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News

Fairfax County SAT Scores Above Virginia, National Levels

School system average hides achievement gap.

BY TIM PETERSON THE CONNECTION

n average, Fairfax County Public High Schools performed better on the SAT college placement exam in 2016 than the Commonwealth of Virginia overall average.

Virginia students also outscored the national numbers, according to data released last week by the Virginia Department of Education and the College Board, the organization that publishes the SAT.

The two groups reported 65 percent of Virginia public school graduates took the SAT. Of that number, they said 45.2 percent earned the College Board benchmark for college readiness.

By achieving a combined score of 1550 - including critical reading, math and writing scores — the College Board believes those students stand a 65 percent chance of holding a B-average during their first year

Virginia's 65 percent beat the national average of 37.3 percent of SAT-takers reaching the benchmark.

"While the overall performance of Virginia students compares favorably with that of their nationwide peers, the wide achievement gaps visible when we dig deeper into the data remind us that outcomes are not improving for far too many students of color," Virginia Board of Education President Billy K. Cannaday Jr. said in a statement. "Narrowing and ultimately closing these gaps is the state board's top priority."

2016 SAT

	Test Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing	Combined Score
School	1411010	(Mean)	(Mean)	(Mean)	(Mean)
Annandale High School	319	506	524	490	1520
Bryant Alternative High School	3	-	-	-	
Centreville High School	437	546	570	537	1653
Chantilly High School	506	558	585	542	1685
Edison High School	291	504	510	484	1498
Fairfax High School	475	535	550	518	1603
Falls Church High School	218	508	521	481	1510
Hayfield Secondary School	367	515	516	499	1530
Herndon High School	324	540	556	525	1621
Lake Braddock Secondary School	536	561	573	539	1673
Langley High School	369	614	633	604	1851
Lee High School	234	491	505	480	1476
Madison High School	377	596	608	585	1789
Marshall High School	340	564	578	557	1699
McLean High School	420	601	623	597	1821
Mount Vernon High School	238	471	468	448	1387
Mountain View Alternative High School	l 4	-	-	-	
Oakton High School	471	581	600	569	1750
Quander Road School	1	-	-	-	
Robinson Secondary School	522	564	577	544	1685
South County High School	412	532	550	516	1598
South Lakes High School	358	558	571	542	1671
Stuart High School	243	498	506	485	1489
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	442	720	761	717	2198
West Potomac High School	312	525	534	512	1571
West Springfield High School	445	564	560	535	1659
Westfield High School	465	539	552	518	1609
Woodson High School	487	587	600	568	1755
EODO AVO		FF1 10	F(F 0 1	E0E (C	1650
FCPS AVG		551.12	565.24	535.68	1652
Virginia Public Schools		516	513	493	1522
United States		487	494	472	1453

ALL DATA FROM VDOE AND THE COLLEGE BOARD

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY AVERAGES top

Virginia in each category, aided by uncommonly high scores from the magnet Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, which requires its own test and application process for admission.

Jefferson comprised more than 63 percent Asian students for the 2015-2106 school year, 1.5 percent African American, 2.23 percent Hispanic, 25.43 percent Caucasian and 7.4 percent other, according to Fairfax County Public Schools.

Langley High School also posted averages of above 600 in each SAT category.

The majority of Langley's student body in 2015-2016 was white, with just over 65 percent. Asians were second with 23.47 percent, next Hispanic and other each with about 5 percent, and black with less than a

JEB Stuart High School is an example where in each category it was above the national average but below the Virginia and FCPS averages. Stuart also had about 100 fewer test-takers (243) than the FCPS average (343).

Stuart was half Hispanic in 2015-2016, followed by 22.97 percent white, 13.8 percent Asian, 10.26 percent African American and 2.29 percent other.

Mount Vernon was the only FCPS school with average scores consistently below the FCPS, Virginia and national averages.

In 2015-2016, Mount Vernon's student body was made up of 41.68 percent Hispanic students, 27.6 percent African American, 19.59 percent white, 6.28 percent Asian and 4.85 percent other.

Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon representative to the Fairfax County school board, said West Potomac has seen a gradual increase in scores thanks to a PTSAsponsored SAT prep program.

Students have the opportunity to take a mock exam for \$20, get an assessment based on their results of which areas they need help in, and then enroll in a prep course through the PTSA.

THIS YEAR is the first cohort at West Potomac that will have had that opportu-

"You have so many test prep organizations today that are really working with kids to get those scores up but a lot are expensive," Corbett Sanders said.

The program has expanded and allowed students from Mount Vernon High School to come over and take part as well.

"It's one of those eye-opening things," she said. "It's just not fair for kids who can't afford it, but the schools and parents together are taking ownership, to make sure our kids get this opportunity too."

Corbett Sanders noted Fairfax County Public Schools offers online SAT prep as part of the Adult and Community Education program. That information is available here at: https://aceclasses.fcps.edu.

Springfield Elementary came up at the end of last school year during a meeting between Dr. Kelly Sheers, Principal and Sara Fairchild, Counselor. They thought that this would be a good project for the Peer Mediators in the 2016-2017 school

The Buddy Bench will be located in playground area. Our students will be taught to keep an eye out and include anyone that is on the Buddy Bench.

Fairchild took the idea to the Peer Mediators and it was mentioned that funds were available for the bench but that they could also fundraise money if they'd like. They were so excited to raise money so they began to brainstorm all sorts of ideas. When student, Anne, came up with the Coin Wars, the students agreed that was the way to go. Fairchild and the Mediators worked together to solidify the

The Buddy Bench project at West rules and what the prize should be. The point system was simple. Penny = 1 point, Nickel = 5 points, Dime = 10 points, Quarter = 25 points. They came up with a way to market it on the school news and Facebook page.

The children really pushed their peers to bring in coins and spread the word. The outcome was wildly successful. The grade level winner of the Coin War was sixth grade having 37,346 points. In total the students raised more than \$1,200. The bench will be on playground soon for all students to enjoy. For more information see buddybench.org

> West Springfield Elementary students raised more than \$1,200 for the Buddy Bench in the school's playground.



News



Fairfax County Sheriff's Office deputies pose with Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program unofficial mascot Teddy.

At-Risk Youth Teach Sheriff's Deputies Horsemanship Skills

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

airfax County Sheriff's deputies tread carefully as local youth led them around an obstacle course they'd designed, blindfolded. Others were taught horse safety by their young coaches.

On Oct. 14, more than 12 deputies from the Sheriff's Office spent time with at-risk youth from Alternative House in a pilot partnership program for community engagement at the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program farm in Clifton.

Alternative House and NVTRP are longtime part-See Horsemanship, Page 5

For a free digi-



On Oct. 14, youth from Alternative House demonstrated some of their horsemanship skills they've learned at NVTRP for Fairfax County Sheriff's deputies and then did some teaching themselves.



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CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



Teaching Horsemanship Skills

From Page 4

ners; at risk youth being one the groups among children and adults with disabilities, and military service personnel that NVTRP helps through equine-assisted activities and therapy.

Alternative House helps underserved, at-risk youth in lowincome areas of northern Virginia including Falls Church, Springfield and Annandale. Among their services, the organization provides shelter for runaway adolescents, as well as a 24-hour crisis hotline and young mothers assistance program. "With the attention around conflict between minorities and law enforcement, we thought NVTRP could have a role in bridging that gap," the riding program's executive director Kelsey Gallagher said in a statement, "using horses to help individuals find common ground."

The event Friday marked the end of a six-week session for the youth at NVTRP. They demonstrated some of their horsemanship skills for the deputies and then did some teaching themselves.

"These kids are subject to see-



Alternative House helps underserved, at-risk youth in low-income areas of northern Virginia including Falls Church, Springfield and Annandale.

ing violence, so we are so grateful for having a chance to be in this environment [at NVTRP] where they are close to nature, interacting with a beautiful horse and learning life lessons," Nandred Navarro, director of community based services at Alternative House, said in a statement.

"This new initiative of coming together with the deputies from the Sheriff's Office is invaluable to teaching them to trust authority, a relationship that has been tarnished by recent [national] events," Navarro added.

Second Lt. Emily Fary with the Sheriff's Office said it gave the deputies a great opportunity to interact with youth in the community and be part of an activity that brings smiles to their faces.

"It's definitely a good feeling to know that you touched a life in a positive way," she said in a statement, "that maybe they have never experienced with law enforcement before." The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program is located at 6429 Clifton Road in Clifton. For more information, visit www.nytrp.org.

WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield Man Dies in a Multivehicle Crash

Officers responded for the report of a crash on Leesburg Pike (Route 7) near the intersection of Towlston Road on Tuesday, Oct. 18. Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit were called to the scene to investigate.

According to FCPD Public Affairs Office - shortly before 4 p.m., a 2011 Chevrolet Cruze, driven by an 81-year-old woman from Potomac Falls, was traveling west on Route 7, approaching the intersection of Towlston Road. The intersection is controlled by a traffic signal and the light for westbound Route 7 was red. At about the same time, a 2008 Harley Davidson motorcycle, being operated by a 55-year-old man, was traveling south on Towlston Road, approaching the intersection of Route 7, on a green light. As the motorcycle entered the intersection, the Chevrolet failed to stop for the red light on Route 7, entered the intersection and struck the motorcycle. The rider of the Harley Davidson, Joseph Thomas Timpane, was separated from the motorcycle and struck a 2012 Nissan Altima that was stopped in the left turn lane of eastbound Route 7. The Chevrolet then struck the Nissan and continued across the eastbound lanes of Route 7, striking a 2009 Honda Pilot before coming to rest. Timpane, of Ridgeview Drive in Springfield, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors in this crash. Charges are pending against the driver of the Chevrolet Cruze.

Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives would like anyone who witnessed this crash to contact them at 703-280-0543, or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

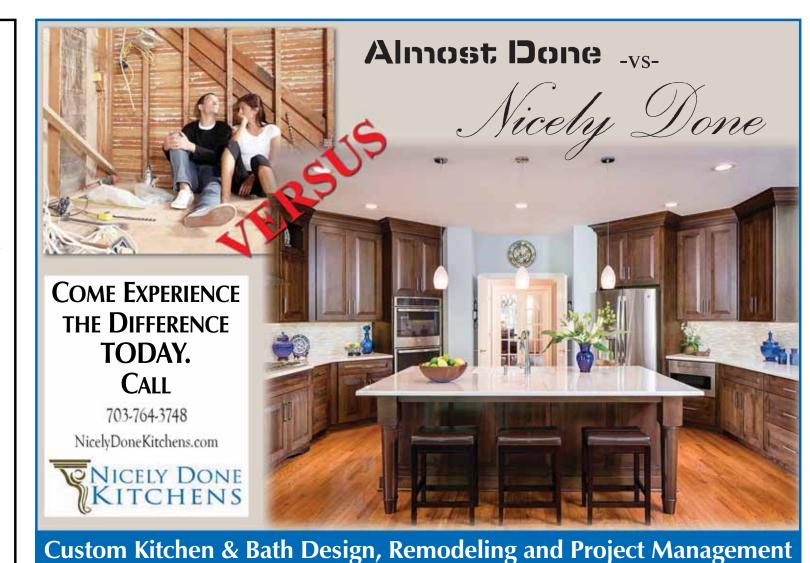
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OPINION

A food tax is not a silver bullet.

BY PAT HERRITY

Springfield District Supervisor

have been opposed to the meals tax from the start, but what has concerned me most over the last several months has been the tactics used to try to convince our residents to vote for it and the county's failure to deal with its spending problems. I would like to offer some clarity on these points and why I am against the meals tax.

The proponents of the meals tax insist the tax is for teachers' salaries and tax relief. In fact, the ballot language referencing schools and tax relief was selected because it was the language that passed in other counties in Virginia and according to one supervisor "we need to use the language that will get it passed." In reality, the Board of Supervisors will decide in April during the budget process how much funding goes to schools and then the School Board will decide how much funding goes to teacher raises and class size reductions. Despite the Board of Supervisors fully funding the School Board's funding request last year, the funds were not focused on fixing our teacher salary issues.

If it passes, the meals tax will just be an additional \$100 million tax on top of the \$100M in taxes the board passed earlier this year (over my opposition). In the last five years, real estate taxes alone have increased 25 percent and skyrocketed by \$565 million. As I have debated proponents of the meals tax over the last several months, there has been almost universal acknowledgement that Fairfax County has a spending problem. For example, Fairfax County offers its 35,000-plus county and school employees and administrators' unparalleled and unsustainable pensions and presocial security benefits that even surrounding jurisdictions do not

pay. Despite my efforts to address this and other spending problems, there is no plan in place to address these unsustainable costs and benefits. The meals tax is a bad way to kick the can of addressing our spending problems down the road.

The meals tax is also bad way to address a spending problem because it is a regressive tax that targets a single industry and disproportionately hits those who can least afford it — the elderly, single working parents, young students, and people without other options. It is not a white tablecloth restaurant tax; it is a food tax. The meals tax would be on top of the current sales tax resulting in a 10 percent total tax on any prepared food, including the rotisserie chicken from the grocery store, the fountain drink from the convenience store, your morning coffee, and your food truck purchases. It is also a tax on a single industry one that only has a 3 percent profit margin on average. This means the meals tax will result in the government making more money off of a restaurant than the restaurant itself makes in profit. This is fundamentally wrong. Restaurants not only provide thousands of young adults with their first job, they also give back to the community through sponsorships and donations.

Fairfax County voters have a decision to make. Do we settle for budget deficits and tax increases year after year, or do we send a message that enough is enough and it is time to address spending issues? I sympathize for those who support the tax; the Board of Supervisors and School Board have led them to believe that the meals tax is some sort of silver bullet to their budget and teacher salaries woes. Simply put, it is not.

Pat Herrity represents the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

No to the Meals Tax Yes to the Meals Tax

Reduces dependence on property tax.

BY PHILLIP A. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER

s a businessman here in Fairfax and a former member of the Fairfax County School Board, I write on behalf of a coalition of thousands of homeowners, parents, teachers, firefighters, police, friends and users of our libraries and our parks and recreation facilities, and those who belong to churches and non-profit organizations working to ensure that Fairfax County also protects those in need [www.yesmealstax.org].

Here since 1988, I have always valued Fairfax's pragmatic approach to local government services; i.e., we will pay for the cost of an excellent education system and highquality services as long as the cost is reasonable and affordable.

Hit with the double whammy of the great recession and the federal budget sequestration fiasco, the Board of Supervisors and School Board did what they had to do under the circumstances — they cut costs and reduced services.

The county reduced annual expenditures by \$300 million and eliminated 700 jobs; for the school system, \$500 million and 2,100 jobs.

The maintenance backlog has grown to over \$150 million in recreation and park facilities alone.

We are spending less in real dollars per pupil this year than in 2008. We are losing our best teachers to surrounding jurisdictions, because salaries are no longer competitive in the region. Class sizes are larger.

Economic recovery has been slow. While home values have grown modestly, vacancies in office buildings are at a 25-year high and revenue from commercial property tax is at historic lows.

Compounding our challenge, state funding — particularly for schools — continues to decline, with a funding shortfall for K 12 education climbing to more than \$1 billion annually since 2009.

With 65 percent of county revenue now being generated by residential property tax, homeowners are carrying a substantial and growing share of the cost of services.

Without a more diverse revenue base, we risk school system excellence and we risk the caliber of county services that underpin our quality of life. In an article earlier this year, the Washington Post characterized this reality as Fairfax "fraying around the edges."

This is the setting for the meals tax referendum before us on Nov. 8.

Five great things will happen by approving the meals tax:

- 1. \$100 million will be generated. Almost a third of this revenue -\$28 million — will be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax.
- 2. Seventy percent of the revenues will be directed to the school system to help stem the loss of our best teachers and reduce class size.
- 3. Our quality of life will be strengthened by addressing unmet police and firefighter needs and those of our libraries and parks.
- 4. The backlog in county and school facility and infrastructure maintenance needs can be reduced, while also preserving our AAA bond rating.
- 5. Our tax base will be more diverse, relieving property tax pressure on homeowners.

Incredibly, Fairfax can do these great things by paying pennies-onthe-dollar when we eat out. Few of us ever notice paying Arlington County, Fairfax City, Falls Church and Vienna when we eat in their restaurants, yet we do.

If you agree that it is important to keep the best teachers in our classrooms, reduce class size, continue to protect our safety and maintain our quality of life; and finally — if you believe we need to be less dependent on homeowners to pay for all of the above — it is clear that we should vote yes for the meals tax. It's literally a pennies-on-the-dollar solution.

Springfield

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness Supports Meals Tax

Meals Tax.

Seventy percent of the funds raised by the tax will go to our Fairfax County Schools. Our county's general fund to be used schools have an integral role in for priorities as identified by the

has decided to fully support the tem. Providing additional fundproposed 4 percent Fairfax County ing for the schools only makes sense.

Thirty percent of the funds raised by the tax will go to the

After careful consideration, the identifying and assisting our Board of Supervisors. One of affordable housing." Fairfax – Falls Church Partnership homeless and at risk youth as these priorities is preventing and to Prevent and End Homelessness part of our homeless service sys- ending homelessness. In 2008 the funds raised by the meals the Board of Supervisors adopted the Implementation Plan to Prevent Homelessness. At the very beginning of that Plan, the county stated: "By 2018, every person in our community will access and maintain decent, safe,

We fully expect a portion of tax will be used for this important priority.

Michael L. O'Reilly

Chairman, Board of the Fairfax Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness

COMMENTARY

Yes for Widows, No for 'Right to Work'

BY SCOTT SUROVELL STATE SENATOR (D-36)

n Nov. 8, you can vote on two state constitutional amendments that require voter approval, in addition to voting for President and U.S. Congress. There are also local measures on the ballot in some counties.



One constitutional amendment is relatively noncontroversial and would allow localities to exempt property owned by the widow of a killed-in-action first responder from real estate taxes. Two years ago, Virginians approved similar treatment for the widows of killed-in-action soldiers. I support giving our localities this authority and voted "yes."

The second amendment is very controversial and very confusing as written on the ballot.

In 1947, Virginia adopted a law commonly labeled a "right-to-work" law. This law prohibits labor unions from negotiating contracts with employers that require all employees to join labor unions as a condition of employment. This practice results in what is sometimes called a "union shop."

No legislator has even introduced legislation to repeal this statute in at least three decades. If they did, it would be a waste of time because it would not pass. This might lead you to ask why is this on the ballot when it has been Virginia law for almost 70 years and no one has tried to repeal it?

This proposal is part of a multi-state campaign to constitutionalize similar provisions and is organized

nationally by a group called the American Legislative Exchange Council or ALEC. ALEC is funded by various large corporations and think tanks and has advocated model laws to weaken environmental protections, promote mandatory voter identification and weaken firearm violence prevention laws. Provisions along these lines are on the ballot in five states on Nov. 8, 2016.

I voted against placing this measure on the ballot as your senator and voted "no" two weeks ago (I voted by mail).

Constitutions are fundamental governing documents that set forth fundamental rules of governance between people, branches of government and between different levels of government. We do not put every policy in our state constitution for a good reason. For example, we do not put alcoholic beverage rules, the definition of murder, or speed limits in our state constitution.

The "right-to-work" proposal is also bad policy. Workers in states with right-to-work laws earn 12.1 percent less than workers in other states, median household incomes are lower and fewer workers in right to work states have access to basic benefits like health insurance. States with right to work laws spend 32 percent less on K-12 education than other states, have higher rates of workplace fatalities and have higher poverty and infant mortality rates. Workers in these states also have fewer job protections.

I hope you will join me in voting against this provision.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. You can email me at scott@scottsurovell.org if you have any feedback.

Halloween Trick-or-Treating Springfield Plaza Saturday October 29 2-4 pm Rain or Shine Located at the intersection of Old Keene Mill Road & Commerce Street in Springfield, VA STARBUCKS COFFEE Chipolic Mexically Statill Francisco Street in Springfield Plaza Street in Springfield Plaza Street in Springfield Plaza RAPPAPORT Tappaporto com 1571 3621 200

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The election season offers students such as those at BASIS Independent School in McLean an opportunity to learn about the political process.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BASIS INDEPENDENT

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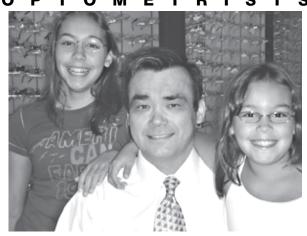
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Discussing the Election with Children

Local educators offer suggestions for navigating a complicated political climate.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

hile Colleen K. Vesely has watched televised debates and political events with her children throughout this election season, an event during which the American Civil Rights movement was discussed stands out. It was a concept her 3-year-old daughter didn't grasp, of course. But Vesely used the moment as opportunity to start guiding her children through this year's election season.

"I asked her to think about what she might do if someone at school was being mean to one of her friends, to which, she promptly replied, 'I'd tell them to stop being mean and that I don't like it," said Vesely, an assistant professor of early childhood education and human development and family science at George Mason University. "Elections offer opportunities to consider the importance of service and standing up for democratic principles. … However, the tone of this general election season is different."

Still, Vesely and other educators say that while election cycles typically offer families a multitude of opportunities for conversations about civics and discussions of democracy, navigating the current political climate requires added dexterity.

Use the election season to facilitate conversations in a way that is relatable to children based on their age and experiences, advises Vesely. "By ... discussing the different issues ... parents with school-age and older children can use the election season as an opportunity to expand their children's thinking in relation to current social issues and history," she said. "Parents can use the election as fodder to hone their children's critical thinking skills with real-life issues by helping them critique candidates' opinions" as well as "understand different points of view on a variety of issues and develop their persuasive arguments." This is an exercise Vesely has used with her own children.

"During primary season, my 6-year-old and I watched a number of the candidates' speeches," she said. "We talked about the issues and each person as a human being. ... I offered reasons as to why I admired (some of) the candidates."

Focusing on citizenship and character is a strategy Vesely advises parents to use with children who are preschool-age and younger: "Parents might discuss what it means to be a good citizen in their home," she said. "For example, helping put away their toys when they are done playing, being nice to their classmates, helping their friends and teacher."

Similarly, local schools are developing creative ways to fit the Nov. 8 election into their lesson plans. For example, "since students are only in middle school for one presidential election, Norwood School takes advantage of this opportunity to help students begin to understand how to go about comparing candidates' positions on basic issues, and also to help them understand how the presidential election process works," said Michele Claeys, associate head of school and head of middle school, Norwood School in Potomac, Md.

To help students learn to understand issues and evaluate and compare candidates, teachers work together to create age-appropriate mini-lessons about candidates' positions on a small number of issues. "Students will explore and discuss — not debate — the issues, and learn how to find additional information on their own if they are interested," said Claeys.

On Election Day, middle school students will participate in a mock election designed to help them understand how the electoral process works. They will be divided into groups of different sizes with different numbers of electoral votes, representing each of the 50 states. "After both the real and mock elections, teachers will use the results to illustrate how the process works," said Claeys. "Throughout these lessons, our emphasis will be on respectful dialogue and consideration of multiple perspectives and experiences."

Educators at BASIS Independent School in McLean are teaching students about the political process by linking it to the selection of the school's mascot. By allowing students to choose a symbol to represent the school, teachers hope to initiate a broad conversation about awareness, empathy and other values.

"Especially for our younger students, conversations about how a mascot represents the qualities and values of our school serves as a good metaphor for the more serious representation in political contexts," said Sean Aiken, head of school. "Some students prefer traditional mascots to give our school a sense of familiarity and camaraderie. Some want less common mascots to set us apart from other schools and celebrate our individuality."

The lesson will involve the entire student body. "We ask our older students to generate ideas that take even our youngest 3-year-olds into account so we can

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 9



Talking About Election

From Page 8

unite as a whole school and not just play to specific 'special interests," said Aiken.

"The exercise serves as an impetus for posing thought-provoking questions to the students," says Aiken. "Should we identify ourselves as humorous, serious, fierce?" he asks. "What will happen if the greater numbers of students in the middle school prefer a mascot that the much smaller number of sophomores do not prefer? Should we use some sort of delegate system or stick with popular vote? How will we feel if our top choice for mascot ultimately is not selected, and what is the appropriate response to that feeling? Does our choice of mascot represent not just our current community but those who will join us in the future?"

The activities, says Aiken, open the door for conversations about fairness and frustration in ways that are meaningful and age appropriate, and that can be put into the context of the current election season. "While our situation as a brand-new school is somewhat unique, the idea of mascot representation weaves through our whole society and could certainly be used to frame a conversation between students and their families about tone, identity and cooperation," he said.

Parents should also be aware of the ways

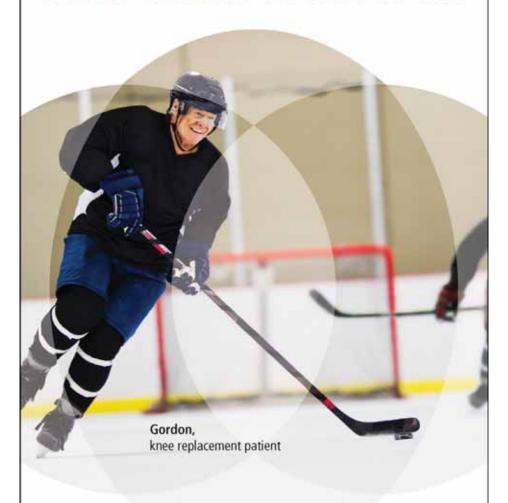
the election is affecting their own emotional states and thus their families. "As I watch the presidential debates and continue to read the media coverage of the election, I find myself in an agitated and anxious emotional state," said Vesely. "This heightened emotional state with feelings of stress and agitation can spill over into family relationships, leaving us less present and sensitive in our interactions with our children and partners."

Choose the information children are exposed to thoughtfully and be prepared for questions, say experts. "The 2016 general election season [has been] described by some as dark and more negative than any of the recent past elections," Vesely said. "We want to encourage our children's participation in the political process, but ... it can sometimes be ugly and hurtful."

Shielding children, says Vesely, doesn't mean ignoring negativity entirely, however. "Parents should be prepared to talk through what children might hear from other children on the playground or at school," she said. "Parents ought to pay attention to ... their children's emotional states ... especially after viewing or discussing election-related media. As parents, we can look for teachable moments in which we might express notions of treating others how [we] want to be treated."



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Calendar

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

ONGOING

The Pumpkin Patch will be open October 2 through 31, Sunday through Friday, from noon until 7 pm daily, and Saturdays from 10 am until 7 pm. Located at St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, near George Mason University at the crossroads of Rt 123 and Braddock Road and across from the University Mall. A large variety of pumpkins and decorative gourds of all shapes and sizes will be for sale. www.pumpkinsusa.com

Batting Cage Occoquan Regional
Park 9751 Ox Road Lorton. Open
through Oct. 30 Occoquan offers a
baseball/softball batting cage, for
hitters of all levels. Pitching
machines offer other pitches like
curveballs. Cost: 14 balls \$1.50 Team
Rentals Per Cage: 30 min. \$18 60
min. \$34 https://
www.novaparks.com/parks/
occoquan-regional-park/things-todo/batting-cage

Adventures in Learning
Shepherd's Center of Fairfax
8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. every Monday
for 6 weeks, Oct. 3, 2016 - Nov. 7
these events take place at Lord of Life
Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook
Rd. Fairfax. start with gentle
exercise, followed by speakers on
topics such as health, history,
community, personal development,
finance, and more. Afternoon
breakouts are book club, bridge,
canasta, and mind games. Bring a
brown bag lunch. Cost: \$30 for 6
weeks (Mondays). To register: call
703-426-2824 www.scfbva.org.
Senior Line Dancing 1 - 2 p.m. Little

Senior Line Dancing 1 - 2 p.m. Little RIver Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Ct, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5.00 per 8 week session. barbriba@hotmail.com 703-524-

Farmers Market & Food Trucks: 3-7 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 27 at the Fairfax County Government Center front parking let

Center front parking lot.

Rock the Block! 6:30 p.m. Every fourth Friday through Oct. 28. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Concert series. Food is available for sale. Bring chairs and or blankets to sit on. Kids – wear swim suits and bring towels. Enjoy the new spray pad. No Pets allowed except service animals. fairfaxva.gov.

The Farmer's Market at

Springfield Town Center. May 7-Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Through November. Corner of Spring Mall and Loisdale roads, Springfield. Enjoy fresh baked goods, produce, vegetables & fruits, meats & cheeses, and a host of other vendors. springfieldtowncenter.com.

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting.

12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American
Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax.

Meetings with luncheon and

program. fairfaxrotary.org. **Carolina Shag**. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

FUN-Exercise. Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-

499-6133.

EXERCISE PROGRAM Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).

Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

English Conversation Groups
weekly at George Mason, Burke
Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice
and improve your English. Day and
start times vary. Visit: https://
va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/
eventcalendar.asp

First Sunday Jazz Brunch 11 - 2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin's on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit: http://www.fxva.com/listing/ bazins-on-church/1686/

Stories From Strawberry Park 10 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays in Mosaic - Strawberry Park 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Recurring weekly on Tuesday. Visit: http://www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/

THURSDAY/OCT. 20

Together We Can Stand Up to

Bullying 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services 2334 Gallows Road Entrance 1 – Room 100. Did you know that children with special needs are more likely to be bullied than their peers? Learn ways to help support your child at home and in school. Dr. Sajjad Khan, an experienced clinician and researcher at NeuroScience Inc., will present educational and psychological studies on bullying at this crucial workshop. Register online.

FRIDAY/OCT. 21

Wellness Recovery Conference

8:30 - 2:30 p.m. NOVA Annandale Campus. Ernst Cultural Center 8333 Little River Turnpike Anndandale. Have you or someone you care about ever experienced substance use disorder or mental health challenges? Do you want to learn more about recovery, staying healthy, and how to build and grow good

relationships? Cost:\$30 703-324-9355 http://www.novamentalhealth.org/ conference.registration

Superintendent's Revenge 2016.

10 a.m. Twin Lakes Golf Course,
6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton.
Obstacle-filled layout. \$160 per team.
Roberta.Korzen@fairfaxcounty.gov.

"Mediterranea" at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 7 p.m.; a discussion follows the film. Friday Night Film Series presents "Mediterranea" as a part of the Third Annual D.C. Immigration Film Fest. Doors open at 7 pm; Childcare is



Photo by Tim Peterson/The Connection

Thrill-seeking souls enter the eight-acre Clifton Haunted Trail on Oct. 24, 2015

Clifton Haunted Trail Returns Oct. 29

2016 **Clifton Haunted Trail is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 29,** 7 - 10 p.m. in the historic town of Clifton. Admission: Ages 13+ \$15 Ages 12 and under \$10. www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/

SATURDAY/OCT.22

Sully Historic Site Halloween Lantern Light Event 4 - 7 p.m. 3650 Historic Sully Way,

Chantilly. Sully will be hosting a Historic All Hallows Eve program to return visitors to a time before superhero costumes and candy corn. In the 18th & 19th centuries, Virginians celebrated All Hallows Eve with storytelling, fortune telling, and family gatherings. There will be a tour of the historic site and grounds by lantern light. This program is for participants age five to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 26, 2016

70th Annual Vienna Halloween Parade 7 p.m. Maple Avenue, Vienna. "Celebrating 125 Years of the Town of Vienna" come in costume to celebrate Halloween. Viennava.gov

FRIDAY/OCT. 28, 2016

Spooktacular. 6:30-8 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Enjoy ghoulish games, a spooky craft and a children's show. Fee: \$10/child in advance or \$15/child on day of event. www.herndonva.gov.

Bradley Farm Haunted House Friday & Saturday 6 - 10 p.m. 13159 New Parkland Drive, Herndon. The guided tours are \$5 www.BFHauntedHouse.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Clifton Haunted Trail 7 - 10 p.m. in the historic town of Clifton. Admission: Ages 13+ \$15 Ages 12 and under \$10. www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/

SATURDAY/OCT. 29 - OCT 31

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administrator@accotinkuu.org This is

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purchased at the door or here:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/

4579; www.accotinkuu.org,

Roer's Zoofari Trick-Or-Treat 5 - 7 p.m. 1228 Hunter Mill Rd. Vienna. Roer's Zoofari welcomes families from all areas to a new way of trick-or-treating this year. Kids

mediterranea-tickets-26956413358

SATURDAY/OCT.22

1st Annual Forge Brew Works & LCAC Oktoberfest noon - 6 p.m. at Forge Brew Works 8532 Terminal Road Lorton. Admission: Free.

forgebrewworks.com/beers **Sully Historic Site Halloween**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBYN WITSCHEY

Katie Pline (left) and Keeler Lambertson (right) of Clifton acted in a scene depicting the Salem witch trials, burning and lynching.



Photo courtesy of Robyn Witschey

Clifton residents Aaron and Tracy Kuzemka, Josie Layfield, Alexis Pollard and friends ran a "Children of the Corn" scene during the 2015 Clifton Haunted Trail.

can trick-or-treat for candy and treats, bounce around in our kids zone, and meet bugs at our creepy crawly station. Admission: \$10 per child, free for adults. www.roerszoofari.com/

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Howl-O-Ween at Lake Anne, 1-3 p.m. Plaza Activities. Free. Join us on the Plaza dressed in Halloween flair (adults + pets) for a Howling good time! Dogs, cats, and all types of furry friends are welcome to participate. Pet Costume Contest starts at 1:30 p.m.: Pet Parade, Live DJ, Pet Friendly Beer Garden, Window Decorating Contest, Yappy Hour Specials from 1-5 p.m., Treats, Tricks & More From Local Merchants. www.lakeanneplaza.com

MONDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Spooktacular at Great Falls Village Green and Great Falls Center, 5-7 p.m., with Pet Parade at 4 p.m. (all dogs must vacate the green by 4:50 p.m.) Boy Scout Troop 55 will create some spooky fun for everyone in the Haunted House; The Langley Marching Band performs in the Wells Fargo parking lot; Linda Waitkus of Great Dogs of Great Falls is leading the Pet Parade starting at the Gazebo. Look out for the Great Falls Volunteer Firefighters in the Safeway parking lot.

Lantern Light Event 4 - 7 p.m. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Sully will be hosting a Historic All Hallows Eve program to return visitors to a time before superhero costumes and candy corn. In the 18th & 19th centuries, Virginians celebrated All Hallows Eve with

See Calendar, Page 11

CALENDAR

Northern Virginia Players Present 'Annie Jr.'

Northern Virginia Players will present their Fall 2016 musical, "Annie Jr." Based on the popular comic strip, "Annie" tells of a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents who abandoned her on the doorstep of a New York City orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan. In adventure after adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil ways, befriends President Franklin Roosevelt, and finds a new family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

Dates and times: Nov. 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 5 and 12 at 1:30 p.m. at Summit Church,

From Page 10

storytelling, fortune telling, and family gatherings. There will be a tour of the historic site and grounds by lantern light. This program is for participants age five to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-

"Gallant Knights and Fair **Maidens**": Ring Tournaments



From left — back row: Melissa Knapp, Springfield, as Grace Farrell, and Siobhan Thompson, Fairfax, as Miss Hannigan. Front Row: Brenna Kay, Alexandria, as Annie. Blaise Majewski, Lorton, as Daddy Warbucks. Also featured, Tulio as Sandy.

7719 Fullerton Rd. Springfield. For Tickets/Group Sales (available now): http://www.nvplayers.com/ . Order early for best seating.

in Fairfax County 2 p.m. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Historian Jeanne Niccolls will present her research on jousting tournaments, a dominant form of chivalric entertainment, in the antebellum and post-Civil War periods. The tournaments featured men on horseback competing with lances to capture rings. Cost: Free. 703-591-0560.

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SPORTS



West Springfield High School continued to celebrate its 50th anniversary by inducting 21 individuals into its inaugural Sports Hall of Fame at the Waterford in Springfield on Oct. 8.

50 Years of Spartan Star Athletes

West Springfield names inaugural Sports Hall of Fame class.

By Tim Peterson The Connection

est Springfield High School continued to celebrate its 50th anniversary by induct ing 21 individuals into its inaugural Sports Hall of Fame.

The honorees, which included five coaches, one contributor, one team and 14 athletes, were recognized at the Oct. 7 Homecoming football game against West Potomac High School. A formal induction luncheon took place the following day at the Waterford in Springfield.

Current West Springfield principal Mike Mukai said the game was "a great atmosphere," despite the Spartans' loss to the visiting Wolverines 47 to 40.

An early highlight of the game was Fairfax County Police delivering the game ball via helicopter. Former Spartan soccer and basketball player Brian Carroll also stopped by in between his own games with the Major League Soccer team Philadelphia Union.

Hall of Fame Class of 2016

The inaugural West Springfield High School Sports Hall of Fame class of 2016 includes: Golf State Championship Team 1975

Missy Bell Bunch (swimming), Class of 1997 Brian Carroll (soccer, basketball), Class of 2000

Gayle Freshwater Doane (basketball, softball, tennis), Class of 1974

Sharif Karie (cross country, track), Class of 1997

Dave Koesters (basketball, baseball), Class of 1974

Kara Lawson (basketball), Class of 1999 Stephanie Loehr (soccer), Class of 1994 Chip McArdle (wrestling, golf), Class of 1982 Steve Nobles (cross country, track), Class of 971 Mukai said there were four teachers from the original 1966 West Springfield staff in attendance, two of which were also members of the 2016 hall of fame class.

"So many came back who wanted to honor coaches," Mukai said. One of those was former field hockey and girls' basketball coach Shirley Duncan, who helped shape Title IX legislation.

A special website was created for the hall of fame, which has names, sports and years for each of the inductees. The plan is for it to contain more biographical information as well as a video for each former high school athlete.

Inductees were chosen by a committee that looked at accomplishments after high school as well, but focused first on "what they meant to the school," said assistant principal Betsy Fawsett, "what an individual mean to the team."

Next year, Fawsett said, they plan to induct just 15 new members into the hall of fame, and 10 the following year.

Also in the works is an Academic Hall of Fame.

Joe Saunders (baseball, basketball), Class of 1999

Kathy Schniedwind (field hockey, basketball, softball, track), Class of 1970

Sheri Susi Nygaard (gymnastics, cheerleading) , Class of 1987 Jamie Warren III (basketball, baseball), Class

of 1991
L.J. Yankosky (basketball, baseball), Class of

L.J. Yankosky (basketball, baseball), Class of

Bob Little, Contributor Rob Benton, Coach Shirley Duncan, Coach Vic Kelbaugh, Coach Don McCool, Coach Ron Tugwell, Coach

More information on the West Springfield High School Sports Hall of Fame inductees is available online at spartanhof.com.



Members of the West Springfield High School girls 1991, 1992 and 1993 State Champion Soccer teams are recognized at the school's Oct. 7 Homecoming game against West Potomac High School.



Members of the West Springfield High School boys 1978 State Champion Golf team are recognized at the school's Oct. 7 Homecoming game against West Potomac High School.

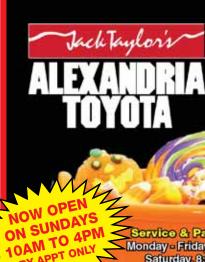
Photos courtesy of Candid Color



West Springfield High School principal Mike Mukai helps check in guests at the school's inaugural Sports Hall of Fame induction luncheon at the Waterford in Springfield on Oct. 8.



West Springfield High School director of student activities Andy Muir (left) speaks at the at the school's inaugural Sports Hall of Fame induction luncheon at the Waterford in Springfield on Oct. 8.



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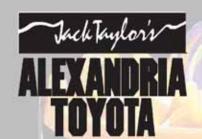
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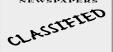
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Huge Yard Sale to benefit the Feline Foundation of Greater Washington, 10/22, 8-1 p.m., 2355 Bedfordshire Cir. Reston. Sports equip-ment, video, pet items, housewares, art, jewelry, much more. Special guest appearance by author Ingric King signing her feline-related books 10 - noon.

28 Yard Sales

One man with courage makes a majority. -Andrew Jackson

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Catherine Louise Scott Pearson, 90 years **old**, left this world for heaven on September 20, 2016 at her home in Alachua, Florida. Catherine was born on April 4, 1926 to Mamie and Archie Scott and grew up in the Alexandria and Franconia area. She married Samuel T. Pearson in 1942. She is survived by her daughter Carole (husband Chuck) Page, son Samuel (wife Lynne) Pearson, sister June Hoffman 7 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband Samuel T. Pearson, parents Mamie and Archie Scott, brothers Austin, Robert, William (Sonny) Scott and sister Retty Burk. She will he laid to rest at Pohick Church old, left this world for heaven on September 20, 2016 at sister Betty Burk. She will be laid to rest at Pohick Church with her husband in a private family service. She will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Just Man Ministry 3246 Snow, Katy, Texas 77493 or to

Carole Ann Page c/o "Go Fund Me Page

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Send notes to the Connection connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the

MONDAY/OCT. 17 THROUGH NOV. 4

Sheehy Auto Stores Fall Harvest Food Drive

Sheehy Auto Stores throughout Washington, D.C.; Richmond, Virginia; and Baltimore Maryland areas will collect canned goods and non-perishable food as part of the company's annual Fall Harvest Food Drive. Feeding America provides low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, Feeding America's network members supply food to more than 37 million Americans each year, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors.

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TUESDAY/OCT. 25

Water Treatment System Maintenance

Basics The webinars will be held at 1 p.m. ET Register at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/ register/ ctreyens@ngwa.org or 800-551-7379, ext. 1554.

ONGOING

Volunteers Needed as Drivers & Office

Workers Drivers are needed for trips Monday -Friday to medical appointments and Companion Shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Office Workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday - Friday) of individuals requesting rides and match an available driver for each request. If you can volunteer your time, please contact the SCFB office at 703-323-4788.

FAITH NOTES

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.

St Mary of Sorrows Church Landings Tuesday's 7:30 p.m. 5222 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax, will begin a "Landings" program for returning Catholics and people considering returning to the practice of their Faith. Program started Sept 20th and will run through Nov. 15. Pre-registration required. 703-818-8618 or annleggio@yahoo.com.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Rd., Burke, is offering day and evening English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes to serve members of the community who wish to improve their English skills. Class levels offered are based on enrollment needs. Fall 2016 registration takes place Sept. 7-8 and classes begin Sept. 20. For more information call the church office at 703-323-5400. Leave your name and contact information and someone will get back to you.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tib Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit http://www.guhyasamaja.org for more information.



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