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## Marching On

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Fair Share?

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Falcons Soar

SPORTS, PAGE 8

An inflatable snowman greets customers at the Sugarland Shell's Winter Wonderland.

# An Inflatable Wonderland

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E, PAGE 6 ❖ FAITH, PAGE 2 ❖ REAL ESTATE, PAGE 4 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 9 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 8

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## BULLETIN BOARD

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 24

**CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER.** 4-6 p.m., Don Corleone's Brick Oven Pizzeria, 21018 South Bank St., Sterling. The community is invited for a free dinner and children's caroling. Donations to benefit Calvary Temple's African mission will be accepted. Call 703-444-4959.

### MONDAY/JAN. 5

**CONSTITUENT MEETING.** 7:30 p.m., Fox Mill Elementary School, 2601 Viking Drive, Herndon.

### FAITH NOTES

*Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.*

**Sterling United Methodist Church,** 304 E. Church Road, Sterling, is holding four **Christmas Eve** services: the family Nativity pageant, 5 p.m.; traditional candlelight communion services, 7 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Call 703-430-6455 or visit www.sterlingumc.org.

**Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church** will hold **Christmas Eve** services include a 5 p.m. family Christmas service, a 7 p.m. carols and candlelight service, a 9 p.m. carols, candlelight and praise service and an 11 p.m. candlelight and communion service. There will also be a service on **Christmas Day** at 11 a.m. OSWLC is located at the intersection of Waxpool Road and Claiborne Parkway. Visit www.oswlc.org.

The **Unitarian Universalists of Sterling,** 22135 Davis Drive, Sterling, will have two Christmas Eve services Wednesday, **Dec. 24** with a reception in between. An intergenerational service called "Lessons and Carols" will be held 5-5:30 p.m. "Candlelight Reflection," a meditative celebration of the season will be held 6-6:45 p.m. Visit

Sen. Mark Herring (D-33), along with Del. Ken Plum (D-36) will discussion and answer questions about the upcoming General Assembly session.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 8

**CONSTITUENT MEETING.** 7 p.m., Loudoun County Government Building, 1 Harrison St. S.E., Leesburg. The Loudoun delegation will discussion and answer questions about the upcoming General Assembly session.

uusterling.org or call 703-406-3068.

**St. David's Episcopal Church,** 43600 Russell Branch Parkway, Ashburn, will hold Christmas Eve worship services Wednesday, **Dec. 24**, at 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. On **Christmas Day**, there will be a service at 10 a.m. Visit www.sdlife.org or call 703-729-0570.

**Congregation Sha'are Shalom,** 19357 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg, will hold a discussion titled "Relearning Heschel, Rebirthing King, Re-Inaugurating America: Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Day," Friday, **Jan. 16**, 6:30-7:15 p.m. The erev Shabbat service will follow at 7:30 p.m. Child care provided. Free. Visit www.sha-areshalom.org.

**Stephen Ministry at Ashburn Presbyterian Church,** 20962 Ashburn Road in Ashburn, is a one-to-one listening ministry for those who need support for reasons such as divorce, loss of a loved one, recent hospitalization or terminal illness.

Although Stephen Ministers are not counselors, they do empathize with those they are called to support and help them to find comfort through God's loving presence.

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## Parading through London Streets

The Marching Bulldogs are one of 20-plus bands to take part in New Year's Day parade.

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI  
THE CONNECTION

Sometimes it is all in who you know. More than a year ago, someone within the Stone Bridge High School community took a friend to a home football game. That friend saw the Marching Bulldogs perform, which led to the band being invited to march in the annual New Year's Day parade in London last year. While thrilled at what will be the band's first international

"I don't know if I can top this next year."

— David Keller, director of bands

playing opportunity, director of bands David Keller asked for a deferral to allow the members time to get organized and do some fund raising. The deferral was granted and come Dec. 27, the Marching Bulldogs will be headed to England for a whirlwind week that includes marching in the parade and two performances, as well as as much sightseeing they could pack in by their Jan. 3 departure home.

"I'm pretty excited about it. I've never been to England," James Person, the school's principal and one of the trip's chaperones, said. "I might just be the most excited in the whole



The Stone Bridge Marching Bulldogs will take part in the 23rd running of the New Year's Day Parade in London, England.

group."

**KELLER SAID** the opportunity to participate in the trip was opened up to all the students in the school's band programs, not just those who take part in marching band. In all 95 students, about half of the pro-

gram, will make the journey. In order to go, the students had to sign a contract that they would stay in good academic standing and commit to regular practices in addition to their normal workload. The students also needed to have their passports by June, so Keller could confirm all of the reservations.

In addition, they had to raise funds to make the trip, which consisted several projects including a car wash at the Sterling Chick-fil-A.

"We've got folks that have never marched before because they took part in fall sports," SEE BULLDOGS, PAGE 5

## Journey Through Shaky Ground

Supervisors give matching grant, but not without some resistance.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

The Board of Supervisors voted recently to match a grant to the Journey Through Hallowed Ground, though the motion encountered opposition from several board members.

The approved motion called for the use of \$156,000 from the Transient Occupancy Tax Fund to match a grant given by Preserve America to the Journey Through Hallowed Ground, a partnership between 13 jurisdictions across three states to raise national awareness of the history in the region. The money would be used to train 4,000 hospitality workers at sites in the partnership to direct visitors to local hotels and motels, shopping and other points of interest.

"We are training our citizens and we are

creating a better visitor experience," Supervisor Andrea McGimsey (D-Potomac), who introduced the motion to the board, said. "The fact that we are helping the Journey

### Journey Through Hallowed Ground

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership links historical sites along Route 15, from Gettysburg, Pa., to Monticello in Charlottesville. On its Web site, visitors can explore all of the significant historical sites within the jurisdictions in the partnership and even use it to plan a trip through the 162-mile corridor. Visit <http://www.hallowedground.org/index.php>.

Through Hallowed Ground is a good thing."

Though the vote passed, the motion did not sit well with all board members, as evidenced by the 5-4 result. The dissenters,

Supervisors chairman Scott York (I-At Large), Eugene Delgaudio (R-Sterling), Lori Waters (R-Broad Run) and Susan Klimek Buckley (D-Sugarland Run) voted no for several reasons. Ultimately, they felt there was not enough information presented to make a sound decision.

A main point of contention, especially for Supervisors York and Delgaudio, was the amount that Loudoun was donating in proportion to the other jurisdictions. Preserve America, a White House initiative spearheaded by First Lady Laura Bush, gave a \$236,000 grant to the Journey corridor to be matched by the nonprofit Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, which promotes the collective historic sites. However, the supervisors who did not support the motion called attention to the fact that Loudoun is paying \$156,000 of the

SEE BOS, PAGE 4

### Checkpoint Dedication

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office is joining forces with the Fairfax County Police Department, the Virginia State Police and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in the dedication of a sobriety checkpoint held in memory of a Loudoun woman who lost her life last year when she was struck and killed by a drunk driver. The checkpoint will take place in the eastern Loudoun area Friday, Dec. 19, from 11:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. Saturday.

Kathleen Becker died in a crash on Route 15 just south of Leesburg, Sept. 20. The vehicle that struck her was driven by a teen that had apparently consumed alcohol after a football game at Westfield High School in Fairfax County. The hope is that the dedication of this week's checkpoint will both honor the memory of Mrs. Becker, as well as raise public awareness of the importance of sober driving.

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## THE CONNECTION

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## NEWS

# BOS Supports Hallowed Ground

FROM PAGE 3

\$236,000 match.

"My biggest issue was why were we being asked to carry 66 percent of the responsibility of this matching grant, instead of it being shared equally amongst the 13 jurisdictions that JTHG corridor covers," York said in a constituent newsletter.

McGimsey countered this argument by noting that the partnership has paid millions promoting the country, while the county has not contributed to the partnership. She also said that the amount Loudoun is giving is only roughly 15 percent of the total \$1.2 million that the partnership is receiving in total, and that number is the important one, not simply the amount of the matching grant itself.

"To say we are paying 66 percent [of the matching grant] is just politics," McGimsey said. "The Journey Through Hallowed Ground spent \$4,000,000 branding the county and Loudoun has not spent a dime [until now]."

**ANOTHER ISSUE** of debate for the four supervisors that voted no was a perceived lack of information on how using the Occupancy Tax money, which is required by law to be spent on promoting tourism in the county, would actually drive tourists to the county.

McGimsey refuted this by noting that four other major sites in the partnership, Gettysburg, Manassas, Antietam and Harpers Ferry, draw a total average of 3.1 million visitors a year, while Gettysburg is expected to get more than 4,000,000 for the 150th anniversary commemoration of the Civil War. She said that with trained hospitality experts at the sites, visitors can be

**"This is a bipartisan effort to honor one the most important parts of American history."**

**— Andrea McGimsey,  
Board of Supervisors  
(D-Potomac)**

directed toward Loudoun, from which the county will see increased tourism revenue.

"You can have a banner on a Web site [like the Redskins], but will people actually click on it?" McGimsey said. "Human beings can figure out visitors' interests and direct them where to go. We are doubling our money through this move."

After the debating, but before the vote, Waters called for a motion for the matter to go to a committee for further discussion. The issue would then be readdressed at the board's Jan. 5 meeting. However, that motion failed 4-5, with the same supervisors aligning with each other on this issue as well. The vote on the original motion was then heard, where it passed.

"This is a bipartisan effort to honor one the most important parts of American history," a pleased McGimsey said. "I think that this will be great for us."

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## SCHOOLS

# Bulldogs To March through London

FROM PAGE 3

Keller said. "We had to get them caught up on how to march."

Besides the students, 25 chaperons — made up of parents and school staff members — are making the trip, with everyone having to pay their own way.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for everyone involved," Person said. "I hope the students feel special representing their school and feel special representing their county."

**THE MARCHING** Bulldogs are the only band from Loudoun County invited to take part in this year's parade, but not the only band from the United States. North Carolina, California and Wisconsin also have bands performing. In fact, the parade will feature 20-some bands from all over the world.

"I am very excited that they will be able to attend the New Year's Day Parade in London on Jan. 1, 2009," Robert Bone, executive director of the event, said in a press release.

"Most of the bands are international to England," Keller said. "As far as the marching band tradition, England doesn't have it in their school system."

According to the press release issued by the parade organizers, participation is by invitation only, which is issued on behalf of festival patrons, including Her Majesty's

Lord Lieutenant for Greater London and the Lord Mayor of Westminster. The press release goes on to say, "Receipt of the official invitation is considered especially prestigious in the marching band community in the United States." Organizers expect 8,000 performers to take part in this year's parade, which will broadcast by satellite to selected stations in the U.S., who requested to be able to supply the telecast.

**BESIDES MARCHING** in the parade, whose route includes passing such landmarks a Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Whitehall, Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus, the band members will take part in scheduled tours that include the Tower of London, Greenwich, the Globe Theatre, Oxford, Windsor and to see one of two West End productions, among others.

The band will be part of a gala concert at St. John's, Smith Square and the jazz ensemble will also have a chance to perform the day after the parade.

Keller said the band received "tremendous support" from the community in its fundraising efforts and other things, such as a donation of matching scarves, to make it easier to keep track of the students during the various tours.

As for an encore, Keller said, "I don't know if I can top this next year."



David Keller, right, director of bands at Stone Bridge High School, accepts the band's official invitation to march in the London New Year's Day Parade from former Lord Mayor of Westminster, Coun. Robert Davis DL, while in the United Kingdom over the summer. Making the trip with Keller was Susan Wenberg.

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# E

# Land of the Inflatables

**Sugarland Shell gas station creates a Christmas village.**

It used to be “Deck the halls,” now it’s “Inflate the Inflatables.” For about 10 years, Charles “Chick” Beaulieu, 48, of Fairfax City, has been adding to the inflatables that decorate his Sugarland Shell station at Dranesville Road and Route 7, near the Loudoun County line. With a week to go before Christmas, he has a complete village of Santas, Grinches, Pandas, Snowmen and trains — all powered by air and motors. And every year he does something different.

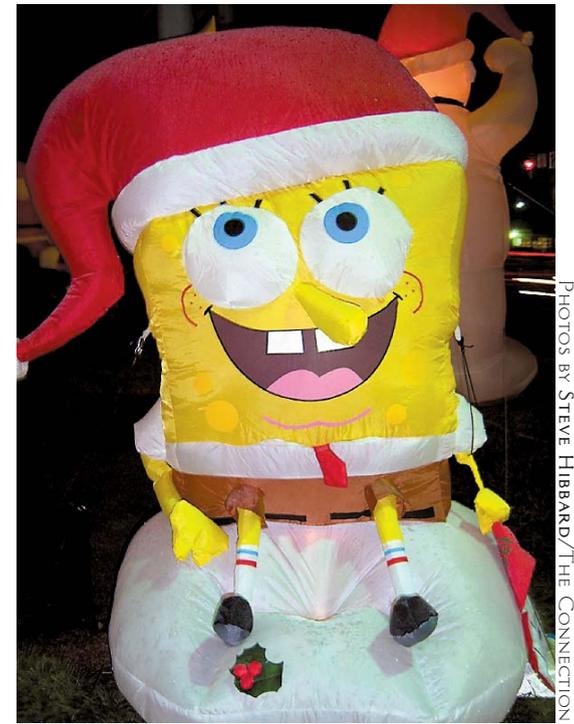
“There’s so many Shell stations in the area that we do it to set ourselves apart,” he said. And because all the wind and rain wreaks havoc on the plastic critters, it’s a lot of work. He has one employee who spends 80

percent of his time inflating and deflating them, tethering them, sandbagging them, straightening and checking for rips and tears and replacing burned out motors.

But the payoff is worth it, especially when children stop by to admire them.

“I started out doing it for all the kids in the neighborhood,” he said. “When you see kids out there it’s kind of neat. We have a lot of people who come up here and take pictures of their kids with them.”

Beaulieu said 18 inflatables inhabit his Sugarland Shell and another 60 are at the Jermantown Shell. Each year he adds more. And not just the Christmas variety. He has bears and hearts for Valentine’s Day and turkeys for Thanksgiving. They cost anywhere between \$9 and \$180 and he’ll travel as far as Winchester to find a bargain. Now he says people actu-



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

**Spongebob Squarepants.**

ally call him to say they found such and such at the Home Depot, Walmart, Sears or Price Club, but he waits until they go on sale.

Beaulieu been in business for 29 years and once had four gas stations, but sold two.

— STEVE HIBBARD

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

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 additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 24

**COLONIAL CHRISTMAS.** Noon-2 p.m., Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Holiday luncheon with ham and turkey reminiscent of Colonial Williamsburg. Bring salad, side dish or dessert to share. Cost: \$2 members, \$4 nonmembers. Call 703-430-2397.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 28

**HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodbridge Parkway, Lansdowne. River Bend Middle School presents a “Sunday Brunch.” Fees apply; call 703-729-8400, Ext. 2107 to register.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 31

**NEW YEAR’S EVE DANCE.** 1-4 p.m., Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Music by disc jockey Sky Dantine, includes light snacks and refreshments and transportation afterwards. Cost: \$5 for members in advance; \$7 for nonmembers and day of event. Call 703-430-2397.

## THE ARTS

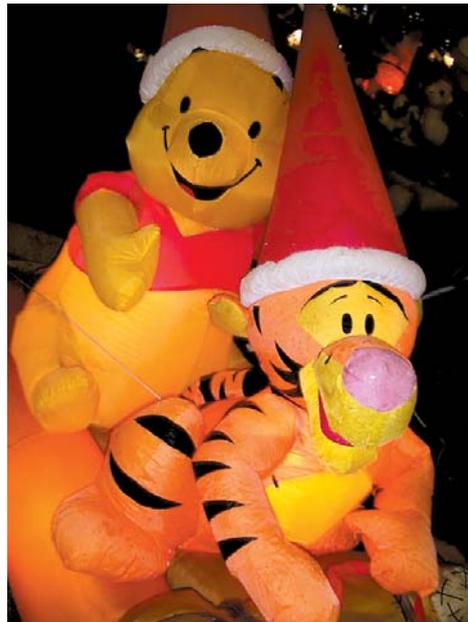
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**Art on Exhibit** throughout **December** at local libraries include pastels by Christina Maggio at Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn; and photography by Kim Coughlin at Cascade Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls.

Photographs by Northern Virginia photographer **Lillis Werder** are on exhibit at Washington Dulles International Airport **through December**. Two series of work by the artist, “Washington, D.C. War Memorials,” in honor of the upcoming Veteran’s holiday, and “Venice, Italy,” are on display.

The exhibit, coordinated by Gallery 222 and the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority, is the fifth in the program’s rotating series of displays. The photographs are installed in the area beyond the security checkpoints in the main terminal on the arrivals level.

**Alfred McAdams’** exhibit, “D.C. Metro,” is on display at the George Washington Virginia Campus First Floor Gallery **through Dec. 30**. The First Floor Gallery is located in Building 2 on the GW Virginia Campus, 44983 Knoll Square, Ashburn. Free and open to the public. Call 703-726-3650.



**Winnie the Pooh and Tigger, too.**



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# CALENDAR

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## SATURDAY/DEC. 27

**SCHOOL OF ROCK.** 6-9 p.m., Ned Devine's Irish Village, 21800 Town Center Plaza, Sterling. The School of Rock All-Stars will play with special opener The Pat Sommers Project. Call 703-444-7873 or visit [www.irishvillage.neddevines.com](http://www.irishvillage.neddevines.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 28

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.** Count circle covers 177 square miles north to Waterford, south to Aldie, east to Ashburn and west to Purcellville. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy in the National Audubon Society's Annual Christmas Bird Count. Everyone is welcome, both beginners and expert birders, amateurs are teamed with experienced birders. Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org).

## MONDAY/DEC. 29

**STORY TIME.** 4:30 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. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

**FAMILY MOVIE.** 7 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Bring pillows and blankets for a showing of "Horton Hears a Who."

Rated G; 88 minutes. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov). **ENTERTAINMENT.** 2 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Sophie, a talented cairn terrier, will entertain with amazing tricks and antics. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

## TUESDAY/DEC. 30

**STORY TIME.** 4:30 p.m., Rust Library, 34D Catoctin Circle, Leesburg. One-on-one reading time for children as they buddy up with teen volunteers



The annual Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count will be held Sunday, Dec. 28.

who will read picture books to them. Recommended for ages 3-6. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>. **MOVIES.** 2 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Watch "Wall-E." Rated G; 97 minutes. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 3

**STORY TIME MATINEE.** 2 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Stories, songs, a video storybook and a craft. Ages 3-6. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 4

**MEET THE ARTIST.** 3 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Alice Power, a local watercolor artist, will demonstrate and discuss her work. Her watercolors are on display at the library during January and February. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

## THURSDAY/JAN. 8

**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.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 13

**TEA PARTY.** 9-9:30 a.m., Douglass Community Center, 405 E. Market St., Leesburg. Wear your favorite princess outfit and enjoy tea and a craft. Cost: \$10. Call 703-771-5913

or e-mail [jaime.cox@loudoun.gov](mailto:jaime.cox@loudoun.gov).

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 14

**PAJAMA PARTY.** 2-4 p.m., Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Includes stories, humor, music, waffles and juice; participants dressed in pajamas optional. Cost: 3 members, \$5 nonmembers and day of event. Transportation available after. Call 703-430-2397.

## MONDAY/JAN. 19

**BIRD FEEDERS.** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Douglass Community Center, 405 E. Market St., Leesburg. Create feeders for birds that are not flying south for the winter. Ages 3-4. Cost: \$4. Call 703-771-5913 or e-mail [jaime.cox@loudoun.gov](mailto:jaime.cox@loudoun.gov).

## FRIDAY/JAN. 23

**CHINESE NEW YEAR.** 2-4 p.m., Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Celebrate the Year of the Ox with Chinese food and karaoke. Cost: \$3 members, \$5 nonmembers and day of event. Transportation available after. Call 703-430-2397.

**BOOK SALE.** 10 a.m.- 9 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Purchase used books, software, video and music. Prices range from \$.50-\$2.00. Donate used items between Saturday, Jan. 10-Wednesday, Jan. 21 during normal library hours. To volunteer during the sorting period or sale, contact Douglas Nelms at [alab\\_volunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:alab_volunteer@yahoo.com).

**SKI TRIP.** 6:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m. A ski trip to Whitetail for students in grades six-12. Pickup/drop off locations: Harper Park Middle

School, 701 Potomac Station Drive, Leesburg; Farmwell Station Middle School, 44281 Gloucester Parkway, Ashburn; Harmony Intermediate School, 38174 W. Colonial Highway, Hamilton. Cost: \$60-85. Call 703-771-5913 or e-mail [dcc@loudoun.gov](mailto:dcc@loudoun.gov) to register.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 24

**BOOK SALE.** 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. See Jan. 23 item for details.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 25

**BOOK SALE.** 12-3 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. See Jan. 23 item for more details.

## MONDAY/JAN. 26

**MUSEUMS TRIP.** The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, will take a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the Smithsonian American Art/Portrait Gallery Museum or the Spy Museum. Lunch on own. Cost: \$9 for members, \$11 for nonmembers, includes transportation with free admission to the art museum; additional \$15 admission at Spy Museum. Extensive walking. Call 703-430-2397 for departure and return times and locations.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28

**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. Call 703-430-2397.

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## Briar Woods among the Top Tier

### Falcons finish second at Henrico Duals.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

In just four years since Briar Woods High School has been opened, the Falcons' wrestling team has emerged into one of the better teams in the eight-team Dulles District.

Last year, the Briar Woods team finished third overall in the district. Coach Ryan Rogers' team should be right in the mix again this winter.

Potomac Falls, the defending district champion, is expected to be the premier team again this winter, while Heritage, Freedom and Briar Woods are all expected to be among the top echelon of teams in the district.

The Falcons have already had some highlight moments early on this season. On Dec. 13, senior Mike Fleming (171-weight class) won his 100th career varsity match at the Park View Invitational.

Fleming has had an outstanding high-school wrestling career. He won 41 matches as a sophomore and finished fifth in the Region II championships that season. Last year, he won 36 matches, finished second in the district at 152-weight class and was a state qualifier.

"He works hard and is always working out with the coaches," Rogers said of Fleming's challenging practices. "He's a very strong athlete. He really spent a lot of time working hard in the off-season."

Fleming, who defeated a Bishop O'Connell wrestler by decision for his 100th win, is a team co-captain along with fellow



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Briar Woods High senior wrestler TJ Julia, left, is a two-time Dulles District champion.

senior TJ Julia (119-weight class), who has won district titles the past two years at the 103 division as a sophomore and 112 as a junior. At regionals last year, Julia placed sixth overall.

Other key members on this year's team include seniors Thomas Hulcher (130), a

second-place district finisher at 130 last year and a state qualifier, and Mike Girolami (215), who went 28-8 last year before falling ill and not being able to compete in the postseason.

**BRIAR WOODS** finished an impressive

second overall at the recent Henrico Duals, a 16-team event that took place at the Arthur Ashe Center in Richmond Dec. 5-6. The Falcons were the lone state double-A sized school at the meet. All 15 of the other teams represented were from larger state

SEE BRIAR, PAGE 11

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Briar Woods High School and Freedom High will launch their annual **Coaches versus Cancer** event this Friday, Dec. 19, when the Falcons and Eagles meet in a girls-boys Dulles District basketball double-header.

The mission of the evening will be to raise funds to benefit the American Cancer Society and heighten public awareness of the continuous need for funding research to cure cancer.

On Friday, the two rival high schools, on both the girls and boys side, will go head-to-head on the basketball court. In both games, the local teams will battle to win, while identifying the occasion as an opportunity to unify in the battle against cancer. The night's theme is "Beat Cancer Black and Blue!"

The high-profile rivalry between Briar Woods and Freedom generates high attendance at athletic events and a high fan turnout is anticipated for the exciting night of hoops action.

Throughout the evening, fans and members of the community will bid on items

through a silent auction. Michelangelo Italian Restaurant will be serving dinner, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the cafeteria, with all proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society.

Virginia Preps.com recently named its **All-Virginia high-school football** teams. Its state AAA team consisted of Stone Bridge High defensive end Zach Thompson and Oakton High linebacker Jack Tyler. Madison High punter James Devens was named All-State as a special teams player.

Making the state AA team were Broad Run High center Shawn Lewis, as well as Spartan running back/returner Breon Earl (Region II Offensive Player of the Year) and Spartan linebacker Kenny McAdow (Region II Defensive Player of the Year). Broad Run head coach Mike Burnett was named VirginiaPreps.com state AA Coach of the Year.

Second Team state AA players included running back Michael Baker of Potomac Falls, wide receiver Chad McMichael of

SEE SPORTS, PAGE 11

### Athlete of the Week

Broad Run High head football coach Mike Burnett was named the High School Coach of the Year by the Washington Redskins last week. The Redskins High School Coach of the Year program is designed to recognize and reward excellence in high-

school football coaching. Coach Burnett, in his third season at Broad Run this past fall, led the Spartans to the state AA title and a perfect 14-0 record. He has accumulated an overall record of 29-6 while at Broad Run and has led the Spartans to consecutive Dulles District titles the past two seasons. This season marked the program's first-ever Region II and state titles. As Coach of the Year, Burnett will receive a \$2,000 donation from NFL Charities to his football program and a framed certificate.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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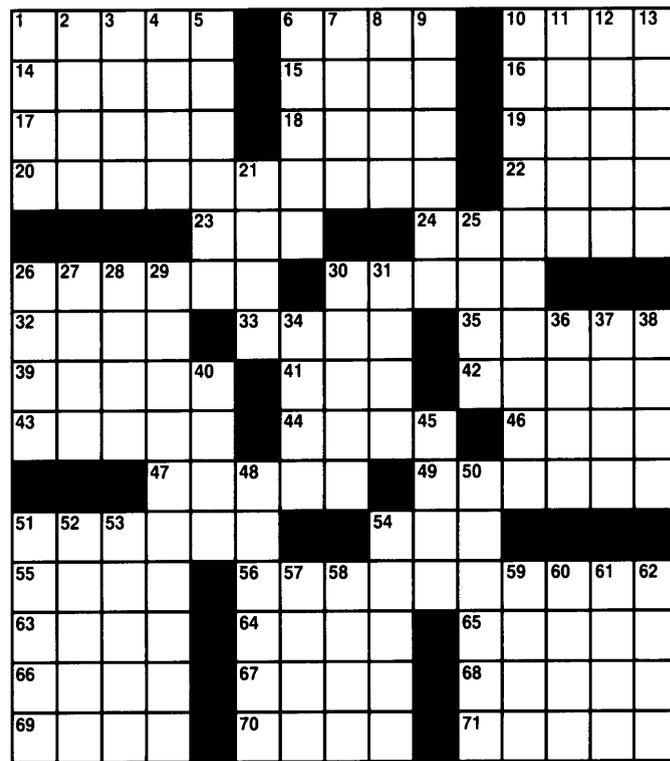
**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

Nothing is too small to know, and nothing too big to attempt.  
-William Van Horne

# NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0413-1



Puzzle by Fred Piscop

## ACROSS

- 1 False witnesses
- 6 Vocalizes like the Beastie Boys
- 10 Parks in 1955 news
- 14 Venezuela's — Falls
- 15 Clairvoyant's start
- 16 Has a tab
- 17 Suffix with sea or moon
- 18 Grocery vehicle
- 19 College course division
- 20 Production in a given period
- 22 Trait determinant
- 23 Pirouette point
- 24 MacNeil's longtime partner
- 26 Sombrero accompanier
- 30 Transparent
- 32 "—'Clock Jump"
- 33 Classic soft drink
- 35 Italian tourist center
- 39 Third-stringer
- 41 Sharpshooter's gift
- 42 Beat by a whisker
- 43 Use weasel words
- 44 Meat loaf serving
- 46 "Holy moly!"
- 47 Papa Doc ruled it
- 49 Stats for a porous defense
- 51 Battle site of 1916
- 54 Gulped down
- 55 Mideast bigwig
- 56 Pro-slavery Northerners, before the Civil War
- 63 Mission cancellation
- 64 Folklore fiend
- 65 Speechify
- 66 Lone Star State sch.
- 67 Chemicals giant
- 68 Hertz — Car
- 69 Slippery critters
- 70 Sit a spell
- 71 Alma —

## DOWN

- 2 Rainfall measurement
- 3 Lab gel
- 4 Bank takeback
- 5 Mr. Moto, e.g.
- 6 Nouveau —
- 7 "Hurry, please!"
- 8 Pizarro conquest
- 9 Avoid a trial
- 10 Hero of 1898
- 11 Dog tag datum
- 12 Left Bank river
- 13 Autumn bloomer
- 21 Hoodlum
- 25 Move carefully (into)
- 26 Swanky
- 27 Years ago
- 28 Uncool sort
- 29 Cold comfort?
- 30 Burger or dog topper
- 31 Vegetable soup bean
- 34 All-star game side, often
- 36 Waffle brand
- 37 Warm, so to speak
- 38 States further
- 40 Belle's man
- 45 One of Alcott's "Little Women"
- 48 Like some pools or paint
- 50 — Judaism
- 51 Stage or stadium, say
- 52 Ham it up
- 53 Star in Orion
- 54 Insurance seller
- 57 Look lustfully
- 58 "QB VII" author
- 59 Field of study
- 60 Defeatist's word
- 61 Politically incorrect suffix
- 62 Mark with a branding iron

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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# Hive and Go Seek



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"M&M Premiums." Just what I needed to see for sale at my local drugstore; with "Triple Chocolate" being one of the varieties, no less. God, give me strength. How is a pre-diabetic chocoholic supposed to cope when manufacturers create such sweet enticements? It's bad enough that M&M/Mars, makers of Snickers, Milky Way and 3 Musketeers, among countless other extremely familiar brands (including the relatively new "Dove" brand) already dominate the top-ten-candy-bar-sales list nationwide with its present inventory, but to add another layer of lusciousness on top of its well known and impressive array of bars and bags is, to quote my mother, Celia, "Too much for any body's nerves."

Granted, I have free will, so I am certainly able to resist, but, as any "Star Trek Next Generation" fan knows, "Resistance is futile," for most species, and as much as I try to resist, I fear the species I most closely resemble — human, will be unable to resist. Eventually, we'll all be assimilated and buying candy will no longer be voluntary but mandatory, almost as if we're all part of a "collective": see — buy, see — buy, see — buy.

Wait a second. I must be assimilated already. Every time I see chocolate, I buy chocolate, without even thinking about it. The only thing that stops me is a person, that person being my wife, Dina.

It seems that if we're together in a store that sells chocolate, I'm able to mask my needs/urges and pretend that the chocolate I see (and crave) means nothing more to me than the salad bar does; that means something that is readily available but not the least bit interesting. For different reasons, of course, but apparently, spouse/peer pressure and/or having a fellow adult in close proximity (to me), and an adult who eats like one, seems to be an effective deterrent to an adult who, also in close proximity, eats like a child. If left to my own devices, I will devise a way where buying and then eating chocolate will serve some greater good other than feeding my face. What that "way" is, other than being the "go-to-guy" for chocolate information for our friends and family members, is a bit unclear. But as my friend, Sanford, so often says, "Everybody needs a hobby."

The problem for me is, that being a chocoholic is not a hobby, it's a way of life. It's an avocation, it's a vocation, and it's an occasion to eat sweet, morning, noon and night. It's an extremely hard habit to break and/or brake, nothing like an addiction, at least not on the level of those brought on by repeated consumption of alcohol, drugs or nicotine, I would imagine (but don't really know). Nevertheless, certainly there seem to be overwhelming urges to buy and try, especially when something relatively new appears on the grocer's shelves. The kind of a new thing that you've been wondering about in your own mind for years, perhaps, even before the product showed its packaging; like the Entenmann's chocolate covered, creme-filled, chocolate cup cakes; or DoubleStuf Oreo Cookies; or Ben&Jerry's Peanut Butter Cup ice cream, and now, gourmet M&Ms. What will they think of next?

On the one hand, I can't help wondering what took them so long, while on the other (where they're still not melting), I have to wonder, why now, when I'm most vulnerable? I realize it's not always about me, but when it comes to chocolate, it's hard to think about anybody else.

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

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## SPORTS

# Briar Woods On the Rise

FROM PAGE 8

triple-A schools. "We just wrestled and came together as a team," Rogers said of the Falcons' success at the Henrico Duals. "We had some really key wins."

On the first night of action on Friday, Briar Woods lost to state wrestling power Granby High of Norfolk by a lopsided 51-21 score. But the Falcons hardly got discouraged by the setback, working their way through the rest of the tournament and ultimately meeting the same Granby team again in the finals on Saturday. There, Briar Woods gave the Comets a much better match in a 40-34 loss.

To reach the finals, Briar Woods, in Saturday's action, defeated Mills Godwin (Richmond), 40-33, and tied Western

Branch (Chesapeake), 36-36, in a semi-finals match. The Falcons won a tie-breaker over Western Branch to move on to the finals.

"Everything just kind of fell together that day," Rogers said.

The coach loves the make up of his team, which includes eight seniors.

"They're pretty special kids," he said. "They have worked hard in the off-season."

Briar Woods was scheduled to compete at the 16-team Border Wars tournament Dec. 19-20 for the second straight year. The event was being hosted by Skyline High School (Front Royal).

On Jan. 2-3, Briar Woods will travel cross-town to take part in the local 10-team Broad Run Invitational in Ashburn.

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 8

Potomac Falls, tackle Aaron Kakol of Briar Woods, defensive lineman Frank Foreman of Broad Run and defensive back Chris Jessop of Broad Run. Greg Woodlief of Potomac Falls made Honorable Mention.

**Loudoun South Little League** is registering players ages 5-12 for the spring 2009 season at [loudounsouthlittleleague.org](http://loudounsouthlittleleague.org).

Registration continues through Feb. 10. Go to [registration@loudounsouthlittleleague.org](mailto:registration@loudounsouthlittleleague.org) for more information.

**Skills Plus Basketball Academy** announces its fourth annual winter basketball clinic for girls. Skills Plus will offer the basketball skills clinic, Monday, Dec. 29, at Douglass Community Center in Leesburg. The clinic time for girls ages 11-13 will be 10-11:30 a.m. The clinic time for girls ages 14-17 will be 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Turnout could dictate merging the time periods. Contact Michael Turner at 703-303-0808 or at [michaeltturner@aol.com](mailto:michaeltturner@aol.com) for more information or to register.

Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.

—Henry David Thoreau

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