

NO DOUBT



Freedom celebrates its Class 6 state title win Dec. 10 at Old Dominion University.

DOUG STROUD | FOR INSIDENOVA

Freedom finishes what it started in winning Class 6 state title

» BY DAVID FAWCETT
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NORFOLK — By winning the first state title in the school's history, Freedom-Woodbridge stayed on script.

As they have done all season, the Eagles relied on their playmakers to produce points and their defense to stifle opponents in defeating Madison 48-14 in the Class 6 football championship game on Saturday at Old Dominion University.

In other words, there was nothing different or out of the ordinary in how Freedom (15-0) reached the pinnacle of high school football. No matter the opponent. No matter whether the game occurred during the regular season or the postseason. They led from the start. Extended their lead

throughout. And left the outcome never in doubt.

In doing so, Freedom, which opened in 2004, became the first state football champion from Prince William County since Battlefield won the Group AAA, Division 6 state title in 2010. Freedom is also the first football team from Prince William to go undefeated since Osbourn went 14-0 in 2006 to win the Group AAA, Division 6 state title.

And with most of the team returning, including all of its key skill players, Freedom is in position to repeat next season.

Sophomore running back Jeffrey Overton Jr. ran for 212 yards on 23 carries and three touchdowns, while junior quarterback Tristan Evans, the state-record holder for single-season touchdown passes, increased his total to 61 by throwing two Saturday.

Evans also increased his single-season touchdown responsibility (rushing-receiving-runbacks) to 72, which is second all-time in the state, four behind Ronald Curry. He finished the game 14 of 20 for 155 yards and one interception.

Overton's rushing total gives him 2,599 yards on the season, the most in Prince William high school history. Tyquan Brown, who graduated from Freedom in 2019, held the old mark of 2,584 over 15 games when Freedom last reached the state final in 2018.

Overton is also now the third mem-

STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS FROM PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Freedom was the eighth team from Prince William County to win a state football championship and the first since Battlefield accomplished the feat in 2010. Here's a complete list of Prince William's state champions and the score of their championship game.

2022

» Freedom-Woodbridge 48, Madison 14 (Class 6)

2010

» Battlefield 26, Hermitage 7 (Group AAA, Division 6)

2006

» Osbourn 42, Chantilly 20 (Group AAA, Division 6)

2004

» Manassas Park 20, Powell Valley 13 (Group A, Division 2)

2002

» Hylton 6, Oakton 0 (Group AAA, Division 6)

1999

» Hylton 28, Varina 27 (Group AAA, Division 6)

1998

» Hylton 21, Varina 13 (Group AAA, Division 6)

1990

» Gar-Field 13, Hampton 12 (Group AAA, Division 6)



Freedom assistant coach Jeff Overton kisses the championship trophy.
DOUG STROUD | FOR INSIDENOVA

ber of his family to win a state football title as a player. Jeffrey's uncle, Freedom head coach Darryl Overton, won one in 1998 with Hylton, and Jeffrey's father, Jeff Sr.,

STATE TITLE » PAGE 16

SPIRITS IN OCCOQUAN

Spooky good time returns to town

The town of Occoquan and Occoquan Business Partners are presenting the third year of their Spirits & Spirits events in historic Occoquan this weekend.

This year's event includes new activities for adults, kids and families. Here's a complete schedule of events, which kicked off last weekend with a screening of the movie "Beetlejuice" in River Mill Park.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m.
River Mill Park

Test your knowledge during Murder & Mystery Trivia Night! Play six rounds of seasonally themed brain busters for your

MORE INFORMATION

For more details and to buy tickets, visit visitoccoquanva.com/spirits

chance to win the \$100 gift card grand prize. Bring your team of up to eight along with camp chairs or blankets. Food, drinks, adult beverages and delicious treats are available for order right at your picnic circle, delivered by The Spot on Mill Street. Visit occoquanva.gov for weather updates.

Registration is \$30 for the whole team. Tickets available online or at the door.

COSTUME PARADE AND CONTEST

October 29 at 10 a.m.
Mill Street/River Mill Park

The family-friendly costume parade and contest will begin at 10 a.m. and head down Mill Street to River Mill Park,



where costume judging will take place. Judging categories include: cutest, scariest, funniest, most original and family/group. Winners in each costume category will be awarded \$25 gift certificates that can be used in select businesses in town. Parade participants will line up near the Riverwalk Shops, 125 Mill St. Free hayrides will be available in the park, too.

HAUNTED MAZE & SPIRIT GARDEN

Saturday, Oct. 29, 5-10 p.m.
305 Mill St.

Patriot Scuba hosts the Haunted Maze, rated PG-13 (for adults and brave, older kids). Enter the maze through the spooky Spirit Garden, then navigate through 15 themed areas full of scary skeletons, creepy crawlies and ghoulish goblins. You might even run into the grim reaper in one of the 32 scare zones!

When you are sufficiently

spooked, quench your thirst at the bar just outside the maze in the Spirit Garden. Order a Halloween

themed spirit as a DJ spins dance music. Food can be ordered from D'Roccas Grill. No tickets required for the Spirit Garden.

Admission to the maze is \$10 for ages 13 and up and \$5 for 12 and under. The maze is not recommended for young children.

All event proceeds from the Haunted Maze & Spirit Garden benefit nonprofit Patriots for Disabled Divers. Tickets available online or at the door.

Free shuttle service will be available Oct. 29 from 5 to 11 p.m. from the Route 123/Old Bridge commuter lot to the Haunted Maze and Spirit Garden.

VOTE & WIN CONTEST

October 28-29

Stroll through historic Occoquan on Friday, Oct. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 29, and vote for the best decorations, costumes and jack-o-lanterns at local businesses. Ballots are available at all participating businesses and can be cast in the red mailbox at Town Hall. Voters will be entered to win gift cards to use around Occoquan.

SHOP LATE IN OCCOQUAN

Saturday, Oct. 29

On Saturday, many businesses will be open until at least 8 p.m.



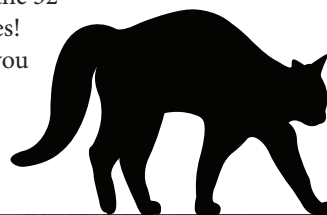
Reni Keith hands out candy after last year's parade costume contest, which had over 250 participants. PAUL LARA | INSIDENOVA FILE PHOTO



During last year's Spirits & Spirits event, Charles Keith (left) poses in front of his Occoquan house with Mayor Earnie Porta. PAUL LARA | INSIDENOVA FILE PHOTO



Elizabeth and John Madore and their children, Libby (left) and Lila, were among participants in last year's costume contest. PAUL LARA | INSIDENOVA FILE PHOTO





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HOW WE VOTED

CONGRESS (7th District)		
	Prince William	District
Abigail Spanberger (D)*	52,409 (67.5%)	140,120 (51.8%)
Yesli Vega (R)	25,002 (32.2%)	129,561 (47.9%)
CONGRESS (10th District)		
	Prince William	District
Jennifer Wexton (D)*	42,730 (51.1%)	152,557 (52.8%)
Hung Cao (R)	40,815 (48.8%)	135,575 (47%)

In 10th District race, Prince William results include the county as well as the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.



Incumbent Rep. Jennifer Wexton, shown here on Election Day in Warrenton, won a third term in Tuesday's election. Read the full story on Page 6. JAMES JARVIS | FOR INSIDENOVA

MANASSAS CITY COUNCIL

Three seats open

	Total
Theresa Coates Ellis (R)*	5,314 (18.9%)
Sonia R. Vasquez Luna (D)	4,825 (17.2%)
Ralph J. Smith (D)*	4,699 (16.7%)
Lynn Forkell Greene (R)*	4,523 (16.1%)
Dheeraj "DJ" Jagadev (D)	4,435 (15.8%)
R.E. "Rick" Bookwalter (R)	4,269 (15.2%)

MANASSAS SCHOOL BOARD

Three seats open

	Total
Lisa Anne Stevens*	4,932 (17.9%)
Sara J. Brescia	4,924 (17.8%)
Jill M. Spall*	4,650 (16.9%)
Samuel S. Gross	4,534 (16.4%)
Abraham A. "Alex" Iqbal*	4,350 (15.8%)
Melony M. "Mel" Kent	4,139 (15%)

DUMFRIES MAYOR

	Total
Derrick R. Wood*	616 (56.3%)
Ebony E. Lofton	467 (42.7%)

* - Incumbent

Results as of Wednesday afternoon. Absentee ballots postmarked by Tuesday will be counted if received Friday by noon. Visit InsideNoVa.com for updated results on all races.

HANGING ON



U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger celebrates her re-election in Virginia's 7th Congressional District during a victory party in Fredericksburg Tuesday. TAVAN SMITH | FOR INSIDENOVA

Spanberger fends off challenge from Vega

» BY NOLAN STOUT
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Democratic U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger will keep her seat, but she'll be representing a new set of people.

Spanberger narrowly fended off a challenge from Prince William County Supervisor Yesli Vega, R-Coles, in Tuesday's election for the 7th Congressional District.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Spanberger had a 10,815-vote lead, with 140,185 votes to Vega's 129,370, according to unofficial results from the Virginia Department of Elections.

Spanberger declared victory Tuesday at an election night party in Fredericksburg.

"Tonight is a night to celebrate," she said. "So tonight, as we celebrate, I ask that you reflect on how we can serve our communities, how we can bridge divides, how we can show through our actions a commitment to each other, the truth and the future we want to create for our country, our commonwealth and our communities."

Spanberger's win helped Democrats hold two of three tightly contested seats in Virginia in Tuesday's election. The 7th District in particular was seen as a bellwether for whether Republicans would capture a majority of seats in the U.S.



Supervisor and congressional candidate Yesli Vega at her watch party Tuesday. ANDREW FAREWELL | FOR INSIDENOVA

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New School Board takes shape in Manassas

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Neck-and-neck race for Manassas Council

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