

Cascades CONNECTION

Countryside ❖ Potomac Falls ❖ Lowes Junction ❖ Sterling

Steve Meserve leads a tour through the Lanesville House on Saturday, Nov. 14. The house was built in stages between the 1770s and early 1900s.

Open Historical House

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Hard Times, Hard Budget

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Trump: Let's Work Together

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PHOTO BY CASEY DE STEFANO / THE CONNECTION CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

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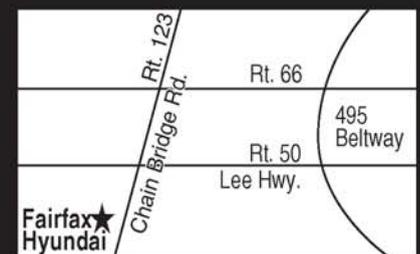


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Working Together

Trump outlines synergy with Loudoun.

BY MARTIN CASEY
THE CONNECTION

Eric F. Trump, executive vice president of development and acquisitions for Donald J. Trump's organization, returned Monday to host members of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce and to talk about the synergy between his organization's interests and those of the county and its business interests.

He and his father announced last April 30 their organization's purchase of the former Lowes Island Country Club in Cascades. At the time, they also announced how they planned to expand the facility.

Much of that expansion was visibly underway Monday — most notably installation of a new, large fountain in front of the club's main building entrance. The fountain was expected to be operating by next week.

The club sits on more than 500 acres of land along the Potomac River.

Trump told Chamber members Monday that the question most frequently asked of him is, "Why Loudoun County?" To which he gave the real estate answer: "Location, location, location." It is not easy to find 500 acres along the Potomac River just 30 miles from Washington, D.C.

"Washington continues to grow," said Trump, "and it's growing in this direction." He also noted that Loudoun County has the highest median household income, which bodes well for his new club's membership.

"Business is transitioning into Washing

SEE WORKING, PAGE 4

Foreclosure Rate Declines

BY MARTIN CASEY
THE CONNECTION

The number of real estate foreclosures filed in the Loudoun County Courthouse this year has dropped significantly since last year's spike, another sign of recovery in the local real estate market, and a possible indicator of economic improvement overall.

Clerk of Court Gary Clemens reported 1,230 home foreclosures this year through October. Last year was the peak year for local foreclosures, with 2,249 filings dur

SEE DECLINING, PAGE 4



The color guard of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, Virginia Army National Guard, in front of Dodona Manor, former home of Gen. George C. Marshall.

Honoring Veterans

At Dodona Manor, a time to acknowledge past and present military service.

BY MARTIN CASEY
THE CONNECTION

The Leesburg National Guard unit, which traces its heritage to the town's Colonial Militia, was honored, along with all U.S. military veterans, last week with a ceremony on the grounds of Dodona Manor, the former home of Gen. George C. Marshall who was known especially for the post-World War II recovery program that bore his name: The Marshall Plan.

Leesburg's 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment of the Virginia National Guard is also known as "The Stonewall Brigade" for its Civil War action at the first Battle of Bull Run when Gen. Robert E. Lee, observing the unit led by Gen. Thomas Jackson, commented, "Look at Jackson standing there like a stone wall." Jackson was known since then as "Stonewall" Jackson and the unit is part of the heritage of the 3rd Battalion.

The unit saw action in France during World War I and was the only National Guard unit at Normandy Invasion in World War II.

Brigadier General Theodore G. Shuey, a former commander of the unit who has written a book about the historic unit, told those gathered on Veterans Day last week that Gen. Marshall, before the Normandy invasion, thought it was important to demonstrate to Adolf Hitler that the American homefront was solidly behind the invasion. To do so, the guard



U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf addresses the audience.

unit was activated and placed in a leading position for the attack.

Since then, the unit has served in Bosnia in 1997, was deployed to Afghanistan in 2004, and to Kuwait and Iraq in 2007.

Among the Veterans Day speakers at Dodona Manor was U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf, Virginia's senior member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who noted it was appropriate to recognize veterans at Marshall's home for 18 years, observing also that President Truman had called Marshall "the greatest military man America ever produced."

Wolf also noted that the day honors "countless other American veterans forever — among them the brave men and women who just days ago were victims of a horrific domestic terrorist attack at

SEE HONORING, PAGE 4

Hard Times, Hard Budget

Cut services, raise tax rate, or both.

BY MARTIN CASEY
THE CONNECTION

County supervisors, with last year's difficult budget process in mind, have started earlier on the new budget, yet all appear to expect even more difficult budget choices this year.

That's because more students keep showing up to attend Loudoun schools each year regardless of economic conditions.

Fairfax schools reportedly have begun to show some easing in school attendance, but not so in Loudoun where 59,490 students were counted at the start of school this year, compared to 57,009 last year.

Yet, taxpayers are still going through a period of lower home values, job losses and pinched family budgets.

A revitalized economy is not expected to show up before the county must set a tax rate for fiscal 2011.

The push and pull was already evident last week between those defending funding for schools and taxpayers bitter about a budget in which schools traditionally get 70 percent of the tax dollar.

At a meeting of homeowner association board members in Sugarland Run, residents urged that Supervisor Susan Buckley vote to cut the school budget this go-round in order to keep real estate taxes down.

"We don't need to spend that much on schools," said one man, who was quickly joined by another during the comment period. But these comments were quickly rebutted by younger residents who had children in public schools.

AT LAST THURSDAY'S joint meeting of supervisors and School Board members, Susan Sullivan, president of the Loudoun Education Association, with more than 3,300 member

"A flat budget for the upcoming year endangers the outstanding quality of Loudoun's schools."

— Susan Sullivan, president, LEA

SEE TOUGHEST, PAGE 4

Working Together

FROM PAGE 3

ton," said Trump, "and that's good for Loudoun," he added, as businesses moving to the Washington area look for land and office space next to homes and near Dulles International Airport.

The Trumps are already at work to make the club's main golf course fully competitive with the courses now on the Professional Golf Association tour.

"We'll have the best [golf] course in the country," Trump promised Chamber members Monday.

The new "Trump National Golf Club, Washington, D.C.," as the senior Trump re-named the club upon its purchase, has two golf courses, three tennis courts under a rubberized roof, plus a formal dining room, a grill and a fitness center.

Expansion plans include lengthening fairways on the main golf course by 700 yards, replacing the tennis facility with six courts outside and six more courts inside a new permanent building, and expanding the main club toward the Potomac River to make room for a larger dining room, a larger grill, and a larger fitness center.

Workmen could be seen at work on the riverfront patio even as the Chamber meeting continued in the dining room.

Trump said that the new club will also serve "as a buffer on the Potomac River" and help the environment. Pointing overhead to six new chandeliers installed over the weekend, he noted as an example of his company's concern for the environment that the chandeliers all use low energy-consuming bulbs.

"Concern for the environment is a factor in all of the renovations at the club," Trump said.

Returning to his company's business interest in Loudoun, Trump reminded Chamber members that he needs members and general support for his club and the events he expects to host there, just as the county benefits from the attractions that his refurbished facility will soon attract.

New Parents Night Out Program

The Potomac Falls Anglican Church in Cascades is offering a new "Fast Break Fun Night" for children ages 4 through 12, "giving parents time to spend together, visit with friends or just relax and recharge," said the Rev. Pamela Meeks who will run the program.

The first "Fast Break Fun Night" is set for Saturday, Nov. 21, 6-9 p.m. at Horizon Elementary School on Broadmore Drive between Cascades Parkway and Potomac View Road.

Register in advance at www.fastbreakfunnight.com, or call Meeks at 703-728-6889.



PHOTO BY MARTIN CASEY/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Leesburg National Guard unit, march during last week's Veterans Day ceremonies.

Honoring Veterans

FROM PAGE 3

Fort Hood — on American soil."

He also noted that "although patriotic Americans can disagree about particular calls to arms, the honor of those who have put on the uniform on our nation's behalf should never be questioned. Many

have given their lives because they believed in the basic goodness of their nation and the dream it embodied."

"I thank all veterans, past and present, for their service," Wolf concluded.

The program concluded with the laying of a wreath in honor of all of the nation's military veterans.

Declining Foreclosure Rates Signal Economic Improvement

FROM PAGE 3

ing 2008.

Clemens reported only 12 foreclosures filed in all of 2005. An apparent spike in 2006 to 139 foreclosures, which drew concern at the time, looked pale by 2007 when foreclosures jumped to 1,215 — but then nearly doubled in 2008 to 2,249.

January was the only month this year to show an increase compared to 2008 figures, jumping to 114 foreclosures from last January's 39 — but January 2009, also was

a significant improvement over the previous December 2008 count of 176 foreclosures filed.

Since January of this year, each monthly foreclosures count has been significantly lower than for the same month in 2008.

The highest number of foreclosure filings during any month on record was 279 in July of last year.

In October this year, Clemens saw only 118 foreclosure filings, compared with 142 in September this year, and 226 in October of last year.

New Bus Service to Tysons Approved

Loudoun County will launch a new express bus service to employment sites in Tysons Corner next fall as part of a plan to reduce vehicle congestion in Tysons

during the most disruptive period of construction of the Dulles Metrorail.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted to accept Dulles Corridor Metrorail Transportation Management funds for the temporary service, which is scheduled to run from September 2010 through the end of 2013.

The funds will cover operation of the express bus service, including the purchase of four commuter coaches that will operate between two lots in

Loudoun and various stops at employment sites in Tysons Corner.

The Loudoun County Office of Transportation Services plans to hold public meetings and conduct other community outreach efforts early next year to solicit input from potential bus riders related to possible routes and schedules.

More information about the new service will be posted as it becomes available on the Loudoun County Web site at www.loudoun.gov/bus.

Toughest Budget Yet

FROM PAGE 3

school teachers and other school employees, said: "A flat budget for the upcoming year endangers the outstanding quality of Loudoun's schools," adding that such a budget "puts jobs on the line even as LCPS prepares to welcome and educate more than 3,000 new students."

"Directing the creation of a school budget with a 5 percent reduction from current funding levels surely will cut deeply into our school programs, our employee base and directly impact our students," Sullivan said.

At the same time, supervisors are concerned about overcrowding in Loudoun Schools.

With Stone Bridge High School the county's most severely crowded school, Broad Run Supervisor Lori Waters in recent weeks has led an effort to secure early construction of a new high school in Ashburn on the north side of the Greenway. And to jump start the construction, she has pushed to build the new school on a 100-acre site that the county already owns. The site, along the south side of Farmwell Road, however has been designated in county planning for a new Monroe VoTech facility and commercial construction. The site may be large enough for the two schools if commercial uses are passed up.

MEANWHILE, Supervisors Chairman Scott York reported that if this year's budget is expanded to serve the additional number of students, additional debt service payments for capital construction, and factor in the drop in real-estate values and expected reductions in state funds to the county, "the tax rate would need to be increased from [the current] \$1.245 to \$1.458." He added that the result would be a \$156.8 million shortfall in the new budget.

He said the board has instructed its budget office to produce:

- ❖ A budget that maintains funding at current fiscal 2010 levels, which would equate to a tax rate on homeowners of \$1.30 per \$100 of assessed value because home values are down from last year; and

- ❖ A budget that increases funding levels by 5 percent over the FY10 budget, which would equate to a tax rate of \$1.37.

In either case, supervisors would need to make up the \$156.8 million shortfall in the new budget.

This could be done, York said, by:

- ❖ raising the tax rate to \$1.458, which would increase the average tax bill by about 10 percent;
- ❖ cutting the budget by the \$156.8 million, or
- ❖ a combination of budget cuts and tax rate increases.

He urged residents to let supervisors know what they need in the new budget, from listing programs most urgent to suggesting a most optimal tax rate.

Residents may e-mail all supervisors at bos@loudoun.gov; write to Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, 1 Harrison St., SE, Fifth Floor, P.O. Box 7000, Mailstop #01, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000, or call the "comment line" at 703-777-0115. Residents may also sign up to speak at public hearings held on the Monday following the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 6:30 p.m. Additional public hearings will be announced. For more information, visit www.loudoun.gov.

HISTORY

PHOTOS BY CASEY DESTEFANO/THE CONNECTION



Open Historical House Steve Meserve offered free guided tours of the Lanesville House — a National Register of Historic Places listed property — on Saturday, Nov. 14. The house was owned by only two families, the Lane/Keene/Bridges family for 170 years and Dr. Claude Moore for 50 years.



Mason AT LOUDOUN

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Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, the Cascades Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: PhotoL@connectionnews.com, or mail or deliver contributions by Dec. 4, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

Children's Connection

Every year, over the winter holidays, the Connection turns the pages of one entire issue over to the contributions of local students.

We will feature artwork of many kinds, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories, reflections and more. Artwork can include paintings, drawings or any media; photos of sculpture, ceramics or other works too large to submit are also encouraged.

We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled. Past contributions have come from children from nursery schools through those preparing to graduate from high school.

Sometimes an art or English teacher will assign a project and submit the work of an entire class, but individual submissions from any young person in the community are welcome.

You can see last year's Children's Connections on our Web site. Go to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click on "print Editions Online" in the red bar and scroll down to "Children's Connection."

We prefer digital submissions, delivered on CD or via email. Please send in submissions as soon as possible. Our address is 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Please be sure to include the name of the artist or author, and include age, grade, school attended and name of the home town, along with address and phone number to be used for verification purposes only.

Rise in Child Deaths Requires Volunteer Action

To the Editor:

A new report by the advocacy group Every Child Matters focused on the disturbing rise of child deaths in the United States due to maltreatment. Local reports earlier in the year also pointed to an increase in family violence across Northern Virginia as well.

What readers need to know is that the majority of children who die from maltreatment had no prior contact with child protective services. We need to understand that each one of us is responsible for the children in our community — not just child protective services — and that we each have the power to prevent these tragedies.

Another grim statistic? Over 75 percent of the children who die from maltreatment are under the



Walk Raises \$7,000 Some 242 people helped raise more than \$7,000 in the Good Shepherd Alliance's 5th Annual Walk for Shelter which took place in downtown Leesburg. Terri Lightle helped organize the registrations and volunteers that helped with the event. Common Ground Church took care of the moon bounces, sound system and lunch.

Make Loudoun a 'Community that Cares'

To the Editor

The national economic downturn has affected every region of the United States; some far more severely than others. Loudoun County, too, has felt a tremendous impact with many job losses and with increased foreclosures. Many more residents are struggling to get by in ways they had not imagined just a short time ago.

The citizens of Loudoun County have shown many times before that we can come together as a united community, willing to step forward in times of national emergency and to assist with disaster

relief. After September 11th, Hurricane Katrina and the Indian Ocean tsunami our citizens made it clear that we are a community that cares.

Traditionally, we gather to celebrate the holiday season with our families and friends and to count our blessings. But this year, many in our county will have fewer blessings to count as they struggle to provide the basic necessities for their families.

This year the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors asks all Loudoun's citizens to reach out to our neighbors who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

pausing long enough to offer support or suggest they contact one of the many organizations in Northern Virginia offering parenting resources?

Perhaps while the federal government figures out the funding for this issue affecting millions of children and parents across the country, we each could be having an impact on just one right here in our own community.

Diane Charles
Executive Director, SCAN of Northern Virginia

To report child abuse in Loudoun County, call 703-771-5437. Or call the 24-Hour Virginia Helpline/Hotline at 1-800-552-7096. If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

Let's make the 2009 holiday season a year in which we help one another.

Our county has very good resources available for citizens who would like to offer a helping hand during this holiday season. Please see the special link on the County's Web site, "A Community that Cares," at: www.loudoun.gov and follow to the volunteer and donation opportunities list. Some of our local non-profits are looking for volunteers; some have specific requests for food, clothes, toys or building materials. Some non-profits would be grateful for a monetary donation.

You can choose to volunteer with one of our non-profit agencies or to donate much-needed food, toys or household items. We know that you will make a difference for someone you may not know and help make Loudoun a better place through your kindness. Thank you.

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PEOPLE

Pursuing a Dream

Young actress lands role with Shakespeare Theatre Company.

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI JONES
THE CONNECTION

At the wise old age of 4, Julia Ferrara turned to her mother, Meryl, and asked, "How do people get on TV and commercials?"

Meryl Ferrara explained that people interested in being on television got agents. Julia then said she wanted her own agent and her mother went along. Not long after, the 4-year-old was featured in her first print ad for Marriott.

Now with a number of commercials and television appearances under her belt, Julia, 8, has been cast in the Shakespeare Theatre Company's production of "As You Like It."

"I like them both," the third-grader at Sanders Corner Elementary School said about doing television versus a live production. "For the play, it's fun being on stage. With TV, I like seeing myself on TV and I don't get that nervous because there is only a camera. On stage, I get a little nervous before then I get on stage and I'm not nervous anymore."

THE ASHBURN FARMS resident has also done commercials for Ledo's Pizza, had appearances on the Planet Green Channel, where she was featured with her sisters, Krista, 15, and Alexa, 13, and on "America's Most Wanted" and was in a short film. She also plans to take part in two plays at school.

To date, besides the Marriott ad where she got to lay in bed and eat ice cream, the play is her favorite job.

"The cast members are really nice. The cast say good job Julia," she said. "I'm the youngest. I like being the youngest."

"Julia is a very talented young actress and it has been a pleasure to work with her. She is professional, she has a great smile and she's going to be very good in this play," Alan Paul, the production's assistant director, wrote in an e-mail. "We all love watching her."

He wrote Julia was chosen because of her stage presence and energy. "When we saw her at the audition, we knew that the audi-



Julia Ferrara of Ashburn Farms appears in the Shakespeare Theatre Company's production of "As You Like It."

ence would fall in love with her," he wrote.

Julia, who is slated to play two roles, shares the part with another young actress, McKennah Edmunds, also from Virginia. The pair will take turns, each doing an equal number of performances between Nov. 17 and Dec. 20. Since it is a nonspeaking role in Act I, Julia has no lines to learn, however, she has to act through her expressions.

"I do acting emotions, one sad, one happy," she said.

Her mom said she can continue to pursue the entertainment field providing it doesn't take over young Julia's life.

"As long as she's having fun, I will support it and it doesn't interfere with school," Meryl Ferrara said. "So far, she's been able to balance it."

Julia's dad, Tom, is equally proud of his young thespian.

ACTING ISN'T the only thing demanding Julia's time. The youngster also plays soccer and basketball as well as likes singing and tumbling. Sometimes she has to miss soccer or basketball practice due to her acting, but she still finds time to hang out with her friends and be just an 8-year-old.

"When I'm at school, I talk about normal things," she said.

Some of her friends plan to make the trip to Washington, D.C., to see her perform. They have also gotten to see her previous work. Julia typically receives a disk of the commercials she's been in.

After the last curtain call, Julia is looking forward to doing more television shows and hopes to get a part in "long movies." But she would be happy to do more stage work.

"I like doing stage, I'd do either one," she said.

Mother, Daughter Team as Authors

Their dogs proved inspiring.

BY SENITRA MCCOMBS
THE CONNECTION

From scouting out good properties to scouting out good publishers, real estate agent turned author Sharon Combs' children's book, "Puppy Pen Pals" finally has reached the public.

Tate Publishing and Enterprises released the book to bookstores nationwide the week of Oct. 13. In addition, it can also be purchased online at barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com or target.com.

Or it can be ordered through the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore.

The pair plans to do another book for next Christmas.

Combs, an Ashburn resident, co-wrote the book with her daughter Terri Silveira who lives in Sunnydale, Calif. They pieced together the book through long and numerous telephone conversations.

As one might guess, their dogs provided the inspiration.

"She just got a puppy and I had one that was a year and half. Then, I decided that I would have my dog write her dog a letter to welcome him into the family. We just kept going back and forth and finally we decided that it would be fun to put it in book form for children." Combs said.

SEE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER, PAGE 11

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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.

THURSDAY/NOV. 19

Money Management Workshop. 7-8:30 p.m. Free. "Keeping a Check on Holiday Spending." Topics to be covered will include "Five Leading Causes of Overspending", "Strategies for Avoiding Debt During the Holidays", "How to Make Your Money Go Further", and to assist with future planning, "Strategies for Getting Out of Debt After The Holidays", and "Tips on Saving For Future Spending". At the Cascades Branch of the Loudoun County Public Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Contact Sharon Suchoski at 703-771-5715.

Member's Meet & Greet. 10 a.m. Sponsored by MOMS Club of Ashburn Village for potential members. The MOMS Club is a group of at-home mothers (including those who work out of their home or part-time) who have fun and support each other through playgroups, field trips, Moms Night Out, and more. Visit <http://avmomsclub.50webs.com/> or email ashburnmomsclub@yahoo.com.

Green Business Challenge. 10-11 a.m. The challenge invites businesses to take action within their organizations to conserve energy and reduce greenhouses gases in our region. At the Loudoun County Government Center, Board Room, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., in Leesburg. Call www.loudoun.gov/energy.

NOV. 19-21

"Macbeth." 7:30 p.m. The play is being performed as a company piece, with actors playing more than one role. At Potomac Falls High School. Cost is \$7. Call 571-434-3217.

FRIDAY/NOV. 20

MOPS Meeting. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers. At the Community Church, 19790 Ashburn Road, Ashburn. Contact Ashley Saunders-ashley.saunders1@yahoo.com.

MOMS Club of Sterling West. 10:30 a.m. Meets at the Cascades Library. Kids can play while moms mingle and find out more about the club, such as playgroups, activities, Moms' night out and more. Go to <http://www.momsclubofsterlingva.org/> or email sterlingmomsclub@yahoo.com.

Kaleidoscope Children's Performance Series. 10 a.m. Peter McCarty, the One Man Band will be singing and playing his guitar along with other instruments. At Ida Lee Park Recreation Center, in the lower level social hall. For ages 2 and up. Tickets are available in advance for \$6.00 or the day of the show for \$8.00 for each child. Adults are free. Call 703-777-1368 or visit www.idalee.org.

NOV. 19-20

Plein Air Workshop. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. With renowned painter Christine Lashley. Participants will follow in the footsteps of master painters, such as Claude Monet and John S. Sargent, and learn how to compose a painting on the spot, and they will discover tricks for simplifying landscape elements and working with composition. Must pre-register. Fee: \$85 for one day; \$150 for both days. Visit www.loudounacademy.org or call 703-703-8043.

NOV. 20-21

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Presented by the Pickwick Players.



SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Community Canning Event. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The how-to training session will feature locally grown produce. Cost is \$10 per person, which includes use of equipment three jars each of the fruit or vegetable processed. At the Giant Food of Ashburn, 43330 Junction Plaza, Ashburn. Reservations are required so call 703-470-7790.

Evenings at 7:30 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. At River Bend Middle School, 45250 Algonkian Parkway, Sterling. Tickets online are \$11/adults, \$9/seniors and children, \$45/family. Available at www.thepickwickplayers.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

One-Day Mural Painting Workshop. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn to paint murals for your home or business with Kathi Scholz Fertig. This workshop will concentrate on the different ways to conceptualize and design a mural of your own creation. Cost is \$90. Visit www.loudounacademy.org or call 703-703-8043.

StarLab Portable Planetarium. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit the traveling planetarium from the Science Museum of Virginia. An aerospace educator will lead you on an odyssey to the worlds beyond the Earth. At the Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls.

Woodsheddors Perform. 8 p.m. Concert Includes Special Guests Danny Knically and Foggy Smith. Local acoustic band takes the stage at Franklin Park Arts Center. Tickets are \$12/adults, \$10/students and seniors. Call 540-338-7973.

7th Annual Freeze Your Gizzard. 5K Race, 1-Mile Fun Run. Begins at 9 a.m. At Ida Lee Park. Pre-registration is \$20 for the 5K and \$10 for the 1-Mile Run, plus two cans of food, which will be donated to Loudoun Interfaith Relief's food bank. Registration can be completed on-line at www.active.com. Call 703-777-1368 or visit the Web site at www.idalee.org.

NOV. 21-22

Treasures for Life Rummage Sale. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale features furniture, household items, clothing, office equipment, books, artwork, electronics, outdoor equipment, toys, and many other items for sale. Sponsored by the IYS Corporation to Support Mothers Against Drunk Driving. At 23465 Rock Haven Way, Suite 125, Dulles. Anyone wishing to arrange for a donation and free pickup of items for the sale may call 703-779-7534. Visit: <http://www.TreasuresforLife.net>

SUNDAY/NOV. 22

Loudoun Symphony Orchestra Autumn Chamber Music. 3 p.m. At the Franklin Park Arts Center, 36441 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville. Cost is Adults \$12/10, Seniors \$10/8, Youth 18 and under free.

NOV. 23-24

Give a Gobble Event. Curves of Ashburn will waive the initial service fee for any new member who brings in either a turkey or a \$30 contribution,

all to be donated to Loudoun Interfaith Relief. Call Kim Beach at Ashburn Curves at 571-223-0123 or ashburncurves@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Community Canning Event. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The how-to training session will feature locally grown produce. Cost is \$10 per person, which includes use of equipment three jars each of the fruit or vegetable processed. At the Giant Food of Ashburn, 43330 Junction Plaza, Ashburn. Reservations are required so call 703-470-7790.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Preventing Diabetes. 10 a.m. to noon. Type 2 diabetes can be delayed and prevented with healthier habits during the pre-diabetes stage. In these two-hour classes, certified diabetes educators will provide information on physical activity, an improved diet and other positive lifestyle changes that can stall or prevent type 2 diabetes. \$50 registration. At the Diabetes Center, Inova Loudoun Hospital, 44045 Riverside Parkway, Leesburg. Call 703-750-8800 or go to www.inova.org/healthclasses.

DEC. 5-6

Treasures for Life Rummage Sale. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale features furniture, household items, clothing, office equipment, books, artwork, electronics, outdoor equipment, toys, and many other items for sale. Sponsored by the IYS Corporation to Support Mothers Against Drunk Driving. At 23465 Rock Haven Way, Suite 125, Dulles. Anyone wishing to arrange for a donation and free pickup of items for the sale may call 703-779-7534. Visit: <http://www.TreasuresforLife.net>

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

Concert. 3 p.m. Ensemble a la Carte, featuring bassoonist Robin Gelman. The group will perform Serenade, opus 14, for seven winds by Julius Roentgen and the Sextet, opus 271, by Carl Reinecke. At Congregation Sha'are Shalom, 19357 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg, across from Heritage High School. Call 703-737-6500 or visit www.sha-areshalom.org.

Birding Hotspots in Loudoun. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join Joe Coleman and Laura Weidner of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on a daylong search for sparrows, hawks, waterfowl, and other seasonal birds at some of Loudoun County's richest birding destinations. The group will meet at the Audubon Naturalist Society's Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg. Registration required. Members (ANS & LWC): \$30; Non-members: \$42. To register contact ANS at 301-652-9188 x16.

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

NOV. 21-22

"Nutcracker in A Shell - All Jazzed Up!" 3 p.m. This shortened version of the classic production includes jazz, tap, modern, hip hop and ballet styles of dance performed by children for children At Broad Run High School in Ashburn. Tickets are \$12/adults, \$8/seniors and children. Call 703-724-4900 or go to <http://www.ipayouth.org>.

Christmas at Morven Park. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The living history program will re-create camp life of the 17th Mississippi Regiment in winter quarters. Special drilling and firing demos at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily. The soldiers will also share stories of how Christmas was celebrated by the troops, both North and South, during the Civil War. At Historic Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane in Leesburg. Visit www.morvenpark.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Breakfast With Santa. 8:30 a.m. to noon. Hosted by the Arcola-Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department. At Arcola United Methodist Church, 24757 Evergreen Mills Road, Sterling. Call 703-542-6839.

Make Holiday Cards. 10 a.m. to noon. Nature and art come together in this

workshop where children will create holiday-themed artwork and cards for sending to family and friends. At the Loudoun Academy of the Arts, 222 South King Street in Leesburg. Cost is \$20 plus \$10 supply fee. For ages 5-10. Register on-line at www.loudounacademy.org or call 703-777-8043.

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

Nutcracker Tea Party. 1 p.m. Loudoun Ballet Company performs The Nutcracker Tea Party at River Creek Country Club, 43404 Westchester Square, Leesburg. Children ages 3-12 is \$25; adults 13 and up is \$35. Performances will be at Park View High School, 400 W. Laurel Ave., Sterling, on Saturday, Dec. 12 and 19, at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 13 and 20 at 2:30 p.m. Call 703-771-8074. Go to www.loudounballet.org/teapartytickets.

TUESDAY/DEC. 8

Holiday Open House. 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also collecting non-perishable food for Loudoun Interfaith Relief. At the Visit Loudoun Office, 112-G South Street, SE, Market Station, Leesburg. Snow Date: Monday, Dec. 14.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

Ashburn Classics Christmas Luncheon. 11 a.m. The Ashburn Classics is a social club for seniors age 50 and over in the Ashburn area. At the Holiday Inn, Leesburg. Reservations are required and entertainment will be provided. Call 703-858-1313.

Master Singers of Virginia. 8 p.m. (7:15 p.m. lecture). Holiday performance from chant to carol. A 34-member a cappella ensemble under the direction of Dr. Erik Jones. Tickets are \$18/adults and \$15/students/seniors (65+) in advance. Go to www.msva.org or call 703-655-7809. At Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, 43115 Waxpool Road, Ashburn.

Loudoun Symphony Performs. 8 p.m. "Celebrate the Season" features Christmas, Hanukkah and winter music. At Stone Bridge High School, Claibourne Parkway and Hay Road in Ashburn. For tickets, call 703-771-8287 or visit www.loudounsymphony.org

DEC. 20-22

"A Christmas Carol." 7 p.m. Presented by Oatlands Carriage House Theater. Cost is \$15/adults and \$5/children ages 12 and under. To purchase tickets, call 703-777-3174, ext., 110. Call 703-777-3174 or visit www.oatlands.org.

Oatlands Presents a Wedding Winter Wonderland

This year's Christmas celebration at Oatlands will focus on the tradition of weddings at the mansion. During the holiday season, there will be a number of wedding gowns from different eras on display.

Wedding gowns on display include the wedding dress of Rebecca Dulaney (niece of George and Kate Carter) that she wore to her wedding to John Hill Carter Beverly in 1881 and the gown Margaret Finley wore to her 1932 wedding at Oatlands. A special wedding dress made by designer Wendy Pepper, the great granddaughter of Mrs. Edith Eustis, will also be on display.

In addition to wedding gowns, Oatlands will come alive with historic and handcrafted decorations, some featuring materials from the gardens on the property. The holiday décor will also feature an abundance of greenery and beautifully decorated Christmas trees. There will also be live music in the Mansion on Saturdays and Sundays.

Tours will be held Monday-Fri-

day every hour on the hour and every half hour on Saturday and Sunday, beginning on Nov. 23 through Dec. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Tours are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and children (6 years old to 16 years old) and 5 years old and younger are free. During the holiday season, Oatlands offers a unique shopping experience at the Carriage House and Potting Shed Gift Shops. Stocked with a variety of holiday gift items, the "shops" have become a destination

for many shoppers in the region.

Afternoon tea at Oatlands continues throughout the fall and holiday seasons. Fall teas will be served from Nov 5 to Nov 21, on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Holiday teas will be served from Nov. 27 to Dec. 27 on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays except for Dec. 24, 25 and 26. Teas are \$24.95 per person (not including tax). All seatings are at 1 p.m. and reservations are required. Call 703-777-3174 for reservations and/or further information or visit the web at www.oatlands.org.

Christmas in the Loudoun Valleys

The 2009 guide to trees, greens and holiday floral products has been published by the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development.

"Christmas in the Loudoun Valleys" lists 22 Christmas tree farms and retail outlets where you can choose-and-cut your own tree, purchase evergreen wreaths and roping, or select a colorful poinsettia plant for the holiday season. The guide includes a colorful map showing farm locations, Christmas tree care and recycling tips, and information on family fun activities at farms throughout the county. Guides are available at Loudoun County library locations, community centers, and the Heritage Farm Museum, Sterling. Individual copies may be requested at info@LoudounFarms.org. Additional information is available at www.LoudounFarms.org or by calling 703-777-0426.



PETS OF THE WEEK

To meet these or any other animals available for adoption, visit the Loudoun County Animal Shelter at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Animal information and directions to the shelter can be found online at www.loudoun.gov/animals or by calling 703-777-0406.

Rusty and Geo are 4-month-old male, red tabby, Domestic Short-hair brothers.

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To order tickets online go to www.IPAYouth.org

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Art & Craft SHOW
@ the Vienna Community Center
120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna, VA
Thanksgiving Weekend
Friday & Saturday 10am - 5pm
Sunday 11am - 4pm
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NEWS



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER LESINSKI JONES/THE CONNECTION

Ashby Ponds residents who served in the Army stand as the Songbirds perform the Army anthem "The Caisson Song."

Saying Thanks

Ashby Ponds honors its veterans and remembers the fallen.

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI JONES
THE CONNECTION

Frank Thomas, a former Marine and resident at Ashby Ponds, began planning the retirement community's Veterans Day Program and Memorial Service last January and soon realized it would be a large task. So he did what any good Marine would do, called on his fellow brothers in arms to help. Thomas recruited his friends, also veterans, and together they discovered Ashby

Ponds was home to 124 veterans from all five branches of the armed services representing World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The planning committee collected photographs from each vet, along with years served and the military branch, and created a slide show which opened the program Nov. 11. In addition, the planning committee arranged a breakfast the day before for a number of current Marines and their spouses Nov. 10 was the U.S. Marine Corps' 234th birthday and

SEE PAYING, PAGE 15



Col. Brian Newberry, United States Air Force, stands and sings along as the Songbirds perform the Air Force anthem "Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder" as part of a tribute to each military branch.

OPEN HOUSES

Open Houses Saturday & Sunday, November 21 & 22



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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

ASHBURN

43134 Meadow Grove Dr.....	\$1,350,000	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Carla Brown.....	Toll Bros RE.....	703-283-1045
Meadow Grove Dr.....	\$969,995	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Carla Brown.....	Toll Bros RE.....	703-283-1045
23089 Pecos Ln SE.....	\$799,900	Sat 1:21-4:21.....	Walter Sobie.....	Long & Foster.....	703-989-4705
22835 Quante Sq.....	\$573,995	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Carla Brown.....	Toll Bros RE.....	703-283-1045
22831 Quante Sq.....	\$553,995	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Carla Brown.....	Toll Bros RE.....	703-283-1045
18477 Sweetberry Ct.....	\$553,000	Sat 10-6.....	Frank Lackman.....	Lackman RE.....	240-620-9464
42907 Nokes Corner Terr.....	\$541,042	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Carla Brown.....	Toll Bros RE.....	703-283-1045
22833 Quante Sq.....	\$539,995	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Carla Brown.....	Toll Bros RE.....	703-283-1045
494 N Brown Sq.....	\$494,620	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Carla Brown.....	Toll Bros RE.....	703-283-1045

Sterling

513 Sugarland Run Dr.....	\$359,900	Sun 1-4pm.....	Betty Plshal.....	Long & Foster.....	703-430-1000
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Lovettsville

7 Oakfield Dr.....	\$299,000	Sun 1-4pm.....	Jo-Ann Hoover.....	Prudential Carruthers.....	703-862-9426
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HOME SALES

SEPTEMBER 2009
\$177,000 ~ \$81,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
38 GANNON WAY	3	2	0	STERLING		\$177,000	Townhouse	0.05		COUNTRYSIDE
806 DICKENSON AVE	4	1	0	STERLING		\$175,000	Detached	0.21		STERLING PARK
250 GREENFIELD CT	3	2	0	STERLING		\$175,000	Townhouse	0.04		SUGARLAND RUN
21851 LOCOMOTIVE TER #203	2	2	0	STERLING		\$170,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			DOMINION STATION
132 RICHLAND CIR	4	2	1	STERLING		\$165,000	Townhouse	0.04		SUGARLAND RUN
909 STERLING BLVD	4	2	0	STERLING		\$160,500	Detached	0.24		STERLING PARK
127 WILLOW PL	3	2	1	STERLING		\$160,000	Townhouse	0.04		SUGARLAND RUN
2 CAROLINA CT	3	2	0	STERLING		\$160,000	Townhouse	0.06		SUGARLAND RUN
21191 MCFADDEN SQ #206	1	1	0	STERLING		\$160,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			POTOMAC SQR
118 MAPLE AVE	3	1	1	STERLING		\$159,000	Townhouse	0.06		STERLING PK
804 GREENTHORN AVE	4	2	0	STERLING		\$156,000	Detached	0.19		STERLING PARK
801 HOGA ST	4	2	0	STERLING		\$155,000	Detached	0.19		STERLING PARK
21780 MARIGOLD CIR #101	3	2	1	STERLING		\$152,000	Townhouse			ROLLING RIDGE
1007 MARSDEN CT #191	3	2	1	STERLING		\$150,000	Townhouse			NEWBERRY
330 LANCASTER SQ #330	3	1	1	STERLING		\$148,500	Townhouse			PROVIDENCE VILLAGE
21210 MCFADDEN SQ #103	1	1	0	STERLING		\$145,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			POTOMAC SQR
19 PROVIDENCE SQ #19	3	1	1	STERLING		\$140,000	Townhouse			PROVIDENCE VILLAGE
44 ESSEX SQ #44	2	1	0	STERLING		\$135,000	Townhouse			PROVIDENCE VILLAGE
240 WILLOW TER	3	1	1	STERLING		\$132,000	Townhouse	0.04		SUGARLAND RUN
1032C MARGATE CT #1032C	3	2	1	STERLING		\$131,000	Townhouse			NEWBERRY
110 WESTWICK CT #8	2	2	0	STERLING		\$129,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			COUNTRYSIDE
45 ESSEX SQ #45	3	1	1	STERLING		\$116,000	Townhouse			PROVIDENCE VILLAGE
214 CORNELL DR #128	3	1	1	STERLING		\$115,987	Townhouse			PEMBROOKE
223 SAINT JOHNS SQ #223	2	1	1	STERLING		\$115,000	Townhouse			PROVIDENCE VILLAGE
118 WESTWICK CT #7	2	1	0	STERLING		\$114,000	Back-to-Back			COUNTRYSIDE
233 COVENTRY SQ #233	2	1	0	STERLING		\$113,000	Attach/Row Hse			PROVIDENCE VILLAGE
118 ARGUS PL #73	2	2	0	STERLING		\$105,000	Townhouse			HUNINGTON RIDGE
1 MONARCH DR	3	2	0	STERLING		\$105,000	Townhouse	0.06		SUGARLAND RUN
421 DARTMOUTH DR E #2	3	1	0	STERLING		\$91,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PEMBROOKE
1034A BRIXTON CT #1034A	2	1	0	STERLING		\$90,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			NEWBERRY
309 CORNELL DR #209	2	1	0	STERLING		\$87,990	Townhouse			PEMBROOKE
141 EMORY DR N #10	3	1	0	STERLING		\$81,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PEMBROOKE

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To search for a home online, visit www.HomesDatabase.com.

PEOPLE

Mother and Daughter Team Up as Authors

FROM PAGE 7

Through the letters from Max the older dog to his puppy pen pal and cousin Samson, children also learn about the responsibility of having a dog as well as how fun they are and the unconditional love they offer their owners.

While the writing process wasn't

a headache for the novice author and her daughter, shopping around for a publisher was a challenge.

"It's time consuming. It takes time for people to get back to you after you've sent them your transcript. We found it hard to find a publishing company that would do it the way we wanted it done." She

said.

However, Tate Publishing and Enterprises was the right fit and brought the story to life their story through their illustrations.

Combs' advice to other novice writers or those looking for a career as an author is to "never give up" and to "keep trying all avenues."

Both Combs and her daughter, Terri, were born in Kansas. She has lived in various places around the country, while her daughter spent her adult life in California. Combs graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in business. She just recently retired from real estate to begin her career as a children's book writer.



Sharon Combs and daughter Terri Silveira.

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Panthers Finish Season Out Strong at State Meet

Potomac Falls girls' and boys' cross country teams run well on the Great Meadows course.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Perhaps, Potomac Falls High cross country coach Dolph Null never should have been concerned about the focus of his boys' and girls' teams going into last week's Virginia State AA championships. But part of a coach's job description is to be sure about such things.

Null, prior to states, was thrilled with the way his teams had excelled at the Region II championships in Charlottesville on Nov. 3. The Panther boys, on the Panorama Farms 5K course, had captured the team title, while the Panther girls had finished an impressive third. Many of the state's top double-A schools compete in Region II, so Null realized just what his squads had accomplished by faring so well at the region meet.

But he did not want his teams to have a letdown at states, so during the week leading up to the season-finale showcase event, Null encouraged his athletes to hold onto their competitive mindset for



Coach Dolph Null

one more week.

"To be able to maintain the same focus [at states] is sometimes real hard," said Null. "It's about holding that focus for one more week. It's really been a long season [at that point] and the kids have sacrificed a lot. It's hard for a young person to maintain focus."

Potomac Falls, at the state competition held in The Plains on Nov. 14, came up with big results once again as the boys earned third place in the team standings, while the girls took fourth place.

FOR BOTH TEAMS, it was an outstanding showing which would have been difficult to top. Races in all divisions — boys and girls single-A (smaller schools), double-A (middle sized) and triple-A (larger schools) — took place at the Great Meadows course. The Panther teams competed in the double-A races.

"I thought they did a great job," said Null. "I thanked both the girls and the boys for getting back to the state meet. They worked hard all season."

The Panthers' began their fall cross country season on Aug. 3 — still part of a students' summer vacation time — and worked hard and progressed, on both the girls' and boys' sides, for the next three-and-a-half months.

The top three teams at states earned medals and were recognized during post race ceremonies. The Panther boys enjoyed that honor of being recognized on the podium stand. The girls, meanwhile, missed finishing in the top three but had plenty to be proud of nonetheless.

The fourth place Potomac Falls girls finished with 114 points. The team champion was Hidden Valley (40 points) of Roanoke, followed by second place Blacksburg High (54) and third place West

SEE PANTHERS, PAGE 13

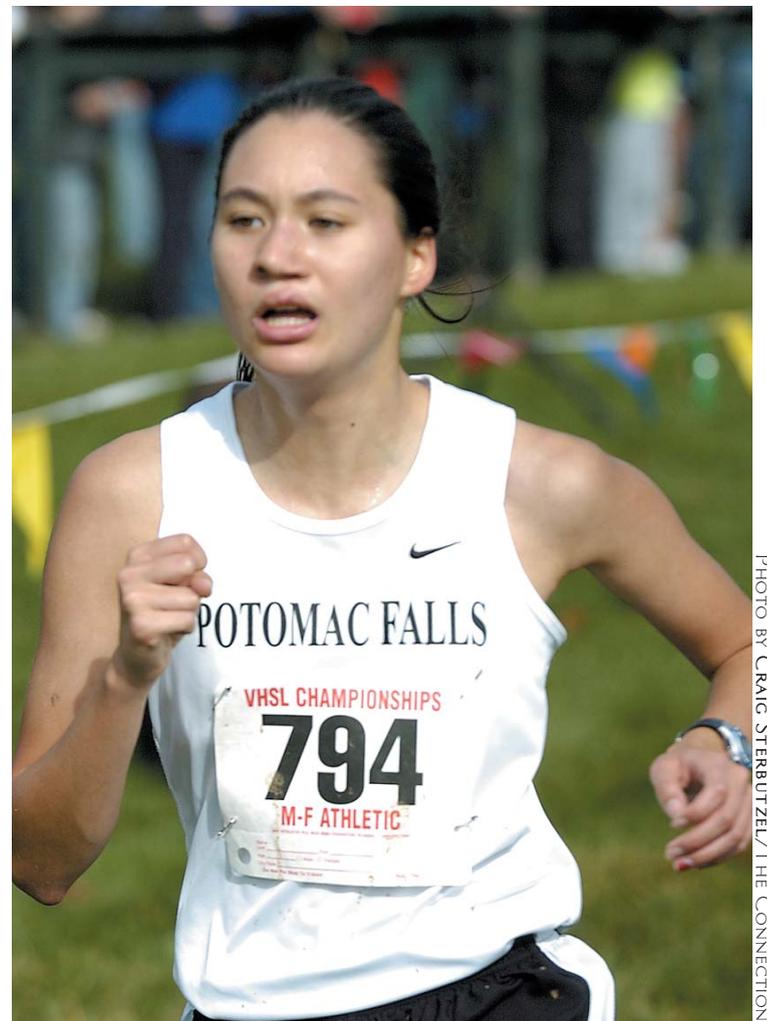


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Rachel Diniega of the Potomac Falls High girls' cross country team helped the Panthers finish a strong fourth place overall at last Saturday's state AA championships at Great Meadows.

SPORTS BRIEFS

The Town of Leesburg Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with Loudoun Interfaith Relief, is hosting the **7th Annual Freeze Your Gizzard Cross Country 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run** at Ida Lee Park. The race will be held this Saturday, Nov. 21, and will begin at 9 a.m. in the front field of Ida Lee Park. The entry fee for pre-registration is \$20 for the 5K, \$10 for the 1 mile, plus two cans of food to be brought the day of the event. Day-of-event registration is also available beginning at 7 a.m. with \$25 for the 5K and \$15 for the 1 mile, plus two cans of food. Canned food will be donated to Loudoun Interfaith Relief's food bank. All ages are welcome. Pre-registration can be done at the Ida Lee Park Recreation Center or registration can be completed on-line at www.active.com. Thanksgiving-themed prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place male and female finishers of the 5K for each age category. Age categories are 19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and over. Door prizes will also be awarded following the race. Pre-race warm-ups will be hosted by Ida Lee Park Recreation Center's Fitness Instructor, Lynne Stevenson. Dogs, wagons, and strollers are not permitted on the course. The race will start and finish at the Gazebo in the front field of Ida Lee Park. Follow parking signs for the event, as the parking lot can be accessed from Route 15 Business (North King Street), but not through Ida Lee Drive. For more information, call 703-777-1368 or visit



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Park View's Brandon Lee (8) and the Patriots will be at home this Friday night for a Region II semifinals playoff football game against Western Albemarle, a member of the Jefferson District. Kickoff is set for 7. The Patriots, coached by Andy Hill, went 7-3 overall during the regular season and were 4-2 in the Dulles District. They received a first round region playoff bye. Park View wins this season have come over Millbrook, Liberty, Loudoun County, Potomac Falls, Martinsburg (W. Va.), Dominion and Freedom.

www.idalee.org.

Former Olympian gymnast **Kerri Strug**, who captured the heart of the U.S. at the 1996 Summer Olympics (Atlanta) with a one-legged landing on vault that solidified the USA teams winning of the Gold, was in Sterling last week. Strug stopped by NVGA Gymnastics, where she has been visiting regularly, to share her gymnastics knowledge and to work with the NVGA program's competitive gymnasts.

Strug, at the '96 Olympics, competed with six other American gymnasts, including Shannon Miller and Dominique Moceanu, under the direction of head coaches Marta and Bela Karolyi. The team, often called the Magnificent Seven, struggled against the Russian team to win the all-around gold medal. On the last day of team competition Strug needed a high score on vault in order for the American team to win. On her first attempt, she severely hurt her ankle, causing many spectators to fear she could not complete a second attempt. Despite the injury, Strug went on to complete her second attempt, scoring a 9.7 and winning the gold medal for the Americans.

NoVa West Lacrosse is accepting individual and team registrations for the u11, u13 and u15 winter indoor lacrosse league to be held out of the new Purcellville Sports Pavilion. For more

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 13

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SPORTS

Panthers

FROM PAGE 12

ern Albemarle (95) of Crozet. Brentsville District (126) of Nokesville finished fifth behind Potomac Falls, while Loudoun County (147) was sixth in the field of 16 teams.

Finishing ahead of Brentsville was quite an accomplishment for Potomac Falls because it was the Tigers who captured first place at the Region II championships two weeks ago, ahead of third place Potomac Falls.

"To beat region champion Brentsville [at states] means you have to run exceptionally well," said Null.

The Panthers' top three individual finishers at states were senior Natalie Wright (8th overall), senior Christina Lee (12th) and sophomore Koeley Brady (21st). Rounding out the pack for Potomac Falls were senior Rachel Diniega (35th), junior Rachel Hagen (38th), freshman Ariana Staffen (43rd) and senior Chelsea King (64th).

A year ago at states, the Panther girls finished fifth overall. So last week's fourth place finish was one place better.

"We were just shy of making the podium this year," said Null.

ON THE BOYS' SIDE, Potomac Falls scored 134 team points to finish third, behind champion Blacksburg (51) and runner-up Spotswood of Penn Laird (131). Grafton High (137) of Yorktown finished fourth behind Potomac Falls.

The Panthers' top three finishers were junior Juan Campos (12th overall), junior Nicholas Mogensen (24th) and senior Chris Johnson (29th). Also competing for Potomac Falls were senior Alvaro Morales (31st), junior Patrick Wilson (38th), senior Michael Volaric (39th) and senior Rennix Offutt (57th).

The Blacksburg team was a dominant force, with five runners finishing among the top 15 finishers.

"Blacksburg was literally untouchable," said Null. "They definitely dominated the double-A competition. After that, it was wide open. I stressed to the boys [prior to the race] we had a chance for second. That was pretty much the case. We finished three points behind [second place] Spotswood."

The coach said his boys' team did not run exceptionally well at states, but he was pleased with the Panthers' grit at states and its fine season overall.

"Our strength [over the season] was we ran collectively as a pack and as a team," said Null, of the boys.

Both the Panther boys' and girls' teams won first place at the Dulles District championships earlier this postseason.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 12

information visit www.purcellville.sportsavilion.com/field/lacrosse_league.asp.

The **13-under Loudoun South Eagles** are seeking interested players to fill rosters for its rising 13U team for the 2009 fall Season. A make-up tryout date is Nov. 22 at 1 at Diamond Elite in Sterling. For more information contact: lisapresgrave@comcast.net or Duane Presgrave at 703-508-3008.

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A Big Shot I'm Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I would have thought – or expected, that after nearly eight months since I received my cancer diagnosis and six months since I've been column-writing my thoughts on the subject, that I would (perhaps even, should) be able to actually talk about it. And in talk about it, I mean, actually say the word cancer out loud in response to a friendly inquiry about my appearance, my hair (or lack thereof), my water-drinking, my diet, my work schedule, etc. But I can't, apparently, at least not without a lot of stammering and stuttering, and hemming and hawing, anyway.

And here I thought I was so well-adjusted, so comfortable in my cancer-affected skin; Mr. Positive, Mr. What-A-Great-Attitude, Mr. I-Can-Handle-This, that a simple question asking the obvious wouldn't illicit such a verbal vacuum. I know silence is supposed to be golden, but this silence seems so awkward, so inappropriate, sort of, that I find myself trying, occasionally, to avoid the conversation/situation altogether. Sometimes it feels better to be simply left alone with my own unspoken thoughts rather than struggling to express them in public to a sincerely interested person but one who is not, quite frankly, someone who my life is not dependent upon (the kindness of others notwithstanding).

And not that my life is dependent upon anyone right now, thank God! And not that cancer patients in general, or anyone with serious medical issues, are not dependent in some way on said kindness and queries – and prayers of others, because I've certainly come to realize that we are. Moreover, it's not that I'm a private person fearful of the invasion of that privacy. Hardly. I'm comfortable writing about it (obviously) and comfortable having people know about it. But in the past few weeks, social situations have presented themselves that have made it clear that I'm not nearly as comfortable talking about it as my writing would have lead me to believe.

I don't think I'm in denial; I think I'm in reality. Heck, when they stick a needle in your arm every three weeks for chemotherapy and every week for lab work, there's not a minute (make that second) that goes by when you're not keenly aware that you're "Not in Kansas anymore," unless of course, you're a cancer patient who actually lives in Kansas. I know exactly where I am, what I'm doing and more importantly, why I'm doing it. I don't know the outcome, yet. However, if I were to guess as to why my words are more easily written than they are spoken, I would bet that not knowing my future may be the cause of some of the verbal problems I'm having in the present.

It's that uncertainty that ties my tongue, I believe. And in recounting various conversations I've had with my oncologist, my oncology nurse and miscellaneous other health care professionals with whom I interact (and who know my diagnosis), my prognosis is so interdependent on variables impossible even to predict and/or anticipate that receiving a definitive assessment/scenario/future summarizing them and in turn comforting me, is unrealistic, apparently.

Therefore, when I ask the existential question, "What does it all mean, doctor?" the answer I usually receive is unsatisfactory. But at least I'm alive to ask it (and to hear the answer, too).

For a stage IV lung cancer patient that may be as good as it gets.

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

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Paying the Price for Freedom

FROM PAGE 10

Saturday's movie night featured the Navy-themed comedy "Mr. Roberts.

Thomas said Veterans Day is a time to honor those who serve and remember those who sacrificed everything.

"It's all that served their country, past and present, Thomas said. "I'm a survivor of the Chosin Reservoir Battle [Korea, 1950]. I was lucky to survive it and my story is not unique at all."

fense tribute and words from the Vietnam Memorial, Beyer told the crowd, "Today it is our privilege to say thank you. The price of freedom is high and we cannot forget those willing to pay it."

Underscoring Beyer's words was guest speaker Air Force Col. Brian Newberry who told the crowd stories about the acts of bravery and courage of specific Virginian soldiers from each conflict since World War I along with the total number of servicemen and women who died in each conflict. The stories served to put a face on what it means to serve and to sacrifice.

"Liberty is not free," Newberry said. "I am heartened by the resilience I see from our military today.

"I feel honored to be a part of a rich history ..."

The Rev. Sarah Calvert of Galilee United Methodist Church, who led the memorial service, also had her own military history to share. Her grandfather and father both are veterans, and she grew up listening to the "no scary" stories her grandfather had to tell and coped with the two years her father was absent due to his service.

"I want to say a very large thank you to all those who served and for the sacrifice of those who stayed home and kept things going," she said. "What we have to learn as a society is to remember and give thanks."

AL BEYER, a retired Army colonel, agreed to serve as master of ceremonies. He and his wife moved to Ashby Ponds in September, too late to help with the planning, but he still wanted to be a part of the program.

"I think all veterans are proud of our service and I wanted to contribute," Beyer said.

The program attracted a standing-room-only crowd at the community with many of the resident veterans in attendance. Beyer said he doesn't think anyone who hasn't served, or been a family member of someone who has, truly understands the sacrifice and commitment of our nation's military personnel. He said celebrating Veterans Day is a way for others to gain a greater perspective and understanding of what it takes to keep our nation free.

After reading from a Department of De-

CRIME REPORT

COMPILED BY MARTIN CASEY

Woman Assaulted On Path

A woman, who was walking her dog on a path near West Meadowland Lane in Sugarland Run about 8 p.m. last Thursday, Nov. 12, told Sheriff's deputies that she had been grabbed from behind. The 30-year-old woman fell to the ground and was assaulted, according to a Sheriff's report. The attackers involved a female and two males, according to the woman.

build.

The Sheriff's spokesman asked anyone with more information on the incident to contact Investigator T.F. Butler of the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division at 703-777-0475. Callers who wish to remain anonymous may call Loudoun Crime Solvers at 703-777-1919. If the information leads to an arrest and indictment, the caller could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

Stores Robbed

The Sheriff's Office was investigating a string of commercial burglaries last weekend.

A burglar entered the Prime Mart convenience store on Church Road in Sterling by breaking through the store's front door. A cash register with its cash was taken during the early morning house of Friday, Nov. 13.

Around 6:50 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 16, deputies were again called to the Prime Mart in Sterling for a second burglary in which one or more persons again damaged the front door. This time a small safe was taken and an ATM was damaged.

Other burglaries at Deli-O Chevron in Chantilly on US 50 about 2:15 a.m., and at the Hamilton C-Store in western Loudoun about 4:45 a.m., both early Monday, brought the commercial burglary string for the weekend to four.

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