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Burke CONNECTION

The sign out front of the Burke Nursery's Fall Festival and Pumpkin Playground has been all too familiar this year.



Pumpkin Rainout

NEWS, PAGE 4

Ghostly Ride At Burke Lake

NEWS, PAGE 3

Camps & Schools



It's Time To Get Involved

NEWS, PAGE 3

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Fairfax has a clear choice on November 3rd

On Tuesday, November 3, Fairfax voters will choose who will serve the next two years as our voice in the House of Delegates. The choice we make will determine which direction we take in the years ahead.

	Dave Marsden Failed Politician 	Kerry Bolognese New Leadership 
Economy	Voted to <u>raise taxes by 1.7 billion while people were losing jobs</u> ¹	<u>Lower taxes</u> on families and small business ✓
Transportation	<u>Failed to pass even a single law</u> to help traffic despite sitting on transportation committee	A comprehensive plan for <u>reducing traffic congestion</u> ✓
Fairfax First?	Voted for huge tax increase even though <u>only 20% of the transportation dollars</u> would be spent in Northern Virginia ¹	Will <u>fight for Fairfax's fair share</u> of transportation and education dollars ✓
Education	Voted to give <u>in-state tuition to illegal immigrants</u> while qualified Virginians were getting rejected from state universities ²	An education professional who will <u>expand college opportunities</u> for Virginia students ✓

www.bolognesefordelegate.com
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1. SB 6009, 7/9/08
 2. HB 14, 2/4/08

Vote Tuesday, Nov. 3
Kerry Bolognese for Delegate

Paid for and authorized by Kerry Bolognese for Delegate

All Aboard the Haunted Express

Costumed volunteers highlight annual Ghost Train Ride at Burke Lake Park.

BY KRISTINA TREVINO
THE CONNECTION

Dancing penguins, cotton candy, moon-bouncing and a cheerfully frightening jaunt through the woods are just some of the festivities that took place this past weekend at Burke Lake Park. Parents and their children reveled in the merriment of the annual Ghost Train Ride.

"It's great wholesome fun and it's great to see the kids with cotton candy all over their faces," said Robert Chesshir, a volunteer.

The train ride has been chugging along the spook-filled woods for more than 30 years thanks to Northern Virginia Community College's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services (RPK). It traverses on 1.75 mile long loop through the haunted woods adorned with characters from children's favorite fables and movies such as Scooby-Doo, the Ninja Turtles, Bob the Builder, Winnie The Pooh, The

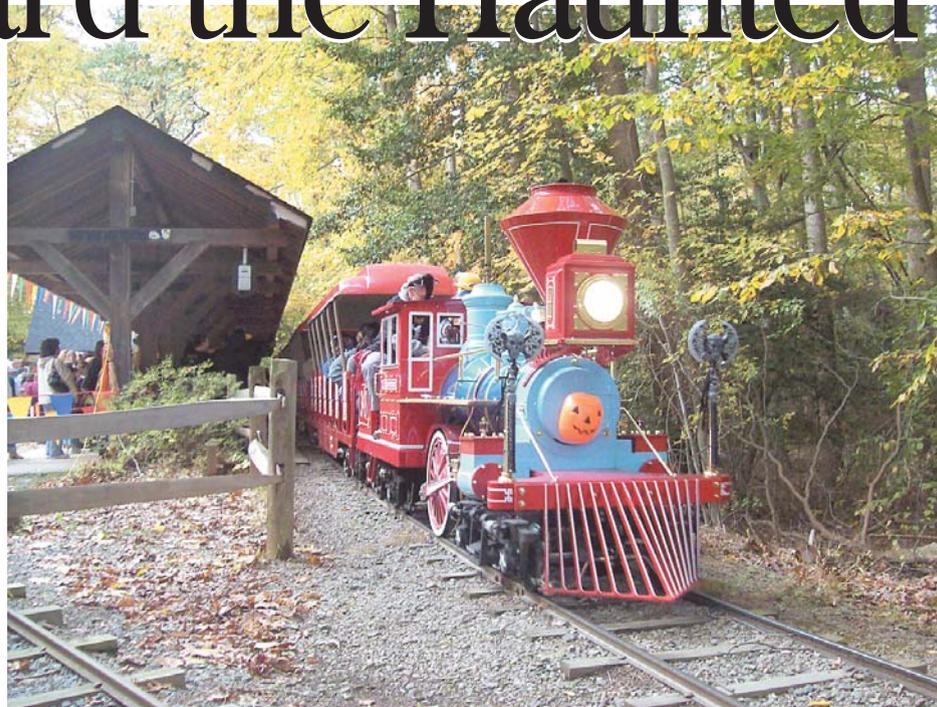


PHOTO BY KRISTINA TREVINO/THE CONNECTION

The Ghost Train Ride embarks upon its frighteningly fun excursion.

Three Little Pigs and Dr. Seuss.

"It's sort of satire skits on children's movies, fables, characters that young people would recognize. The goal is ages 2-10," said Nancy Chamberlain, the assistant dean of RPK and leader of the event for the past 13 years. She donned a Raggedy Ann costume as part of last weekend's festivities.

The train ride also offers spookier, yet friendly, features. For example, the train enters an illuminated tunnel filled with

lighted skeletons, along with witches scurrying about. The ride is filled with pumpkins coming to life and handing out tasty treats while penguins dance around.

Furthermore, riders can enjoy the festivities while raising money for certain charities all made possible by the RPK program at Northern Virginia Community College. "It's a program in planning special events," said Chamberlain, "and every year we raise money for something. One year the dona-

Ticket To Ride

Ghost Train Rides at Burke Lake Park. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Be there when the Great Pumpkin arrives to hand out treats. Thrills and chills appropriate for children provided by students from Northern Virginia Community College. Costumes encouraged. Children under age 6 need adult supervision. No pets. \$4 per person, under age 2 free. Ticket sales stop at 4:30 p.m., and the last train departs at 5:15 p.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. 703-323-6600.

tions went to Sports Illustrated for the Katrina Relief Program to build playgrounds. This year the donations will go the Wounded Warrior Project."

Chamberlain said that the train ride raises about \$1,000-\$3,000 every year, and a quarter of a million dollars ever since she's been involved.

"It's a lot of fun," said Christina Swann, a volunteer and RPK student. "Lots of little kids with their costumes, everyone is so happy and perky."

The train ride runs again this weekend on Saturday, Oct 31, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

"I think it was excellent," said Monica Brenner, a regular train rider. "We've done it for probably five years now and the kids love it, but I'd come back even without my kids."

Cook Kicks Off Community Engagement Initiative

Braddock supervisor unveils his Community Engagement Initiative Wednesday, Oct. 21.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) brought his vast experience and expertise in community organizing to a larger stage Wednesday, Oct. 21, as he kicked off his Braddock District Community Engagement Initiative.

The initiative, unveiled to an audience of more than 100 at Lake Braddock Secondary School, aims to foster community involvement and volunteerism through a series of programs and events that will educate the public on how to become active in their neighborhoods.

"A lot of people want to help out, but they don't know what they need to do," Cook said. "We want people to go back into their

communities [after taking part in these programs] and generate enthusiasm and unity."

Cook invited several guest speakers to the event, including David Ellis, assistant to the county executive and members of the Braddock District Council. Each speaker emphasized the importance of communication and involvement within individual communities.

If those two things are present in a neighborhood, Cook and the speakers said, quality of life will improve as negative elements like crime and blight will wane.

"We have so many ways to communicate now, with

Blackberries, cell phones, blogs and social networking sites, but people are more disconnected than ever," Ellis said. "We have to find ways to recreate a sense of community and tap into the strengths of its indi-

"A lot of people want to help out, but they don't know what they need to do."

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)



DONATED PHOTO

Local organizations set up information booths about volunteer opportunities at the event.

viduals."

If the most effective way to improve the quality of life is to tap into the strengths of members of the community, then Cook is well-equipped to do so. Before becoming a district supervisor, Cook revitalized the Kings Park Civic Association during his time

as its president, resulting in increased membership and an expanded volunteer base. For his efforts in the civic association, he was awarded as the 2008 "Community Champion" by Volunteer Fairfax. After his

SEE BRADDOCK, PAGE 15

Fairfax Asks Voters To Back School Construction on Ballot

In addition to choosing elected officials, voters will be asked to sign off on new debt in the amount of \$232,580,000 for Fairfax County Public Schools' construction projects Nov 3.

Residents are able to check "yes" or "no" on the election ballot regarding whether the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors should borrow money and issue capital improvement bonds to pay for school building projects.

Should the bond measure pass, the school system is not bound to use the financing for any specific projects it mentions in conjunction with the funding. Nevertheless, the school board has laid out the capital improvements on which they intend to spend the extra cash.

At \$101.8 million, the Marshall High School renovation is the largest, most expensive item on the list of projects the new money would cover. The school system is also asking for \$50 million to cover the cost of a new middle school in the South County area, which Lorton area residents have been lobbying for over the past few years.

The next largest item on the list is "roof replacement" at \$11.25 million, though a school system press release does not indicate where these services are needed. There is also \$9.75 million requested for modular units, otherwise known as classroom trailers.

Several schools are also on the docket for capacity enhancements and modifications, mostly because their student population has outgrown the physical plant.

These schools include Spring Hill Elementary (\$6.33 million) in McLean and Cunningham Park (\$3.46 million) in Vienna.

Several elementary schools in the Springfield area are on the enhancement list including Kings Park Elementary (\$5.66 million), Crestwood Elementary (\$4.15 million), Lynbrook Elementary (\$4.78 million), Springfield Estates Elementary (\$3.26 million) and West Springfield Elementary (\$3.93 million).

Two schools in the Mount Vernon area, Woodley Hills Elementary (\$4.96 million) and Whitman Middle School (\$4.26 million), would also receive money for expansion and modification should the bond pass. Additionally, the bond would also cover \$2.5 million in planning money for the renovation of Mount Vernon's Sandburg Middle School.

The school system is also asking for \$5.75 million to do heating, ventilation and air conditioning system repairs; \$3.25 million to comply with the American with Disabilities Act; \$3.25 million for athletic infrastructure upgrades; \$1.5 million in security upgrades and \$1.25 million for paving, according to a school system press release.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Sports Physicals Nov. 11

Fairfax High School will be hosting sports physicals on Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 6-8 p.m.

The physicals will be good for registration in winter and spring sports for the 2009-10 school year.

The cost of the physicals is \$50 for pre-registered and \$60 for walk-ins.

Physicals completed at Fairfax High School on Nov. 11 will be accepted at any Fairfax County Public School.

Questions regarding the physicals can be answered by calling Brett Gustman at 703-219-2241.

Correction

In the story "No Dampened Spirit Here" [The Connection, Oct. 22-28, 2009], the name of one of the band members was incorrect. The correct name was Tanner Larson.



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

One section of the newly-installed crawl maze at Burke Nursery's Fall Festival and Pumpkin Playground.

When It Rains, It Pours

Fall Festival has dealt with its share of inclement weather this year.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

The Burke Nursery and Garden Center can do just about anything when it comes to the outdoors. Its staff can beautify homes, grow lawns, plant trees and help gardens produce a bounty of food. One thing they cannot do, however, is to control the weather.

The nursery's annual Fall Festival and Pumpkin Playground is back for its 15th installment, and this year more than ever, its management is finding the rain to be a particular nuisance. According to nursery staff, the festival has been completely shut for five days already, far more than any other year since its inception.

"This year, unfortunately, we've lost a lot of business due to rain," said Casandra Dickinson, Festival Manager and Nursery assistant manager. "The turnout has been great while the weather is good, but we've never had this much rain, ever."

According to Dickinson, the Festival was shut down for the first time on the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend, and again for four straight days due to continuous rain two weeks ago. On Saturday, Oct. 24, the doors were kept open even though it rained, but a ceaseless mist and eventual downpour kept

almost all visitors away. Though many groups that make reservations such as local schools and community centers were unaffected by the weather, Dickinson said that several, including the Key Center in Springfield, were forced to either reschedule or cancel their trips.

"Our faithful, repeat customers have bought season passes and the schools have been great with rescheduling," Dickinson said. "But I feel bad about the schools that didn't get to go. They're the ones that like to come and many of them may not be able to come again."

While the rain may have put a damper on the festivities for many groups and individuals, those who have been lucky enough to have good weather have gotten to enjoy the same Festival staples that keep more than 20,000 people coming each year. Again, guests of all ages can enjoy a hayride, pumpkin picking, seasonal food and a petting zoo, and children can fly down massive slides and jump on the moon bounce. This year, the festival also has a clown that does face painting and makes balloon animals and added a crawl maze, as well.

"We hold an event there every year because the children just love it so much," said the Burke KinderCare's Wataa Tohmy. "It's so much fun, and it's supervised, so it's a great place for the children to go."

"The turnout has been great while the weather is good, but we've never had this much rain, ever."

-Casandra Dickinson, Festival Manager

Pumpkin Playground

The festival will be running 9 a.m.- 9 p.m. every day through Saturday, Oct. 31. Admission is \$9 per person, and additional ride tickets can be purchased at the event. For a complete list of activities, ticket rates and directions to the Nursery, go to www.PumpkinPlayground.com.

SEE RAIN, PAGE 10

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Lake Braddock Volleyball Beats South Lakes, Breaks Losing Streak

After dropping for straight games, the Lake Braddock Secondary School varsity volleyball team found its winning ways with a 3-1 victory against South Lakes High School on Oct. 26.

The Bruins trailed in all four matches, but fought back to win their matches 28-26, 25-23 and 25-22. The Seahawks won the third match of the night 18-25.

Stand out players for the Bruins were: Jamie Cachuela, who had eight kills and two blocks; Tara Fialkow, who earned 12 digs; Emily Lavery, who had 15 digs and two aces; and Kyra Rodi, who had 13 digs, 24 assists, four aces and three kills.

The Bruins improve their record to 10-6 this season and face Annandale High School on Oct. 29.

Youth Wrestling Registration

The Braddock Wrestling Club (BWC) is conducting a registration drive for youth wrestlers.

BWC is part of the Northern Virginia Wrestling Federation (www.nvwf.net).

Wrestling practice will take place every Tuesday and Thursday, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., starting Nov. 10, at the Lake Braddock Secondary School wrestling room.

BWC wrestlers will participate in eight to 10 tournaments, from December to February.

Parents interested in registering their young athletes, ages 9-14 for BWC, can contact Scott Matheny at 571-331-7779 or at wsmatheny@fcps.edu. Another contact is Bill Flynn at 703-473-4691 or bflynniv@verizon.net.

For online registration, go to <http://LeagueAthletics.com/Registration/Restrictions.asp?RegID=17472&org=nvwf.net>. Registration will go through Nov. 16.



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OPINION

Vote Nov. 3

Outcome of governor's race depends on who in Northern Virginia turns out to vote.

It's all about turnout. Statewide, voters in Virginia will pick a new governor and attorney general, vote for lieutenant governor, plus one House of Delegates seat. Turnout for these "off year" elections is notoriously low, meaning every vote will count.

The outcome will also count. Both statewide and in delegate races, there are stark differences between candidates. In a very tough economic environment, those who are elected will have tremendous influence on some very important details of living and working in Virginia.

You can find a link to all of the Connection's election coverage, plus to the Voters Guide of the League of Women Voters, which was published last week in the Connection, at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

VOTERS' RIGHTS, excerpts from the State Board of Elections:

As a Virginia voter, you have the following rights:

- ❖ To be treated with courtesy and respect by the election officials
- ❖ To seek help from the election officials if you are unsure about anything relating to the voting process.
- ❖ To be given a demonstration of how the voting equipment works.
- ❖ To enter the full name of a write-in candidate.
- ❖ To have a ballot brought to your vehicle instead of entering the polling place if you are 65 years of age or older, or if you are disabled.
- ❖ To vote even if you have no identification with you at the polling place. You must sign the "Affirmation of Identity" statement before voting if you have no ID.

❖ To vote by provisional ballot if your status as a qualified voter is in question, and to be present when the Electoral Board meets to determine if your ballot will be counted.

❖ To bring your child age 15 or younger into the voting booth with you to observe you vote.

❖ To vote if you are in line by 7 p.m. when the polls close.

IF YOU FEEL your voting rights have been violated or that you may have witnessed an election law being broken, it is important to report the incident before the polls have closed, preferably while you are still there. Contact the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745, or via email at info@sbe.virginia.gov.

If you still believe your voting rights may have been violated, you have 10 days to file a formal complaint with the State Board of Elections.

For more information and to find your polling place, go to www.sbe.virginia.gov and click on "voter information." Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, or consult the local office of elections.

For more, go to Fairfax County Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035-0081; <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/>; 703-222-0776 phone; and 703-324-4700 for 24-hour recorded information.

Really Scary

With Halloween falling on a Saturday night this year, and Halloween being the sort of holiday that young adults and others can embrace

in the midst of a recession, it could more than live up to its reputation as a holiday associated with drinking and driving.

More than half the fatal car accidents over Halloween weekends are caused by drunk drivers, according to the Washington Regional Alcohol Program.

As a means of making the Washington metropolitan area's roadways a little less frightening this Halloween, the local organization will sponsor free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout Northern Virginia and Suburban Maryland on Saturday, Oct. 31.

We encourage Halloween celebrants to plan ahead, party near public transportation, bring a designated driver, or make other arrangements to stay off the roads after drinking. But if all of that fails, you can call for a free cab ride home.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation beginning Halloween at 10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 31, and operate until 6 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1 to keep impaired drivers off the road during this traditionally high-risk holiday period.

During this eight-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older and celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to a \$50 fare), safe way home.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 44,120 free cab rides home to would-be impaired drivers on specific holidays in the Greater Washington area. See www.soberride.com.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Brief Sentiment

To the Editor:

Corporate greed is taking us all to hell.

Manuel Pais
Fairfax

Revising History

To the Editor:

The other day, one of my professors could not help himself and decided to push his ideological beliefs on class just as we were leaving. As he mentioned that next week there would be no class due to Columbus Day he remarked, "It's a shame we have to celebrate a day for a man who murdered and oppressed Native Americans." There were mixed reactions from the students but mostly a sense of disbelief and disdain crept over those in attendance. Columbus Day is one of the most revered celebrations of Anti-Americanism for the Left in our society, but why?

Columbus represents ideals that this country has embodied ever since. Americans are free to pursue their dreams, take chances and try to change the world. He founded a land that is not ethnocentric, but open to all people. We are a nation of immigrants because of that fateful voyage in 1492. The country that occupies the land that Columbus discovered is now the most influential, humanitarian and free nation that the world has ever known. Why would anyone want to attack this?

To address these questions look no further than the liberal bible, "A People's History of the United States," by Howard Zinn. A tale of fiction by all accounts, the Left has championed this tripe as reasons to why we should all feel guilty for being Americans. In it you will find the most vicious deeds supposedly portrayed as examples of the ideals of America.

The truth is that the Left does

not care about humanity; they don't care about a free society. They want to control society by first breaking down our people and then rebuilding them in their own image. Another must-read for liberals is George Orwell's "1984," where a socialist society implements, among other things, a whole department to rewriting history to prove that the government is always right.

Most people read this book and better understand the dangers of Collectivism and Marxism, the Left

look at it as a training manual.

If you are unable to convince people in the real world that your ideological beliefs should be adopted, then the logical place to go is the academic community. It's pathetic that some professors feel that the only way anyone would support their point of view is to force students to listen to their ravings by holding over their heads the threat of a bad grade.

Alan Moore
Fairfax

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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COMMUNITY

The Nightmare on Split Oak Lane

Brothers, friend prepare to spook Burke neighbors with haunted yard.

Continuing a Halloween tradition, a Burke family is once again setting out to scare their neighbors with their annual haunted yard.

The Nelson family has been setting up their haunted yard for a decade. The operation is primarily run by Chris Nelson, his

my brothers Andrew and Daniel, and their friend Ken Kanashiro.

The siblings' parents pitch in too, but they leave the creative control to the three brothers and their friend. Their house and the haunted yard are located at 10825 Split Oak Lane in The Oaks community of Burke.



From left are Chris, Andrew, Lila, Mark, Jeff, and Daniel Nelson at last year's haunted lawn. Andrew, Daniel and Chris are brothers, Mark and Lila are their parents. Jeff is our cousin. Not pictured is Ken Kanashiro, the fourth member of the team and the unofficial fourth brother.



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PEOPLE



Ethan Whitecotton, Micaela Davidow and Danielle McCarthy help pack shoes in boxes for Soccer Without Borders.



Boy Scout Peter Yount stands by the packed boxes that will be donated to Soccer Without Borders

Soccer Gear Collected for Charity

Boy Scout Peter Yount is an ambassador for Soccer Without Borders [www.soccerwithoutborders.com], whose mission is to use soccer as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of marginalized youth.

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Peter placed boxes at Burke Sporting Goods, Burke Racquet & Swim Club and Robinson Secondary and soccer players took boxes to team practices to collect used soccer gear. He also received several boxes of items from the women's team at The College of William & Mary, where his sister is a team member.

A member of Troop 1346, Peter collected 45 soccer balls, 160 shirts, 30 cleats, 50 pairs of socks, jackets, sweats, soccer cones and more. The items will be shipped to Guatemala where SWB volunteers will share it with the community.

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/OCT. 29

Joshua James. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Genealogy Databases. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Search for ancestors using the library's genealogy databases and other free Internet databases. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Mainstage #1: "Ah, Wilderness." 8 p.m., at GMU TheaterSpace. \$12 adult, \$8 student/senior. TheaterSpace is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.

An Evening with Melissa Manchester. 8 p.m. at the Barns at Wolftrap Park for the Performing Arts. \$35. 703-938-2404 or Wolftrap.org.

Freedom Without Walls: A Gala Commemoration. 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall. A gala concert commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, featuring an original movement piece by Artists in Action, readings, songs and a chorale movement from Beethoven's majestic "Ninth Symphony." Light refreshments will be served following the reception. Free admission. chnm.gmu.edu/freedomwithoutwalls.

FRIDAY/OCT. 30

The Downtown Fiction and Amely. 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Mainstage #1: "Ah, Wilderness." 8 p.m., at GMU TheaterSpace. \$12 adult, \$8 student/senior. TheaterSpace is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.

Fall Festival. 6-8 p.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. For children up through sixth grade, to come in their costumes and join other kids in games, prizes, crafts, food, and a Haunted Hall Way. Free. 703 971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

NRA National Firearms Museum Tricks and Treats. 4-7 p.m. at the National Firearms Museum, NRA Headquarters, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax. Free, costumes encouraged. 'Spooktacular' decorations, candy and goodies scattered throughout the Museum's galleries, donuts and cider for adults. 703-267-1620 or http://home.nra.org/#/museum.

Sapphire—The Uppity Blues Women. 7:30 p.m. at the Barns at Wolftrap Park for the Performing Arts. \$25. 703-938-2404 or Wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 31

bob. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Boo to You! Halloween Storytime and Parade. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories about Halloween, followed by a parade walk through the library. Come dressed in your Halloween best. Age 3-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

Fall Jubilee "Hallow-eeee," sponsored by Woody's Ice Cream and Jubilee Christian Center. 3-7 p.m., at Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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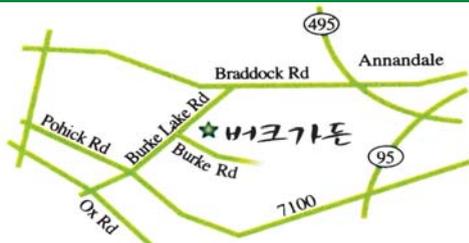


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THINGS TO DO

Rain Soaks Pumpkins

FROM PAGE 4

Like KinderCare, many other groups have made it a point to make the Festival a field trip destination. The Nativity Catholic School in Burke, for example, has taken a field trip to the festival each year for the past several years and returned again this year. According to Wendy Loughmiller, Nativity's learning resources director and mother of two preschoolers at the school, the festival not only provides a day of fun and entertainment for their students, but also serves as a tool to teach children, as well.

"It is an age-appropriate field trip for preschool-aged children," Loughmiller said. "It reinforces many of the themes the children learn about this time of year and is very user-friendly for large groups."

THOUGH THE rain may have taken a bit of wind out of the Festival's sails this time around, Dickinson and the rest of the nursery staff are nonetheless thrilled to see the smiles on the faces of their customers, even if there are fewer this year. If the early results are any indication, they are accomplishing their goal.

"The festival is big enough for children

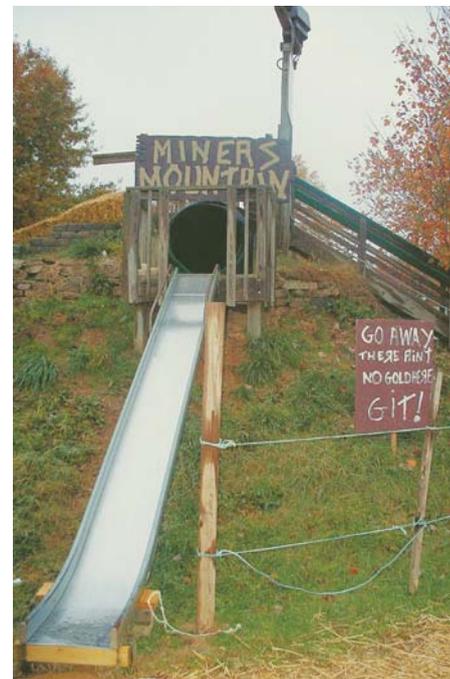


PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

One of the large slides that the Burke Nursery built for the festival.

to feel like there's a lot to do, but it's small enough for it to be manageable for adults," Loughmiller said. "It's just a ton of fun."

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Prokop Propels Spartans' Offense

West Springfield quarterback leads team in offensive yards in loss to Woodson.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

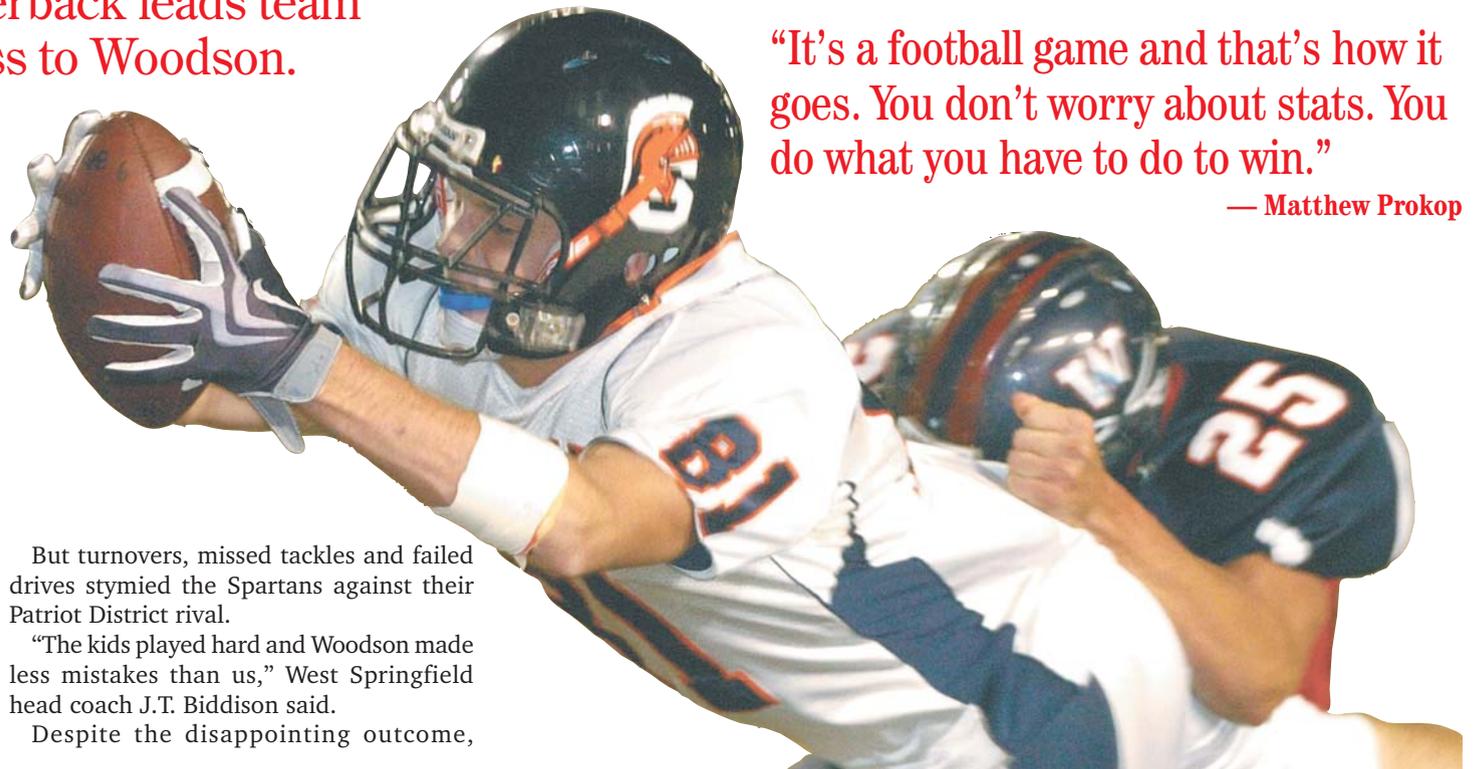
At 5 feet 11 inches and 165 pounds, West Springfield quarterback Matthew Prokop is far from being his team's biggest player.

His performance in the Spartans' 44-31 loss on Friday, Oct. 23 to W.T. Woodson, however, displayed how large a role he plays for the West Springfield football team.

"I'm not the tallest guy out there, but I prepare hard each week and try to get the ball to our best guys," Prokop said.

With his jersey muddied and drenched from the intermittent rain, the senior led the Spartans offense with 200 passing yards and 130 rushing yards.

His rushing accounted for nearly all of the Spartans' 144 rushing yards.



"It's a football game and that's how it goes. You don't worry about stats. You do what you have to do to win."

— Matthew Prokop

But turnovers, missed tackles and failed drives stymied the Spartans against their Patriot District rival.

"The kids played hard and Woodson made less mistakes than us," West Springfield head coach J.T. Biddison said.

Despite the disappointing outcome,

Senior wide receiver T.J. O'Connell stretches out for more yardage after catching a pass from Prokop.



West Springfield senior quarterback Matthew Prokop accounted for 130 of the Spartans' 144 rushing yards in their loss to Woodson.

Biddison was proud of his quarterback's performance.

"He's definitely a great leader for the team and the offense," Biddison said.

While Prokop's strong performances have helped the Spartans in their victories, the senior doesn't try to take credit for his team's success.

"It's a football game and that's how it goes," Prokop said. "You don't worry about stats. You do what you have to do to win."

For Prokop, succeeding West Springfield standout quarterback Bryn Renner, who is now playing at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, might come with a degree of pressure. But Biddison said Prokop isn't playing in anyone's shadow.

"I don't think he's filling in for anybody," Biddison said. "He's a very good high school quarterback. He commands the offense and

he's fearless. He just does a great job."

With the team sitting at 4-4, Prokop's leadership will be a major part in the Spartans' run to secure a playoff berth.

"For me, the season has gone well, but as a team we're only 4-4," Prokop said. "We've got two games left and hopefully we can get in the playoffs."

Prokop is confident that his offense can help propel the Spartans into the playoffs.

"We never stop fighting," Prokop said. "We work hard. We have good plays and we have bad plays. We've got to eliminate turnovers and stop shooting ourselves in the foot."

West Springfield continues their season on Oct. 30 against Robert E. Lee High School (5-3). The Spartans wrap up the regular season against Lake Braddock Secondary School (7-2) on Nov. 6.

Rams Football Focuses on Finishing Season Strong

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

If the Robinson Secondary School football team could have one "do-over," every team member would likely ask for another shot at Westfield High School.

After posting a 6-0 record, the Robinson football team suffered an overtime defeat at the hands of a then 2-4 Westfield team on Oct. 19.

"Westfield was a wake-up call," said junior running back Jared Velasquez. "A season is fragile. Westfield came out with fire, and I don't want to be on the other side of that again. We lacked emotion in that

game."

One week later, when the Rams took the field against Madison High School (4-4) on Oct. 23, the team was ready.

"After the Westfield game [the team] felt so bad," said Velasquez. "The way you feel after losing a game isn't a good feeling. That pushed us all week before Madison."

The extra motivation from losing seemed to help as the Rams defeated the Warhawks 21-7.

"Maybe we needed the loss to Westfield. After that loss, the intensity in practice got upped and we got focused on our next games," senior wide receiver Matt Zanellato said.

Velasquez, Zanellato power Robinson offense against Concorde opponents.

Now the players are hoping they can channel the vibes of the last Robinson team to capture a State Football Championship.

"Everyone relates our season and the loss to the 2001 Robinson team," Zanellato said. "That team lost its Homecoming and then went 13-1. Maybe we can do what that team did and use the loss to help us win [the State Championship] this year."

Although the players are still bothered by the Westfield loss, head coach Mark Bendorf said his team doesn't need any extra lec-

tures to stay focused.

"The expectations and tradition keep our team focused," he said. "It's never really addressed in practice. The players know what they need to do."

The Rams' tough Concorde District schedule also is a factor.

"We can't look past anyone," Bendorf said. "With the exception of one game against Marshall, it's been a battle. The players

SEE ROBINSON, PAGE 13

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Robinson

FROM PAGE 12

understand that each Friday night is going to be a battle.”

Motivation only goes so far. Talented players like Zanellato and Velasquez also are key to the winning season.

Through eight games, Velasquez has racked up 916 rushing yards on 125 carries, 11 rushing touchdowns and one receiving touchdown.

Zanellato's numbers aren't as high as Velasquez's, but with only 28 catches, the receiver has 467 yards and six receiving touchdowns.

WITH A WIN to build from, the Rams face another stiff challenge in Oakton High School (4-4) and another sleeper team in Centreville High School (3-5).

“Oakton has always smacked us around,” Zanellato said. “During my freshman year, Oakton beat us up during our own Homecoming. Last year, we felt like if we had beaten Oakton, we might have made the

playoffs.”

Zanellato cautioned that his teammates can't look past their final game of the season with Centreville.

The Wildcats, who suffered through a 1-10 season last year, upset the Cougars 21-7 and have challenged Concorde District opponents Chantilly and Herndon.

“Centreville is always a very good team,” Zanellato said. “They handled Oakton pretty good this season and we have had trouble with Oakton, so we'll see what happens.”

The Rams face Oakton at home on Friday, Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Bruins Named to All-District Team

After the conclusion of the varsity field hockey season on Oct. 22, the Lake Braddock Secondary School field hockey team had five players named to the All-District Teams. Ali Froede and Brittany Hopkins were selected as members of the First Team All-District team and Maggie Metress and Maria Pastor were named to the Second Team All-District team. Taylor Livick was placed on the All-District Honorable Mention team.

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(1) Washington Consumer Checkbook Magazine

(2) TheStreet.com Ratings, Inc., Second Quarter 2008

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12276 WYE OAK COMMONS CIR	3	2	1		BURKE	\$332,500	Townhouse			WALDEN AT BURKE CENTRE
9849 LAKEPOINTE DR	3	3	1		BURKE	\$318,000	Townhouse	0.03		LAKEPOINTE
9911 WHITEWATER DR	3	2	2		BURKE	\$310,000	Townhouse	0.03		LAKEPOINTE
5836 ROBINS NEST LN	3	3	1		BURKE	\$310,000	Townhouse	0.08		BURKE VILLAGE
5811 BUNKER WOODS LN	3	3	1		BURKE	\$308,000	Townhouse	0.05		BURKE CENTRE
5876 KARA PL	3	2	1		BURKE	\$291,500	Townhouse	0.06		BURKE STATION SQUARE
6006 LIBERTY BELL CT	3	2	1		BURKE	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.04		HERITAGE SQUARE
5880 JACKSONS OAK CT	3	2	1		BURKE	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.05		BURKE CENTRE
5600 SUMMER OAK WAY	3	1	1		BURKE	\$289,982	Att/Row Hse	0.05		BURKE CENTRE
6033 BONNIE BERN CT	3	2	2		BURKE	\$287,500	Townhouse	0.04		BURKE STATION SQUARE
6012 TICONDEROGA CT	3	2	1		BURKE	\$275,000	Townhouse	0.04		HERITAGE SQUARE
6105 QUIET POND CT	3	3	1		BURKE	\$265,000	Townhouse	0.03		BURKE CENTRE
5844 WOOD POPPY CT	3	2	1		BURKE	\$261,500	Townhouse	0.05		BURKE CENTRE
10676 MYRTLE OAK CT	3	1	1		BURKE	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.05		BURKE CENTRE
10655 OAK THRUSH CT	4	2	1		BURKE	\$247,500	Townhouse	0.05		BURKE CENTRE
5940 ANNABERG PL #201	3	2	0		BURKE	\$247,000	Townhouse			OAKWOOD COMMONS AT BURKE
5036 HARFORD LN	3	1	1		BURKE	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.03		LAKE BRADDOCK
6344 FENESTRA CT #128B	3	2	1		BURKE	\$236,000	Townhouse			KEENE MILL WOODS
6004 OLD LANDING WAY #10	3	2	1		BURKE	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.00		WOODWALK
5464 LIGHTHOUSE LN	2	2	1		BURKE	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.03		LAKE BRADDOCK
5134 HARFORD LN	3	1	1		BURKE	\$227,500	Townhouse	0.03		LAKE BRADDOCK
5114 ARRT CT	3	2	1		BURKE	\$218,000	Townhouse	0.03		LAKE BRADDOCK
5713 NORDEEN OAK CT	4	2	1		BURKE	\$217,000	Townhouse	0.06		BURKE CENTRE
5912 COVE LANDING RD #203	2	1	0		BURKE	\$189,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			BURKE COVE
10300 LURIA COMMONS CT#2C	2	1	0		BURKE	\$128,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			BURKE CTR STATION COMMONS

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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.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, needs volunteers for Phoenix Rising Meal Program, to help prepare and deliver meals for the homeless along the Route 1 corridor. Meals are prepared 6:30 p.m. Thursday and delivered 6 p.m. Friday. 971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

Woody's Ice Cream of Fairfax and Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax Fall Jubilee "Halloween!" 3-7 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 31 at Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Free. Trunk or Treat, moon bounces, hay rides, costume judging and a live music. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

New Hope Church Trunk or Treat. 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31 at New Hope, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. Trick or treat, food, games, a bonfire, and a movie on the lawn. Children can dress in costume and bring treat bags. Scare-Your-Socks-Off haunted walk for older children. www.newhope.org.

Assemblies of God missionaries Mike and Cindy Edson will speak at the Jubilee Christian Center on Sunday,

Nov. 1, 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. Jubilee Christian Center is at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. 703-383-1170, www.jccag.org.

A Fair To Remember. Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 5952 Franconia Road, Alexandria. A craft fair and bake sale with homemade baked goods and jams, purses, ornaments, quilts, and more. 703-971-2210 or www.sjlc.com.

Mourning Light Ministry of Jubilee Christian Center will present a free grief seminar, "Breaking Forth," on Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The seminar is presented by Michelle Leonard, L.C.S.W., and will discuss coping with grief during the holiday season, with a Biblical view of help and hope. Leonard has a masters in social work, and is a licensed clinical social worker in Virginia. She has been on staff for 10 years with the Meier Clinic in Fairfax. Handout materials and refreshments will be available. Jubilee Christian Center is at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Call 703-383-1170 for free registration.

Dr. David Mellott, of Lancaster Theological Seminary, a noted theologian, will speak at both the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services of the Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Annandale, on Oct. 25 on Beyond Affirming: A Deeper Conversation. For more information, call

church office, 703 978-3060

Antioch Baptist Church invites children and adults with special needs to its Sunday, Nov. 1, 11:30 a.m. worship service: Celebrating All God's Children. A reception will follow the service. RSVP to Robyn Ausberry at 703-866-0399 or 703-743-9504. Antioch Baptist Church is located at 6531 Little Ox Road, Fairfax Station.

Messiah United Methodist Church is located at 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. For more information, call 703-569-9862 or visit www.messiahumc.org.

A Community of Contagious Joy. Sunday Worship: 8:15 a.m., with Holy Communion every Sunday; and 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

Heartline: An interactive praise and worship service, Sunday evenings at 7 p.m.

Fairfax Presbyterian Church worship services are at 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at 10723 Main St., Fairfax. Contact 703-273-5300 or fpc@fairfaxpresby.com.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church will be open to the public every Wednesday morning from 5:45-7:45 a.m. for prayer and meditation. The church is at 8508 Hooes Road. Free. 703-451-8223. www.sumcdisciples.org.

Braddock Community Initiative

FROM PAGE 3

election to the Board of Supervisors, he kept the success of his programs in Kings Park in mind and soon began work on tailoring the program to be a district-wide initiative.

The initiative builds upon the Neighborhood College Program, which Cook helped bring to Kings Park as a pilot program while president of the civic association. Instead of simply having the college, however, the Braddock Leadership Institute will take place before the college, serving as a "graduate program" for those who have already completed the Neighborhood College.

The institute, slated for Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010 is for people on homeowner association, civic association or other community boards or for those considering community leadership. According to Cook, attendees will learn how to recruit volunteers, organize and structure community meetings and learn about the fiduciary responsibilities of organizational leadership. Then, the attendees will be invited to share their successes and failures with the group, so that neighborhoods can find out what others are doing.

The Neighborhood College Program will follow, with two sessions scheduled for February through March and April through May. This program is for people who are just starting to get involved and do not know where to begin. Attendees will hear from graduates of the program, meet local elected officials and learn how to communicate with their fel-

low neighbors more effectively. In both programs, Cook promised little government involvement, putting the success in the hands of the citizens.

After hearing from the speakers and a description of the two programs, attendees were given the chance to meet with representatives from organizations that offer volunteer opportunities, such as the Fairfax County Park Authority, the library system, Department of Community Services, Volunteer Fairfax and more. The attendees were then asked to vote for the organizations that piqued their interest by putting a sticker on a board next to the name of the organization they liked.

"I came out to learn more about what going on in the district," said Rich Juchnewicz. "Good things come out of networking and volunteering, and it's great to see people here from the 20-somethings to the octogenarians. It crosses all ages, and this initiative shows a lot of potential."

Tom Lint, a Burke resident, was one of the people responsible for involving the youth in the initiative, bringing his son and his son's friend to the meeting.

"I was able to kill two birds with one stone tonight," Lint said. "It was a chance for me to come and get information on volunteer opportunities, but it was a great chance to get them involved as well."

It is that commitment that Cook is seeking from the community to make his initiative a success. He repeatedly stressed throughout the meeting that the only way for this program to work is if the community embraces it, and people of all ages, cultures and political persuasions participate.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Highway, Fairfax. The event and food and beverages are free (food and beverages served 4-6 p.m.), and includes Trunk or Treat, Moon Bounces, Hay rides, Costume Judging (4-5 p.m.), and a Live Band. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Mainstage #1: "Ah, Wilderness." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., at GMU TheaterSpace. \$12 adult, \$8 student/senior.

MOMIX: Best of MOMIX. 8 p.m., at the GMU Concert Hall. Youth through grade 12 half price. Pre-Performance Discussion 45 minutes prior to the performance. The Concert Hall is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.

Ghost Train Rides at Burke Lake Park. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Be there when the Great Pumpkin arrives to hand out treats. Thrills and chills appropriate for children provided by students from Northern Virginia Community College. Costumes encouraged. Children under age 6 need adult supervision. No pets. \$4 per person, under age 2 free. Ticket sales stop at 4:30 p.m., and the last train departs at 5:15 p.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. 703-323-6600.

Third Annual Costume Halloween Run at Burke Lake. Don a costume and join the crowd. Meet at Shelter A, starting at 9 a.m. for the costumed fun run. Enjoy a

costume parade, face painting, arts and crafts, goodie bags, refreshments and more. The fee for the run is \$10 for ages 12 and under and \$15 for ages 13 and up. To register, call 703-866-0566. Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station.

22nd Annual Mall-O-Ween. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Free. www.ShopFairOaksMall.com or 703-359-8302.

NRA National Firearms Museum Tricks and Treats. 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. at the National Firearms Museum, NRA Headquarters, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax. Free, costumes encouraged. 'Spooktacular' decorations, candy and goodies scattered throughout the Museum's galleries, donuts and cider for adults. 703-267-1620 or <http://home.nra.org/#/museum>.

Computer Mania Day. 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Students will experience hands-on workshops led by positive female role models from academia, industry, and government sectors. Workshops include how to prepare students for college, getting girls interested in tech careers, and keeping children safe online. Free. www.computer-mania.info.

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Yard Sale. Multiple home yard sale on Chapel Hill Drive in Burke. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Depression glass, Fiesta ware, books, clothes, bikes, furniture and more.

TUESDAY/NOV. 3

Entrepreneurship 101: Starting a Business in Fairfax County, presented by the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Business Assistance and the U.S. Small Business Administration. 8 p.m. at FCEDA headquarters, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Vienna. An overview of start-up basics such as county licenses and permits, state workforce service and training programs and federal financing and certification resources. Register at www.FairfaxCountyEDA.org/sb_seminar.htm.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Morning Coffee with Del. David Bulova (D-37). 9-11 a.m., at Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main St, Fairfax. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting our community. The format is casual and no appointment is needed.

MONDAY/NOV. 16

Community Chaplain Orientation. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Fairfax County Government Center. This is for clergy interested in learning more about this initiative and to begin their Chaplain training. For more, e-mail contact schish@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-3453.

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Burke, VA 22015
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www.BurkePresChurch.org

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SUNDAY	8, 9:30, 11AM	
VENTURE (YOUNG ADULTS)	11AM	
HISPANIC	12:30PM	

6911 BRADDOCK RD, SPRINGFIELD, VA 703.941.4124
on the web at www.immanuelbible.net



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Worship Service
10:30 AM

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Sunday School 10:10 AM
Sunday Evening - 6:30 PM Youth Meeting
Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM
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To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418

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.

The award-winning **Robinson Dance Team** will be hosting a Dance Clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 9-3 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. This clinic is open to anyone in grades 2-8. Previous dance experience is not required. The cost is \$40 and registration forms can be requested by e-mailing aands@aol.com. For more information, call Wanda Siddiq at 703-250-1574.

The following local students were named winners of first, second, and third place awards as well as honorable mentions in the Virginia High School League's (VHSL) Writing, Photo, Design contest. Publications from the 2008-09 school year were judged for this contest.

In the Group AAA Newspaper category, local winners include:

News: Straight News, News Feature, Sports News:

- First place, **Krista Pedersen**, West Springfield High School

- Second place, **Arvin Ahmadi** and **Carolyn McCallister**, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

- Third place, **Jake Serwin**, West Springfield High School

Feature: Human Interest, Personality (including Sports):

- First place, **Mary Kim**, TJHSST

Feature: In-Depth, Informative (including Sports):

- Second place, **Teresa Ventura**, TJHSST

- First place, newspaper staff, Robinson Secondary School

- Third place, **Teresa Ventura**, TJHSST

- Bylined Personal Opinion, Column

- First place, **Marie French**, TJHSST

- Review

- First place, **Alexandria Hiponia**, Robinson Secondary School

- Second place, **Hailey Arnold and Amelia Friedman**, TJHSST

Photo: News, Feature:

- First place, **Viola Li**, TJHSST;

- Third place, **Katie Kinzel**, West Springfield High School

Photo: Sports:

- Third place and honorable mention, **Jacob Beil**, Robinson Secondary School.

Front Page Layout

- Second and third place, **Carolyn McCallister**, **Arvin Ahmadi** and **Rachel Lienesch**, TJHSST.

Inside Page Layout, Spread:

- Third place: **Viola Li** and **Eugenia Yim**, TJHSST.

Advertising

- First place, **Alexandra Mendoza**, Robinson Secondary School

- Second place and honorable mention, **Inderbir Bal**, West Springfield High School

- Third place, **Michelle Bedker**, Robinson Secondary School.

Editorial Cartooning

- Second place, **Milgo Yonis**, Robinson Secondary School

- Third place, **Karl Sofinowski**, TJHSST.

In the Group AAA Yearbook category, FCPS winners include:

Sports Photo

- Third place, **Sydney Quigley**, West Springfield High School.

Gabrielle Silvers has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2009 semester at Radford University in Radford. Silvers is an environmental biology major. Gabrielle is the daughter of Scott and Carolyn Silvers. She is a 2008 graduate of James W. Robinson Secondary School.

The following Virginia Tech students from Burke have gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech:

- Nathan Brown** is a freshman majoring in engineering in the college of engineering.

- Jason Gousy** is a senior majoring in electrical engineering in the college of engineering.

- Christopher Hauge** is a senior majoring in physics in the college of science.

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Call 571-213-9665 with any questions and to set up an interview.

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For New Men's Hair Salon in Alexandria
An exciting new men's grooming salon is opening in Alexandria, VA! We are searching for talented hairstylists who are goal oriented and want to earn \$60,000 or more a year. We can offer you a guaranteed base salary and bonuses with no income cap, up to 21% product commissions and tips that are twice the industry average. We will also provide the opportunity for advanced education and positive career growth along with a proven marketing system that will help you build your clientele quickly. We prefer hairstylists with experience in men's haircuts and salon services. We need to build a team with superior communications skills. We desire timeliness, positive energy, a team spirit and excellent client service skills. You must be ready to do it all. Great personality is a must, good looks are a plus! We provide a "Guy's Night Out" atmosphere, while also creating a very family-friendly environment offering full salon services to men, women and children. Send your resume with references to Kurt Sayce at **Kurt@KurtSayce.com**.
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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBTZEL/THE CONNECTION

James Johnson's 190 rushing yards and four touchdowns helped lead the Cavaliers to a 44-31 victory over West Springfield on Oct. 23.

Rushing Attack

Senior running back's four touchdown performance helps Woodson to 7-1 record.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

The W.T. Woodson football team may have a reputation as a passing team thanks to senior quarterback Connor Reilly, but against West Springfield on Oct. 23, it was the rushing game that propelled the Cavaliers to victory.

Senior running back James Johnson racked up 190 yards on 22 carries and four rushing touchdowns, helping the Spartans to a 44-31 win over their newfound Patriot District rival.

"[Other teams] might prepare for the passing game because Reilly is a great quarterback," Johnson said. "But when we get our chances to rush, we take advantage of them."

Johnson was right. All four of his rushing touchdowns came at critical moments in the game, including his final two that helped finish off the Spartans.

But Johnson's most spectacular rush of the night was a 65-yard dash that resulted in a touchdown, a play that earned high praise from Woodson head coach Trey Taylor.

"Johnson has just done a great job for us," Taylor said. "On [the 65-yard rush], I'm not even sure how many tackles he broke to get to the end zone. He just refuses to be tackled. You can't make that, that's just how [Johnson] is."

Johnson's rushing attack helped keep the Cavaliers in the game while the Spartans jumped to an early lead in the first quarter.

As Johnson pounded away at the Spartans' defensive line, quarterback Connor Reilly found the space to move the ball effectively through the air.

Reilly ended the night with 140 passing yards and one passing touchdown to wideout Colin Dempsey.

"In high school football, you're either a

running team or passing team," Taylor said. "Reilly and Johnson give us the ability to do both."

With two major scoring threats on the team, Reilly is quick to credit his offensive line and teammates for any success the offense finds on the field.

"Football isn't about one man. It's a team sport," Reilly said. "Everyone works together. The credit goes to the team and to the offensive line."

Making the victory sweeter for Reilly and Johnson was the fact that the Cavaliers avenged an ugly 72-47 loss in the playoffs last season.

"Our motto this week was payback and redemption," Reilly said. "We came out here and did what we needed to do."

This was also the first meeting of the two teams as district rivals. The Cavaliers moved from the Liberty District to the Patriot District this season, ensuring that future meetings between the two schools would come with some extra spice.

Although the Cavaliers earned the victory, the team is still two weeks away from a potential playoff game.

"We have a lot to work [before the playoffs] and we found that out tonight," Johnson said. "But one thing we learned today is that we do not give up."

The Cavaliers have a 7-1 record now, one of the best starts in school history, but a late-season loss could pit the team against a tougher opponent in the first round of the playoffs.

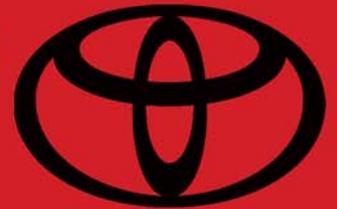
Despite the tough schedule ahead, Taylor is confident his players will stay on track with their goals.

"Everyone we play for the rest of the year is a really good team," Taylor said. "We all remember making the playoffs last year and being sent home after one game. Nothing is guaranteed."

The Cavaliers play Annandale High School (3-4) on Friday, Oct. 30.

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