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Workhouse volunteer Jennie Doll serves a customer wine at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center's 'Art, Wine and All That Jazz' Festival.

60 Miles
 Of Pink
 NEWS, PAGE 3

Clifton Day
 Comes to Town
 NEWS, PAGE 2

Wine And Song

NEWS, PAGE 3

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SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 11 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

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Clifton Day Open House Tour • Oct. 11, 1-4

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11611 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station
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This beautiful freshly painted and newly renovated colonial home is set within 5+ acres of wooded gently rolling hills. New Luxurious custom kitchen has Energy Star KitchenAid appliances, cherry cabinets with pullouts for easy access and organization, slow close drawers, under cabinet lighting and granite counter tops. Formal living room with bay windows. Spacious family room with marble wood burning fireplace and bay windows. Expansive sunroom with vaulted ceiling, skylights and Regency gas stove has vistas of beautiful wooded lot. Newly renovated private bonus room has ample storage. Bedrooms all have freshly painted walls and new carpet. Master Suite has renovated full bath with gorgeous tile work. Other 1.5 bathrooms also renovated. Convenient second floor laundry room. Two car oversized and heated garage with utility sink and basement access. Unfinished basement is walk out.



Karen Paris 571-220-7503
kparis@thewolfrungroup.com
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Terri Gallagher 703-362-2700
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KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



Team Pink To Walk 60 Miles

Local women raise funds to fight breast cancer.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Team Pink is pumped and ready to go. Nine women from Fairfax and Clifton will participate in the three-day, 60-mile walk for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The event starts and ends in Washington, D.C., Friday, Oct. 9, to Sunday, Oct. 11.

"A few members wanted to do a breast-cancer walk last year, but then learned each person had to raise \$2,300," said Kay

"This is near and dear to my heart."

— Ginger Higginbotham, Team Pink member

Walters of Clifton Farms. "So we held bake sales and other fund raisers, and everybody's neighborhoods kept coming forward to help and participate."

The women are ages 30-50 and have children attending Willow Springs Elementary; one member is a teacher there. To prepare for the walk, they've been walking regularly in a variety of places. They've walked around Burke Lake, to and from Liberty Middle School for their daughters' cheerleading practice, along parkways and



From left: Jenn Keogh, Betsy Bayer, Joy Hansen, Janel Lamoureux, Ginger Higginbotham, Colleen Foxworth and Lisa Margulis hold encouraging signs their neighbors made to cheer them on. (Not pictured: Marilyn Leckert and Lavonne Rolincik).

during their sons' baseball practices.

Walters isn't walking, but is boosting the team's morale. She had a dessert, send-off party for the members, Sunday evening. During the walk, Walters said she is "putting together cheering stations for them and their kids and families, along the way. They wanted to do this to raise awareness and so, hopefully, their kids won't have to face this. They'll wear pink T-shirts, and written on the back of each one is, 'We walk be-

cause we can't walk away.'"

Jenn Keogh, of the Colchester Road area of Fairfax, heard about the walk for years and wanted to do it, but couldn't until now. "I had three kids in a row, 21 months apart," she said. "So whenever the walk fell, I was either pregnant or had a newborn. Now my youngest is 4 and, this time, I could actually do the training."

SEE 60-MILE, PAGE 18

Ex-Teacher Sentenced To 5 Years

He sexually assaulted female student.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For three hours Friday, Oct. 2, the 11-year-old girl sat between her mother and father in the first row of courtroom 4E in Fairfax County Circuit Court, waiting for her former tutor to be sentenced for sexually assaulting her.

It wasn't easy for her and it wasn't pleasant but, when his case was finally called, her patience was rewarded. When Rodney Bower left the courtroom, it was in handcuffs, on his way to serve five years in prison.

First, though, the victim, a student at Gunston Elementary, where Bower had taught, took the witness stand and told the court how his actions had affected her. "Every day, I wonder if my life will ever be the same, because I was hurt so badly," she said. "I wonder if I will be OK."



Bower

The incident occurred sometime between Feb. 1-14, and police were called March 20 to begin investigating. The girl told them Bower, 54, of the 2400 block of Temple Court in Alexandria, touched her inappropriately in her home, while tutoring her.

Bower taught in Fairfax County Public Schools since 2000 and had been at Gunston since 2005. He taught fifth grade and accelerated math but, after his March 23 arrest, he was placed on unpaid leave.

Charged with aggravated sexual battery, he pleaded guilty July 16 in Circuit Court, returning Oct. 2 for sentencing. The only one to testify that day, the victim told Judge Gaylord Finch she'd been receiving weekly therapy for five months and it would continue. When Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Greg Holt asked her if she wanted Bower to go to jail as punishment for what he did to her, she said she did.

"He was your teacher and you were very close to him?" asked defense attorney Bill Hicks. "Yes," said the child. "You'd been alone with him a number of times when he never touched you?" asked Hicks. Again, she answered yes.

"It didn't ruin your life? You had a good summer?" asked Hicks. "Yes," she replied.

But Holt didn't let Hicks' assumptions go

SEE ART, PAGE 16

SEE FORMER TEACHER, PAGE 16

Where Art and Music Meet

Lorton Workhouse Arts Center hosts first Art, Wine and All That Jazz Festival.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Shortly after celebrating its one-year anniversary and stating its goal to become a premier arts destination in Northern Virginia, the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center set out to make good on that promise.

The Workhouse hosted its first Art, Wine and All That Jazz Festival Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3 and 4, welcoming jazz luminaries and several wineries from Virginia and North Carolina to provide a one-stop cultural experience for the Washington, D.C. area.

"We wanted to create something to combine the different elements of a place like this," said Rick Hausler of the Lorton Arts

Foundation's Board of Directors. "What's happening here is the leading edge of a push into the performing arts over the next 12 months [at the Workhouse] to make it a performing arts destination."

The festival ran Saturday, from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday, from 12-8 p.m., with nine live jazz performances in total. The highlight performers were former "Eight is Enough" star and Grammy nominee Betty Buckley; Deanna Bogart, winner of more than 20 Washington Area Music Awards; and 19-year-old Hailey Niswanger, a featured artist at this year's Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival at the Kennedy Center.

"I think that this is going to be a great venue," Niswanger said. "It will continue to grow and expand and I hope that it does.

Festivals like these are things that people really enjoy."

In addition to the music, visitors could taste wine at booths operated by six wineries. The ticket fee included a free souvenir wineglass to use for the wine tasting, and attendees could also purchase glasses and bottles of wine from the wineries present. To round out the festival's attractions, the Workhouse kept their buildings open so that visitors could go inside and look at the art on display created by Workhouse resident artists.

"We have always been intrigued with what they do here with the historic buildings, so we thought that [being part of the festival] was something we would like to try," said Dick Zweber of the Philip Carter Winery of Virginia. "This venue has great potential, and we wanted to be a part of something great."

Other wineries on hand mentioned that

Lorton Women Sentenced: They Both Cheated the IRS

The Internal Revenue Service takes a dim view of employers who don't fork over the taxes they withhold from their employees' paychecks — and two Lorton women learned that the hard way. One is now headed for prison and the other is being confined at home.

Celina V. Lord, 49, was convicted by a federal jury of failing to pay more than \$330,000 in taxes withheld from employees' paychecks. And on Tuesday, Sept. 29, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Judge James C. Cacheris sentenced her to 21 months in prison, followed by three years supervised release.

According to court documents and evidence at trial, Lord was the chief financial officer for ASSC Inc., a company that provided a variety of services such as janitorial supplies, waste management and laundry services.

From June 2002 through June 2004, Lord and the company president, Linda R. Smith, 46, failed to pay the Social Security, Medicare and federal income taxes due that had been withheld from the wages of ASSC employees. Lord took on the title of president and managed the day-to-day operations at ASSC for much of that period while Smith was unable to work because of personal and family health problems.

In court, Smith pleaded guilty to one count of failing to account for, collect and pay over employment taxes. However, she cooperated in the government's investigation, and on Sept. 11, she was sentenced to 12 months home confinement and three years supervised release. Both defendants were also ordered to pay restitution of \$776,849.47.

This case was investigated by the IRS Criminal Investigation department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Connolly, and trial attorney Caryn Mark from the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, prosecuted it in court.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Local Businesses, Not VDOT, Cut Public Road Grass

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors commended the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and other local businesses for taking it upon themselves to cut grass in and around Virginia's state roads.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is responsible for mowing and pruning in the commonwealth's right of way, including the greenery around most county roads and in medians, but recent revenue shortfalls have caused the agency to cut back on mowing.

Virginia's transportation funding is largely dependent on a statewide gas tax and the fees associated with vehicle sales, both of which have declined sharply in the recent economic downturn.

Though Fairfax County supervisors have continuously complained about the lack of mowing and upkeep along local state thoroughfares, Virginia transportation secretary Pierce Homer indicated that the grass cutting budget could be slashed even more during a presentation to the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance last month.

"If the grass is being maintained properly [in the median or alongside a road], it is probably because of a business or company," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) added that some homeowners have taken it upon themselves to mow grass in the right-of-way along Rolling Road and Huntsman Boulevard in his district.

In addition to the Greater Springfield Chamber, McKay, Herrity, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) request Fairfax honor the fol

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 5

Hugo, Conrad Face-Off in 40th

Fixing transportation tops incumbent's to-do list.

What is the most significant issue facing Northern Virginia?

Transportation is the most serious issue facing Northern Virginia. Funding for new construction and maintenance has been hard to come by in recent years. In 2007, I worked to pass a \$3 billion dollar transportation bond package. The current governor has issued \$0 from this bond package. These funds need to be spent now.

How would you address this issue?

There is no silver bullet to solve the transportation problems Virginia currently faces. It will take a multi-faceted approach that must encourage public private transportation partnerships, continue to encourage tele-work and impose tolls on those who pass through Virginia. The answer should not rely solely on new taxes and fees that will ship more of our tax dollars downstate to never be seen again. Rather, for transportation purposes, we should seek to retain a portion of Northern Virginia tax dollars that are currently flowing to Richmond.

What qualifies you for the office? What qualities do you bring?

Having served in the military, running a small business and working in the U.S. Congress has given me

Challenger: Extend Metro/light rail to Centreville.

What is the most significant issue facing Northern Virginia?

Transportation. Traffic congestion on our Northern Virginia major roads has gotten progressively worse on my opponent's watch, costing the average commuter 62 wasted hours and \$1,207 per year. We need dedicated funding for Northern Virginia's roads and mass transit I propose extending Metro/light rail/dedicated express bus lanes to Centreville from Vienna Metro and expanding lane capacity on major roads such as Route 29. This will reduce congestion, improve local property values and protect the environment.

How would you address this issue?

- ❖ Develop alternative mass transportation such as dedicated express bus lanes and high-speed light rail trains;

- ❖ Offer tax credits to businesses that develop widespread employee telecommuting operations and alternative work schedules, which will reduce rush hour traffic;

- ❖ Encourage smart growth land use planning to concentrate future urban and suburban development near mass transit hubs;

- ❖ Work with federal leaders to relocate some federal agencies to Northern Virginia; and

- ❖ Develop a creative dedicated transportation funding plan.

What qualifies you for the office? What qualities do you bring?

I am a problem solver as well as a taxpayer, homeowner, parent, and voter in the 40th District for more than 10 years. I have significant executive leadership experience as a health care technology consultant, IT director and sales executive, as well as a U.S. senator's aide and staff director for a state legislature committee. I have served my community as a Fairfax County Health Care Advisory Board representative, the Clifton Crest Homeowner Association Treasurer and Catholic Charities Board Member.

Timothy D. Hugo

Age: 46
Town of Residence: Clifton
Party Affiliation: Republican

Education: Bayside High School, Virginia Beach, Va., B.A. government from William and Mary, Williamsburg; Received a Kodak Fellowship in Harvard's Senior Managers in Government Program, Cambridge, Mass.

Family: Wife, Paula; children, Katie, 11, Chris, 9, Matt, 4 and Jackie, 2.

Employer and Occupation: Executive director, Free File Alliance



Timothy Hugo

a well-rounded background. Over the past six years, I've worked in a bipartisan manner to accomplish commonsense solutions for problems facing Fairfax County.

What differentiates you from your opponent?

In these economically tough times, it is vital that we not raise taxes on Virginia families. Richmond has enough "tax and spend" legislators and the last

SEE DEL. TIMOTHY D. HUGO, PAGE 9

Susan Shedd Conrad

Age: 52
Town of Residence: Clifton
Party Affiliation: Democrat

Education: Brown Deer Senior High School, Honors Graduate, Brown Deer, Wisc.; B.A., journalism and public relations, University of Wisconsin-Madison; M.B.A., Kansas State University, Manhattan Kans.; M.A. in instructional technology, currently enrolled at George Mason University, Fairfax

Family: Husband, Paul Conrad, federal attorney and retired Army colonel, 53; daughter, Angela Conrad, registered nurse, Paul VI High grad, 23; daughter, Christina Conrad, accountant, Paul VI High grad, 22; daughter, Juliana Conrad, student, St. Timothy Catholic School, previously attended Willow Springs and Union Mill elementary schools, 13

Employer and Occupation: Self-employed information technology consultant and Realtor.



Susan Conrad

As a military spouse who earned an M.B.A. and worked full-time as a business executive while raising three daughters and moving more than 14 times in 20 years, I am an excellent multi-tasker and manager. I am pragmatic and creative, and I recognize the need to do what works to get results. I have legislative experience, business sense and a desire to improve the lives of my neighbors. I am a person of integrity and a hard worker that listens to others.

What differentiates you from your opponent?

Fixing our Northern Virginia transportation problems is my first priority. For seven years, my opponent has failed to fix this ever-worsening situation.

SEE SUSAN SHEDD CONRAD, PAGE 9

NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

Following businesses and groups for their grass-mowing efforts at a Board of Supervisors meeting in November:

- ❖ Burke Centre Conservancy, which mows all the medians of Burke Centre Parkway

- ❖ The Halle Companies, which dedicates 16 to 20 hours per month for the mowing of medians and upkeep of South Van Dorn Street.

NEWS BRIEFS

- * Hilton Springfield, which mows a 10 feet by 100 feet patch of grass between its fence and Franconia Road

- ❖ Kingstowne Residential Owners Corporation, which contributes 48 hours per month to the mowing of medians on Kingstowne Village Parkway

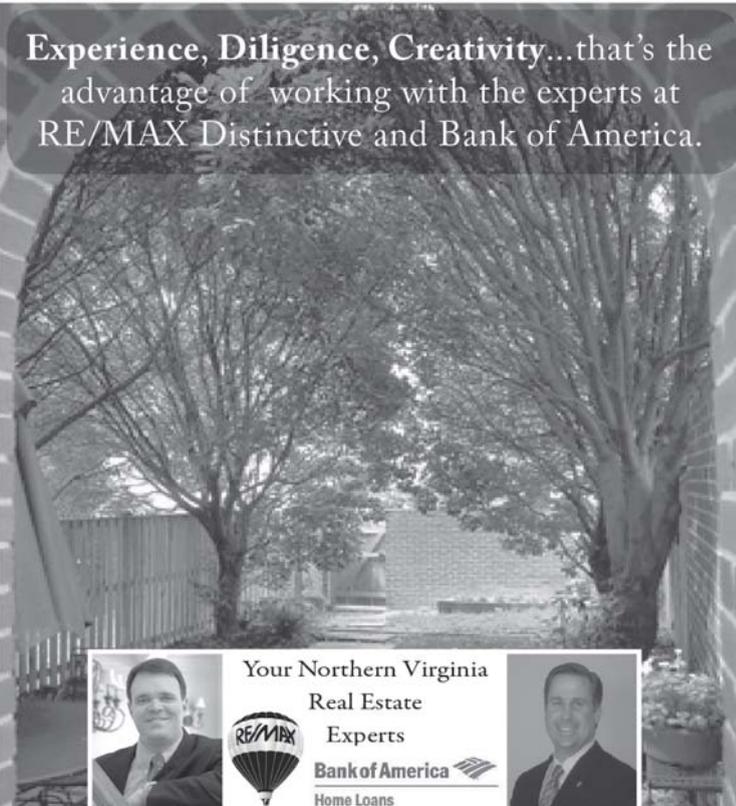
- ❖ Akridge, which maintains Walker Lane's medians and curbs

- ❖ Interstate Worldwide Relocation Van Lines, which mows the median along a section of Rolling Road

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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It's Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Early detection is key to success.

Last week, the American Cancer Society reported that women diagnosed with breast cancer are seeing increasingly positive results from treatment, with mortality rates continuing to drop, a trend that began in 1990.

In 2009, I was one of more than 190,000 U.S. women diagnosed with breast cancer.

In June, still in the midst of a regimen of chemotherapy, I walked in the Komen Global Race for the Cure on the National Mall. It wasn't the first time I had participated in the event, but it was my first time as a breast cancer survivor.

Now finished with my treatment, this is my first October — Breast Cancer Awareness Month — as a member of the club of more than 2.5 million women in the country with a history of breast cancer. And like the majority of women whose breast cancer is detected early, my prognosis is excellent.

Many, many readers and community members reached out to me warmly over the course of the year, and the support from coworkers, community members, breast cancer survivors, family and friends has been amazing and contributed mightily to my health and energy throughout my treatment.

Shameful Disavowal

To the Editor:

I find Bob McDonnell's (R) attempts to disavow his graduate thesis, written about 20 years ago to meet the requirements of combined a masters and juris doctorate degree, shameful.

He is quoted as saying:

"Virginians will judge me on my 18-year record as a legislator and attorney general and the specific plans I have laid out for our future — not on a decades-old academic paper I wrote as a student during the Reagan era and haven't thought about in years."

But the thesis was on his mind as recently as just prior to Aug. 31, 2009, when, without prompting, he touted it as showing his public policy expertise during a Washington Post interview.

McDonnell says he changed his mind on many issues. But I don't see a change of heart, I see just the opposite. He claims the writing "was simply an academic exercise and clearly does not reflect [his] views," to quote from the article. But the thesis doesn't lead with the disclaimer, "This paper is presented as an academic exercise and does not necessarily reflect my

considered opinion. And besides, I'm just a 34-year-old kid."

What convinced me that he hasn't changed his mind was Mr. McDonnell's trading on his daughter's military service while claiming that Mr. Deeds (D) had, somehow, insulted him. In the recent gubernatorial candidates' debate, Mr. Deeds suggested that Mr. McDonnell still believed what he'd said in the thesis. Instead of renouncing his thesis, Mr. McDonnell pretended Mr. Deeds had attacked his relationship with his daughter.

I don't think Mr. McDonnell's feigning insult is the same as his denying long-held and recently ratified ultra-conservative views on the role of women in society. In fact, I believe Mr. McDonnell affirmed those views by using his daughter's military career as if he owned it.

Linda Jordan
Fairfax Station

Enforce the Laws

To the Editor:

Thank you for your editorial, "On Political Signs," [Connection, Sept. 24-30, 2009]. I join you in

Get Involved

Here are a few of many local events in October to support breast cancer awareness.

Walk for Hope, Sunday, Oct. 11, event day registration, 8:30 a.m., run/walk begins at 10 a.m., Sunday, 4k run, 4k walk or 1k walk, Cabin John Regional Park, 7400 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. <http://nationalevents.cityofhope.org>

Breast Education Day, Inova Fairfax Hospital, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 3300 Gallows Road, Falls Church, no registration required.

Join the 2009 Komen DC 3-Day for the Cure, which takes place this weekend, but you can still donate, or sign up for the 2010 event at www.the3day.org. Thousands will walk 60 miles over three days to raise awareness and money.

20th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Conference at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Saturday, Oct. 17, 9-3. Call 703-558-0913 to register. John T. Hazel, MD Conference Center, 1701 N. George Mason Drive, Arlington.

The annual Walk to Fight Breast Cancer, organized by the City of Alexandria's Office on Women and Inova Alexandria Hospital

Foundation, is Saturday, Oct. 24, at 8 a.m. and includes 1.5K/3.5K/5K walk or run.

Registration 6:30 am - 8 am inside the lobby of the AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theatres, 206 Swamp Fox Road. www.alexcanwalk.com

Women's Health Lunch, Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, Saturday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. 3600 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax, Registration is required. Call 703-391-3776.

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, Breast Health and Women's Imaging Open House, Monday, Oct. 19, 5 - 7 p.m., 2501 Parker's Lane, Alexandria.

Dine Out and Shop for the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer, Tuesday, Oct. 20. Restaurants, retail stores, spas, and many other businesses throughout Alexandria will be contributing a portion of their proceeds throughout the day to the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer. All funds raised from this event will go to support Alexandria's Breast Cancer Fund at Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation. www.alexcanwalk.com

Read "Race for the Cure, a Personal Note," from June:

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=328740&paper=63&cat=110>

But despite the advances in early detection, treatment and mortality rates, more than 40,000 women will die of breast cancer this year in this country.

As you think about breast cancer survivors and feel empathy for those in the midst of treatment, I urge the women reading this to be sure that they are taking care of themselves, for

everyone reading this to be sure the women in their lives are as well.

Early detection is the key. Breast cancer is detected early by self-exams, by doctor exams and by mammograms. Be sure you show up for all of the above on your own behalf.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

calling on our local officials to enforce the laws on the books. As you note, not only is placing signs on public property against the law and unsightly, but it is also environmentally unfriendly to manufacture so many signs. I've been guilty of placing signs on public medians in past campaigns. I'll never do it again, though I will continue to place signs in my yard. Candidates, spend your campaign funds on signs for supporters to place only on private property. Invest the rest of your funds on debates, town hall meetings and other methods of permitting the public to substantively learn your stance on the issues.

Therese Tuley
Fairfax Station

The Entire Story

To the Editor:

I am one of the mother's interviewed in the much appreciated article "Families Fight for Insurance" [Connection, Oct. 1-7, 2009]. The Autism Summit was a great step in the right direction, but the public needs to continue to hear the "entire story." I would like to respond to some of the points made in the article.

Autism is first, a medically di-

agnosed disease which requires both medical and educational intervention. One does not exclude the other. Some insurance companies are not only denying behavioral therapies specifically prescribed by M.D.s as "medically necessary," but also medical treatments such as lab tests and evaluations.

It's a shame Mr. Gray did not attend our summit yesterday evening. If he had, he would have learned that counter to his belief, "therapies provided by certified instructors are outside the insurance umbrella," many states have existing mandates and many insurance companies do provide extensive medical and educational therapies including ABA. Claiming autism is only educational, puts my son's doctors in a frenzy of disbelief. It also forces parents to fight for specialized therapies for which school employees have no training, but do their best. After my family's final appeal for more than \$15,000 of rejected therapies, our insurance company said we should sue our school district. It is no surprise that our special education teachers are often at their wit's end.

The article stated, "as not all

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

therapies and treatments are effective with all people on the autism spectrum." Personally, I've never seen any medical intervention claim a "guarantee" or equal rates of effectiveness for any disorder. We have the same fair expectation for our children. I think of my mother at 81, with Parkinson's disease, who after a hip accident received unlimited speech, occupational and physical therapies. No one challenged her ability to recover skills depending on age or severity of illness. Yet we reject the notion for our children with the greatest window for growth and even recovery.

The article states, "In autistic children, the therapy is to create new abilities, like speaking or playing with other children." To clarify, large percentages, if not the majority of children diagnosed with autism, have documented normal developmental histories until an unexplained neurological, if you will, "car crash" caused their child to severely regress, losing critical life skills. This can lead to other behavioral issues such as aggressive behaviors, which with intervention could have been averted. Insurance companies are playing the game of semantics to exclude therapies such as, "habilitative or rehabilitative."

Without intervention, autism gets worse. Parents of autistic children don't delude themselves that therapies will guarantee a "cure," we simply want to fulfill our role as responsible parents, to give our children proven interventions, and ultimately give to society a more productive, tax-paying adult.

When my son was diagnosed with leukemia, we received a road map detailing his treatment protocol. We were reassured all his therapies would be covered and had a medical and educational team support us. With autism, parents are left to navigate mostly on their own. Autism untreated, is life threatening.

The Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission gave it's conclusion loud and clear: mandating insurance to provide proven therapies for autistic children is not only ethically and morally correct, but fiscally prudent. The saddest irony is that the insurance industry will ultimately pay the highest price, as without intervention, these children become adults with severe medical issues due to stress and physical injuries. Legislators, now it's your turn to ask insurance representatives, "I've heard what you can't do, now tell me what you can do?"

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS



The Robinson Marching Rams take part in the parade.



The Robinson High School Varsity Cheerleaders.

Once Upon a Robinson ...

Robinson Secondary School rolled out all the fun, food and festivities that its students could handle last week as the school celebrated its homecoming, themed "Once Upon a Robinson."

The school kicked off the festivities with a weekend of dress-up days, including "Wild West Day," "Twin Day," "Pajama Day" and on Friday, "Blue and Gold Day." The school then threw its pep rally Friday, Oct. 2 for the football team, who was slated to play the Lake Braddock Bruins later that night. According to Principal Dan Meier, 4,000 students packed into the gym for the rally. Following the pep rally, the school had its annual homecoming parade, where many of the school's clubs, teams and organizations walked along the parade route, which took the participants down Cascade Lane and onto Gainsborough and Wheatstone drives in a large circle that brought them back to the school.

After the parade, the entire student body made its way back to campus for the annual "Taste of Robinson" event where school organizations sold baked goods and businesses like Baja Fresh, Chick-fil-A, Dominos Pizza and Red, Hot and Blue sold hot

Rams celebrate 2009 Homecoming.

food. Also, the school blew up a massive castle-shaped moon bounce and a large slide for the students to enjoy.

Perhaps the most appealing activity at the event, however, was the opportunity to drop Meier and other faculty and staff members into a dunk tank. Dozens of students and their siblings lined up to take three shots with a ball to hit a target and watch their principal and teachers fall into the tank of water.

The festivities concluded the next night at the homecoming dance, where seniors Brad Burgess and Emily Morgan were named homecoming king and queen, respectively.

"I've been here for seven years, and this was by far the best homecoming I've been a part of," Meier said. "We are so fortunate to have a school body with such school spirit that embraces the traditions of homecoming."

— JUSTIN FANIZZI



The school's jump rope team marches in the parade.

"We are so fortunate to have a school body with such school spirit that embraces the traditions of homecoming."

— Principal Dan Meier



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POLITICS

Susan Shedd Conrad (D)

FROM PAGE 4

My opponent regularly votes with the rural Virginia GOP leadership against the transportation needs of his constituents. If I don't fix those transportation funding problems during my first term, don't re-elect me. In addition, I will work to increase public education funding for Northern Virginia and expand absentee voter opportunities for all Virginians.

If you could say one thing to voters, what would it be?

Give me a chance to make a difference. For seven years, we have relied upon my opponent to fix our

Northern Virginia transportation woes, but they have only worsened. The 40th District deserves better. Throughout my career, I have been thrown into challenging situations requiring bold action, collaboration and creative problem-solving. I have the vision, knowledge and fortitude to make the tough decisions necessary to resolve the key issues facing Virginia.

Who are your political heroes/influences?

Elizabeth Cady Stanton is a woman I hold in great esteem. Because of her dedication and perseverance, women in the United States won the right to vote and serve as elected officials. I can identify with her as she was a mother, wife, author and activist holding firm to her beliefs saying, "Truth is the only safe ground to stand upon."

Del. Timothy D. Hugo (R-40)

FROM PAGE 4

thing we need is another far left liberal whose only idea is to raise taxes. While my opponent has not proposed much in terms of new initiatives, she has been quick to say that Fairfax families that drive SUVs and mini-vans should pay higher taxes because they cause excessive road wear.

If you could say one thing to voters, what would it be?

I will hold the line on taxes and focus on local issues that benefit my Fairfax County constituents. Also, for Fairfax students, I will continue to fight to

limit the high number of out-of-state students (sometimes 40 percent) who enroll at Virginia's elite schools. Currently, many of Fairfax's brightest students are forced to enroll outside of Virginia.

Who are your political heroes/influences?

Abraham Lincoln. Everyone talks about his great efforts during the Civil War. But, his personal determination and persistence prior to the war is an inspiration. Prior to his election as president, Lincoln faced repeated personal, business and political setbacks. Yet, each time he demonstrated a resilient character that allowed him to persevere despite adversity.



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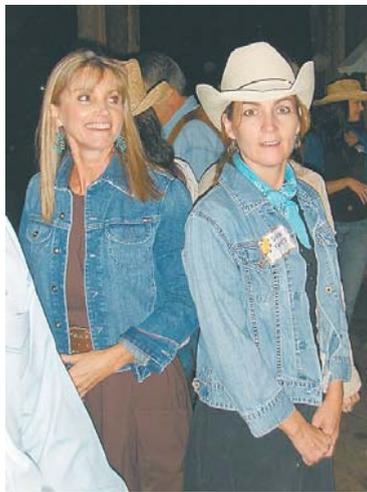
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COMMUNITY



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Amanda and Eric Hencken prepare to do-si-do at the Clifton Betterment Association's Barn Dance.



Linda Diseati, left, and Susan Yantis take a breather.



Square dancers gather together.

Barn Dancers

Clifton residents grabbed their cowboy hats, denim and boots Saturday night, Oct. 3 and moseyed on down to the CBA barn for an old-fashioned barn dance. It was a fund raiser for the Clifton Betterment Association, and a dance caller showed them how to do basic square dancing.

From left, Linda and Blair Diseati and Rebecca and Win Gardner enjoy themselves at the dance.



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CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/OCT. 8

WBIS Fairfax County Monthly Luncheon. 12-1:30 p.m., at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Come join Women Building & Investing in Success. Learn more at www.wbis.biz.

Studio Series #1 "Fuddy Meers." 8 p.m., at Black Box Theater. \$6 adult, \$3 student/senior. The Black Box Theater is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.

FRIDAY/OCT. 9

Lunch Bunch. 12 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch and come for stories. Birth-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Hanzel und Gretyl, Dreams in Fear, Dark Dissolve and more. 8 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Author Scott Turow presents "Confessions of a Death Penalty Agnostic" 7:30 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Turow, best-selling author of many novels including "Presumed Innocent" and "Ordinary Heroes," is also the author of "Ultimate Punishment: A Lawyer's Reflections on Dealing with the Death Penalty" and will present a discussion of

capital punishment. No registration required, first come, first served. For details, see the Fairfax County Library's Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or call 703-324-8428.

Studio Series #1 "Fuddy Meers." 8 p.m., at Black Box Theater. \$6 adult, \$3 student/senior. The Black Box Theater is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.

SATURDAY/OCT. 10

Children's Consignment Sale sponsored by Spring-Mar Cooperative Preschool. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Children's clothing and furniture, baby equipment, toys, books and videos, maternity and nursing clothes and more. Due to space constraints, shoppers with strollers are not permitted. www.spring-mar.org or 703-239-1213.

Flu Vaccinations. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Shots \$25 or Medicare Part B; must be 18 or older. Call Inova for details; 877-895-5284/877-895-5284. Adults. No registration required.

Friends Book Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Dance Gavin Dance, Emarosa, Of Mice & Men, Tides of Man of Machines and Girls Get All The Action. 4:15 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Charm City Devils, Method of Friction, The Splints and more.

9 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$11 in advance, \$13 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Studio Series #1 "Fuddy Meers." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., at Black Box Theater. \$6 adult, \$3 student/senior. The Black Box Theater is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.

Richard Alston Dance Company. 8 p.m., at GMU Concert Hall. \$42, \$34, \$21 Pre-Performance Discussion 45 minutes prior to the performance. The Concert Hall is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.

SUNDAY/OCT. 11

The Flying Karamazov Brothers. 4 p.m., at George Mason University's Center for the Arts. Tickets for youth through grade 12 half price. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$42, \$34, \$21. The Center for the Arts complex is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Poison the Well, I Saw a Ghost, Remember This City, Life After Hours, The Markov Process and Earthborn. 5 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Clifton Community Woman's Club will be featuring homemade goodies and coffee at Clifton Day, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Come browse club's cookbook, a collection of member's most famous

dishes, available for a special Clifton Day only price of \$10. Talk to members about the various charitable organizations that benefit from the club's programs. For more about the CCWC, visit at www.cliftoncwc.org.

Studio Series #1 "Fuddy Meers." 2 p.m., at Black Box Theater. \$6 adult, \$3 student/senior. The Black Box Theater is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.

Faculty Artist Series: Piano trio with Anna Balakerskaia, Zino Bogachev and David Teie. 7 p.m., at GMU's Harris Theater. Free. The Harris Theater is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.

TUESDAY/OCT. 13

Computer Tutoring. 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

One-on-one help with basic computer skills, navigating the Internet and using Microsoft Word and Excel. Call to sign up. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Midnight at Bunnyman Bridge. 6:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Storyteller Margaret Chatham and the local legend of the Bunnyman murders and other creepy tales. Age 12 and up. 703-249-1520.

Welcome Fall. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Join us for stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Calling All Wimpy Kids! 4 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Jeff Kinney's Diary

of a Wimpy Kid series with trivia, snacks and fun activities. Age 8-14. 703-339-7385.

Acoustic Open Mic with Bob Gaynor of The Roadducks. 7 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Age 21 and up. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 14

Older Adult Book Discussion Group. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. The Lemon Tree: an Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East by Sandy Tolan. Meet next door at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults (KNCAA). Adults. 703-339-4610.

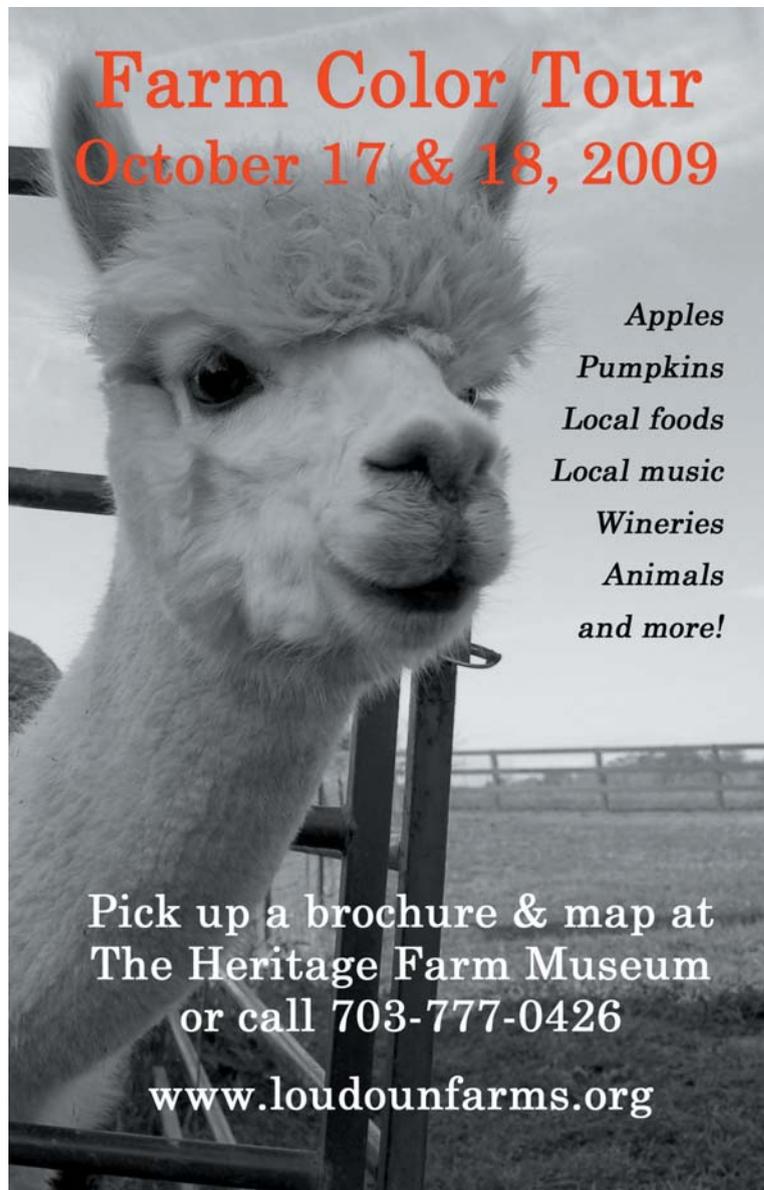
Practice Your English. 10:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

hed (p.e.), Johnny 3 Legs, Sensylla, Others May Fall and The Backwoodz Band. 7 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 15

Eensy Weensy Spiders. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Spooks and shrieks at story time. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Ventana (with Members of Mushroomhead) with Hell Trash, Eyes Set to Kill, The Word Alive, Dreaming of Eden, G19 and Redshift. 6:30 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

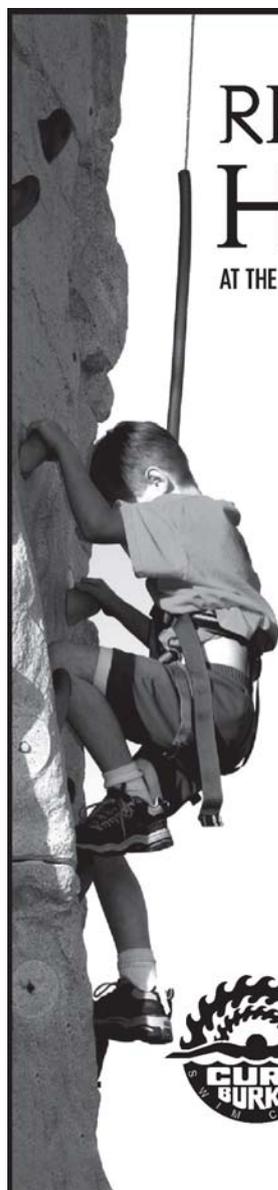


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Training Their Sights on Success

Robinson Rifle Team looks to repeat as smallbore National Champions in 2010.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Robinson Secondary School senior and dual-sport athlete Nathan Davison could have used the “I’m too tired” excuse if he wanted to get out of his 6 a.m. practice with the rifle team.

After playing a full game as an offensive lineman for the Rams’ varsity football team, who could blame Davison if all he wanted was a Saturday morning’s rest?

But while Davison’s teammates were sleeping in after their 28-21 victory against Lake Braddock Secondary School, Davison crawled out of bed at 5 a.m. to train in his other athletic commitment.

“It’s just a good clean, fun activity.”

— Head Coach Bob Hardy

As a member of the Robinson Rifle Team, Davison meets his teammates and coaches at the National Rifle Association Headquarters in Fairfax each Saturday morning to train for the upcoming season.

“It’s very hard to wake up and get out here for practice,” the offensive lineman said, yawning in between words. “I want to get better and better [at shooting], so I



PHOTOS BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Nathan Davison, center, a member of the Robinson football team, adjusts his sighting. Davison played in the Rams’ football game on Oct. 2, but woke up in time for the Rifle Team’s 6 a.m. practice the next morning.

come out here regardless of how tired I am.”

Despite the sleepy haze Davison appears to be in, he awakens and rejuvenates when placed behind the sights of his air rifle.

The senior is an expert marksman and while he’s a major part of the Robinson football team, college scouts are more enam-

ored with his shooting ability.

“I’m being looked at by West Point for the rifle team,” Davison said. “I want to get better and show improvement each time they talk to me. That’s why I can get out here [when I’m tired.]”

Davison isn’t alone in battling yawns and the desire to sleep for the chance to practice and earn a scholarship through rifle shooting.

He’s just one of 15 marksmen and women on the team.

The rifle team, which has been existence since the school opened in 1971, is one of Robinson’s most successful sporting clubs.

The team won the 2009 National Rifle Association Junior Sectional Indoor National Championship last season and many of its members are scholar athletes.

“It’s just a good clean, fun activity,” said Head Coach Bob Hardy. “We’ve been successful in competitions and our kids are strong academically.”

The rifle team currently has a 206-23 record in smallbore (.22 cal) rifle and a 16-3 record in air rifle competitions.

THE RIFLE TEAM is a winter sport that runs from December to March, but Hardy credits the team’s recent national championship title and other accomplishments to the members’ commitment to offseason practice.

“The kids come out here and work really



Junior Lauren Alman takes aim at a paper target during the Rifle Team’s practice at the National Rifle Association Headquarters’ underground shooting range.

hard,” the 26-year coaching veteran said. “I’m always impressed by how [passionate] the kids are about the sport.”

Passionate might describe the team’s enthusiasm for rifle shooting, but participating in the club is expensive.

“We have the blessing of the school,” Hardy said. “But we don’t have any funding from the county or Robinson.”

Hardy said that the team has two club-

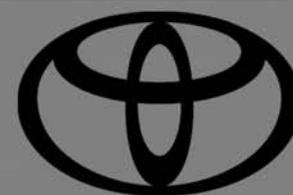
SEE ROBINSON, PAGE 14



Rifle Team member Katie Gibson talks with Head Coach Bob Hardy about trying to group her shots closer together. Hardy has been the Rifle Team’s coach for 26 years.

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SPORTS

Edison Victorious in 'Battle of the Birds'

Mother-daughter coaching rivalry takes main stage in 'battle.'

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

In some parents' lives, a moment occurs when they realize they can no longer defeat their children in the games they used to win for much of their children's lives.

For Ginger White, 45, head coach of the Edison High School field hockey team, that moment was pushed back at least one more year as her team defeated Hayfield Secondary School's field hockey team, coached by her 25-year-old daughter Lauren White, 1-0.

The Oct. 2 match was dubbed the "Battle of the Birds," because of the schools' mascots the Edison Eagles (4-8) and the Hayfield Hawks (4-8).

The game was a meeting of, former but now reunited, National District rivals.

But the marquee matchup was the friendly mother-and-daughter rivalry.

Before the game, Lauren White led her mother 2-1 in previous meetings, but this was the first time that the two teams had

played each other as district rivals.

"It's a friendly rivalry because it's my mom," Lauren White said. "But I wanted to win."

Lauren White said that neither side resorted to gamesmanship, but her mother did play a small joke when she asked the announcer to remind her daughter of her alma mater.

"I told the announcer to say that she was a 2005 Edison graduate," Ginger White said. "It was my way of saying, 'You're still ours.'"

Lauren White said that she was unaware of her mother's pre-game tactic, but said that her mother was on the wrong team as well.

"She graduated from Hayfield in 1982 and played on the field hockey team," Lauren White said.

WITH THE joking between the Whites over, the players took the field in front of a crowd that Lauren White said her players described as "what you would normally see for football games."

Although both teams are currently in re-

building years, the match was not a one-sided affair.

"Battle of the Birds' is definitely what it was," Ginger White said. "It was a great game between two evenly matched teams. It's also a big rivalry because Hayfield is [back in the National District] and it's only going to get bigger"

For the first half, the game was a defensive stalemate with both teams failing to solve their opponents' goalie.

But what's a good rivalry without a dramatic finish to motivate next year's team?

The Eagles provided that when senior Britney Weber scored the game-winning goal with two minutes left in the game.

"It was a great play," Ginger White said. "[Weber] scored after a breakaway and it put us up 1-0."

The drama didn't end with Weber's goal. With time expired, the Eagles committed a penalty in the shooting circle, giving the Hawks a chance to tie the game.

"We had a penalty corner when time ex-

pired so we had a chance," Lauren White said. "It was a real nail biter for the fans."

The Hawks' first penalty corner chance failed to score, but the Eagles committed another penalty in the shooting circle, giving Hayfield another chance.

"I thought we would go to overtime [when they got the second corner]," Ginger White said. "The game really turned out to be a battle."

Unfortunately for Hayfield, its second chance was cleared out of the shooting circle, ending the game.

"Our biggest problem has been scoring," Lauren White said. "It's something we've been working on all season long."

Despite the series between the Whites now tied at 2-2, Lauren White said she is anxious to experience the "Battle of the Birds" atmosphere again.

"I've never seen that many people at a field hockey game," White said. "It was a great experience."

"I've never seen that many people at a field hockey game. It was a great experience."

— Lauren White, Hayfield field hockey coach

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WEEK IN SPORTS

Reilly's Two Passing TDs Lead Woodson Over Westfield

The W.T. Woodson varsity football team improved to 6-1 after its 28-7 victory against Concorde District powerhouse Westfield High School.

Senior quarterback Connor Reilly led the team with 196 passing yards, 39 rushing yards and two passing touchdowns.

Woodson's defense held the Bulldogs to seven points and was lead by sacks from James Johnson and Tim Herberg.

The Cavaliers' next game is on Oct. 9 against West Potomac High School.

Rams Tennis To Host Tourney

The Robinson Tennis Team will be hosting a the Fall Tennis Classic on Saturday, Oct 17 at Robinson Secondary School.

The tournament will be run in a shootout format over one day featuring consolation rounds and mini-sets.

Age divisions will be boys and girls 12 and under, boys and girls 14 and under and high school boys and girls.

The entry fee is \$25 per person and checks should be made out to Robinson Boosters Club.

To enter or for more information, contact Robinson Tennis Coach Paul Fisher at paul@aol.com or 703-503-9337.

Woodson Athletic Boosters

The W.T. Woodson Athletic Boosters organization is looking to raise \$1.5 million to enhance the school's athletic programs and facilities.

The group's goal is to provide more opportunities to student athletes, students in physical education programs and families living in the Woodson community. More information about donating can be found at www.wtwoodsonsports.org.

SPORTS

Robinson Rifle Team

FROM PAGE 12

owned rifles, but those interested in joining the club must be able to provide their own weaponry.

According to Hardy, an air-rifle can cost from \$800 to \$1,500, and that's if a student is lucky enough to find a used rifle.

The investment climbs higher when one adds in the costs of a shooting jacket and various scopes and sighting equipment.

"It can be \$1,500 to \$2,500 for everything," Hardy said.

Fortunately, the club doesn't have to pay to practice at the NRA range.

"We practice here on a hand-shake," Hardy said. "When we lost our old practice spot at Fort Belvoir, I came here and explained our situation. I told them I didn't have any money, but [the NRA] took us in and allows us to use the range during off-hours."

Combined with the rifle team's recent success is the impeccable safety record the team has earned throughout its existence.

"We've never had an injury [involving the guns] and we make sure to teach the kids safety first," Hardy said. "Safety is our No. 1 concern. Before the kids start shooting on the team, they have to go through safety seminars."

Hardy said that club has managed to stay safe by keeping guns unloaded when not in use, strict enforcement of not bringing the rifles to school and proper use of the weaponry to avoid injury.

Despite the team's accomplishments, some misconceptions surround the club.

"People think we twirl guns like a drill team," junior Alanna Linton said. "I tell them that we actually shoot the guns. Then they think that [we're] training to be sniper killers."

Many team members joined out of curiosity about the sport.

"It's a varsity letter and it sounded like a fun activity," senior Raleigh Cunningham said.

Junior Lauren Alman, a team captain, said she enjoys the team's camaraderie.

"I never thought I'd be in [Rifle Club], but I tried a bunch of sports and I felt right on the rifle team," she said.

"What makes rifle team so much fun is that it's like a family. We just have fun with each other and we all get along."

The family-bonding isn't just between the students, it also extends to their coach.

"I love these kids like they are my [platoon members] when I was in the Army," Hardy, a retired lieutenant colonel, said. "It's always a pleasure to wake up and shoot with the team."

"What makes rifle team so much fun is that it's like a family."

— Lauren Alman

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Six wineries had tents at the festival for wine tastings.

PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Art, Jazz Converge

FROM PAGE 3

festivals like these are great branding opportunities, as they allow the wineries to promote their brands to the Northern Virginia market. In some cases, like that of the Vineyards of the Scuppernong, based in Columbia, N.C, the festival provided the opportunity to introduce a product altogether.

"This [festival] was our first real move into this marketplace," said winery owner Richard Romano. "The only way to sell it is to have people taste it, so this is a great

marketing tool."

While the success of this inaugural event showed Workhouse officials that the festival could become an annual tradition, Workhouse Director of Development Rich Wolford said that he would like it to become more than just an annual celebration.

"I think we will have more events like this and we want to be able to use this setting to bring music and entertainment to the people," Wolford said. "We will probably have more events like this than just one annual event."

Former Teacher in Jail

FROM PAGE 3

unanswered. "Children are resilient, but no one knows how it'll affect her [in the long run]," said the prosecutor. "It runs deep; this event will always be inside [the victim]. Her inability to trust adults, especially men, will stay with her."

Clearly, said Holt, Bower was a man in a position of trust, a school teacher who violated that status by what he did to the girl. He said it affected her whole family and altered their lives. For example, said Holt, the child's older sister must now protect her.

"But for this man's actions, she'd have a normal life," said Holt. "Now, she avoids the room where this happened and she's got to go to therapy." Holt then asked Finch to give Bower a sentence reflecting the seriousness of the crime.

Hicks said a psychiatrist who'd examined his client concluded that "he doesn't present an increased risk of sexual violence and has no history of it." Hicks said the doctor called the girl's sexual assault a "situational offense," rather than one due to a sexual disorder on Bower's part.

"There's already been significant punishment imposed on this gentlemen," said Hicks. "He's lost his reputation, and his friends among teachers and parents. He's

lost his job; he loved teaching and was a good teacher. He'll have to register as a sex offender, and it'll be a huge mark of Cain on him until the day he dies."

Hicks said Bower has "aged considerably" since his arrest and has many ailments. Requesting a suspended prison sentence, plus probation, Hicks said sending Bower to prison would serve no purpose. Furthermore, he told Finch, "It's dangerous for a man with a charge like this to be sent to prison. He's not a big man. He can't defend himself, so you may well be sentencing him to death."

Bower then stood and told the victim and her family how sorry he was. "I've never done anything like this before in my life," he said. "I'm ashamed of myself and I sincerely regret it. I also apologize to my wife; she's been beside me, all the time."

But the judge had the last word, sentencing Bower to 10 years in prison, suspending five years, and placing him on five years probation upon his release. Finch also ordered him to receive sex-offender treatment, undergo polygraph tests and register as a sex offender.

"You are to have no contact with the victim or any other minors," he said "And you must relinquish any guardianship you may have over any minors."

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HEALTH & FITNESS

60-Mile Crusade

FROM PAGE 3

So she e-mailed every woman she knew and asked them to participate. "I figured I'd get a couple friends, but we have nine people," said Keogh. "At first, I thought about it as an athletic event — could I walk 60 miles?" But then, it took on a deeper meaning.

"At the fund-raisers, people would come up and tell us how they'd been touched by cancer, and they thanked us for doing this," said Keogh. "Then it became more about what we were actually going to accomplish [for breast-cancer research]."

THE WOMEN also threw themselves into their fund raising. They conducted three events at Baja Fresh in the Fairfax Towne Center, one at Five Guys in Fairfax, a bake sale outside the Giant Foods in the Colonade and a bake and crafts sale at the Clifton Kids Festival and the Clifton Wine Festival. They also sold popcorn donated by University Mall Theaters at the Clifton Film Festival.

Lisa Margulis of Hayden Village has run two half-marathons, but nothing longer, so she's been walking several days a week. But she and the others make it fun. For example, she said, "One day we walked 5 1/2 miles to Matsu Sushi on Stone Road [in Centreville], had lunch and walked 5 1/2 miles back."

Margulis said this walk was one of the things she wanted to do, after turning 40. "I'm looking forward to the whole experience," she said. "The adrenaline rush of seeing everyone unite together, and being part of something so important, will be inspiring. A friend's son was diagnosed with leukemia, and this is a way of giving back and helping."

Ginger Higginbotham, Keogh's neighbor, also has a special reason for participating. "My mother's mother died of breast cancer when I was 12 or 13, and it was traumatic for me," she said. "So this is near and dear to my heart, and it's such a great group of people we're walking with. But I'm nervous about my feet handling this. I exercise, but

haven't done anything of this magnitude. So it's a challenge for me, but I'm sure I'll make it through."

Cifton's Colleen Foxworth is preparing by walking 10-20 miles on weekends, in her neighborhood, at Burke Lake and at the Manassas battlefield. She's eager to meet the other participants and learn their stories and experiences.

"I have a close, childhood friend who went through a double mastectomy last year, and three aunts had breast cancer," said Foxworth. "This is a great cause, but I'm doing it for all types of cancer because I lost my father to cancer."

WILLOW SPRINGS kindergarten teacher Betsy Bayer is walking because "two of my parents from last year asked if I'd do it with them. And I have Jenn's son and Kay's daughter in my class this year. Last year was my first at Willow Springs, and I've made so many new friends through this, it's been a great experience, and I feel more a part of the Willow Springs community."

Bayer is a bit worried about getting blisters but, she said, "A cousin died of breast cancer and a family friend is a survivor, and they go through so much. So I can do this, because you never know when it'll strike."

South Riding's Joy Hansen coaches four of her teammates' daughters in SYA cheerleading, but going on such a long walk is new to her. "I've never done anything like this but, in the last year, one of my friend's mothers passed away after her third bout with breast cancer," she said. "The girlfriend of the best man at my wedding got breast cancer, had a mastectomy and is cancer free now, and a lady at work is a survivor."

Pleased to be part of the fund-raising effort, Hansen is especially looking forward to "being with all these women on my team and the bonding that'll happen that week between everybody there."

Walters is also excited. "It's incredible how the community jumped right in and supported so many events for this cause," she said. "Now it's time for the walk, and we're cheering on Team Pink as they head into a 60-mile walking weekend."

BULLETIN BOARD

MONDAY/OCT. 12

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area: A Look at Issues Critical to Democracy. The League will be discussing its partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau. Materials will be on hand to suggest ways we can reach out to Hard to Count Populations. 1:30 p.m., at Greenspring, Hunters Crossing Classroom, Spring Village Drive, Springfield. For more information, go to the LWVFA Web site: www.lwv-fairfax.org. Contact: Kay, 703-644-2670.

TUESDAY/OCT. 13

South County Federation Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Southcountyfederation.com.
Meet the Dems. The Jewish community hosts a light dessert meet and greet with

Jody Wagner and Steve Shannon, Democratic candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general, 8 p.m., at Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. RSVPs required at www.jccouncil.org/2009MeetTheDems or to JCRC, 703-962-9230/dlinick@jccouncil.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 14

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area: A Look at Issues Critical to Democracy. The League will be discussing its partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau. Materials will be on hand to suggest ways we can reach out to Hard to Count Populations. 10 a.m., at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred's Oak Road, Burke. For more information, go to the LWVFA Web site: www.lwv-fairfax.org. Contact: Lois, 703-690-0908.



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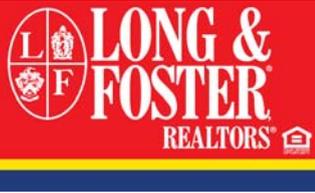
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