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SPECIAL REPORT | SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS | SECOND IN A FIVE-PART SERIES

Demanding answers

A mother seeks answers after her daughter allegedly is sexually assaulted on a school bus. **Story by JONATHAN MARINO, Pages 12-13**

Anniversary of slaying marked

Killing of Alexandria sheriff's wife remains unsolved after two years

"We believe the answer is in this community," says city police spokesman Capt. John Crawford.
-> SEE STORY BY SAMSON HABTE, Page 3

Mostly fluff



Greg Whitesell/Examiner

Pedestrians make their way across K Street at 15th Street during the season's first significant snowfall, which began shortly before rush hour Monday. Local officials took no chances with the weather, closing classes and deploying deicing machines. -> SEE STORY BY CHRISTY GOODMAN, Page 4



Hot topics: Lower temps, higher costs

As snow drives oil prices to more than \$60 a barrel, one company helps homeowners find heat leaks. **See stories in BUSINESS, Page 19**

Iraqi VP says troops unprepared to go solo

Leader says pulling U.S. forces now will result in "huge vacuum," leaving country in danger. **See WORLD, Page 15**



SEASONAL SOUNDS & LOCAL SHOPPING

See **HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE**, Pages 23-26
See **INNOVATIONS**, Pages 27-29
See **ENTERTAINMENT**, Pages 30-31

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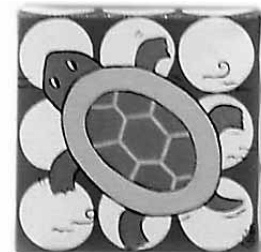


For baby

"My Shaving Kit" book with floatable pop-out pieces is perfect for any child's bathtime fun. Pulp on U Street and Pulp on the Hill both sell this book as well as others in the series. (\$10) pulpdc.com; 202-462-PULP or 202-543-1924



Robeez kids' soft leather shoes come in dozens of adorable designs for boys and girls. The booties, which are available in five colors, and the brown moccasins both come in sizes up to 24 months and feature a double band of elastic to make sure the shoes stay in place. Available at Cosmo Tots in Clarendon (www.cosmo-tots.com; 703-812-TOTS) and K Baby in Georgetown (202-333-3939). For a complete list, visit robeez.com.



Ispirato, in Clarendon, does custom paintings that are perfect for any modern kid's room or playroom. (5"x5" is \$60; 5"x7" is \$80) www.ispirato.com; 703-875-8182



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For Fido



One of the leading manufacturers of upscale pet products is located right down the street in Alexandria. Fox & Hounds' leather horsehead collar, right, features an exclusive horseshoe buckle and custom-designed horsehead studs. (\$36-80 depending on size). The red Stewart plaid canvas carrier, above, has black leather handles, gold-tone metal details and Fox & Hounds' signature nameplate on the side. It's an elegant option for toting small dogs — and practical, with a washable cushion and a short safety lead for keeping your pet secure. Available beginning Wednesday. (\$160) foxandhounds.com; 703-360-0799

