

# Fairfax Station ♦ Laurel Hill CONNECTION

Clifton ♦ Lorton ♦ Lorton Valley ♦ Crosspointe

## Golden Rider

NEWS, PAGE 3

**Blaise Majewski, 10, son of Tamarack Stables owner Tim Majewski, rides in the outdoor ring at Tamarack.**

## Minds Wide Open At Workhouse

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Meals Tax Debated

NEWS, PAGE 2

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## NEWS

# Clifton Meals Tax Plan Sparks Angry Words

Public speaks out at Town Council meeting.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

The idea of a meals tax is usually controversial, and that was certainly the case Tuesday, March 2, during a public hearing on the matter in the Town of Clifton.

The Town Council is seeking a reliable, steady source of income and says residents favored a meals tax in past years. So the council is now considering adopting a 2 percent tax on food prepared in Clifton.

"Twelve years ago, the people in this town said, 'Let's have a meals tax,' but nothing was done about it," said Councilwoman Deborah Dillard. "And again, five years ago in a survey, they said that." However, she added, "I am not for any arbitrary tax — only for a good reason, and if we're going to do something with the money."

Councilman Wayne Nickum said it could yield more than \$40,000 annually. Councilman Chuck Rusnak said, meals tax or not, he would continue patronizing Trummer's on Main, the Heart in Hand restaurant and the Main Street Pub. But he said Clifton has

a real dilemma.

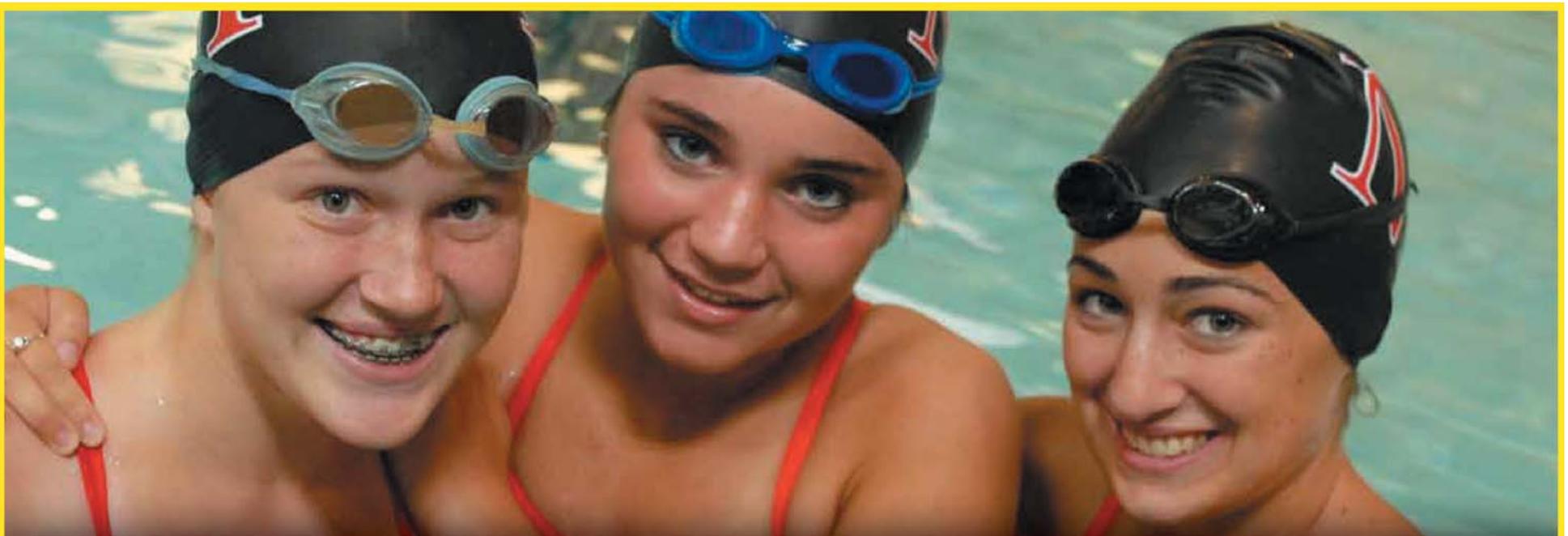
"Our money has come from events," he said. But the amounts raised are unpredictable and wildly fluctuating. "Last year, we made \$19,000 from the wine festival," said Rusnak. "Another year, it rained and we got half that. One year, the Haunted Trail brought in \$20,000; another year, it was rained out and we lost \$3,000."

Basically, he said, "We're thinking money's going to fall from a tree and we're going to be able to do everything we want. But it's not going to happen. You want us to maintain the town ambience, but it takes money to do it."

Still, sentiments in the town meeting hall, last week, were decidedly against the tax. The vast majority of speakers last week opposed it.

"My family and I patronize the restaurants here," said Marie O'Brien, who lives just outside town. "But if people know Clifton has a meals tax, they'll go elsewhere to eat. Why not allow the new restaurants to flourish and survive and see what revenue they

SEE CLIFTON, PAGE 9



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## The Family That Rides Together ...

**Tamarack Stables reaches its 50th year of operations in Lorton.**

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Lee and Lois Majewski moved to Lorton in the late 1950s, they had a dream to build and operate their own horse stables and training center. They had a small outdoor riding ring and just a couple of horses, and for the first few months, nary a student.

**“I’ve been riding since I was in the womb.”**

— Tim Majewski

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Fifty years later, Tamarack is one of the region’s leading equestrian centers with hundreds of regular clients, two outdoor rings, one indoor with another on the way, and all the while, managed to remain a family business. Led by Lee and Lois’ son, Tim Majewski and his wife Cheryl,



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

SEE TAMARACK, PAGE 14

**Tim Majewski’s daughter Courtney looks on as her brother Blaise Majewski rides.**

## Celebrating Women in Art, Women of Art

**Workhouse Art Gallery is regional kick-off for three-month-long showcase of women in art.**

BY AMBER HEALY  
THE CONNECTION

**N**othing symbolizes keeping or having an open mind like seeing a former prison and envisioning an arts complex.

So it makes perfect sense that the Virginia Commission for the Arts chose the Workhouse Arts Center for the Fairfax area’s kick off Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts, the beginning of a four-month spree of exhibits and performances highlighting the contributions of female artists.

“When we started working here, it was nothing but barbed wire and concertina wire,” said Arts Foundation chair Sharon Mason, during the Sunday, March 7 opening reception for the Six Abstract Women in the Arts exhibit in the upper room of the Workhouse Art Center in Lorton.

The six artists featured in the exhibit are from across the region, from Fairfax County to Maryland to Manassas, and were hand-selected by Marti Kirkpatrick, the Workhouse’s studio manager.

The artists are all abstract painters, but each has a different style with kinds of paint, medium and interpretations of light, ranging from acrylic and oil paints on copper to an entire series inspired by fences and pan-

els of vibrant colors to more subdued tones of yellows and grays.

Kirkpatrick said she wanted to incorporate both artists she’s known for a long time and those whose work inspired her, an artist herself. “I’m thrilled with the way this came together. It’s lovely,” she said.

One of the first artists selected was Reston’s Roberta Thole, who paints on and incorporates pieces of copper into her work. She selected copper because it was one of the first metals used as canvas and because the warmth she finds in the malleable metal is not something she finds in something more typical, like steel or aluminum.

In one piece, Thole used a thinner piece of copper because she could shape it in various ways, providing a more three-dimensional look than some of her other pieces. Her inspiration is often the view of Lake Newport from her home.

Included in her exhibit is a two-panel portrait reminiscent of water lilies floating on a pond or lake on a cloudy day. Copper accents on the edges of the piece make it shimmer.

The exhibit also incorporates a sitting room, designed by June Shea, featuring more female artists whose pieces all include women’s figures.

The Workhouse has a partnership with Shea Studio Interiors to create a different



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/THE CONNECTION

**A collection of abstract art from a handful of women from across Northern Virginia line the wall of a reception area in the Workhouse Art Gallery, part of the Minds Wide Open exhibit.**

sitting area where interior designs and art can be showcased together. The idea, Shay said, is to show how art can be arranged in a living space.

Shea was impressed with the women who agreed to show their pieces in her exhibit, which will be up for another few weeks before she donates it to the Workhouse as a lounge area for resident artists.

One of the artists included in the sitting room display is Kathleen Kendall, who was especially proud of “My Robbin Bobbin,” a sculpture and mixed medium piece inspired by her sister, Robbin.

Some of her other pieces are almost like collages, with clear photos or portraits of

SEE MINDS, PAGE 5

## Virginia Increases Maximum Speed Limit to 70 MPH

The Virginia General Assembly has voted to increase the maximum speed limit in the commonwealth from 65 miles per hour to 70 miles per hour on certain interstates, highways and in high-occupancy vehicle lanes separated from regular traffic lanes by a barrier.

Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) has pushed for the change and is likely to sign the bill into law later this spring. McDonnell said the increase in the speed limit would help improve travel times for commuters in the commonwealth.

Some people who opposed the bill had safety concerns, believing the higher speed limit might lead to more traffic fatalities. The speed limit increase would only be implemented on roads with favorable engineering studies and traffic accident analyses, according to the governor's press release.

Those who opposed the measure included The Sierra Club, which stated that driving at 55 miles per hour is the most fuel-efficient speed. Increasing the maximum speed limit to 70 miles per hour on some roads promotes the wasteful use of oil, according to the organization.

Fairfax County legislators voted the following way on the bill:

**IN FAVOR:** Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), Del. Tim Hugo (R-40), Del. Mark Keam (D-35), Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67), Del. Ken Plum (D-36), Del. Tom Rust (R-86), Sen. George Barker (D-39), Sen. Mark Herring (D-33), Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35)

**NOT IN FAVOR:** Del. Dave Albo (R-42), Del. David Bulova (D-37), Del. Jim Scott (D-53), Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), Del. Vivian Watt (D-39), Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36), Sen. Patricia Ticer (D-30)

## Fairfax Hosts Snow Summit

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors transportation committee will host a "Snow Summit" at the Fairfax County Government Center March 16 at 3:30 p.m. to assess what did and did not work well during the region's two major snow storms.

The summit will be a public meeting but members of the public will not be given an opportunity to testify during the meeting. Instead, Fairfax County and the Virginia Department of Transportation are soliciting comments and stories about the snow storms in advance of the meeting.

County officials encourage people to provide input at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/snowsummit/> by March 15 at 8 a.m. The summit will be broadcast live on channel 16 in Fairfax County.

## Meet Primary Candidates

The Republican Women of Clifton is hosting a Questions and Answers Forum with Republican Primary candidates in the 11th Congressional District, Pat Herrity and Keith Fimian, on Monday, March 15 at Clifton Elementary School, 7010 Clifton Road, Clifton. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for a Meet and Greet. The program will begin at 7:50 p.m. For questions, contact Lynn Falk at 703-802-9005.

## Clifton Dems Meet March 21

On Sunday, March 21, at 3 p.m., the Democratic Women of Clifton will host guest speaker Sarah Dufendach, vice president of Legislative Affairs for Common Cause, to discuss the recent Supreme Court decision that no difference existed between an individual and a corporation. The public is welcome to join the club at 3:45 p.m. following its general session. Find meeting details at [www.democraticwomenofclifton.org](http://www.democraticwomenofclifton.org). For more about Common Cause, go to more at <http://www.commoncause.org>.



Judy and Warren Marten (Clifton), Joey and Ramez Skaff (Vienna) talk with Steve Hass of SunTrust.

## Gala Evening for Symphony

**M**ore than 300 people turned out for the arts on Friday, March 5 at for the Fairfax Symphony Valentine Pops Gala.

In addition, the Fairfax Symphony will perform as part of its 2009-2010 Season: "Great Expectations," at George Mason University's Center for the Arts on Saturday, March 13, at 8 p.m. The program includes Borodin's "In the Steppes of Central Asia," Dorman's "Lost Souls, a Piano Concerto for its East Coast Premiere," and Sibelius' "Four Legends from the Kalevala, op. 22." See [www.FairfaxSymphony.org](http://www.FairfaxSymphony.org).



Fairfax Station residents Alan and Vicky Fogg talk with Lee District Supervisor Jim McKay.

## Me and Teddy Old Town Picnic

**W**ith their favorite teddy bear or stuffed toy in tow, more than 20 girls from area communities enjoyed a Victorian era picnic at Old Town's Lee-Fendall House on Saturday, Feb. 27. They played traditional Victorian era games, learned about the history of the teddy bear and enjoyed a picnic lunch on blankets spread in the entryway of the museum.

Shelly Logar of Lorton brought her daughter Ainsley for a fun "hands-on history lesson."

Anne Marie Brandow, leader of Brownie Girl Scout Troop 2743 in Springfield said the girls in her troop get to select from suggested activities, and they picked the Teddy Bear Picnic. "It's a fun way to learn about history," she said.

The Lee-Fendall House is recognized for its archi-



Enjoying cookies at the Teddy Bear Picnic are Ainsley, 7, of Lorton and Hannah, 4, of Alexandria.

ecture, decorative arts and archival collections. It is restored to its early Victorian stature and represents a Lee family home of the 1850-1870 period.

# Minds Wide Open

FROM PAGE 3

women layered and surrounded by dark glossy paint.

Kendall hasn't exhibited at the Workhouse before but, like many of the other artists, was impressed by the open, airy, bright space. "This is just such a great place to show," she said, taking a long view around the room.

She was impressed by Falls Church's Joyce McCarten, a painter for more than 20 years who said she literally went through her entire house-of-art to find her submissions.

"At first I thought Marti wanted one of my large abstract pieces, because that's what I'm known for," McCarten said. "But she was looking for more abstract figures, so I went under my bed where I had 200 pieces ready to go. Then she asked if I had

any drawings, of which I had 300 more."

Minds Wide Open is the first collaboration of its kind across Virginia, said Peggy Baggett, executive director for the Virginia Commission for the Arts. "Between now and June 30, there will be 2,500 performances and exhibits, some 400 separate events across the commonwealth with the goal to increase the visibility of events across the state and the encourage participation in various cultural sectors."

It's a hard time for the arts, she said, as the economic hardships make it increasingly difficult for arts groups to find funding. But

places like the Workhouse, with both public and private funding, are the best ways to show the importance of the arts.

"I've been up here several times and always think about what this place used to be," she said, referring to the Workhouse's past as a Reform-era prison. "This is a wonderful example — a place of great misery that has become a place of great beauty."

Sharon Mason, executive director of the Lorton Arts Foundation, said work is set to begin within the next few months on Phase II, which will include the opening of the theater, banquet facilities and children's areas.

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# OPINION

## No Way

Assembly should kill bill that would pave way to hand state tax revenues to private companies in public-private transportation projects.

While most states are working on ways to increase revenues during the recession, which cost states across the country more than \$80 million in just 12 months in 2009, Virginia's governor appears to be looking for a way to give away future state revenue.

Virginia already has a public-private transportation act, which paved the way for the ongoing construction of "High Occupancy Toll" Lanes on the Beltway for example.

Public-private partnerships have their place. But a last minute proposal in the Virginia General Assembly would not only allow the private entity to collect direct revenue from a project, like tolls, but would also allow agreements that would pay the private company a portion of increases in tax revenues that might result from the project.

If this were in place when the HOT-Lanes agreement was written, for example, the Commonwealth of Virginia might be paying the private company in this public-private partnership quarterly payments equal to as much as 50 percent of income taxes paid by construction workers and engineers working on the project, plus a similar proportion of sales taxes paid on equipment and materials purchased for the project, plus "multiplier or spin-off economic activity," and so on, in addition to the agreement that allows the company to collect the tolls on the road for more than half a cen-

ture.

Consider: The bill, HB 1395, allows for the state to pay grants to a private entity out of a "portion of the growth in state taxes attributable to the development of the project."

"State tax revenues attributable to such economic activity may include, but shall not be limited to, state tax revenues from (i) wages, salaries, and contract payments paid to persons in the development of the transportation facility; (ii) purchases of machinery, equipment, and materials in the development of the transportation facility; (iii) insurance premiums paid; (iv) the production of goods or services at business locations within a geographical area surrounding or adjacent to the transportation facility; and (v) multiplier or spin-off economic activity relating to the development of the transportation facility including, but not limited to, wages, salaries, and contract payments paid to multiplier or spin-off jobs."

The money would be paid out of the General Fund, money intended to pay for basics of education, public safety and a social safety net, all facing draconian cuts right now.

If that isn't scary enough, the bill would also allow localities and "authorities" to enter into such agreements.

**MANY OTHER STATES** that have entered

soon nominated as its chairman. We were asked to identify one problem area where there was a gap serving students and where there was a strong potential for youth to choose violence. We were then to work on a solution for that problem.

### LETTERS

Because of my work on the School Board and as chairman of the Student Behavior Committee, plus my share of time spent sitting in on student disciplinary hearings, it was easy to identify a problem. I was very aware of students who were suspended and waiting for their disciplinary hearing in front of three School Board members. These students had been out of class for weeks or even months before their case was resolved by the School Board.

While some tried to keep up with class work, others never even attempted. The Treatment and Enforcement Committee got to work gathering the data on how many students were affected and how long they were in limbo. We researched programs from other states. We identified the areas of Fairfax County with the greatest number of high risk students suspended. We also had to find a lo-

cation with a spare room other than a school for the program since suspended students are not permitted on school grounds.

Our committee wrote grants and identified funds to start the program. We developed a handbook, objectives, code of conduct, wrote job descriptions for the director and volunteers and ran ads to hire a director and identified volunteers. In short, this program took hours of research and time to develop and fund. All of the work was done by the Treatment and Enforcement Sub-committee of the Fairfax Partnership for Youth with a great deal of help and support from Julie Knight, then project director for the FPY and now a member of the Fairfax City School Board.

**Mychele Brickner**

Former At-Large Member,  
Fairfax County School Board

## Medicaid Carve-Outs

To the Editor:

A General Assembly proposal to change all prescription medications to generic drugs for Medicaid patients seeks to close Virginia's budget gap at the ex-

into public-private transportation projects have done so by having the private company pay huge up-front cash payments, billions of dollars, in exchange for "leasing" a toll road, that is collecting the tolls for some often very long period of time into the future. In the HOT Lanes example, the company is widening the Beltway and replacing and repairing bridges, etc., between approximately the American Legion Bridge and the Mixing Bowl, in exchange for being able to charge an as-yet-to-be determined toll to drive in a lane that will be kept free of congestion by raising the tolls, likely much higher than the \$4.15 each way currently charged on the Dulles Greenway. Vehicles with three or more occupants (high-occupancy) will ride in the congestion-free lanes without charge. Or that's the plan.

At the point that the state believes that it's appropriate to collect tolls approaching \$10 for a round trip on a portion of their commute, it makes sense to investigate the funds available to the state directly by issuing bonds based on that revenue stream.

It's not clear who is looking out for the best interests of the citizens of Virginia in these partnerships. Details of some proposals, like a proposal for HOT-Lanes on I-95 appear to build in many guarantees and protections for the private companies, but less for the Virginians who would be paying the tolls or who could be getting less benefit for their tax dollars.

pense of people who can least afford it.

That might work in some instances but not across the board. Not all medications have a generic equivalent and therefore aren't chemically equivalent. This concerns me, as it would effectively eliminate Medicaid carve-outs for patients taking antidepressants and antipsychotics.

Carve-outs allow doctors to deviate from the approved Medicaid drug list and prescribe the best medicine possible for certain diseases, including cancer, HIV, cardiovascular disease and mental illness. This is done because these diseases are so serious and complex that they require treatment with specialized drugs.

Having served on the governor's mental health board and operated a school for students with special needs, I know how important it is for people suffering from depression, schizophrenia and other illnesses to stay on their medications. It's difficult for them to find medications that work, and when they do, they can't afford to unnecessarily switch to another medication.

What disturbs me even more is the fact that drug switching is be

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

ing done to individuals who have no other options. Unlike those of us with health insurance, Medicaid patients have no other recourse but to take the drugs on the approved medication list.

The ramifications of removing antidepressants and antipsychotics from the carve-out list are too great. A 10-state Medicaid study indicated the costs of medication management restrictions far outweighed any savings. In this case, the projected savings is a little more than \$3 million — of a \$70 billion state budget.

I urge the General Assembly to leave the Medicaid carve-outs alone as they look to balance the budget. Carve-outs are working and helping people who desperately need specialized medication. Don't try to fix something that isn't broken.

**Elaine N. McConnell**  
Springfield

*Elaine N. McConnell served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for 24 years. She is the founder and owner of Accotink Academy, a pre-school and kindergarten as well as a school for students with learning disabilities. In addition, McConnell was appointed to and served on the State's Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Board for eight years.*

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### THURSDAY/MARCH 11

**Herrity/Bradsher Budget Town Hall Meetings.** 7 p.m. at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield, County budget meeting with Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and School Board Member Liz Bradsher. [Christian.Deschauer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Christian.Deschauer@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### MONDAY/MARCH 15

**Budget Town Hall Meeting with Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and Braddock District School Board Member Tessie Wilson.** 7:30 p.m., Robinson Secondary School cafeteria, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. For more information, contact the Braddock District Office at 703-425-9300.

**The Republican Women of Clifton Q&A with Republican Primary Candidates.** 7:30 p.m. at Clifton Elementary School, 7010 Clifton Road, Clifton. With 11th Congressional District GOP Primary candidates Pat Herrity and Keith Fimian. Lynn Falk, 703-802-9005.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 16

**Understanding Medicare, Medigap and Medicare Part D.** 7 p.m. at West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Learn about health insurance for older adults. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices).



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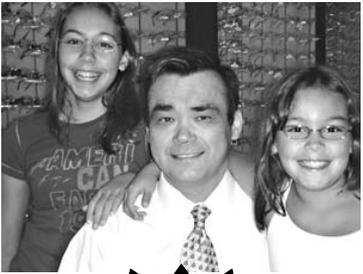
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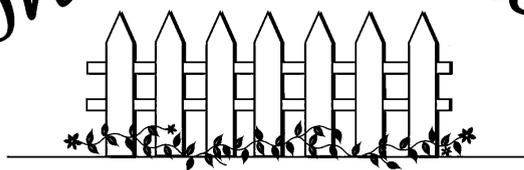
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# Can This One Go To 11?

**Robinson tennis team ready to extend their championship streak into a new decade.**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

**R**obinson senior Kevin Castellow sat on a bench during tryouts on March 4 rolling a tennis racket handle in his hands, waiting for a chance to hop on the court to practice.

He's wearing a gray Virginia Tech shirt, the school he's committed to play tennis at next season. While the senior is anxious to be a Hokie, his top concern is the upcoming tennis season at Robinson.

"There's a lot of pressure on our team," he said. "The competition in our district has gotten much stronger."

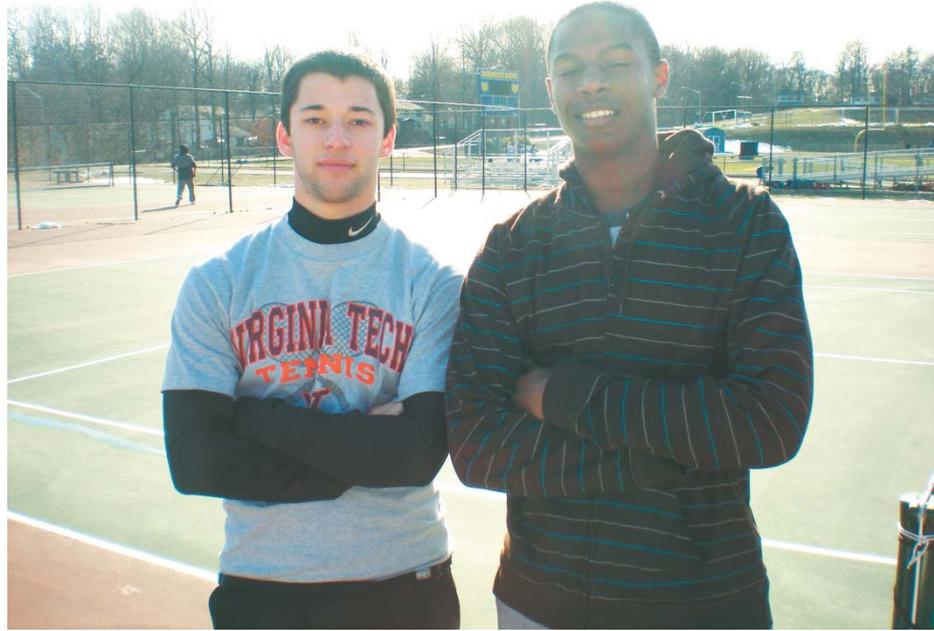
Castellow, who is nationally ranked No. 423 for 18-year-olds by tennisinformation.com, said the pressure doesn't just come from Concorde District foes but also from Robinson's rich tennis history:

Since 2000, the boys' tennis team has won 10 consecutive Concorde District titles, six Northern Region titles (01, 02, 05, 06, 07, 08), and three Virginia AAA state titles (06, 07, 08).

As the team's leading senior, Castellow said he doesn't want the district title streak to end on his watch, but more is at stake.

"[The team's goals] have a lot to do with the pride of Robinson tennis," Castellow said. "It motivates us to go that extra mile, and [the history] pushes us harder and to try and achieve more."

As a senior, it's Castellow's job to help his



**Kevin Castellow and Dakota Holloway are expected to be the Rams' leading players this season. Castellow is nationally ranked No. 423 for 18-year-olds by tennisinformation.com.**

younger teammates understand the importance of the team's success.

Sophomore Dakota Holloway joined the team last season with only a slight understanding of the Rams' past success.

"Before I joined, I found out they had won three previous state titles," he said. "But I had no idea how good they were."

Holloway, Castellow's doubles partner and a 2009 All-Northern Region team selection, found himself a major player for the Rams.

As the team's fourth-seeded player last season, he developed an appreciation for

the Rams' past success.

"I want to make sure we keep that streak going," he said. "It's a big deal to me now."

Robinson head coach Paul Fisher says camaraderie plays a major role in the team's success.

"We've developed groups that have stayed together throughout the years" Fisher said.

Fisher, head coach since 1993, has watched numerous tennis players pass through Robinson. The one constant between the varying groups is the friendships his team have formed.

"Even after [Robinson tennis is over], our players still meet up and even go to each other's weddings," he said. "I try to have alumni come back and play and work out with [the new team]."

Still, good times on the courts can only take a team so far, Fisher said.

"We've been blessed with talent," he said. "The guys come in here and they're already well developed [as tennis players]."

Fisher said his team members tend to spend much of the off-season taking responsibility for their development when he can't provide guidance.

"Playing tournaments, taking lessons, clinics, those things. They're very important," he said.

With all the ingredients for success, Fisher said he doesn't put too much emphasis on district titles. He lets the kids motivate each other.

"I know the kids want to do well and win titles," he said. "They think of it as defending our honor."

They'll get their chance on March 23, when Robinson opens the season at home against Chantilly.

**"There's a lot of pressure on our team."**

— Kevin Castellow

## 5 Qs with Robinson tennis player Dakota Holloway

**Q: Favorite music to listen to before a match?**

A: Anything that can get me up and going.

**Q: Finish the sentence. I love tennis because ...**

A: It's what I like to do and I'm good at it.

**Q: How'd you get started playing tennis?**

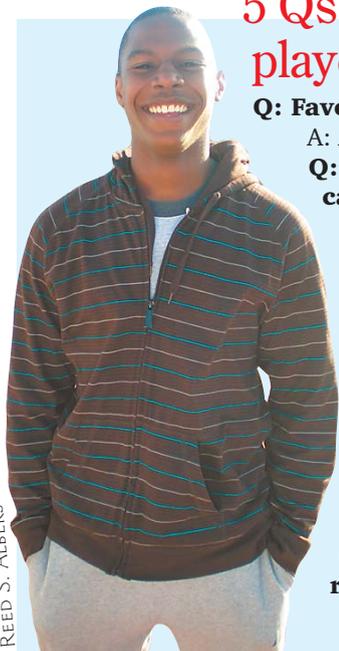
A: A friend of mine got me started in it when I was 8-years old. I really liked the game and how fast it was.

**Q: Do you plan to play tennis in college?**

A: I'd really like to play tennis in college because I think I can make it there. I'd like to go to the University of Florida.

**Q: What type of racket are you using right now?**

A: It's a Babolat pure drive and it cost about \$180.



REED S. ALBERS

**Dakota Holloway**

— REED S. ALBERS

## Football Hall of Fame Ceremony

The Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame will be honoring three new inductees on March 14, at 4 p.m., at the McLean Hilton Hotel

The 2010 class includes Dallas Cowboys tight end and former Vienna Youth player Jason Witten, Nick Hilgert of Robinson Secondary and Richard Herman of Fort Belvoir Youth Sports.

Awards for high school and youth football players from the area will be handed out as well.

For ticket information, contact Betty Powell at bpowe1@aol.com or 703-273-3216.

## Submit Youth Sports Headlines

The local youth winter sports seasons are ending and the Connection doesn't want any child's accomplishments to go unnoticed.

In order to have youth sports items printed or posted on the Web, send the information to Sports Editor Reed S. Albers at ralbers@connectionnewspapers.com.

## Senior League Registration

Northern Virginia Senior Softball (www.nvss.org) seeks players, men 50 and older and women 40 and older for fun, fitness, and fellowship.

Participants will play two slow-pitch seven-inning softball games Tuesday and Thursday mornings, April 13-Aug. 12, on Fairfax County fields.

NVSS fields 26 teams, average age 65, organized into three skill-level Conferences.

Players are assigned to a team at their skill level by skill assessment, not a try-out. Eleven play defense. Everyone present bats.

NVSS runs an Indoor Conditioning Program until April 8. Those interested in player should contact Dave Scheele at 703-524-5576.

## Synchronized Swimming

The Northern Virginia Nereids Synchronized Swimming Club will hold its fifth annual introductory clinic on Saturday, March 20, at Audrey Moore RECenter in Annandale. Nereids coaches and athletes will introduce girls aged 7-15 to the graceful, powerful Olympic sport of synchronized swimming. For details, visit <http://nvnsynchro.com>.

# Clifton Restaurant Owners Oppose Meals Tax Plan

FROM PAGE 2

can bring the town?”

Calling the tax punitive and unfair, she told the council members. “It’s going to be a burden and cause businesses to suffer and these businesses also employ other residents here,” she said. “You need more hard facts to know the implication of this tax. People eat here and then shop at other establishments. You’re putting a stake in the ground regarding whether you’re pro business, or not.”

Resident Brant Baber said a meals tax isn’t appropriate now and he doesn’t support “raising money and not knowing what you’re going to do with it.” Clifton Store and Main Street Pub owner Tom McNamara also spoke against it.

He said a town cigarette tax adopted several years ago hurt his business. “In two years, my cigarette sales slipped 30.1 percent,” said McNamara. “And those customers bought other things — soda, chips, etc. Now they go up the road to the Davis Store. I don’t know any restaurant in town that could survive a 30-percent sales loss.”

Mayor Tom Peterson noted that McNamara’s wife Judy sent him four pages of names of people opposed to the tax but unable to attend the public hearing. He said they’ll be made part of the record.

Kathy Kalinowski called it “premature” to

implement a meals tax before Clifton’s finalized its budget and knows “if a meals tax will be necessary.” She said it’s still unknown whether the town’s recent purchase of the “pink house” will provide a source of income.

“This tax is focused on just five businesses, and some have only operated here for a year,” said Kalinowski. “See what their BPOL tax revenue was for the town, collect delinquent taxes and reduce town expenses — [and] sell the old town hall.”

Amy Mortenson said Clifton’s restaurants are “the lifeblood of this community. They’re a meeting place for friends and family. If the restaurants fail, everything will fail.”

**AGREEING**, Robyn Witschey told the council, “The meals tax will hurt the social fabric and economic vitality of the town you think you’re helping. Even a small tax will put Trummer’s at a disadvantage when competing to host weddings and other events. In this economy, people purchase where they get the most for their money.”

“This kills Clifton’s momentum,” said

Bruce Hardy. “Fairfax Corner, Fair Lakes and Centreville are tough competition for Clifton’s restaurants already. I don’t understand why you’d make it tougher for them.”

Steve Effros, however, favored the tax.

“It’s not a tax on the food establishments; it’s a tax on the people who eat there,” he said. “The restaurants will still succeed. People will keep coming because of what they are, not because of how much the food costs.”

He said the town’s in financial trouble and can no longer rely on events to fund its budget. “It’s tough finding volunteers and we need a consistent source of revenue,” said Effros. “The most successful restaurants in the area are in [Washington], D.C., and they all pay a meals tax. An alternative is to adopt it and review it in a year, and if there’s data of an adverse impact, we can do something about it.”

Trummer’s co-owner Victoria Trummer said her restaurant brings people to Clifton who’ve never been there before and don’t know what the town has to offer. Her father, Keith Neiman, said it’s naïve to think

a meals tax won’t affect people’s buying decisions. “I avoid driving on the toll road, and I can afford it,” he said. “It takes six years for a new restaurant to break even, without a meals tax. It’s unfair to dump this tax on five businesses trying to survive in these tough, economic times.”

Ryan Francis, Trummer’s event coordinator, said the restaurant hosts corporate events and weddings and works with a local florist and photographer, so a meals tax would hurt them all. “People try our restaurant and come back,” he said. “But if the wedding doesn’t happen, in the first place, they won’t even come to Clifton.”

But Diane and Rick Dygve said a meals tax wouldn’t deter them from eating at Trummer’s. “A meals tax is a user tax, the fairest type of tax,” said Rick Dygve.

Councilman Pat Layden said the town just approved a new Comprehensive Plan and a state-required, five-year, Capital Improvement Plan. “Where is the money to implement the items in them?” he asked. “We also need a maintenance fund for this building. We need to consider the town as a whole, including the residents, not just the business community.”

Clifton’s accepting additional, written comments for 30 days and will make a decision at a later date. “This Town Council has always listened,” said Peterson. “Some good points were made on both sides.”

**“Twelve years ago, the people in this town said, ‘Let’s have a meals tax,’ but nothing was done about it.”**

— Councilwoman Deborah Dillard

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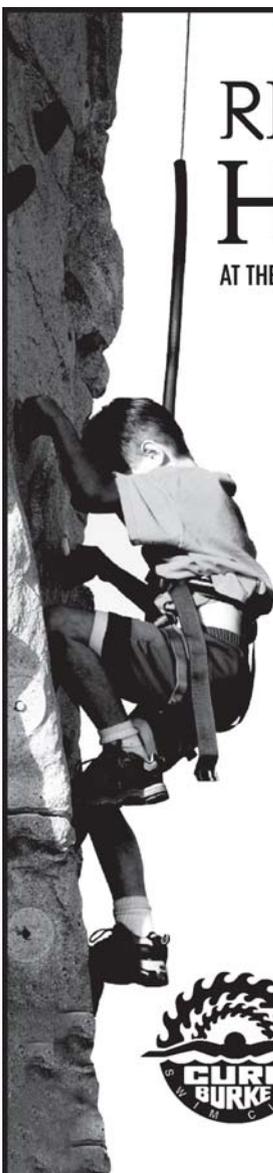
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FAIRFAX STATION/LAUREL HILL CONNECTION ❖ MARCH 11-17, 2010 ❖ 9

# 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.

fortheglory@1voicefilms.com, e-mail replies will assign audition time slots. www.fortheglorythemovie.com.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 11

**Latin Dance Nights.** 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.  
**Reclaiming Your Financial Future During Separation and Divorce.** 7 p.m. at 10600 Arrowhead Drive, #310, Fairfax. \$45 nonmember, \$35 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.  
**Afternoon Book Discussion Group.** 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 12

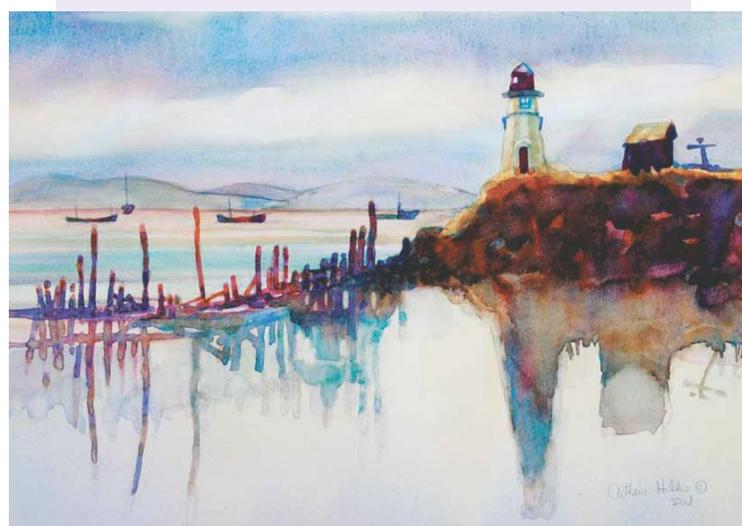
**Movie "Second Hand Lions."** 6 p.m. in the Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Pizza and drinks will be sold to raise money for the Nature Center's critter care. Free. Reserve at fohpnc@yahoo.com.  
**Lunch Bunch.** 12 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch and listen to stories. Birth-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.  
**The Taffetas.** 8 p.m. Springfield Community Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. A musical comedy about four sisters in the 1950s. \$18 adults, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or www.sctonline.org.  
**Casting Call for Local Film: "For the Glory."** At The King's Chapel, 12925 Braddock Road, Clifton. Contact

## SATURDAY/MARCH 13

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. With Alon Goldstein, piano, and Avner Dorman, composer. 7 p.m. pre-concert lecture free to ticketed patrons. The Symphony requests concertgoers bring canned foods to the concert, to be donated to Food for Others. \$25-\$55. Tickets available at 1-888-945-2468 or Tickets.com.  
**Laurel Hill Elementary vs. Newington Forest Elementary Volleyball Game.** 4-6 p.m., at South County Secondary, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Contact Brigid Williams at brigid1@cox.net.  
**Concerts from Kirkwood.** 3 p.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Free recital by young artists. 703-451-5320.  
**MOMS Club of Springfield Consignment Sale.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Gently-used maternity and children's items. 703-451-3314.  
**Arts & Crafts Show.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Garfield Elementary, 7101 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Over 65 vendors with handcrafted handbags, photography, jewelry, woodcrafts, gift baskets, candy and more. Craft activities for pre-K to sixth grade will be provided. Free admission. Sponsored by the Garfield PTA. 703-923-2900.  
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6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940. \$24.99 advance, TBD doors.  
**Birds and Bagels.** 8-11 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Search for winter waterfowl then enjoy hot drinks and bagels in the nature center. Adults. \$8 per person. Reserve at 703-768-2525.  
**One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer and navigate the Internet. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.  
**Irish Stew.** 3:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Irish-themed storytelling with Michael Forestieri. 703-249-1520.  
**Friends of the Library Book Sale.** 10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Gems and finds for all readers. 703-339-4610.  
**VITA Tax Assistance.** 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$49K. Adults. 703-339-4610.  
**Irish Stew.** 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Storyteller Michael Forestieri. 703-971-0010.  
**Irish Social Dancing.** 2 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Learn the basics of ceili dancing. Bring dancing shoes. Age 13 and up. 703-971-0010.  
**Celebrate Life Crop.** 8 a.m.-8 p.m. at West Springfield High School Spartan Hall, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Door prizes, a small goodie bag and mini-classes. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Suggested

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11



'Last Day' by Catherine Hillis

## Take On a Watercolor Bootcamp

Watercolor instructor Catherine Hillis present a weekend workshop teaching watercolor painting for beginning through intermediate students on Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. Students will review the basics, discuss the step-by-step building blocks of good composition and design and work towards completing a well composed painting using their own photographic resources. View Hillis' work at www.catherinehillis.com. To register or to learn more, call 703-584-2900 or go to www.workhousearts.org. Space is limited. Students are asked to bring watercolor supplies and their own photographs to paint from.

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- The Spirit of The Living Christ Ministry...703-568-5647
- Pentecostal** Christ Pentecostal International Church...703-339-2119
- First United Pentecostal Church...703-339-2402
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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

minimum all-day donation \$50; suggested minimum half-day donation \$30. Space is limited, register early.  
ourcarlins@verizon.net.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 14

**Quilt Identification Program and Gallery Tour.** 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Learn about patterns and fabrics of American quilts from Bunnie Jordan, quilt educator and appraiser, and tour the exhibition. Free. Quilts identified and orally appraised for \$10 per quilt. Reservations required for individual quilt identification. 703-385-8414.

**Mozart's Requiem.** 10:30 a.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. The combined choirs of Burke Presbyterian Church and Falls Church Presbyterian will sing, accompanied by brass, strings, and timpani.  
www.BurkePresChurch.org or 703-764-0456.

**Lecture Series: Gender, Technology, and Household Cidering.** 3 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Speaker, Sarah H. Meacham, Virginia Commonwealth University. \$9, adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 6-18 years. 703-550-9220 or www.GunstonHall.org.

**Gorilla Music Presents: Battle of the Bands** Cyberstrike, Spectral Vision, Envy's Eye, We Have the Summer, Tiik with G.U.T.S, The Blackshire, Li[n]es, La Coterie, The Cliched, Borderline. All ages. Doors at 4 p.m. show at 4:15 p.m., at Jaxx 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940. \$8 advance, \$10 door.

**The Taffetas.** 2 p.m. Springfield Community Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. A musical comedy about four sisters in the 1950s. \$18 adults, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or www.sctonline.org.

**The World Beloved Concert.** 3 p.m. at the Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. A folk music collaboration of African-American spirituals and Appalachian bluegrass. 703-569-9862 ext. 208 or dcarnes@messiahumc.org.

## MONDAY/MARCH 15

**Read to the Dog.** 4:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Read to a Therapy Dog. Call to register. 703-339-4610.

**Read to the Dog.** 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Sign up for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12. 703-971-0010.

**Latin Dance Nights.** 10 p.m.-2 a.m., at Jaxx 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940. Ladies free, men \$10.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 16

**Orange Hunt Art and Literacy Night.** 6 p.m. at Orange Hunt Elementary School, 6820 Sydenstricker Road, Springfield. "For the Record: Treasures for Capturing Thoughts, Feelings, and Experiences" is an opportunity to reflect on past experiences and record personal stories in a handmade book designed to hold recollections, drawings and collages of your stories, written memories and treasured artifacts.

703-913-6800.  
**Early Readers Book Group.** 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book group for 6-8 year olds and their parents. 703-249-1520.

**Wheels.** 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Zoom-along stories and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

**Mother-Daughter Book Group.** 7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for the title. Age 9-11 with adult. 703-971-0010.

**Open Mic w/Bob Gaynor of The Roadducks.** 8 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 17

**Burke VFW Post Annual St. Patrick's Pot Luck Dinner Party.** 7:30 p.m. at Burke Ponds Comm Center, 9837 Burke Pond Land, Burke. Open to the community. 703-310-7991.

**Celtic Woman: Songs From the Heart.** 8 p.m. At the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. \$45-\$79. Tickets available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

**Needlework Group.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bring a project to work on in the company of other needlecrafters. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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



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**Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.**

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9500 CLAYCHIN CT.....	\$735,000	Sun 1-4.....Weichert.....Mahala Hart.....703-407-3483
7008 VEERING LA.....	\$549,950	Sun 1-4.....Weichert.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....703-862-8808
9717 SCHMIDT DR.....	\$589,900	Sun 1-4.....RE/MAX.....Bruce & Tanya Tyburski.....703-239-2525
5909 ROBERTS COMMONS CT.....	\$349,999	Sun 1-4.....McEneaney.....Suzanne Leedy.....703-627-5302
Springfield (22153, 22152, 22151, 22150)		
5226 LANDGRAVE LA.....	\$399,000	Sun 12-2.....Harms.....Tom Harms.....703-321-7476
6301 GORMLEY PL.....	\$374,900	Sun 1-4.....Long & Foster.....David Billups.....703-967-8700
8811 SURVEYORS PL.....	\$349,900	Sun 2-4.....Samson.....Ellen Nicholson.....703-378-8886
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# SPORTS

## Bruins, Region Honor Coach

### Local lacrosse teams to honor Bruin coach Dennis Stewart.

For Lake Braddock senior defender Steven Puffenbarger, lacrosse practice is missing a familiar sound: the booming voice of assistant coach Dennis Stewart.

"He yelled at me throughout freshman and sophomore year, he never said anything good to me," Puffenbarger said.

Puffenbarger used to take Dennis' criticisms hard, wondering why he was the source of his ire.

During his sophomore and junior seasons, Puffenbarger finally realized why he had been getting an earful.

"I thought he hated me," he said. "He really just wanted me to be the best that I could."

Stewart, 50, was set to begin his fifth season at Lake Braddock, but on Sept. 25, 2009 he had a massive stroke, putting his coaching days on hold.

"Coach Stewart has been a big part of the Lake Braddock program," Puffenbarger said. "To not have him around is a big change."

Stewart's brother, Peter, said the stroke affected his brother's brain stem and he's lucky he survived. He cited statistics that show 95 percent of patients who suffer a stroke of this severity die within three weeks.

The rehabilitation process has been long and arduous, but has yielded some results. Peter Stewart said his brother is learning to communicate with sign language and "has been wowing doctors" for the past month and a half.

"They didn't think that he would be able to have any cognitive thought," Peter Stewart said. "He's doing fantastic and he's been going through rigorous physical and speech therapy daily."

Stewart's struggle has played on the minds of Lake Braddock's players and coaches since September.

The team has dedicated its 2010 season to Stewart and will wear stickers, featuring a lacrosse player and Stewart's initials, on their helmets, said head lacrosse coach Steve Price.

When others in the tight-knit Northern Virginia lacrosse community found out about the stickers, the movement spread.

"The whole Northern Region decided that they were going to wear the stickers," Price said. "A few other schools out of state and colleges will, too."

The Stewart family has started the Finish Hard Foundation, named after a phrase Dennis Stewart repeatedly uttered during lacrosse practice. More about the foundation can be found on the soon to be launched Web site [www.finishhardfoundation.org](http://www.finishhardfoundation.org).

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## COMMUNITY

# Tamarack Turns 50

FROM PAGE 3

ians a premier equestrian experience. "I've been riding since I was in the womb, and my first memory is riding a pony when I was about 4-years old," Tim Majewski said. "We started out with only a couple horses and a small ring, and now we have 250 students and almost 50 horses."

According to Tim Majewski, his parents were originally from Pittsburgh, where Lois took care of horses at a farm and Lee was horse trainer who moonlighted as a stuntman in a Wild West show in a western theme town. Tim Majewski said that Lee's brother was in the armed forces and was based at Fort Belvoir, and when his parents came down to visit him, they fell in love with the area. Soon after, they moved to Lorton with the intention of starting Tamarack Stables.

In 1960, they opened Tamarack to the public at its first location on Route 1 at what is now known as Hagel Circle. At first, Lois Majewski said, she and her husband decided to hire outside trainers to work with their horses and students so that they could focus on the business end. However, she said that the trainers quickly fell out of favor after an unimpressive performance and the Majewskis decided that it was time for them to get hands on.

"We had local instructors come in at first, but that was a disaster," Lois Majewski said. "I knew more than they did. They didn't impress me at all."

In addition to troubles with instructors, Lois said that finding students was an issue at first, too. She said that a young local girl named Sharon Heckert called Tamarack repeatedly, begging to become the stables' first student, as the Majewskis were focused on only breeding and training horses at the time. Heckert's persistence, however, changed her mind, and soon thereafter, Tamarack had its first student and was now officially an instructional center as well.

"Sharon called us over and over to ask if she could come and take lessons," Lois Majewski said. "Finally, she called one last time and said that her dad could pick her up and drop her off, and she became our first student."

In 1987, the county bought the land that Tamarack sat on from the Majewskis to build a sewage treatment plant, so they relocated Tamarack to Old Colchester Road, just near Lorton Road. Several years later, they moved Tamarack to its current location, just down the road on Old Colchester. The early 1990s brought more upheaval, as Lee and Lois Majewski decided to divorce, Lois Majewski said, and she moved to Fredericksburg to open up a stable of her own, Tamarack Stables Rivers Edge, which she still operates today.

Around the same time, Tim Majewski decided to branch off into the business on

his own and started Giles Run Stables in Lorton, which he successfully ran for several years. However, in 2003, Lee Majewski died. Tim Majewski knew that it was his responsibility to continue the family business, so he sold Giles Run and returned to Tamarack.

"I had Giles Run Stables, but after my dad passed away, I moved back here," Tim Majewski said. "My favorite memories are riding with my dad and son on the trails around here before he passed away. I'm so thankful for the opportunity to do that."

Currently, Tamarack offers private lessons for children of all ages, something that other local stables do not do, Tim Majewski said. He said that he was on a horse at a very young age and that his children were all riding just days after returning from the hospital, so he believes that any child can start to ride as soon as the parents will let him or her. In addition to private lessons, trail rides are available as well, and take riders on a one to three hour ride through

### Tamarack Stables

Go to [www.ridetamarack.com](http://www.ridetamarack.com) for more information on camps, classes and trail rides.

Pohick Bay Regional Park, along Pohick Creek to the bay. Instructional camps take place once during the spring and throughout the summer, and Tamarack even hosts birthday parties, called "Pony Parties," where children ages 5-13 can ride small horses and ponies.

"We can teach all ages, and all levels of expertise," Tim Majewski said. "The only thing that slows us down here is when or customers can't get to us, like in the snowstorms [in February]. We have the indoor ring, so we're always riding, and we always have horses to take care of, so we're always open."

While Tim Majewski has managed to expand Tamarack's services since taking the reins, he has also laid the groundwork for the future. His daughter, Courtney, 21, is one of the stables' main instructors, leading several classes a week and has taught there since she was 12. His son, Blaise, 10, rides every week and plans to eventually work there when he is old enough. Because of their devotion to Tamarack, Tim Majewski said, he is confident that he can continue to build on his father's legacy by keeping the stables within the Majewski family.

"Blaise and Courtney both have a very strong interest in horses and horse training," Tim Majewski said. "I can definitely see them taking it over some day."

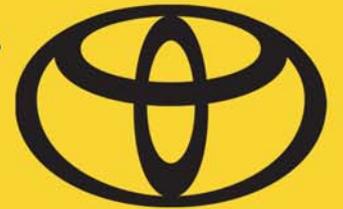
Tamarack is celebrating its 50th anniversary in conjunction with nearby Cranford United Methodist Church Oct. 2 in block party style, Tim Majewski said.

With the stables continually growing and a succession plan in place that will maintain its lineage, however, Lois Majewski is simply satisfied and thankful that her son was able to get to this point.

"I'm very proud of Tim and everything that he does there," Lois Majewski said. "I think he's very good at what he does."

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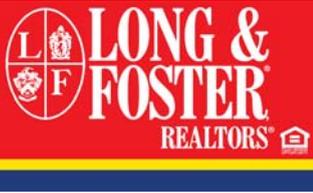


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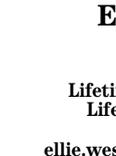
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