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Safety Challenge

NEWS, PAGE 3

Fair Share?

NEWS, PAGE 3

Panthers on The Prowl

SPORTS, PAGE 8

An inflatable
polar bear
greet customers
at the Sugarland
Shell's Winter
Wonderland.

An Inflatable Wonderland

E, PAGE 6

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION FAITH, PAGE 2 ❖ E, PAGE 6 ❖ REAL ESTATE, PAGE 4 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 9

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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.

Call Mark Armstrong, associate pastor at 703-729-2012 or visit the church Web site at ww.ashburnpresbyterian.org.

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Issuing a Challenge

Driving safety program comes to Potomac Falls High School.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

There were more than 1,000 people killed on Virginia's roads last year; an average of nearly three a day. Such alarming statistics call for increased measures and the people at the Virginia Department of Transportation are taking charge in the quest to provide safer roads for all drivers.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has rolled out a new statewide program in an effort to combat highway fatalities, the Highway Safety Challenge, which aims to educate high-school students on how to be more responsible and safe behind the wheel. After generating a very positive response in its first year at high schools around the state, the program will now take its message to the students at Potomac Falls High School.

According to Mike Salmon, VDOT's public affairs coordinator, the impetus to bring the program to the area was tragedy. While reading the paper last October, Salmon saw a story about Heather Hendrickson, a senior at Potomac Falls that died in a car accident. After learning the details of the ac-



CONTRIBUTED

Students will fill out the pledge card and put it in the raffle box as part of the Highway Safety Challenge.

cident and seeing the community's reaction, Salmon saw an opening to reach out.

"I read something that said she did not have a seat belt on," Salmon said. "So, I thought that it was a good opportunity to try to get kids to drive safer."

The program, which Salmon brought to West Potomac, Hayfield and Westfield high schools in Fairfax County, seeks to actively

involve students in the VDOT's mission. A "pledge card" will run in The Roar, Potomac Falls' school newspaper that students will be able to cut out. The students who cut the card out will write their name, e-mail address and phone number on the card and sign the program's official pledge.

The pledge calls for the students to obey five tenets that VDOT feels are the key to a

safe driving experience for not only the driver, but the passengers and other drivers on the road. The five tenets are to wear a seatbelt, avoid distractions — most often talking and text messaging on the phone while driving, share the road with other drivers, drive drug and alcohol free and obey the speed limit.

SEE DRIVING, PAGE 4

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 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 pro-

portion 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 pro-

motes 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 \$236,000 match.

SEE BOS, PAGE 5

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>.

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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NEWS

Driving Program Challenges Students

FROM PAGE 3

AFTER FILLING out the card with their information and signing the pledge, the students will put their pledge cards inside a special raffle box that Salmon will bring to the school and will be kept in the main office.

Those students will be eligible to win prizes that were donated by local businesses.

"The local businesses have been great," Salmon said. "We got an overwhelming response to the pro-

"If we can save one life, it is easily worth it."

— **Mike Salmon,**
VDOT, public affairs
coordinator

gram. Free meals, free pizza and even two \$100 checks given by a local driving school were donated [among other things]."

According to Salmon, there are plans to expand the program to other schools in the county, but for now, he will focus on one school at a time in his drive to accomplish the challenge's mission for safer roads.

"We feel that if people take these five steps, it will take a big step to achieve safety on the roads," Salmon said. "If we can save one life, it is easily worth it."

PEOPLE NOTES

Send announcements to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday; photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Mamie Parker of Cascades, the first African-American woman to be appointed assistant director and regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been recognized with The Wilderness Society's national Faces of Conservation award for her lifetime commitment to fish and wildlife conservation.

Sheriff's Deputy **Ryan Woellner** was among several law-enforcement officers from the region recognized by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program for their outstanding commitment in the fight against drunk driving. Woellner, a two-and-a-half-year veteran, has removed 22 impaired drivers from Loudoun's roadways in 2008.

Loudoun County's second annual online contest "Where's Teddy in Loudoun County?" was recently completed. Participants had to identify the location where Teddy was photographed in a test of local geographical knowledge.

Doris Eversmeyer of Sterling placed second and the **Hess Family** of Ashburn placed third. They both received a bear and a T-shirt. The Hess Family documented their search for Teddy and some of their photos can be viewed at www.loudoun.gov/gis.

Volunteer Loudoun honored **Rebecca Smith**, Dominion High School senior, as the September Student Volunteer of the Month. Smith was recognized in front of her peers at a recent Youth Advisory Council Meeting, of which she is the vice chair.



CONTRIBUTED

The Hess Family, third place winners of the "Where's Teddy in Loudoun County?" contest.

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Happy
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BOS Supports Hallowed Ground

FROM PAGE 3

"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.



Andrea McGimsey

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 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.

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

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

"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 ma-

player, a purse and a board game. Value: \$482.

100 block Rector Street, Sterling. Dec. 12, 10:26 a.m.-10:10 p.m. Unknown subject(s) attempted to remove a blow-up cartoon snowman.

20120 block Lazy River Terrace, Ashburn. Dec. 11, 3:33 p.m.-Dec. 12, 3:24 p.m. Unknown subject(s) entered a vehicle and removed a radio.

THE CONNECTION

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Cascades

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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.

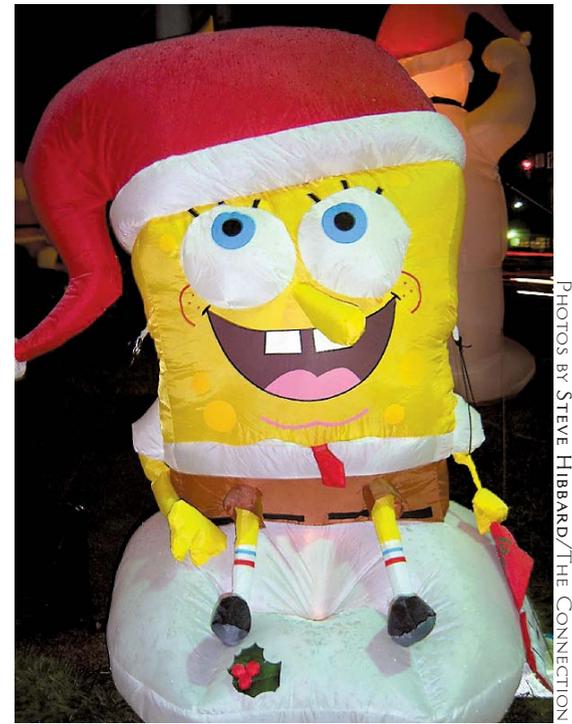
“There’s so many Shell stations in the area that we do it to set ourselves apart,” he said. And because all the wind and rain wreaks havoc on the plastic critters, it’s a lot of work. He has one employee who spends 80

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. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit 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

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.

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.



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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.

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.



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

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.

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.

TUESDAY/DEC. 30

STORY TIME. 4:30 p.m., Rust Library, 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. 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.

www.connectionnewspapers.com

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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Potomac Falls Wrestling Ready to Regain State Form

Defending Dulles champion Panthers are seasoned, skilled.

By RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Potomac Falls High wrestling coach Rob Puterio believes the Panthers have the potential to be one of the top teams in both Region II and the state this winter. The team, coming off a Dulles District title last year, has numerous, talented seniors.

"This, in my opinion, has a chance to be the best [Potomac Falls] team in the last 12 years," said Puterio, who is in his fourth year as the program's head coach, but was a longtime assistant with the Panthers prior to that.

"I think he can go to the state tournament. Charlie is very creative. He sees things on the mat and moves very fluidly."

— Potomac Falls Coach Rob Puterio, on Senior Charlie Haislip

their standing as one of Virginia's top teams.

The parts are there for this to be an outstanding season for the Panthers.

"We're looking pretty good right now," Puterio said.

POTOMAC FALLS took second place at the Fort Defiance wrestling tournament, held Dec. 6. The Panthers had five individual champions at the meet: Michael Oswald (135-weight class), Charlie Haislip (152), Joshua Berlin, Ryan Hagen (152) and David Zedan (215). Second-place finishers for Potomac Falls were: Nick Rea, JoJo Koenig, Darren Waters, Chris Belin and Aaron Rowane.

Other solid place outings came from Mike Linza (third place), Ryan Snead (third), Zach Duffin (third) and Ray Khawaja (fourth).

The Panthers were also a second-place finisher at last weekend's Sterling Lion's Terry McGowan Invita-



The Potomac Falls High wrestling team captured the Dulles District title last year. Many of last year's key team members are back this winter.

tional at Park View High School Dec. 13. The team results were as follows: first-place Bishop O'Connell, 219.5 points; second-place Potomac Falls, 212; third-place Briar Woods, 139; fourth-place West Potomac, 123; fifth-place Park View, 95; sixth-place Charlottesville High, 54; seventh-place West Springfield High, 38; and eighth-place Clarke County High, 26.

Potomac Falls saw nine wrestlers reach the finals and two — Aaron Rowane at 160 and Zach Duffin at heavyweight — win championships. "We wrestled well," Puterio said. "We had a rough finals round."

The individual championship results were as follows: at 103, Tuan Dang (Park View) defeated Nick Rea (Potomac Falls), 11-9 in overtime; at 112, Stephen Penna (Park View) defeated Brian Hulcher (Briar Woods), 11-5; at 119, Kyle Mason (O'Connell) defeated JoJo Koenig (Potomac Falls) by pin; at 125, James Young (O'Connell) defeated Mike Finniff (Clarke County), 9-3; at 130, Nam Dunbar (O'Connell) defeated Ryan Snead (Potomac Falls) by pin; at 135, Jonathan Carpenter (O'Connell) defeated Michael Oswald (Potomac Falls) by pin; at 140, Chris Curtin (O'Connell) defeated Darren Waters (Potomac Falls) by pin; at 145, Conor Furey (O'Connell) defeated Sam Agyemang (West Potomac), 8-5; at 152, Shadrick Ntenda (Charlottesville) defeated Ryan Hagen (Potomac Falls), 7-5; at 160, Aaron Rowane (Potomac Falls) defeated Jared Beane (Briar Woods) by pin; at 171, Mike Fleming (Briar Woods) defeated Paul Freierr (Potomac Falls), 11-2; at 189, Stephen Howell (West Potomac) defeated Bobby Cockrille (Park View) by pin; at 215, Chris Straubs (O'Connell) defeated Hunter Shafer (Park View), 8-4; at heavyweight, Zach Duffin (Potomac Falls) defeated Jonathan Nieto

(O'Connell) by pin.

THE PANTHERS' TOP returning wrestler is junior Paul Rowane (125 division). Last year, Rowane was second in the district at 119, fourth in the region and eighth at states.

"He's been a longtime wrestler," Puterio said. "He's a great wrestler on his feet."

Senior Charlie Haislip (140) is looking to have a big season after missing the postseason last year as a result of an injury. Two years ago, Haislip finished seventh in the state at the 103-weight class. Last year he wrestled at 125.

"I think he can go to the state tournament," Puterio said of the talented Haislip. "Charlie is very creative. He sees things on the mat

and moves very fluidly. He's an athlete and does things most wrestlers can't do."

Other key members of this year's team include defending district champions Ryan Snead (130), Ryan Hagen (152) and David Zedan (215).

Juniors Aaron Rowane (160) and Zach Duffin (heavyweight) were second-place district finishers last year and Michael Oswald (135) was third.

Potomac Falls will compete at the Trojan Duals at New Kent High School, located outside of Richmond, this Saturday.

Over the holidays, the Panthers will participate in the Willie Walters Invitational at James Wood High (Winchester) Dec. 30. Then, just after the New Year, they will be at the Arundel Invitational (Md.) Jan. 2-3.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

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

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. The night's theme is "Beat Cancer Black and Blue!"

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 includes Stone Bridge defensive end Zach Thompson.

Making the state AA team were Broad Run 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 and wide receiver Chad McMichael of Potomac Falls. Greg Woodlief of Potomac Falls made Honorable Mention.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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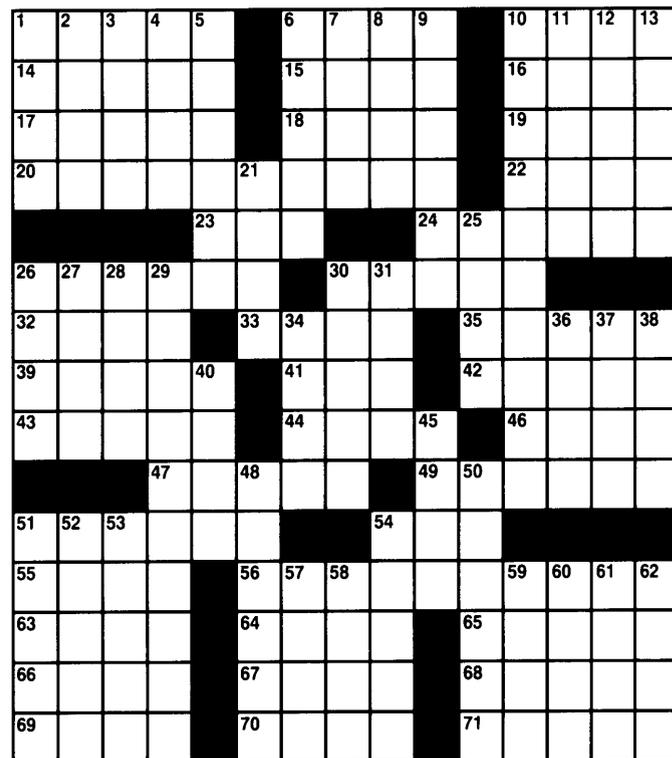

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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			
S	K	U	L	K	S				K	I	C	K			
L	I	R	A		S	I	E	N	A		I	R			
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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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Winter Driving

The Sheriff's Office reminds motorists that winter driving can be hazardous. Sheriff Steve Simpson is advising motorists to make sure their vehicles are equipped with a well-stocked winter driving kit. A driving kit should include tire chains, bag of sand or salt, snow shovel and brush, booster cables and more.

Visit www.loudoun.gov/traffic or www.virginia.gov/comtravel/eoc/eoc-main.asp for traffic advisories.

Visitor's Center and LCVA Office Relocate

The Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association will relocate from its current location on Catocin Circle back into the historic district of Leesburg in early 2009. The staff and the state-certified visitor's center will relocate to a larger space at Market Station, previously occupied by Washington Mutual Home Loans.

The association moved in the summer of 2002 to its location in the Jewell Building on Catocin Circle.

Birds Seized

On Sunday, Dec. 14, Loudoun County Animal Control and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant on a residence in the 38000 block of Sierra Lane in Lovettsville, resulting in the seizure of several hundred fowl that are suspected

of being used in animal fighting.

The following day, a second search warrant was executed at a residence in the 12000 block of Berlin Turnpike in Lovettsville, resulting in the seizure of more than 100 fowl also suspected of being used in animal fighting. It is not yet known if the two incidents are related.

The investigation into both situations is ongoing and charges have yet to be filed.

Animal fighting is a Class 6 felony under Virginia Code section 3.2-6571 and is punishable by one to five years in jail and/or a fine up to \$2,500.

The Humane Society of the United States provided intelligence and training to Animal Control and the Sheriff's Office that assisted in launching the investigation of the alleged animal fighting operation(s).

Appreciation Event

Ashburn-based church, Grace Tabernacle, is holding a Thank You President George W. Bush event, at the Washington Monument, in Washington, D.C., Jan. 3, at noon. Participants will hold signs that express gratitude, love and support for the president. No negative signs about current president or incoming president are welcome. Visit www.thankbusevent.com.

RSVP is required to RSVP@thankbusevent.com with the amount that will be attending in the subject line, because the Park Service Permit is limited to 3,000.

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

—Henry David Thoreau

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