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Looking Ahead

NEWS, PAGE 3

Members of Broad Run High School's Class of 2009 take their places on the floor of the Patriot Center on June 20.

'Aladdin Jr.'
Takes Flight

NEWS, PAGE 4

Fighting for
Research Funds

NEWS, PAGE 3

Camp Attracts
Youths to Golf

SPORTS, PAGE 8

CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

JULY 1-7, 2009 ❖ VOLUME VI, NUMBER 15

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

The 420 members of the Stone Bridge High School Class of 2009 participate in their graduation ceremony on June 22 at the Patriot Center in Fairfax.



Stone Bridge High School seniors wait for the start of their graduation ceremony.



Russell Moore spots friends and family members while marching into the Patriot Center for his high school graduation ceremony on June 22 in Fairfax.

At Stone Bridge's Graduation

Singing "Whenever you Remember," Stone Bridge High School seniors Benjamin Parker and Ashley Grundler perform during their graduation ceremony on June 22 at the Patriot Center on the campus of George Mason University.



Following the end of their graduation ceremony, Stone Bridge High School seniors officially become high school graduates.

Cancer Beaten, Now Fighting for Funding

Spending a day on Capitol Hill last week was a little unnerving at first for nine-year-old Leah Holdcraft of Ashburn but before the day was out she grew more comfortable with rubbing shoulders and cajoling members of Congress and their aides to support her cause.

That cause — financially supporting research to combat childhood cancer — brought Leah and her mother Carrie Holdcraft, among 400 other families from across the U.S., to the Hill to lobby members of Congress in an event known as Reach the Day.

“I don’t believe that our government’s doing enough to fund childhood cancer research considering that our children are our future and [given] what we put other funds into,” Carrie Holdcraft said. “I mean we spend more on swine flu and more children die from [various types of] cancer than any other disease.”

The cause is personal for the Holdcrafts. At the age of 21 months Leah, now 9, was diagnosed with lymphoblastic leukemia, a blood cancer in which white blood cells multiply excessively in bone marrow.

Leah had been having a lot of high fevers, had been crying a lot and generally had not been acting herself, but at that relatively uncommunicative age it was hard for her mother to know what was wrong. When she started to notice burst capillaries in Leah’s hands and feet she took her to the doctor and learned of the diagnosis.

“I was shocked,” Holdcraft said. “It was the farthest thing from our minds when ... we were told that she had a blood cancer.”

Leah was treated successfully but then relapsed two years later and required a bone marrow trans-

plant. The treatment was successful but like many survivors of childhood cancer the impact of not just the disease but of the potent medicines that combat it left a lasting impact on Leah. She has no thyroid function and will likely require growth hormones as she approaches puberty. She has atrophied muscles, bone weakness and pain in her bones caused by the steroids with which she was treated. She needs an annual echocardiogram to survey her heart health and recently the family learned that she has high frequency hearing loss.

Such tales are common among child survivors, which is why funding expensive clinical studies for more effective and targeted drugs is essential, Holdcraft said.

“Really it affects every part of their body,” Holdcraft said. “That’s why we need research for better drugs.”

And that was why the Holdcrafts were on Capitol Hill last week to lobby U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), and U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (R-Va.), among others, to support more than \$150 million — \$30 million each year for five years — to expand pediatric cancer research, awareness and to create the national childhood cancer research registry, as well as to fully fund the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act passed last year.

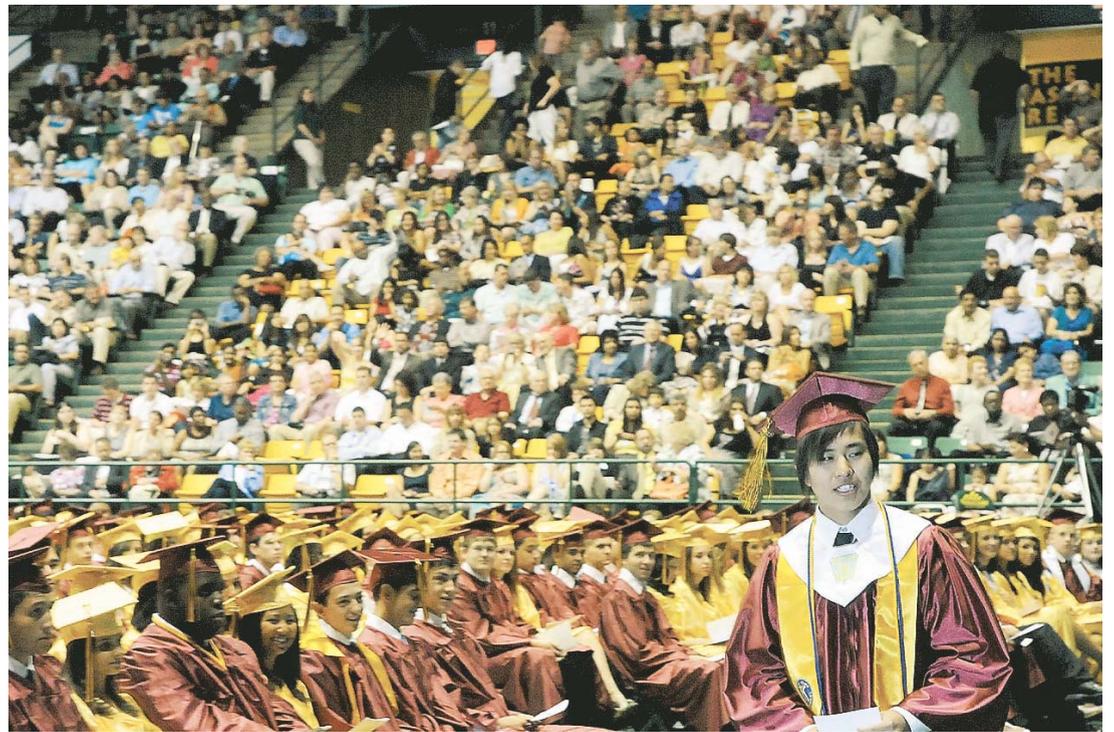
Carrie Holdcraft said the congressmen were generally supportive of their cause and she hoped the day would prove to be successful.

The money is important “so kids get better treatment,” said Leah.

To learn more about Reach the Day and the childhood cancer initiatives being considered on Capitol Hill visit curesearch.org.

— AARON STERN

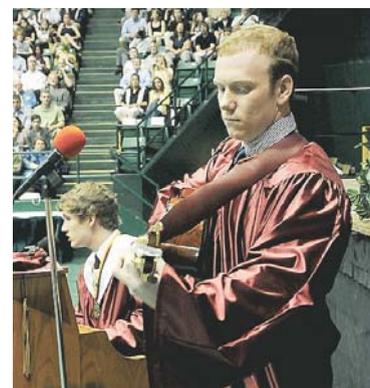
Nine-year-old Leah Holdcraft, second from left, was among many of those who met with members of Congress last week to lobby for funding of childhood cancer initiatives. Here, Leah is shown with U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), among others.



Nam Quoc Nguyen is recognized as the Class Valedictorian. Corinne Nicole Lepe was named Class Salutatorian.



Former Broad Run High School teacher and Virginia Teacher of the Year Lee Daniel Kent delivers the Commencement Address.

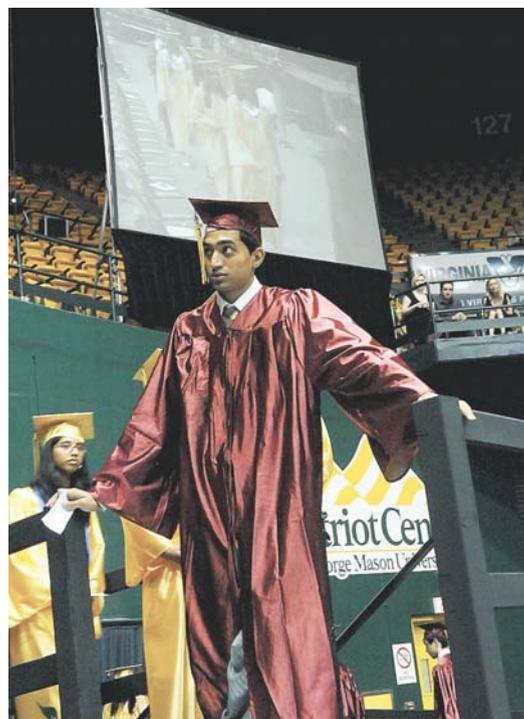


David Mann and Alec Tebbenhoff perform “I Hope You Dance.”

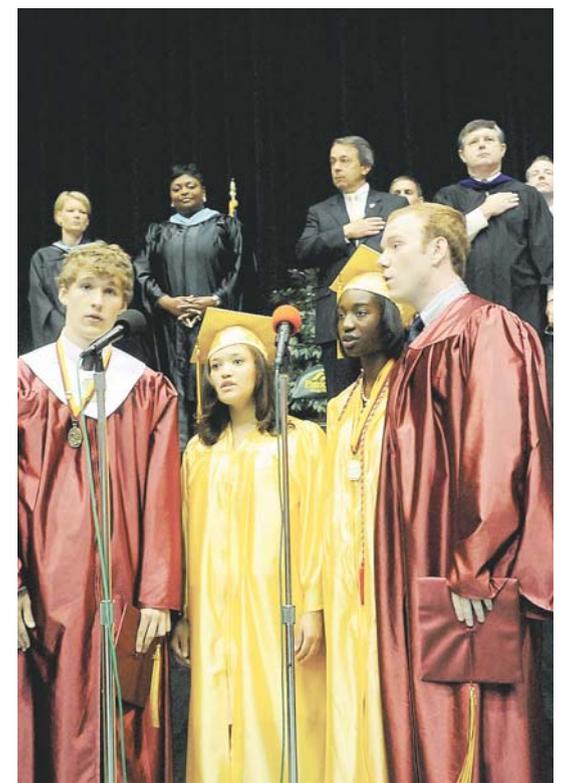


Nicole Lavella presents the Senior Address.

At Broad Run’s Graduation



Zihaad Mohammad waits to be called on stage to receive his diploma.



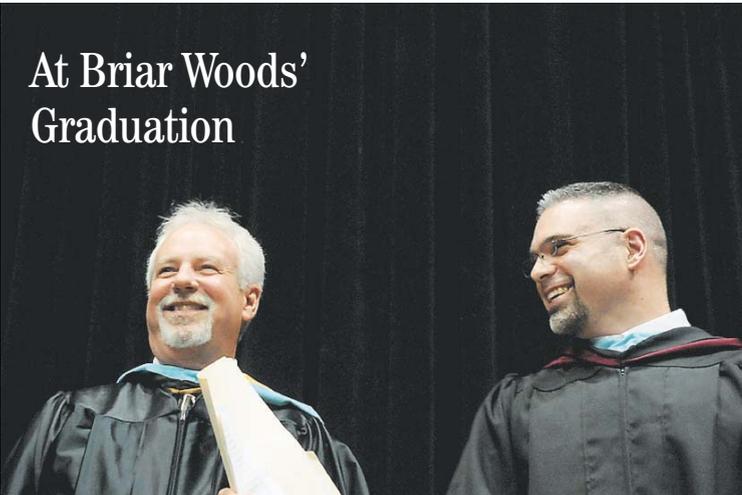
Alec Tebbenhoff, Starlet Tetteh, Connolly Colbert and David Mann, sing The National Anthem.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION



Duane Minnick leads the Briar Woods Symphonic Winds in the playing of Pomp and Circumstance.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

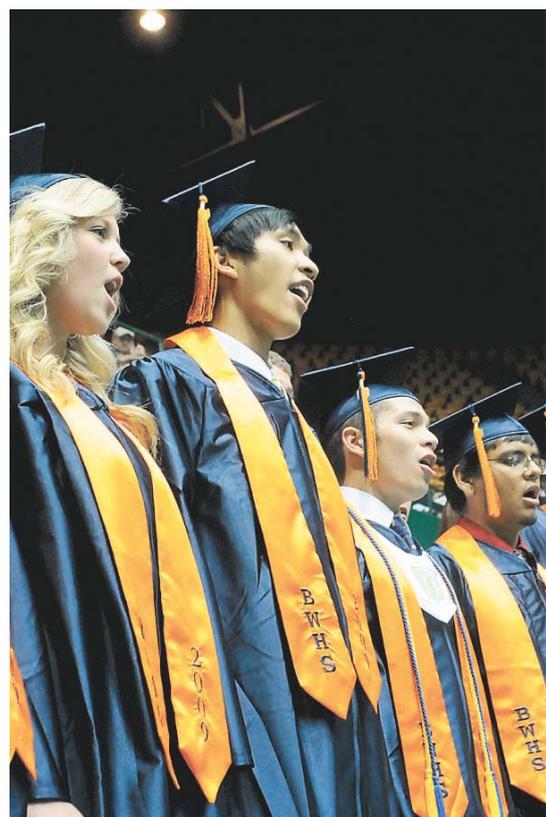


At Briar Woods' Graduation

Principal Edward Starzenski and director of guidance David Royhab.



Tuba player Brett Stockman and Josh Miller.



Briar Woods High School Chorus sings "Together We Are One."



The Class of 2009 take their places in the Patriot Center on June 20.

Sterling Playmakers Launch 'Aladdin, Jr.'

The day after Loudoun County Public Schools dismissed classes for the summer last week, 50 students got right back to work. From 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. five days a week, the students, aged 8 to 17, the students are rehearsing their roles in the upcoming production of Disney's 'Aladdin, Jr.' which opens Friday, July 10.

Last weekend the students had their first run-through without their scripts and all indications are that the show is coming along well, said director Kathy Bleutge. Putting in such work in the middle of summer is a major commitment from students, Bleutge said.

Those who have seen the movie will be ready for the play, which is virtually the same as the original 1992 Disney animated musical film. All of the songs from the original movie will be in the show, plus an extra song for the villain Jafar. Fans of local high school theater will see some familiar faces as well.

Aladdin will be played by Chris Sanderson, Jasmine by Roopali Kulkarni, the Genie by Brandon Spann, and Jafar by Ty Sheedlo.

The show has been funded by a \$5,000 grant from the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, without which the students would have had to pay to perform and ticket prices could have been higher than the \$5 each ticket will cost for this show.

"It's a very reasonable price to bring a family for entertainment," Bleutge said. Not only that, but with the old classical songs sung by performers marching through the aisles and a script full of humorous dialogue highlighted by fine performances, the audience will have a blast.

"They'll thoroughly enjoy themselves," Bleutge said.

As have the performers. The great thing about such a show, Bleutge said, is having such a wide age range that enables younger performers to learn from older, more experienced actors.

"They've definitely bonded," Bleutge said. "What's good is to see the older and the younger [actors] working together."

For a complete cast list, to pur-



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Chris Sanderson will portray the role of Aladdin and cast mate Roopali Kulkarni will play the role of Jasmine in the upcoming production of "Aladdin, Jr." by the Sterling Playmakers in July. The production will run on July 10-12 and 17-19 at the Sterling Middle School. More information can be found at www.sterlingplaymakers.com.



Brandon Spann will portray the role of the Genie in the upcoming production of "Aladdin, Jr." by the Sterling Playmakers.

chase tickets or to learn about the Sterling Playmakers visit sterlingplaymakers.com.

Performances will be held Friday, July 10, Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12 and again on Friday, July 17, Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 13. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday shows at 2:30 p.m. On Saturday July 18 there is also a matinee performance at 2:30 p.m.

PEOPLE

Yarbrough Earns Eagle Rank

Brendan J. Yarbrough, a member of Boy Scout Troop 2970 and a resident of Ashburn, has received the Eagle Scout Award, the highest rank given by the Boy Scouts of America. Brendan has been involved in Scouting for over 10 years, starting as a Cub Scout in Pack 1483, where he earned the highest honor in Cub Scouting — the Arrow of Light.



Brendan Yarbrough

Arrow Troop Representative, Patrol Leader, and Den Chief. Brendan is also a leader in Scouting at the County, D.C. metro area, and national levels as well. He is the ceremonies leader of the Goose Creek Chapter of the Order of the Arrow, composed of Scouts all over Loudoun County. For a number of years,

Brendan has been a member of Order of the Arrow ceremonies teams that have competed and won awards at the D.C. metro area and regional level. Brendan will be a delegate to the National Order of the Arrow Conference later this summer, and will compete in ceremonies at the national level. He will serve as a member of the Order of the Arrow Service Corps at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree held in Caroline County, Virginia celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Scouting movement. Brendan has helped for over three years with the Cub Scouts in Loudoun County as a youth staff member at their annual summer Day Camp, teaching them to have fun and become better Scouts.

Brendan has earned 33 merit badges covering such aspects as citizenship, fitness, and outdoor and life skills. He is active in outdoor adventures, having been on Troop 2970 treks to the Cranberry Wilderness and New River in West Virginia, Denali National Park in Alaska, the Matagamon Boy Scout National Canoe Base in Maine, and Goshen Scout Reservation. Members of his troop elected him to be a member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's Honor Society and American Indian cultural preservation organization.

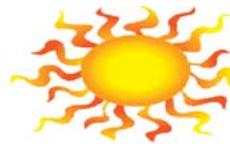
Brendan is a leader in Troop 2970, having served as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Order of the



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ASHBURN MEDICAL CENTER, P.C. *Comprehensive Family Care*



James Ditaranto, D.O

Dr. Ditaranto is a Board Certified Family Medicine Physician. He completed his Family Practice Residency in 1986. Dr. Ditaranto is a former Chairman of the Family Medicine Department at Reston Hospital Center and served on the Board of Medical Planning for Loudoun County. He has been practicing in Loudoun county for over 13 years.

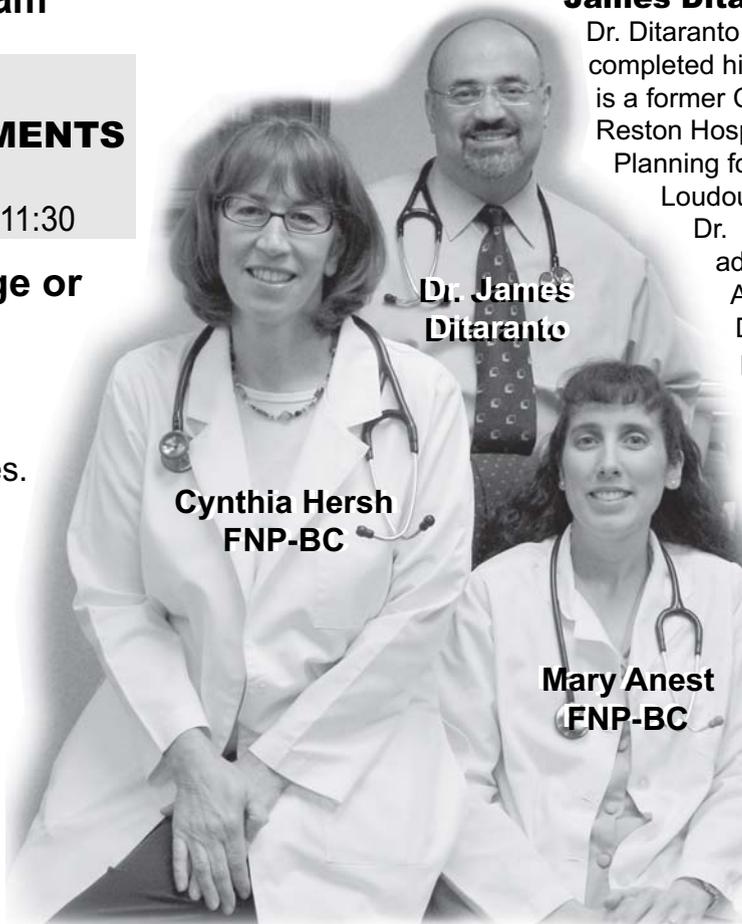
Dr. Ditaranto's special interests include pediatric and adolescent health care. His other interests include Attention Deficit Disorders in children and adults. Dr. Ditaranto also includes a special place in his practice for all his geriatric patients.

Mary Anest, FNP-BC

Mary is a family nurse practitioner with board certification from the American Nurse Credentialing Center. She received her undergraduate nursing degree from Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC, in 2003. After working on an orthopedics unit and then a high-risk obstetrics unit, she attended Binghamton University in Binghamton, NY.

Cynthia Hersh, FNP-BC

Cynthia is a graduate of Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing. In 1999 she graduated from Creighton University magna cum laude with a Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing and in 2001 with a Master's of Science advanced practice nursing degree specializing in family medicine.



**Cynthia Hersh
FNP-BC**

**Dr. James
Ditaranto**

**Mary Anest
FNP-BC**

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CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

Rocknocos. 4 p.m. Band that creates cool music for kids. At Sterling Library.
Song Circle. 7 p.m. Bring a song you'd like to sing and teach it to the group. For all ages. At Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls.

THURSDAY/JULY 2

Explore Central and South America. Children ages 6-12 are invited to explore different continents through games and activities. Register online at library.loudoun.gov or phone 703-430-9500.

THURSDAYS, JULY 2 TO AUG. 6

Games & Activities. 2 p.m. At Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling.

FRIDAY/JULY 3

Eastern Loudoun Fireworks. Hosted by the Sterling Golf Swim and Tennis Club. Free swimming from 4-8 p.m. with music and moon bounce. Fireworks at 9:15 p.m. At 333 S. Sterling Blvd. Call 703-430-1400 or visit <http://www.sterlinggolfclub.com>.

Stroll Back in Time. 7 and 8 p.m. First Friday Walking Tours of Historic Leesburg. View elegant homes and learn of Leesburg's importance in the American Revolution and Civil War. Meets at Loudoun Museum, 16 Loudoun St., SW, Leesburg. \$5 cost. Call 703-777-7427.

Southern Persuasion (Country).

7:30-10:30 p.m. Lansdowne Resort's Free Summer Concert Series – on the Terrace. Executive Chef Jason Lage and the culinary team will be offering a variety of fresh grilled foods. Call 877-509-8400 or visit www.lansdowneresort.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 4

The Loudoun Valley HomeGrown Markets Association Farmers Markets in **Ashburn and Leesburg** will be OPEN on Saturday, July 4 from 8 a.m.-noon so that everyone can pick up fresh and local produce, meats, wine and baked goods for their holiday celebration. Visit www.loudounfarmersmarkets.org or call Judy Stroske, LVHMA Market Coordinator at 540-454-8089.

Dodona Grounds Open. Until 4 p.m. George C. Marshall's home, Dodona Manor in Leesburg, will be open to the public. \$5. Bring a picnic lunch and blanket for an afternoon on the lawn. Call 703-777-1301 or email tours@georecmarshall.org.

SUNDAY JULY 5

Dodona Grounds Open. George C. Marshall's home, Dodona Manor in Leesburg will be open 5:45 to 7 p.m. for special, discounted \$5 tours before the Bluemont Concert which begins on Dodona's grounds at 7p.m. Call 703-777-1301 or email tours@georecmarshall.org.

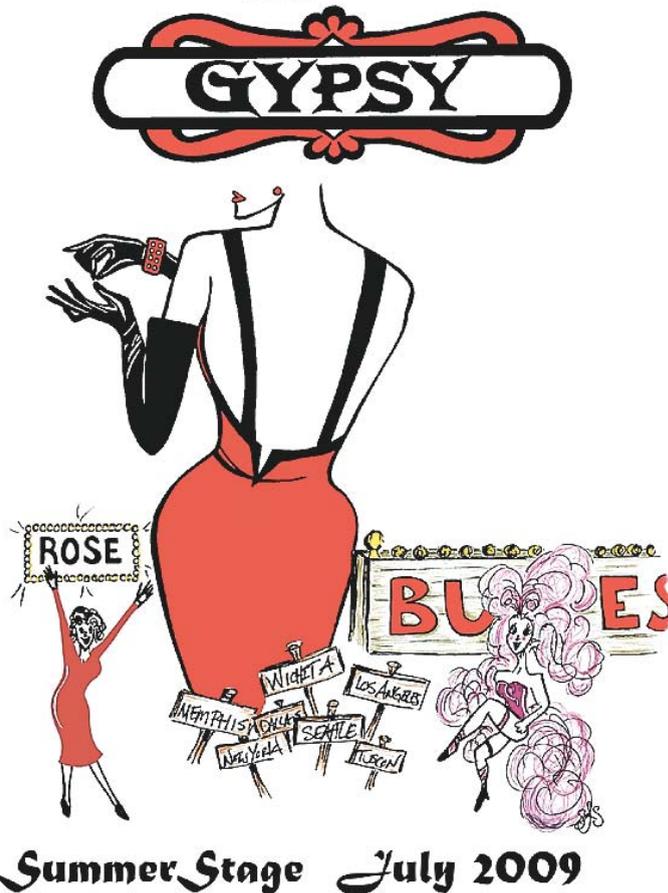
The LVHMA **Brambleton and Cascades Farmers Markets** will be open on Sunday July 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The Brambleton Market will feature a demonstration by Cookology Recreational Cooking School which offers classes in Cooking from the Farmers Markets. Visit www.loudounfarmersmarkets.org or call Judy Stroske, LVHMA Market Coordinator at 540-454-8089.

THROUGH JULY 5

Int'l Gathering of Youth

6 ♦ LOUDOUN/ASHBURN CONNECTION ♦ JULY 1-7, 2009

Piedmont Arts Foundation presents



JULY 15-19

"Gypsy." Presented by Piedmont Arts Foundation, Loudoun Youth and Franklin Park Performing Arts Center. Showtimes are July 16-18 at 7 p.m. and July 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adults, \$12/students and seniors. Call 540-338-7973 or go to www.piearts.org. Visit www.franklinparkartscenter.org.

Orchestras. More than 120 young musicians from a dozen countries converge in Ashburn to participate in the sixth annual international Gathering of Youth Orchestras. The mission of the event is to create cultural bridges among the participating nations, as well as to give the young musicians an opportunity to share with one another their culture and musical abilities and experiences.

♦ Local children are invited to participate in an open rehearsal of the International Youth Orchestra ASP on Wednesday, July 1 at 3 p.m. at Ida Lee Park Lower Level, 60 Ida Lee Drive, Leesburg.

♦ A Grand Concert I with the International Youth Orchestra ASP 2009 will be held Thursday, July 2 at 8 p.m. at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, Sterling. Suggested donation: \$15/adults, \$5/children.

♦ A Grand Concert II will be held Friday, July 3 at 8 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, Reston. Suggested donation: \$15/adults, \$5/children. Go to www.ymppa.org or call 703-628-2589.

JULY 6-31

"Loudoun Visions: Images by Loudoun Photographers:" An exhibition of photographic images in the life in Loudoun County by local photographers. Opening reception on Friday, July 10 from 6-9 p.m. at Franklin Park Arts Center, 36447 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville. Call 540-338-7973, or see www.franklinparkartscenter.org

JULY 6-26

Four Seasons of Oatlands. Art Show

and Sale. At the Oatlands Carriage House. Hours are Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m. Features images from the "Journey Through Hallowed Ground" portion of Route 15, which begins in Gettysburg, PA and ends at Monticello in Charlottesville. Call 703-777-3174 or visit www.oatlands.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 7

Explore Weird Foods. 2 p.m. At Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Register online at library.loudoun.gov or phone 703-430-9500.

Under the Sea. 2 p.m. Learn about sea life with Andrew Wilson of Under the Sea and meet some creatures of the sea. For ages 3-10. At Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Pl., Potomac Falls. Go to <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 8

Bicycle Advocacy Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Hosted by Bike Loudoun. Purcellville Councilman Greg Wagner will discuss challenges and rewards of retrofitting roads and streets for increased bike/ped mobility. Held in the Purcellville Town Council Chamber Room on Main Street. Contact Pat Turner at 703-444-4199, pat.turner2@verizon.net.

Lego Robotics. 2 p.m. Work in a team to build and program a robot and then compete against other teams. For ages 12-18. At Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Rd., Ashburn. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

Author Doris Weeks. 11 a.m. Reads from and presents a picture show of her new children's book, "On the Hillside Dreaming." At Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Pl., Potomac falls.

THURSDAY/JULY 9

Children and Youth Gardening. 7 p.m. Speaker Shawn Akard, outdoor education coordinator for Hollin Meadows Science and Math Focus School in Alexandria. At the Loudoun Extension Office, 30-B Catoctin Circle, SE, (Wachovia Bank Building, Leesburg.) Visit www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org. Or call 703-777-0373.

Explore Antarctica: Ice Cream Castles. Children ages 6-12 are invited to explore different continents through games and activities. Register online at library.loudoun.gov or phone 703-430-9500.

Books Are a Blast. 2 p.m. A comedy-magic show with Tom Lilly. Go to <http://library.loudoun.gov>

FRIDAY/JULY 10

Potty Party. 10:30 a.m. Learn a new approach to potty training with certified instructor Dana Carmichael. Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls.

The Jack Diamond and 80s, 90s, and Today. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Lansdowne Resort's Free Summer Concert Series – on the Terrace. Executive Chef Jason Lage and the culinary team will be offering a variety of fresh grilled foods. Call 877-509-8400 or visit www.lansdowneresort.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 11

Broad Run Marching Band Annual Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Broad Run High School. All profits go to the Broad Run High School band programs. For details, email 2010spartans@gmail.com.

Yo-yo Fun. 1-3 p.m. Yo-yo professional Dick Stohr will demonstrate the physics and fun of Yo-Yos. For ages 7-12. At Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Go to <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

Music Instruction. 1 p.m. A day camp of introductory piano instruction for ages 5-12 with Greg Genter of Piano Xpress. At Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Pl., Potomac Falls. Call 703-444-3228.

Ashburn Classics Meeting. 11:30 a.m. Pasta lunch catered by Andy's in Leesburg. Entertainment provided by the Jackson Singers, an African-American Gospel group. Call 703-858-1313 or 703-858-2941 for reservations.

Ashburn Classics Meeting. 11:30 a.m. Italian Pasta Party at the Ashburn Volunteer Fire Department, with catered food by Andy's of Leesburg. Featuring The Jackson Singers, an African-American Gospel Group. Call 703-858-1313.

MONDAY/JULY 13

Animal Ambassadors. 2:30 p.m. Free. Learn about backyard habitats through up-close encounters with live native animals of Virginia. At Cascades Library. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

Animal Ambassadors. 7 p.m. Free. Learn about backyard habitats through up-close encounters with live native animals of Virginia. At Ashburn Library. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

Baby Sign Language. 11 a.m. Dana Carmichael, certified sign language instructor. A beginning sign language class for babies ages 6 to 24 months with a parent or caregiver. At Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Register online at <http://library.loudoun.gov> or phone 703-737-8100.

TUESDAY/JULY 14

Explore Gum Art. 2 p.m. With artist Jamie Marraccini, for ages 8-11. At Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Pl.,

Potomac Falls. Register online at library.loudoun.gov or phone 703-444-3228.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 15

Animal Ambassadors. 4 p.m. Free. Learn about backyard habitats through up-close encounters with live native animals of Virginia. At Sterling Library. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

Ritzya, The Drama Coach. 7 p.m. For teens to test your improv skills against other teens. Drama coach offers tips and techniques to help you think fast and funny. At Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Pl., Potomac Falls.

THURSDAY/JULY 16

Explore Europe: How do you say? Children ages 6-12 are invited to explore different continents through games and activities. Register online at library.loudoun.gov or phone 703-430-9500.

FRIDAY/JULY 17

JunkFood (Contemporary). 7:30-10:30 p.m. Lansdowne Resort's Free Summer Concert Series – on the Terrace. Executive Chef Jason Lage and the culinary team will be offering a variety of fresh grilled foods. Call 877-509-8400 or visit www.lansdowneresort.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 19

Keep Your Brain Alive. 3 p.m. Learn tips and strategies to keep your brain alive by working crossword puzzles. Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls.

THURSDAY/JULY 23

Explore Asia: A Taste of Korea. Children ages 6-12 are invited to explore different continents through games and activities. Register online at library.loudoun.gov or phone 703-430-9500.

Teen Movie. 2 p.m. "The Incredible Hulk." Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St, Sterling.

FRIDAY/JULY 24

Sharon Thomas Experience (Jazz). 7:30-10:30 p.m. Lansdowne Resort's Free Summer Concert Series – on the Terrace. Executive Chef Jason Lage and the culinary team will be offering a variety of fresh grilled foods. Call 877-509-8400 or visit www.lansdowneresort.com.

JULY 25

Adopt a Great Dane. At Sterling PetCo Meet and Greet, 22000 Dulles Retail Plaza. Noon to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League (MAGDRL), one of the largest breed specific rescues helping find homes for abandoned or homeless Great Danes. Visit the MAGDRL's Northern Virginia Chapter's Web site at: www.nova-magdrl.org. Or call 703-644-8009.

MONDAY/JULY 27

Potty Party. 11 a.m. Learn a new approach to potty training with certified instructor Dana Carmichael. Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 29

Baby Sign Language. 11 a.m. Dana Carmichael, certified sign language instructor. A beginning sign language class for babies ages 6 to 24 months with a parent or caregiver. At Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Register online at <http://library.loudoun.gov> or phone 703-737-8100.

ENTERTAINMENT

Bluemont's 28th Concert Season In Leesburg

The Bluemont Concert Series announces its 2009 season of Sunday evening concerts moving this year to grounds of the Dodona Manor in downtown, historic Leesburg.

All are welcome to these family-oriented events and are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on and a picnic to enjoy before the show. Admission is \$5 per person, \$4 for Bluemont Friends and seniors, \$2 for kids 12 and under; proceeds go to support Bluemont's year-round Artist-In-Education program in area schools. All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

No pets, alcohol or smoking are allowed. In bad weather, the concerts will be held indoors at Smart's Mill Middle School. For more information, contact the Bluemont office at 540-338-4640 or visit www.bluemont.org.

SCHEDULE

- ❖ Sunday, July 5 — Daryl Davis Band — Boogie Woogie Rock
- ❖ Sunday, July 12 — Gold Heart — bluegrass
- ❖ Sunday, July 19 — Martinsburg Jazz Orchestra — big band
- ❖ Sunday, July 26 — Pan Masters — Caribbean, island music and dance
- ❖ Sunday, Aug. 2 — The Lindsay Family — brass ensemble
- ❖ Sunday, Aug. 9 — Flaming Shillelaghs — Celtic music and dance
- ❖ Sunday, Aug. 16 — Dixie Power Trio — New Orleans zydeco
- ❖ Sunday, Aug. 23 — The Taters — oldtime country rock

BUSINESS NOTES



Gina M. Tufano of RE/MAX Select Properties Inc. has earned the Certified Distressed Property Expert designation, having completed extensive training in foreclosure avoidance and short sales.

This expertise timely with the real estate market ravaged by "distressed" homes in the foreclosure process. Short sales allow the cash-strapped seller to repay the mortgage at the price that the home sells for, even though it is lower than what is owed on the property.

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SPORTS

Camp Attracts Youths to Golf

Managed by Billy Casper Golf, the 1757 Golf Club launches new junior golf program.

BY JASON MACKAY
THE CONNECTION

A few minutes after nine o'clock on Friday morning, June 26, Adam Harrell walked outside of the pro shop at the 1757 Golf Club in Ashburn and asked a group of campers if they were excited. And if they were, he said, they should raise their hand. Everyone did.

"We've never had 100 percent before," Harrell said.

That's when Colin Chung, one of Harrell's 12 campers for the day, reminded the 1757 Golf Club's new director of instruction that it was only the first week of the first summer camp. That's why he had never had a 100-percent showing of support before.

Harrell laughed, knowing Chung was partly right. He also wasn't about to complain. Last week was the first week of summer camp for the 1757 Golf Club's



Hired in mid-May to become the 1757 Golf Club's director of golf instruction, Adam Harrell has made learning a point of emphasis within the club's summer camp program.

revamped junior program and, according to Harrell and several campers, everything was a success.

"It was better than I expected," said 11-year-old Dorothy Dimitrew, who, along with her sister, Audrey Dimitrew, has been playing with the Loudoun Junior Golf Association this summer. "It's not as serious as I thought it would be, but it's been fun. I learned how to grip [the club] and how I should

line up my shots."

"I needed to learn golf, fix my grip and hit the ball farther," said Peter Tan, 12, of Herndon. "I've been here for five days and now I can grip the club better and hit the ball harder. It was a good time and I learned a lot."

The week-long junior summer camps will continue throughout the summer and wrap up on Friday, Aug. 21. Camps focus on fundamentals — full swing, woods, putting, chipping, rules and etiquette. The cost of a half-day camp (9 a.m.-noon) is \$295 per camper for the week, while full day tuition runs \$495. For more information about the junior golf camps, visit www.1757golfclub.com or contact Harrell at 703-444-0901.

THAT THE CAMP was such a success surprised Harrell, who had a little more than three weeks to lay the groundwork for it. On the site of what was once called The Presidential before it filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy last September, the 1757 Golf Club was purchased in mid-May by Billy Casper Golf.

While there are currently 10 playable holes on site, an 18-hole championship course designed by architect David Heatwole is slated for completion in the spring of 2010. And along with the course, a 16,000-square-foot clubhouse is also scheduled to open next spring.

The on-course work available at 1757 Golf Club has been a primary draw for the camp, too. While more than a few summer golf camps will restrict youngsters' access to the golf course, the program at 1757 Golf Club has encouraged it.



PHOTOS BY JASON MACKAY/THE CONNECTION

With a little help from instructor Joe Lussier, Jay Chang improved his golf swing last week during a week-long junior camp at the 1757 Golf Club off of Waxpool Road in Ashburn.

In addition to a morning filled with a classroom session and driving range work, full-day campers will spend the entire afternoon on the course.

"We want to get the kids out, introduce them to the game and play as much golf as they can," Harrell said. "So we always take them out on the course. And it is, unfortunately, a little rare."

STANDING NEXT to each other on Friday morning, Ashburn residents Dan and Jack Courtney could not look more opposite. Dan Courtney is 16. He's 6-foot-6 and wears size 18 shoes. Jack Courtney, meanwhile, is 6 and likely has never seen the big and tall section of a department store.

But both Courtney brothers took part in last week's activities as half-a-day campers. Jack Courtney, who also plays hockey, enjoyed improving his drive, while Dan Courtney wanted to shore up his all-around game — enough to compete with his friends at Bishop O'Connell High School and so he can have a hobby for when he gets older.

"This is the first real-time golfing I've done," said Dan Courtney, who also plays basketball for the Knights. "I really wanted to get into the sport because it's something I can play when I'm old."

Dan Courtney's goal fits well

with Harrell's philosophy, which basically involves mixing safety, fun and instruction together. It's all part of a plan that Harrell hopes can result in a much-improved instruction program at the 1757 Golf Club and maybe result in a few lifelong golfers.

"It's safety first. Lots of fun second and then instruction," Harrell said. "If we cover the first two bases and everyone's having a good time, then we're going to get into the grip, the set, chipping, pitching. "We want to introduce them to the game and hopefully have them become a golfer for life."

WEEK IN SPORTS

Flag Football Registration

The Northern Virginia Youth Flag Football League is registering children ages 6-13 years old to participate in the upcoming Aug. 3-7 camp, which will be held in Ashburn from 9 a.m.-noon. This summer marks the 12th year that the Northern Virginia Youth Flag Football League has been offering fall league and summer camp programs in the Loudoun County Community. For more information or to register, visit www.novaflag.com.



COURTESY OF BRUCE MCBARNETTE

Sterling resident Bruce McBarnette

Athlete of the Week

Bruce McBarnette, a 51-year-old attorney from Sterling, set a new United States record of 1.92 meters (six feet 3 inches and one quarter) in the high jump of men 50-54 years old at the Potomac Track Club All Comers Track Meet at Major J. Wells track at Falls Church High School on Sunday, June 14. This was his ninth USA record for his age group in less than two years. This performance broke the old American record which McBarnette set Aug. 2, 2008 in Eugene, Ore.

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Authority Reviews Toll Road Increases

Toll revenue will be used to finance 52 percent of Metrorail Extension.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Reston resident Brian D'Silva said fee increases are unlikely to affect his use of the Dulles Toll Road, which stretches 12 miles from the northwestern edge of Fairfax County to the Capital Beltway.

The federal government employee receives a subsidy that already helps offset the cost of his commute to downtown Washington D.C. And he usually takes the toll road's express bus service to and from the West Falls Church Metro station in any case so he doesn't pay the toll to get to work every day.

For all of his other toll road trips, D'Silva is supportive of a higher fee if it assists in getting the 22-mile Metrorail extension to Dulles International Airport and beyond in Loudoun County.

"If that is what it takes to get Metro out here, that is what it takes. We want to be sure Metro actually comes out here in the next three years," said D'Silva, who thinks the subway extension would help with local traffic congestion.

OVER THE NEXT three years, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority appears likely to raise rates on the Dulles Toll Road from 75 cents to \$1.50 at the main gate and 50 cents to 75 cents at the ramp gates.

At the main gate, the fees are likely to go up incrementally, increasing 25 cents each year in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The 25-cent price jump at the ramp gates is likely to be implemented in 2010, said airport authority officials.

The airports authority board of directors will take a vote on the new tolls in November but is leaning heavily toward this short-term fee structure, which the authority officials shared with the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee June 23.

The organization will seek public comment on the new rates during hearings scheduled for later this summer. Residents will also be able to comment on the toll increase vote through the airports authority's Web site and other means through the end of October.

The proposed rates would increase the average toll for a vehicle from 60 cents in 2009 to \$1.10 in 2012 and provide more money to help finance the Metrorail extension to Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County, according to Jim Taylor, the airports authority's financial consultant.

Overall, toll road revenue is expected to pay for 52.6 percent of the \$5.26 billion rail project. In order to produce enough revenue to support the Metrorail construction debt, toll roads rates will have to increase no matter what.

According to an airports authority presentation, the gross toll road revenue will have to rise from \$65 million in 2008 to \$87 million in 2010 and \$220 million in 2020 to support the Dulles Metrorail project.

"The tolls will make some people unhappy. Some people are already unhappy but we have to keep our eye on the prize," said Douglas Koelema, a member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, which oversees some of Virginia's transportation spending. Koelema is also a member of the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee.

Over the next three years, the toll increases are not significant enough that the airports authority expects people to look for alternative routes into the city center, said Taylor.

"Fairfax and Loudoun County will continue to press for more federal funding. I think the state needs to help out more too."

— **Scott York, chairman, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors chairman**

"It is below a level where you would start to see riders drop away," he said.

But toll road revenue has already declined slightly since 2006, in part because of a previous rate increase, according to the airports authority presentation.

Despite the initial drop off, the toll road revenue has stayed stable over the past three years, even in the midst of national economic downturn and an increase in gas prices. Taylor said this speaks to the strength of the toll road's revenue capacity because it indicates that several people will continue to use the road during financially tough times.

STILL, THE TWO elected officials on the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee appeared uncomfortable with the level of funding Dulles Toll Road users were being asked to provide for the Metrorail extension.

"Fairfax and Loudoun County will continue to press for more federal funding. I think the state needs to help out more too. Virginia stands to gain a lot from the economic development this project will generate," said Scott York (D), Loudoun County Board of Supervisors chairman.

Under the current payment structure for the rail extension, the federal government has provided \$900 million, approximately 17.1 percent of the project's funding, and Virginia has provided \$275 million, approximately 5.2 percent of the project's funding.

"There is federal funding for phase 1 [which extends to Reston] but for phase 2 [which extends to Loudoun], there is no federal funding," said Sharon Bulova (D), Fairfax County chairman.

Should the project receive more federal funding, Bulova would want to revisit the toll increases and see if they could be tempered, she said.

By taxing the landowners who stand to benefit from the rail extension, Fairfax County has raised \$848 million, covering about 16.1 percent of the Dulles rail cost. Loudoun County has chipped in \$252 million, about 4.8 percent of the cost.

Phase 1 of the project, which terminates in Reston and runs through Tysons Corner, costs \$2.75 billion. Phase 2, which extends to the Dulles airport and Loudoun, is estimated to cost \$2.5 billion.

Overall, the toll road is expected to bring in \$2.8 billion for both parts of the project, according to the airports authority.

SOME TOLL ROAD users are upset about bearing the brunt of the Dulles rail construction costs.

"The majority of the toll road revenue will be used for non-toll road purposes. That amounts to a tax that has to be paid with after-taxes money," said Rob Whitfield, a Reston resident who is troubled by the financing of the Metrorail extension.

Whitfield said it is unfair that commuters who will be coming into Tysons Corner from the east or those who would get on the train at Metro stations in McLean and Vienna do not have to pay for the cost of the subway construction. Due to where they live, they do not have to use the toll road regularly but will still benefit from the project, he said.

Landowners in Tysons Corner, who will benefit financially from the four new Metro stations, and the federal government, whose employees and contractors will use the train to get to work, should also contribute more money, he said.

"Can you think of anywhere else in the United States where such a relatively small group of people have to pay such a huge burden for a public project like this?" said Whitfield.

The Fairfax County supervisors are also concerned about the cost overruns that could occur on the Dulles Metrorail project and who would be asked to pay for them. In June, they asked the Fairfax County auditor to keep an eye on project change orders and other aspects of the Dulles Rail project that might increase the cost.

With the federal and state funding contributions currently capped, it is unclear where the extra money would come from should the Metro project go over budget. Some supervisors fear that Fairfax County taxpayers, not just landowners who stand to benefit from the project, would have to provide the extra financial assistance. But Dulles toll road users could also be asked to contribute more as well, should the project's costs escalate.



Up Close

D.C. United's Clyde Simms autographs Hayden Cohen's t-shirt during his appearance at DMB Sports Camp in Lansdowne.

Check Sheriff's Wanted List

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help in identifying several unidentified suspects from the agency's wanted subject's Web site.

The suspects were allegedly involved in recent crimes in Loudoun County including fraud, auto theft and larceny. The agency has compiled images of the suspects taken from video surveillance. The list can be viewed on the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Web site at www.loudoun.gov/sheriff and clicking on the Wanted: Information link.

Callers who can identify any of the suspects can contact the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division at 703-777-0475. If the caller wishes to remain anonymous, they are asked to call Loudoun Crime Solvers at 703-777-1919. If the information provided to Loudoun Crime Solvers leads to the arrest and indictment of the suspect(s), the caller could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1000.

Traffic Yields Fiscal Benefit

As Loudoun County's population has risen over the years, traffic has increased dramatically as well, and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department has benefited financially from that reality.

Revenues from traffic fines and vehicle forfeitures have totaled \$2.1 million in the 2009 fiscal year, which just closed, up from \$1.8 million in 2008 and \$1.67 million in 2007.

"Population increase is part of it," said Sheriff's Department spokesman Kraig Troxell, but so is staffing. Two years ago the department had between 20 and 30 street deputy positions vacant but hiring over the last two years has shrunk that number to less than 8 full-time street deputy vacancies and the combination of more traffic and more deputies on patrol has meant more money for the county, Troxell said.

"Opera News;" Who New?



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

As a currently-receiving-treatment cancer patient, I am often sitting in a medical-related office/facility somewhere either waiting for an appointment with a doctor, for some kind of scan/diagnostic procedure, lab work, prescription drug refill, etc. And as most people know — and likely have experienced — these waits can vary from minutes to hours.

Being prepared to fill this time is a prudent and practical step to take. Unfortunately, other than carrying my cell phone and my appointment book, I rarely do. As a consequence, if calls are not being made — or received — or notes not already written, I am left to fend for myself, you might say, in order to pass the time. And by fending, I really mean scrounging, as in looking around at the various tables, chairs, shelves, counters, etc., for something, anything, to read.

Most often, there is ample material to be found. Being able to actually read what's available though is another thing. The condition — and timeliness — of these magazines leaves a lot to be desired and may even leave a little to the imagination. Of the many magazines scattered about: Time, Newsweek, US Weekly, People, Sports Illustrated, as a few examples, most are out of date; in fact, One New Yorker Magazine had a Sept. '07 Issue date. In addition, the general condition of many of these magazines made them almost unreadable: front and/or back covers missing or torn; inside pages also missing and/or torn; many of the pages shredded, yellowed, stained, written on and some with corners bent and curled; less than ideal circumstances for someone who came ill-prepared to wait, needing something marginally stimulating to pass the time, time which needs to be filled two to three times per week on average.

Occasionally, I do find magazines that are not so difficult to read, shall I say. And during a recent visit, after encountering the normal appointment delay and magazine mayhem, I did notice one magazine that appeared by its cover's condition, to have been barely touched by human hands so I picked it up: "Opera News" was its title. And not that I know too much about the difference between "Opera News" and Oprah news (although now I know that they both have magazines), but I had never heard — or seen about the former, though I've certainly heard about — and seen — the latter.

Aside from the content (which was totally unfamiliar to me), it was the condition and publication date of the magazine that caught my eye. The condition was hot-off-the-press perfect and its publication date was the week of the month on which I found myself sitting and waiting. Of all the magazines strewn about whose content I might have had a passing-the-time interest in reading (most of which were fairly — or unfairly — unreadable as I've previously described), the one magazine that was the most physically readable and the most current was the magazine that I was least interested in reading, content-wise.

Under my present health circumstances, I can't exactly characterize this sort of irony as a cruel trick, but I can see its use a fodder for a column. Perhaps for my next appointment, I'll be better prepared to sit and wait because I expect little will change, other than me, that is.

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

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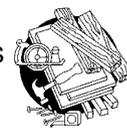
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21 Announcements

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