lunch twice a week, Tuesdays and Fridays. The charity provides 30 lunches, which includes a sandwich, fruit cup, cookie and eating utensil, each week.

Since beginning the program in July, Catholic Charities has seen a steady increase of people coming by the shelter to get a meal. However, Catholic Charities does not track how many people are using their brown-bag lunch program.

More

The Western Regional Office of Catholic Charities, 100 Dry Mill Road, S.E., Leesburg, provides social services, immigration assistance, mental-health counseling and crisis pregnancy assistance. To learn more, to volunteer or to donate, visit www.ccca.net or call 703-443-2481.

"I do know it is increasing," Marty Maykrantz, food program coordinator for the charity group, said. "When we first started there would be five bags gone by the end of the day. Now, we see families coming in."

THE PROGRAM, Maykrantz said, got off to a slow start because the volunteers had to build relationships with the drop-in center clients.

She said the people who use the center were timid and reluctant at first, until they got a chance to know the volunteers on a

SEE BUILDING, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY DAWN DUMAS/CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities' volunteer Theresa Lozano makes sandwiches for the hungry in Loudoun County.

On Equal Financial Ground

Challenger pulls from donors outside Virginia.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) and Democrat Judy Feder's political campaigns had approximately the same amount of cash available at the end of June, in spite of the fund-raising advantages incumbents typically enjoy over a challenger.

Wolf, who was first elected in 1980, has raised approximately \$1.4 million. With \$1.2 million in donations, Feder had collected slightly less but she also spent less, according to the Federal Election Commission.

In terms of "cash on hand" — money that the campaign has not spent yet — the two candidates were locked in a virtual tie at the end of June. Wolf had \$849,391 available and Feder \$812,122, according to the Federal Election Commission.

"We are way ahead of schedule and way ahead of where we were in 2006. We have been doing extremely well and we are go-

ing to have the budget it takes to win," Luke McFarland, Feder's campaign manager, said.

An independent candidate, Neeraj Nigam, is also running for office in the Virginia's 10th Congressional District. Nigam has raised between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for his campaign and intends to contribute some personal money to his election efforts.

"It is harder to raise money as an independent candidate. I don't have a ready-made group that is going to support me," Nigam said.

FEDER'S ability to raise money may be getting her campaign some attention.

At the beginning of the month, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee added Virginia's 10th Congressional District to its competitive "Red to Blue" program — which highlights the Democrat's most promising challengers and candidates — in part because of Feder's ability to collect cash.

"Red to Blue" candidates are those who

SEE WOLF, PAGE 6

Ending Dependence

ENDependence Center sets up in county, aims to help with independent living.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Learn More

To learn more, call the Loudoun ENDependence Center toll-free at 703-342-7651 (voice/relay) or 703-485-7381 (voice/SMS), e-mail lend@ecnv.org or visit www.ecnv.org/LEND.html.

Mary Lou Werner said the budding Loudoun ENDependence Center has been "a lifesaver" for her and her son, Taylor, since the center opened up a temporary office in Leesburg in January.

ENDependence is a nonprofit network of centers manned largely by people with disabilities that works to "end dependence" among the elderly and disabled by helping them to live on their own. For 26 years, Loudoun has been served by the Northern Virginia ENDependence Center, based many miles away in Arlington, said its executive director, David Burds. However, about two years ago, two part-time employees, Elisa Graves of Cascades and Bill Ward of Manassas be-

gan working to establish a presence in the county, and Burds said the organization has found a location in Countryside that he hopes will be a permanent office and active sometime next month.

"We're out here in Loudoun County and there just aren't many support services for someone Taylor's age," said Mary Lou Werner. Taylor Werner, 17, suffered a brain aneurysm in his sleep when he was 11. He had just finished the fifth grade with straight As and played on a

SEE LIVING, PAGE 7

Library Closings

All Loudoun County Public libraries will be closed Monday, Sept. 1 for Labor Day and Monday, Sept. 15 for staff development day.

New Bus Service

On Tuesday, Sept. 2, Loudoun County Transit begins shuttle service from the Ashburn Farm community to the Dulles North Transit Center. This shuttle will connect riders to the LC Transit commuter bus that goes into the Washington Metropolitan Region. The new shuttle bus is called LINK.

The LINK shuttle bus will make three stops along the Ashburn Farm Parkway: adjacent to Parkhurst Plaza, adjacent to the Crossroads United Methodist Church and on Claiborne Parkway at Belgreen. Residents can park at the gravel satellite lot at the Methodist church or at the designated parking spaces at Parkhurst Plaza.

LINK service will operate weekdays, from 5-9 a.m., with buses traveling in a continuous loop along Ashburn Farm Parkway every 15 minutes. In the evening, these same shuttle buses will pick up passengers beginning at 4 p.m. and looping every 15 minutes at Dulles North and return to the lots/stops on Ashburn Farm Parkway. Fare for this service is \$1 exact cash per trip.

Visit www.loudoun.gov/bus or by calling the Office of Transportation Services at 703-771-5665.

Coffee Hour

Residents are invited to join Potomac District Supervisor Andrea McGimsey, Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Starbucks in Countryside, 3 Pidgeon Hill Drive, from 10 a.m.-noon. This informal gathering is a chance to share ideas and concerns.

Ban Extended

The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office has extended the countywide prohibition on open burning indefinitely beginning Sept. 1. The current ban on open burning, which went into effect June 1, was scheduled to expire at midnight Aug. 31. However, due to the current dry conditions, with no long-term forecast for measurable rainfall, the ban is continued until outside conditions improve.

The only exceptions provided for under this ban are for campfires or grills used for cooking. This ban applies to all areas of Loudoun County, including the seven incorporated towns. Violations of the open burning ban could result in a penalty of up to a year in jail and a fine of up to \$2,500. Any questions should be directed to the Fire Marshal's Office at 703-737-8600. Persons may also obtain more detailed information by visiting the Fire Marshal page of the Loudoun County Web site, www.loudoun.gov.

Dentention Center Honored

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Adult Detention Center has received an unconditional certification from the Virginia Department of Corrections' during a recent audit.

The onsite review of all operations at the Loudoun Adult Detention Center was conducted in June by the certification team from the Virginia Department of Corrections. The facility and its employees achieved 100 percent compliance with board standards during the audit and were approved for unconditional certification. The review ensures compliance with the numerous life, health and safety standards necessary for certification. Due to the 100 percent compliance, the facility was granted a suspension of the 2008 Annual Inspection.

Employees Charged

Fairfax County detectives charged a 23-year-old male of 47565 Griffith Place and a 21-year-old male of 20854 Butterwood Falls Terrace, both in Sterling, this past week with one count each of embezzlement. Information received by the park authority indicated employees at the Water Mine Facility at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive in Reston, were allegedly taking money from the daily proceeds brought in by park activities. The investigation is ongoing and additional suspects may be charged.

COMMUNITY



Rachel Rudy of Herndon grabs a Russian tortoise from Reptile Wonders to get a closer look while at the annual Inova Loudoun Hospital Family Fest at Dulles Town Center, Saturday.

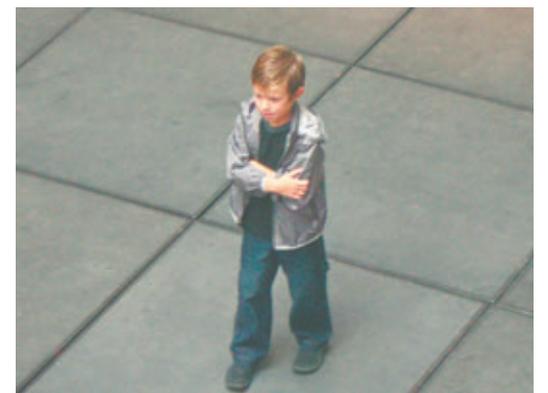
Celebrating Family

Dulles Town Center became a place to learn, as well as shop, Saturday as parents and children meandered from booth to booth during the Inova Loudoun Hospital Family Fest. The annual event featured informational booths on everything from sports and fitness to family health and safety to community awareness. In addition, there was live entertainment throughout the day, fashion shows and a hands-on exhibit from Reptile Wonders.

— JENNIFER LESINSKI



Balloon artist Paul Belanger makes some souvenirs after his show.



A little boy struts his stuff on the catwalk during the Old Navy back-to-school fashion show.

Children use their imaginations at the crafts station sponsored by KinderCare Learning Center.



PHOTOS BY
JENNIFER LESINSKI/
THE CONNECTION

COMMUNITY

Building Stronger Relationships

FROM PAGE 3

personal level and vice versa.

"They are extremely friendly. We know their names. We know their stories," Dumas said. "At this point, it is exactly what we wanted."

Maykrantz came up with the lunch program and sought out help getting it off the ground. She secured gift cards from Harris Teeter and Giant for supplies and Loudoun Interfaith initially provided the bread for the sandwiches. The program also received a more than \$100 donation from a private donor that helped supplement the program. Now, Catholic Charities receives enough donations to support the program without seeking help from Loudoun Interfaith.

"This was a trial for us. We wanted to see if there was a need or just a perceived one. What was that need and what could be done?" Maykrantz said. "We found out, that while they are appreciative, they don't like peanut butter and jelly. We quickly realized we

"At this point, it is exactly what we wanted."

— Dawn Dumas, Catholic Charities, social services manager

needed variety."

Dumas and Maykrantz said they would like to expand the program to a daily food service and possibly add hot foods for the winter months. However, Dumas said, it is too early in the process and they have not spoken to county officials about the possibilities of expanding the program.

ONE OF THE perceptions Catholic Charities has faced is the belief that poverty isn't a problem in Loudoun County. Maykrantz said at one time she considered relocating to Mississippi to help the communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. A mentor there told her if she wanted to do charity work to start at home.

"There is a misconception that there is no poor because Loudoun County is one of the riches counties. She said open your eyes and

you'll find it," Maykrantz said of her mentor's advice. "I opened my eyes. I see them all the time. They are families sleeping under bridges. That lady walking down Route 7 with a backpack and a couple bags is probably homeless.

The man sitting on the curb in front of the grocery store is probably hungry."

"We've learned that a number of the individuals who pick up the lunches are the working poor," Stephen Luteran, executive director of Catholic Charities, said in a press release. They have jobs like stocking shelves at night in stores in the area. "They are struggling to make ends meet one day at a time."

Catholic Charities has regularly received food donations from churches to support its programs, especially St. Francis de Sales in Purcellville and St. John's in Leesburg, Dumas said. Catholic Charities has also reached out to other local charitable organizations, such as Good Shepherd Alliance, LINK and Loudoun Interfaith, not only for advice, but also to see how they can all work together.

FAITH NOTES

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to *The Loudoun Connection*, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or e-mail loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call 703-917-6454.

On Sunday, **Aug. 31**, **St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church** will have a special blessing of backpacks and briefcases during its 10 a.m. service, worshipping at Belmont Ridge Middle School, 19045 Upper Belmont Place, Leesburg. Students of all ages bring backpacks and grown-ups bring briefcases or other symbol of your job. Visit www.SaintGabriels.net for more information.

Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation, 21740 Beaumeade Circle, Suite 100, Ashburn, will have a lunch and learn session with Rabbi Gallop for prospective members Wednesday, **Sept. 3**, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Families with young children are invited and encouraged to attend. E-mail membershipvp@bcrcva.org or call 703-729-1659.

The **Community Church** will hold its annual Friend's Day event **Sept. 7**, at 19790 Ashburn Road, Ashburn. Services will be held at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. followed by a free catered tailgate picnic and party from 12-3 p.m. Includes a live band, horse shoes, football, basketball, soccer and volleyball games, hay rides, pony rides, face painting, moon

bounces, inflatable rides, obstacle course, petting zoo and much more. Visit www.thecommunitychurch.org for more information or call 571-209-5000.

Sterling United Methodist Church, 304 East Church Road in Sterling, will hold its annual Rally Day and Ministry Fair between morning worship services Sunday, **Sept. 7**. The community invited to browse tables and exhibits spotlighting the various ministries and volunteer opportunities. A church wide picnic will follow at noon.

Sterling United Methodist Church holds traditional Sunday worship services, at 8:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., and a contemporary praise service at 11 a.m. Sunday school is available for all ages during the 9:30 a.m. service time. Nursery is available during all services times.

Call the church office at 703-430-6455 or visit www.sterlingumc.org.

The **Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun** (UUCL) celebrates the beginning of fall with their annual "InGathering" multigenerational service ceremony Sunday, **Sept. 7**, at 10 a.m., 20460 Gleedsville Road, Leesburg. The service is a symbolic celebration and will be led by UUCL's new minister, the Rev. Elizabeth (Lisa) Kemper.

The InGathering service represents the important role water plays in the spiritual traditions of Unitarian Universalists, as it is part of all living things in the world and connects all human beings to each other in a vital way.

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POLITICS

Wolf, Feder Have Equal Campaign Financial Footing

FROM PAGE 3

“are putting together significant resources and have political support in the district,” Kyra Jennings, a spokesperson for the campaign, said. She added that recent polling data and the number of issues on which a Republican opponent like Wolf

is considered “out of touch,” are also factors in the committee’s picks for the “Red to Blue” program.

Local Democrats, like Tim Buchholz, said they find Feder’s fund raising and her status as a “Red to Blue” candidate encouraging.

“That shows that people feel she has the ability to win and that they can invest money into the race,” Buchholz, who is chairman of the Loudoun County Democratic Committee, said.

Yet experts warn against placing too much emphasis on fund raising.

“I think it would be short sighted to equate the amount of money someone raises with their chances of winning a seat. There are too many other factors for a single measure to be that influential,” Dan Keyserling, deputy communications director of the University of Virginia’s Center for



Judy Feder (D)



Frank Wolf (R)

Politics, said.

THE WOLF CAMPAIGN has also criticized Feder for raising most of her money outside the state of Virginia. They argue that Feder’s prolific fund raising is not a reflection of support inside Virginia 10th Congressional District because

most of the money is coming from somewhere else.

“Her campaign is being financed by people who don’t live here and can’t vote here,” Dan Scandling, Wolf’s campaign manager, said.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Wolf collected 74 percent of his donations over \$200 inside the state of Virginia. Only 38 percent of Feder’s donations over \$200 come from inside the state of Virginia, though Feder’s campaign updated numbers show that Democrat collected at least 41 percent of her donations from the commonwealth, McFarland said.

The bulk of Feder’s most lucrative fund raising before the end of June also appears to be done outside the district. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, seven of Feder’s top 10 fund-raising ZIP codes were outside Virginia’s 10th Congressional

Contributions by ZIP Code

The Washington, D.C.-metropolitan area is traditionally one of the most lucrative regions of the country for federal campaign contributions. Here is where the people by ZIP code who are sending their donations. This financial information listed includes contributions made from January 2007 through June 2008 and is provided by the Center for Responsive Politics, www.opensecrets.org. Residents and businesses located in the 20147 ZIP code contributed \$224,344, approximately six times as much as the average American ZIP code. Those in ZIP code 20148 contributed \$102,523, about three times as much as the average American ZIP code.

20147 TOP CONTRIBUTION RECIPIENTS:

Hillary Clinton (D) – Presidential candidate	\$20,512
Telos Corp.	\$19,964
Barack Obama (D)	\$18,862
John McCain (R) – Presidential candidate	\$17,886
Mitt Romney (R) – Presidential candidate	\$17,795
Gerry Connolly (D) – Congressional candidate*	\$9,200
John Murtha (D) – Pennsylvania congressional candidate	\$9,050
Charles Rangel (D) – New York congressional candidate	\$8,250
National Association of Home Builders	\$6,583
Majority Political Action Committee (R)	\$5,800

20148 TOP CONTRIBUTION RECIPIENTS:

Republican National Committee	\$15,500
Hillary Clinton (D) – Presidential candidate	\$12,775
John McCain (R) – Presidential candidate	\$11,700
Barack Obama (D) – Presidential candidate	\$8,875
Mitt Romney (R) – Presidential candidate	\$3,550
Ron Paul (R) – Presidential candidate	\$3,300
Ron Francis (R) – Pennsylvania congressional candidate	\$3,100
Connie Mack (R) – Florida congressional candidate	\$2,300
Rudolph Giuliani (R) – Presidential candidate	\$2,250
Fred Thompson (R) – Presidential candidate	\$2,250

* If elected, this candidate would not represent the 20147 ZIP code.

Top Contributors

The financial information accounts for fund raising from January 2007 through June 2008. The organizations themselves do not donate. Rather, the donations are a compilation of money given through a group’s political action committee, members, employees, owners and the immediate family of those who are members, employees and owners. Information provided by the Center for Responsive Politics at www.opensecrets.org.

Organizations	Industry	Contribution
FRANK WOLF (R)*:		
NVR Inc. (Reston)	Homebuilders/Banking	\$18,650
Orbital Sciences Corp. (Dulles)	Satellites/Technology	\$17,800
Peterson Companies (Fairfax)	Real Estate Development	\$16,300
SAIC Inc. (San Diego)	Technology/Government Contractor	\$11,750
Wiley, Rein & Fielding	Law Firm	\$10,400
JUDY FEDER (D):		
Georgetown University**	Higher Education	\$37,035
ActBlue	Democratic PAC	\$20,999
George Washington University	Higher Education	\$13,350
Columbia University	Higher Education	\$11,050
Harvard University	Higher Education	\$10,600

* incumbent

** candidate’s former employer

District. By contrast, only three of Wolf’s top fund-raising ZIP codes were outside his district.

Keyserling said Feder’s out-of-state fund raising is not necessarily a good sign for the campaign.

“It is not the most encouraging sign in the world that she gets more money from outside the state than inside,” he said.

Still, Democrats defended Feder, saying it is not unusual for a challenger to find financial support outside of the congressional district in which they are running.

Larger donors, such as local business interests, often back the incumbent because they are more likely to get elected again. Challengers typically have to rely on other networks to be able to compete, they said.

In the case of Feder, she appears to have relied heavily on her colleagues in higher education. The Democrat is the former dean of the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute and has received several donations from people connected to Georgetown, The George Washington, Columbia and Harvard

universities, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

McFarland also said that when Wolf first took on an incumbent for the seat in 1980, he raised most of his money from outside Virginia.

“I have the Washington Post articles. His opponent in 1980 complained about Frank Wolf’s money coming from outside the district,” McFarland said.

REGARDLESS of the fund-raising numbers put up by either candidate, Loudoun County Republican Committee chairman Glen Caroline said he is confident Wolf will win the election.

Both Feder and Wolf faced primary opponents June 10 and almost twice as many people turned out to vote for Wolf — who earned 16,726 votes — as Feder and her Democratic opponent Mike Turner combined, Caroline said. Wolf also beat Feder by approximately 16 percentage points in the 2006 general election, according to the Virginia State Board of Elections.

OBITUARY

Barbara Ann Casteel

Barbara Ann Casteel, 72, of Fulton, Mo., formerly Ashburn, died Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008 at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born, July 13, 1936, in Kane, Pa., the daughter of the late Kenneth and Florence “Gerry” (McCandless) Westerburg. On Dec. 26, 1963, she was married to Robert B. Casteel Sr. He preceded her in death.

She is survived by her four children, Gail, and husband John,

Apland of Fulton, Mo., Kathy, and husband Sam, Dainard of Everett, Wash., Mike, and wife Cathie, Casteel of Davenport, Iowa, and Robert B. Casteel Jr., and wife Trina, of Leesburg; three grandchildren, Daniel Sutton of O’Fallon, Mo., Evan Peel of Everett, Wash., and Dustin Casteel of Davenport, Iowa; two sisters, Sandy Hall of Winchester, Va. and Sue McCain of Topeka, Kan.; and two brothers, Kenneth Westerburg Jr. of Stafford, Va.,

and Richard Westerburg of Orlando, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Lea Sapp and Jean Ayers.

A private service will be held at a later date in Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Kidney Foundation or charity of their choice c/o Debo Funeral Home, P.O. Box 818, Fulton, MO 65251

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.debofuneralhome.com.



Barbara Ann Casteel

SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to *The Loudoun Connection*, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or e-mail loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call 703-917-6454.

The **Briar Woods High School** Music Boosters Association will be conducting its fourth annual Tag Day Saturday, **Sept. 6**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Students will be visiting the neighborhood to share their music programs and invite residents to see them perform this academic year. Rain date Sept. 7. Send questions to BWHSMBA@gmail.com.

NEWS

For the unabridged version of this story, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION



Ashburn resident Taylor Werner and his mother, Mary Lou, have come to regard the Loudoun ENDependence Center (LEND) as a valuable resource.

Living Independently

FROM PAGE 3

championship football team. He still has straight As — now at Stone Bridge High School where he is a rising senior — but the only football he's playing is the "Madden NFE" video game, which is one of his favorite pastimes. He has difficulty with speech and lost a lot of his eyesight and mobility.

GRAVES SAID disability services are uneven in Loudoun, which she said has superior services for substance abuse and intellectual disability, "but you can't go into Loudoun County and say, 'I have CP [cerebral palsy],' and get services."

Mary Lou Werner said the Loudoun ENDependence Center (LEND) was a source for information about all manner of resources available to the disabled, including a list of recommended caregivers she can hire through the Medicaid consumer-directed services program that is available to her son. "Whatever the need might be, I think she'd be able to point us in the right direction," she said of Graves, noting that this might mean questions about college services, doctors, independent living and others. "What do you do if you don't have somebody like that?"

However, what Taylor Werner said he wanted most was some companionship. "I'd like to have people my age or around my age, to come over here and help me work out or take me to the gym or just take me out to hang out somewhere, or just hang out here," he said. He added that he would also appreciate a sports club of peers with disabilities, perhaps with able-bodied young people to help them play.

"As parents, we'd like to meet other parents who've experienced something similar," his mother added. She said she had spoken with Graves about this, and one of the ideas they had come up with was to try to siphon students who need to fulfill community service hours toward disability services.

While ENDependence's primary goal is

advocacy for services and accessibility for the disabled, Burds said, its next priority is peer counseling — "people with disabilities working with others with disabilities." However, the counseling has tended to focus more on teaching independent living skills like cooking or using the Metrorail, or helping each other find services, rather than socialization.

SINCE THE BEGINNING of the year, the organization has held community activities like a seniors fair, a transportation workshop and a "barriers awareness" event, in which participants found out what life was like in a wheelchair.

Burds said ENDependence has a particular focus on trying to get the elderly and disabled out of nursing homes and on their own in the community. "Many people are there because they don't have any money," he said. "Medicaid tells them, 'We'll take care of you in a nursing home.' Why not in the community, where it's cheaper?" While the average cost of nursing home care is \$60,000 to \$75,000, he said, the average cost of home care through the state is about \$23,000. However, nursing homes have a powerful lobby, Burds said.

He said LEND currently had about 30 consumers on record and many more people who call wanting information. For those who sign on with the program, he said, Graves or Ward meet with those people, find out what they need and develop a set of goals.

"We don't just go out and do it for them," Graves said. "They do it with us."

She said three new consumers had signed on last week alone and calls had been picking up over the last month or two.

Burds said he would like to have a full-time staff member working on affordable housing, the lack of which is a major impediment to independent living.

However, he said, funding is a constant problem.

"We need community help, especially for fund raising," said Graves.

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Prepare to Vote in November

Make plans now for Tuesday, Nov. 4.

You will want to vote Tuesday, Nov. 4. You'll want to be part of choosing the next president. In Virginia, you'll also choose a new U.S. senator to replace retiring John Warner (R), and you'll also vote in a contest for the U.S. House of Representatives.

To vote, you'll need to be registered.

The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the Nov. 4 election is Monday, Oct. 6.

Your vote has never counted as much as it could this fall. While Virginia has voted reliably for the Republican candidate for president for more than a generation, with hundreds of thousands of new voters, many in Northern Virginia, and Democrats winning recent statewide elections, both political parties are actively working in Virginia right now.

You'll also need to plan to spend some time at your polling place, because there is likely to be record turnout for this hotly contested election. When you go to vote, allow enough time to wait in line. Come prepared with identification and know your rights.

Virginia voters are asked to show some form of identification when they go to the polls to vote—voter registration card; Virginia driver's license; social security card; any identification card issued by a federal, state or local government agency; or any employer identification card with a photograph.

But if you arrive at the polls without identification, you can still vote by signing a statement affirming your identity. Exception: If this is the first time you vote since registering to vote by mail and if you did not include a copy of your ID with your application and do not bring ID with you to vote, you cannot sign the

affirmation statement; you can still vote, ask for and fill out a provisional ballot.

EXCERPTS from the State Board of Elections:

As a Virginia voter, you have the following rights:

❖ To be treated with courtesy and respect by the election officials.

❖ To vote if you have registered at your current address at least 29 days before Election Day.

❖ 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 if the candidate of your choice is not on the ballot (except in party primaries).

❖ 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 have an officer of election or other person help you vote if you are physically disabled or unable to read or write. Blind voters may have any person assist them. Other voters may have anyone who is not their employer or union representative assist them.

❖ 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 a 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. See "Provisional Ballots" below.

❖ To bring your minor 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.

❖ To cast an absentee ballot if you are qualified to vote absentee.

EDITORIAL

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Who Does Our Congress Represent?

To the Editor:

Americans are suffering from a financial crisis brought about by the mortgage fiasco and oil prices. More than ever before, they need their money to help them overcome this crisis.

How does our Congress respond? By ignoring their constituents, and handing their hard-earned money to bad corporations. Corporations that duped innocent people into giving up their hard-earned savings for homes that they could not afford. Only when bad companies die, can good companies come in to fill the need. But our Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, got together, to give billions of our hard-earned money to these companies

that have already taken the life savings of millions of Americans and destroyed their credit rating. Many Americans have been fooled once and now our Congress is forcing us to be fooled again.

As for the oil prices, our Democrat led Congress went on vacation without doing anything while many Americans had to cancel or curtail their vacation plans. Sure a few Republicans tried to show support of Americans by crying foul, but where were they when the problem first arose a few years ago, when they had full control. When they could have done something but they chose not to. On top of that, candidates for both parties are already committed to raising our taxes next year, taxes that will put an additional strain on our stretched resources.

Our Congress is not interested in representing us or protecting our

Snapshot

**11:16 a.m., Monday, Aug. 25,
Route 7 and Golf Club Road,
Ashburn.**



PHOTO BY JENNIFER LESINSKI/THE CONNECTION

interests. They are just interested in grand standing and fighting for power between themselves. They would rather spend their time and energies in destroying each other rather than protecting our interests. It is said that we get the government that we deserve. Let us stand up together and show our government that we deserve better. Let our vote this November

show them that we will not be trifled with, that we demand our rights, that we demand to be represented and have our interests protected and if they do not listen, we will fire them.

Neeraj Nigam

Candidate for U.S. Congress
Virginia 10th District

Local Teams Step Up Big Time in 2007

Can they do so again this football season?

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

It is hard to imagine that this upcoming football season in the Loudoun County area could possibly match the 2007 campaign as far as drama and overall success.

One team, Stone Bridge High of Ashburn, captured its first-ever Virginia State AAA championship. The Bulldogs, members of the Northern Region's Liberty District, finished with an overall record of 13-1 on way to district, region and state crowns.

FOOTBALL

Two other teams, Park View and Broad Run High Schools, put together outstanding seasons within the Region II's Dulles District. Broad Run of Ashburn went a perfect 10-0 during the regular season before falling to area rival Park View (Sterling) in a first round Region II playoff affair.

Park View, meanwhile, went 9-1 over the regular season with its lone setback coming in a week 10 showdown game against Broad Run for the district crown. But the Patriots avenged that loss with their playoff victory over the Spartans the following week before ultimately losing at Sherando High in the Region II title game.

Another local team, Briar Woods, did not reach the same heights as Stone Bridge, Park View or Broad Run, but still put together a historical season by just qualifying for the Region II playoffs. The Falcons, in just their third season as a program at the young Brambleton area school, competed in the tough Dulles District and finished with a more than respectable 7-3 overall record in the regular season. The Falcons experienced their first-ever-winning season. They lost to both Broad Run and Park View, but gave both foes tough games in the regular season setbacks.

Season to Remember in the Dulles

Indeed, 2007 was a season to remember for the local gridiron teams Broad Run and Park View.

Both squads won their first nine games of the regular season to set up a final week showdown game for the Dulles District title at Broad Run. There, the Spartans, behind junior running back Breon Earl, defeated the rival Patriots, 21-14, in front of a packed-out Friday night crowd. Earl finished the evening rushing with 113 yards and a touchdown run. He also tossed an option play touchdown pass to Kevin Sandersen.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Stone Bridge High squad has worked hard during the pre-season to continue the success it had last year when it won district, region and state titles.

Amazingly, the two teams met the following week as well in the Region II, Div. 4 playoff semifinals. This time, Park View, playing on Broad Run's field for the second straight week, came away with a 16-12 win in front of another huge, enthusiastic crowd.

The game's biggest play came when running back Eric Johnston connected with quarterback CJ Leizear on a 44-yard, trick

play option touchdown pass in the final minute of the game. The score gave Park View a 16-12 lead and the Patriots held on for the win.

Park View's season ended the following week with the loss to Sherando.

Meanwhile, Briar Woods, with its outstanding turnaround season, qualified for the Region II, Div. 3 playoffs in just the school's third year of existence. The Falcons,

coached by Charlie Pierce, saw its season end with a high scoring, 27-24, playoff affair loss at Millbrook High.

Stone Bridge Claims State Football Title

One year after suffering a disheartening loss to Edison High in the 2006 Northern Region Div. 5 title game, the Stone Bridge High football team came back in 2007 to avenge that setback and go on to garner its first-ever Virginia State playoff title.

The Bulldogs had it all, great coaching, outstanding skill position players, a team-first mentality and the motivation to erase the previous year's sour ending to the season.

Stone Bridge had lost to Edison in the 2006 region finals. But the Bulldogs got the better of the Eagles in last fall's '07 championship encounter as they defeated the Eagles, 27-14.

"I'm a little relieved," said Stone Bridge coach Mickey Thompson, following the win over Edison. "I really wanted to get a region title."

Then, at states, Stone Bridge scored the final 24 points in a come-from-behind 38-24 win over visiting Phoebus from Hampton. Running back Jeron Gouveia, who had made some tough turnovers earlier in the



Ryan Moody, a senior on last year's Stone Bridge team, caught three TDs in the state finals win over Potomac High.

SEE AREA, PAGE 12

FOOTBALL 2008

High School Football at a Glance

Patriot District

West Springfield

In 2007, the West Springfield Spartans made the Northern Region final for the first time in 14 seasons, eventually losing to Westfield. Coach Bill Renner's son, quarterback Bryn Renner — a UNC recruit — will command the offense (2,749 passing yards, 32 touchdowns) along with senior tailback Brandon Bailey (1,438 rushing yards, seven rushing touchdowns). The Spartans have to improve defensively (relinquished an average of 32.7 points per game over the past two seasons), but returned the majority of their offensive line and are poised for a possible state championship run. But tilts against Stone Bridge and Edison in the first two weeks of the season will be brutal tests.

West Potomac

In 2007, the West Potomac Wolverines went 8-4 — their best season since 2000, the same year they last made the playoffs. The Wolverines reversed a 41-0 regular season loss to Lake Braddock into a narrow playoff win. West Potomac graduated 13 starters, including two Division I signees. But quarterback Cole Walter (2,195 passing yards, 26 touchdowns), running back Daniel Baker (542 rushing yards, five touchdowns) and speedy wide receiver Kristian Rodriguez (395 receiving yards, four touchdowns) return for an offense that averaged 39.5 points during a four-game stretch last year. The key will be avoiding injuries and maintaining momentum once the district season starts.

South County

The South County Stallions took another step in 2007, making the playoffs for the first time in school history. After starting the season 1-3, the Stallions won five of their last six regular season games to sneak into the eighth and final Division 6 spot. Coach Pete Bendorf will run a spread offense, going with either junior Aaron Andrews or sophomore Evan Beal at quarterback. All-district playmaker Titus Pennington graduated, so senior Eric Dorsey will step in at running back. The Stallions do return three offensive linemen and eight starters on defense. The experience — and youth at quarterback — will be tested when South County faces Westfield and Edison within the first three weeks.

Lake Braddock

It's hard to believe, but the Lake Braddock Bruins were winless four seasons ago. The 2007 season yielded an 8-3 record — their most wins this decade — and a Patriot District co-championship. More importantly, the Bruins made the Division 6 playoffs for the first time in eight years, losing at home to West Potomac. But things will be drastically different as Lake Braddock graduated two-way all-district standouts Shane Halley and Keon Robinson. Actually, of the 12 all-district selections, only junior linebacker Chris Lavery returns. The Bruins will again rely on defense, where they've yielded an impressive 14.5-point per game average over the past three seasons.

T.C. Williams

The T.C. Williams Titans grabbed momentum heading into the off-season with a come-from-behind 15-14 victory over West Potomac in the season finale. The win vindicated Dennis Randolph's first season, despite the school finishing 4-6 for the fourth straight season. The Titans have to replace Jamal Ford at quarterback and all-district selections Quintas McCorkle and Carlton Dotson on defense. Offensively, seniors Dominique Copeland, Marcus Via and 6-foot-4 Zach Goehler return, giving Randolph weapons to toy with. Over the past eight years, T.C. Williams is only averaging 13.6 points per game, which led Randolph to install the spread in the off-season. A possible playoff berth hinges on whether the Titans can conquer their non-district slate.

Annandale

The Annandale Atoms took a small step backwards last season, after winning the Patriot District

in consecutive years, going 4-6 — their fewest wins in six seasons. So longtime coach Dick Adams will turn to senior quarterback Cason Kynes, an all-district strong safety last season. Kynes accounted for more than 1,600 yards of total offense in 2007, powering the offense to four games over the 33-point mark. Defensive tackle Shane Doty, the only other 2007 all-district selection will anchor the defense. With depth being a potential problem, Annandale can't afford any injuries to its two-way players. It will also have to navigate Oakton and Chantilly in the first three weeks.

Robert E. Lee

The Robert E. Lee Lancers won two games in 2007, but still inched into the Division 5 playoffs on merit of its brutal schedule. The 2008 slate is just as tough, as the Lancers open with perennial powers Edison, Westfield and Centreville. It's hardly an ideal setting for third-year coach Rob Everett to unveil a new quarterback and backfield. Junior Greg Lopez takes over for Kelly Fitzgerald at quarterback, Jazmier Williams and Dante Taylor will step in at running back and potential Division I recruit Anthony Nsekela and Jabrill Mara will be their lead blockers. The Lancers return eight starters defensively, including all-district linebacker Kyle Addy. With the schedule, any win will be cherished.

Hayfield

The Hayfield Hawks may be looking forward to next season, when quarterback Anton McCallum will be a third-year starter and when the school transitions to the easier National District. Over the past two seasons, 10th-year coach Billy Pugh has gone 1-19 while getting outscored by a combined 522 points. In the season finale, Hayfield succumbed 63-14 to Lake Braddock, just a week after getting blasted by West Springfield, and much of it has to do with enrollment. Comparatively, the Division 5 school has 1,500 kids compared to five district schools with at least 2,000 kids. With Wakefield — its only win last season — much improved, wins will be scarce.

National District

Edison

The Edison Eagles are the back-to-back National District champs and veteran coach Vaughn Lewis looks to have another solid squad. Gone are 28 seniors, including free safety Drew Baldwin (Yale), quarterback Ben Barber (Virginia Tech) and defensive back Kevin Carter (Fordham), who helped to score a school-record 498 points last season, but junior Levi Barber and senior Corey Washington should shoulder the offensive load. Massive offensive lineman Frank Figueroa (verballed to Penn State) will led the offensive line, while seniors Josh Blair and Stephon Robertson will lead the defense. Edison — the Division 5 region champs in 2006 — will be tested early with three Patriot District teams to open the season.

Mount Vernon

The Mount Vernon Majors should give Edison a scare for the first time in four years with head coach Tom Glynn in his fourth season. The Majors, who run a lethal triple option, tasted the postseason last year, and should be one of the top teams in Division 5. Starting quarterback Brian Greene returns as do four massive offensive linemen, including 6-foot-6, 325-pound Zach Quigley. The Majors will have to replace its four all-district players, but with linebacker Kyle Ricks returning and one of the top junior varsity teams last year, Mount Vernon should prove that its 29-point blasting of Yorktown last year was no fluke.

Yorktown

The Yorktown Patriots had a rough 2007, especially on defense where they gave up 236 points — the highest this decade. The Patriots replace quarterback Tim Reynolds, but should be fine with shifty senior Kyle Toulouse manning the Wing-T. Senior running back Jared Smith provides speed in



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Broad Run went a perfect 10-0 during the regular season last year. This Thursday night, the Spartans will travel to Arlington to take on Wakefield High School in a week one game.

the backfield, but with only two all-district players last year — both of who graduated — Yorktown will need to the younger players to mature quickly. The Patriots finished the regular season at 5-5 for the third time this decade. The previous two times — Yorktown rebounded with solid 7-3 (2001) and 10-2 (2003) records.

Washington-Lee

The Washington-Lee Generals took strides under coach Josh Shapiro, winning four games for first time in four years. Now, the Generals are eyeing the Division 5 playoffs for the first time since in two decades. Even sweeter would be a win against rival Yorktown, which hasn't happened since 1982. Washington-Lee replaces Alex Wicks (1,253 passing yards, seven touchdowns) with junior Karl Lendenmann. Senior running back Keith Johnson (five touchdowns) is the team's leading returning rusher, while rock-solid junior Rock Battle and senior Rob Hemstreet return defensively. With a weak non-district slate, the Generals could easily be 3-1 heading into a Sept. 26 showdown with Mount Vernon.

Wakefield

The Wakefield Warriors could be the most improved team throughout the region, though the final record may not indicate that. Last season, first-year Keith Powell struggled to change the losing culture — the team has gone 15-62 over the last eight seasons — while fighting injuries. The team improved, going 3-7 for the second straight year and scored 195 points — the highest this decade. Now, the Warriors will depend on rangy quarterbacks Andre Allen and Jonathan Ford, both of who

stand over 6-foot-4. With senior Romeo Goffney in the backfield, Wakefield should have enough firepower to contend with fellow Arlington schools Yorktown and Washington-Lee.

Falls Church

The Falls Church Jaguars struggled again in 2007, going 3-7 for the third time in four seasons. The offense scored the fewest points since 2003 and the offensive gave up 352 — the most this decade. And losing likely Division I recruit Travis Garrett is a devastating loss. But seventh-year coach Anthony Parker is excited about returning 15 starters, eight on offense and seven on defense. An all-district receiver last season, Sam Gerima moves under center in the pass-happy offense. The Jaguars need to tally wins against non-district teams like Jefferson and Fairfax and also steal a couple in the district to finished with a solid record.

J.E.B. Stuart

The J.E.B. Stuart Raiders dipped into the past in re-hiring Ray Ferri, the same coach who was fired in 2000 for winning only seven games over four years. But the Raiders haven't fared much better currently riding the Northern Region's longest losing streak — 24 games — dating back to 2005. In fact, things have been so bad that Stuart is 12-107 since 1996. But insert Ferri and his single-wing offense, along with junior quarterback Jason Friday and senior tailbacks Anthony Champ and Terrill Hawkins, and the streak should stop. The Raiders will be gunning for Group A George Mason in the season opener.

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 11

FOOTBALL 2008

FROM PAGE 10

Concorde District

Westfield

The Westfield Bulldogs used 60 seniors — 21 of who were starters — to earn its second Division 6 state title in four years by beating Woodbridge, 42-14, which completed a perfect 15-0 season. The Bulldogs were downright dominant, beating its opponents by an average of 29.4 points, while allowing only 8.8 points per game and recording five shutouts. Head coach Tom Verbanic, who is 69-6 over the past six years, will look to junior quarterback Danny Fenyak to replace N.C. State potential starter Mike Glennon.

The Bulldogs also have to replace receiver Johnny Pickett (Ball State), but with one of all-region lineman Tyler Barfield returning and one of the top junior varsity teams, Westfield should be poised for another solid season.

Chantilly

The Chantilly Chargers have something to provide this season after getting ousted by Robinson in the first round of the Division 6 playoffs just a year removed from a state championship appearance. The Chargers have to replace senior quarterback/safety Austin Decker and linebacker Mike Quigg, but have two solid Division I recruits in running back Torrian Pace and Issac Sine. Pace, clocked at 4.47 seconds in the 40-yard dash, averaged 10.9 yards per carry en route to 12 touchdowns while sharing with three other backs. This season, he and Sine, a 6-foot-3, 218-pound linebacker, will have to lead a young crop if the Chargers want to make a third consecutive playoff berth.

Oakton

The Oakton Cougars are now three years removed from the 2004 Division 6 state title, and frankly, there has been a two-year hangover. After having eight Division I players graduate in 2006, Oakton struggled to a 5-5 record in 2007, losing to Madison and Annandale to open the season. The offense should be strong with two Ryan Harris and Chris Coyer, both solid senior quarterbacks returning, along with all-district selection Trey Watts in the backfield. Senior Jack Tyler, a 6-foot-2, 215-pound linebacker who has 193 career tackles will help to anchor the defense, while 6-foot-5 all-region punter/tight end Wade Reynolds also returns. Oakton should be undefeated heading into a home game against Chantilly in week six.

James Robinson

The James Robinson Rams made five straight regional title game appearances, winning the state championship in 2001 and losing in 2004. But ever since joining the Concorde District four years ago, the Rams have lost 12 times compared to just five losses in the previous five years. Robinson still made the playoffs last season, their ninth time in the past 11 seasons, but squandered a late lead to West Springfield. Robinson is still hopeful with quarterback Timmy Meier and running back Alex Murray both returning after starting last season. The schedule is again brutal with Lake Braddock, West Springfield and Stone Bridge littering the non-district schedule.

Centreville

The Centreville Wildcats ended a two-year playoff drought, but squandered a 12-point lead over West Springfield with less in the region quarterfinal. It was only the second time the Wildcats relinquished 15-plus points all season. But 2008 will be different as defensive coordinator Mike Skinner went to Stone Bridge and assistant Roy Ferri was hired at Stuart. Second-year coach Gerry Pannoni has replace first-team all-region standouts Darryl Hamilton (Richmond) and Donnell Carpenter defensively, but senior defensive end Mike Upham is a nice start. Senior David Toth and junior Cam Walter are vying for the starting quarterback slot, while third-year starter Luke Bowanko, who has committed to the U.Va., will again anchor the offensive line. The biggest questions are at the skill positions, where Pannoni is considering playing freshmen.

Herndon

The Herndon Hornets were one of the hottest teams at the end of the 2007 season, winning four

of five (the lone loss was against Westfield) after starting the season 1-4. The Hornets, who had their first non-winning season for the first time in five years, have not adjusted to second-year coach Joe Sheaffer's schemes and should again vie for a playoff slot. Junior Zach Ozycz will again command the offense, a job he won late last season. On the ground, junior tailback Devin Thompson replaces Desmond Seifu and Chris Winston, while junior fullbacks Austin Moore and Sam Grother will also be counted on.

Fairfax

To say the Fairfax Rebels have struggled of late would be an understatement. The Rebels haven't had a winning season in nine years, and since joining the Concorde District three years ago, Fairfax hasn't sniffed a victory. In fact, it's given up 30 points per game since 2005, and was outscored 218-28 within the district in 2007. A sliver of hope for second-year coach Chris Haddock is that he returns 13 starters, including senior quarterback Abdul Amin, running back Alex Price and 6-foot-4, 285-pound Josh Patterson. And the Rebels face Washington-Lee and Falls Church — the two teams they collected wins against last season — again this year.

Liberty District

Stone Bridge

The Stone Bridge Bulldogs might be better in 2008, one year after a 14-1 Division 5 state championship season in 2007. Jeron Gouveia (Virginia Tech) is gone, but the Bulldogs are reeling out Division prospects. Zach Thompson recently committed to Wake Forest, the same destination of linebacker Mike Olson. Defensive end Brian Slay (N.C State) and tackle David Wang (Virginia Tech) have also committed. Quarterback Patrick Thompson, Zach's twin and son of head coach Mickey Thompson, will command the offense and will likely look to Daniel Allen to fill the void created by Goveia and Kareem Alexander at running back. Back-to-back home games against West Springfield and Robinson to open the season will be a quick litmus test on whether the Bulldogs can repeat.

James Madison

The James Madison Warhawks put together a solid 9-3 season in 2007 and qualified for the Northern Region Div. 5 playoffs where they defeated South Lakes in a quarterfinals round postseason affair before losing to Edison in a semi-finals contest. Over the course of the regular season in the Liberty District, only state champion Stone Bridge proved to be better than the Warhawks, who have been a perennial playoff team under head coach Gordon Leib.

Langley

The Langley Saxons had a winning season for the second time in the past six years, and sixth-year coach John Howerton is giddy about the prospects for 2008. Langley, who moves up to Division 6, returns seven starters offensively, including senior quarterback Danny Pritchett and running backs Derek Eklund and David Helmer. The line is anchored by mammoth offensive linemen Scott Jones and Garrett Moore, both who are being recruited by Division I schools. The defense returns four starters, but will be without four first-team all-district standouts from 2007. Non-district games against Chantilly and Oakton will provide whether the Saxons will be a playoff bound team for the first time since 2004.

George Marshall

The George Marshall Statesmen won eight games last season, making the playoffs for the first time since 1993. The Statesmen advanced to the Division 5 semifinal, before bowing out to eventual state champion Stone Bridge. It culminated a five-year pattern of Marshall improving after going winless in coach J.T. Biddison's first season. But the Statesmen are likely to take a step back, only returning five starters. Third-year quarterback Harold Sweet will be relied upon heavily, especially with its top two rushers from last season. Marshall will have to mature quickly if it wants to edge out Fairfax in week two.

W.T. Woodson

The W.T. Woodson Cavaliers finished last sea-



Briar Woods coach Charlie Pierce is hoping to see his Falcons make a return trip to the postseason this fall.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



The Falcons of Briar Woods will open their season this Friday night with a home game against Millbrook.

son on a sour note after losing a Week 10 game to powerhouse Stone Bridge, 45-7. Overall, the Cavaliers, under coach Trey Taylor, finished a respectable 5-5.

South Lakes

The South Lakes Seahawks had a superstar last season in A.J. Price (Penn State), a solid receiver in Thomas Mayo (Concorde University) and a dependable quarterback in Scott Reed. But all have graduated from the 3-7 Division 5 playoff team

from 2007. So fifth-year coach John Ellenberger has to revamp his pass-happy offense with fresh faces, including junior quarterback Ray Howard, senior running backs Brandon Price and Justin Zeller and senior tight end Quintin Fortes. The Seahawks need to shore up their offense, which gave up 300-plus points for the fourth straight season.

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 12

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FOOTBALL 2008

FROM PAGE 11

McLean

The McLean Highlanders finished with two wins in 2007 for the second straight year, but have a reason to be hopeful in first-year coach Jim Patrick, son of former Mount Vernon coach Bruce Patrick. McLean will transform to a triple-option offense, likely to be keyed by either Riley Beiro or Will Hecht at quarterback and seniors Kyle McColgan and Michael Shipley in the backfield. The defense, which gave up 20 points in each of the eight losses last season, should be improved with five starters returning. As a Division 5 team, inching out early season non-district victories over J.E.B. Stuart and Washington-Lee are pivotal.

Thomas Jefferson

The Thomas Jefferson Colonials had another tough season in 2007, winning only one game. They were getting outscored by 260 points and lost seven games by at least three touchdowns, including an embarrassing 56-6 loss to W.T. Woodson. The prospects don't look good for third-year coach Tim Puvogel, who is 3-17 in two seasons and failed to get a first-team all-district representative last season. But Jefferson returns 11 starters, including seniors Evan Burch and Mike Howard, leaving enough experience to provide at least a couple of wins. A season-opening win at home against Falls Church is pivotal.

Private

The **Paul VI Panthers** took a large step back in 2007, winning only one game after back-to-back 5-5 seasons under coach Pat McGroarty. But Paul VI

only had six seniors on the roster, leaving a wealth of experience returning this season. The Panthers return starting junior running back Idreis Augustus, as well as Dan McGroarty, the coach's son, back after earning all-league honors at tight end last season. Basketball standout Dominic Sanders, at 6-foot-4, will give either senior Matt Richards or junior Trevon Bennett an athletic target at receiver. Both Richards and Bennett split time last season, and neither has locked up the starting slot.

The **Bishop O'Connell Knights** had a disappointing season in the uber-competitive Washington Catholic Athletic Conference, finishing 3-7 overall and 2-5 in the conference in 2007. O'Connell will have to replace West Point signee Matt Dillon on the offensive line, but only graduated three starters. The Knights had a bevy of underclassmen gain valuable experience, including first-team All-WCAC safety Justin Trimble, the coach's son, who has a brother already at West Point. Trimble, who will also be the feature back, and senior quarterback Sean Cabrera, a third-year starter, should anchor a strong senior class. The season opener at Ireton will provide a quick litmus test.

The **St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Saints** made it to the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA) state semifinals last season, mostly behind 5-foot-6 first-team all-state running back Isaiah Carpenter, but leaders like offensive lineman James Williams, linebacker Briggs Davis and Carpenter graduated. The Saints rebuild around seniors Cameron Williams, Rob-

ert Asmar and Chazzo Habliston, all of who will be asked to play multiple positions. The offense is the catalyst — in the six 2007 wins, SSSAS averaged 28.5 points versus eight during the four losses. With their quarterback and enough experience returning, the Saints need another hot start with a midseason rivalry game at Bishop Ireton looming.

The **Bishop Ireton Cardinals** had a magical season in 2007, making it all the way to the VISAA state championship for the first time in school history. The Cardinals, ranked for three consecutive weeks atop the VISAA rankings, graduated 21 seniors, including West Point signee Anthony Rodriguez. Now coach Tony Verducci drops the interim tag and unveils a spread offense, where he will utilize junior speedster Doug Vines in space. Junior Mike Larrabee takes over at quarterback. Ireton will also have to win close games like it did in last season, when the Cardinals went 7-2 in games decided by a single digit.

The **Episcopal Maroon** had a 9-1 season in 2006, but struggled early in 2007, opening the season with six losses in the first seven games. But back-to-back wins over Bullis and hated rival Woodberry Forest gives the Maroon momentum heading into 2008. Episcopal has to replace three captains, but returns quarterback Alex Helm who will have speedsters in junior first-team all-state receiver Hunter de Butts and track star Allante' Keels. Senior Evan King steps in for Brett Johnson at running back. All should help the Maroon improve on their 12-point per game average from 2007.

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Area Gridiron Teams Display Dominance in '07 Season

FROM PAGE 9

game, propelled his team's dominating second half with three scoring runs.

That win put Stone Bridge into the state title game in Charlottesville against Potomac High. The Bulldogs, two years earlier, had lost in the state finals to Hampton. But this time around Stone Bridge dominated its opponent, winning handily 38-0. Quarterback Patrick Thompson threw four touchdowns in

the game, three to receiver Ryan Moody.

"Everybody really felt this was our year," said coach Thompson.

Will teams like Stone Bridge, Broad Run and Park View be able to put together powerhouse seasons once again in 2008? Can Briar Woods, and other Dulles teams such as Potomac Falls and Dominion, be contenders for this year's district crown? The season ahead will provide those answers.

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Ashburn Connection Athlete of the Week August 28 Through Sept. 3

Broad Run High football coach Michael Burnett and the Spartans are coming off a 2007 season which saw them capture the Dulles District championship. The Spartans will open up the '08 season with non-district contests versus Wakefield (Aug. 28), Ballou of D.C. (Sept. 5) and Brentsville District (Sept. 19). The Ballou and Brentsville games will be at home. The Spartans, who have a bye date on Sept. 12, will play their first Dulles District game on Sept. 26 versus visiting Briar Woods.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUZZEL/THE CONNECTION

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43535 BUTLER PL	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$975,000	Detached	0.230005	07/18/08	
42616 COCHRANS LOCK DR	6	6	1	ASHBURN	\$915,000	Detached	0.5	07/24/08	
19961 INTERLACHEN CIR	5	5	1	ASHBURN	\$875,000	Detached	0.330005	07/28/08	
18354 KINGSMILL ST	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$825,000	Detached	0.3	07/18/08	
42704 RED SHALE CT	4	4	1	ASHBURN	\$791,500	Detached	0.519995	07/25/08	
21079 MILL BRANCH DR	5	5	1	LEESBURG	\$777,000	Detached	0.680005	07/24/08	
20603 ARROW CREEK DR	5	4	2	LEESBURG	\$750,000	Detached	0.459137	07/24/08	
22642 TAYLORSTOWN HUNT CT	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$739,900	Detached	0.419995	07/22/08	
43031 WATERS OVERLOOK CT	5	4	2	LEESBURG	\$726,000	Detached	0.280005	07/18/08	
41951 SADDLEBROOK PL	4	4	1	LEESBURG	\$720,000	Detached	3.05	07/24/08	
22791 MILLTOWN FARM CT	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$675,000	Detached	0.3	07/25/08	
43250 MISSION HILLS WAY	4	4	1	LEESBURG	\$655,000	Detached	0.25	07/23/08	
43124 FLING CT	4	3	1	BROADLANDS	\$652,500	Detached	0.389991	07/24/08	
506 BRINDLEY PL SW	4	4	1	LEESBURG	\$649,000	Detached	0.369995	07/18/08	
22244 SPLITROCK WAY	5	4	1	ASHBURN	\$646,000	Detached	0.180005	07/18/08	
18836 GRANITE FALLS LN	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$625,000	Detached	3.019995	07/18/08	
42874 GLYNDEBOURNE CT	4	3	1	BROADLANDS	\$625,000	Detached	0.2	07/25/08	
43687 FROST CT	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$610,000	Detached	0.239991	07/25/08	
42859 BRAEMOUNT CIR	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$584,000	Detached	0.280005	07/28/08	
22897 ASHTON WOODS DR	5	4	1	ASHBURN	\$584,000	Detached	0.180005	07/28/08	
42839 LINDSEY HEIGHTS PL	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$582,884	Detached	2.640037	07/25/08	
21337 SMALL BRANCH PL	4	3	1	BROADLANDS	\$577,000	Detached	0.169995	07/17/08	
42230 BIG SPRINGS CT	4	2	1	LEESBURG	\$565,000	Detached	0.689991	07/28/08	
43636 WINTHROP CT	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$562,000	Detached	0.239991	07/24/08	
18213 CYPRESS POINT TER	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$554,900	Townhouse	0.080005	07/18/08	
20891 LAUREL LEAF CT	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$545,000	Detached	0.130005	07/24/08	
42986 CORALBELLS PL	4	4	1	LEESBURG	\$542,986	Detached	0.210009	07/22/08	
736 VERMILLION DR NE	4	2	1	LEESBURG	\$540,000	Detached	0.189991	07/21/08	
305 LOCUST KNOLL DR NW	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$535,000	Detached	0.360009	07/17/08	
42565 OLMSTED DR	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$535,000	Detached	0.25	07/18/08	
20050 MUIRFIELD VILLAGE CT	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$525,900	Detached	0.210009	07/28/08	
43850 AMITY PL	5	3	1	ASHBURN	\$525,000	Detached	0.260009	07/24/08	
20100 BLACKWOLF RUN PL	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$524,900	Detached	0.2	07/23/08	
830 HAWKS RUN CT SE	5	3	1	LEESBURG	\$520,000	Detached	0.260009	07/24/08	
43921 TAVERN DR	5	3	1	ASHBURN	\$513,000	Detached	0.260009	07/17/08	
43423 LONGVIEW DR	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$510,000	Detached	0.210009	07/25/08	
39955 OATLANDS MILL RD	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$504,900	Detached	5.8	07/25/08	
43123 WEATHERWOOD DR	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$500,000	Detached	0.169995	07/21/08	
109 BUGLE CT NE	5	3	1	LEESBURG	\$487,500	Detached	0.269995	07/25/08	
304 NICKELS DR SW	4	2	1	LEESBURG	\$486,250	Detached	0.35	07/17/08	
19240 SNIDER HOUSE CT	4	2	2	LEESBURG	\$486,000	Detached	0.210009	07/25/08	
822 MACALISTER DR SE	4	2	1	LEESBURG	\$484,000	Detached	0.210009	07/23/08	
20652 MEADOWTHRASH CT	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$480,000	Detached	0.269995	07/18/08	
20319 BOWFONDS ST	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$462,000	Detached	0.15	07/17/08	
43916 GIRDLAND CT	5	2	1	ASHBURN	\$458,000	Detached	0.269995	07/18/08	
44201 BRISTOW CIR	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$430,000	Detached	0.260009	07/22/08	
43253 BALTUSROL TER	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$417,000	Townhouse	0.069995	07/28/08	
20487 HAZLETON WAY	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$416,500	Detached	0.119995	07/21/08	
19761 ESTANCIA TER	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$410,000	Townhouse	0.089991	07/18/08	
639 NATHAN PL NE	4	2	1	LEESBURG	\$408,000	Detached	0.130005	07/18/08	
43278 MORVEN SQ	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.080005	07/17/08	
20938 DURVEA TER	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.060009	07/21/08	
207 PERSHING AVE NW	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$400,000	Detached	0.130005	07/28/08	
19390 DIAMOND LAKE DR	3	2	1	LANSDOWNE	\$399,900	Townhouse	0.072508	07/25/08	
43209 WHISPERWOOD TER	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$395,000	Townhouse	0.069995	07/22/08	
43288 CLIFTON TER	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$391,000	Patio Home	0.080005	07/21/08	
22442 MAISON CARREE SQ	3	2	2	ASHBURN	\$390,000	Townhouse	0.060009	07/18/08	
43704 VINEYARD TER	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$390,000	Patio Home	0.080005	07/21/08	
171 SPENCER TER SE	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$390,000	Townhouse	0.080005	07/25/08	
262 MASONS LN SE	4	3	0	LEESBURG	\$380,000	Detached	4.189991	07/18/08	
22962 FANSHAW SQ	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.060009	07/18/08	
21300 VICTORIAS CROSS TER	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.069995	07/24/08	
42998 MILL RACE TER	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$370,000	Townhouse	0.05	07/24/08	
22952 OLYMPIA DR	3	2	0	ASHBURN	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.089991	07/24/08	
21159 CROCUS TER	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$359,900	Townhouse	0.05	07/28/08	
20217 EDISTO SQ	3	2	2	ASHBURN	\$354,500	Townhouse	0.05	07/18/08	
20413 CHARTER OAK DR	3	3	1	ASHBURN	\$349,900	Townhouse	0.05	07/29/08	
20249 MOHEGAN DR	3	3	1	ASHBURN	\$331,000	Townhouse	0.05	07/17/08	
358 EBAUGH DR SE	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$329,000	Townhouse	0.060009	07/18/08	
42604 CARDINAL TRACE TER#812	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$328,000	Townhouse	0.071708	07/17/08	
21212 WINDING BROOK SQ	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.039991	07/21/08	
18489 SIERRA SPRINGS SQ	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$320,000	Townhouse	0.05	07/17/08	
21788 LADYSLIPPER SQ	3	3	1	ASHBURN	\$319,000	Townhouse	0.05	07/22/08	
43180 LAWNSBERRY SQ	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$319,000	Townhouse	0.039991	07/28/08	
549 MCARTHUR TER	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$313,000	Townhouse	0.060009	07/24/08	
21559 WELBY TER	3	2	1	BROADLANDS	\$313,000	Townhouse	0.039991	07/28/08	
539 LEGRACE TER	4	2	2	LEESBURG	\$309,000	Townhouse	0.039991	07/17/08	
20417 CHARTER OAK DR	3	3	1	ASHBURN	\$305,000	Townhouse	0.05	07/29/08	
43371 LOCUST DALE TER #105	2	2	1	ASHBURN	\$301,856	Townhouse	0.072508	07/25/08	
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43320 RAILSTOP TER	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$284,500	Townhouse	0.039991	07/24/08	
437 GINKGO TER NE	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$269,000	Townhouse	0.039991	07/28/08	
210 BIRCH ST NE	4	2	1	LEESBURG	\$267,800	Detached	0.260009	07/25/08	
44475 CHAMBERLAIN TER#200	2	2	0	ASHBURN	\$265,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.072908	07/29/08	
805 VANDERBILT TER SE	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$253,350	Townhouse	0.039991	07/18/08	
535 TULIPTREE SQ NE	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.060009	07/18/08	
44166 MOSSY BROOK SQ	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$239,900	Townhouse	0.030005	07/22/08	
527 TULIPTREE SQ NE	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$225,000	Townhouse	0.039991	07/24/08	
521 RICHMOND SQ NE	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$223,000	Townhouse	0.069995	07/23/08	
607 WARRENTON TER NE	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$219,900	Townhouse	0.05	07/18/08	
244 GOLDEN LARCH TER NE	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$219,900	Townhouse	0.039991	07/26/08	
43371 LOCUST DALE TER #108	2	1	0	ASHBURN	\$205,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.072208	07/22/08	
104 HALIFAX PL SE	3	1	1	LEESBURG	\$185,000	Detached	0.130005	07/18/08	
611 ROCKBRIDGE DR SE	3	2	0	LEESBURG	\$165,750	Detached	0.119995	07/23/08	
123 CARNABY WAY NE	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$160,000	Townhouse	0.05	07/21/08	
20283 BEECHWOOD TER #103	1	1	0	ASHBURN	\$144,500	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.072508	07/25/08	
1001 WYTHE CT NE	2	1	1	LEESBURG	\$130,000	Duplex	0.069995	07/28/08	
892 SMARTTS LN NE	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$129,000	Townhouse	0.05	07/25/08	
89 HANCOCK PL NE #324	2	1	1	LEESBURG	\$116,500	Townhouse	0.071808	07/18/08	
125-B CLUBHOUSE DR SW #10	3	2	0	LEESBURG	\$109,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.072508	07/25/08	
4 HANCOCK PL NE #221	3	1	1	LEESBURG	\$75,600	Townhouse	0.072708	07/27/08	

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Opens in Fairfax County

Herndon					
13145B Rounding Run Cir	\$619,900	Sun 1-4	Xuri Wang	BMI	301-523-8008

Reston					
12512 Thunder Chase Dr.	\$500,000	Sun 1-4	Kathy Stark	Weichert	703-201-9656

More Opens on September 6th & 7th

Loudoun County

Aldie					
25241 Oribi Pl.	\$575,900	Sun 1-4	Linda McKee	Long & Foster	703-968-7000

Round Hill					
25 Jackson Ave.	\$375,000	Sat 12-3	Danielle Dojczak	Century 21	540-955-2500

Fairfax County

Herndon					
401 Cavendish St	\$420,000	Sun 1-4	Donald Knoll	Remax	703-444-5917

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Lauri Swift or Winslow Wacker

703-821-5050 or E-Mail the info to Lauri@connectionnewspapers.com

All listings due by Tues at 10 am.

HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. Send listings to: Calendar, Connection Publishing, Inc., 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. Or Fax to 703-917-0991. For more information, call 703-917-6444.

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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

FOOD & DRINK

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to *The Loudoun Connection*, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or e-mail loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call 703-917-6454.

Wine country bus tours to **Fabbioli Cellars and Lost Creek Winery**, Saturday, **Aug. 30**. The Washington Wine Academy, in conjunction with Reston Limousine, offers winery tours. There are three pick-up locations and gourmet boxed lunch options. Cost: \$35 per person, \$50 per person with lunch. Call 703-478-0500, Ext. 1 or visit <http://www.washingtonwineacademy.org/wine-tours.htm#Tour1>.

Wine country bus tours to **Bluemont Vineyards and Veramar Vineyards**, Sunday, **Aug. 31**. The Washington Wine Academy, in conjunction with Reston Limousine, offers winery tours. There are three pick-up locations and gourmet boxed lunch options. Cost: \$35 per person, \$50 per person with lunch. Call 703-478-0500, Ext. 1 or visit <http://www.washingtonwineacademy.org/wine-tours.htm#Tour1>.

End of Summer Backbarn BBQ at Willowcroft Farm Vineyards, Saturday, **Sept. 6**, from 12-4 p.m., Willowcroft Farm Vineyards, 38906 Mt. Gilead Road, Leesburg. Features a Willowcroft wine tasting and barbecue catered by Red, Hot & Blue. Cost: \$12 per person. Call 703-777-8161 or visit <http://www.willowcroftwine.com>.

THE ARTS

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to *The Loudoun Connection*, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or e-mail loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call 703-917-6454.

Leesburg Crossroads' **Fall into the Arts** committee invites all artists, in any fine-art medium, to submit work for a juried art exhibit at Leesburg's sixth annual 2008 Fall into the Arts Festival by **Aug. 30**. This year's festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 27, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., in historic downtown Leesburg and will include live music as well as special exhibits on the Town Green and throughout the downtown shops.

Artists may submit photos or jpegs on a compact disc of up to three original works along with a \$25 entry fee to "Fall into the Arts," c/o Loudoun Academy of the Arts, 222 South King St., Leesburg, VA 20175. Entry forms and instructions are available online at www.fallintothearts.org. E-mail Jim Sisley at jsisley@verizon.net.

Art exhibitions at local libraries throughout **September and October** include at Ashburn Library, world photography by Dean Villanueva and at Cascades Library, photography by Mary Kaye Mason.

Teaching the Lost Art of Etiquette

National League of Junior Cotillions shows children proper manners and conversation.

By STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

With young people texting, e-mailing and talking on their computers more and more, Jean Ann Michie thinks face-to-face communicating has become a lost art. Michie runs the National League of Junior Cotillions in Loudoun County that teaches children how to converse. She also teaches proper manners, etiquette, patriotism and how to be comfortable in social situations.

"The main manners that we teach — how to introduce yourself, table manners, being polite and kind, being sincere — they don't change," Michie said.

STARTING IN September, she will be teaching etiquette classes that show children how to be kind, fair and gracious. Students will learn table manners, door and coat etiquette, how to make introductions, even how to get refreshments for young ladies. Ladies will learn white glove manners. Guys will learn how to walk in the escort position.

"You can make an impression on someone you don't even know and brighten someone's day just with a smile," she says.

"For me, the program has been invaluable in teaching a certain air of confidence, how to treat a young woman, how to dance ballroom dancing, which is something men don't know how to do anymore," Su Carlson of Hamilton said. Her son Zach has been through three years is now a cotillion teaching assistant.

After Zach, 14, went to a 7-Eleven and held the door for two women, "the look of surprise on their faces" sold her on the program, she said. He was also the only grand-



CONTRIBUTED

Fall Session

♦ **Virginia Academy**, 19790 Ashburn Road, Ashburn, VA 20147. **Thursdays, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 6th and 20th**
Virginia Academy of Pre-Cotillion Classes start: Year one, grades kindergarten and first, 4-5:15 p.m.
Year two, grades second and third, 4-5:15 p.m.
Year three, grades fourth and fifth, 5:30-7 p.m.
Cost: Year one is \$150.
Year two is \$175.
Year three is \$200.

♦ **Blue Ridge**, held at the Carver Center, 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville, VA 20132. **Tuesday, Sept. 16; Tuesday, Oct. 14; Monday, Nov. 17 and Tuesday, Nov. 18.**
Blue Ridge Chapter of Pre-Cotillion Classes start: Year one, grades kindergarten and first 3:15-4:30 p.m.
Year two, grades second and third, 4:45-6 p.m.
Year three, grades fourth and fifth, 6:15-7:45 p.m.
Cost: Year one is \$150.
Year two is \$175.
Year three is \$200.
E-mail: Jean.Michie@gmail.com or call 540-668-6844.

son willing to dance with grandma at her sister-in-law's wedding.

The Virginia Academy Pre-Cotillion is

Mothers and sons enjoy their new dance moves.

held in Leesburg, Ashburn and South Riding. There's also a Blue Ridge chapter. The classes can have 80 students with 15-20 teaching assistants.

When students come to the first class, they will receive a booklet that has all of the etiquette taught in class. "Our hope is the parents will practice it and that skills will be pretty set in their minds," Michie said. "One of my favorite quotes is repetition solidifies new behavior."

The Pre-Cotillion Program is for grades kindergarten-fifth. In addition to teaching the values of honor, respect, dignity, responsibility, it teaches proper manners at birthday parties, sporting events, restaurants — formal and fast food.

Children do role playing with Peanuts, the Polite Elephant. "We'll show how to do things the wrong way and the right way. We're going to pretend that they're arriving at a birthday party. We tell them what

SEE LOST ART, PAGE 16



Hundreds of people attend the Dulles Day Family Festival and the 15th Annual Plane Pull last year. All proceeds from the plane pull go to benefit the Virginia Special Olympics.

Ready, Set ... Pull That Plane

16th Annual Plane Pull benefiting Special Olympics Virginia.

The 16th Annual Dulles Day Family Festival and Plane Pull will be held Saturday, Sept. 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Dulles International Airport.

During the event, teams of 20 will play tug-of-war with a 157,000-pound cargo jet to see who can pull the aircraft 12 feet the fastest. The event is a fund-raiser for Special Olympics Virginia. Anyone can compete and teams of 20 are invited to register. Teams must raise a minimum of \$1,000 to participate — that's \$50 per person — and

an award will be given to the team who raises the most money.

If pulling a plane seems just a bit beyond your reach — how about a school bus? The Kids Bus Pull pits teams of children against a big yellow school bus; the team who pulls the bus 12 feet the fastest wins. Children are invited to register — each child must raise a minimum of \$10 to compete and will receive a bus pull T-shirt and participation ribbon.

The Dulles Day Family Festival and Plane Pull, presented by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, also will feature live music, a 10th annual car show, military and civilian aircraft displays, business exhibits and children's games and entertain

SEE PLAYING, PAGE 16

CALENDAR

Send events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to The Loudoun Connection, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or e-mail loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call 703-917-6454; for additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 27

CASINO TRIP. The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, will take a trip to Charles Town, W.Va. Includes slots and simulcast horse racing; lunch on own. Cost: \$7 for members, \$9 for nonmembers, includes transportation and \$5 cash back, subject to change. Minimum walking. Call 703-430-2397 for departure and return times and locations.

HANDS-ON DISCOVERY ROOM. 1-3 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. All ages. Explore the displays, meet the turtles and make a craft in the Visitor Center Discovery Room. An adult must accompany children. Free. Call 571-258-3700.

THURSDAY/AUG. 28

FILM VIEWING. 7 p.m., Rust @ Catocin Library, 34D Catocin Circle, Leesburg. Join director Debra Sugerman for a viewing and discussion of the award-winning documentary "Dear Mr. President" about five Palestinian and Israeli teens and their attempt to break down cultural barriers and to meet President Bush. Recommended for ages 12 and up. Sponsored by North Spring Behavioral Healthcare and Rust Library Advisory Board.

FRIDAY/AUG. 29

OPEN SKATE NIGHT. 5-7 p.m., Douglass Community Center Hockey Rink, 405 E. Market St., Leesburg. Bring skates or Rollerblades for a night of skating on the outdoor rink. Cost: \$1. Call 703-771-5913.

JAZZ ON THE POTOMAC. 5:30-10 p.m., Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodbridge Parkway, Lansdowne. Features Nick Colionne. Enjoy summer foods prepared by the culinary team. Call 703-729-8400 or visit <http://www.lansdowneresort.com>.

FROM SWANN'S CASTLE to Governor's Mansion: Exploring an Old Southern Estate. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. Learn Morven Park's history from 19th century plantation to early 20th century hunt country estate and working farm. Guided tours include exhibits, carriage collection, Confederate huts and outdoor walk around property. Cost: adults \$5, children \$1. Meet at Coach House Visitors Center. Call 703-777-6034.

SATURDAY/AUG. 30

FROM SWANN'S CASTLE to Governor's Mansion: Exploring an Old Southern Estate. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. See Friday, Aug. 29 item for details.

EDIBLE, MEDICINAL & Folklore Plants. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 7 and up. Discover beautiful wildflowers along the park trails and explore how these plants have historically been used for food and medicine and about their amazing folklore. Cost: \$5. Call 571-258-3700.

LAST BLAST of Summer Campfire. 7:30-9 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. All ages. Celebrate summer

with the family, hear Native American stories, sing songs and enjoy fun around a campfire. Toast marshmallows, provided. Cost: \$4. Call 571-258-3700.

FALL HORSE TRIALS. Begins 8 a.m., Oatlands Plantation, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg. Loudoun Hunt Pony Club Fall Horse Trials where horses and riders compete in the equestrian sport known as eventing, which consists of dressage, cross-country and show jumping. Contact Margaret Good at 703-777-8776 or visit www.loudounhunt.ponyclub.org.

SOUNDS OF SUMMER. 6-9:30 p.m., gate opens at 5 p.m., Tarara Winery, 13648 Tarara Lane, Leesburg. Features The Grandsons. Cost: \$15 at the gate, \$10 in advance, free for children 6 and under. Call 703-771-7100 or visit www.tarara.com.

BENEFIT RACE. Registration 7-8 a.m., race begins 8 a.m., Algonkian Regional Park soccer fields. Race for Refugee Youth, 5K to benefit the Catholic Diocese of Arlington refugee resettlement program. Cost: \$20 or \$15 with donation of a backpack. Visit <http://sites.google.com/site/raceforrefugeeyouth>.

SUNDAY/AUG. 31

TWILIGHT TOUR. 6-8 p.m., Balls Bluff Battlefield Regional Park, Balls Bluff Road, Leesburg. A twilight tour of Balls Bluff Battlefield. Free. Call 703-737-7800 or visit <http://www.nvrpa.org>.

TRAVEL THROUGH TIME in the Winmill Carriage Collection. 1-4 p.m., Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. Take a guided tour through a collection of 19th century horse-drawn vehicles, including coaches, sleighs, carts, buggies and a hearse from the 1800s. Cost: adults \$5, children \$1. Meet at Coach House Visitor Center. Visit www.morvenpark.org or call 703-777-6034.

FALL HORSE TRIALS. Begins 8 a.m., Oatlands Plantation, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg. See Aug. 30 item for details.

MONDAY/SEPT. 1

FROM SWANN'S CASTLE to Governor's Mansion: Exploring an Old Southern Estate. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. See Friday,

Cole Bros. Circus

Sept. 4-7, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the Community Church, 19790 Ashburn Road, Ashburn. Includes acrobats, denizens of clown alley, daredevil aerial artists, educated animal performers. Visit the Web site, <http://www.colebroscircus.com>, for ticket information or call 386-736-0071.

Aug. 29 item for details.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 3

CANAL BOAT TRIP. The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, will take a trip to Washington, D.C., for a C&O Canal boat cruise and tour of the Tudor Place and Gardens; lunch on own in Georgetown. Cost: \$17 for members, \$19 for nonmembers, includes transportation, boat ride and admission. Extensive walking. Call 703-430-2397 for departure and return times and locations.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 5

SENIOR COOKOUT. 4-6:30 p.m., The Senior Center at Cascades



CONTRIBUTED

Algonkian Regional Park in Sterling takes part in the Northern Virginia Park Authority's Dog Days, which opens selected water parks to dogs and their owners, Sunday, Sept. 7.

Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place. "Goin' to the Drive-In," end-of-summer celebration; includes burgers, malts and shakes and "white bucks," as well as classic cars show and disc jockey Sky Dantine; wear high-school colors. Cost: \$5 for members in advance, \$7 for nonmembers and at door. Call 703-430-2397.

TEEN CENTER. 7-10 p.m., After-Hours Teen Center, Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Features Restless Street Band. All teens attending the teen center must have a permission slip, signed by a parent or guardian, on file. Download the permission slip at <http://library.loudoun.gov> to Teen Scene, Events, Hanging Out Rocks. For high schoolers.

NEW EXHIBIT RECEPTION. 6-8 p.m., Loudoun Museum, 16 Loudoun St., S.W., Leesburg. The Loudoun Museum celebrates the 250th anniversary of the founding of Leesburg in 1758 with its new exhibition, Leesburg: Crossroads of Tradition and Transition. Explore the history of Leesburg through a selection of objects, photographs, postcards and maps. Call 703-777-7427.

LOUDOUN READS. 6-7 p.m., in the Leesburg Town Rose Garden. Published authors, as well as community leaders and educators, will read from some of their favorite literary selections. The event produced by the Loudoun Literacy Council and sponsored by Verizon Foundation, commemorates International Literacy Day. Contact Tanya Bosse, Loudoun Literacy Council, 703-777-2205, Ext. 103 or tbosse@loudounliteracy.org.

FROM SWANN'S CASTLE to Governor's Mansion: Exploring an Old Southern Estate. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. Learn Morven Park's history from 19th century plantation to early 20th century hunt country estate and working farm. Guided tours include exhibits, carriage collection, Confederate huts and outdoor walk around property. Cost: adults \$5, children \$1. Meet at Coach House Visitors Center. Call 703-777-6034.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 6

AIRPLANE PULL. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.,

Dulles International Airport. Join Special Olympics Virginia for the 16th Annual Dulles Day Family Festival and Plane Pull. Teams of 20 will play tug-of-war with a cargo jet to see who can pull the aircraft 12 feet the fastest. Includes Kids Bus Pull, live music, car show, military and civilian aircraft displays, business exhibits and children's games and entertainment. Teams must raise a minimum of \$1,000 to participate in the plane pull; cost for the children's bus pull is \$10. Visit www.planepull.com or call 703-359-4301.

LOUDOUNPALOOSA. Noon-11 p.m., Belmont Country Club, 43675 Russell Branch Parkway, Ashburn. Loudoun Summer Music Fest's end of summer barbecue. Featuring food from Original Steakhouse, Famous Dave's, Buffalo Wing Factory and Carolina Brothers BBQ and performances from Dreamscapes Project, Lloyd Dobbler Effect, No Second Troy, Lionize, Justin Trawick, Getaway Car, Kelly Bell Band, Blackjacks, The Speaks and "Best of" Tri-State All Stars. Cost: general admission advance \$15, at the door \$20. Visit liveatbelmont.com for tentative playing schedule.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S LIFE. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. All ages. Civil War Re-enactors and archeological artifacts bring the soldier's war to life. "Enlist" at the muster station; explore weapons, military equipment, clothing, and more. Cost: \$5 supply fee for children 5 years and up for materials handed out at the stations. An adult must accompany children. No registration required. Free event. Call 571-258-3700.

STORY TIME MATINEE. 2 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Stories, songs, a video storybook and a craft. Ages 3-6. Call 703-737-8100.

PAINTING IN THE AFTERNOON. 2 p.m., Rust @ Catocin Library, 34D Catocin Circle, Leesburg. Local painter, Trisha Adams, will answer questions and explain her work while she paints a still life in the library. Recommended for adults.

FROM SWANN'S CASTLE to Governor's Mansion: Exploring an Old Southern Estate. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. See Sept. 5

item for details.

SOUNDS OF SUMMER. 6-9:30 p.m., gate opens at 5 p.m., Tarara Winery, 13648 Tarara Lane, Leesburg. Features The Jack Diamond and Jim Steed Band. Cost: \$15 at the gate, \$10 in advance, free for children 6 and under. Call 703-771-7100 or visit www.tarara.com.

BOOK SWAP. 10 a.m.-noon, Claude Moore Community Center, 46111 Loudoun Park Lane, Sterling. All ages. Trade your books, books on tape or compact discs, music CDs and VHS or DVD movies. Books/magazines in large print needed. Call 571-258-3500.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

MONTHLY BREAKFAST. 8 a.m.-noon, Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, 20688 Ashburn Road. Breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, gravy and biscuits, hash browns, coffee and juices. Features monthly themes and Kids Activity Corner; apparatus bay area is open to children of all ages. Cost: adults \$6, ages 3-8 \$4, under 3 free and seniors \$5. Call 703-729-0006.

DOG DAYS. Noon-4 p.m., Algonkian Regional Park, Sterling. Dogs and their owners are invited to swim. Cost: \$5 per dog. Dog owners must fill out a liability waiver and the dog must have a current license and rabies vaccination. Visit www.nvrpa.org.

TRAVEL THROUGH TIME in the Winmill Carriage Collection. 1-4 p.m., Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. Take a guided tour through a collection of 19th century horse-drawn vehicles, including coaches, sleighs, carts, buggies and a hearse from the 1800s. Cost: adults \$5, children \$1. Meet at Coach House Visitor Center. Visit www.morvenpark.org or call 703-777-6034.

MONDAY/SEPT. 8

GOLF CLASSIC. The 2008 National Capital Golf Classic, at the Golf Club at Lansdowne, 44050 Woodbridge Parkway, Lansdowne. Proceeds benefit American Cancer Society's to fight prostate cancer and supports research programs in the National Capital Region. Contact Beth Sartwelle at 202-483-2600 or beth.sartwelle@cancer.org.

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LIFESTYLE

Lost Art of Conversation

FROM PAGE 14

to say to Mr. Peanuts," Michie said. The Pre-Cotillion I class is for grades kindergarten-first and costs \$150. It will teach basic manners in the home like appearances, introductions, table manners and what Michie calls power words — "thank you," "you're welcome," "yes sir," and "please."

The Pre-Cotillion II is for grades second-third and costs \$175. This continues in the areas of introductions, sports manners and table manners. The emphasis is on making friends, keeping friends, writing correspondences and school manners. Children will learn about dining in a nice restaurant complete with reservations, menus and tipping.

The Pre-Cotillion III is for grades fourth-fifth and costs \$200. It reinforces lessons learned in prior classes with emphasis on building character. There's telephone etiquette, manners in public places. Dance instruction is also introduced.

"MY MAJOR concern is respect in their own families We're hopefully reinforcing what the parents are already teaching at home. It really does help to have someone outside the home to reinforce them."

She said the emphasis is on age-appropriate skills like birthday party etiquette, skating rink etiquette and putt-putt golf etiquette.

The dancing classes teach fox trot, swing, cha cha and waltz. "By the time they do the third-year program, they should be able to make polite conversation with a member of the opposite sex," Michie said.

The sixth- and seventh-grade programs include rules of telephone courtesy, acknowledgement of gifts, introductions in receiving lines, polite conversation, paying and receiving compliments, sports etiquette, first impressions, dress codes for all occasions and more. Styles of dining include American, Asian and Continental, skills of being a host, a guest and other social behaviors.

"We have an Oriental Ball with Oriental food," Michie said. "They'll learn how to use chopsticks and where you place your chopsticks when you're eating."

"The main difference between the sixth and seventh grade is we have an instructional sit-down dinner," Michie said.

In the eighth-grade program, the Loudoun students will combine with the Fairfax students by having a dance and going to the theater as well as golf and tennis. A highlight of the year is a Grand Spring Ball where students get dressed up in formal attire and have a five-course dinner.

She says students will also learn the art of finger

FRESH AIR

Playing Tug-of-War with a Plane

FROM PAGE 14

ment.

Since the first Plane Pull was held in 1992 at Dulles International Airport, Special Olympics Virginia has raised nearly \$1.5 million for athletes with intellectual disabilities throughout the state and also started a worldwide plane-pulling phenomenon. Other sponsors of this year's Plane Pull include Cisco, Gordon Biersch, DMB Sports, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Symantec, NewsChannel 8, the Observer newspa-



Jean Ann Michie and Stephen Michie.

foods and toasting. "Every student gets to make a toast at his table."

Briana Stiles, 17, a senior at Potomac Falls High School, said the most useful skill she learned at the Belmont Country Club Cotillion was how to walk into a room and introduce herself to people. "Manners are really important because people judge you right when you walk in the door I know that kids get judged a little bit harsh," she said.

A TEACHING assistant now, she said she's made a lot of friends. "Cotillion really teaches you to be mature. It's a lot of fun too, because everyone is your age."

Holly Wells, 17, of Purcellville, said the program taught her the proper way to handle certain social situations. "When you're introducing someone, when you're going to an interview, how you should look them in the eye," she said. "Good lessons that will help me later in life."

She said the best part was learning how to dance the waltz and cha cha.

Scott Miles, 17, of Ashburn, is a senior at Broad Run High School who's been with the program about seven years, starting in Louisiana. He was a student for two years and a teacher for five.

"After the first class, I fell in love with it," he said. "It teaches confidence, it teaches etiquette, it teaches ballroom dancing."

pers, Xerox, Jet Blue Airways, ManTech and Marriott. The festival also is a Law Enforcement Torch Run event. The Torch Run supports Special Olympics Virginia and is sponsored by Macy's and SunTrust.

For more information, to register a team, sign up to exhibit or volunteer or for sponsorship details, visit www.planepull.com or call 703-359-4301. For additional questions, contact Holly Claytor at 804-346-5544 or hclaytor@specialolympicsva.org, or Courtney Prebich at 703-417-8370 courtney.prebich@MWA.com.

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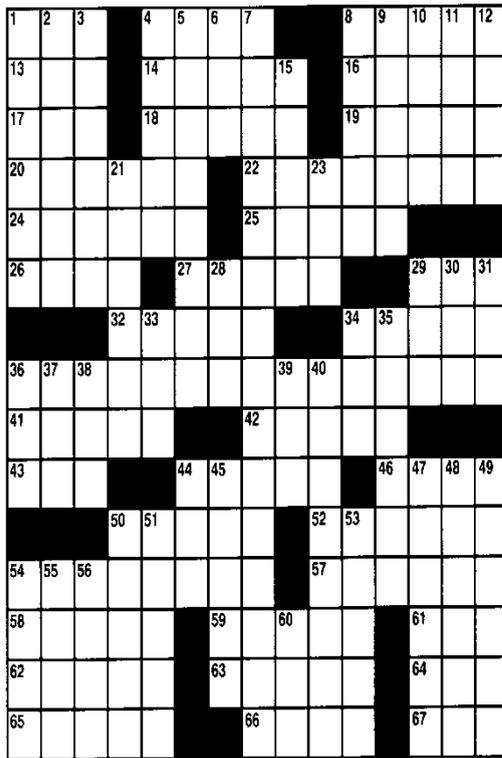
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No. 0325-1



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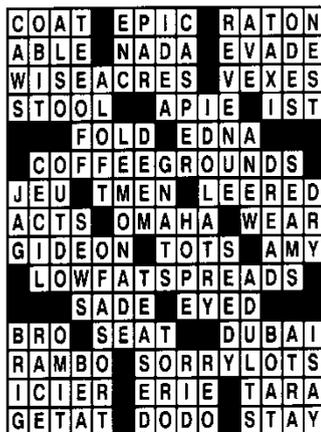
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



"Oxymoronic"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I love products and services that are given names — and/or marketed as such — that are in reality antithetical to the very characteristics that their names imply or in fact, clearly state. My two favorites are "Smartwater," made by who I don't know and probably wouldn't mention if I did, and the "permanent," provided by salons and hair stylists everywhere and familiar to most women I'm sure. As a buyer of bottled water and a husband to a woman, I'm extremely familiar with the former product and the latter service. And in both instances, I can't get past the obvious — to me anyway — market manipulation.

If a product or service is continually called something that it's not (by hook or crook), will its continual usage become so much a part of the lexicon that the word/product/service will begin to take on a life and meaning of its own and one, quite frankly, unrelated to its actual benefit? One that is perfectly suited to its intended marketing effect, to motivate the consumer to buy it, repeatedly. Or will reality one day rear its ugly head?

Let's first discuss the "permanent," the rather expensive "process" where hair is chemically treated — at home or at the salon — to give hair more body, curl, oomph, zing, pizzazz, etc. The only problem, other than the price (from my perspective) and the hours spent completing the process is that the "process," the "permanent" is hardly permanent. In truth, having seen and spoken and heard from many women on the subject, the service should really be called a "temporary," because that's what it is, temporary. If one wants to maintain the "look," one has to return regularly to re-treat and "re-process." It's the return trips that become permanent because once you commit to your "permanent," its actual temporariness will become the main thing that's permanent about your "permanent."

But I have to admit, calling a product/service something that it is not, presumably as a reason for consumers to buy it/use it, is pure marketing genius. And with respect to the numbers of "permanent" sold, whoever thought of calling the "process" "permanent" deserves a plaque in the Hair Salon Hall of Fame, wherever it's located, and if it doesn't exist, it should be built in the "permanent" person's hometown.

No more genius, however, than the person — or persons — who convinced the worldwide, water-drinking public that buying water in a bottle, a natural resource and one that is readily available, AND FREE, from homes and businesses everywhere, was somehow beneficial and healthy as well for your overall fitness. And so here we are, swimming in bottled water. Available in all shapes and sizes, and packages/counts; available in supermarkets, drugstores, convenience stores, Box stores and at many food purveyors as well, and not always priced to move, either, often priced rather expensively at some locations. Many with names to conjure an image (and perhaps to justify a price); Deer Park, Poland Springs, Acadia Springs and Aquafina, to name a few thirst-quenching and naturally refreshing alternatives to the tap.

But never before had I seen, until recently, water that had an adjective in its proper name, "Smart." What makes it so smart anyway? Since it's called "Smart," does that mean that all other water is stupid by comparison, or is it simply an implication that the marketing department hoped to achieve as a means of separating its product from the herd of liquid wannabees? I doubt we'll ever know.

From what I see and hear, however, it appears to be a subliminal-type message hiding in plain sight masking its true intention in its perceived simplicity. As a consumer, I admit I'm inclined to respond to positive-sounding products. Who wants to reinforce a negative? I don't want to feel worse, I want to feel better. I want my purchase to makes me feel as if I'm doing the "right thing."

And I suppose I don't mind paying for it. But I do mind paying because of it.

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

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