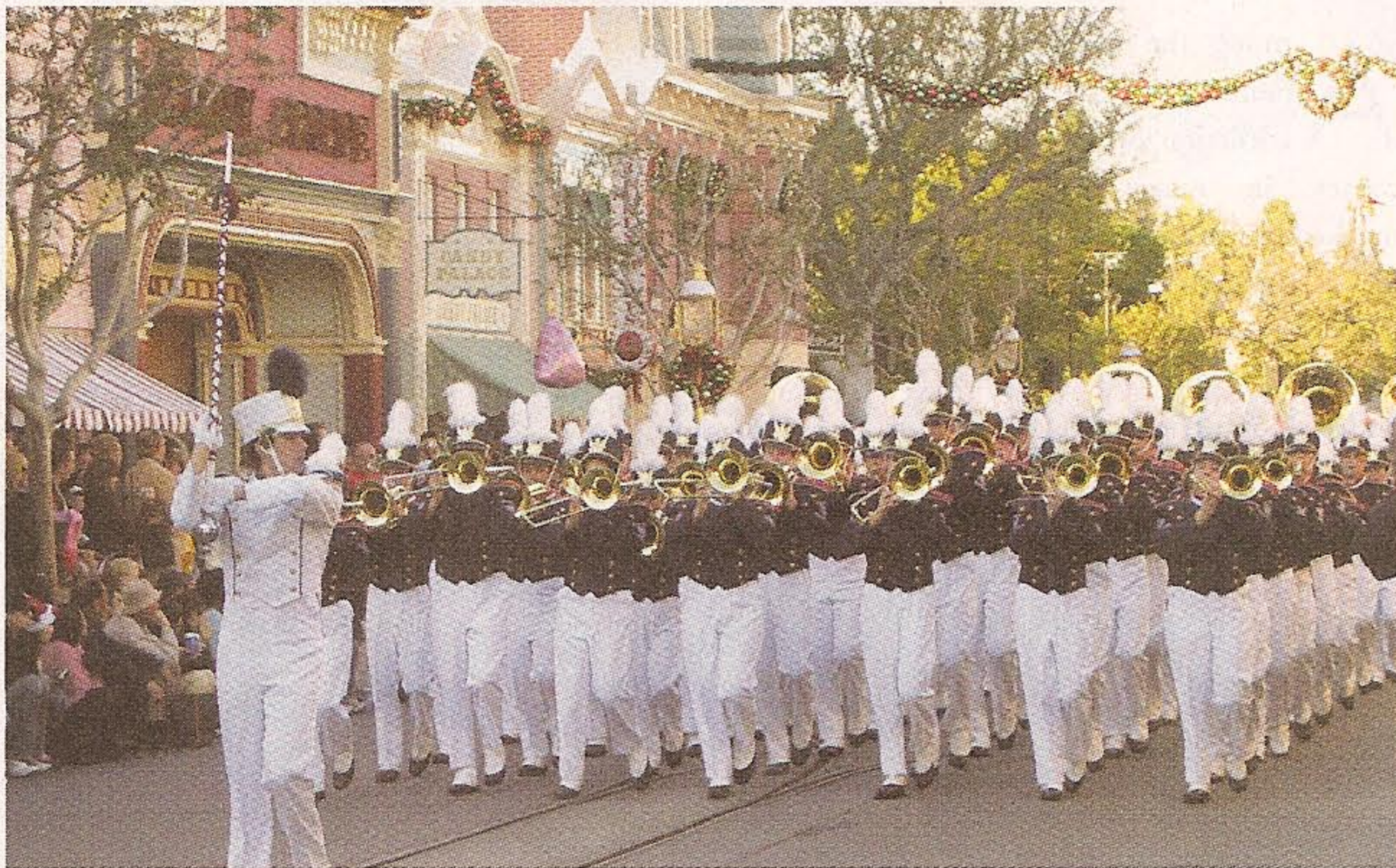


Marching band

Beckman High goes from Carnegie Hall to D.C.



One of Southern California's most accomplished high school marching bands, Beckman High in Irvine, will perform next year in Washington, D.C.

The school's orchestra earlier this year played at Carnegie Hall; the band has been invited to the National Cherry Blossom Parade in the nation's capital. About a half-dozen bands are chosen nationwide each year.

The 150-member Patriot Marching Band was formed in 2004 under Director Jim Kollias.

It has since won numerous awards. The band has played with the UCLA contingent in the Rose Bowl and with USC at the Memorial Coliseum. Disneyland welcomed the high school band for a performance last December.

The program offers marching band, jazz band, two levels of concert bands and three levels of orchestras, serving some 400 students. ○

Information/scholarship donations:
jkollias@tustin.k12.ca.us

Ripple Kid of the Month

As the new school year begins, we inaugurate the act of giving back. An Orange County nonprofit, Ripple Kids, Inc., features youth who are changing their community: a "ripple effect."

We ask parents and schools to nominate these contributors, ages 13 or younger. Please contact founder Bridget Belden, who is blogging about children making a difference, at ripplekids.ocfamily.com. This month's selection is Brianna, 9, of Newport Beach. Read about her online. ○



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familytech

Online protection

Ways to keep your children safe

The Internet can be a wonderful place. Full of information, it can be a child's best resource for school and a fun place to keep in touch with friends. Unfortunately, it can also be a haven for predators and scam artists. Parents need to take precautions. While there is no easy one-step solution, preventative measures can greatly reduce a child's chances of becoming a victim.

> **Start early:** Talk to them at a young age so the lessons you teach and rules you set become ingrained. Be honest with them about the dangers of the Internet.

> **Become more computer literate:** Do your research. Become informed about computers and the Internet.

> **Keep the computer** in an open, high-traffic area of the house...like the family room or kitchen.

> **Be the boss of your PC:** Install an operating system that makes you the administrator. Create a password that will allow only you to control the computer's Internet settings, online content and software that can be installed.

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