

# Ashburn CONNECTION

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**Cornelius Red Deer of the Appalachian Cherokee Nation, attended the four-day Indian Pow-Wow in Sterling. The event featured Native American music and dance, more than 100 dancers and drummers, traditional foods and traditional handmade crafts.**

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## Real-Life Learning Experience

**Broad Run senior creates his own Web-based business.**

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI  
THE CONNECTION

Some children want to be firefighters or doctors or astronauts when they grow up. For as long as he can remember, Greg Snow wanted to be a business owner.

"I always was the kid doing lemonade stands or mowing lawns to get extra money," Snow said.

That entrepreneurial spirit has helped him create his first business, Loudoun Coups, which

he launched last year at home, while a junior at Broad Run High School.

Now in his senior year, he has made the Web-based coupon business his DECA project and has hopes of turning it into a money-making venture. DECA is a co-curricular organization of high-school students enrolled in marketing education.

"It was his baby, his creation," said Cheryl Daley, marketing teacher and DECA sponsor at Broad Run. "He'll come in and ask

### For More

To learn more about Loudoun Coups or to see what discounts are available, visit [www.LoudounCoups.com](http://www.LoudounCoups.com).



PHOTO BY JENNIFER LESINSKI/THE CONNECTION

**Greg Snow creates and modifies his Web-based coupon business from home.**

advice, but it is his, completely his."

**SNOW, 17**, from Ashburn, came up with the idea after seeing all the various coupon clippers in the mail. He decided to gather up all those coupons and put them in one central location. His first client and what he describes as his "guinea pig" was

Smoothie King in Ashburn, where he has worked for more than two years.

"I was a bit skeptical at first as Ashburn has a million coupon site out there, but I know him very well and I believe in his abilities and attributes regardless of his age," Brad Lepp, owner of Smoothie King said in an e-mail. He said there has been a "very

good grassroots response" to the coupons Snow has featured on his Web site for the business.

"I'm seeing anywhere between 12-15 of his coupons per month come back," Lepp said.

SEE MARKETING, PAGE 6

## Student Faces Charges

**Deputies arrest junior at school.**

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI  
THE CONNECTION

An 18-year-old junior at Briar Woods High School was arrested Monday after he allegedly made threats against the school. He was charged with threats to a school employer — the state code ter-

**"It was a normal day on campus safety wise."**

— **Wayde Byard, LCPS, spokesman**

minology for the building, disorderly conduct and trespassing. As of Monday, the student was being held at the Adult Detention Center on a \$2,500 bond.

**THE ARREST STEMS** from an incident that began late last week. Wayde

Byard, the school systems spokesman, said the student had been disciplined Friday and was not to report to school on Monday. Due to student confidentiality, he declined to say what kind of disciplinary action had been taken. At some point over the weekend the student had made threats toward the school. Those threats were text messaged to some fellow students and eventually made their way to parents, who contacted the Sheriff's Office Sunday, Kraig Troxell, public information officer for the Sheriff's Office, said. Citing the ongoing investigation, he declined to say what type of threats were made.

"The suspect made statements on Friday and by Sunday text messages were going around. ... Things started to mushroom," Troxell said.

"He didn't have any weapons,"

Troxell said of the suspect at the time of his arrest.

Byard said the school system was made aware of the threats Sunday night and additional deputies were at the school Monday morning.

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 6

## Golf Courses Feeling the Crunch

**Changes at two local golf courses reflect the economic downturn.**

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

As the economy slows down and belts are tightened, the reverberations are felt across many industries. The rising cost of gas and groceries and the declining value of homes and businesses large and small have been quite conspicuous in the past few months. Golf is no different than any of these other industries.

Considered by many as a luxury activity, golf has seen a decline in the number of players at the tees and members at its country clubs across the nation recently. This trend is noticeable locally, as two of the largest country clubs are experiencing upheaval within. Lowes Is-

land Club in Potomac Falls and the Presidential, a private club in Dulles, are both in the process of change, as Lowes Island is up for sale and the Presidential has closed.

Lowes Island Club, with two 18-hole championship golf courses, clubhouse and many other amenities, was recently put up for sale by owner Chevy Chase Bank, according to club staff. Calls to Chevy Chase were not returned, so it is not clear whether the course is being sold because of financial issues or for other reasons and the asking price could not be confirmed.

The Presidential, which opened in May this year, billed itself as a conference room on a golf course, hav-

**"You can't make it on golf alone anymore."**

— **Joe Barks, Club & Resort Magazine, editor**

SEE GOLF, PAGE 6

## Listening Session

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Ad-Hoc Energy Efficiency Committee will hold a second listening session Wednesday, Oct. 8, on the county's goals to become more energy efficient and the county's efforts to foster energy conservation.

All interested individuals and groups are invited to participate in the meeting, which will be held from 6-8 p.m., in the board room of the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison St., S.E., Leesburg. Individuals will be given up to five minutes to speak, while groups will be given up to 10 minutes. Interested individuals and groups can preschedule time on the agenda to make a presentation or comment by contacting Denise Reyes of county administration at 703-777-0202.

## Sales Tax Holiday

More information about energy efficiency and conservation in Loudoun County, including energy conservation tips for the upcoming winter, is available on the county Web site at [www.loudoun.gov/energy](http://www.loudoun.gov/energy).

## Housing Needs

Loudoun County residents and organizations are invited to provide their comments on local housing and community development needs to the Loudoun County Family Services Board Thursday, Oct. 23, at 6:30 p.m., at the Department of Family Services, on the second floor of the Shenandoah Building, 102 Heritage Way, N.E., Leesburg.

Comments received at the public hearing will be considered in preparing the county's Five-Year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan and 2009 Annual Action Plan as required under the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The plans, once approved by the Board of Supervisors, will be submitted to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in May 2009.

Anyone who requires a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability in order to participate in the public hearing should contact the Department of Family Services at 703-777-0353 (V/TTY).

## Man Sentenced for Child Porn

Loudoun Circuit Judge Thomas Horne sentenced Michael Highfield, originally of Leesburg, to a total of three years in prison in connection with Highfield's guilty pleas to three counts of possession of child pornography and one count of manufacturing child pornography. Virginia's non-binding sentencing guidelines called for a "high point" sentence of five years, one month for the charges, which under the law could have resulted in as much as a 25 years in prison. Highfield was sentenced to 11 years, eight of which were suspended.

Highfield's wife noticed evidence of communication between Highfield and a 14-year-old girl on their home computer and notified police. The police found more than 100 images of child pornography and videos during the execution of a search warrant upon the computer. Most images were of girls under 10 years of age. He was indicted in October 2007.

## Mandanapu Appeal Denied

The Virginia Supreme Court denied a petition for appeal submitted on behalf of Praveen Mandanapu, an Ashburn man convicted for the murder of his wife, Divya, whose dismembered body was discovered in a Dumpster in South Riding in June of 2004.

The trial concluded in August 2006 wherein a jury found Mandanapu guilty of first degree murder and a sentence of 55 years was fixed by the panel. Judge Burke F. McCahill imposed the jury recommendation at a final sentencing hearing in November 2006.

Mandanapu's initial appeal challenging the conviction was denied by the Virginia Court of Appeals in December 2007. Each issue raised in the appeal was reviewed and rejected.

FOR MORE BRIEFS, VISIT  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM).

## COMMUNITY



## Gathering Place

The Appalachian Cherokee Nation Pow-Wow took place at the Claude Moore Park over the weekend. The four-day event featured Native American music, dancers and drummers, traditional foods and handmade items for sale.

**London Zotigh, a member of the Appalachian Cherokee Nation, lines up to participate in the Grand Entry dance.**



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/  
THE CONNECTION

**Marsh Emch and her 3-year-old daughter, Rachel, of Ashburn, watch the Appalachian Cherokee Nation Pow-Wow Oct. 4.**



**Appalachian Cherokees from around the region participated in a four-day Pow-Wow in Sterling over the weekend at Claude Moore Park in Sterling.**

# CAMPS

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](mailto:loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call 703-917-6454.

The **veterinary technology program** at the Loudoun Campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) will celebrate National Veterinary Technician Week with a free open house, **Oct. 15**, from 6-8 p.m., 1000

Harry Flood Byrd Highway, LD Building, Sterling. Attendees can tour the veterinary hospital and enjoy children's activities. NOVA students and faculty will provide information about the profession and programs of study. Food and drinks will be available. Free.

**Celebration Preschool**, 20962 Ashburn Road, Ashburn, will hold its second annual fall festival, Saturday, **Oct. 18**, 3-7 p.m. The event will feature carnival games, face painting, a moon bounce, a giant slide, food, silent auction items, home-based business/craft sales

and more. Call 703-729-1224.

**Congregation Sha'are Shalom** is offering preschoolers the opportunity to receive a Jewish education in a developmentally appropriate early childhood setting. The Rosie Uran Jewish Education Center is now registering students for the 2008-2009 school year. Information is available at the synagogue Web site: [http://www.sha-areshalom.org/edu\\_rujec.php](http://www.sha-areshalom.org/edu_rujec.php). Participatory visits by parents and prospective students are welcome. Call 703-737-0686 to speak with Sheri Brown, director.

## SCHOOL NOTES



### International Celebration

Stone Bridge High School director of bands Kenneth Keller, left, and Susan Wenberg, right, receives the official invitation from former Lord Mayor of Westminster, Coun. Robert Davis DL, for the school's marching band to perform in the New Year's Day Parade in London. The parade will be broadcast live via satellite in the U.S.



**In the Pink** Pink-aid, a breast cancer awareness fund-raiser held Friday, Sept. 26, was sponsored by Broad Run DECA who asked Briar Woods to join in by having attendees to the night's football game wear pink and buy event-related items. Broad Run raised \$7,500 and Briar Woods \$4,300. All monies are being donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Students worked hard showed great spirit and a good time was had by all.

Some sponsors and donations included Darrell Green, Chris Cooley, Pump It Up, DSW, The Zarou Family, Tropical Smoothie King, Giant, Lansdowne Golf Club, Red Robin, Serenity Day Spa, Tiffany Nails and the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

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- Serving Centreville, Clifton & Little Rocky Run
- *The Burke Connection*
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# Golf Courses Hit by Hard Times

FROM PAGE 3

ing a corporate-members-only policy. The club charged corporations \$60,000 a year for membership and companies could send employees or executives to play golf or enjoy other services. However, the idea never got off the ground, forcing the club to close its doors in early September.

**CLOSING SUDDENLY**, with just a brief message on its answering machine

**“Anything well-planned and well-managed can be successful, but times are tough.”**

— Andre Fontaine, Carter Braxton Real Estate, agent

issues in its wake.

At press time, according to records at the County Circuit Court, more than 20 companies have filed more than \$4.1 million in contractor's liens against the owners of the club, Beaumeade Associates and North Dulles Retail Associates. The records

indicate that the club has not paid for many of the basic services performed on the grounds during the construction process such painting, watering and electrical work. President Eric R. Wells could not be reached, and when Scott Stephens, vice president of membership, was contacted he said that he was not employed by the Presidential any longer and as a result could not answer questions.

Andre Fontaine, a real estate agent with Carter Braxton, said that the failure of the courses is directly related to the economy slowing down, and noted that land, like homes right now, are very difficult to sell, which could make Lowes Island a hard sell.

“Land is no harder to sell right now [than homes], but everything is tough to sell right now,” Fontaine said. “Anything well-planned and well-managed can be successful, but times are tough.”

On the other hand, while many people are putting the clubs away and hanging up their bags, Joe Barks, editor of Club & Resort Business Magazine, a national publication that covers all aspects of the industry, feels that the quality courses are surviving and golf will continue to be a prosperous business.

Barks said that the clubs and courses that offer more than just golf are the ones that will continue to be successful. He said that the courses that cater to the entire family, having activities for children, spas, weddings and catering services in addition to



PHOTO BY JENNIFER LESINSKI/THE CONNECTION

**A vehicle blocks access to the parking lot of The Presidential.**

the golf gives a major advantage to the club.

“You can't make it on golf alone anymore,” Barks said. “With the lifestyle changes, there is less travel, so the idea of club membership fits well. People think that clubs are for the upper class, but they are not.”

**BARKS ALSO ATTRIBUTES** the slowdown to a glut in the market. He noted that there was a massive building boom in the industry in the '90s, especially when Tiger Woods rose to prominence, making many people pick up the game. Barks said that Northern Virginia was one of these oversaturated markets and is suffering now partially due to the boom.

When asked about the Presidential's situation, Barks said that the owners proceeded with a poor business strategy. He felt that its lack of diversity for the family doomed it from the start.

“Building the entire strategy around [the corporate-members-only policy] was not a good idea,” Barks said. “You need to be all things to all people.”

As for any companies or individuals with aspirations of constructing new courses currently, Barks would strongly advise against it. With people spending less money and too many courses operating already, Barks has a simple message: “Do not try to build right now. It is not a wise path to travel.”

## Marketing Student Launches Own Business

FROM PAGE 3

Besides going out and soliciting businesses to use his service, Snow has also created the site, incorporated his business into a Limited Liability Company, registered his business name, wrote the articles of incorporation and is seeking his home-based business license, after which he will contact the IRS to get his tax identification number, get insurance and open a bank account — all on his own. Whenever he has questions, he contacts the Loudoun County Small Business Development Center in Sterling or seeks the advice of Daley.

“It's an eight- to 10-step process. I thought it would be harder,” Snow said of the formalities of creating a business. “It's a lot of paperwork.”

As of the end of September, Snow featured 18 businesses on his site ranging from a number of restaurants to recreation to services in the Ashburn, Broadlands, Leesburg and Sterling area.

“The future goal is to do individual advertising for each business,” Snow said. “I want to learn to build relationships.”

**ULTIMATELY, SNOW** would like to charge for his service and split the profits between the business and the DECA program at school. So far, Snow is signing up clients for free, but hopes to start charging a nominal fee.

“One of the things we've talked about is finding a way to see how much those things are actually being used. For instance at Smoothie King, if they are getting the coupons back ... maybe it's worth charging for the value they are getting,” Daley said. “I think he can find the right formula to charge the customers. The right price for this could work.”

Despite the current economic climate, Lepp agrees: “We are in very tough economic times and I think any slight advantage you have or can get by getting your name out is positive. His rates are very reasonable and as I said, I believe in what he does and he wants to see it succeed.”

Lepp does admit that he thinks Snow faces an “uphill battle” given the poor economy and amount of competition, but thinks if the Web site continues to evolve

and continues to set itself apart from everyone else the teenager will accomplish his goals. “To his benefit, he is young and resourceful,” Lepp said. “It's going to be hard for small businesses to part with their marketing money. He knows he has to work extra hard to see that money.”

**ONE OF HIS** plans is to use follow DECA members to blanket the area with flyers to get the word out and solicit new customers. He has even approached Daley about trying to create a joint venture with other DECA programs at neighboring schools. Daley isn't sure how to go about creating a partnership with the other programs, as it has never been tried before.

For that matter, as far as she knows, no one has ever created an actual business before. Typically, DECA projects are theoretical. Students work on the their business plans and work out all the other aspects and variables of running a business then submit a 30-page paper to the state DECA association as a yearly competition. Snow's challenge, Daley said, will be to convey that

this is an actual working business not some hypothetical situation.

“I'm not sure if we have thought through how to get all these schools engaged in it,” Daley said. “We all do work together, so many students are friends. I think it is something that could work. It's just a question of working out the details.”

Besides working on becoming an entrepreneur — ultimately Snow sees himself as first owning a franchise business then opening his own restaurant — he is active at school and with his friends. He played varsity football last year and plans to play basketball, which he has been playing since second grade, this upcoming season and continues to work shifts at Smoothie King while also visiting businesses on weekends and updating the Web site on a regular basis. He hopes to attend George Mason University, but is considering schools such as Virginia Tech, Radford, University of South Carolina and University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

“I plan on majoring in business, that's why I really want to go to GMU,” Snow said.

## Students at Briar Woods High Never in Any Harm

FROM PAGE 3

The rumors continued throughout the day and about 100 students were taken home by their parents, Byard said.

“It came about once the students were in their classrooms. It was isolated until today,” Byard said Monday afternoon. “Then it took off today.”

The school system alerted parents through both electronic and verbal messages, he said.

“There was never a threat to Briar

Woods,” Byard said. “It was a normal day on campus safety wise.”

Byrd said he did not know the nature of the threat.

# BULLETIN BOARD

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 8

**LEAP MEETING.** 7:30 p.m., at the Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building, 12000 Education Court, Ashburn. Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents (LEAP) monthly meeting; topic: "The Numbers Don't Lie — But Do They Tell Us All We Need To Know?" Learn about the budget process from a forum of participants from Loudoun County government and LCPS. Members of the community are welcome to attend. E-mail: Leap.news@gmail.com or visit the LEAP Web site, www.loudoun.k12.va.us, go to Parents section and look for LEAP.

**SUPPORT GROUP.** 7:30 p.m., at Arcola United Methodist Church, White Chapel, 24757 Evergreen Mills Road, Sterling. Watching your Wallet, a financial support group, for people who make good money but never have any to spend. Subjects include spending personalities, teenage budgeting and money compromises. R.S.V.P. Julie at 703-406-2727 or e-mail jacooper@profitprofler.com.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 9

**BOOK CLUB.** 7 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road. Middle-school book group, includes a book discussion and refreshments. October: "The Black Duck" by Janet Taylor Lisle. Call 703-737-8100.

**BOOK CLUB.** 10 a.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St. Adult book club, "Nothing But the Truth" by Avi. Call 703-430-9500.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 10

**CHILDREN'S FLU CLINIC.** 4-8 p.m.,

Inova Loudoun Medical Center Leesburg campus, 224 Cornwall St., on board the Mobile Unit, adjacent to South Lobby. Cost: \$25 per person for flu shots, \$45 for pneumonia shot. Call 703-771-2907.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 11

**CLUB ANNIVERSARY.** 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 46639 Algonkian Parkway, Potomac Falls. The Cunningham Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are having its 10th anniversary party. Includes three-entrée dinner, Irish step-dancing and souvenir pint glass with unlimited refills of Guinness, Harp or wine. Cost: \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Call Ned Woisard at 703-724-0524.

**CLUB BANQUET.** Holiday Inn, Sterling. The Loudoun County Branch NAACP will be celebrating its Annual Freedom Fund banquet, Building a Stronger Community through Educational Development. For more information, e-mail naacp@loudoun.net.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 14

**BOOK CLUB.** 4 p.m., at Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Tween book club for ages 8-11. The selection is spooky stories. Call 703-444-3228.

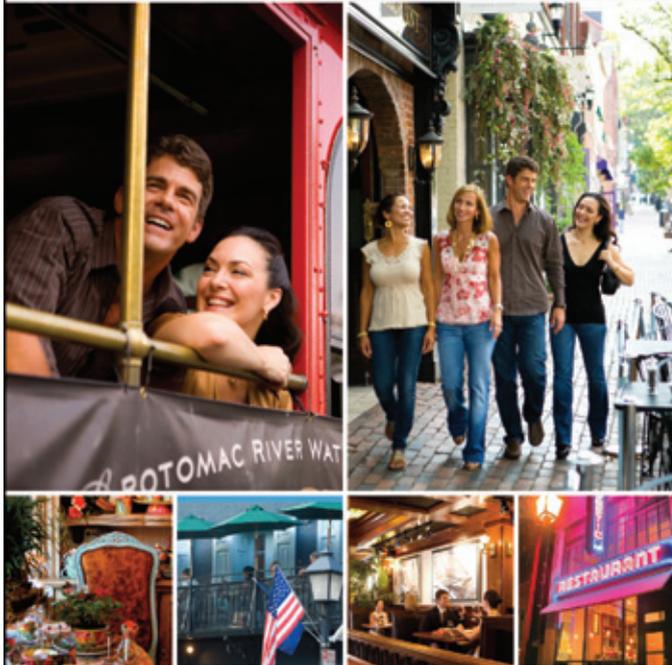
**FLU CLINIC.** 4-8 p.m., the Nature Center, 21907 Claiborne Parkway, Broadlands. Flu shot clinic for adults. Cost: \$25 per person for flu shots, \$45 for pneumonia shot. Seniors with a valid Medicare card can receive a flu shot for free. Pneumonia shot will be offered to seniors and those with chronic diseases. Call the Inova Mobile Health Services hotline at 703-771-2907.

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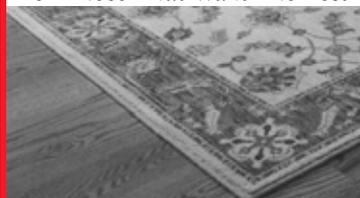
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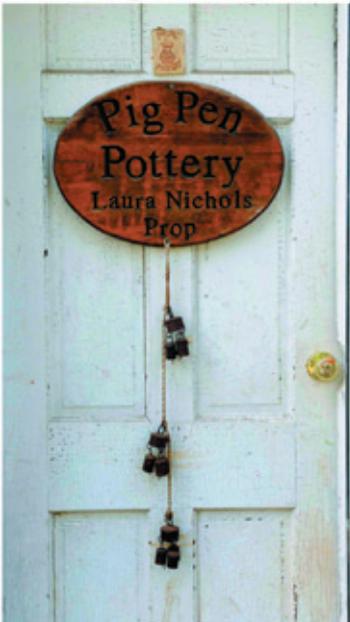


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◆ More than 75 of them are creating art in home-based studios. On October 18 and 19, between the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 pm, a talented collection of painters, sculptors, quilters, photographers, potters, jewelry makers, computer gurus and paper magicians will open their doors to you for the Fifth Annual Great Falls Art Studios Tour.

◆ This year, the tour will feature 15 art studios and four exhibit venues. Some are located in artists' residences, others are in historic properties, barns and funky outbuildings on scenic back roads.

◆ The Great Falls Art Studios Tour is free. It's self-guided. And it's fun for the whole family.

For complete details, including a directory and map, visit [www.GreatFallsStudios.com](http://www.GreatFallsStudios.com).

The Great Falls Studios Tour will be held on October 18 and 19, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Blue balloons and signs will mark all venues.

**Great Falls STUDIOS**

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



# OPINION

## Refunding Fees

To the Editor:

I would like Virginia citizens to know that they may be eligible for a refund for the illegally collected taxes that they might have paid to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) in January and February of 2008.

A Virginia Supreme Court ruling earlier this year declared the taxing authority given to the NVTA unconstitutional because its members are not elected to their positions in that body. Unfortunately, the NVTA had already instituted and was collecting taxes prior to this ruling being handed down. Therefore, the Department of the Treasury is issuing refunds to anyone who rented a car, stayed in a hotel, had a vehicle inspected or had labor charges on a car repair during the months of January and February 2008. Those who have receipts for these charges can file a form available on the Department of the Treasury Web site at <http://www.trs.virginia.gov/> and they should receive a refund.

I would like my constituents to know that I voted against the legislation giving the NVTA this authority and I was the lead plaintiff in the case that caused the Su-

preme Court to overturn the law allowing this. I will continue to stand firm against tax increases for my constituents and all Northern Virginians.

**Del. Bob Marshall (R-13)**  
Va. House of Delegates

## Prioritize Needs

To the Editor:

It has already been pointed out how the proposed meals tax would hurt Loudoun families and damage our hospitality industry. What has not been discussed is how dedicated funding schemes, such as the proposed meals tax, contribute to poor governance. Proponents of the tax point out that the revenue is pledged to education. At first glance, that seems to be a great idea — a source of taxes that will support education without competition

from other community needs. That lack of competition is exactly the problem. Our supervisors are being paid to prioritize the competing community needs and then to allocate limited tax revenues to insure that the most essential needs are met, while lesser needs, or even luxuries, are either funded at a lower level or not funded at all. "Dedicating" a specific tax to education short-circuits the budgetary process and does

not ensure that our taxes are wisely spent on our most important needs. Things change over time. While school construction may rightly be our highest priority need this year, that may not be the case five years from now.

Additionally, a "dedicated" revenue stream that a specific program develops a dependency on can change. Consider the gas tax, dedicated to transportation. While the gas tax created surpluses decades ago, it can't even cover projected maintenance costs now. Nevertheless, some politicians in Richmond insist that they cannot spend money from the state's general revenue on transportation, and that, if more money is to be spent on roads,

the gas tax will have to be raised. They claim this despite the gridlock that has afflicted Northern Virginia for years. The "dedicated" aspect of the gas tax allows them to abdicate their responsibilities to Virginians and fund their pet projects instead of state needs.

The current board should not attempt to tie the hands of future boards by "dedicating" specific revenues, such as the meals tax, to a specific program. This is simply a cynical method of using education to make the passage of a brand new tax more politically palatable. Voters should say No! to the meals tax on its merits, and

contact their supervisors to insist that all our spending go through a proper budgeting process based on prioritized needs.

**Patricia Phillips**  
Sterling

## Where's Warner?

To the Editor:

Some years ago, the "Where's Waldo" book series was all the craze. This year, we are being treated to a new phenomenon: "Where's Warner?"

In the midst of the most serious economic crisis in a generation, Mark Warner has turned into the invisible candidate. He won't agree to a statewide televised debate with Jim Gilmore and has hardly been heard from in public lately. And no wonder.

What Virginians would support him in a time of financial turmoil if they knew his true positions on raising taxes on small businesses, offshore drilling and forced unionization?

Mark Warner can run — but he can't hide from his record as a tax hiker, opponent of common-sense energy solutions and friend of out-of-touch Wall-Street financiers or power-hungry union bosses.

**Eve Marie Barner**  
Brambleton

## COMMUNITY 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](mailto:loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call 703-917-6454.

The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling, will be open for **absentee voting** Monday-Friday, **Oct. 20-24** and **Oct. 27-31**, from 5-8 p.m.; Saturdays, **Oct. 25** and **Nov. 1**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The **Loudoun Convention & Visitors Association** has launched their redesigned and revamped consumer Web site, [www.VisitLoudoun.org](http://www.VisitLoudoun.org). The Web site is more user-friendly, easier to navigate and includes many features. In addition to new sections on Food & Wine, Heritage and Gatherings, 36 videos and three color online guides, users are able to create their own visit around Loudoun and map it with Google maps.

State Farm Insurance is holding a **food drive** in **October** for the Blue

Ridge Area Food Bank Network in honor of National Hunger Action Month. Drop off nonperishable food items at any local State Farm office during regular business hours or donate food online by visiting [www.brafb.org](http://www.brafb.org) and clicking on the State Farm logo to participate.

The 2008/09 **Loudoun Farms Product Guide** is available. This guide helps consumers find local farm products and services throughout the growing season. Among the goods included are eggs, meats, flowers and plants, fruits and vegetables, wool products, soaps, herbs and grains. Visit [www.loudounfarms.org](http://www.loudounfarms.org) or to request a copy of the Product Guide call Loudoun County Department of Economic Development at 703-777-0426 or e-mail [info@LoudounFarms.org](mailto:info@LoudounFarms.org).

Loudoun County Public Libraries has added **OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks** to its downloadable media collection. OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks can be downloaded and transferred to devices including the iPod and iPhone. Valid library card required. Check out and download digital titles any time, anywhere by visiting [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

## Write Us

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor, The Connection  
7913 Westpark Drive ♦ McLean, VA 22102  
Call: 703-917-6444. ♦ By fax: 703-917-0991.  
By e-mail: [loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com)



**Snapshot** Dominic Fornatora, 7, of Ashburn Farm, getting ready for fall and Halloween. He has just picked the largest pumpkin from his backyard pumpkin patch.

## THE CONNECTION

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To place an advertisement, call the ad department between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦

## ONGOING EVENTS

Send ongoing 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](mailto:loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call 703-917-6454.

All Loudoun County public libraries are accepting entries, **through Oct. 10**, for a **film competition**: Book Trailers. Teens can pick up an entry form and borrow a "FLIP" camera in the library to make a mini commercial about a book. Prizes will be awarded and the winning book trailer will be posted to the library's Web site during Teen Read Week, October 12-18. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

2009 WrestleMania **Reading Challenge, Oct. 12-Jan. 12**, Ashburn, Cascades and Sterling libraries. Teens and tweens read 10 books and create a bookmark for a chance to win prizes from WWE in the 2009 WrestleMania Reading Challenge. Could win a trip to Houston for WrestleMania 25. Contact a participating library for more information or visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

**Big Apple Circus, through Oct. 13**, at Dulles Town Center, intersection of routes 7 and 28, Dulles.

Performance times vary. This circus features one ring with no seat more than 50 feet away. This year's show features acrobatic ballerinas, trapeze artists, the world's fastest fashion show, stylish Italian dogs and much more. Cost: \$18-\$52 per person. Call 703-828-9014 or visit <http://www.bigapplecircus.org>.

**Oatlands' teas** return this fall with autumn teas **Oct. 17-19** and fall teas **Nov. 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 and 28-30**. Seatings are at 1 p.m. and the cost is \$24.95, plus tax. Teas are held in the Oatlands Carriage House. Reservations are required.

The mansion and gardens are open for fall tours. The mansion is open for touring, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., from Mondays-Saturdays, and 1-4 p.m. on Sundays. House tours are conducted on the hour; cost is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$7 for students and free for children age 5 and younger.

Oatlands is located six miles south of Leesburg on US Route 15. Call 703-777-3174 or visit [www.oatlands.org](http://www.oatlands.org).

**Teen Reading Buddies Story Time**, Tuesday, **Oct. 21**, 4:30 p.m., Rust Library at 34D Catocin Circle, Leesburg. One-on-one reading time for children as they buddy up with teen volunteers who will read picture books to them. Recommended for ages 3-6.

**Teen Reading Buddies Story Time**, Mondays, **through Oct. 27**, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. One-on-one reading time for children as they buddy up with teen volunteers who will read picture books to them. Recommended for ages 3-6. Closed Oct. 13.

**Leesburg Farmers Market**, Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon, at Virginia Village Shopping Center on Catocin Circle, S.E., Leesburg. Runs **through Oct. 25**. Visit [www.loudounfarmersmarkets.org](http://www.loudounfarmersmarkets.org)/Leesburg.

## STAGE

# Dominion High Stages 'Little Women'

Play based on Louisa May Alcott's novel revolving around family life during Civil War.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**D**rama season is here and local high schools are rehearsing for their fall productions. Dominion High School will be staging Louisa May Alcott's classic, "Little Women" as its fall production. Show times are Thursday, Oct. 23 through Saturday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m., with a Sunday, Oct. 26 matinee at 3 p.m. Cost is \$7.

**DRAMA INSTRUCTOR** Amy Young, formerly of the Capitol Steps, is directing the cast of 14 in a play about a Civil War family. "I wanted to use a classic story appropriate for all ages to convey the strength of family ties through tragedies and joys," Young said. The play is a period piece that enables the actors to use "stylized acting" while emphasizing characteristics that we associate with contemporary women and families.

She said, "That's the nutshell. Family gets you through tough times. You share your tears and laughter."

The challenge in directing her first Dominion production is that one person has to coordinate the many aspects that go into

SEE DOMINION, PAGE 11

### To Go

Show times are Thursday, Oct. 23 through Saturday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m., with a Sunday, Oct. 26 matinee at 3 p.m. Cost is \$7. Dominion High is at 21326 Augusta Drive, Sterling.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The cast of "Little Women" are, center seated, Aunt March, played by Lyla Byers; bottom left, Amy, played by Lauren Maxwell; bottom right, Beth, played by Rachel Weber; top left, Meg, played by Julia Germain; behind chair, Marmee, played by Morgen Leek; on arm of the chair on right, Jo, played by Fiona Ritchey.

## ALSO PLAYING

### Briar Woods High School

"The 12 Dancing Princesses"  
Show dates: Nov. 13, 14, 15 and 21 at 7 p.m.  
Special Performance Nov. 22 at 2 p.m.  
Calling all little princesses — come in your finest princess dresses to meet and take pictures with the 12 Dancing Princesses after the show.  
Tickets: Adults: \$7, students: \$5.  
Script by Claudia Haas, adapted by Marilyn Gilligan. Loosely based on the Grimm Brother's folktale, "The Twelve Dancing Princesses."

Synopsis: King Oakley returns from a summit meeting to find that conditions in his castle have grown lax. With the assistance of his new diabolical servant, Fiorello, King Oakley devises a strict regimen for his daughters and no longer lets them leave the castle grounds. In an effort to break from these harsh rules, the princesses fall prey to the desires of the king's faithful servant — Fiorello — who means to claim the castle as his own. Thrown in the mix is a gardener and a magical nanny, Fern. Castle-on-Whisperwood-Lake is turned into a place of longing and wishes for the princesses as they journey to the Land of the Muses where they hope to have their dreams come true.

### Broad Run High School

"Radium Girls" will be performed at Broad Run High School, Nov. 13, 14 and 15, at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 16, at 2 p.m.  
Call 571-252-2305.

Synopsis: Comedy/drama by D.W. Gregory. Inspired by a true story, "Radium Girls" traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. Her chief adversary is her former employer, Arthur Roeder, an idealistic man who cannot bring himself to believe that the same element that shrinks tumors could have anything to do with the terrifying rash of illnesses among his employees. As the case goes on, however, Grace finds herself battling not just with the U.S. Radium Corporation, but with her own family and friends, who fear that her campaign for justice will backfire.

### Stone Bridge High School

"You Can't Take It With You" by Kaufman and Hart will be performed Nov. 13-15, at 7:30 p.m.

Synopsis: The Vandefhof family have lived in the same Victorian brownstone for decades, under the cover of "Grandpa," who dropped out of the stock market 30 years before and has since encouraged his brood to follow their eccentric hearts wherever they lead. Round-the-clock, this cracked menagerie enjoy their accordions, ballet moves, Theramin tunes, fireworks designs, melodrama scripts, homemade candies, abstract masks and erector sets. Until their youngest member Alice invites the family of her soon-to-be-fiance over. When the fateful dinner comes a little early, the fireworks fly and when the Justice Department's G-men get involved, the whole mess goes from the frying pan into an even bigger frying pan. In Stone Bridge's production, the house itself becomes a character, having been modified by Grandpa to be as cock-eyed as the people who live there.

# CALENDAR

Send events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to [loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 8

**TEDDY BEAR PARTY.** 4 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Bring a favorite teddy to a party at the library. Ages 3-6. Registration begins two weeks before the program. Sign up at [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov) or 703-737-8100.

**HALLOWEEN SUPREME.** 4-5 p.m., Claude Moore Community Center, 46111 Loudoun Park Lane, Sterling. Ages 4 and up. Includes Halloween fun. Cost: \$9, with all supplies included. Preregistration required, call 571-258-3500.

**RUST RAMBLES.** 10-11:30 a.m., Rust Nature Sanctuary, 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg. Spend a morning meandering through the meadows, forests and wetlands with a naturalist. Adults and older children. Free.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 9

**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: \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers, includes transportation and \$5 cash back, subject to change. Minimum walking. Call 703-430-2397 for departure and return times and locations.

**TREE-RIFFIC FALL.** 9:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-2 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 3-6. Explore the beautiful leaves, nuts and seeds and animals getting ready for winter in the forests. Cost: \$10.50. Call 571-258-3700.

**FIRE SAFETY.** 4 p.m., Rust Library, 34D Catocin Circle, Leesburg. In recognition of Fire Safety Week, two firefighters will talk about fire safety and show what they wear when fighting fires. Ages 3 and up. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

**BOOK SIGNING.** 6-8 p.m., Oatlands, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg. The Journey Through Hallowed Ground and Oatlands host a talk and signing by National Geographic photographer Kenneth Garrett on the newly published book, "Journey Through Hallowed Ground: Birthplace of the American Ideal." Free and open to the public, but RSVP by Oct. 2 to Jaime McClung at 540-882-4929 or [jaime@jthg.org](mailto:jaime@jthg.org).

## THE ARTS

Send events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to [The Loudoun Connection, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102](mailto:The Loudoun Connection, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102) or e-mail [loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

The **Chorus of the Old Dominion** is recruiting male singers for its Holiday Chorus, which performs at holiday-season events countywide. The first chorus rehearsals are 7:30 p.m., at United Methodist Church in Leesburg, Thursdays, **Oct. 9 and Oct. 23**; and Wednesdays, **Oct. 15 and Oct. 29**. Audio learning tracks are posted on the group's Web site, [www.odchorus.org](http://www.odchorus.org). Contact Dick Smull, 540-338-1201 or e-mail [info@odchorus.org](mailto:info@odchorus.org).

**FROGSHACKLE OPEN HOUSE.** 2:30-3:30 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. All ages can discover a treasure trove of objects from nature. Free; no registration required. Call 571-258-3700.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 10

**TEEN CENTER.** 7-10 p.m., After-Hours Teen Center, Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Features art night. 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> go to Teen Scene, Events, Hanging Out Rocks. For middle schoolers.

**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.

**BABYPACKING.** 9:30-10:15 a.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Walk outdoors with your baby as a naturalist leads the group on a nature adventure. No unregistered siblings. Cost: \$5.25 per child. Call 571-258-3700.

**NATURE BUDDIES.** 10:45-11:30 a.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Toddlers explore nature with an adult. Discover the trees, birds and ponds of the park relating while focusing on a tree theme. No unregistered siblings. Cost: \$5.25 per child. Call 571-258-3700.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 11

**COLUMBUS DAY PARADE.** 10 a.m., Sterling Park. 27th annual Columbus Day parade staged by the Good Samaritan Council 6175, Knights of Columbus. Participation open the community including bike riders, marching bands or other musical groups, organizations, antique cars, military units, youth groups, floats, athletic leagues and school groups. Parade begins at Park View High School and travels down Laurel Avenue to Sterling Boulevard to

The Loudoun Campus of Northern Virginia Community College will host an exhibit of mixed media prints and drawings by **Elzbieta Sikorska** of Silver Spring, Md., **through Oct. 17**, in Waddell Art Gallery. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The campus is located at 1000 Harry Flood Byrd Highway in Sterling and the gallery is open 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Mondays-Fridays.

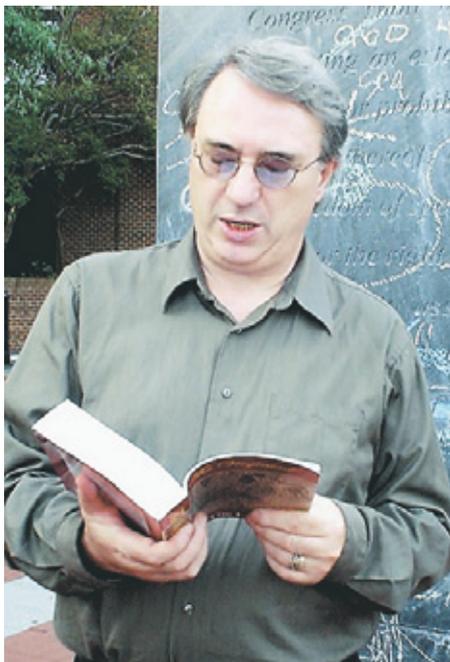
Dominion High School will be presenting "**Little Women**," **Oct. 23-25**, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, **Oct. 26**, at 3 p.m., at the school, 21326 Augusta Drive, Sterling.

Based on Louisa May Alcott's novel about a family of women who experience the challenges of coming of age in Civil War-era New England. Tickets are \$7.

The **Loudoun Symphony** opens its

Holly Avenue and ends at the Knights of Columbus Barn. Includes refreshments for participants at the barn. Contact Steve Rogers, 571-333-7787 or Don Harris, 703-729-3340.

**FALL FESTIVAL.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Waterford. Joshua's Hands' annual festival. Includes food, children's crafts, games, pony rides, lunch and



**Tim Lewis will read from his book "The Virginiad," Oct. 18, at the Loudoun Museum**

auction. Free, auction benefits the nonprofit Joshua's Hands. Visit [www.JoshuasHands.org](http://www.JoshuasHands.org) or call 540-540-7827.

**CANCER WALK.** 5:30 p.m., Ida Lee Park, 60 Ida Lee Drive, N.W., Leesburg. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's National Capital Area Chapter's Light the Night Walk to raise money to help cure blood cancers. Cost: \$25 participant donation is recommended. Call 703-960-1100 or visit [www.lighthenight.org/nca](http://www.lighthenight.org/nca).

**TREASURES SALE.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Cascades Village Seniors, 46565 Harry Byrd Highway. Yard and craft sale featuring handmade items, floral arrangements, jewelry, candles and more.

**FOLK-ROCK CONCERT.** 5-7 p.m., Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. The Jim & Ashley Cash Band of Potomac Falls will perform at the second annual Moon on the River Concert. Bring blankets, flashlights, food and bug spray. Cost:

\$10, on sale at 4 p.m. on the day of the show.

**JOUSTING CHAMPIONSHIPS.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mt. Zion Old School Baptist Church, 40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. Includes jousts from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania charging down an 80-yard track and trying to lance rings of varying sizes. Bring chairs, no seating available. Free. Rain date Oct. 12. Visit [www.nationaljousting.com](http://www.nationaljousting.com).

**STERLINGFEST.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Activities for all ages. Visit [www.sterlingfoundation.org](http://www.sterlingfoundation.org) or call 703-430-9480. Rain date Oct. 12.

**STEEPLECHASE RACES.** 11 a.m. gates open, 1 p.m. races start, Morven Park International Equestrian Center, 41793 Tutt Lane, Leesburg. Include steeplechase races, Family Fun Fair with activities and treats. Cost: advance general admission \$30 per car; race day general admission \$10 per person. Call 703-777-2414.

**BIRDING BANSHEE.** 8 a.m., Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, between The Woods Road and Goose Creek. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for the monthly bird walk. Bring binoculars. Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org).

**OPEN HOUSE.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad, 104 East Commerce Street, Sterling. Includes activities and demonstrations and more. Contact [www.sterlingrescue.com](http://www.sterlingrescue.com).

**COFFEEHOUSE SERIES.** 8 p.m., Unitarian Church of Loudoun, 20460 Gledesville Road, Leesburg. Larry Burnett, founding member of '70s acoustic pop-rock group Firefall will play the Shenandoah Coffeehouse Series. Bring a favorite coffee mug; coffee and other refreshments provided by the event hosts. Cost: \$12. Visit [www.shenandoahacoustics.com](http://www.shenandoahacoustics.com).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 12

**PLANT EXCHANGE.** 2 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. 15th annual Fall Seed and Plant Exchange, bring extra seeds, bulbs, plants and cuttings to exchange. Call 703-430-2136.

**POKER RIDE.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Morven Park International Equestrian Center, 41793 Tutt Lane, Leesburg. Tri-State Riding Club is sponsoring its second annual fun Poker Ride. 50 percent of the registration fees go to Morven Park International Equestrian Center in support of its horse facilities. Participants have up to four hours to

offers a sampling of images depicting Loudoun's precious rural ecology and heritage.

The exhibit also offers a glimpse into such efforts as ecological stewardship, historic preservation and restoration, and sustaining a rural economy.

The exhibit is on the first floor in Gallery One and is open to the public during business hours of the government center.

Jim Hanna's photography exhibit, "**North by Northwest**," in Gallery 222, at 222 South King St. in Leesburg. This special exhibit, on display **through Nov. 1**, showcases a series of rural Loudoun scenes.

Gallery 222 is open Mondays-Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and by appointment.

Visit [www.gallery222.com](http://www.gallery222.com) or call 703-777-5498.

ride their own horse through well-marked trails while playing a game of five-card draw poker by collecting cards. Cost: \$30 per horse in advance, \$35 day of the event. Registration form and waiver found at <http://www.milesofsmilestraining.com/SignUp08.pdf>. Call 540-882-3697 or e-mail [nagridr@hotmail.com](mailto:nagridr@hotmail.com).

**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](http://www.morvenpark.org) or call 703-777-6034.

**CANOE AND WINE TOUR.** 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Tarara Vineyard and Winery, 13648 Tarara Lane, Leesburg. Go on a four-and-half-to seven-mile canoe paddle and finish with a wine and cheese tasting. Cost: \$95 per person, \$85 per under 21. Call 703-771-7100 or visit [www.tarara.com](http://www.tarara.com) for tickets.

**DOG DAYS.** Noon-4 p.m., downtown Leesburg. Includes vendors, information booths, dog cooling stations, demonstrations and contests. To enter contests, mail appropriate photos to The Old Country Peddler, 3 North King St., Leesburg, VA 20176. Visit [www.meetmedowntown.org](http://www.meetmedowntown.org).

## MONDAY/OCT. 13

**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 Oct. 10 item for details.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 14

**MAD SCIENTISTS' CLUB.** 7 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Explore scientific topics through recreational and informational activities. Ages 8-11. October: It's a Zoo in Here. Register online at <http://library.loudoun.gov> or phone 703-737-8100.

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 15

**GOLF FUND-RAISER.** 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., at Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club, 41601 Raspberry Drive, Leesburg. The Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association Foundation is hosting a charity auction and golf classic fund-raiser. Day includes golf tourney and clinic, silent and live auction and a dinner. Call Wendy Ferrigno at 703-771-2170, Ext. 24.



**Cellist Stephen Framil will perform with the Loudoun Symphony Concert, Oct. 25-26.**

## STAGE

# Dominion Kicks Off Season

FROM PAGE 9

it — both technical and presentational — publicity, design, building sets, costumes and lighting.

What's rewarding about the job, she said is the students — "Their hearts are in it so they commit their time, talent and efforts and that's what's most rewarding as I watch them grow."

Fiona Ritchey, 18, of Lowes Island, plays the lead role of Jo March, an aspiring writer who

March, the oldest sister ("The romantic one ... she's ready for love.") Julia enjoys the chemistry she has with the other sisters. "That makes it the best," she said, calling her character the one who takes care of everybody.

Rachel Weber, 15, a sophomore from Lowes Island, read the book first to get a "palette" to paint her character and prepare for the role. She plays Beth March who ends up dying. Her character is an introvert and shy — traits that she doesn't share in real life. "Also, half of the play I'm sick, so I have to channel how it feels to be sick."

Lyla Byers, 16, of Lowes Island, plays the wealthy and sophisticated Aunt Marge, who has a "rough connection" with Jo. She said it helped when the director assigned them to write autobiographies to explore their characters. She

loves Jo, but their personalities clash. "We're both extremely stubborn; we yell over each other all the time." She said the challenge in playing mean is that she has to be "edgy."

**NAZIM BENARBANE**, 16, a junior from Sugarland, plays John Brook, who falls in love with Meg. He describes his character as passionate and very complex. "He's a man of a few words ... who's very duty-oriented," Benarbane said. "He's very interested in the customs of the time."

James Russell, 15, of Lowes Island, wears a beard and plays the role of the father, Mr. March, who gets shot and wounded in the war. "He loves his daughters very much," Russell said. "He definitely wishes that he'll be able to see them grow up even though he's gone."

He said it's more of a challenge acting in a smaller cast as opposed to a large musical with lots of extras because he gets to explore the character more.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The cast of Dominion's "Little Women" share a light-hearted moment at rehearsal.

**"Family gets you through tough times. You share your tears and laughter."**

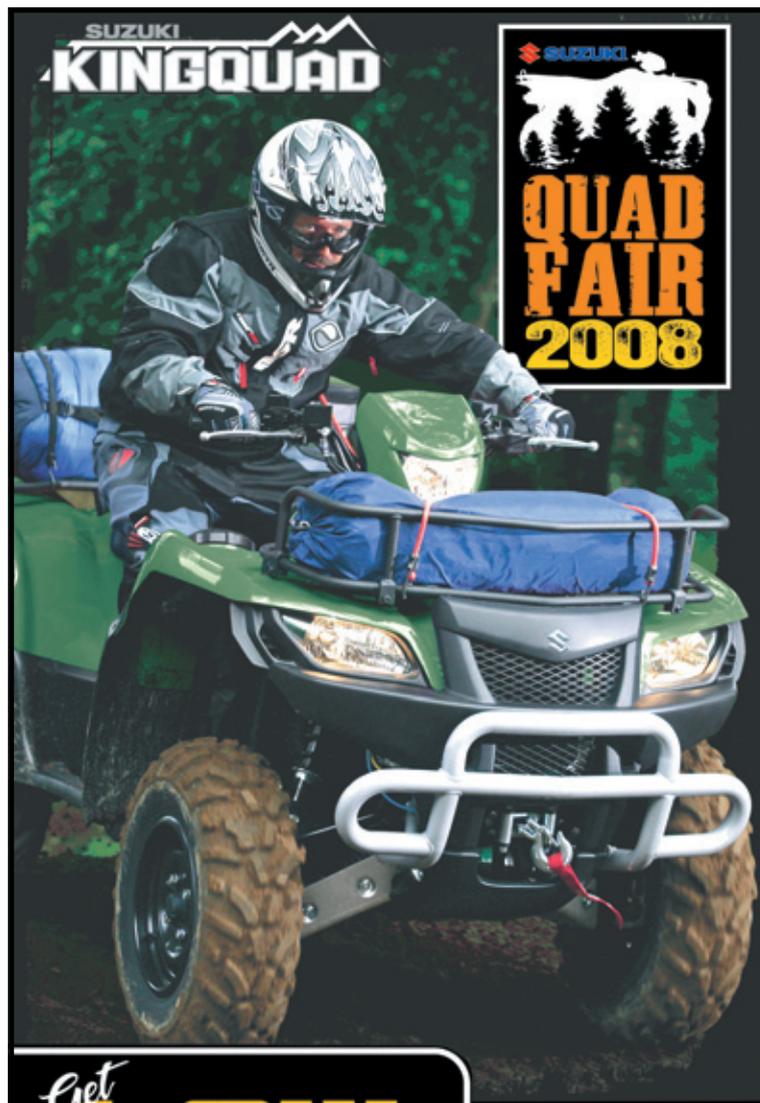
— Amy Young, director

pens a book and narrates the play between scenes. Her character is outspoken and boyish, she said. "She's very similar to myself. So sometimes it's hard to separate Fiona from Jo." A senior, this is Ritchey's 10th play.

Lauren Maxwell, 17, of Lowes Island, plays Amy March, the youngest sister who evolves from age 12 into a married woman. "At the beginning I'm selfish; I have a hard time grasping reality," she said. "As the play goes on, I become a lot more caring for my family towards the end of the production. I kind of learn how to love them and myself." This is her 10th play as well.

She adds, "I think just learning who I was as a person helps so much in helping me understand why I'm saying the things I'm saying."

**ACTING IN HER** first play, Julia Germain, 16, a junior from Lowes Island, plays Meg



## 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.

Friday Night Date Night, **Oct. 10**, 6:30-9 p.m., **Willowcroft Farm Vineyards**, 38906 Mt. Gilead Road, Leesburg. Watch James Bond flick "Dr. No" and have dinner catered by Tuscarora Mill Restaurant. Reservations are required. Cost: \$50 per person. Call 703-777-8161 or visit [www.willowcroftwine.com](http://www.willowcroftwine.com).

**Wine country bus tours** at Tarara Winery and Hidden Brook Winery, Saturday, **Oct. 11**, pick-up and drop-off times vary, visit Web site for details. The Washington Wine Academy and Reston Limousine offer winery tours. Cost: \$35 per person, \$50 per person with lunch. Call 703-478-0500, Ext. 1 or visit [www.washingtonwineacademy.org/wine-tours.htm#Tour1](http://www.washingtonwineacademy.org/wine-tours.htm#Tour1).

**Wine country bus tours** at Corcoran Vineyards and Willowcroft Farm Vineyards, Sunday, **Oct. 12**, pick-up and drop-off times vary, visit

Web site for details. The Washington Wine Academy and Reston Limousine offer winery tours. Cost: \$35 per person, \$50 per person with lunch. Call 703-478-0500, Ext. 1 or visit [www.washingtonwineacademy.org/wine-tours.htm#Tour1](http://www.washingtonwineacademy.org/wine-tours.htm#Tour1).

**Tarara Winery**, 13648 Tarara Lane, Leesburg, and Loudoun Valley Sheep Producers offer Shear Bliss, **Oct. 18-19**, at the winery. Includes local food, including lamb sausage sandwiches, Tarara wines, crafts, wool crafting demonstrations and live music. Times: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. wine tasting and live music; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. wool shearing demonstration. There are fees for wine tasting and food. Visit [www.tarara.com](http://www.tarara.com) or call 703-771-7100.

**Wine country bus tours** at Swedenburg Estate Vineyard and Winery at LaGrange, Saturday, **Oct. 18**, pick-up and drop-off times vary, visit Web site for details. The Washington Wine Academy and Reston Limousine offer winery tours. Cost: \$35 per person, \$50 per person with lunch. Call 703-478-0500, Ext. 1 or visit [www.washingtonwineacademy.org/wine-tours.htm#Tour1](http://www.washingtonwineacademy.org/wine-tours.htm#Tour1).

**Wine country bus tours** at Chrysalis Vineyards and Piedmont Vineyards, Sunday, **Oct. 19**, pick-up and drop-off times vary, visit Web site for

details. The Washington Wine Academy and Reston Limousine offer winery tours. Cost: \$35 per person, \$50 per person with lunch. Call 703-478-0500, Ext. 1 or visit [www.washingtonwineacademy.org/wine-tours.htm#Tour1](http://www.washingtonwineacademy.org/wine-tours.htm#Tour1).

**"Wild Thing" mushroom and wine dinner**, Wednesday, **Oct. 22**, Tuscarora Mill Restaurant, 203 Harrison St., Leesburg, 7 p.m. Consists of five-course meal focused on assorted mushrooms and paired with wines. Cost: \$85 per person. Call 703-771-9300 or visit [www.tuskies.com](http://www.tuskies.com).

**Breaux Vineyards** holds its 11<sup>th</sup> annual harvest festival, Saturday, **Oct. 25**, which includes live music, hayrides, food, wine tasting and more, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., at Breaux Vineyards, 36888 Breaux Vineyards Lane, Purcellville. Advance tickets: \$13 for adults, \$8 for children under 6; at gate: \$15 and \$10. Call 800-492-9961 or visit [www.breauxvineyards.com](http://www.breauxvineyards.com).

**Octoberfest** at Willowcroft Farm Vineyards, Sunday, **Oct. 26**, 1-5 p.m., 38906 Mt. Gilead Road, Leesburg. Includes a special tasting of German wines and light food. Visit [www.willowcroftwine.com](http://www.willowcroftwine.com) or call 703-777-8161.

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## FAITH

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](mailto:loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call 703-917-6454.

**Congregation Sha'are Shalom**, Loudoun County's Conservative synagogue, celebrates Yom Kippur (day of atonement) services beginning with Kol Nidrei (all vows) at 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, **Oct. 8**, and resume at 9 a.m., Thursday, **Oct. 9**. A break-the-fast will be held after the conclusion of Yom Kippur services around 7:20 p.m.,

Thursday. All services and events are held at Congregation Sha'are Shalom, 19357 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg. Nonmembers can reserve tickets by calling the synagogue at 703-737-6500 or by downloading the reservation forms at [www.sha-areshalom.org](http://www.sha-areshalom.org).

The 10:30 a.m. service, Sunday, **Oct. 12**, at the **Unitarian Universalists of Sterling** is "Forgiveness, That We May Live." The Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael invites everyone to consider how forgiveness is both a personal experience and a spiritual pursuit. The service will touch on the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur. UUS meets every Sunday, at 10:30 a.m., at the Sterling Oaks Commerce Center at 22135 Davis

Drive. Call 703-406-3068 or visit [uusterling.org](http://uusterling.org)

**Congregation Sha'are Shalom**, 19357 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg, will host a kosher festive dinner in its sukkah, Friday, **Oct. 17**, at 6:30 p.m. The sukkah is a temporary structure erected during the autumnal harvest festival of Sukkot (Feast of the Tabernacles). The sukkah represents the temporary dwellings that the children of Israel used on their Biblical sojourn from Egypt to the land of Israel. The cost for the dinner is \$8 for each adult and \$6 for each child. The maximum cost is \$25 for a family. All are welcome. Call Congregation Sha'are Shalom at 703-737-6500 or visit [www.sha-areshalom.org](http://www.sha-areshalom.org).

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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision
43577 PABLO CREEK CT	6	5	0	ASHBURN	\$1,184,550	Detached	0.54	BELMONT LAND BAY
19848 BETHPAGE CT	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$785,000	Detached	0.25	BELMONT COUNTRY CLUB
19315 SUMMIT ASH CT	5	5	1	LEESBURG	\$785,000	Detached	4.92	EVERGREEN
43793 RIVERPOINT DR	5	5	1	LEESBURG	\$764,718	Detached	0.21	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC
19138 STREAM CROSSING CT	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$725,000	Detached	0.23	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC
43252 HARPER MANOR CT	5	5	1	ASHBURN	\$696,337	Detached	0.47	LOUDOUN VALLEY ESTATES
18315 SEA ISLAND PL	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$680,000	Detached	0.30	RIVER CREEK
40199 BROWNS CREEK PL	5	3	1	LEESBURG	\$680,000	Detached	1.08	LONG MEADOW HAMLET
43021 FALLS OVERLOOK CT	4	4	2	LEESBURG	\$665,000	Detached	0.38	LAKES AT REDROCK
BRAEMOUNT CIRCLE	5	4	2	ASHBURN	\$635,000	Detached	0.00	WINDERMERE
43234 KATHLEEN ELIZABETH DR	6	4	1	ASHBURN	\$620,000	Detached	0.22	ALEXANDRAS GROVE AT BLMT
21394 ASHBURN RUN PL	5	3	1	ASHBURN	\$618,500	Detached	0.23	ASHBURN RUN
44048 RIVERPOINT DR	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$614,000	Detached	0.21	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC
43069 BATTERY POINT PL	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$599,900	Detached	0.21	POTOMAC STATION
22736 HIGHCREST CIR	4	4	1	ASHBURN	\$591,125	Detached	0.18	BRAMBLETON LAND BAY
20067 MUIRFIELD VILLAGE CT	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$590,000	Detached	0.23	BELMONT LAND BAY
707 BONNIE RIDGE DR NE	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$570,000	Detached	0.22	POTOMAC STATION
43629 HOPKINS MILL TER	4	4	1	LEESBURG	\$560,000	Patio Home	0.12	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC
22328 LOST BRANCH CIR	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$550,000	Detached	0.20	AMBERLEIGH ESTATES
1642 CHICKASAW PL NE	5	3	1	LEESBURG	\$550,000	Detached	0.27	EDWARDS LANDING
43194 ARBOR GREENE WAY	4	4	1	BROADLANDS	\$539,500	Detached	0.16	BROADLANDS SOUTH
18789 BIRDWOOD CT	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$538,000	Detached	0.23	POTOMAC STATION
112 PHILLIPS CT NW	5	3	1	LEESBURG	\$535,500	Detached	0.86	LEELAND HEIGHTS
42884 RIDGEWAY DR	4	2	1	BROADLANDS	\$535,000	Detached	0.37	BROADLANDS SOUTH
43333 WINTERSRUN CT	5	3	1	ASHBURN	\$505,000	Detached	0.18	ASHBURN FARM
43024 HEDGEAPPLE CT	4	4	1	ASHBURN	\$490,000	Detached	0.14	ASHBURN FARM
22901 NORTH BROWN SQ	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$477,845	Townhouse	0.10	LOUDOUN VALLEY ESTATES
111 MEADOW BROOK CT SW	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$459,000	Detached	0.22	GREENWAY FARM
43194 PARKERS RIDGE DR	4	2	1	LEESBURG	\$455,000	Detached	0.27	POTOMAC STATION
21288 HIDDEN POND PL	4	3	1	BROADLANDS	\$455,000	Detached	0.15	BROADLANDS
23439 SPICE BUSH TER	3	3	1	ASHBURN	\$449,990	Townhouse	0.00	BRAMBLETON
42882 REDFIELD ST	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$445,000	Detached	0.12	BELMONT GREENE
727 VERMILLION DR NE	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$440,000	Detached	0.23	POTOMAC STATION
202 SNOWDEN CT	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$430,000	Detached	0.24	STONEGATE
20272 ROSEDALE CT	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$421,900	Detached	0.16	ASHBURN VILLAGE
209 PERSHING AVE NW	4	4	0	LEESBURG	\$420,000	Detached	0.17	FAIRVIEW
19157 COMMONWEALTH TER	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$416,000	Townhouse	0.07	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC
42475 GREENSIDE DR	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$415,000	Townhouse	0.07	BRAMBLETON
21909 LARCHMONT WAY	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$410,000	Detached	0.14	BROADLANDS SOUTH
19344 GARDNER VIEW SQ	3	2	2	LEESBURG	\$409,000	Townhouse	0.00	LANSDOWNE TOWN CENTER
20358 FLUSHING MEADOWS CT	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$405,000	Detached	0.18	COURTS OF ASHBURN
20010 PRESIDENTS CUP TER	3	2	2	ASHBURN	\$397,500	Townhouse	0.07	BELMONT LAND BAY
20432 NEEDLELEAF WAY	4	2	1	ASHBURN	\$392,000	Detached	0.23	RIDGES AT ASHBURN
18542 PINEVIEW SQ	3	2	2	LEESBURG	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.08	SPRING LAKES
1203 CANNON CT NE	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$375,000	Detached	0.14	POTOMAC CROSSING
43989 LORDS VALLEY TER	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$371,000	Townhouse	0.04	ASHBURN VILLAGE
43017 DEARMONT TER	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$355,000	Townhouse	0.04	POTOMAC STATION
43981 KINGS ARMS SQ	3	2	2	ASHBURN	\$354,000	Townhouse	0.07	ASHBURN VILLAGE
42727 COOL BREEZE SQ	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$350,000	Townhouse	0.07	SPRING LAKES
18499 SIERRA SPRINGS SQ	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$350,000	Townhouse	0.07	SPRING LAKES
21195 VINELAND SQ	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$339,000	Townhouse	0.05	ASHBURN FARM
402 RUSERT DR SE	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$330,000	Townhouse	0.07	STRATFORD LAND BAY
21781 LADYSLIPPER SQ	3	3	1	ASHBURN	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.06	FAULKNER'S LANDING
18514 SIERRA SPRINGS SQ	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.05	SPRING LAKES
44475 CHAMBERLAIN TER #207	2	2	0	ASHBURN	\$320,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		K HOVNIANIAN FOUR SEASONS
43498 GREENWICH SQ	3	2	2	ASHBURN	\$319,000	Townhouse	0.04	ASHBRIER
905 STONEFIELD SQ	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.05	POTOMAC CROSSING
18774 TRIDENT SQ	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$307,000	Townhouse	0.04	POTOMAC STATION
536 LEGRACE TER	3	2	2	LEESBURG	\$305,000	Townhouse	0.04	POTOMAC STATION
20223 EDISTO SQ	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.05	ASHBROOK VILLAGE
1176 CAMBRIA TER NE	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.08	EDWARDS LANDING
44140 APPALACHIAN VISTA TER	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$297,500	Townhouse	0.06	ASHBURN VILLAGE
21011 KITTANNING LN	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$294,500	Townhouse	0.04	ASHBURN VILLAGE
21646 FRAME SQ	3	2	2	BROADLANDS	\$282,500	Townhouse	0.04	BROADLANDS
115 HAMPSHIRE SQ SW	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$276,000	Townhouse	0.05	GREENWAY FARM
43597 PLANTATION TER	3	3	1	ASHBURN	\$272,500	Townhouse	0.04	ASHBURN FARM
509 APPLE TREE DR NE	4	2	1	LEESBURG	\$271,000	Detached	0.28	CARRVALE
20459 QUIET WALK TER	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$268,000	Townhouse	0.03	ASHBURN VILLAGE
43057 CANDLEWICK SQ	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$265,000	Townhouse	0.03	POTOMAC STATION
43744 CALISTOGA SQ #31	3	2	1	ASHBURN	\$260,000	Townhouse		HRTSDE AT FLYNNS CRSSNG
44169 ALLDERWOOD TER	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$256,000	Townhouse	0.08	ASHBURN VILLAGE
43400 POSTRAIL SQ	3	3	1	ASHBURN	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.06	ASHBURN FARM
43910 CHLOE TER	3	3	1	ASHBURN	\$253,000	Townhouse	0.03	ASHBURN VILLAGE
20586 CORNSTALK TER #201	2	2	0	ASHBURN	\$240,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		LAKESHORE
433 PEARLBUSH SQ NE	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.05	SYCAMORE HILL
133 MAYFAIR DR NE	6	3	1	LEESBURG	\$235,000	Detached	0.20	MAYFAIR
512 BRECKINRIDGE SQ SE	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.05	FORT BEAUREGARD
607 TAMMY TER SE	3	2	2	LEESBURG	\$231,000	Townhouse	0.05	KINCAID FOREST
511 RADFORD TER NE	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$228,000	Townhouse	0.05	EXETER
503 BRECKINRIDGE SQ SE	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$227,000	Townhouse	0.05	FORT BEAUREGARD
811 CATTAIL LN NE	3	2	0	LEESBURG	\$224,000	Detached	0.23	EXETER
19375 CYPRESS RIDGE TER #822	2	2	0	LEESBURG	\$210,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		RIVERBEND LEISURE WORLD
553 ROCKBRIDGE DR SE	4	1	0	LEESBURG	\$199,900	Detached	0.11	SILVER OAKS
511 CONSTELLATION SQ SE #C	3	2	0	LEESBURG	\$197,500	Garden 1-4 Floors		LEESBURG GATEWAY II
20903 CEDARPOST SQ #303	2	2	0	ASHBURN	\$195,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		ASHBERRY
20951 TIMBER RIDGE TER #303	2	2	0	ASHBURN	\$194,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		WESTMAREN
20951 TIMBER RIDGE TER #201	2	2	0	ASHBURN	\$178,500	Garden 1-4 Floors		WESTMAREN
22641 BLUE ELDER TER #104	1	1	0	ASHBURN	\$169,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		SUMMERFIELD BRAMBLETON
42420 HOLLYHOCK TER #104	1	1	0	ASHBURN	\$162,125	Garden 1-4 Floors		SUMMERFIELD BRAMBLETON
190 CEDARWALK CIR NE	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$162,000	Duplex	0.11	CEDAR WALK
20301 BEECHWOOD TER #202	1	1	0	ASHBURN	\$160,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		S.GLEN AT UNIVERSITY CTR
110 STRATFORD PL SW	3	2	1	LEESBURG	\$160,000	Townhouse	0.05	CRESTWOOD HAMLET
106 PADDINGTON WAY NE	3	2	0	LEESBURG	\$160,000	Townhouse	0.05	CARNABY SQUARE
1007 NELSON CT NE	3	1	1	LEESBURG	\$145,000	Duplex	0.09	EXETER
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# Making Steady Progress

**Bulldog girls' and boys' cross country teams preparing for Glory Days.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Individual success in the sport of high-school cross country is measured by a runner's ability to improve on his or her times throughout the course of a season. This not only benefits the athlete, but the team as well.

At Stone Bridge High, the girls' team displayed the steady progress it has made this fall during a meet at the Carlisle Invitational Sept. 27. There, the Bulldog girls experienced their best race of the season, finishing eighth overall in a field of 19 teams. The regular season event took place at Carlisle High School in Carlisle, Pa.

"As a team, the girls had their best race [of the season] there," Stone Bridge Coach Jen Oblas said. "Each [runner] had their best times [of the season]."

**OBLAS SAID THE** Stone Bridge program travels each year to an invitational type of competition outside of the Northern Virginia area. This year, such a competition took place in Carlisle, located outside of state capitol Harrisburg. Carlisle, during the 1970s, was the training camp home of the Washington Redskins, who were then coached by George Allen. One of Carlisle's claims to fame is being the home of former Olympic great Jim Thorpe.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

**Stone Bridge High girls' cross country runner Joy Ruiz competes at the recent Monroe Parker Invitational event at Burke Lake Park.**

"We like to go somewhere new each season," Oblas said of Stone Bridge's annual pilgrimage away from the Loudoun County area. "It was a great trip. There were mostly Pennsylvania teams."

The Stone Bridge girls have put together

a nice season thus far, thanks partly to a strong group of senior runners.

"The girls have been really successful," Oblas said. "We're looking to capitalize on their experience."

The team's No. 1 runner is senior

Stephanie Paradis, a third-year member of the Stone Bridge program. Paradis earned an individual medal with a strong race at the Carlisle meet.

"We're looking for her to be a contender  
SEE STONE, PAGE 15

## Falcons Becoming Factor

**Briar Woods wins third straight with triumph over Dominion.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

However the current season turns out for the Briar Woods High girls' volleyball team, the Falcons will always have their recent breakthrough win over Dulles District opponent Broad Run to recollect.

Briar Woods, which held a strong 9-4 record going into this week, defeated the rival Spartans in five games in the home match played Sept. 25.

In recent years, Broad Run has been one of the top teams in the district, while Briar Woods was not at that elite status. So the win over the Spartans was one to treasure for the Falcons.

"They kind of killed us last year and were

like a college team [in caliber of play]," Briar Woods Coach Rich Bennett said. "[In the recent win] we managed to play our game and the win was kind of a thrill."

Broad Run captured the first and third games of the match, while Briar Woods won the second and fourth games. That set up a final fifth game to determine the match winner. There, the Falcons prevailed, 15-12, overcoming an 11-9 deficit on way to the final game victory.

"You've never seen them so excited before," Bennett said of his team's spontaneous reaction to the triumph over its Ashburn rivals.

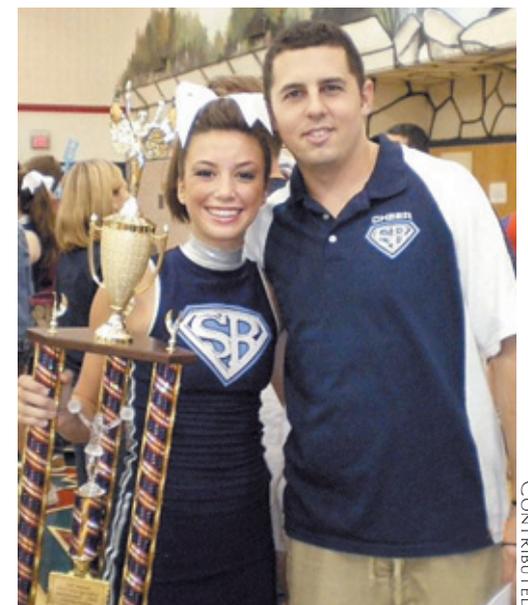
The win over Broad Run came two days after Briar Woods had lost a road match at district foe Potomac Falls.

Earlier in the season, Briar Woods had nearly pulled off an upset at district opponent Heritage. The Falcons lost that match in five games to a solid Heritage team that was playing in front of its enthusiastic home crowd. Even in defeat, Bennett said that

SEE BRIAR, PAGE 15

### Athlete of the Week

**The Stone Bridge High School varsity cheer squad took home its second trophy of the season, winning Park View High School's Spiritfest Invitational last Saturday. Fourteen teams from all over Virginia attended the event, including many Loudoun schools. Pictured receiving the first-place trophy are Coach Nick Marchio and one of the Stone Bridge captains, senior Megan Knodell.**



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# Bulldogs Ready for Homecoming

## Broad Run, Potomac Falls and Briar Woods all week six winners.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Stone Bridge High football team will celebrate Homecoming this Friday night when the Bulldogs meet Langley in a Liberty District game in Ashburn.

The 6-0 Bulldogs are coming off another easy win, a 51-6 victory at South Lakes. Stone Bridge, 3-0 in the district, has won easily in all of its district encounters thus far — lopsided triumphs over Marshall, McLean and now the Seahawks.

Langley, Stone Bridge's opponent Friday, is struggling of late after a 3-1 start. The Saxons (3-3) lost at home last Friday night to district foe Madison, 18-14. Madison (4-2), which will host Stone Bridge Oct. 17, won its fourth game in a row since an 0-2 start. The Warhawks, a younger squad compared to last year's successful Division 5 playoff team, will look to make it five straight wins when they play at W.T. Woodson this Friday night.

Langley, with last week's setback to Madison, lost its second straight game since beginning the season 3-1. Two weeks ago, the Saxons lost to unbeaten Oakton, 42-3. They were looking to get the bad taste of that defeat out of their mouths when they hosted Madison. Langley running back David Helmer rushed for 164 yards on 29 carries

against Madison and the Saxons built a 14-3 lead. But the Saxons could not hold on.

Stone Bridge is not likely to be seriously tested the remainder of the regular season. After Langley, the Bulldogs play district opponents Madison, Jefferson and Woodson to conclude the season. Then, Stone Bridge will begin defense of its Division 5 Northern Region and state AAA titles.

**IN OTHER LOCAL** football action last Friday night, Briar Woods won a low scoring, defensive battle over Dulles District foe Dominion, 7-0, in Brambleton. Falcons' running back Essray Taliaferro scored the game's lone touchdown on a 2-yard run in the second quarter.

The win improved Briar Woods' record to 4-1. The Falcons had suffered their first defeat the week before, falling at Broad Run, 29-0. Dominion (1-4), meanwhile, came into the Briar Woods game having gotten the first win under its belt the week before in a 35-7 triumph over Dulles rival Freedom.

This Friday night, Briar Woods will travel to district opponent Loudoun County, while Dominion will play at unbeaten Broad Run.

Broad Run (5-0) is coming off a hard fought Dulles District win at Heritage (Leesburg), 21-13.

The Spartans trailed Heritage 7-0 after one quarter before breaking through for two touchdowns in the second quarter. Both of the TDs came on pass plays from quarterback Chris Jessop to Adrian Flemming (scoring plays of 5 and 35 yards).

The Spartans increased their lead to 21-7 in the third quarter, thanks to a 37-yard



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Briar Woods quarterback Austin Frattali hands the ball off in the Falcons' game against Broad Run two weeks ago. Briar Woods lost to the Spartans, 29-0, but bounced back with a 7-0 win over Dominion High this past Friday night. The Falcons, with the win, hold an impressive 4-1 record. They will be at Loudoun County this Friday night.**

punt return by Breon Earl.

Broad Run, following its game with Dominion this week, will play at Loudoun County Oct. 17 before playing at home against Potomac Falls Oct. 24 in what could be a game that determines the district champion.

Potomac Falls remained unbeaten at 5-0 with a convincing 47-14 win over Dulles rival Loudoun County last week. The Panthers built a 27-0 second quarter lead and rolled from there. Potomac Falls running

back Michael Baker rushed for 112 yards and a touchdown. On the defensive side, he also scored a touchdown on a long fumble return.

Potomac Falls senior quarterback Greg Woodlief threw for 144 yards and a pair of touchdown passes, both going to Tarrell Owens. Woodlief also ran for two scoring runs, including a 67-yarder.

Potomac Falls will play at Park View this Friday night. The Patriots are coming off a 41-13 win over Freedom.

## Briar Woods Volleyball Improves over Last Year

FROM PAGE 14

match was particularly memorable because it indicated that the Falcons could hold their own against a good, district opponent.

"Heritage had all these fans there," Bennett said of the meeting with the Pride. "That was an exciting atmosphere to play in."

**IN ACTION** last week, Briar Woods won both of its matches on the road, defeating non-district opponent Brentsville District (Nokesville) on Wednesday and then handling district opponent Dominion the fol-

lowing night. The victory over the Titans was the third in a row for the Falcons, who improved to 5-4 in district play.

Loudoun County is the best team, once again, in the district this season. Potomac Falls is, at this point, the second best squad. Then there is a group of teams, including Broad Run, Heritage and the Falcons, who are also contenders this season.

Briar Woods has two top-notch hitters in junior Kim Bell and senior Krysta Gardner.

Of the 5 foot 7 inch Gardner, Bennett said, "She can jump real quick and high. She is coming into her own as a hitter, server and defensive player. She is our only girl who

plays on both the front and back row. She leads our team in digs and aces."

Gardner, in the win over Dominion, had 15 kills, six service aces and nine digs. Bell, meanwhile, had 11 kills. For the season, Bell leads the team in kills with 117, while Gardner is second with 112.

A strong season is also coming from senior Bailey Jensen, a middle hitter/blocker. She had nine kills in the Brentsville match and eight blocks combined in the Brentsville and Dominion matches. For the season, she has 21 blocks.

And junior setter Caitlin Ronan has given her team exceptional play throughout the

fall season.

"She's done a great job," Bennett said.

A year ago, Briar Woods went 8-13 overall and 5-9 in district play. This year's team has shown outstanding improvement.

"We're playing well as a team and have improved in passing and spiking, and are making less errors this year," said Bennett, whose team will compete in the district tournament in a few weeks. "Our team has grown and matured, but we're basically still young." Briar Woods was scheduled to play at district opponent Freedom High Tuesday of this week. Next Tuesday, Oct. 14, the Falcons will be home against Heritage. Districts are slated to begin Oct. 28.

## Stone Bridge Runners Preparing for Glory Days Meet

FROM PAGE 14

for a top district spot," Oblas, whose team is part of the Liberty District in the Northern Region, said. "She has a lot of natural talent."

Paradis, during other parts of the school year, competes in the 400 and 800 events as a member of the Stone Bridge track and

field team.

"That's her first love," Oblas said of Paradis' passion for the indoor and outdoor track seasons.

Stone Bridge senior Marissa Yoder has consistently been one of her team's top finishers this season.

"She did well last year, but has definitely improved this year," Oblas said of Yoder's

strong autumn season.

And Megan Dunne, another key 12th-grader for the girls' squad, is experiencing a successful season as one of Stone Bridge's top runners. Last year was a struggle for Dunne, who dealt with shin injuries. But she is back and healthy this fall.

"She's doing great for us this year," Oblas said.

A key underclassman for Stone Bridge has been sophomore Caroline Snell, who of late has been the No. 2 runner on the team ladder. Several weeks ago she had a solid showing at the annual Oatlands' meet in Leesburg. "Every race she's been getting better and faster," Oblas said of Snell. "She's gotten a little experience and realized she is pretty good at this."

# OUT & ABOUT

## Go See the Colors of Fall

**F**all is a glorious time of year in the Loudoun Valleys, with views of the Blue Ridge, Short Hill and Sugarloaf Mountains. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 18 and Sunday, Oct. 19, enjoy this free, self-guided driving tour down tree-lined country roads to privately owned Loudoun County farms.

Some 37 sites, including 14 wineries, are participating in this year's tour. Visit horses, sheep and alpacas; stop by a tree nursery and take a hayride through the fields; or have lunch by a scenic pond.

Choose apples, pumpkins and more from the bounty of the fall harvest. Tour a winery and learn why Loudoun's wines are winning awards and making news throughout the United States wine industry.

New this year are the Philomont General Store where visitors will learn about country-store traditions; Shepherds Corner Farm featuring flower gardens, rare-breed ponies and a soccer-playing Border collie; Sweet Home Alpacas specializes in the breeding of award-winning alpacas; the Taylorstown General Store will have a variety of events highlighting

their 1730s Quaker settlement; and Wegmeyer Farms has more than 20 varieties of pumpkins. New wineries participating this year include Hiddencroft Vineyards, North Gate Vineyard, Notaviva Vineyards, Sunset Hills Vineyards and Zephaniah Vineyard.

Brochures for the Farm Color Tour, including a map and directions to all participating farms, are available at the Loudoun



Heritage Farm Museum, Loudoun County libraries and community centers, the Loudoun County Government Center and the Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association in Leesburg. Tour information is also available at [www.LoudounFarms.org](http://www.LoudounFarms.org), or to have a brochure mailed, call 703-777-0426 or e-mail [info@loudounfarms.org](mailto:info@loudounfarms.org).

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## You Make The Call



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a long-time customer server, I have had ample opportunities to do what I'm supposed to do; do what is right; and to do what is above and beyond, sometimes all together and sometimes independent of one another. As such, I feel somewhat qualified to discuss some of the customer service I receive and some of the customer service that I don't receive. And though \$4 per gallon gasoline and \$4.29 per gallon for home heating oil doesn't exactly put me in the best of moods, I'll try to be reasonable in my rant.

To quote the actor Peter Finch, in his role as "deranged ex-anchor," Howard Beale, from the 1977 release of the Oscar-winning movie, "Network," "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." And furthermore, I have decided that I am no longer going to confront the foot soldiers, those front-line customer-serverers with whom customers/consumers initially and most often engage, in their pursuit of truth, justice and what was once the American way, fairness. Henceforth, I am going to stop dealing with the infantry and follow Lt. Col. Sherman Potter's advice to Radar (from the long-running television show, M\*A\*S\*H): "Always go to the top, Radar." To which Radar responded, "You're closer to it than I am, sir."

Well, I'm not any closer to the top than Radar was, but I am as close to a telephone as anyone else is, and since I am extremely comfortable and capable speaking on it, I have decided to complain up. The lack of on-site accountability has forced my hand — and fingers. No longer will I mumble in disbelief when treated disrespectfully, no longer will I grin and bear it when "policy" gets in the way of courtesy and this customer's satisfaction, and no longer will I attempt to resolve disputes with in-house management while backing up a line of frustrated customers waiting impatiently. I will remain calm. In fact, it will be as if I'm Katie Winters from the Secret brand deodorant commercials from yesteryear, "I will be cool, calm and collected." I will simply ask for a phone number for someone in customer service/customer relations at the main office/regional/corporate level to whom I can speak at a more convenient time.

I have never been a squeaky wheel, but after years of getting greased and neglected, of being disagreed with and generally speaking, taken for granted, I am officially mad as hell and I am now going to start doing something different about it. Enough is enough!

It is too difficult, especially in this economy, to make the money I make, incur the expenses I do and pay the bills I must, simply to be treated as if there's plenty more where I came from. And there may very well be, but that fact doesn't feed or assuage this bulldog. I'm done, locally.

In the future (heck, make that the present), I will be communicating my dissatisfaction to those in a position of authority. I am not going to waste my breath or expend my energy complaining to the unempowered person standing in front of me. I am going to follow Sherman Potter's advice. I have tried the other way and it doesn't work. It's time to start at the top and work my way down. Wish me luck. I'll probably need it.

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

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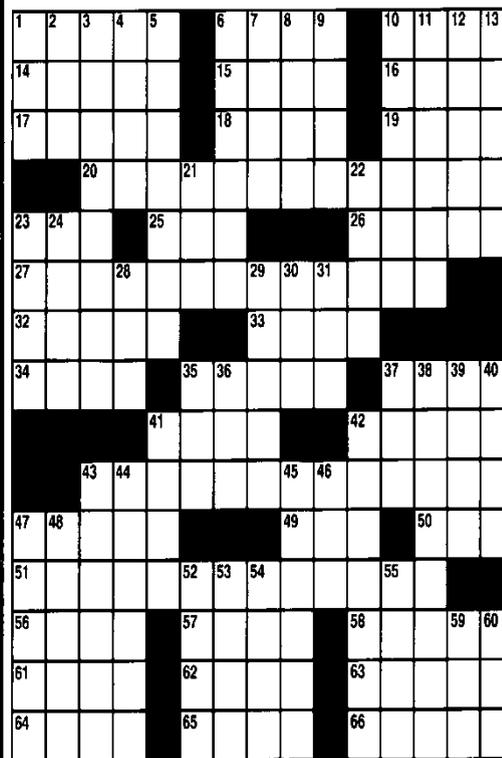
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## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0401-1



Puzzle by Kelly Clark

### ACROSS

- Cutoffs, maybe, before they were cutoffs
- Sound of breaking up?
- Masterpieces
- Sylvia Plath book
- Religious image
- Baker's need
- Of-quoted Yogi
- Old Spanish kingdom
- Coin no longer being minted
- What happens when Kansas City wins a World Series?
- Sea's partner
- Draw
- Boston team, in brief
- Why is the milk production survey so screwy?
- Kind of wrench
- Like a Burns acquaintance
- Sharp
- Detroit's county
- Item in which to do a plié
- Resistance units
- Not just a franchisee

- Why is the drought-plagued swim club bankrupt?
- Film maker Frank
- Playboy head, to friends
- Lake Okeechobee's state: Abbr.
- What's the anagrammatic reason for these odd questions?
- Kind of gin
- Food for Fido
- Songs "di sentimento"
- High scores
- 1963 Liz Taylor role
- Busybody
- New England's locale
- Fish locale
- "Broca's Brain" author

### DOWN

- Elbows do it
- Before
- BB gun, e.g.
- Peter Lorre's role in "The Story of Mankind"

- Compose
- Authority
- Press for payment
- Ginger
- "— me?"
- Band aid?
- Air letters?
- Making whole
- Make known
- Bear with us at night
- Voiced
- Times when you're not at your peak
- Pinafores
- Thirstiest
- "Hey, check that out!"
- Guitarist Paul
- Class
- Cop
- It's the truth
- Spanish pot
- Available
- Vicinity
- standstill
- Mateo or Miguel, e.g.

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	N	A	G	A	B	O	D	E	P	A	U	L
T	O	F	U	N	O	D	A	L	E	D	N	A
E	A	R	N	K	N	O	C	K	K	N	O	C
W	H	O	S	T	H	E	R	E	A	P	P	L
	M	A	S		N	E	A	T	E	R		
F	L	I	D	S	C	R	O	L	L			
E	A	S	T	S	A	L	A	M	I	J	A	B
T	H	E	H	A	N	D	Y	M	A	N	Y	O
E	R	R	V	O	I	D	E	D	A	N	N	A
			T	U	R	E	E	N	E	M	I	T
S	I	M	I	L	E				I	B	M	
K	N	I	T	S		D	O	O	R	B	E	L
O	N	T	H	E	B	L	I	N	K		R	A
A	I	R	E		V	I	N	C	E		E	C
L	E	E	S		D	I	K	E		D	E	A

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# Wolf: Compassionate Conservative

Activists says Wolf fights for the voiceless at home and abroad.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

In the backcountry of war-torn southern Sudan, Africa, specialist Ted Dagney once found a picture of U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) stuck to a post. The message attached to it read: "This is Frank Wolf's road."

"This is in a very remote area. There is nothing out there," Dagney, who works for the nonpartisan congressional research service, said.

Wolf has fought tirelessly to stop the human rights abuses and genocide in Sudan since the 1980s, long before problems in Darfur gained mainstream media attention. His efforts gained him widespread recognition and appreciation from the southern part of the African country.

"He was there when no one else was there when it comes to the Sudan issue. He never shied away. He never said 'I don't have time for this.' He always has time for issues like this," Dagney said.

**WOLF**, a 28-year incumbent, faces Democrat and health-care expert Judy Feder in an election for Virginia's 10th Congressional District seat Nov. 4.

Many people consider the Republican a leader on human rights issues in the U.S. Congress. He is co-chair of the congressional human rights caucus and has taken a proactive role on human rights and religious freedom issues in China, Burma, Tibet, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Balkans region, Egypt, Romania, Pakistan, Korea and Afghanistan — to name a few.

"We count on him all the time. He is one of the few leaders we run up to when we need something. ... He gives voice to the voiceless and he is well-known around the world because of that," T. Kumar, Amnesty International's advocacy director for Asia, said.

Wolf has sponsored anti-genocide resolutions in the U.S. Congress and established the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People around the Globe (HELP) commission, aimed at enhancing the leverage and efficiency of U.S. foreign aid.

As the ranking member of the foreign relations operations subcommittee, he has restricted assistance to abusive military dictatorships and pressured foreign governments to give up political prisoners, Kumar said.

The congressman does much of this work, despite the fact that it offers very little in the way of political gain or fanfare, said those involved in human rights causes.

"He doesn't get involved just because an issue is in the papers. He is involved even

## Frank Wolf

Age: 69  
Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa.  
Family: Wife, five children, 13 grandchildren  
Education: Pennsylvania State University (1961); Georgetown University Law Center (1965)  
Relevant Experience: U.S. House of Representatives, member 1981-present  
Web site: <http://wolf.house.gov>; <http://wolfforcongress.com/>

when an issue becomes unpopular or forgotten," Dagney said.

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS** wasn't always such a priority for Wolf. After two unsuccessful campaigns, the Republican was finally elected to Congress in 1980, the year Ronald Reagan won the presidency.

At the time, Wolf represented Fairfax County north of Route 50 and Arlington County. A former Nixon appointee to the Department of Interior, Wolf focused on domestic and local issues. He successfully lobbied to shift control of local airports to a regional authority, a talking point he brought up along the 1980 campaign trail.

But in the mid-1980s, Wolf took two trips that he calls "life-changing experiences."

He visited Ethiopia and stayed at a feeding camp during the height of famine in 1984. The next year, he went to Romania, where he said the then-government was bulldozing churches and synagogues.

"The squalid conditions of the feeding camps and the faces of the individual Ethiopians who begged for help are unforgettable," wrote Wolf in his newsletter in 1985.

Wolf has also taken it upon himself to visit people and places around the world that he supports.

Wolf visited the Russian gulag, has been to the Chinese prisons where those arrested in the Tiananmen Square protests are kept and

gone "undercover" to Tibet when it was closed territory.

"If you visit a place and spend a night or several days, that is a life-changing experience. To feel it, touch it, smell it, hear it. That is different than reading about it or watching a movie," Wolf said.

**WOLF BRINGS** the same approach to local issues that he has to international problems.

The congressman often gets involved when he perceives there is an injustice or suffering.

"Frank is kind of hard to define politically. ... He takes on some little-noticed causes,"



U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) spoke at a Veterans for McCain rally in Ashburn's Lansdowne Town Center Oct. 4.

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11) said.

He has railed against toll increases on the Dulles Greenway Toll Road in Loudoun County. Wolf also pushed for an investigation into the way Lyme disease is diagnosed after a few constituents complained that they were having trouble getting proper medical attention for the illness.

In some cases, Wolf has gone up against powerful special interests on behalf of constituents.

Wolf publicly criticized Purdue Pharma company for aggressively marketing oxycontin when addiction to the prescription painkiller became a serious problem in the western part of his district. The congressman is also fighting Dominion Power — one of the top donors to Virginia elected officials — and its efforts to install high-voltage power lines in Loudoun County.

"He is truly one of the most decent people in politics. Nothing has ever gone to his head. He just keeps working hard, no matter what the issue is," Fairfax County Supervisor Mike Frey (R-Sully), whose district overlaps with Wolf's, said.

**THE REPUBLICAN** has also been out in front on some key issues for the region over the years, said elected officials.

Through an earmark, Wolf has acquired federal funding for the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, which is credited with reducing local crime.

Loudoun County Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio (R-Sterling) said the task force "has made a big dent in gang warfare."

Delgaudio added that Wolf has also been instrumental in getting federal officials to work on the gang issue.

"I needed help from the FBI. I discovered no one on the board [of supervisors] knew what MS-13 was. ... The FBI briefed the board privately, but they would not have come had it not been for Congressman Wolf's help," Delgaudio said.

Others said Wolf is responsible for the federal backing of the Dulles Rail extension project.

Wolf "has done more than either [Rep. Tom Davis] or I or even John Warner to get

us where we are today," on Dulles rail, said U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), while speaking at a rail rally in the spring of 2007.

Wolf is on the House of Representatives' transportation appropriation subcommittee and "every year [Wolf] could, he got an appropriation for this, to keep this project alive," Moran said at the same rally.

**BUT WOLF'S CRITICS** wonder why, as member of the transportation appropriations subcommittee, the congressman cannot secure more funding to address the region's transportation problems.

The federal government has not signed off on the Dulles Rail extension yet and, as recently as this year, members of President George W. Bush's administration made serious threats to yank funding from the project entirely.

Wolf, as a 28-year incumbent, should have been able to do more to get the project funded and started earlier, said his critics.

"If Frank Wolf had any influence, to get this rail to Dulles, it would be a piece of cake," Scott Surovell, head of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, said.

Wolf's opponent, Judy Feder, said the voters are also looking for a "change" on Capitol Hill.

"Mr. Wolf has been a member of Congress for 28 years and I, along with many others, appreciate his service. ... [but] I don't think Mr. Wolf can be a force for change and I am running to bring that change," Feder said.

**STILL, OTHERS** appreciate what Wolf has done over the years. The Good Shepherd Alliance and LINK food bank, which serve homeless people in Loudoun County, said Wolf has been instrumental in getting federal funding for their efforts.

Wolf has also helped the organization solicit private funding. In 2002, he sent out approximately 200 letters to businesses and faith communities on behalf of the Good Shepherd Alliance. "There is no more tireless fighter, in our view, for the cause of the indigent and homeless in Loudoun County than Frank Wolf," Nicholas Graham, spokesperson for the GSA, said.

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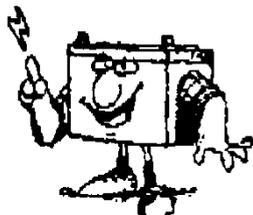
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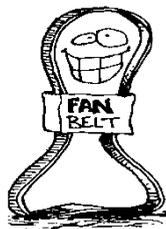


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