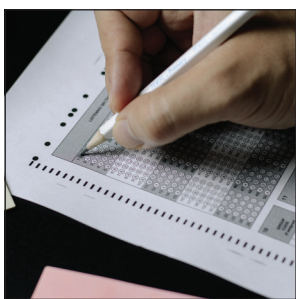




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HAPPY LABOR DAY

Fairfax County Schools to require proof of vaccination for athletes

By Rick Horner FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Fairfax County Public Schools announced earlier this week they will require their student athletes to provide proof of full vaccination before they are allowed to compete for the remainder of the school year. According to the FCPS website, beginning Nov. 8 all athletes who are participating in Virginia High School league-affiliated sports during the fall and spring must have proof of vaccination for any activity that requires a physical. This edict will also cover activities such as dance team and step team as well as out of season practices and workouts.

“Vaccinating our students is a critical step in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and minimizing any disruption to learning. The majority of pauses to instruction for our high school students come as a result of exposure during athletic activities, which the Virginia Department of Education classifies as a high-risk activity. These pauses impact participation in activities and in-person learning while the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) investigates and determines close contacts



and next steps,” said Superintendent Scott Brabrand.

FCPS announced that the decision to create this requirement is supported by a dozen sports and medical organizations that urged the incorporation of the vaccine into physicals for student athletes. These organizations include the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine.

FCPS Director of Student Activities and Athletics Bill Curran’s

office announced that next week a “frequently asked questions” section would be added to the athletics page to further inform the public on the specifics of the policy. Some of the questions the FAQ page will answer includes issues such as whether they’ll honor religious and medical objections to the vaccine, and what accommodations will be made for students who are too young to get the vaccine.

Fairfax County has been

experiencing a rise in reported coronavirus cases, the County recently posted new numbers on their Twitter account reporting that 240 new cases of contracting the virus have been recorded as of Aug. 31.

Fairfax had also posted their vaccination numbers for the same time frame as of Aug. 31, according to that post 78.7 percent of the county’s 18 and over population have received

See ATHLETES, Page A4

New Court of Appeals judge defends FCPS in lawsuits

Stuart Raphael, partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, works as defending counsel for the county school board

By Laura Scudder FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The Virginia General Assembly recently elected Stuart Raphael, former solicitor general of Virginia, to the state Court of Appeals. Raphael has served as defense counsel for the Fairfax County School Board (FCSB), which has faced two separate lawsuits in the past couple of years regarding student claims of sexual harassment and assault.

In *Jane Doe v. Fairfax County School Board*, a former Oakton High School student sued the school board for damages for its handling of a sexual harassment complaint.

The jury found that, though they determined that Doe had experienced sexual harassment severe enough to affect her education, the school board was not liable and therefore should not pay damages, as reported by the Fairfax Times in 2019.

The National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) filed an amicus brief on behalf of the plaintiff in the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and the judgment was reversed in an opinion this past

See COURT, Page A4



POSITIVE Vibes

BY NOELLE RIDDLE • Special to the Fairfax County Times

Former student becomes principal of Columbia Elementary School



Michael Astudillo began kindergarten at Columbia Elementary in Annandale in 1982. Fast forward 39 years, and Astudillo is now beginning his first year as the principal of the school. While Astudillo has certainly changed over the years, his fondness for the school has not.

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PUBLIC SAFETY



COURTESY PHOTO  
Brian J. Reilly is sworn in as executive deputy police chief.

FCPD appoints executive deputy police chief

**Brian J. Reilly**, formerly of the Prince George’s County Police Department, started a new chapter August 30 as the Fairfax County Police Department’s executive deputy police chief.

In this new role, Reilly is responsible for the coordination of FCPD’s crime control strategies, policy and legislative initiatives and the implementation of a new data and evidence-based policing strategy that prioritizes community interaction with police officers throughout Fairfax County.

Reilly will spearhead the implementation of Fairfax County Police Department’s evidence-based accountability and record-keeping program in conjunction with Dr. Noah Fritz, the newly appointed director of data analytics and strategic initiatives. The CORE (Crime Operations Response and Engagement) program will use real-time data to measure the Department’s investments and progress in areas such as crime prevention, use of force and community engagement. CORE will also serve as a vehicle to find administrative efficiencies on issues like overtime spending, staffing, recruitment and more.

After 25 years with the Prince George’s County Police Department, Reilly concluded his career in Maryland at the rank of major. He oversaw the Criminal Investigation Division for the past three years, which includes the homicide, commercial robbery, sexual assault, domestic violence and child and vulnerable adult abuse units. Prior to his leadership of this division, Reilly spent two years as the commander of the Oxon Hill District, where in his final year violent crime fell 24.8 percent and property crime fell 11.5 percent.

“Some people are just given the gift to care for their fellow man with their heart, and he (Reilly) is one of them,” said Sharon Sims, who served on the Community Advisory Board in Oxon Hill throughout Reilly’s tenure there. “If I ever need anything and it is within his realm to help, he does so without hesitation.”

Reilly has a bachelor’s degree from University of Maryland and attended the Police Executive Research Forum’s Senior Management Institute for Police in 2017. He is married with three children.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue earns national recognition

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue received the American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures to treat patients who suffer severe heart attacks.

Each year, more than 250,000 people experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), the deadliest type of heart attack, caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it is critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

“EMTs and paramedics play a vital part in the system of care for those who have heart attacks,” said Tim Henry, M.D., chair of the Mission: Lifeline Acute Coronary Syndrome Subcommittee. “Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they can save precious minutes of treatment time by activating the emergency response system that alerts hospitals to an incoming heart attack patient.”

The American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline program helps reduce barriers to prompt treatment for heart attacks – starting from when 9-1-1 is called, to EMS transport and continuing through hospital treatment and discharge. Optimal care for heart attack patients takes coordination between the individual hospital, EMS and healthcare system.

“Fairfax County Fire and Rescue is honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association for our dedication to providing optimal care for heart attack patients,” said Fire Chief John Butler. “This accomplishment would not be possible without the men and women of this department who work tirelessly to provide high quality, life-saving care to our patients to ensure they have the best chance of survival.”



COURTESY PHOTO  
Officers Bennie Evans and Shakita Warren with John Blair and Tom Roth.

Alexandria Police officers honored by Sons of the American Revolution

The George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution honored

two Alexandria Police officers for their work with the Alexandria Treatment Court (ATC).

John Blair, the chapter’s Public Safety Awards chair, and Tom Roth, the chapter’s historian, awarded Officers Bennie Evans and Shakita Warren the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal August 25 for their dedication to helping participants navigate their way through the program to a successful completion.

The Alexandria Treatment Court (ATC) launched in September 2019. Its mission is to provide treatment and assistance to individuals diagnosed with substance use disorders who were charged with non-violent offenses. In return, they are given an opportunity to have those charges reduced or dismissed. Participants who successfully progress through the ATC program receive in-court recognition of meaningful milestones. The program celebrated its first graduate in February 2021.

The Sons of the American Revolution Law Enforcement Commendation Medal is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. It recognizes those who have performed an exceptional act or service beyond what is normally expected.

Detectives investigate fatal crash in McLean

A 31-year-old man has died following a crash that occurred just prior to 2 a.m. August 29 near the intersection of Dolley Madison Boulevard at Waverly Way.

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Crash Reconstruction Unit have preliminarily determined Curtis Mathia Rustin IV, of McLean, was the driver and lone occupant of a 2005 Nissan Altima. Rustin was traveling northbound on Dolley Madison Boulevard when he lost control of his vehicle near the intersection of Waverly Way. The vehicle left the roadway and crashed into two trees. Fire and rescue personnel pronounced him dead at the scene. Detectives believe speed may have been a factor of the crash and continue to investigate to determine if alcohol was also a factor. At this time, there is nothing to indicate any other vehicles were involved in the crash.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477). Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.

This is the 8th non-pedestrian related fatality in the County to date in 2021.



COURTESY PHOTO  
The cause of the fire involved the wiring of a table lamp.

Mount Vernon house fire caused by electrical event

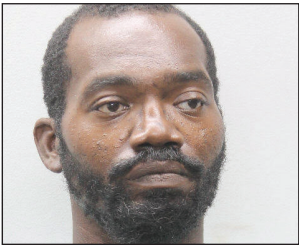
Units from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services responded to a house fire in the 8100 block of Orville Street in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County at approximately 6:39 p.m. August 25.

Crews arrived on the scene of a two-story, single-family home with thick, black smoke showing from all sides of the house. Firefighters worked quickly to control, and eventually extinguish, the fire. There were no reported civilian or firefighter injuries.

Two occupants were home at the time of the fire. The occupants discovered the fire and evacuated. 9-1-1 was called. Smoke alarms were present and sounded after the occupants discovered the fire.

Fire investigators determined that the fire was accidental in nature and started in the living room. The fire was caused by an unspecified electrical event involving the wiring for a table lamp.

Two occupants have been displaced because of the fire. Red Cross assistance was offered and declined. Damages as a result of the fire are approximately \$208,412.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Donte Glenn

Alexandria man arrested after assault

Officers responded at 11:13 p.m. August 20 for complaints of a man acting disorderly in the 8300 block of Richmond Highway.

When the man saw officers, he threw a glass bottle shattering it on the ground in front of him and ran away. After a short foot pursuit, Donte Glenn, 37, of Alexandria, was taken into custody. During the arrest Glen assaulted two officers and he was charged with two counts of assault on a law enforcement officer, littering and drunk in public.

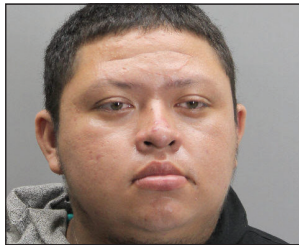


COURTESY PHOTO  
Antonio Jones

Man arrested after shooting up hotel room

Officers responded to Red Roof at 5975 Richmond Highway at 1 a.m. August 21 for reports of loud noises and glass breaking coming from a room.

When they arrived, Antonio Jones, 39, was discovered alone inside of a room. Officers learned that Jones shot off several rounds causing significant damage to the room. He was arrested and taken to a hospital for treatment. While at the hospital, Jones assaulted an officer. He was charged with reckless handling of a firearm, two counts of destruction of property, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of ammunition by a felon, possess firearm while protective order in effect and assault on a law enforcement officer.

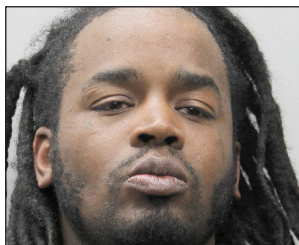


COURTESY PHOTO  
Jaime Vasquez-Chavez

Man arrested near Alexandria Walmart

A man attempted to exit Walmart at 7910 Richmond Highway without paying for merchandise at 9:47 p.m. August 22.

When an employee attempted to stop him, Jaime Vasquez-Chavez, 20, of Alexandria, displayed a knife and took the goods. Officers arrested Vasquez-Chavez nearby, he was charged with robbery.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Benjamin Garrett

Man arrested after demanding cash from bank manager

A man entered BB&T Bank at 11100 South Lakes Drive, forcefully grabbed the manager and demanded cash at 9:58 a.m. August 24. The man left the area on foot. No injuries were reported.

Through surveillance

video, detectives identified the suspect as Benjamin Garrett, 31, no fixed address. Garrett was arrested in Richmond August 26 on unrelated charges and also charged with two counts of robbery. He awaits extradition back to Fairfax County.

D.C. man arrested after carjacking

A man approached the driver of a 2020 Ford transport van in a parking lot in the 6100 block of Franconia Rd. at 8:03 a.m. August 25, displayed a gun and stole the car. No injuries were reported.

Through video surveillance, detectives identified the suspect. Douglas Whitley, 38, of Washington D.C., was arrested August 26 by the Metropolitan Police Department. He remains in custody at their sixth district station and waiting to be extradited back to Virginia. Whitley was charged with carjacking. The black 2020 Ford transport van which has Peloton written on the side as well as the contents inside have not yet been recovered.

Alexandria man arrested after officer uses PIT maneuver

An officer attempted a traffic stop of a 2008 Honda for a registration violation at Richmond Highway and Fort Hunt Road August 23 at 2:12 p.m. The driver sped off through a red light.

The officer utilized a PIT maneuver to quickly stop the car from fleeing and the driver, Tshibangu Kalamba, 28, of Alexandria, was charged with disregarding police signal to stop.

Alexandria Police Department investigates fatal crash in the west end

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a fatal car crash that occurred September 1.

At approximately 6:07 a.m., Alexandria Police Department officers responded to a crash on Seminary Road at Fairbanks Avenue. Upon arrival, officers determined that the incident involved a single vehicle striking a pedestrian.

The driver of the vehicle, a 56-year-old male, remained at the scene and was subsequently transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The pedestrian, later identified as Simon Merino, succumbed to his injuries.

This crash is being investigated by Alexandria Police Department’s Crash Reconstruction Team. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Officer Kolodzinski at (703) 859-4447.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers with Mason ties on site at Northern Virginia Community College.

GMU volunteers help Afghan refugees

After three tours of duty in Afghanistan as an Army Ranger medic, **Keith Jochem** said he knows the Afghan people as caring, welcoming and generous.

His wife, **Shazia**, is also from Afghanistan, having grown up in Kabul, from where her family fled the Russian invasion in the 1980s.

That is why Jochem, a George Mason University police lieutenant, said he jumped at the chance to volunteer to help when a group of 174 Afghan refugees, fleeing the Taliban takeover of their country on a U.S. government flight, sheltered for 24 hours at Northern Virginia Community College's (NVCC) gym in Annandale, August 20-21.

"It was heartbreaking," Jochem said. "You have to put yourselves in their shoes. What if something happened here and you had to gather some of your clothes and documents and your family? You go to a different country, you don't know the language, you don't know the culture, you're thrown into a gym, and that's it."

Jochem was one of 29 volunteers with Mason ties who gave of their time at NVCC. Volunteers came from the Emergency Operations Group, University Police, the Office of the Provost, Information Technology Services, the Office of Business Services, and the regional campuses.

**Dave Farris**, executive director of Safety and Emergency Management at Mason, put out the call after **Tom Mayhew**, his counterpart at NVCC, notified him the state had activated NVCC as an emergency shelter.

It's part of an agreement between the schools and the state that when either Mason or NVCC is activated as a shelter, the other lends a hand.

"It worked out fantastic," Mayhew said. "We couldn't have done it without the Mason folks."

Though NVCC was the lead agency, Farris said Mason's volunteers pitched in wherever necessary—whether it was setting up 500 cots, managing donations, or helping manage the 150 volunteers that showed up, including more than 100 from NVCC and many from the local Afghan community.

"The turnout from the Afghan community was unbelievable, and it absolutely couldn't have been possible without them," Farris said.

Mason alum **Roya Nasrahti**, BS criminology, law, and society '19, a communications officer with Mason Police, is part of that community, having come to the United States with her family from Afghanistan when she was young.

"I believe the Afghan volunteers and refugees felt more comfortable speaking with me because I spoke the same language," said Nasrahti. "I also felt a sense of trust and assurance between us."

Farris was sure that comfort was appreciated.

"They were extremely tired," he said of the refugees. "As we walked around initially handing out, food, water and clothing, it was obvious they had been through some terrible events."

Jochem also speaks some Farsi, and his medical background was valuable. His wife, Shazia, an ER nurse and Mason alum (BS Psychology '03;

BSN '08), found a babysitter for their three kids, and joined her husband.

For Jochem, seeing the Afghans in distress, including the many children and babies in the group, was jarring.

"Their culture is deep in giving and making sure everyone else is taken care of first before themselves," he said, adding, "I still have contacts in the military in operations in [Afghanistan] that I spoke with on the phone a couple of days ago. They said what you see on the news is 10 times worse in reality."

The reality for the refugees was that their travels, after a 13-hour flight from Afghanistan, were not over in Virginia. At 8 p.m. August 21 the last bus pulled away from NVCC for a ride to the Dulles Expo Center, where the refugees waited for a flight to Texas and processing.

"I know they've been through a lot," Nasrahti said of the refugees. "The people have been extremely traumatized. We opened our doors and hearts to let them in and keep them safe."



COURTESY ART

More than 30 years later, Sheriff's patch designer recalls his idea

It was 1989, and Sgt. **Gene Davis** was working the midnight shift in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. He had an idea for a new agency patch and began sketching it. At the time, all Virginia sheriffs' offices were using the same design with the exception of the locality name. Davis thought the patch should be more representative of Fairfax County, so his sketch incorporated the Fairfax County seal inside the star.

He left the incomplete sketch on his desk while he attended to his supervisory duties. When he returned to his desk shortly before the shift change, he was met by Sheriff **M. Wayne Huggins**, who was holding the sketch. Davis explained to him that he thought a change to the current patch was overdue. He told the sheriff, "I am proud to be part of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and think that our uniform should reflect that." At the end of the conversation, Huggins asked if he could borrow the sketch. Davis agreed but informed Huggins that he was not yet finished with the design.

Several weeks later, Huggins tossed Davis a patch patterned after his sketched design. Davis reiterated to Huggins that the design was not finished, to which the sheriff replied, "I like it the way it is, and we are going with it. Congratulations on designing a new patch for the agency. You can keep the first one as a memento."

Over the next few years, Davis's new patch slowly replaced the old version. Thirty years later, he fondly recalled that "it was just an idea that I was working with, and I had no thoughts about what I would do with it or where it would end up. I really didn't think the sheriff would entertain the change."

Davis noted the changes he would have made if given the opportunity. "The points of the star would have been an exact replica of the points on the badge, with the decorative design running down the sides and a ball at each of the points. I never intended for the lines running through each of the five points of the star to remain on the patch.

They were just part of a measured schematic to make the star proportionate. If you imagine these changes, you will see that the banner with the writing would have to be made smaller and repositioned to make all the design elements fit."

Davis acknowledges that he was disappointed for a long while at not being able to complete the design. "If you ask anybody that knows me, they will tell you that I am a perfectionist. Every time I look at that patch, in the back of my mind is the thought that it is an unfinished work. I see the unfinished parts as imperfections." He now views the patch as a symbol that stands on its own merits. "I am proud that this patch is a symbol of the sheriff's office and worn by every member."



COURTESY PHOTO

Chris Drumgoole

DXC Technology names COO

DXC Technology announced August 26 that **Chris Drumgoole** has been named executive vice president and chief operating officer (COO), reporting to Mike Salvino, DXC president and CEO, effective immediately. Drumgoole joined DXC as chief information officer (CIO) in March of 2020.

As COO, Drumgoole will have primary accountability for driving DXC's day-to-day business operations, while supporting change management aligned with the company's overall transformation journey. He will assume responsibility for DXC's business and administrative operations including global supply chain, integrating the full procure-to-pay lifecycle to improve our partner ecosystem, while maintaining oversight for DXC's IT strategy, operations, and infrastructure.

"In a short amount of time, Chris and his team have made a significant impact at DXC, from simplifying our IT infrastructure to enabling our global workforce to be fully operational and work virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic," Salvino said. "In his new role, Chris will drive efficiency in our operations, deliver better employee experiences to drive up our employee Net Promoter Scores, and ensure that we deliver on our cost reduction and margin expansion targets. As Chris expands his leadership of our day-to-day company operations, I look forward to spending even more time with our customers and colleagues on our growth agenda."

"As a team, we have accomplished a great deal," Drumgoole stated. "Going forward as COO, my focus will be to further enhance the productivity of our workforce, simplify and streamline operations and processes, and ensure clarity and accountability while meeting our margin objectives."

Drumgoole has more than 20 years of experience in the digital and information technology industry. As CIO at GE, Drumgoole led the company's global technology operations, including applications, infrastructure, and related shared services. Drumgoole joined GE from Verizon, where he served

as chief operating officer of Verizon's Terremark subsidiary, a cloud, hosting, and data center provider. He joined Verizon through its acquisition of Terremark, where he served as a member of the executive leadership team.

Drumgoole serves on the board of directors of PetSmart, where he is a member of the audit committee; on the advisory board of Florida International University's College of Engineering & Computing; and as a member of the board of directors of ONUG, a forum for IT business leaders interested in exchanging ideas and best practices for open technologies. He studied management information systems (MIS) at Pace University in New York. Drumgoole is a volunteer with Year Up, an organization that provides mentorship and job opportunities to young people in urban areas.

Dewberry announces promotions in Communications Department

Dewberry, a privately held professional services firm, has announced the promotion of five employees among the communications department. **Kimberly McVicker** has been promoted to communications director, **Aileen Heberer** has been promoted to creative services director, **Stephen Bushey** has been promoted to senior graphic designer, and **Chaney Forbush** has been promoted to internal communications specialist.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kimberly McVicker

McVicker, based out of the firm's Fairfax office, has more than 18 years of experience and has been with Dewberry since 2010. As an associate and communications director, she works closely with the firm's market segment, service group, and marketing staff on communication strategies to further strategic goals. She provides project management and content creation expertise and oversees the day-to-operations of the written communications team. McVicker earned a bachelor's degree in theater from Radford University (2003).



COURTESY PHOTO

Aileen Heberer

Based in the firm's Fairfax office, Heberer has nearly 25 years of experience and joined Dewberry in 2018. In her role as creative services director, she oversees a team of graphic designers and multimedia specialists, who work to support Dewberry's marketing efforts, both internally and externally. Heberer's experience includes a balance of print and website design, brand management, and team development. She earned a bachelor's degree in communication art and design from Virginia Commonwealth University (1997).



COURTESY PHOTO

Stephen Bushey

Bushey joined the firm's Fairfax office in 2018 and has five years of experience. He offers multi-faceted design support for Dewberry's internal and external marketing needs, including graphic design, icons, public-facing maps, front-end web design, video post-production and editing, motion graphics, and experiential/environmental graphic design. Bushey earned a bachelor's degree in graphic design from Virginia Commonwealth University (2017).



COURTESY PHOTO

Chaney Forbush

Forbush, based in the firm's Fairfax office, has five years of experience and joined the firm in 2018. As the internal communications specialist, she is responsible for helping facilitate effective internal and strategic communication among employees, internal departments, senior operations, and initiative leadership, primarily through Dewberry's intranet. Forbush also supports the firm's community engagement initiative and advocates. She earned a bachelor's degree in communications studies from Lynchburg College (2016).

Three Elly Doyle winners announced by Park Authority Board

Despite the constraints of the pandemic, volunteers across Fairfax County found a way to keep giving and to support the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Volunteers working at Observatory Park at Turner Farm, Lake Accotink Park and Accotink Creek will be honored for their outstanding service contributions as recipients of the Fairfax County Park Authority's 2021 Elly Doyle Park Service Awards.

Since 2012, **Dr. Jeffrey Kretsch** has logged more than 1,784 hours as a volunteer on duty at Observatory Park at Turner Farm. As part of the volunteer group from The Analemma Society, an organization devoted to promoting the study of science through astronomy, Kretsch and the team host regular observation programs at the park's observatory that are free to the public most Friday nights. During the pandemic, he helped the Park Authority transition to virtual programming and personally led virtual lectures and encouraged other volunteers to do the same. He also spent considerable time helping the Park Authority prepare an application to become an international Urban Dark Sky place.

Over the course of the past year, volunteers from the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints D.C. South Mission** have cleared an area at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield of invasive plant species, and

then planted native plants. The group worked every Saturday morning, painstakingly removing invasive plants that have overrun the area, sometimes working square-foot-by-square-foot to remove intricate root systems. In addition, the numerous volunteers have done everything from cutting back invasives to making protective wire "cages" to prevent deer browse to ensure the success of the young trees. With the group's assistance, more than 360 native plants were planted over two fall plantings.

The **Friends of Accotink Creek** have utilized a variety of means to protect the watershed, educate future environmental stewards and make positive change in the natural world. One of several things The Friends of Accotink Creek has recently done is sponsor a speaker to visit the area and monitor the local vernal pools where frogs and salamanders breed. The group filmed the event to distribute short videos to local teachers. The group addresses climate change at a grassroots level by removing invasive plants and planting dozens of native trees, which supports Fairfax County's commitment to reduce carbon emissions. Volunteers have removed more than 1,500 bags of trash from the local watershed. The group aims to protect environmental and recreational areas, while ensuring that there is also an educational component.

The award winners will be honored at a virtual ceremony in November.

The Elly Doyle Park Service Award was established by the Park Authority in 1988 in recognition of former Park Authority Board Chairman and member Ellamae Doyle's years of outstanding service toward the preservation of parkland and establishment of natural and recreational areas for the benefit of Fairfax County residents. The purpose of the award is to publicly recognize a volunteer or group of volunteers for outstanding contributions to Fairfax County parks.



COURTESY PHOTO

Larry Butler

Butler to serve as RA's acting CEO

The Reston Association Board of Directors named **Larry Butler** as acting CEO effective Sept. 4. The decision was made during a special meeting of the board Aug. 19. Current CEO, Harry "Hank" Lynch, recently announced he was leaving RA for another position. Lynch's last day was Sept. 3.

Butler, a longtime RA employee, is the association's chief operating officer. He served as acting CEO in 2018 during the board's nine-month search to fill the organization's top executive position. Butler has held various other positions during his tenure in Reston. He led the Parks & Recreation team, which is RA's largest department, and was also senior director of Land Use and Planning. Butler was promoted to COO by Lynch in 2019.

"The association is fortunate to have someone with Larry's experience to fill this important role as we work through the process of finding the organization's next leader," said RA President Caren Anton. The board recently voted to form a sub-committee to begin the search for a new CEO.



## PRINCIPAL

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“The school had a warm and welcoming feeling to me and my family after moving from another country, the school had a home away from home kind of feel. My parents had immigrated from Colombia, and they took night classes to learn English while my father worked three jobs.” Astudillo said. “Columbia Elementary is the hub of a tight-knit community, a place where kids from every nationality, background and demographic can be welcomed with open arms by loving teachers and staff who care about the well-being of students and their education. We want to make kids feel a sense of belonging after their virtual year, now they can be in person, and we can help them socially and emotionally to make those connections, find their niche and motivate them as a person.”

Astudillo called Annandale home for 18 years before heading off to college and the area still holds a special place in his heart, even if things have changed since he was a child. “I am looking forward to meeting the community and reconnecting with the community that gave so much to me,” he said. “Things have changed, and I want to reconnect with families in the community, connect back with the heritage and pride of Annandale. I am excited to make those personal con-

nections.”

Before serving in this role, Astudillo served in teaching roles across the county for 17 years. But being able to go from student to principal has helped Astudillo reconnect with what it was like being an FCPS student. “It has been amazing to go from student to principal. I have feelings of nostalgia and everyday all of the sudden I remember things like walking around the halls, and it brings back great memories,” the principal said. “It has been very impactful; my story resonates with the community and the kids. I was in their literal shoes and look at me now. It shows them you can still give back to community when you get older, it is very rewarding. I also was not a perfect student. I visited the principal’s office, and administration back then helped me learn that it is okay to take risks and chances, but to then make better choices the next time.”

Astudillo prides himself in being able to be a role model for young boys and those who look like him. “There were not a lot of male teachers or administration coming from my previous experiences, there were more males in high school administration and when I moved to the elementary level, I saw a direct need for male role model figures in the building to offer opportunities for kids who may not have a traditional role model as a male,” said Astudillo. “I am

looking into boys mentoring groups, taking kids to local colleges and showing them what’s possible, bringing in community speakers, and just being able to see them on a daily basis. I am always standing at the school front doors in the morning and afternoon, I stop by lunch, I pop in classrooms. They can see someone who looks like them and went through something they have gone through.”

The new principal has made sure to introduce himself to every classroom in the school since school started, which has led to many heartwarming reactions from students about his story. “I go in and say hi, I drop the line, but they know it by now, that I sat in those exact chairs, and hands shoot right up,” Astudillo said. “They say things like ‘My mom or my dad went to this school,’ or ‘My parents were from this community,’ and that is so special, there is so much heritage and tradition here, people stay around.”

While kids love to hear about Astudillo’s time growing up in the community and how he has come full circle at the school—there is one question which he feels the students can wait to hear an answer for. “Some kids ask what might have been the reason why I was in the principal’s office when I was a student. But I will save those stories for later. What matters is I figured it out, adults and teachers gave me redirection.”



## COURT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

June — meaning the court held that schools must always respond when they learn of sexual harassment allegations.

While Raphael stated he could not comment due to being a judge-elect, John Foster, the general counsel for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), provided the following statement on the case: “We are still reviewing the 4th Circuit ruling, but we continue to believe both the jury’s verdict and the trial court’s judgment were correct. FCPS remains committed to providing a supportive educational environment for all students, as we did in this case.”

The 4th Circuit rejected a rehearing August 30, upholding Doe’s appeal. The published opinion stated: “Thus, the statute itself makes plain that a school may be held liable when it makes a student vulnerable to sexual harassment by their peers, such as by failing to respond appropriately after learning of an initial incident of sexual assault. In other words, schools do not get ‘one free rape.’”

In addition to being counsel for FCSB for Doe, Raphael is serving as defense counsel for FCSB in *B.R. v. F.C.S.B.*, et. al in the 4th Circuit.

B.R., a former FCPS student, filed a lawsuit

alleging that the district violated Title IX laws in regard to alleged harassment and assault that she faced in middle school, according to NWLC.

According to NWLC, the school district argued that her case should be dismissed because she did not obtain permission to use a pseudonym when filing this lawsuit and that “this was a jurisdictional defect such that the court’s later grant of permission to use a pseudonym did not relate back to the date of her original complaint for purposes of statute of limitations.”

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia sided with B.R., noting that this technicality is not a basis for her case to be dismissed. FCPS is now appealing the decision to the 4th Circuit.

NWLC also filed an amicus brief on behalf of B.R., the plaintiff. The organization stated in an April blog post that, “Our brief points out that survivors—especially younger survivors—already face many barriers to reporting sexual abuse and that having the option to use a pseudonym is critical to their ability to seek justice through the courts.”

In the opening brief, Raphael and other counsel for the defendants-appellants argue that “This Court has not yet decided whether a plaintiff’s failure to seek leave of court to proceed under a pseudonym or to otherwise disclose her identity

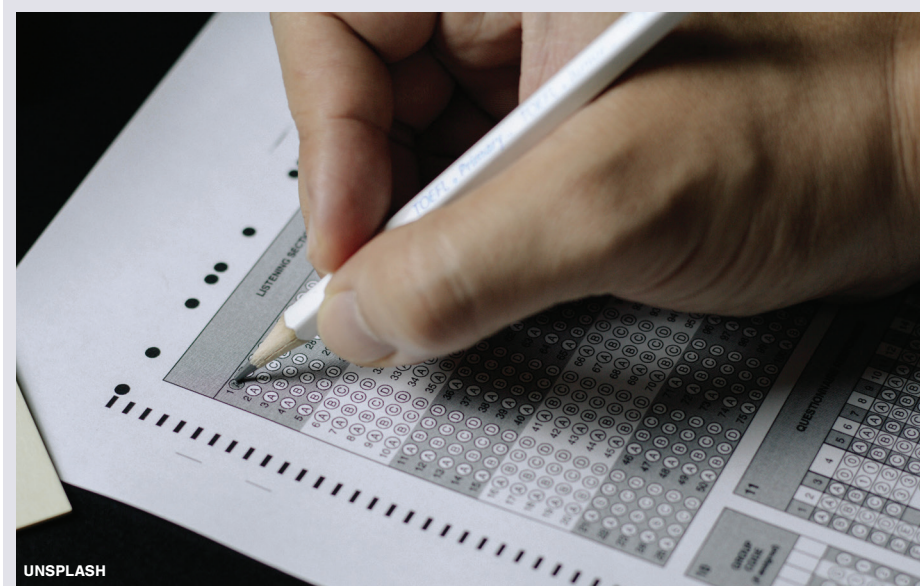
to the district court is a jurisdictional defect. But history, persuasive precedent in other circuits, the consistent precedent here, and the independent gatekeeping responsibilities imposed by Article III all point to the need to recognize the identification requirement as jurisdictional.”

Elizabeth Tang, a senior legislative analyst at NWLC, said that both these cases are about protecting the rights of survivors of sexual violence.

“It’s protecting student survivors from having their rights be narrowed. And it’s about affirming the rights that student survivors, and all victims of discrimination, already have,” Tang said of *B.R. v. F.C.S.B.*, et. al in particular.

Raphael is one of eight judges newly elected to Virginia’s Court of Appeals. The process drew criticism from the Commonwealth’s Republican lawmakers, who argued that Democrats were attempting to pack the court — and also stated there was no proper public input — according to an article by the Associated Press.

The cases against FCPS also come amidst expanding legislation for victims of sexual violence, including increasing the “statute of limitations for certain misdemeanor sexual offenses” and requiring hospitals to provide specific treatment or services to sexual assault survivors, according to a 2020 press release from Virginia House Democrats.



# Parents fear virtual school derailed students learning as SOL scores published

By Noelle Riddle  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

During the Fairfax County Public Schools school board meeting August 26, one parent joined the meeting virtually and used her three minutes to speak to inform the school board that SOL scores had fallen, and parents were angered and concerned.

Jo-Anne Sears told the school board statistics about the 2020-2021 SOL scores for the county, and how she wants the school board to step up and do more for students.

“Tonight I want to address the devastating learning loss we are now seeing in SOL scores from last year. Remember when you were focused on spending time renaming schools and telling parents everything was fine? Yeah, not fine. In fact, it is devastating,” Sears said to the school-board. “Here are some facts: ratings and percent’s passing on math assessments for all students went from an 86 in 2019 down to a 61 percent. Reading for all students went from 81 down to 73. Math for ESOL student’s 58 percent down to 19. Math for economically disadvantaged students from a 71 percent down to 34. And before you attempt to claim it doesn’t matter because fewer kids took them, doesn’t cut it. When you dig into this data school by school, you will see that the affluent areas did very well. Whereas the title one schools did not. It’s not good enough to brush this off with excuses like you usually do.”

SOLs, known formally as Standards of Learning, are the Virginia public school standardized tests which set the standards for the commonwealth’s expectations and understanding for student learning and achievement in English, math, science, and social studies.

With many students participating in learning from home during the 2020-2021 school year, students were permitted to take the SOL tests at home or in person, but only the tests taken in person counted towards the Commonwealth’s data for the test. This led to there being a smaller pool of students whose tests were being counted than previous years. Also in a normal school year, students who do not pass the test may take it again, but retakes were limited this year and not as many students had the opportunity to improve their scores with a retake.

Fairfax County was not the only school district to see SOL scores plummet. Other districts also saw a plunge in their SOL scores, such as Arlington County, Falls Church, Loudoun County, Manassas City, Manassas Park and Prince William County as shown by the VDOE website SOL results.

Above the Commonwealth’s SOL score results on the Virginia Department of Education website, they state: “SOL test results for 2020-2021 reflect reduced student participation in state assessments due to COVID-19 and other pandemic-related factors. Variations in participation rates and learning conditions

should be considered when reviewing 2020-2021 assessment data.”

Christy Hudson of the Fairfax County Parents Association (FCPA) spoke on behalf of the FCPA about the recent drop in SOL scores. “The massive decline in standardized test scores in Fairfax County Public Schools validates what parents have said for more than a year: virtual school is a poor substitute for in-person, face-to-face learning. The Fairfax County Parents Association calls on FCPS leadership to provide a detailed and robust plan to address the profound learning loss experienced by students in our county since March 2020,” Hudson said. “Parents are not placated by our superintendent’s insistence that FCPS ‘is not behind’ other school systems in the country, when these standardized test scores so clearly demonstrate that FCPS is, indeed, underperforming. Now, more than ever, FCPS students’ academic needs must be prioritized in Fairfax County Public Schools.”

The demand for more to be done for students reflects many outcries from the August 26 school board meeting which was full of parent speakers who were demanding changes as the school year picks up, with mixed reviews on how the county is handling it.

The data from the SOL results will help the Virginia Department of Education assess what areas students will need the most work in and how to adjust lesson requirements.

## ATHLETES

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at least one dose of vaccine while 66.5 percent of the entire population of the county has reported to have had at least on dose of vaccine. The county also reports that 60.2 percent of residents have had both doses of the Pfizer/Moderna vaccines or the single dose Johnson & Johnson.

The announcement made by FCPS comes a week after an announcement by the county of the approval of a new coronavirus vaccine by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA had recently approved of a vaccine created by Pfizer-BioNTech for persons aged 16 and older. The vaccine which will now be marketed under the name “Comirnaty” was already available under emergency use authorization for individuals aged 12 to 15 years old and for a third dose for immunocompromised

individuals.

“Today’s news is yet another reaffirmation that vaccines are safe and effective,” stated Jeff McKay, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman. “Though all three COVID vaccines are approved for emergency use, the FDA’s official approval of Pfizer’s vaccine is good news for our community. We have been distributing Pfizer since day one and have plenty on hand for those who would like one. Anyone who is not vaccinated, or who was waiting for this FDA action, should get vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones against COVID-19.”

One issue regarding the vaccine that may directly concern young athletes has been the increased cases of myocarditis and pericarditis reported after the use of mRNA vaccines developed to fight the coronavirus. The Center for Disease Control have reported increased cases of these heart ailments since April 2021 particularly

in male adolescents and young adults aged 16 years or older.

Myocarditis is an inflammation of the heart muscle, symptoms of the inflammation include shortness of breath, chest pains, a decreased ability to exercise, and an irregular heartbeat. The inflammation is often associated with Pericarditis which is an inflammation of the pericardium, the fibrous sac which surrounds the heart.

The FDA’s study of the new vaccines has observed a high risk of the inflammations in males aged 12 to 17, but short-term data from the study found that most of the people were able to resolve the symptoms with conservative medical treatment and only some have needed intensive care support to deal with the symptoms. Potential long-term issues have not been recorded yet and are currently being observed in the public in studies currently scheduled to run until 2023.



# Fairfax County School Board approves ESSER spending plan

By Rick Horner  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The Fairfax County School Board approved a spending plan for the funds received through the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Grant program. The funds, totaling \$188.6 million, will be used to address expenses incurred by the county school system in responding to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The plan outlines how the grant funds will be used to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students that came as a result of the pandemic. Included in the outline is the safe reopening of the schools and how to sustain their operations safely.

“Our ESSER III spending plan is focused on supporting the whole child and ensuring that staff have the tools to support student academic, social, emotional, and mental health,” stated Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand. “We know, and national studies confirm, that students experienced significant unfinished learning. Our plan identifies clear and consistent expectations for what schools should offer as high-quality academic content, addressing gaps in standards from the previous year and standards to cover this school year.”

The ESSER III grant program was established as part of the Education Stabilization Fund that was written into the

CARES Act. These funds are awarded to state educational agencies to address issues caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The grant funding will require FCPS to focus the spending in four particular areas: unfinished learning, the needs of students in the areas of academic, social, emotional, and mental health and wellness needs, prevention and mitigation strategies to prevent outbreaks in the schools, and other uses that would include such things as technology, multilingual engagement, and equity needs.

The majority of the grant funding will be used to address learning loss as well as the aforementioned needs of the students. The amount of the funding earmarked for this particular task is \$154.7 million or 82 percent of the funds received by FCPS. The remainder of the funding will be used for various tasks such as mitigation and prevention as well as communication, technology, transportation, program management, and school monitoring.

The plan will include \$10 million to be spent to support monitors who can help with cafeteria lunches and outdoor learning as well as additional substitute coverage if deemed necessary. The school board has directed Brabrand to direct the schools to allow students the opportunity to have lunch outside as well as encouraging school staff to utilize outdoor learning in their lessons.



Another \$1 million in funds will be used to provide for 10 English as a second language (ESOL) teacher positions in order to help students who need such language assistance.

While the ESSER funding will address issues in the FCPS created by the pandemic, few believe it will solve some of the more long-term issues.

“FCPS must clean house in the offices of special education procedural support and special education instruction and invest in fully training the special education teachers and support staff it already has. It must fix what it has before hiring more people to

join a toxic and broken system.” said Callie Oettinger of Special Education Action.

Each school in Fairfax County will receive a piece of the funding as well as stipends specifically to be used for purposes of academics and wellness which will be used to directly support the student body. The amount of funding that each school will receive was based on their projected enrollment and needs.

The needs of the school were determined through an accounting of five different metrics which include free and reduced meals, the percentage of English learners, the percentage of students

with disabilities, the reading and mathematics achievement reverse index, and the graduation and completion index. The graduation and completion index is being used specifically for high schools in this case.

All schools are under the expectation that they will create their own plans which outline how they will use the funding to support the academics and wellness of students. Those plans would then be posted on their school’s websites for parents and caregivers to access.

The plan also includes additional financial support for special education teachers whose scheduled work hours will be increased from seven

and a half hours to eight hours daily. The funding will also be used to increase the starting hourly rate for county bus drivers to \$22.91. Fairfax County, like many in the country, has experienced a shortage of bus drivers that they’re currently attempting to address.

The spending plan was created after an extensive public hearing held in June where more than 1,600 members of the community gave their suggestions to the school board. The suggestions ranged from assistance in special education to prevention and mitigation strategies in schools to increased pay for teachers and school staff.

## Creative ways to connect kids to science and encourage STEM learning

Courtesy of  
StatePoint Media

The pandemic has deeply impacted learning experiences for students across America. As educators and students return to school this year, they will continue to navigate these challenges as they look for ways to redefine learning. The pandemic also put a stark spotlight on inequities in the sciences and science education, especially the lack of equal access. The good thing is that this has sparked an increased awareness and a desire for change to begin addressing these issues.

With new norms of educational learning still being defined, we have a real opportunity to find creative and engaging ways to expose young and diverse thinkers to the vast world of science around them. One of the ways to do this is by connecting science to the things kids are already passionate about – sports, music, dance, art, gaming, or anything else they may be interested in.

America’s favorite rapping teacher, Dwayne Reed, shares creative ways educators and parents can help kids find a “way-in” to science that will ignite their passion for STEM learning and make science more approachable:

**1. Extend STEM Beyond the Classroom.** Show kids how to apply the scientific method in their day-to-day lives and activities.

As individuals, we make observations daily and ask questions – or hypothesize – based on what we observe. Parents and educators can foster an inquisitive mindset by challenging kids to explore the world around them. This creates fun and relatable learning experiences inside and outside the classroom.

**2. Connect Personal Passions to STEM Learning.** When students lack confidence in a particular subject, it can feel intimidating. As a result, they can often have a hard time seeing themselves as successful in that subject or can lose interest altogether. As teachers and educators, we want to encourage our kids and show them they can be anything they want. One of the ways to do this is by connecting what they already love to something they are not as confident in. STEM is a perfect example of this. Show students how science can be applied to their other interests, including sports, music, dance, gaming, art, or anything else they may be passionate about. By helping connect the dots for students, they can turn their passions into something that can benefit the world around them.

**3. Keep A Pulse on New Educational Resources.** Stay updated on new resources and information that could positively impact your students. The great thing about this is that teachers and parents can both get involved. A few ways you can

stay up to date are reading blogs, educational articles, and looking for resources on social media. One learning resource to check out is 3M’s Science at Home video series. This online library of DIY science experiments uses common household items to help make STEM learning fun and accessible while showing kids they can connect science to just about anything. Teachers will also note that the step-by-step resources include national science teaching standards for easy lesson planning.

**4. Challenge Kids to Try Something New.** Challenge kids to put themselves into roles they may not naturally see themselves in. Provide encouragement, resources, and confidence to get them to the next level. With a bit of creativity, you can open their eyes to a whole world of opportunities they may not be thinking about. Make STEM learning feel relatable and fun – even if it’s new for them. It’s all about reframing the way students look at the world and giving them assurance and an opportunity to explore what’s around them.

The importance of maintaining a stable and engaging learning experience for students remains a priority. And with just a few creative learning techniques and models, educators and parents can ensure their students are connected, actively learning, and feeling encouraged both in and out of the classroom.

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## Farewell to TJHSST: written to Superintendent Brabrand and Principal Bonitatibus

Dear Editor,

We have reluctantly left the Fairfax County Public School system. It was once sought after for its academics but is now in shambles. Your names will forever be tied to the destruction of educational excellence at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ).

Since at least summer of 2020 you, Mr. Brabrand and Ms. Bonitatibus, with the Northam administration and the School Board, have worked in lockstep to dismantle the race-blind, merit-based standardized admissions test, which had

helped to create a unique school consistently ranked as the top public school in the nation. That test successfully identified remarkable students and gifted learners and produced an environment where they motivated each other to become future scientists, doctors, engineers, and leaders.

For us it was a cause for joy for our child to gain admission to TJ. It was something to strive for, for thousands of families across Northern Virginia. No more. Ralph Northam and other ideologues like yourselves have sacrificed academic excellence on the altar of «equity,” and with

it, the efforts of countless children.

You have set political ideology and indoctrination upon our classrooms. You have traded away academic rigor and made teacher licensure a «culturally responsive» bargain. Last year, on Back to School night, when I inquired about the history curriculum’s apparent fixation on the «dispossessed» and «oppressed,» my child’s teacher at TJ lectured me. I was disappointed that he thought that a more balanced and honest view should be dismissed. As with Social Studies, classical Western literature now takes a backseat to

world literature. Each time I asked my child about the latest book read in English class, it was rarely part of the Western canon. In March, during a mandatory lesson on Social Emotional Learning, TJ introduced CRT propaganda, in BLM-branded slides. You, Bonitatibus, knowingly violated FCPS regulation 3007.3 by exposing children as young as 9th grade to TV-MA media without parental consent. You also brought in an outside 501c(4) political lobbying group who admonished students, «America is not the land of equality....[You] have to be actively anti-racist....

Simply not being racist, not doing bad things, isn’t an option....Take an active stance in calling out your classmates.» Even Salsa dancing at the school’s international themed events they deemed cultural appropriation.

A nightmare is descending on this land of dreams, where children are now taught that America is systemically racist and to reflexively presume the motives of others. Group identity and a form of tribalism are celebrated and individual accomplishment is demeaned.

We reject this and are now refugees from Fairfax County Public Schools. We

have left a school system where a narrow-minded herd mentality and a new brand of racism are being instituted and children are being prepared not for the future but for a lifetime of destructive activism. Children deserve so much better.

To employ someone like you, Bonitatibus, a fox in a hen house, who doesn’t respect or understand the academic needs of a school for the gifted, much less one focused on STEM, is educational malpractice.

Sincerely,

Suparna and Ted Dutta

## Offer virtual options for students in Fairfax County

Dear Editor,

We are the concerned parents of students enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), many of us with elementary school children who cannot be vaccinated because they are under the age of 12.

We know the value of in-person learning, and we support those parents who want their children in school. But we urge FCPS officials to offer a virtual option – for the wellbeing and safety of our young students. For days, we have been imploring FCPS officials to allow us a virtual option, but our pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

Last week, our group organized totally organically and unplanned. Most of our parents don’t know each other. By word of mouth and shares on social media, we came together. Last week, we started an online petition seeking a virtual or distance-learning option for FCPS, and we’ve already collected more than 5,000 signatures. There are other parallel petitions circulating. In the best interest of students and the community’s health and wellbeing, we ask FCPS to reinstate a virtual or distance learning option for families.

We are asking FCPS school board members and officials to support our families through these difficult times -- for staff, parents and students.

In recent days, we have become extremely concerned about the steep increase of COVID-19 cases

at schools across our region. From August 26 through August 27, for example, the numbers on the FCPS COVID dashboard rapidly increased. Already, in the first week of school, we lost a precious young life, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

Given this situation and the rise of the highly transmissible Delta variant, in-person learning is not safe for all students. While we recognize in-person schooling is the best option for children to learn and grow, safeguarding our kids during a pandemic is equally important to their wellbeing.

We understand that FCPS has put many precautions in place about masking, social distancing and other guidelines. However, the cases have continued to rise due to the severity of the Delta variant. With cases increasing daily in the FCPS, we, parents, are highly hesitant to send our children to school for in-person learning. Without a county-sponsored virtual or distance learning option, parents will be forced to unenroll their children and look at alternate options, such as homeschooling and private schooling. This sub-par option is a significant burden to our communities and students, particularly vulnerable families with socioeconomic challenges.

These first days of school, as we pick up and drop off our children, we have been able to observe that it is very difficult for schools to control social distancing and masking.

Many children wear their masks out of place, as they emerge from school. In chaotic scenes repeated across the school district, students jostle each other without social distancing, trying to get on school buses in the limited time that they have before buses leave. In schools, students are seated close together without any social distancing even though the school board insists they are trying hard to keep students three feet apart. It’s not physically possible where tables allow children to sit closer together. Most students don’t sanitize their hands, because children are children.

Don’t get us wrong. We support in-person education for the many parents who want that option. But we want the school district to return to the hybrid model we had last year when teachers taught students in-person and virtually. It is difficult but this situation will not last forever. Younger kids will get a vaccination shortly and older kids will get booster shots, giving them more protection.

Until then, allow those of us who want virtual learning to pick that option. It works. It’s not ideal, but it’s a better alternative than forcing parents to remove their children from public schools or – worst yet – not being able to kiss them goodnight. Like all parents, we are simply seeking to be able to raise healthy, happy children.

Mallikarjun Burugu  
Niranjana Harikrishnan

## The fight against global poverty isn’t over

Dear Editor,

Americans believe that the United States government gives roughly 20 percent of the federal budget to Foreign Aid. Realistically, it is less than one percent of the budget.

I am an Ambassador with The Borgen Project. We work to mobilize people to contact their Congressional representatives so that they will sponsor or cosponsor bills that reduce global poverty.

Global poverty is still a large issue plaguing the world. Many people think that this is a much more complex issue than it is. While there are many

aspects of global poverty, many solutions are fairly simple. A great number of poverty solutions center around clean water, food security, and health.

Not only would eradicating global poverty help people abroad, but it will also benefit the United States. Reducing global poverty would provide more consumers with American products and allow our economy to grow. Providing more people access to education will also help countries fight against terrorists, which will, in turn, further secure the United States.

With accurate funding to the Foreign Affairs

Budget, more foreign aid can be provided to help reduce poverty and provide security and economic growth.

I urge readers to contact their Congressional leaders and tell them that they support funding for the Foreign Affairs Budget. Visit The Borgen Project to learn more about ways to get involved.

Lastly, I call on Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine to co-sponsor the International Affairs Budget to improve the lives of people living in poverty, healthy, happy children.

Jaxon Upchurch  
Fairfax, VA

## Don’t take away snack time for kids

Dear Editor,

I’m a 6th grader at Poplar Tree Elementary School and because of COVID-19 we’ve had to give up a lot this year. Now we have to give up more. Starting September 2 we will not have snack before lunch. This is very agitating because in higher [elementary] grades lunch is much later in the day. For example, in 6th grade we have lunch around 1:05

p.m. Students get hungry and thirsty before lunch and if we don’t eat, we get tired and it becomes hard to concentrate on the teacher’s lessons. It is hard to learn when you are only thinking about what is in your lunchbox! Last week we were eating snack in our classroom, but now the school policy has changed and students are only able to eat snack outside. I understand that for the virus purposes it is much safer to eat outside. This

works great for classrooms close to the door, but the 6th grade classrooms are far away from the door. The 6th grade teachers don’t think it’s worth it to walk all the way downstairs just to eat outside for 5 minutes then walk all the way back up again. I think we should spend the time to go outside and have our snack. It will help us learn history and writing better.

A Hungry And Thirsty  
Sixth Grader



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# Mason women's soccer gets a rocky start, but recent signs look promising

By Rick Horner  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The soccer season for the George Mason University women's team is not off to a good start.

Since the beginning of the season August 19, the women's soccer team has not had a win in their first four games. With a record of 0-4 the Patriots find themselves at the bottom of the Atlantic 10 Conference standings.

The Patriot's season opener was played against Delaware at their home of Grant Stadium, although Mason lost that game in a score of 2-1 it did show promise and a willingness on the part of the team to play hard as they were being outplayed. Mason would get five shots during the game with three of them on goal, Delaware on the other hand would get 14 shots with half of them on goal.

Mason Goalie Louisa Moser would record five saves during the game which prevented the Delaware Blue Hens from scoring more with the opportunities they had. Head Coach Manya Puppione would give Delaware credit for their hard play and giving the Patriots a good test of

where they stand and where they would need to be.

"This game was a good test and a lesson learned for us," said Puppione. "I am proud of how we fought back and got ourselves back in the game, but we know we can do better individually and collectively, right from the start.

However, Mason's next two games at home were disappointing as both Maryland and Virginia would come onto the field of George Mason Stadium and leave the Patriots with nothing to show for it in shutout games.

Maryland would have a similar but more devastating offense when compared to Delaware, out of two goals scored the Terrapins would have 22 shots with 10 of those on goal. Mason would only have eight shots with four of them on goal, Moser would again make five saves for the Patriots but the number of incoming shots would be too much for the senior goalie. Maryland would leave George Mason Stadium with a 2-0 win over the Patriots which meant another loss on the scorecard for the Mason women's team.

Mason lost the next game to the number three-ranked Virginia which left the



RAFAEL SUANES/GMU

Patriots with another loss from a shutout game. The Cavaliers scored two goals from 18 shot attempts with eight of those on goal. Virginia's defense was just as good as their offense as they kept the Patriots to just three shots with two of them on goal. Mason goalie Louisa Moser again got five saves but was overwhelmed by the Virginia offense.

While many considered that game a disappointment, Puppione is taking the long-view approach that every game is a lesson learned regardless of a win or a loss.

The fact that Mason managed to hold the number three ranked soccer team in the nation to only two goals says a lot about the potential of the team.

"I am so incredibly proud of our team and how we showed up tonight against one of the top teams in the nation," said Puppione. "Before the game we talked about intent and action and how we need to have both to be successful. They showed up with both tonight, which frustrated a quality opponent. We can take a lot of positives from

how disciplined we were as a team, while also focusing on things we can improve upon."

Improvement for the lady Patriots came in their next game, this time against Pennsylvania at Rhodes Field. This game against the Quakers was a more even matchup as both teams recorded nine shots each with Pennsylvania getting one more shot on goal than the Patriots did. Moser only recorded three saves on the night but the Mason defense showed improvement after their games against Maryland and Virginia which

didn't leave Moser having to do the heavy lifting when it comes to goalkeeping.

This match recorded their fourth loss this season, but Mason walked away showing much improved on-field which was exhibited with a 1-2 game against the Quakers.

Even though the Lady Patriots haven't had a good opening to their season so far, improvement is beginning to show and only time will tell if they'll be able to gel well enough to give the rest of the Atlantic 10 Conference a surprise later in the season.

## RCC offering esports through GG Leagues this fall

Courtesy of Reston Community Center

RCC is teaming with RGG Leagues to create esports teams that will virtually compete against other players. Players, divided into age groups, will play on their own consoles and from their own homes. They may choose from several popular games, including Madden, FIFA, Fortnite and Super Smash Bros., among others.

"An esports team is a great opportunity to engage local youth with something they obviously enjoy," said RCC Leisure and Learning Director Karen Brutsché. "This is a fast-growing sports option, and we are so pleased to offer a safe and affordable outlet for it."

Esports has expanded to become a sanctioned high school and college sport – with colleges now offering more than \$16 million in

scholarships, according to a recent NPR report. Beginning this year, the Virginia High School Sports League will offer esports on a pilot basis to determine if it should be included among official competition sports.

**Here are the details gamers need to know to play through RCC:**

- Players may choose to play in Rocket League, FIFA, Madden, Fortnite, NBA2K and Super Smash Bros. leagues.

- Each league will run for six weeks. To register for RCC's GGLeagues teams, please visit <https://bit.ly/2YkFNwL>. Registration ends September 22. Play begins October 4.

- Divisions available will be Youth (8 – 12 years old), Teen (13 – 18 years old) and Adults (age 18 and older).

- Cost: \$30 for a season esports pass (the price is the same for Reston and Non-Reston).

- Prizes for the top team include in-game currency and a GGLeagues champion shirt and medal.

Chicago-based GGLeagues is a popular esports tournament and management platform that in early 2021 expanded to work with recreation departments nationwide to structure esports as a social and recreational opportunity accommodating different levels of gaming skills. It now has programs in more than 200 parks and recreation departments.

"We hope this new program will offer yet another option for young people to enjoy themselves while building skills," said RCC Executive Director Leila Gordon. "The universe of esports has been growing so quickly and the opportunities for kids to excel are wide open. RCC is excited about the program's potential."



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ALEX HANEY / UNSPLASH



# Learn the health benefits of matcha tea

KEYS TO  
BETTER HEALTH  
CINDY SANTA ANA



Green tea has been popular for years for its health benefits, but gaining in popularity is matcha, or green tea powder. It comes from the same plant, but is grown a bit differently. During the last 20-30 days of growing, farmers cover the plants to avoid direct sunlight. This increases their chlorophyll production, amino acid content and gives it that dark green color. The entire leaf is ground into a fine powder resulting in more caffeine and antioxidants than green tea.

The antioxidants are called catechins and these help stabilize harmful free radicals, which can damage cells. The catechin content can be up to 137 times greater than regular green tea.

Another promising benefit is support to the liver. In one study with 80 people with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, they were given 500 mg of green tea extract for 90 days. After 12 weeks, their liver enzymes were significantly reduced.

Matcha also contains a compound called L-theanine, which alters the effects of caffeine and helps one to avoid the crash in energy levels that can follow caffeine consumption. L-theanine is responsible for creating a calm in the body.

Matcha is also high in epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), a type of catechin that has been shown to have powerful anti-cancer properties against prostate, skin, lung and liver cancer in test tube studies. Further research is warranted to see if this translates to humans. More is not better – remember it does contain caffeine.

Enjoy this delicious latte instead of your usual coffee and see if you feel a difference in your energy. Don't forget to join me Sept. 11 for another in-person cooking class. This month is Super Side Dishes!

## Iced Matcha Latte

- INGREDIENTS**
- 3 cups organic coconut milk
  - ½ cup of ice (put ½ a cup in each glass)
  - 2 tsp of premium ceremonial matcha
  - ¼ cup warm water to mix the matcha
  - A few drops of liquid monk fruit (optional)

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
Mix matcha with warm water using a bamboo whisk.

Add ice, milk, monk fruit to 2 glass cups.

Add matcha mix and mix.

**NOTES**  
You can double or triple the recipe and store the remaining matcha in mason jars in the fridge for the rest of the week. Serves 2.



PHOTOS FROM UNSPLASH

# Fairfax Connector will participate in WMATA's free bus transfer program

Courtesy of Fairfax County Department of Transportation

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) has joined the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) inflyer providing free transfers between Metrorail and Fairfax Connector buses.

When transferring, bus rides will now be free for all routes except Fairfax Connector Express Service, which will be discounted \$2 from the total fare when

using a SmarTrip card or the SmarTrip App. Through this new program beginning September 5, WMATA and Fairfax Connector are making it easier for people to return to transit as they resume their commutes and travel.

The transfer also begins Sept. 5 for the Wolf Trap Shuttle - Route 480 - that operates between the West Falls Church Metrorail Station and Wolf Trap. The regular shuttle fare is \$5 but with the transfer, the fare is \$3 round trip. Fairfax Connector's fares and policy information has been updated and may be found at

<https://bit.ly/3kFxTpb>.

For additional information about Metro's discount fare program and other service changes, visit <https://bit.ly/3zBUIAy>.

Fairfax Connector would like to remind passengers that they must wear a mask or a face covering, as now mandated by federal law when taking public transit or visiting an indoor transit hub in Fairfax County. If a passenger is not wearing a mask or a face covering when entering a Fairfax Connector bus, one will be provided, if available.

[fairfaxconnector.com](https://fairfaxconnector.com)[703-339-7200](tel:703-339-7200)[TTY 703-339-1608](tel:703-339-1608)

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

## Fairfax Connector Will Participate in Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Free Bus Transfer Program


# September is National Preparedness Month

Courtesy of Fairfax County Emergency Information



Back to School

If your child is entering 7th grade they must have the Meningitis, HPV, and Tdap vaccines in order to enroll. Talk to your doctor and vaccinate them now!

[vdh.virginia.gov/backtoschool/](https://vdh.virginia.gov/backtoschool/)

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise

awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The 2021 theme is "Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love."

Each week in September, the campaign will focus on a different aspect of preparedness for individuals, families and communities.

**WEEK ONE**  
**Sept. 1-4: Make A Plan**  
Talk to your friends and

family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster. Make sure to update your plan based on the Centers for Disease Control recommendations due to the Coronavirus.

**WEEK TWO**  
**Sept. 5-11: Build A Kit**  
Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't forget

to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly. Update your kits and supplies based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control.

**WEEK THREE**  
**Sept. 12-18: Low-Cost, No-Cost Preparedness**

Limit the impacts that disasters have on you and your family. Know the risk of disasters in your area. Learn how to make your home stronger

in the face of storms and other common hazards. Check your insurance coverage to make sure it is up-to-date.

**WEEK FOUR**  
**Sept. 19-25: Teach Youth About Preparedness**

Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated. Reassure them by providing information about how they can get involved.

Learn more about National Preparedness Month at [www.ready.gov/september](https://www.ready.gov/september).

2021

National Preparedness Month  
Prepare to Protect

1	<b>Make a Plan</b> Sep 1-4
2	<b>Build a Kit</b> Sep 5-11
3	<b>Low-Cost, No-Cost Preparedness</b> Sep 12-18
4	<b>Teach Youth About Preparedness</b> Sep 19-25



# The Birchmere holds tribute to late Danny Gatton

*Friends of the musician continue annual traditional of honoring one of D.C.'s greatest musicians*

**By Keith Loria**  
SPECIAL TO THE  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Throughout music circles in Washington, D.C. in the '60s, Danny Gatton was one of the names that everyone knew. But despite him being a guitarist who many claimed had no equal, he never became the legend that many expected.

In fact, he was also cradled with the moniker, "the world's greatest unknown guitarist," though those who played with him or saw him—especially guitar players who ultimately lost to him in head-cutting jam sessions—knew he was something special.

In his early years, Gatton started playing jazz guitar with the Offbeats in D.C., moved to Nashville to become a session musician and returned to the District in the early '70s as part of Liz Meyer & Friends.

Gatton recorded his debut album, "American

Music" in 1975, followed by "Redneck Jazz" three years later—both critical darlings. Unlike many electric guitarists, Gatton played slide overhand only, citing his earlier training in steel guitar.

Throughout his career, Gatton also founded the band Redneck Jazz Explosion, toured with singers Roger Miller and Robert Gordon and made friends wherever he went.

Tragically, Gatton killed himself in 1994 after years of suffering from depression.

David Chappell, who collaborated with the late DMV guitar legend Gatton on several recordings, wanted to keep Gatton's memory alive, and four years ago organized a tribute concert for his friend.

It's a tradition that has remained each year on Gatton's birthday, and Sept. 3, the celebration continues at The Birchmere on what would have been the guitarist's 76th birthday. Chappell has assembled a group of Gatton

alumni, along with special guest Johnny Hiland, another blazing virtuoso of "hillbilly jazz."

"This is a celebration of one of our area's greatest musicians, by his peers," Chappell said. "It's like a big huge family coming together. It gives me warmth to see all those people come out."

Tom Cole of WPFW will serve as emcee for the special event and among the artists scheduled to appear at the celebration are Tommy Lepson, Big Joe Maher, John Previti, Dave Elliott, Barry Hart, Bruce Swaim, Steve Wolf, Pete Ragusa, Rick Whitehead, Steven Windsor, Tom Williams, Chris Watling and Sam Paladino.

Dave Elliott, who played with Gatton for almost 20 years, was at the first celebration and has been back each time.

"That first year, there were so many people who wanted to come out and honor him and share stories, that we decided to do it every year," he said. "It

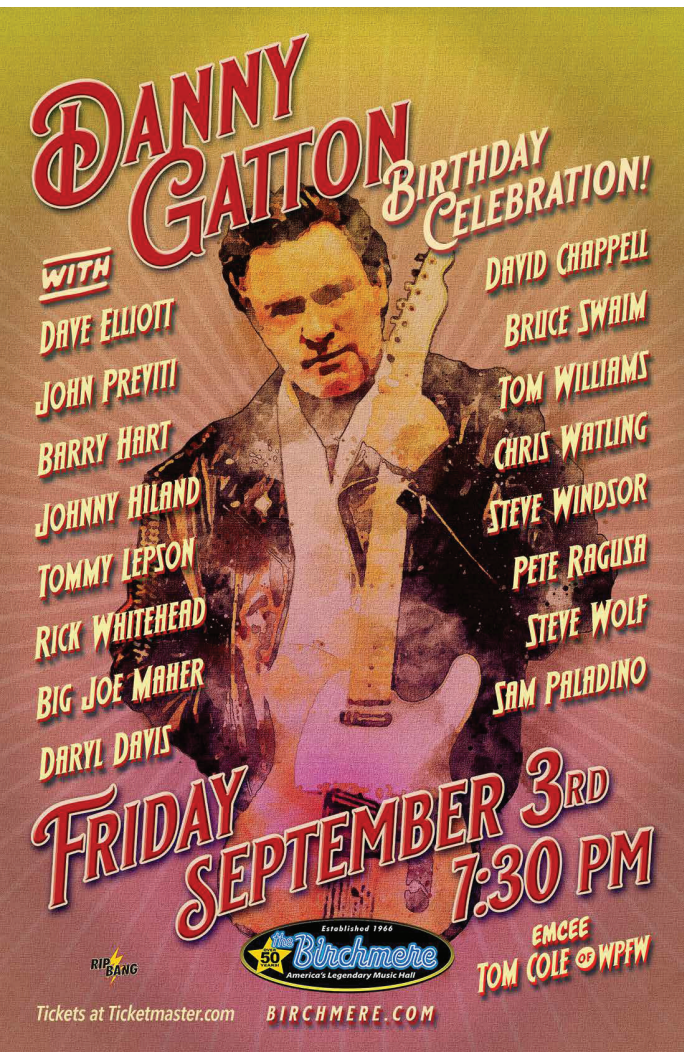
was a great tribute and I'm glad that we are keeping his memory alive."

In addition to being super talented, Elliott noted that people were drawn to Gatton because of his personality, describing him as "funny and always the life of the room."

"One of the nice things I liked about him was when I first got on board with his band, and the same thing is true with the other guys we picked up along the way, he never told you how to play," Elliott said. "He wasn't demanding. He would show you think, but wasn't like a lot of band leaders. If he hired you, that means he heard you play somewhere and he knew what you could do. He would let people play what they felt."

To Gatton, that was the secret to such great recordings—having musicians' individual personalities come out while playing.

See GATTON, Page B5



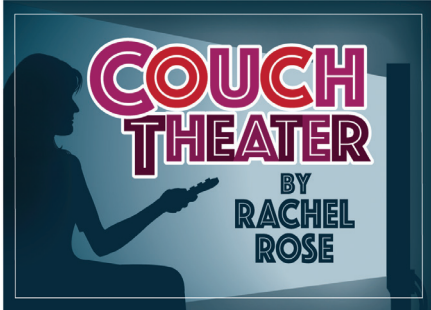
COURTESY PHOTOS

# The arts are in Fairfax



Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival

CHARLOTTE GEARY



**"Happier Than Ever: A Love Letter to Los Angeles"** -- With in-person concerts still in the sketchy zone of safety, recording phenom Billie Eilish graces us with a fancy concert to watch from home. Filmed at the Hollywood Bowl, Eilish performs every song, in order, on her soon-to-be-released "Happier Than Ever" album. Accompanied by the L.A. Philharmonic and featuring the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, she touts the concert as a tribute to her hometown. The production incorporates extensive animated visuals as part of the storytelling, along with iconic backdrops of the city. Premiering Sept. 3. (Disney+)

**"Hart to Heart"** -- I will be the first to admit that in the pool of celebrities who could potentially carry a talk show, Kevin Hart did not make my short list (pun not intended). But the comedian's new venture is surprisingly watchable. His first celebrity guest for the hour-long Peacock original was singer/actress Miley Cyrus, and the two established a great rapport and played off each other smoothly. Even the show's set design is fresh and interesting. Upcoming guests include fellow show hosts Jimmy Kimmel and Kelly Clarkson, which should make for relatively clever banter. Call this one the season's surprise hit. (Peacock)

**"Only Murders in the Building"** -- The comedy team of Steve Martin and Martin Short is together again, now with the added bonus of Selena Gomez. The trio play neighbors who are strangers to each other until they're informed of a murder in their building. Their shared obsessions with true-crime mysteries turn them into a band of amateur sleuths, suspecting everyone in the building of the crime, including each other. What follows is a silly quest of on-the-sly, CSI-type

See COUCH THEATER, Page B5

**By Dana Stewart**  
ARTSFAIRFAX  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

September is National Preparedness Month, and arts organizations must take action now to prepare for an uncertain future.

The arts are the heart and soul of the community, but too often, they are the last to recover after a crisis. Disasters are unpredictable, but you don't have to be. Taking small steps today to prepare can mean the difference between recovering after a disaster or permanently closing the doors.

Illness, fire, and natural disaster make up 69 percent of all disasters facing the arts community, according to CEFT+, a nonprofit supporting artists in readiness, relief, and resilience. You already know the basics

to get ready – make a kit; make a plan; be informed, and get involved. Identifying, understanding, and preparing for risks are vital parts of management, whether you are an individual, an artist, or an arts organization. Visit [ready.gov/september](https://ready.gov/september) to get started on your plan.

The next question to ask is how do you take your preparedness to the next level as an artist or arts organization?

ArtsFairfax is partnering with regional and national organizations to present Creative Resilience: The Art of Mass Gatherings in Northern Virginia October 2, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at McLean Community Center. The experimental and immersive workshop uses festivals as classrooms to create an arts-focused approach to emergency preparedness. The workshop is presented by Performing Arts Readiness

through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The event is free, but registration is required to attend. Visit [ArtsFairfax.org](https://ArtsFairfax.org) to register today.

**Arts Highlights**  
**Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival**  
The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, hosted by Tephra ICA, takes place September 10, 11, and 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Reston Town Center. The event highlights more than 200 artists who create unique, handmade works in fine art and craft. The event is free, and safety protocols will be in place. Visit [tephraica.org/festival](https://tephraica.org/festival) to learn more.

**Workhouse Second Saturday Art Walk**  
Workhouse Arts Center welcomes the community back to an in-person Second Saturday Art Walk September 11, 6 to 9 p.m.

Workhouse is home to more than 60 resident visual artists and the Arches Gallery. Artists will be onsite to speak about their work. The event is free to the public. Visit [workhousearts.org](https://workhousearts.org) to learn more.

**Arts Emerging: A Celebration of Renewal**  
The George Mason University Center for the Arts welcomes students and the community back to campus for a one-night-only family-friendly extravaganza full of arts and food to celebrate the return of arts to campus and the 20th anniversary of Mason's College of Visual and Performing Arts. The September 25, night begins with a free student and alumni showcase and exhibition around Holton Plaza from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Students and alumni will perform at 8 p.m. in the Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$10 per person. Visit [cfa.gmu.edu](https://cfa.gmu.edu) for more information.



# An elevated sandwich for any occasion

Courtesy of Family Features

They might not be the fanciest of foods, but when you eat a filling, protein-packed sandwich, you are usually left satisfied and full of energy. From ham and turkey

to mayo and mustard, the possibilities are nearly endless when sandwiches are on the menu.

With so many customizable options for bread, meats, toppings and more, it's easy to create the perfect sandwich. For example, this Croissant Chicken Salad Sandwich

is served on a fluffy, light, mouthwatering croissant and features a hearty mixture of chicken, bacon and veggies to give you that boost you have been craving.

To make the sandwich, line six slices of bacon in a skillet. Cook until slightly crispy. Drain over a paper

towel and crush into pieces.

On a cutting board, cut cherry tomatoes in half and chop green onions.

In a mixing bowl, combine chicken, mayonnaise, chopped green onions, pepper, bacon crumbles and halved cherry tomatoes.

Cut croissants in half and

scoop a generous amount of chicken salad onto the bottom of the croissant. Top with sprouts and replace top croissant.

The chicken is creamy, the bacon crumbles are crispy and the green onions give it crunch, making this sandwich perfect for nearly any

occasion. Whether it's a bridal shower, picnic at the park with family or just lunch on a weekend afternoon, it can give you the energy to go forward and finish your day strong.

Find more recipes at [Culinary.net](#).

## Croissant Chicken Salad Sandwich with Sprouts

Servings: 6

### INGREDIENTS

- 6 strips bacon
- 1 rotisserie chicken, shredded
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup green onions, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, quartered

### DIRECTIONS

In skillet, arrange bacon and cook until slightly crispy. Drain bacon over paper towel; allow to dry. Crush into pieces.

In large bowl, stir chicken, mayonnaise, green onions and pepper until combined. Add bacon and tomatoes; stir until combined.

Cut croissants in half. Spoon generous portion of chicken salad over bottom croissant. Top with sprouts. Replace top croissant.



GETTY IMAGES

# A simple snack without the discomfort

Courtesy of Family Features

Once everyone in the family arrives home from work and school, there

just might be a mad dash to the kitchen for a satisfying snack.

This Chocolate Strawberry Smoothie provides a sweet way to refuel after long days on the job or in the classroom. Blending family-favorite

ingredients like frozen strawberries, yogurt, chocolate syrup and vanilla makes this a simple treat that allows you to avoid spending an entire evening in the kitchen. Plus, it calls for lactose-free milk,

allowing those with lactose intolerance to get in on the fun and flavor.

Some bodies are unable to break down the sugar found in milk, known as lactose, which

causes an upset stomach and a heavy, bloated feeling. Rather than avoiding dairy and missing out on beneficial nutrients, people with lactose intolerance can enjoy real dairy products

that are naturally low in or don't contain lactose without the stomachache.

Find more lactose intolerance-friendly recipes at [MilkMeansMore.org](#).

## Chocolate Strawberry Smoothie

Prep time: 5 minutes • Servings: 1

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup frozen unsweetened strawberries
- 1 container (5.3 ounces) strawberry Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup lactose-free milk (skim, 2% or whole)
- 2 tablespoons chocolate syrup
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- fresh strawberries (optional)

### DIRECTIONS

In blender, blend frozen strawberries, yogurt, lactose-free milk, chocolate syrup and vanilla until nearly smooth.

Pour into 16-18-ounce glass. Garnish with fresh strawberries, if desired



COURTESY PHOTO

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Wee dollop
- 4 "I smell —!"
- 8 Lose it
- 12 Single
- 13 Only
- 14 Chantilly, e.g.
- 15 Vitamin stat
- 16 Frost
- 17 " — Misbehavin'"
- 18 Improbable, unexpected wonders
- 21 Existed
- 22 Squid squirt
- 23 Song of praise
- 26 Frequently
- 27 "Lion" actor Patel
- 30 Intends
- 31 Dinner for Dobbin
- 32 Seethe
- 33 Sample
- 34 "Shoo!"
- 35 Crazy Horse, for one
- 36 Mountain pass
- 37 Hot tub
- 38 Insignificant sum
- 45 Car
- 46 "Who —?"
- 47 Ultimate
- 48 Leisurely
- 49 Fashion magazine

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18			19						20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
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			36				37					
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45					46					47		
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

### DOWN

- 1 Campus digs
- 2 "The King —"
- 3 Noggin
- 4 Hindu retreat
- 5 Hotel units
- 6 Jai —
- 7 Fill with intense fear
- 8 Not taut
- 9 Hammer target
- 10 Teen's woe
- 11 Favorites
- 19 They give a hoot
- 20 Busy insect
- 23 Bit of butter
- 24 Knightly address
- 25 Actress Adams
- 26 Feedbag morsel
- 27 Pair with an air
- 28 Outback bird
- 29 Irritate
- 31 Many Woodstock
- attendees
- 32 Edict
- 34 Guy's date
- 35 Sudden bursts
- 36 Radiates
- 37 Long-legged shorebird
- 38 Obi
- 39 Stubborn beast
- 40 Molecule part
- 41 Norway's capital
- 42 Burden
- 43 Jazz singer James
- 44 Molt



## Plan a pet-friendly getaway

**Courtesy of Family Features**

For pet parents, traveling can be tricky, from finding a reliable pet sitter to worrying about your pet's separation anxiety while you're gone. To help alleviate some stress, consider a popular alternative: bringing your pet along for the journey.

As Americans are hitting the roads, many will do so with their pets. The majority (54%) of cat and dog owners plan to travel with their pets in the next year, according to a survey by Motel 6, an economy lodging option where pets always stay free.

"Traveling with your pet is great for socialization and training, especially for younger animals," said Dr. Rhonda Phillips, veterinarian and Patriot PAWS board member. "Just a few simple steps like thinking twice while packing, making pit stops along the way and doing some research before your trip can help take away some of the stress pet owners may have about traveling with their furry friends."

Phillips recommends these tips for pet owners planning a trip with a cat or dog:

**Check with your vet:** If you are traveling between states, be aware some states require a health certificate if you're visiting for more than 10 days, which your veterinarian can provide. It's also a good idea to get some advice before traveling if your pet is prone to anxiety or nausea during travel.

**Don't forget pit stops:** More than one-third (39%) of those planning to travel with a pet within the next year said the next trip they plan to take is a road trip. While road tripping, it is crucial for pets to have regular bathroom breaks and stretch their legs, just like humans. Phillips recommends stopping every 2-4 hours, depending on age and size of the animal.

**Beat the heat:** Never leave your pet in the car,

even with the windows cracked. The temperature in your vehicle can rise almost 20 degrees in 10 minutes and increase the longer you are away. Heat strokes can be fatal to animals within minutes. Also be aware sunburns can occur in dogs, primarily those with light or white-colored fur. Just like human sunburns, they can potentially lead to cancer, so ensure your pet doesn't spend too much time in the sun.

**Scope out pet-friendly lodging:** Finding pet-friendly lodging accommodations is the biggest hurdle when traveling with a furry friend, according to 44% of pet parents surveyed. Before booking, ensure any hotels you're considering are pet-friendly to avoid any surprises like extra fees. One option is Motel 6, which is one of the few hotels where pets stay free. You can have up to two pets per room with a combined weight of 150 pounds or less. Other local restrictions may apply, so it's a good idea to contact the specific property before you plan to travel.

**Don't pack light:** Bring your pet's food and water bowls as well as toys when traveling, as the familiarity can help ease anxiety. Travel with an assortment of entertainment options, such as catnip toys for cats, tug and chew toys or even ice cubes, to keep your pet's mind busy and avoid boredom. Also pack a pet emergency kit filled with your furry friend's medications, light bandage material, roll gauze, medical tape, topical triple antibiotic ointment and eye wash.

**Keep pets contained:** When traveling by car, dogs should be harnessed or leashed, and cats should be in a carrier to provide accident protection and prevent them from jumping out. When staying in a pet-friendly hotel, bring a collapsible kennel or carrier to keep pets from running out the door and protect housekeepers who may enter the room.



COURTESY PHOTO

FROM THE DOG'S PAW

## Responsible Dog Ownership Month

**By Abby! Noah!**

SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Barkingly, September is Responsible Dog Ownership Month. Adopting a dog into the family has pawsome responsibility; there is pawlenty to do to keep you and your pups happy. WOOF!

An impawtant part of a dog's life is exercising. Some dogs do great with a walk around the block, while others need more. Barks! Noah enjoys long walks with Dad; I enjoy the walks, but I want pawlaytime in the backyard. Paws, I love running around the backyard at full speed- zoomies, you know, and that helps me keep fit and going strong. Pawingly, take the time to learn what exercises work best with your dog. Some like swimming, others like agility work, paws, some enjoying pawlaying with toys. WOOF!

Woof! Another impawtant responsibility of dog ownership is veterinary care. Scheduling and attending regular health and dental examinations help humans prevent further health problems in the future. Take time to learn from your veterinarian the life stages of your dog and its preventative care. Woofs, did you know humans should brush their dog's teeth weekly? Barks! Do you know what vaccines and preventatives are required and recommended for your dog? Some veterinarians will recommend certain vaccines be given at different ages for your dog. Wellness exams help inform you about caring for your dog.

Barkingly, I love to eat everything and anything I find anywhere and everywhere. Paws, I am a grazer when it comes to meals nibbling when I want it. Noah eats his meals and treats when given. Which is right? Either is right-- it depends on the dog. Barkingly, feeding your dog nutritious meals is based on several factors, age, activity level, breed, weight, allergies, and so forth. During a wellness exam, a veterinarian can guide you through proper feeding.

Nobody likes an obnoxious unruly dog. Constant barking, jumping, or nipping isn't fun for anyone. An impawtant part of dog ownership is training your dog how to be a good neighbor through classes with a dog trainer or pet shop. There are pawlenty of training classes available, from Canine Good Citizen, puppy socialization to sports. Woofs, visit the American Kennel Club's Good Dog Helpline at <https://bit.ly/3jsKLQe> to learn about training. Barkingly, training helps strengthen the dog



ANOIR CHAFIK / UNSPLASH



YUKI DOG / UNSPLASH

and human bond.

Barkingly, socialization is an impawtant part of a dog's life. Essential socialization includes frequent pawsitive exposure to other dogs of various sizes and ages, visiting dog parks, learning to meet and greet humans, paws, allows the dog to enjoy a safer and happier life. Barks, these skills help your dog feel comfortable in most situations and be a welcome member of society.

Safety is an impawtant priority too. Barks, When my humans brought me home, I noticed my fenced yard was secure, water is provided outside, and he keeps an eye on me when playing outside! WOOF! Dad makes sure that my collar and leash are securely fastened on me in unfenced areas and walks. Barkingly, my collar and microchip are updated, so I can get home easier if something happens.

Into every human's life, travel happens. Barkingly, it would be pawsomely grand for my human if Noah and I could go everywhere in the universe. Paws, it's not always pawssible, so they created a travel plan for us. We have a friend who takes care of us by staying at our house or stopping by as needed. He knows us well and can provide what we need. It is a good idea to plan ahead for travel so you'll be prepared for last-minute emergencies. Barks! If our friend isn't available, we have the names of local pet

hotels which meet our very picky standards.

Pawing of travel, along with that comes emergency preparedness. Natural and man-made disasters can happen anytime. When they do, you may need to evacuate or not be able to get to your dog. What will you do in either situation? Pawlan ahead to avoid being caught off-guard. Woofs! Creating an emergency to-go bag with needed supplies and a list of items to gather such as medications, extra collars and leashes, food, water, and the first aid kit will aid you in emergencies. Pawingly, maintain a list of pet-friendly

ly hotels and shelters.

**About us!**

WOOF! MEOW! Do you enjoy our articles? Barks and purrs, pawlease follow us at [www.fromthedogspaw.com](http://www.fromthedogspaw.com) by email to enjoy our adventures! Noah, Samson, and Abby are Pawthors pawing about dog/cat care tips using facts and humor, and entertaining stories about their lives with humans! Our human, Allen Pearson, is a dog, nature, and railroad photographer and writer. Find us all at: [www.instagram.com/fromthedogspaw](http://www.instagram.com/fromthedogspaw), [www.facebook.com/fromthedogspaw](http://www.facebook.com/fromthedogspaw).

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Answers

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# HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

Ashton Kutcher, who starred for eight seasons in “That ‘70s Show” and 84 episodes of “Two and a Half Men,” will now take on Reese Witherspoon in Netflix’s “Your Place or Mine?” From the screenwriter of “The Devil Wears Prada” and “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend,” two best friends, on opposite coasts, swap homes for a week and find it completely changes their lives. Witherspoon has completed “Where the Crawdads Sing” and is prepping “Legally Blond 3.” Season two of her TV series “The Morning Show” drops Sept. 17 on Apple TV+. Meanwhile, Kutcher is awaiting release of James Franco’s “The Long Home” and “Vengeance,” written, directed and starring B.J. Novak.

Nicholas Hoult, of “X-Men Apocalypse” (2015), “Deadpool 2” (2018) and “The Favourite” (2018), and more recently opposite Angelina Jolie in “Those Who Wish Me Dead,” is currently shooting “The Menu,” with Ralph Fiennes and Anya Taylor-Joy, and will next play “Renfield” (Dracula’s henchman), set in modern times. This comes as Universal is reviving “The Wolfman,” with Ryan Gosling, and another reboot of “Van Helsing” (the last one, with Hugh Jackman in 2004, scored big).

Brendan Fraser, who became a star after “Gods

and Monsters” (1998), three “Mummy” movies (1999/2001/2008) and the 3D epic “Journey to the Center of the Earth” (2008), is on the comeback trail. His last film, Steven Soderbergh’s “No Sudden Move,” with Don Cheadle, Benicio Del Toro and Jon Hamm, didn’t impress. However, Martin Scorsese has added him to “Killers of the Flower Moon,” starring Robert DeNiro and Leonardo DiCaprio (for Apple TV and Paramount). He’ll also co-star with Peter Dinklage, Josh Brodin and Glenn Close in the comedy “Brothers,” followed by Darren Aronofsky’s “The Whale,” with Hong Chau. Oh yes, he’ll return in season three of the HBO Max series “Doom Patrol,” starring Matt Bomer and former “007” Timothy Dalton.

Seth MacFarlane, “Family Guy” creator and its character voices, is furious with Fox TV because he wanted to leave the network, citing Tucker Carlson’s truth-stretching as a source of embarrassment. He negotiated a deal with NBC/Universal to try and break free from Fox TV, but they countered by renewing “Family Guy,” for its 21st season. MacFarlane is a survivor, after all. Missing a flight in Boston because he was late saved his life, because that plane flew into the Twin Towers on 9/11. “Family Guy” has won five Emmys, and MacFarlane himself won an Oscar for his song “Everybody Needs a Best Friend” (from “Ted”) and an Emmy for hosting the Oscars. Fox is not letting him go anywhere. With a net worth of \$300 million, he should have made Fox TV an offer they couldn’t refuse. ... Cue MacFarlane saying in Brando’s “Godfather” voice, “I get no respect!”

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Ashton Kutcher

## Art News

**Billy Price Charm City Rhythm Band Blues** Music Award winner and nominee brings his music to Vienna. Doors open at 6 p.m. Show is at 7 p.m. September 3. General admission is free, but RSVP required. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3ywaRWI>.

**Broadway in the Park** Celebrate the return of live musical theater featuring Renee Elise Goldsberry and Brian Stokes Mitchell. 8 p.m. September 3. Tickets start at \$32. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd., Vienna. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3t8NTDO>.

**Lake Anne Jazz & Blues Festival** Enjoy Doc Dikeman Big band, Washington Women in Jazz, Veronneau and more from 1 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 4. Free. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3yB5KES>.

**Darius Rucker** has earned a whole new legion of fans with four No. 1 albums on the Billboard Country Chart, plus 10 No. 1 singles on country radio. 8 p.m. September 4. Tickets start at \$47. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd., Vienna. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2Vd1uha>.

**Hollywood Nights** recreates the nonstop energy of the legendary Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band. All your

favorite hits, every awesome detail, and an unforgettable trip back to some of rock’s greatest shows. Doors open at 7 p.m. Show is at 9 p.m. September 4. Tickets are \$22. The State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3jDswYu>.

**Practically Einstein** mixes in a highly eclectic mix of covers, including MGMT, Franz Ferdinand, Hall & Oates, Wheatus, Kings of Leon, the Strokes, Green Day, the Ramones, and Nirvana. 7 p.m. September 8. Free. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Rd., Fairfax Station. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/311VPn5>.

**The Blacksmith** Recaptures the humor and immediacy of the original, Nick Olcott and Ryan Brown have adapted Philidor’s opéra comique Le marechal ferlant to the late 19th-century American West. 7:30 p.m. September 9. Tickets start at \$38. The Barns, 1635 Trap Rd., Vienna. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3yBlvf0>.

**Lake Street Dive** takes the most fun of pop, soul, disco, jazz and rock and melds them together to make their own sound. Performing with Valerie June. 8 p.m. September 9. Tickets start

at \$47. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd., Vienna. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3DGjOk8>.

**Art Mirrors Culture** is a Reston multicultural inter-generational exhibit featuring works from Japan, China, India, Italy Germany and more. Through September 30. Free. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3greDu7>.

**Equality for All** is a mural commissioned by the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. It is on permanent display at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3xGZwTw>.

**Highest Honor** Returns to the atrium this season and will be on display through Nov. 14. Inspired by the building’s industrial founding, artist Andy Yoder designed the 25-foot triangular banner as an oversized version of the Army-Navy “E Award,” which was presented to workers during WWII for excellence in production of war equipment. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/34gh8sP>.

Fairfax County Times

Home & Garden

Fall Edition

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Marcia Patch • (703) 904-1004 or email [marcia@wspnet.com](mailto:marcia@wspnet.com)

FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

## Community Information

**Farmers’ Markets** Visit a variety of vendors to purchase produce, pastries, bread, meat and more. 8 a.m. to noon. Fridays through Nov. 12. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3IK9Ht2>. 3 to 7 p.m. Fridays through Oct. 29. 5844-5862 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/341WuHG>.

**Fishing Fun** Fish from the river bank and learn about the fish’s world. Borrow our fishing rods or bring your own. Tackle and bait will be provided. Enjoy s’mores at the campfire. 6 p.m. September 3. Cost is \$15. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3zEts48>.

**Community Market** includes themed activities including vendors, artist demos, food, entertainment, and more. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. September 4. Free. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3hTCNiO>.

**Taking Plant Cuttings** Learn how to propagate plants from cuttings following simple techniques demonstrated by Green Spring staff. 1:30 p.m. September 4. Cost is \$22. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3ByonLg>.

**Dinosaur Egg Hunt** Take one of nine opportunities to enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting Dinoland in Nature Playce. 9:30 a.m. September 4. Cost is \$10. Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3BtGD2>.

**Birding for Beginners** Gain some basic identification skills. The program begins with a bird identification discussion. 8 to 11 a.m. September 5. Cost is \$18. Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Dr., Reston. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3yA4amz>.

**Life in the Leaf Litter** Life can be found thriving everywhere, even under leaf litter. Investigate the creatures that call the forest floor their home. 9:30 a.m. September 6. Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3Bxw7W>.

**Farmers Markets** Visit booths from local vendors on Wednesdays and Thursdays through late fall in local county parks McCutcheon, Oak Marr, Wakefield, Annandale and Herndon. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3kYWYGU>.

**ONGOING**

**St. Mark’s ESL** English as a second language program is looking for new students and volunteers. Classes will be Tuesday and Thursday evenings from September 28 to December 7. Students register online <https://bit.ly/StMarkRegistrationFall2021>. For more information call 703-980-9380 or 703-242-7449.

**See X-wing Starfighter** as it undergoes conservation at the Mary Baker Engen Restoration Hangar. Daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through January

1. Free admission but parking is \$15. Steve F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. For more information visit <https://s.si.edu/37aVY0M>.

**Forgotten Road Tours** these outside walking tours of the original outbuildings and representative slave quarters focus on the lives and stories of the enslaved who were at Sully more than 200 years ago. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Thursday through Oct. 31. Cost is \$20 to \$40. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/34WkvFN>.

**Virtual Mental Help Events and Support Recovery Program** Solutions of Virginia holds a variety of free online events and support groups each week. Meet new friends, stay healthy and fit, participate in art therapy and more. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3vokjut>.

**Senior Womens Softball** Join a league with games on Saturday and Wednesday mornings in Vienna. Ages 40+. For more information visit [golden-girls.org](https://golden-girls.org).

**Help Needy Children** through volunteer work with Assistance League. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/305C3ge>.

**Volunteer Fairfax** has volunteer opportunities and donation needs. Please visit <https://bit.ly/3b169oZ> for more information.

**Meals on Wheels** needs drivers, coordinators, and co-coordinators. Apply at <http://bit.ly/2DGfhme>.

ZED by Duane M. Abel

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celebrity  
extra

by Dana Jackson



Jorja Fox as Sara Sidle on “CSI: Vegas”

**Q:** I saw a preview for a new “CSI” show called “CSI: Vegas.” It looked like it had a couple of the original stars. Wasn’t the original “CSI” (no city in the title) set in Las Vegas anyway? I get so confused with “CSI” and “NCIS” and all their many spinoffs. – M.E.

**A:** There have been four installments of the “CSI” franchise since it all began in 2000 with “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,” which ran for 15 seasons and was set in Las Vegas. It was followed by “CSI: Miami,” which ran from 2002-12, “CSI: NY,” which aired from 2004-13, and “CSI: Cyber,” which first aired in 2015 lasted just two seasons.

The upcoming “CSI: Vegas” is being billed as a limited series starring original “CSI” actors William Peterson, Jorja Fox and Wallace Langham. Joining them are new faces Paula Newsome (“Barry”), Mel Rodriguez (“Last Man on Earth”), Mandeep Dhillon (“After Life”) and Matt Lauria (“Parenthood”). Incidentally, Lauria played a detective on a few episodes of the original “CSI,” but I’m assuming we’re supposed to erase that from our memory.

“CSI: Vegas” will premiere Wednesday, Oct. 6, at 10 p.m. ET on CBS. Even though the plan is for it to air just one season, don’t be surprised if it gets renewed since, with the exception of “Cyber,” the “CSI” shows generate big ratings, which equals big money.

**Q:** When is the new “Yellowstone” prequel going to air? Is it really true that Faith Hill will be in it? Has she ever acted before? – A.N.

**A:** The “Yellowstone” prequel, titled “1883” (or “Y:1883” depending on which source you read), will be ready for streaming on Paramount+ beginning Dec. 19. According to TV Guide, it stars the always excellent Sam Elliott (“Mask,” “The Ranch”) as Shea Brennan, “a tough-as-nails, handsome cowboy” who guides the Dutton ancestors (played by married country music stars Tim McGraw and Faith Hill) from Texas to Montana during the Long Depression.

Season four of the modern-day “Yellowstone” starring Kevin Costner premieres Nov. 7 on the Paramount Network, which can be found on cable TV. “1883” will air exclusively on Paramount+, a subscription service that is currently \$4.99 a month with ads and \$9.99 a month ad-free. For more information, visit [Paramountplus.com](https://Paramountplus.com).

**Q:** Whatever happened to actress Alison Lohman from the movies “White Oleander” and “Matchstick Men”? She was so good. – G.C.

**A:** Alison Lohman started out acting in local theater as a child in Palm Springs, California, and earned critical acclaim in her 20s in the independent films “White Oleander” and “Matchstick Men.” She went on to have her first huge box-office success in the 2009 horror film “Drag Me to Hell” and retired from acting a few years later. She’s currently raising a family with her director husband Mark Neveldine (“Crank,” “Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance”) while also giving private acting lessons to aspiring thespians. You can check out her website [ActwithAlison.com](https://ActwithAlison.com).

Send me your questions at [NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com](mailto:NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com), or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Salome’s  
Stars

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)**  
Mars, your ruling planet, helps you deal with career challenges in a way that reflects some of your own hidden strengths. This impresses some important decision-makers.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)**  
Your strong Bovine will, combined with your romantic nature (you are ruled by Venus), helps turn a romance with a potential for problems into one with more-positive possibilities.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)**  
Mercury’s influence creates some unsettling moments, but nothing that you can’t live with. You’ll soon learn more about that major change that is about to be revealed.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)**  
Opportunities for you are like the phases of the Moon: constantly appearing and reappearing. So, cheer up. The opportunity you think you let slip by will be replaced by another.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)**  
An opportunity that you hoped would open up for you remains closed. Stop wasting time scratching at it. Something else you’ll like will soon make itself apparent and accessible.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)**  
Congratulations. You’ll soon hear some positive feedback for all the hard work you recently put into a project. A Pisces could soon swim into your personal life.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)**  
Someone whose friendship you felt you had to write off will try to revive it. What you do is up to you. But don’t do it without giving it considerable thought.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)**  
A job-related plan might need to be reworked to allow for changes. Lucky for you that Saturn remains a strong influence that can help you focus on getting it done right.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)**  
This is a good time to move into areas of self-discovery. You might be surprised about who you really are and how you really relate to those around you.

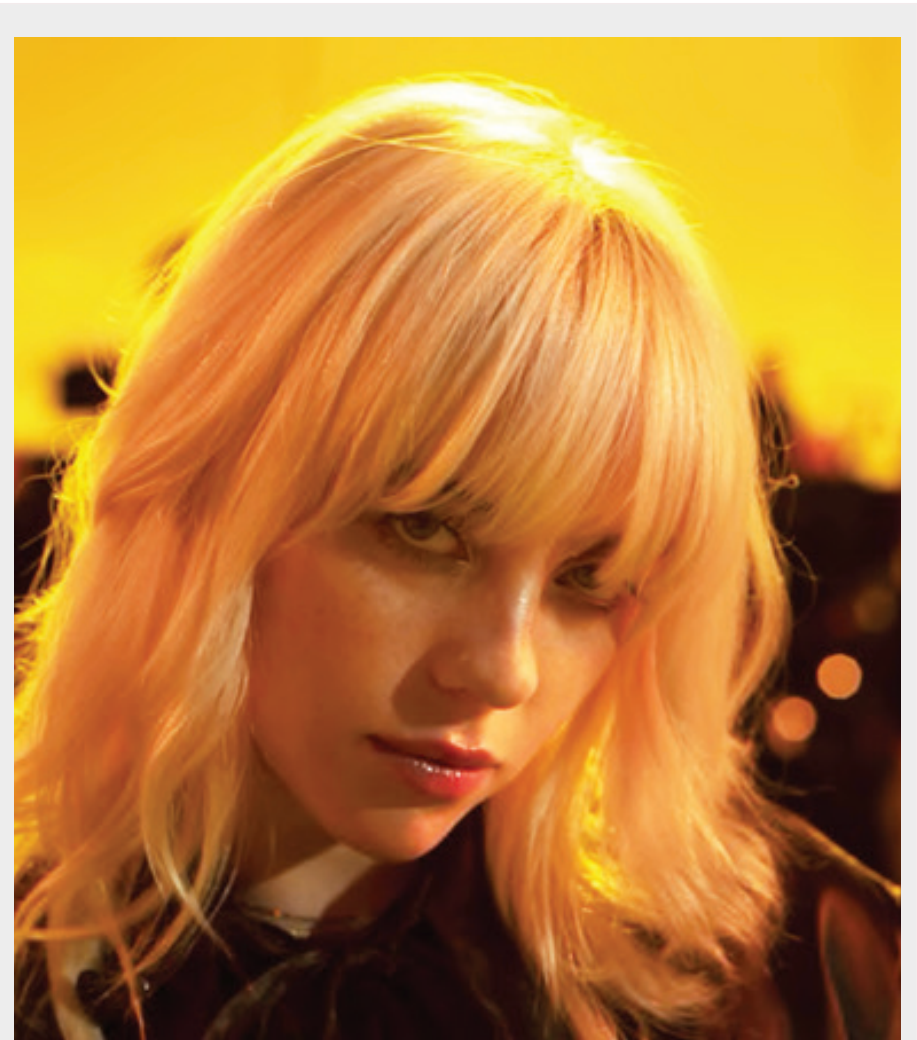
**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)**  
Expect to confront someone who will make an unwelcome request. Stand by your resolve to do the right thing no matter what “persuasion” might be offered.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)**  
A friendly competition could become more contentious than you expected. Take time out to discuss the reasons behind this unexpected change, and act accordingly.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)**  
You have a wonderful mind for solving mysteries, so you should feel confident about solving the one developing very close to you. An unlikely source offers help.

**BORN THIS WEEK**  
You’re a great host or hostess. You love being with people, and you’re very good about planning all sorts of social events that bring folks together.

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Billie Eilish in “Happier Than Ever: A Love Letter to Los Angeles”

COUCH THEATER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

probing and their own true-crime podcast. This 10-episode series also includes appearances by more big names like Nathan Lane, Tina Fey and Sting (yes, really ... Sting!). (Hulu)

**“The Dawn Wall”**  
-- Rock climbers are a special kind of athlete. Not only can they scale the flat side of a mountain using only their fingertips and toes, but they possess a unique internal drive for pursuing their sport. After experiencing two signifi-

cant events that would have made most people give up climbing on the spot and never look back, Tommy Caldwell managed to turn anguish and tragedy into his strongest motivator yet. His ultimate goal of successfully completing a never-before-climbed face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park was thought impossible. Even if climbing isn’t your thing, watch this documentary for the incredible scenery. (Netflix)

**In Case You Missed It**  
**“Late Night”** -- Emma Thompson plays a seasoned nighttime talk

show host about to lose her gig unless she conjures up some new excitement for her show. Enter Mindy Kaling as the young new writer in a roomful of men (she also wrote the movie). You can probably guess how the plot unfolds from here. Kaling is comedically perfect, and her chemistry with Thompson is dynamic. Sure, this 2019 film is a little formulaic in its storyline, but still worth a watch. John Lithgow and Hugh Dancy also star. (Prime Video)

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GATTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

“That made the band special and different,” Elliott said. “We weren’t trying to do anything but make good music and have fun. We weren’t looking to become stars. We just wanted to do what

we enjoyed doing.”

Gatton’s love of playing was seen by anyone who ever worked with him. He refused to be commercialized with his music and used to say, “the rainbow has many colors, so why stick to one color,” playing the way he wanted.

“Danny just didn’t get

the recognition that he should have gotten when he was alive, and unfortunately, he’s getting it now when it’s too late,” Elliott said. “I always knew that after he was gone, someone would listen to what he had done and realize that the world missed a lot with his sound.”



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Alireza Azima, Managing Member

**NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.**

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 **TOWN OF**  
**Herndon**  
**VIRGINIA**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the **Town Council** of the Town of Herndon, Virginia, will hold public hearing on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building located at 765 Lynn Street, Herndon.

The Town Council will hold a work session on Tuesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. A notice will be issued announcing the location and will also be posted on the town's Website on September 1. The public is invited to attend the work session to listen to the discussion among the Town Council and staff.

**Ordinance**, to amend Chapter 46 (OFFENSES), Article II (Firearms, Crossbows, and Pneumatic Guns), to amend definitions and to create a new Section 46-60 (Possession of Firearms on Town Property), to prohibit the possession, carrying, or transportation of any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof on Town property, in Town buildings or on certain other areas owned by the Town.

The proposed item is available for review by the public on the town's website [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov) beginning at 3:00 p.m. on **Friday**, prior to the meeting.

The public is encouraged to participate in the town's public hearing process. Individuals having an interest in the above item are invited to attend the public hearing and to state their opinions. Individuals may submit comments to [town.clerk@herndon-va.gov](mailto:town.clerk@herndon-va.gov).

The Town of Herndon supports the Americans with Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, so that they may participate in services, programs, or activities, offered by the Town. Please call (703) 435-6804 to arrange for any accommodation that may be necessary to allow for participation

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Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk

**Note to Publisher:**  
Publish on September 3, 2021

The image is a formal notice from the Town of Herndon, Virginia. At the top left is the town's seal, which is a circular emblem featuring a plow, a sheaf of wheat, and a ship, with the text 'TOWN OF HERNDON VIRGINIA' and '1879' around the perimeter. To the right of the seal, the title 'TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA' is written in a large, red, serif font, with 'TOWN OF' and 'VIRGINIA' in smaller, black, sans-serif fonts. Below the title, the words 'NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The main body of the notice consists of three paragraphs of text in a black, sans-serif font. The first paragraph states that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building. The second paragraph states that the Town Council will hold a work session on Tuesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. and a notice will be issued. The third paragraph, under the heading 'Ordinance', states that the Mayor will sign a third lease amendment to T-Mobile Northeast LLC. The notice also mentions a proposed item for review by the public on Friday, September 3, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. and encourages public participation. The notice is signed by Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk, and includes a note to the publisher dated August 27, 2021.