

Fairfax Station ❖ Laurel Hill
CONNECTION
Clifton ❖ Lorton ❖ Lorton Valley ❖ Crosspointe

Hunter's Target

NEWS, PAGE 3

Fairfax County staff
have sanctioned
bow and arrow
deer hunts to take
place in Colvin Run
Park and Laurel
Hill Park starting
this month.

Meadowood Trail Plan

NEWS, PAGE 3

Clifton Homes Tour Dec. 5

NEWS, PAGE 4

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Deer Hunt Planned for Laurel Hill Park

Fairfax approves bow hunt to control deer population.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

When Eileen Hanrahan discovered that Fairfax County was allowing bow and arrow deer hunts on local parkland, it did not sit well with her. So the Lorton resident, who lives near Fort Belvoir, started doing some research.

"I was troubled by what seemed to be the long-range plans to use bow hunting, I didn't even know there was a deer management plan in Virginia before this," said Hanrahan.

But what Hanrahan read about bow hunts worried her.

Some people have called bow hunting the least humane way to kill deer, since shooting an animal with an arrow can result in a slow death. Other reports she saw said deer hunts result in a higher number of car accidents locally because the panicked deer run out into the middle of highways and residential roads, she said.

"We need to manage the deer population but I don't think all the community viewpoints have been taken into account. There is a better solution out there and it is troubling to me that we are using one that is upsetting a lot of people," said Hanrahan.

"I think we need a fuller discussion of this.



FILE PHOTO

Some residents are upset about bow and arrow hunts Fairfax County is sponsoring in Colvin Run Park and Laurel Hill Park.

I am not sure if the implications of this particular choice were fully thought through," she added.

FAIRFAX COUNTY will launch its second bow and arrow hunt on public property this season at Laurel Hill Park Nov. 30. Archers will be allowed on the grounds on and off until Jan. 30.

The initial bow and arrow deer hunt, located in the Colvin Run area of Vienna, is already underway and has upset some lo-

cal citizens who live near that North County park property. South County residents seem largely unaware that a second hunt will be underway in their area shortly.

"I wasn't aware the bow hunt was happening," said Mike Grogan, president of the South County Federation.

In the case of the Vienna bow hunt, residents living near the park property were informed in advance about the hunt through a letter from the Fairfax County Park Authority. It is unclear whether any

"I wasn't aware the bow hunt was happening."

— Mike Grogan, South County Federation president

resident lives close enough to the Laurel Hill hunt site to have received the same type of notice ahead of time.

The Belvoir Bow Hunters will be conducting the Laurel Hill park hunt. The group was one of two to win one of the county's bow hunt slots during a lottery process.

The recreational and social group conducts hunts on Fort Belvoir's grounds and helps maintain the army base's archery facilities. The Belvoir Bow Hunters are also active in Hunters for the Hungry, which donates fresh deer and other types of meat culled from hunts to Virginia's homeless shelters, according to the group's Web site.

SOME RESIDENTS may be upset about the bow hunts but Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council, made up of 13 Fairfax residents, supported the government-sponsored hunts in the group's recommendations to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

"This is a no-win situation. I don't think anyone likes the idea of shooting animals. In a perfect world, we would have coyotes and wolves that would balance out the situation," said Stella Koch, a Great Falls resident who heads the environmental council.

SEE BOW HUNT, PAGE 7

Meadowood Considers Trail Changes

Special Recreation Management area may add mountain biking trails to site.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Mason Neck's Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area could soon be offering area residents yet another way to enjoy the outdoors and stay active, as plans to construct new trails for mountain biking on the site are nearing finalization.

The plans were unveiled to the public at a scoping meeting at Meadowood on Tuesday, Nov. 17, where local residents and concerned parties were invited to air any concerns or to make recommendations to the staff. Led by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lower Potomac Field Station Outdoor recreation Planner Jeff McCusker, the meeting drew more than a dozen attendees, most of whom were mountain bike enthusiasts.

"We've got three different users in mountain bikers, hikers and horseback riders," McCusker said. "So, there are several big decisions on how to provide the best opportunity and experience for everybody."

The Meadowood Special Recreation Area is an 800-acre plot of land on the Mason Neck peninsula run by the Bureau of Land Management, which purchased the land in 2001 to provide open recreation space. The site, according to Scott Scudamore, trail boss for Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE), a mountain bike advocacy group, was previously owned by a developer and was purchased by the BLM so that the site could not be used for housing.

The site, which is divided into two sections, Meadowood East and West, currently has trails for only hiking and horseback riding. The project was initiated so that another group of users could be added. The

plan calls for one main trail to be built around the western parcel and for three smaller technical trail loops to be built off the main trail, adding 4 miles total to the site. Each of the three loops, McCusker said, would have logs, protruding rocks and other obstacles to provide a better riding experience for more advanced bikers. Only biking and hiking would be permitted on the new trails, creating perhaps the only source of disagreement within the community.

"There's no direct criticism of the project itself, but the people seem to want all of the trails open to everybody," McCusker said. "That could cause some problems."

The central problem that would arise from opening the trails to all three user groups, McCusker said, would be the interaction between horses and bikers. McCusker said that he has seen problems in the past in other places with horses getting startled by passing bikers, which could cause the horse to throw its rider. In addition, McCusker said that another potential problem could be soil damage if horses were

allowed on the bike trails. McCusker said that most of the soil on the planned trails is clay, and when horses walk on it, they would leave hoof imprints. When it rains, those imprints would collect water, and due to the clay, would not drain.

"We've been worried that if we mix horses and bikes that a lot of the equestrians might have a tough time with bikes on the trails and that the horses will damage the soil because it's full of clay," McCusker said. "But we are open to seeing if it works."

Though McCusker voiced his concerns about opening the new trails up to all users, Scudamore and other meeting attendees said that in their experience, especially in the Laurel Hill trail system, those issues have not been a problem. Scudamore said as long as the trail offered sufficient sightline and bikers respected the riders and their horses, everyone should be able to share the trails.

"I ride in areas where I share trails with

SEE TRAIL, PAGE 5

Police Arrest Clifton Man

City of Fairfax Police have charged Andreas Ioannou, 48, of the 11900 block of Henderson Court in Clifton, with aggravated sexual battery and abduction. On Nov. 19, at 6:30 p.m., a 30-year-old woman told police she was at Aegis Service Corp. in Fairfax when she was assaulted.

According to police, she stated that she'd been held against her will in the firm's office at 3912 University Drive and had been sexually assaulted by an employee of the business. Following the alleged assault, the woman was able to leave the building and subsequently contacted police. She did not require medical treatment.

Following an investigation by Detective Sgt. Steve Bouton of the Criminal Investigations Division, Ioannou was arrested on Friday, Nov. 20. He was held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

Elementary School Meetings

The Southwestern Regional Planning Study committee will meet Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m., in the Liberty Middle School cafeteria, 6801 Union Mill Road (just uphill from Centreville High). Possible changes in the school boundaries and populations will be discussed. Schools involved include Clifton and Colin Powell elementaries.

Join Drumstix Dash Nov. 28

Housing and Community Services of Northern Virginia is hosting the Drumstix Dash, an 8K race on Saturday, Nov. 28, at 8 a.m., at Burke Lake Park. The event includes a family-friendly fun run and walk, refreshments and awards. Runners will enjoy a flat and fast 8K course, while they take in the fall foliage and views of Burke Lake. Prizes will be awarded to top runners overall, and prizes and awards will also be given to the top three men and women in six age groups. All registered runners will receive a custom T-shirt. All proceeds go to a housing fund to help distressed Fairfax County citizens receive counseling and support services. Registration Begins at 6:45 a.m. Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The park's entrance is on Route 123. For directions, visit the Fairfax County Park Authority Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelake/directions.htm. Register for the Drumstix Dash at: <http://tinyurl.com/y1jbg7> or <http://www.active.com/running/fairfax-station-va/drumstix-dash-8k-and-family-fun-run-2009>. For more, contact Jill M. Landsman at jlandsman@nvar.com or 202-262-7878.

Inclusion Efforts Rewarded

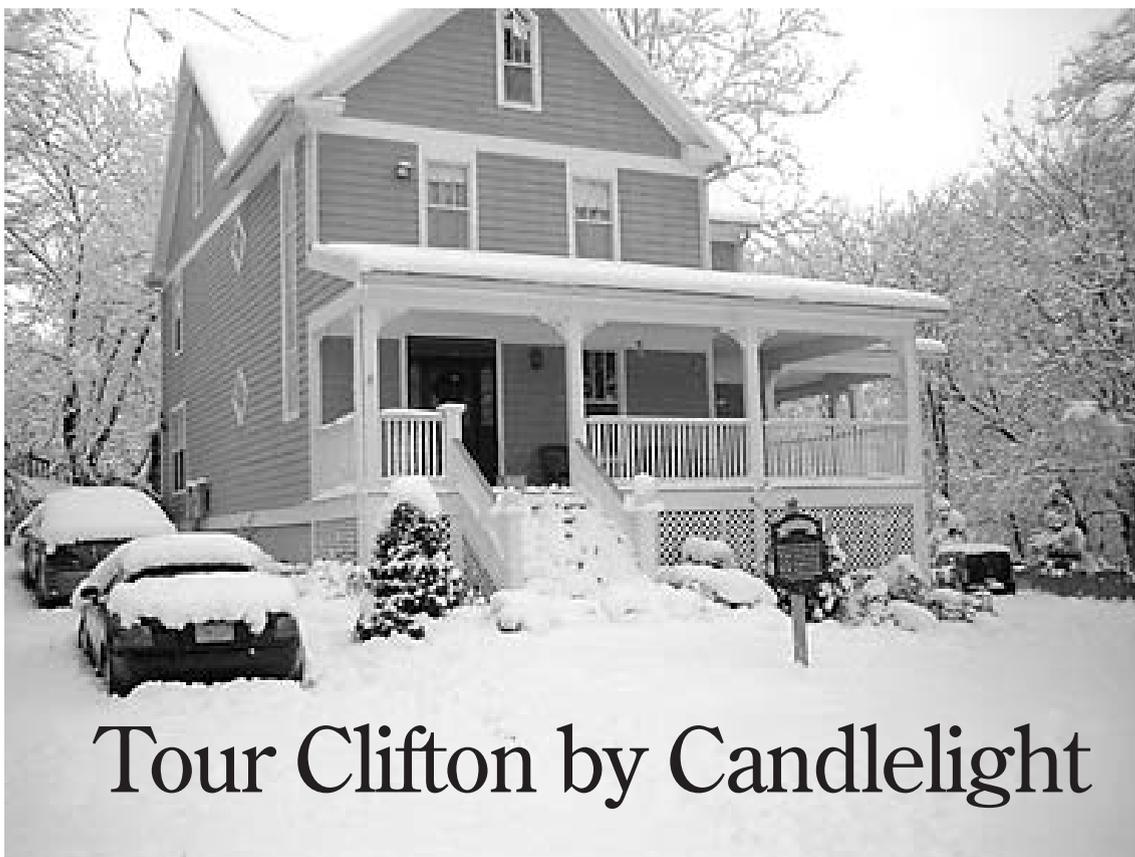
The Fairfax Area Disability Services Board presented East Coast Rehab and Home Depot with the Martha Glennan 2009 Employer of the Year Awards, during a Nov. 17 ceremony at the Fairfax County Government Center. These awards are given annually to county businesses that encourage inclusion in their workforce and provide excellent customer service to people with disabilities.

Rodney Phillips accepted the award on behalf of Home Depot from Disability Services Board member Tom Choman. John Buchbach accepted the award for East Coast Rehab from Robert Rudney, co-chairman of the board's employment committee.

Lake Braddock Club Collects Books for Needy Children

The Middle School and High School Library Book Clubs at Lake Braddock Secondary School will be working with Reach Out and Read Virginia (RORVA) to collect gently used or new books for small children during the month of

SEE NEWS, PAGE 9



Tour Clifton by Candlelight

RussekRobbins Home

Festivities in Historic Clifton include parade, caroling, tree lighting.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Homes decorated for the holidays, costumed riders on horseback, caroling throughout the town and the annual, Christmas tree lighting. They're all part of the 2009 Clifton Candlelight Homes Tour. The annual event is set for Saturday, Dec. 5, and is the official start of the holiday season in the Town of Clifton.

"The town looks beautiful, all decorated, reminiscent of a Norman Rockwell painting," said Homes Tour co-chairman Jennifer Chesley. "It's a fun and festive way to begin celebrating the holidays, and it's nice to see everyone in town working together to make this special event possible."

From 12-3 p.m., the town business community is sponsoring a visit from Santa Claus in Ayre Square on Main Street. He'll be sitting in a Victorian sleigh and will be available to pose for photos with children.

Then at 2 p.m., members of the Clifton Horse Society will parade through the town. Riders and horses decked out in holiday attire will travel from the flood plain, up Main Street and down Chapel Road; then they'll loop back, come down Main Street and turn left onto Chapel Street. They'll then head to King's Field, at the end of the street, where the public is invited to come have refreshments, get a closer look at the horses and see who wins the costume contest.

From 4:30-7:30 p.m., five homes will be open for the tour, as will the Clifton Caboose in the Heart in Hand Restaurant parking lot. Strollers and dogs are not allowed. Two churches will host live music per-

formances and Dickens carolers will stroll through the town singing seasonal tunes. Then at 8 p.m. in Ayre Square will be Christmas caroling, refreshments and the annual lighting of the town Christmas tree.

Tickets before Dec. 5 are \$20, adults; \$5, children under 12. On tour day, they're \$25, adults; and \$10, children under 12. (Children under 3, free). Tickets are available in town at Clifton Café, Cottage Art, T&K Treasures, Peterson's Ice Cream, Clifton Wine Cellars and A Flower Blooms in Clifton. They're also at Picket Fence in Burke and Banner's Hallmark in Centreville. For more information, contact Chesley at TownofClifton@aol.com or co-chair Lynne Garvey-Hodge at lghassoc@erols.com.

Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the music at Clifton Presbyterian Church, located behind Trummer's on Main restaurant, on the half hour, starting at 4:30 p.m., and at Clifton Baptist Church at Main and Chapel streets, where Belinda Stevens Music Studio students will play the flute, violin and harp.

The town's shops and restaurants will also be open, and there's even a raffle. Prizes are gift certificates to the stores and restaurants, plus a one-night stay at the Canary Cottage Bed & Breakfast, and raffle tickets will only be sold in the caboose,

from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

"It's really a town event, and it's exciting to see the homeowners and businesses supporting each other," said Chesley. "And the houses on tour are unique. Most are older homes with a lot of character. It's just like stepping back in time, and visitors also enjoy being able to walk easily between the homes, churches, shops, restaurants and caboose."

"The contributions of numerous volunteers, homeowners and churches make this a special night that reminds us all of the need for peace on earth and community commitment," said Garvey-Hodge. "It is an enchanting, well-organized opportunity to

SEE ENJOY, PAGE 18

DONATED PHOTO

Trail Plan

FROM PAGE 3

equestrians all the time," Scudamore said. "Some trails do have inexperienced equestrians, and bikers as well, but there haven't been any problems in my experience."

Brian Purdy, a member of the Clifton Horse Society and the Mason Neck Horse Coalition, agreed with Scudamore and the other mountain bikers, saying that as long as the trails are constructed well and trail users exhibit mutual respect, no problems would occur.

"All the trails that we use are double use," Purdy said. "I've ridden on many trails when bikers pass me and my horse doesn't mind. It's the responsibility of the riders to understand their animal and communicate when they are on the trails."

The next step in the process is to stage a public tour in January of the flag line outlining the proposed trails so that the public could see first hand the condition of the soil and the sightlines of the trails. The plan will be finalized, most likely in early spring, and construction would begin in the early summer.



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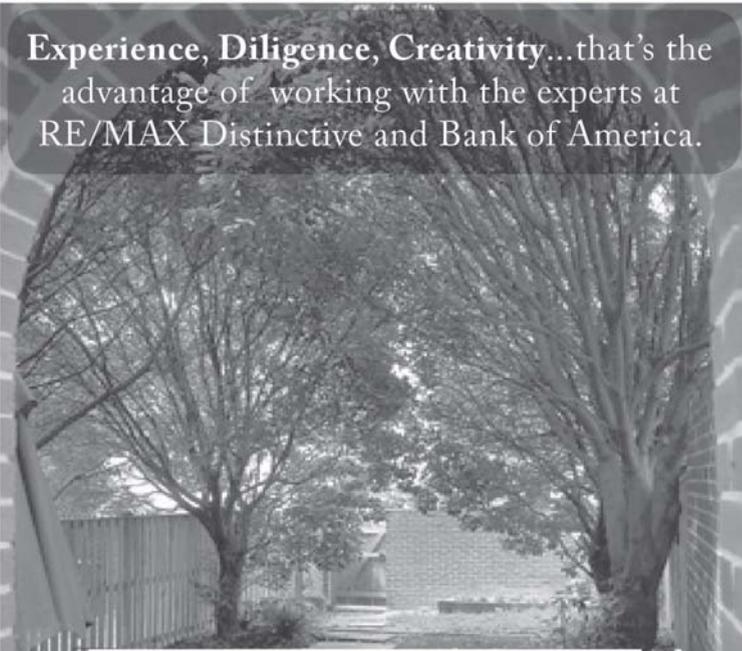
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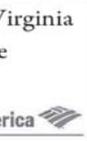
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GOP Primary Candidates Face Off Dec. 1

Three hope to win the Republican nomination and replace Cuccinelli in 37th District.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Republican Party will conduct a "firehouse" primary to nominate its candidate to the 37th State Senate District Dec. 1 at Centreville High School from 6-10 p.m.

All voters wishing to participate will be asked to sign a pledge to the Republican Party, in which the voters usually have to state that they intend to support the Republican candidate in the general election, regardless of who it is.

In Virginia, voters cannot register with a specific political party so both Democrats and Republicans typically use a pledge to discourage "crossover voting," when people from one political persuasion participate in the opposite political party's nominating process.

The winner of the primary will likely face a Democrat and possibly other candidates in a special election on Jan. 12. State Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37), who won a statewide election on Nov. 3, is leaving the seat for the Virginia Attorney General position.

The following is information on the three Republican's running Cuccinelli's state senate position.

Steve Hunt

Steve Hunt, a 51 year-old Fairfax Station resident, served as an at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board from 2003-07. A former Navel flight officer, Hunt now works as a senior systems analyst for SAIC corporation.

In addition to Virginia's "standards of learning," testing scores which students must reach to be considered proficient in a subject, Hunt would like to establish "standards of excellence." The standards of excellence would set higher testing goals for those schools that have an easy time reaching the "standards of learning" thresholds. Those schools whose students met the "standards of excellence" would receive some sort of honor for being among the best schools in Virginia.

Hunt would also like to see the pay of public school principals based on how well students from their particular school per-

form at the next school level. In other words, elementary school principals would be paid according to the performance of their students in middle school, he said.

When it comes to social issues like sexual orientation, abortion, sex education and gun rights, Hunt is conservative and said most of his views are the same or similar to those expressed by Cuccinelli.

"Folks who are animated and excited today about Ken would be animated and excited about my campaign," said Hunt.

Marianne Horinko

Marianne Horinko, a 48 year-old Chantilly resident, served as an acting administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency during President George W. Bush's (R) administration and now runs her own environmental consulting firm.

As a state senator, Horinko said she would fight to keep taxes low and even consider cutting some existing taxes. Specifically, she said she would like to look at eliminating the car tax, an idea that originally became popular during Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore's administration.

"I think we need to look at whether the car tax is worth the amount of infrastructure we use to implement the car tax," said Horinko.

Horinko said she is also interested in establishing a second branch of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in western Fairfax County, since the current campus has to turn away so many qualified applicants now.

"Parents are clamoring for high quality math and science education and we should deliver that to them," she said.

Horinko considers herself a social conservative. She said she is opposed to abortion in all cases and is opposed to some types of contraceptives, including the "morning after" pill.

The candidate describes herself as a defender of Second Amendment rights. If elected, she would support allowing Virginia residents with conceal carry permits for firearms into bars.

Will Nance

Will Nance, 41, lives off Popes Head Road and is the executive director of Greenspring, a retirement and assisted living community in Springfield.

Nance said he is concerned about the expansion of the "nanny state" at the state and federal government level. H

e is particularly concerns about some of

SEE THREE, PAGE 10

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Bow Hunt at Park

FROM PAGE 3

The overpopulation of deer is more than just a nuisance, said Koch. In addition to eating the landscaping planted in yards, deer are devouring local vegetation at an alarming rate, which has significant environmental implications.

"There are no baby trees to replace the big trees we have now that are going to die someday," said Koch.

Deer can also pose a danger for humans. Fairfax reports 4,000 to 5,000 automobile crashes involving deer take place in the county each year. Overall, Virginia is ranked fifth among states in deer-related automobile accidents.

Deer are also associated with Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses that are on the rise locally. In Fairfax, the rate of Lyme disease infection quadrupled from 2006 to 2007, according to county health officials.

"Think of the deer as a tick Metro system. It is better than the Metro system because the deer can take ticks all over the county," said Fairfax County Health Department staff member Jorge Arias in 2008.

Fairfax County has used lethal methods for controlling its deer population for the last decade. But, outside of pilot program conducted in Huntley Meadows Park several years ago, the locality has mostly relied on sharp shooters to kill off excess deer.

Several wildlife activists and archers said the county has turned to bow hunting because it is a cheap deer management tool.

Even when the county uses sharp shooters from its own police department, it has to pay the officers' overtime. Bow hunters, on the other hand, will do the work for free.

But Hanrahan is uncomfortable with using bow hunting to help close Fairfax's large budget shortfall. "I guess that is not really an answer to me, that there are financial concerns. I would be able to pony up private contributions to pay for a more human approach to controlling the deer population in the county," said Hanrahan.

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OPINION

Give Locally

More local families in need right now than ever before; thankfully, most of us are in a position to help.

During 2008, more families across the country were without enough food during part of some months than at any time since 1995 when the U.S. Department of Agriculture began monitoring the extent and severity of food insecurity in U.S. households.

Last year, 17 million households in the United States were without enough food for some part of some months because they didn't have the money to buy food, up from 13 million households in 2007. That's 49 million people, up from 36 million in 2007.

EDITORIAL

The numbers are almost certainly higher now, as 2009 draws to a close.

The ongoing recession and loss of jobs are driving an ongoing surge of families turning to food banks here in Northern Virginia. There are more unemployed people in Northern Virginia than in any other part of the state, according to the Virginia Employment Commission. While the employment rate is lower here as a percentage of the population, this area still has by far the largest number of people unemployed.

In August, there were 69,770 unemployed people in Northern Virginia, with an unemployment rate of 4.7 percent. The rate was down from 5.1 percent in July, but up from 3.3 percent in August, 2008.

People have lost their jobs, are unable to find new ones. In some cases people who own homes are stuck, unable to sell their houses because the homes are worth less than they paid for them, and are facing foreclosure as well.

Families have used up their safety net, spent

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www.wfcma.org/

their savings. They find themselves without being able to put food on the table, and they turn to local food banks, food pantries, churches and other charitable organizations for their most basic needs.

Food pantries around the area have launched additional food drives to try to meet the need.

Many local charities also offer winter coats and holiday gifts, and are also turning to the community to meet the rising needs.

With the holiday season underway, it's time to help.

— MARY KIMM

Support Horinko

To The Editor:

On Dec. 1, in a special election held at Centreville High School, Republicans will nominate their candidate to succeed Attorney General-Elect Ken Cuccinelli.

Marianne Horinko, an active 17 year resident of the Sully District, mother of two public school children and a successful small business owner, is the best overall candidate Republicans could nominate.

Marianne believes in fiscal conservatism, keeping taxes low and she will fight in Richmond to maintain public safety in our neighborhoods and to help develop and implement solutions for our traffic gridlock. Learn more about Marianne's views at www.horinkoforstatesenate.com.

Most importantly, she is the only candidate for the nomination that has exactly what we need in Richmond: someone with the right philosophies who has a proven track-record of success in both the private and public sectors and the

day to day experience of feeling the impact of state government on efforts to raise a family.

Please join me in supporting Marianne Horinko for state senator.

Ajay N. Laheri
E-mail Submission

Conservative Candidate

To The Editor:

Recently, by request of friend, I attended the Campaign Kick-off event for Marianne Horinko, candidate for Virginia State Senate in the 37th District.

Upon walking through the door, I was immediately greeted by the personable, enthusiastic candidate seeking Ken Cuccinelli's seat in Richmond. Although only vaguely familiar with Marianne Horinko prior to the event, her succinct and confident introductory speech to the crowd told me everything I needed to know about this impressive candidate.

Her strong, commonsense con-



Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason), right, presents the Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award to U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) at a ceremony at Friday, Nov. 20 ceremony at the Waterford in Fair Oaks. The award recognized Connolly's record of championing parks, preserving open space, increasing recreational opportunities, and protecting the environment in Fairfax County.

servative values combine with her diverse and admirable experiences of running a large federal agency, managing her own small business, and raising a family to constitute a true leader for Virginia's 37th Senate District.

When I left the event, there was no doubt in my mind that Marianne Horinko was the ideal candidate for that seat.

Mike Piche
Burke

THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

December. The books will be distributed through the RORVA literacy program to a clinic or hospital in the area that serves needy children. The club is accepting picture books and lower elementary chapter books. RORVA's goal is to get families with small children to read together by putting books in their hands.

Collection boxes will be located at Lake Braddock inside the main entrance from Nov. 30-Dec. 22. Books can be dropped off during school hours. The club will then sort and box the donations so that they can be distributed to the clinics and hospitals. For more information about RORVA, visit www.rorva.org/.

Golf Tournament Raises \$40K

Glory Days Grill, a local restaurant chain, conducted its 14th annual golf tournament on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at the Piedmont Club in Haymarket. The event raised \$40,000, which is the most ever raised at the tournament. Of that money, \$33,000 will be given to the tournament's main beneficiary, The Sunshine Foundation. The Sunshine Foundation is the original wish granting organization founded in 1976 by former Philadelphia police officer, Bill Sample. Funds raised from the Tournament will fulfill the dreams of seriously ill, physically challenged and abused children, ages 3-18, nationwide. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.sunshinefoundation.org.

Glory Days Grill will contribute the remaining \$7,000 to three local non-profit organizations: Jill's House, The Magic Foundation and Shaken Baby Prevention, Inc.

BULLETIN BOARD

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 25

Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve

Service. 7:30 p.m. Hosted by Burke Presbyterian Church with friends and neighbors from St. Mary's Catholic Church, Congregation Adat Reyim and the Rumi Forum. Take part in great fellowship and joyous celebration of Thanksgiving and our different faiths. Burke Presbyterian Church is located at 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke. For more information, visit www.BurkePresChurch.org or call the office at 703-764-0456.

MONDAY/NOV. 30

Open Season Workshop for

Federal Employees and Retirees, with U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Call Connolly's District Office at 703-256-3071.

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Every year between Christmas and New Year's, the Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill 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: PhotoB@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.



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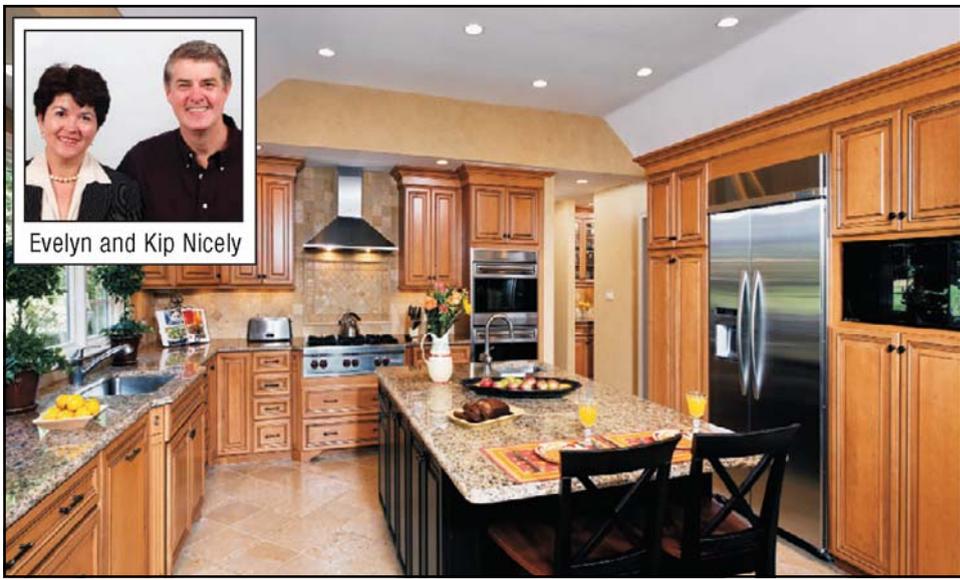


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POLITICS



Steve Hunt



Marianne Horinko



Will Nance

Three in GOP Primary

FROM PAGE 6

the health care proposals that have been floated, which he said would interfere with end of life care.

"I am interested in protecting seniors at the end of their life. I want to see them getting the top quality care that they deserve until their natural death," said Nance.

Nance would also be interested in working on legislation to clamp down on scams and criminal enterprises that target the elderly.

"Every day, I see seniors targeted at

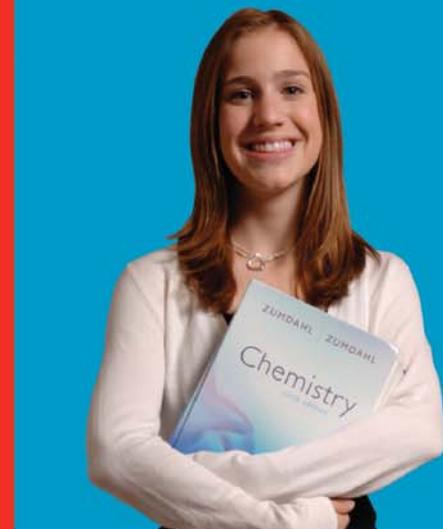
Greenspring. You wouldn't believe the phone scams and the mail scams that go on," said Nance.

NANCE ALSO considers himself anti-abortion, making an exception for cases when the mother's life is at risk. He said he would also be willing to sign a pledge not to raise taxes.

Nance would fight hard for a Virginia constitutional amendment that would protect citizens' right to property.

"I just feel it is one of the most American of all the rights that we have, the right to our personal property," said Nance.

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South County State Title Bid Falls Short

Stallions lose to Loudon Valley 3-1.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

While the girls of the South County volleyball team looked at the outcome of their run at a Virginia AAA State Championship title on Saturday, Nov. 21, and saw defeat, their head coach, Dave Prah, saw victory.

Sitting in the press room of the Stuart C. Siegel Center in Richmond, after losing three games to Loudoun Valley High School, Prah reflected on his team's improbable run to the State finals.

"It's just been an awesome journey."

— Dave Prah

"It's just been an awesome journey," Prah said. "Our school is only 5-years old and no one expected us to get close to [the finals] years ago. To make it this far is incredible."

After losing to Robinson Secondary School on Oct. 8, the team went on a 15-game winning streak to reach the State finals. During that run, the Stallions won the Patriot District title for the second straight year and the Northern Region title.

"We've had an awesome season and we're

the best team in our region," Prah said. "Every girl had an outstanding year. Our seniors were incredible and it's fun to be in [the State competition] atmosphere."

At the beginning of the regular season, Prah had hoped his team might be able to advance past the Regional quarterfinals, but when his team accomplished that goal, he decided to ride out the momentum as far as it could go.

"When you're playing as well as we're playing, you end up building the confidence to know you can get as far as you want," he said.

The Stallions carried their momentum as far as the first game of the finals, besting Loudoun Valley 25-19. But, they could not hold more than a two-point lead in the final three games.

Loudoun Valley won the next three games with scores of 16-25, 22-25 and 22-25 as the Stallions were unable to keep up with the Vikings' fast pace.

"We got a good roll in the first game," Prah said. "We didn't play our A-game in the second and got frustrated."

Service errors also hamstrung the Stal-

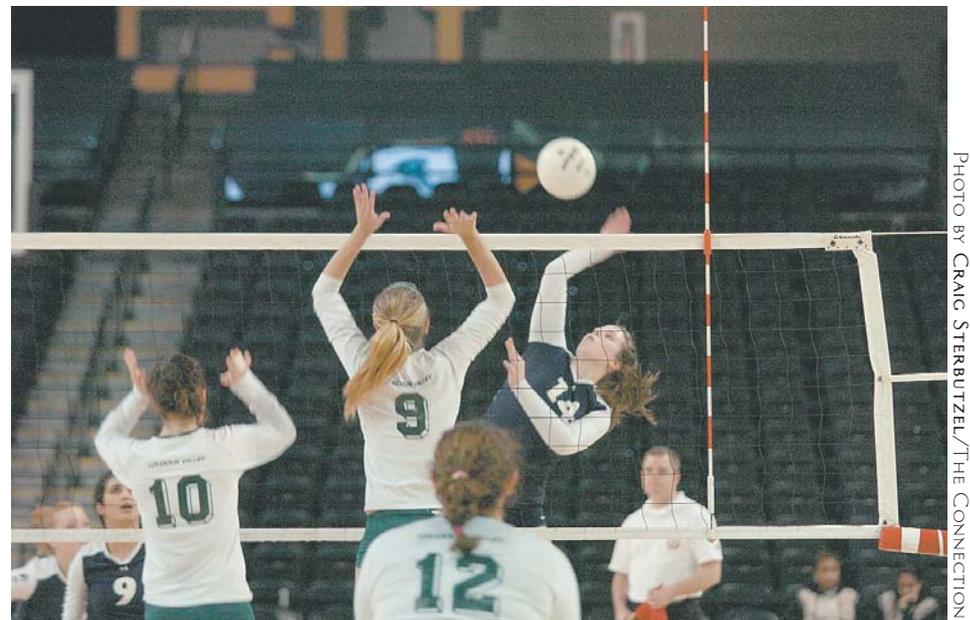


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Senior Lindsay Stephens prepares to hammer a spike during the State finals. Stephens finished the game 19 kills, one dig and one ace.

lions early in the match. In the first game, the Stallions gave up five points on service errors, three in the second and only one in the third and fourth games.

"I think it was nerves in the first game," Prah said. "But then we settled down."

Even with the early jitters, the Stallions' top hitters, Lindsay Stephens and Simone Antwi, turned in strong performances despite Loudoun Valley's best efforts to keep

the ball away from the duo.

Stephens finished the match with one ace, 19 kills and one dig while Antwi had 16 kills.

The fierce force of Antwi and Stephens' hits caught the attention of Loudoun Valley head coach Laird Johnson.

"When you've got splinters flying around

SEE STALLIONS, PAGE 16

Bruins Topple Robinson in Semi-Finals

Gutsy play from junior quarterback helps end 11-game losing streak to Rams.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

It only took one drive on offense and defense for the Lake Braddock football team to show a rowdy crowd of Robinson fans who owned Jack Coffey Stadium on Nov. 20 at Robinson Secondary School.

On the first drive of the Northern Region AAA Semi-finals, the Bruins stonewalled the Rams on fourth and two, halting running back Connor Riley's attempt for a first down.

After Robinson's failed fourth down conversion, Lake Braddock quarterback Michael Nebrich took the field and immediately turned the Rams' turnover into a 30-yard drive, capped by a 18-yard touchdown reception by wide receiver Brandon Johnson.

"The opening drives were just great for us," Nebrich said. "We really set the tone of the game with the defensive stop and the



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Osman Mansaray continued his strong play of late with a 60-yard rushing performance and a 10-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

touchdown drive."

Following the touchdown, the Bruins never looked back, thrashing the Rams 38-7 — a season high for points against the Robinson defense.

The Bruins win ends an 11-game losing

streak to Robinson.

The opening drive wasn't the game's only statement-making touchdown.

With 15 seconds to play in the third quarter, Nebrich ended Robinson's comeback hopes with a gusty series of quarterback

"We had a statement to make. We had respect to earn. We lost to them, but we came back with a big win."

Chris Lavery

sneaks for a 1-yard touchdown run.

"We knew coming into this game if we got the lead, we had to close out the game," Nebrich said. "We called a simple wedge play and [the third quarter touchdown] helped seal the game for us."

Nebrich threw for 210 yards in the game, had two rushing touchdowns and one passing touchdown.

Nebrich's hard-nosed rushing touchdown proved to be the straw that broke the Rams' backs, sending the Bruins to the Northern Region finals and the disappointed Robinson faithful to the parking lots.

The junior quarterback's series of rushes earned high praise from Lake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress.

"[Nebrich] was the unanimous player of the year in the Patriot District this season,

SEE BRUINS, PAGE 16

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.

FRIDAY/NOV. 27

Escape to Black Friday. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Gift basket raffle, gifts and artwork for sale. Live music by Potomac Jazz Project from 2-4 p.m. Free admission. 703-495-0001.

Wizzard, Sinbad, Cherry Smash and The Roadducks. 8 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28

A Chanticleer Christmas. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$24-\$48. Pre-performance discussion 45 minutes prior to the performance. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

MONDAY/NOV. 30

Nature Quest Program Takes Youngsters Outdoors. 10-11 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. From tracks to scat, search for evidence left behind by wildlife. \$4 per child with an adult. Reserve at 703-451-9588.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

Acoustic Open Mic with Bob Gaynor of The Roadducks. 8 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or

jaxxroxx.com.

Tiny Tots Concert. 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Featuring holiday music and costumed characters from animated movies and cartoons. Tickets \$2. Reservations required for matinee. 703-956-0447.

West Springfield High School Tiny Tots Concert. 10 a.m. Familiar nursery and show tunes for 4-5 year olds. Some of their favorite costumed characters will be there to add to the enjoyment. Tickets available at the door. ladesio@verizon.net.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 2

'A Christmas Carol' opens at the Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, Route 1 at Furnace Road in Woodbridge. The show will run through Dec. 30, with matinees on selected dates. Call 703-494-6311 or visit www.lazysusan.com for showtimes and ticket prices.

Tiny Tots Concert. 10 a.m. at Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Featuring holiday music and costumed characters from animated movies and cartoons. Tickets \$2. Reservations required. 703-956-0447.

West Springfield High School Tiny Tots Concert. 10 a.m. Familiar nursery and show tunes for 4-5 year olds. Tickets available at the door. ladesio@verizon.net.

FRIDAY/DEC. 4

Opera Recital: "Amahl and the Night Visitors." 8 p.m. at the Harris Theater, George Mason University's Fairfax campus. Purchase tickets at tickets.com or at 888-945-

2468.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Welcome the Holidays in Historic Clifton. Holiday Horseback Parade and Contest, 2-2:30 p.m.; visit shops in Historic Town of Clifton and take photos with Santa, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Town of Clifton Candlelight Homes Tour, featuring live music and strolling Dickens Carolers, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Caroling, refreshments and Christmas Tree Lighting in Ayre Square, 7:30-8 p.m. Tickets before Dec. 5: \$20 for adults; \$5 for children under 12; after Dec. 5, \$25 for adults; \$10 for children under 12. Purchase tickets at Clifton Café, Cottage Art, T&K Treasures and a Flower Blooms in Clifton; Picket Fence in Burke and Banner's in Centreville. For more, e-mail Jennifer Chesley at townofclifton@aol.com or Lynne Garvey Hodge, lghassoc@erols.com.

The Celebration Singers. 4 p.m. at Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. A costumed and choreographed Christmas show. 703-451-2375 or www.springfieldvaumc.org.

Northern Virginia Chorale and Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Chorale Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. Gwyneth Walker's Rejoice!, John Rutter's Winchester Te Deum, Z. Randall Stroope's All My Heart This Night Rejoices and more, including a brass quintet, percussion and piano. Adults \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

If I keep a green bough in my heart, the singing bird will come.

—Chinese proverb

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8896 RHODODENDRON CT	6	5	1	LORTON	\$800,000	Detached	0.24	LAUREL HILL		
7309 VIEW CT	5	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$775,000	Detached	0.67	SOUTH RUN		
11109 FLORA LEE DR	5	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$774,888	Detached	0.68	BARTON PLACE		
9710 ROLLING RIDGE DR	4	2	2	FAIRFAX STATION	\$760,000	Detached	0.75	SOUTH RUN		
12611 WYCKLOW DR	4	2	1	CLIFTON	\$735,000	Detached	5.28	WILGUSON HILLS		
13301 CLIFTON PARK CIR	5	4	1	CLIFTON	\$730,000	Detached	0.27	OLD CLIFTON PARK		
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13652 SOUTH SPRINGS DR	5	3	1	CLIFTON	\$620,000	Detached	0.20	LITTLE ROCKY RUN		
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8191 DOUGLAS FIR DR	6	3	1	LORTON	\$600,000	Detached	0.15	LAUREL HILL LANDBAY		
13903 SPRINGHOUSE CT	4	3	1	CLIFTON	\$579,900	Detached	0.20	LITTLE ROCKY RUN		
11500 GUNSTON ROAD WAY	4	2	1	LORTON	\$555,000	Detached	0.46	GUNSTON MANOR		
8072 PAPER BIRCH DR	4	2	1	LORTON	\$535,000	Detached	0.24	LAUREL HILL		
8510 CHASE GLEN CIR	4	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$528,500	Detached	0.24	CROSSPOINTE		
9068 GALVIN LN	4	5	1	LORTON	\$526,000	Detached	0.11	LAUREL HIGHLANDS		
13230 BRADDOCK RD	5	4	0	CLIFTON	\$525,000	Detached	0.92	WILLOW SPRINGS		
10242 VAN THOMPSON RD	4	3	0	FAIRFAX STATION	\$525,000	Detached	4.97	SEVEN HILLS ESTATES		
8333 MIDDLE RUDDINGS DR	4	3	1	LORTON	\$515,000	Detached	0.08	VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY		
13324 BRADDOCK RD	6	4	0	CLIFTON	\$513,000	Detached	0.72	WILLOW SPRINGS		
7966 ALMEDA CT	4	4	1	LORTON	\$500,000	Detached	0.09	EVANS		
7623 BUCKLAND PL	4	3	1	LORTON	\$490,000	Detached	0.10	LORTON TOWN CNTR LANDBAY		
9577 5TH PL	5	3	1	LORTON	\$480,000	Detached	0.11	VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY		
8910 JAMESON ST	3	2	1	LORTON	\$475,000	Detached	0.50	LORFAX HEIGHTS		
8939 PURPLE LILAC CIR	3	2	2	LORTON	\$420,000	Townhouse	0.05	LAUREL HILL		
9417 LAKELAND FIELDS LN	3	3	1	LORTON	\$420,000	Townhouse	0.06	LORTON VALLEY		
9298 LAUREL RIDGE CROSSING RD	4	3	1	LORTON	\$408,000	Townhouse	0.05	LAUREL RIDGE CROSSING		
7668 FALLSWOOD WAY	3	3	1	LORTON	\$399,000	Detached	0.12	SUMMERHILL		
7715 BAIRD CT	4	3	1	LORTON	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.05	OVERLOOK POINTE		
7343 OLD POHICK WAY	3	2	1	LORTON	\$360,000	Townhouse	0.05	POHICK LANDING		
8582 ENOCHS DR	3	2	2	LORTON	\$350,000	Townhouse	0.04	VILLAGE OF MOUNT AIR		
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COMMUNITY



Best in Show winners for the Robynson Rams Athletic Boosters Golf Tournament 2009 are, from left, Joel Sickler, Meredith Goff, Mary Cate Rush and Dennis Emmerius.

Teeing Off for Robynson Sports

At the Fairfax Country Club on Oct. 5, local golfers participated in a fund raiser for the Robynson Secondary School Athletic Boosters, which helps all of the athletic teams. It was the seventh annual tournament.



PHOTOS BY DAVID PETROCCI

Winners of the Robynson Rams Athletic Boosters Golf Tournament 2009 are, from left, Mark Hogen, Nora Pettit, Gail Hogan and Glenn Hogan.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

Students 12-24 \$10, under age 12 free.
www.northernvirginiachorale.org or 703-239-2180.

The 20th Annual Model Train Display. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Many different gauge model trains will be running in the main building, caboose and on the grounds. Enjoy hot chocolate and a gingerbread man. \$5 adults, \$1 children. 703-425-9225.

Opera Recital: "Amahl and the Night Visitors." 8 p.m., at the Harris Theater, George Mason University's Fairfax campus. Purchase tickets at tickets.com or at 888-945-2468.

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

Nitzer Ebb, Ego Likeness and more. 8:30 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$20 advance, \$23 at the door. 703-569-5940 or

jaxxroxx.com.

The Annandale Brass Orchestra Winter Wonderland Concert. 4 p.m. at the Richard J. Ernst Community and Cultural Center Forum, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Traditional holiday favorites, a sing-along, and the Chris Johnston Jazz Trio. Adults \$10, seniors and teens \$7, children free. 703-569-0973.

The 20th Annual Model Train Display. 12-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Many different gauge model trains will be running in the main building, caboose and on the grounds. \$5 adults, \$1 children. 703-425-9225.

Christmas Market. Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, will sponsor a Christmas Market on 9:30-10:45 a.m. Honor loved ones with a gift that will benefit local or international charitable organizations. 703-941-4113; www.rbc-va.org.

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Bruins Beat Rams

FROM PAGE 12

and I think he just solidified himself as player of the year in the Northern Region," Poythress said. "What he's done for us is just unbelievable."

While Nebrich's play stole the show, it was the Bruins defense that held on to the sizeable lead by stymieing Robinson's highly touted rushing attack.

"Our defense came to play," Lavery said. "We had a statement to make. We had respect to earn. We lost to them but we had to come back with a big win."

Robinson was held to a season low seven points by the Bruins defense and was unable to create gaps in the Lake Braddock defensive line for running backs Connor Riley and Jared Velasquez.

"It's so much stress on the defense to hold a lead," Poythress said. "We were lights-out on defense. We only gave up one play, other than that we were just lights-out."

Robinson defeated Lake Braddock during the regular season 28-21 on Oct. 2, but Nebrich said dishing out some revenge didn't cloud the Bruins' goal of advancing in the playoffs.

"We were relaxed," Nebrich said. "We came into this game wanting revenge, but we were able to stay poised and get the win."

Robinson head coach Mark Bendorf said the Bruins' motivation to avenge the regular season loss was one of the difference makers in the game.

"You have to give [Lake Braddock] credit," Bendorf said. "From a psychologi-

cal stand point, they were highly motivated after losing the first game. But we had some penalties that put us in long yardage situations that got us off schedule."

As the final moments ticked off the clock, Lake Braddock supporters serenaded their team with a "we want Woodson," chant, begging for a chance to avenge a regular season loss to the No. 1 seeded Cavaliers.

The Bruins lost to Woodson 42-43 on Sept. 11 in a dramatic game that featured a questionable missed-call during a two-point conversion.

THE BRUINS and Cavaliers are the 2009 co-Patriot District Champions, but there won't be any sharing of the Northern Region title when they meet on Nov. 28.

"It's an all-Patriot District final," Poythress said. "It's a pretty good year for the Patriot District, but we're motivated for Woodson. Let's just say that."

Although the loss ends the Rams' season, Bendorf said he was proud of his team's 10-win season.

"We won 10 games and that's a lot to be proud of," Bendorf said. "We're 1-1 against [Lake Braddock], I just wish we came out with the better result."

Although the Rams will lose its 1,000-plus yard running back Connor Riley to graduation, junior Jared Velasquez remains to help lead the team's rushing attack. However, filling Riley's gap won't be easy.

"We've had to replace [running backs] before," Bendorf said. "Somebody will get an opportunity [to play]."

Stallions Fall Short

FROM PAGE 12

you [from Antwi and Stephens' hits], it's tough [to concentrate]," Johnson said jokingly.

Despite the loss, Stephens was ecstatic to reach the State finals in her last season as a Stallion.

"I could not have asked for more," Stephens said. "We have done so much with what we are given. For the few people that were upset, I understand why, but I am so happy. Second in the State is amazing."

The fact that many of their competitors were State Tournament veterans drove home just how significant the season was for the South County team.

"Looking at the program that was sold here, you saw teams that have been here numerous times," Prah said. "We weren't even on the map years ago. People just

thought of us as a team that doesn't play very well."

Although South County only won one game, it advanced farther the State tournament than any team in the Northern Region and is the only Northern Region team to earn a win during a finals' match.

In 2007, Langley High School advanced to the finals but lost 3-0 to Deep Run High School, and Westfield High School appeared in the 2008 finals but fell 3-0 to Albemarle.

"Our schools seemed to get knocked out in the first round by teams from Virginia Beach," Prah said. "But next year we're going to get it. Next year, it's going to be us."

With six seniors graduating, Prah said it will be up to big-hitter Simone Antwi to lead her team in the 2010 season.

"It's going to be the Simone show next year," Prah said.

MILITARY NOTES

Christina M. Rossi graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. The cadet is a stu-

dent at the University of Pittsburgh, Bradford. She is the son of Michael A. and Beth A. Rossi of Silverview Court, Lorton. The cadet is a 2006 graduate of Hayfield Secondary School.

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Canary Cottage

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FROM PAGE 4

visit Clifton and imagine what this Victorian railroad town might have looked like 100 years ago."

Rishling Home

Michael Rishling has lived in this quaint and cozy home on Dell Avenue since 2006. It was built around 1904 and restored nearly a century later. At less than 1,000 square feet, it's one of the smallest, original homes in Clifton.

Here, modern and traditional living go hand-in hand. The kitchen features granite countertops and Australian cypress floors, yet an old-fashioned pine staircase leads upstairs to bedrooms adorned with period furniture.

Anton Home

Clifton Town Councilman Michael Anton and his family recently moved from Frog Hill to this home right in the heart of the town, so this will be their first Christmas here. Also called the Fulmer House, after former Clifton resident J.M. Fulmer, who once lived here, it was built in 1910.

This Chapel Street home is decorated with family heirlooms and antiques, plus Claudia Anton's collection of china and stoneware. Visitors will also see miniature, lighted buildings displaying a "Christmas in the City" theme, plus the dining-room table set with Spode Christmas china.

Keene Home

Ginny and Vernon Keene are this home's original owners. Designed by acclaimed Clifton architect Jim Hricko and built in 1985, it features a contemporary interior, open floorplan and eclectic furnishings.

The couple's flair for the bright, creative and unusual is evident in the holiday deco-

rations. Ginny is an interior designer, so people visiting this Chapel Street home during the tour are in for some special, decorating treats.

RussekRobbins Home

Also known as the Clifton Creek House, Erich and Lisa RussekRobbins's Main Street home was built in 1990 on the former site of a small bungalow. There's lot of artwork, including a Chagall lithograph, a numbered Matisse and original paintings by Erich and his mother.

The dining-room mantle was built in 1886 for a home in Washington, D.C., and the piano is a 1906 Story and Clark upright. Also on display are family mementos from Erich's grandfather, who was a rodeo cowboy and appeared in the 1939 World's Fair.

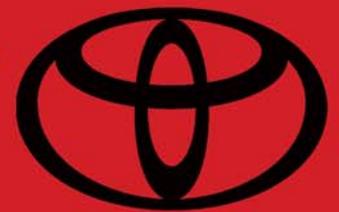
Canary Cottage

Owned by Garvey-Hodge, this Main Street B&B is also her home. (It's also standing in for the Leetch home, originally slated to be on the tour, but unable to participate). Canary Cottage was originally a general store and served as an Episcopalian Church from 1906-1921. It's also been a saloon, meat market, pool hall, lighting store, bakery, cabinet shop and print shop. The small addition on the front was built in 1926 as a barbershop.

The family room is paneled with wood from a 225-year-old Tennessee barn. The stained-glass doors leading into the living room came from a Clifton Hotel suite (now Trummer's on Main) and, before that, were on a Trans-Atlantic steamship. Decorations include Santas, themed Christmas trees, hand-embroidery and snail ornaments from Garvey-Hodge's collection. The property includes a separate carriage house she uses as her art studio.

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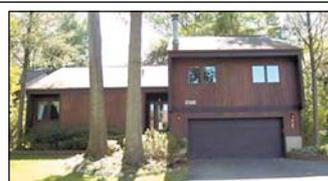
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