

Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

FEBRUARY 26, 2009



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon girl's basketball team celebrates after defeating Edison for the outright National District title last Friday. The Majors split their two regular-season meetings with the Eagles but had little trouble in a 49-31 win. They take on West Springfield in Wednesday night's regional quarterfinals. The boy's team faces Annandale. Both games occur after the Gazette's press time.

Majors Sweep Districts



Mount Vernon junior Robert Smith goes behind his back past Stuart's William Ford in the Majors' 55-50 win last Friday night to capture the National District Tournament title.

Boy's and girl's teams also advance past first round of regional tournament.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

There's a reason the artists behind songs like the "Macarena" and "Who Let the Dogs Out?" won't be gracing the hallowed annals of musical history with the likes of the Rolling Stones or the Beatles any time soon.

The bottom line is one-hit wonders need not apply going up against veterans with albums full of memorable songs. The same is true on the basketball court.

Being a pleasant surprise only takes an impressive win or two. Becoming a champion takes an entire season. Just ask the Mount Vernon girl's basketball team, which proved to itself and the rest of the Northern Region there's a new force to reckon with during this week's regional tournament.

The Majors snapped Edison's five-year reign over the National District last Friday night, defeating the Eagles, 49-31, before starting the Northern Region Tournament on the right note

SEE MAJORS, PAGE 21

Lorton Loses Out For Healthplex

Lorton Healthplex remains on hold as Loudoun's gets green light.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

The long-promised Lorton Healthplex just took a back seat to Inova Health System's intention to move ahead with construction of a healthplex in Loudoun County that is "to be operational in 18 to 24 months," according to Barbara Doyle, CEO, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital.

That announcement conflicts with what Doyle told members of the Southeast Health Planning Task Force at their Jan. 8, meeting at the Mount Vernon Government Center.

"All Inova Health System capital projects have been put on indefinite hold. When the economy starts to turn around we will evaluate everything," she said at that meeting.

She also said that when that turnaround commences, the

Lorton Healthplex would be at the top of the priority list. In an interview Tuesday afternoon she maintained that remained the case, but that was of little comfort to Task Force Chairman and Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay or Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerald Hyland.

"This is a classic case of bait and switch. This is putting business ahead of people's health care and patient services," said McKay.

"I was not only shocked, to hear that the Loudoun Healthplex was being pushed ahead of the one that has been long promised in Lorton, but mad. It's was my understanding, as well as everyone else's, that no capital projects, not already under way, were to go forward until the economic climate improved," Hyland said.

DOYLE CALLED Hyland early
SEE LORTON, PAGE 3

Cars, Birders and Eagles: Something for Everyone

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

One of the favorite spots for U.S. Park Police to man their radar guns against potential speeding motorists on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, just south of Alexandria City limits, where the speed limit is only 35 mph, is now cordoned off with a jersey wall and snow fencing.

Thank the eagles.

Last week bird watchers from throughout the area were gather-

ing in that pull-off to observe and photograph two bald eagles that had built a nest in a tree on the eastern edge of Belle Haven Country Club's golf course. That raised concerns about their safety, not the eagles — the motorists, leaving and entering the parkway, especially during rush hours.

This concern was reported to the U.S. Park Service. Their response was to not only have the area temporarily blocked off but also to have any non-motorized birdwatcher/photographers ply

SEE PARK, PAGE 3

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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Marine Corp Marathon race director Rick Nealis answers questions at the special assembly at Hollin Meadows Science and Math Focus School. Nealis mentioned that as a child he liked catching butterflies. Most of the students' questions concerned butterflies.

Marathon's Healthy School Award

Marine Corp Marathon (MCM) race director Rick Nealis, Ronald McDonald and Miles, the Marine Corp Marathon "Bulldog" made a special presentation to the students at Hollin Meadows Science and Math Focus School on Thursday, Feb. 19. The school received the Healthy School award from the MCM and the Washington Family Magazine for participation in the Healthy Kids Fun Run held on October 25, 2008. More than 122 students from Hollin Meadows participated in the one-mile run.



Miles, the Marine Corp Marathon "Bulldog" leads the students in a few warm-up exercises.

Lorton Loses to Loudoun for Next Healthplex

FROM PAGE 1

Monday morning at the Fairfax County Government Center prior to the start of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting to break the news. "To say I was disappointed is a gross understatement to put it as mildly as possible," Hyland said.

Doyle and other representatives of IHS pleaded economic hardship at the January meeting to justify further delaying the Lorton Healthplex. However, since that meeting, HCA's Certificate of Public Need (COPN) was rejected by the State Health Department to build a hospital in Ashburn. HCA, the for profit health care organization that competes with the nonprofit IHS in Northern Virginia to provide health care facilities, then announced it would increase the capacity of its hospital in Reston.

Doyle justified the change in IHS plans as a legal commitment to the Loudoun County health facility as part of the terms of its joining IHS. "When that merger contract was written, IHS promised a new facility in three to four years. That time is now

here and we expect to have the healthplex operational in 18 to 24 months," Doyle said. "Inova feels we are financially capable of moving forward with this project and we are legally committed to do so," she said.

"Lorton is still a commitment to the community and Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. We are going to move forward with that commitment. The Loudoun project is an exception to the rule of all capital projects being on hold," Doyle said.

As chair of the task force, McKay has a different take on that rationale. "This is a direct slap in the face for Fairfax County — and particularly southeastern Fairfax County. The Lorton Healthplex was a critical element of the report written following the fight to save Inova Mount Vernon Hospital from being closed," he said.

"SINCE OUR JANUARY meeting the national economic picture has actually worsened — not improved. All projects system wide were to be frozen — no exceptions," he said.

"I see this as a repeat of their building the Springfield Healthplex. They thought that HCA was going to be competition in that area — I never saw a health facility go up so fast. If HCA had filed a COPN for Lorton two years ago we'd all be standing in the Inova Lorton Healthplex lobby right now," he said.

"They are going to have a lot of explaining to do at our [Task Force] next meeting. When you have a need you meet it or you don't — ethically," McKay said.

Doyle said that she was first made aware of the decision to move ahead with the Loudoun Healthplex on Feb. 18 by her supervisor Kylanne Green, chief administrative officer, IHS. However, the merger specifications were written at least three years ago.

But no official announcement was made until she called Hyland Monday morning and told IMVH physicians during a Department of Medicine meeting at the hospital

Monday night.

"I have still not received any official word on this. I don't appreciate that as chair of the Task Force," said McKay late Tuesday afternoon.

Although Doyle was not able to say how large the new healthplex will be

"Lorton is still a commitment to the community and Inova Mount Vernon Hospital."

— Barbara Doyle, CEO, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital

or how much it will cost, she did verify it will contain an emergency room, outpatient medical services, and room for an a number of physician offices. When actual construction will start has not been determined, according to Doyle.

Park Police Protect Eagles with Jersey Wall

FROM PAGE 1

their interest from the eastern side of the parkway along or just off the bike/walking path.

"We are required to have a 100 yard setback for eagle nesting areas. We put up the snow fence which was immediately torn down by a park visitor. Hence we have now put heavier barriers in place," said GW Parkway Superintendent Dottie P. Marshall.

"Those barriers will remain in place until the nesting season is over. That is usually mid to late March," she said.

It was also explained that bald eagles are fairly hardy souls and can fairly well tolerate human behavior — sometimes much better than other humans. That was brought to light when "George" and "Martha" decided to nest in the area of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge construction while work was ongoing.

In their case, it turned out that the greatest threat was from another, presumably younger, female eagle who took a fancy to George and decided to remove Martha from competition. There has been no indication of a repeat performance in the case of "Alex" and "Belle," the present raptors, so named by the birdwatchers.

As noted by birder, Richard Gamble, "For anyone who has not yet seen the eagles, check out Paula Sullivan's fabulous photographic record at www.phase.com/paulasullivan." It's also a lot safer that playing dodge-traffic at rush hour.

Parkway motorists should also not get too complacent. Park Police have many other nooks and crannies to operate their candid cameras — regardless of "Alex" and "Belle."

PHOTO BY PHILIP YABUT

On Feb. 14, the male is eating leftovers from a squirrel the eagles caught the previous day.





Former State Del. Brian Moran addresses the crowd prior to attendees casting their votes in a straw poll for the Democratic nominee for governor.



An overflow crowd packed the Stone Mansion at Stoneybrooke Park to cast their straw vote for the Democratic candidate for governor and lieutenant governor during Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee's Second Annual Mardi Gras Celebration.



State Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25) outlines his qualifications to be the Democratic nominee for governor.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK HAGEE/THE GAZETTE

Moran Wins Mount Vernon Straw Poll

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

More 160 people crowded into Stone Mansion at Stonybrooke Park Saturday night to cast their “straw ballot” for Democratic Party candidates seeking the opportunity to face off against former State Attorney General Robert McDonnell (R) in next fall’s race for Virginia governor. However, only two of those seeking their support were present.

Former Northern Virginia General Assembly Del. Brian J. Moran and southern Virginia state Sen. R. Creigh Deeds (D-25) both told the crowd of loyal Democrats they were the one to defeat McDonnell who is unopposed for the Republican nomination. “I will beat McDonnell like a drum,” Moran told

the crowd attending the Second Annual Mardi Gras Celebration of the Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee.

“Republicans always say that big government doesn’t work and that it doesn’t serve the people. Then when they get in power they prove it. Only Democrats can really govern,” Moran said.

Deeds was more low key during his seven minutes of face time with the crowd, but no less vehement in his desire to keep the Governor’s office in the Democrat column. “I intend to start my term of office with a list of priority programs to keep Virginia moving forward,” he said.

Deeds also applauded the fact that a Virginia governor is limited to one term. “We are the only state where the governor can advance his programs without worrying about re-election,” he said. However, as the

“I’m going to beat McDonnell like a drum.”

— Democrat Brian Moran, potential Gubernatorial candidate

other 49 state constitutions have concluded, a one-term governorship also reduces the chief executive’s capability to effectively use that re-electability in legislative struggles.

Originally all three Democrat candidates were to be present for the event. But, as announced just as the presentations began, Terry McAuliffe “phoned at 4:30 p.m. to say that he was committed to another function.”

McAuliffe also did not send a spokesperson to present his case for the nomination. But, his absence did not prevent his name from

remaining on the evening’s straw ballot.

Also included in the balloting and in making presentations seeking support were five candidate for the nomination of lieutenant governor. They were Jon Bowerbank, Pat Edmunson, Rich Savage, Mike Signer and Jody Wagner.

Following the “voting” it was announced that Moran had won the straw poll for Governor with 83 votes and Wagner for lieutenant governor with 62 votes. In the nomination race for governor, Deeds secured 43 votes and McAuliffe 33. The other lieutenant governor tallies were: Bowerbank 44, Edmunson 18, Signer 15, and Savage 10.

Prior to the various nomination hopefuls giving their pitches, newly elected U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-11) urged the crowd

SEE POLL, PAGE 5

NEWS BRIEFS

Going Once, Going Twice — Sold on eBay

Anyone desiring a piece of Fairfax County “memorabilia,” using the word in its broadest sense, may soon be able to find it on eBay if Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerald Hyland’s Monday Board Matter comes to fruition. And, the financial windfall could prove substantial.

He based his suggestion on an effort underway in Gwinnett County, Ga., where they have been posting a variety of items on eBay and racking in “a profit of more than \$1 million,” according to Hyland. He noted that the practice of using eBay to dispose of excess and discarded items by local governments isn’t new, but “is rap-

idly expanding.”

“After two years, the county’s [Gwinnett] online store has turned into a thriving business. The cost to maintain the county’s online store is \$90 per transaction including a \$45 commission for eBay,” Hyland said.

“I hope in the future we can dispose of our old diesel generators and worn out automated external defibrillators, pre-owned lawn tractors and excess cell phone power adapters, and see if the County Executive can find a way to sell them all on eBay,” he said.

To accomplish that, Hyland proposed that county staff evaluate the Georgia model program and return back to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation.

— CHUCK HAGEE

McKay Tells Governor: ‘We’re Ready’

Getting Fairfax County’s oar in the Federal Stimulus Package water was the primary thrust behind a Board Matter introduced by Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay during the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors’ meeting Monday. It included a December 2008 list of “shovel ready infrastructure projects” to accentuate “how quickly an infusion of federal funding could jump start the local economy.”

McKay said, “These projects include transportation, wastewater/stormwater solutions, and construction and renovation of facilities for schools and public safety,

with the majority of projects ready to begin construction in 2009, and all ready to begin by 2010.”

The county list includes many projects which would be built to green standards in line with the emphasis on increased green infrastructure by President Obama, according to McKay. He also called for county staff to post the county’s proposed stimulus package projects on the Governor’s Web site, www.stimulus.virginia.gov, as Gov. Timothy Kaine has requested for transparency purposes.

A letter from the supervisors to Kaine, containing that list of projects, stated, “This is a remarkable and historic opportunity for Northern Virginia and for the entire Commonwealth. Fairfax County is ready and willing to do our part in beginning the economic turnaround.”

NEWS

Poll Backs Moran, Wagner

FROM PAGE 4

to work hard to keep the governorship in Democratic hands. "The Republicans are going to throw everything they have at us in this race. We have to be united state-wide behind whom ever wins the nomination — for governor and lieutenant governor," Connolly said.

The first Mardi Gras Celebration and straw poll by the Mount Vernon District Committee was held last year preceding the race for President and the 11th Congressional District seat then held by retiring U.S. Rep. Thomas M. Davis III. That poll turned out to be a 50/50 indicator of the actual election outcome.

Connolly won that poll as the potential candidate for Congress and former U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton won as the potential presidential candidate.

McKay, Bulova Praise Kaine For Smoking Ban Victory

Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay, as chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee, joined Board Chairman Sharon Bulova in a Feb. 23 letter to Gov. Timothy Kaine congratulating him on his recent legislative victory banning smoking in most restaurants and bars statewide. But, they want the effort against smoking to continue.

"We applaud your consistent efforts over the years in trying to restrict smoking in public places. We believe this year's success in putting in place reasonable restrictions is a major step forward in Virginia ... advocacy for such an essential public health issue must continue to move forward," they stated.

Paramount to their suggested continuing campaign against smoking is the health risks and cost of public monies in dealing with secondhand smoke exposure. They noted that "secondhand smoke is responsible for 1,700 deaths per year" and that "the Commonwealth spends \$113 million per year on health care expenditures related to secondhand smoke exposure."



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OPINION

Three Steps on Health Care

Smoking restrictions, SCHIP, Cobra subsidies should lead to a healthier Virginia.

For a minute, some would be forgiven for wondering if we were still in Virginia.

A smoking ban for many bars and restaurants? In Virginia? Amazing.

Long overdue, the result will be a healthier environment for many employees of bars and restaurants who have toiled for years while breathing in a carcinogenic soup. It's never appropriate to say that wait staff, bartenders and others can "choose" to work in places that are smoke-free if they want to. In the current economy, the current job market, anyone who has a job knows they need to hang onto it if they can.

It's up to the state to ensure that employees work in a safe environment, and Virginia's new smoking restrictions are a good step in that direction.

The new rules will also benefit many businesses. In other areas, restaurant business has actually increased after smoking bans went into effect as more families and other people who were avoiding smoke-filled rooms come out to

enjoy the newly cleared air.

SCHIP: All of Northern Virginia's members of Congress voted to reauthorize and expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a step for healthier children and families here. The SCHIP program helps states provide health insurance coverage to uninsured children, providing health insurance to children and some parents with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, but who can't afford private health insurance. The SCHIP Reauthorization bill expands health coverage to 55,000 uninsured Virginia children who do not qualify for Medicaid, in addition to the 155,000 children statewide already covered by the SCHIP program.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) helps to extend health coverage to children in low-income working families with incomes above the cut-off for Medicaid coverage. Enacted in 1997, this program operates under the FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security). Families are eli-

gible for this program with incomes up to twice (200 percent), of the federal poverty level. For example, in Virginia a family of four can make up to \$41,300 a year and still be eligible for FAMIS.

COBRA: As part of the economic stimulus bill recently passed in Congress, the Federal government will pay for 65 percent of the costs of continuing health insurance for people who lose their jobs. Going into effect March 1, the rule applies to people who lost their jobs or will lose their jobs involuntarily between last September 2008 and the end of 2009. (The subsidy is not retroactive; employees will be offered another chance to enroll in COBRA however.) Health insurance is available for terminated employees under COBRA, but without the subsidy, many unemployed people cannot afford the high premiums. The former employers will be required to pay the 65 percent, with the former employee paying 35 percent. Employers will be "reimbursed" by the Federal program by reducing their payroll taxes by that amount.

— MARY KIMM,

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EDITORIAL

As in 1808 ...

George Washington's Grist Mill and Distillery have been closed since Oct. 31, but for the past 15 days there has been plenty of activity in the distillery.

Master distiller Dave Pickerell of Louisville, Ky. has been on-site in the distillery working with the staff brewing up 100 gallons of rye whiskey. When the distillery was in production in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, it was rye whiskey that was made. And the whiskey would have

been sold unaged.

Assistant director of the Mount Vernon Estate Dennis Pogue said the demand for the distillery whiskey was so high last season that they went to work on creating a new inventory. Two charred barrels of rye whiskey were also made and the barrels sealed and will soon be stored. The original distillery was last in production in 1808. The building burned down a few years later.

The Grist Mill and Distillery re-open to the public on April 1.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Master distiller Dave Pickerell, formerly with Maker's Mark and now a private consultant, uses a hydrometer and a thermometer to check the proof of a batch of rye whiskey. Pickerell said that an old method of testing the proof was to mix the whiskey with gun powder, make a paste and light it. If the paste flashed when lit, it was 100 proof. Any less than 100 would burn and go out with no flash.



Daniel Purkey and Randolph Bragg work on feeding the fires while the last whiskey is collected. The men noted that in the past two weeks they have burned near three cords of wood to maintain the fires in the stills.



Stream water is added to the barrels that hold the coil that is condensing and distilling the whiskey.



A special reserve of two charred barrels of rye whiskey are date and signed by the distiller and the distillery staff.



Assistant director of the Mount Vernon Estate Dennis Pogue.

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To have a notice listed in the Bulletin Board, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

OPPORTUNITY

The Fairfax County Police Department is now seeking residents to attend the upcoming **Spring Citizens Police Academy**, held Thursday evenings March 12 through May 16. Free. For more information or an application form, e-mail CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-280-0713.

The Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary is currently accepting **applications for adult volunteers** at

2501 Parkers Lane. A variety of positions are available. For further information, call 703-664-7260, or visit www.inova.org.

Two **Success Strategies Assistants** needed to work with a team of volunteers and a group of about 12 students to coach them on goal-setting, resume writing, and interview techniques. Visit www.volunteermatch.org for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

Practice SAT-ACT Exam. 8 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School. Students at any school can take the test. \$10/

person. Register, 703-360-3822.

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

Web Design for Children. 1 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Students age 8-14 can learn about how to design their own Web sites. \$200/child for the 5-week course. Register by calling 703-548-0035.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

Meeting. 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. "Southern Claims Commission" is presented by Sharon Hodges. Free. Visit www.MVGenealogy.org or 703-360-0920.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Volunteer Session. 11 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Become a volunteer for Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates. Free. 703-273-3526 ext. 22.

ONGOING

Hopkins House

(www.hopkinshouse.org) is a local charity that provides preschool services for children and offers family education workshops for parents. This time of year donations of facial tissue, diapers/pull-ups, wipes, batteries, construction paper, and crayons are needed. 703-539-4232 ext. 4086.

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PEOPLE



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

This third-grade team featured, from left, Emma Forsythe, Emma Melvin, Calla Totaro, Carly Mang, and Claire Callahan. At right, students reveal their jump roping skills.

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At Fort Hunt Elementary: 'Get Fit'

Friday Night's "Get Fit Night" brought the Ft. Hunt Elementary community together to celebrate healthy lifestyles. The centerpiece of the evening was the school's annual Jump-A-Thon fundraiser, which brought teams of students, teachers, and parents onto the

gym floor to jump rope for half an hour. A soundtrack kept the more than 250 jumpers inspired and singing along.

Throughout the evening, nutrition experts and fitness gurus provided demonstrations and information designed to inspire a commitment to healthy choices.

PEOPLE NOTES

The Mount Vernon Genealogical Society recently awarded its Presidential Award for Meritorious Achievement to **Mary Jo Reding** for her work in managing the Research Center.

Air National Guard Staff Sgt. **Somkiat Cholvanich** participated in the 56th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 20 as part of the largest ever contingent of National Guard members to serve in Washington, D.C. He is the son of Yupa Chin of Alexandria. The sergeant received a bachelor's degree in 1999 from Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, N.J.

Army National Guard Sgt. **Jasmyne A. Ellison** participated in the 56th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 20 as part of the largest ever contingent of National Guard members to serve in Washington, D.C. She is the daughter of James A. Ellison and Lynette Robinson of Alexandria. The guardsman graduated in 2002 from Thomas A. Edison High School.

SCHOOL NOTES

The following student at Coastal Carolina University earned dean's list status: **Anna L. Tupy**, Alexandria.

The following students were named to the high list, Episcopal High School's academic honor roll: **Elizabeth Stuart Agnew**, freshman; **Pendleton Clark Agnew, Jr.**, sophomore; **Claire Gratz Battis**, senior; **Quinn Topper Caslow**, freshman; **Peter Angus Markoski**, senior; **Paige Anne Micklem**, senior; **Angelique Lynn Phillips**, sophomore; **Charles Davidson Snow**, junior; and **William Winkenwerder III**, junior.

The annual **Spring Mulch Sale** will be sponsored by the Mount Vernon High School Class of 2009 Parent Council to benefit a safe All Night Graduation Party. The shredded mulch is sold in bags measuring 3 cubic feet and costs \$5 per bag. Free delivery is available for orders of 10 or more bags. The delivery of mulch will occur on March 28. For more information, call Shirley Shammass, 703-780-6760.

Bishop Ireton senior **Emily Conron** has been named a National Merit Finalist.



Grand Opening

Superhero Captain Running Man cuts the ribbon to open the new Anytime Fitness, co-ed fitness club in Engleside Plaza on Friday, Feb 20. Anytime Fitness is a new member of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. Helping with the ribbon cutting are (left to right) Katy Fike, McEneaney Commercial; Carl Hahn, owner; Captain Running Man; Beverly Hahn, owner; John Herrity, Alexandria Chevy; Jeff Todd, Roy Rogers Restaurants; and Ginger Krup, Mount Vernon Gazette.

HISTORY

History and War in Human Terms

Getting to know those who bled for the birth of a nation as seen in the exhibit "George Washington and His Generals."

By CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

In a letter to the president of Congress, dated Sept. 24, 1776, General George Washington said, "There is nothing that gives a man consequence, and renders him fit for command, like a support that renders him independent of everybody but the State he serves."

That statement could well serve as the guiding principle of the new exhibit which opened Feb. 21 in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum at Mount Vernon Estate. Entitled "George Washington & His Generals," it focuses on the conduct of the American Revolutionary War through the style and perceptive leadership of its commander-in-chief and the general officers who served with him.

Co-sponsored by The Society of the Cincinnati, it contains more than 120 painting, prints, personal artifacts, and manuscripts associated with 17 of the 81 generals of the Continental and French armies that fought their way from New England to Yorktown against the British, the greatest military force of the 18th century.

In addition to Mount Vernon and The Society, the exhibit draws from nearly 40 of the

nation's foremost fine arts museums, historical societies, and private collections. It offers an insight to the men and their personal strengths and weaknesses as much as to the conduct and battles of the war itself.

"This exhibit is very different for us at Mount Vernon. Our traditional focus has been on George Washington's home life and his plantation. This show concentrates on the action of the 18th century," said James C. Rees, executive director, Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, in kicking off a press pre-

"This exhibit is very different for us at Mount Vernon."

—James C. Rees, executive director, Mt. Vernon Estate & Gardens

view show Feb. 18. It will run through Jan. 10, 2010.

"That is why we have joined with The Society of the Cincinnati. We hope to expose many of the personalities of those generals and how Washington dealt with that mix through this exhibit," Rees said.

"We talk about our revolution more than any other people in the world talk about their revolution, if they have had one. But, we tend to focus on the philosophy and rationale behind it rather than the battles and the men who commanded those battles," said Jack Duane Warren, Jr., executive director, The Society of the Cincinnati, based in Washington, D.C.

"We tend to lose sight of the fact that the Revolutionary War was made up of people who were prepared to give their lives for the cause. And, many of them did," he said.

"No American war since has produced such a diverse group of general officers. Our Revolutionary War, in many ways, is a great romantic drama where the soldiers' lives are re-

flected through their deeds," Warren said.

"Many of Washington's generals had far more military experience than he did. And, in some cases, at the beginning, they resented him being commander-in-chief," he said.

"Washington's strength and brilliance was

that he learned from his mistakes and he built a hard core of leaders around him that he trusted. By the end of the war, in his farewell address, he referred to them as his Band of Brothers," Warren said.

THE EXHIBIT presents a comprehensive and realistic look into the trials and tribulations of the war as well as its ultimate success in the final major battle at Yorktown. It also highlights the so-called southern campaign which commenced in 1779—the battles of the south that are not well known.

It also portrays many of Washington's frustrations and exasperation with some of his generals and command officers, highlighted by the betrayal of Gen. Benedict Arnold, a Washington favorite until his treason, and the failure of Gen. Charles Lee at the Battle of Monmouth Court House, which led to the end of his military career. The latter is portrayed in the exhibit's largest and most striking painting done in 1857 by American artist Emanuel Leutze.

Those frustrations were often conveyed to others through Washington's letters,

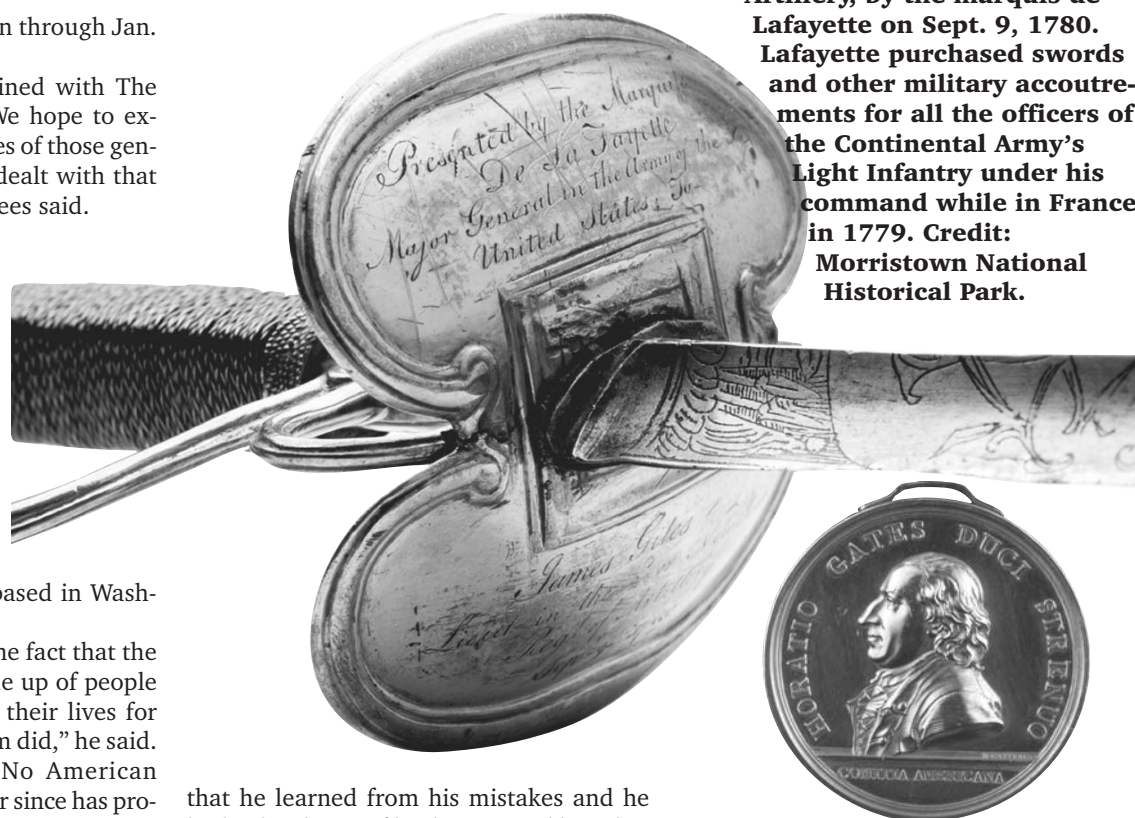
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The Diamond Eagle, originally drawn by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and created by Duval and Francastel of Paris, bears the image of Cincinnatus, the Roman citizen soldier who refused to become a dictator after leading his armies to victory, on both sides and is suspended from a blue and white ribbon — representing France and America in the war against the British.

Detail of inscription on the hilt of a French sword, ca. 1750-1770, recording its presentation to Lt. James Giles, 2nd Continental

Artillery, by the marquis de Lafayette on Sept. 9, 1780.

Lafayette purchased swords and other military accoutrements for all the officers of the Continental Army's Light Infantry under his command while in France in 1779. Credit: Morristown National Historical Park.



Comitia Americana medal, Horatio Gates at Saratoga, 1777, engraved by Nicolas-Marie Gatteaux, Paris, France, 1787. Gates was one of Washington's most controversial generals. His victory at Saratoga in October 1777 prompted some to suggest he should replace Washington as commander in chief. Credit: New York Historical Society.

which he penned, on average, four a day throughout the eight years of battle. One statement, captured in the exhibit, illustrates his concern. "I am now embroiled on a tempestuous ocean from which perhaps no friendly harbor is to be found," Washington wrote in June 1775 as he attempted to create a citizen army and met many of his generals for the first time in Cambridge, Mass.

The exhibit is divided into nine categories emphasizing different phases of the war and the generals who played significant roles in each phase. As visitors enter the exhibit they are greeted by a large display highlighted by a portrait of Washington and explaining his leadership challenge upon receiving his commission as commander-in-chief on June 15, 1775.

Moving clockwise, visitors are introduced to exhibits under the headings of First Generals, Martyred Heroes, Trusted Lieutenants, Critics, Rivals and a Betrayer, Foreign Volunteers, Rising Leaders, The Grand Alliance, and, finally, Republican Heroes. In each case the theme is captured through artifacts, writings, paintings and the spirit of the moment.



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SEE GEORGE, PAGE 20

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CALENDAR

E-mail calendar announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

ONGOING

The public can participate in the second annual "Alexandria Recreation Games for Healthy Living," through March 6. An awards ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, at the Lee Center Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St. To register, pick up an information packet at the Chiquapin

Park Recreation Center, or online at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services present free **dance workshops** at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, from 3:30-5 p.m. on Feb. 27, March 13, 27, April 10, 24 and May 8. To register, 703-324-4386.

Beginning Feb. 25, the **T.C. Williams High School Planetarium** will welcome the Alexandria community one night each month during the school year for a free hour-long show. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for "A Night With the Stars," which will

run from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Advance registration, required, may be completed online at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/planetarium/> or by calling the planetarium at 703-824-6805, extension 6300.

Woodlawn's Needlework exhibition is **March 1-31** at 9000 Richmond Highway. There will be demonstrations, lunch by Nelly's Needlers and more. See needleworks from around the world. Visit www.woodlawn1805.org or 703-780-4000 for more.

Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during Mount Vernon's storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon," held every **Saturday and Sunday** at 2 p.m. in **March** at the Hands-On History room in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center. "Working Together" is the theme for March's storytelling sessions. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; youth ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. The Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., presents "Object D'Art," a juried exhibition designed to challenge the artists' creative energy by reaching beyond comfort-zones and exploring new styles and new mediums. The exhibit runs Feb.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16



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3601
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8304
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3232
Woodland Ln
\$649,900

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4212
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4300
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2400 GRANGE HALL LANE
Arlington - \$334,900

WELL MAINTAINED 4Br/3Ba home w/2 car garage in Apple Grove. 3 fin lvl over 3,000 sq ft. Needs some touch up & appliances. REO property.



THE CAREY TEAM
Sean Satkus/Kendra Carey
703.731.8086



8817 LINTON LANE
Alexandria So / Ft Hunt - \$625,000

PREMIER SHOWING . . . Of this lovely 5 bedroom home. The light, bright renovated kitchen is a delight & a 5th separate bedroom and bath is perfect for guests, in-laws or nanny. From Alex / OT: S GW Pkwy, R Vernon View, L Wakefield, R Linton to 8817



Leah Chapla 703.929.4875



801 NORTH PITT STREET / UNIT 218
Alexandria - \$187,000

Port Royal corner unit studio w/private balcony. Updated bath, new HVAC. Rooftop grill deck w/ smashing views, low condo fee includes all utilities. 24 hour concierge. Pet-friendly building. Plenty of off street parking. Fabulous location!



GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!
Martha Deal 703.622.6797



OPEN SUN. 1-4

421 C CAMERON STREET
Historic Old Town - \$795,000

PITT MEWS GEM
Fabulous 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths, all-brick townhouse with garage in Heart Of Old Town. Master bedroom with loft, custom built-ins/wainscoting. Bright kitchen, L/R fireplace, hardwood floors including loft. 1 block to King Street, 4 blocks to River. To view this rarely available model located 1/2 block from Gadsby's Tavern and City Hall, please call Philip G. Matyas.



Philip G. Matyas 703.518.8727



1819 DUFFIELD LANE
Belle Haven - \$599,900

BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN. Turn key 3 lvl TH w/garage on prime lot backing to woods. 3 - 4 BR, 3.5 BA, open floor plan, new granite and SS, kitchen opens to DR & LR w/FP, rec room & spacious tiered patio. Updated throughout. \$40K in extras NOT INCLUDED in price. Only one light to Old Town & GW Parkway. Owner / Agent.



Francena Alvarez 804.690.1618



5108 REMINGTON
Alexandria / MT Vernon - \$875,000

SPECTACULAR home on premium lot, backs to woods & water access for boating! Fabulous addition, 5/6 Br, 3.5Ba, Great room w/stone FP, sep DR w/FP, gourmet kit, Master suite w/Spa Ba, French doors to private deck w/hot tub, exercise rm. Hardwoods throughout, views from every room. Screened porch connects 2 patios. Lush landscape.



Kim Lillywhite 703.966.2286

www.CBMove.com/Alexandria

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Open Sunday 1-4



5009 Mt Vernon Memorial Hwy | \$899,000

Spectacular 5 bedroom 4.5 bath Colonial in historic Mount Vernon! Custom built home with all the modern amenities. Grand two story foyer and family room with stone fireplace. Gourmet kitchen with granite, stainless steel appliances, and solid cherry 42" cabinets, custom crown moldings throughout, custom paint, hardwoods, fully finished basement with bedroom, bonus room and full bathroom. On an ample half acre, flat lot that is fully fenced. Large 2 car garage. Water access too! Don't miss this one! www.5009MtVernon.com

Rachel Carter | 703 851-4207 Mount Vernon

Open Sunday 1-4



6631 Wakefield Drive #708 | \$265,000

New Price! Two Bedroom, 1.5 Bath condo at River Towers shows like a model. Everything has been done for you. Located on 26 acres backing to wetlands. Ample free parking, convenient location, close to shops, restaurants, George Washington Parkway and bus to Huntington Metro. Great new price, great views and great location. Don't miss this one!

Denise Davis | 571 332-8531 Alexandria S

New Listing



7631 Essex Manor Court | \$1,239,000

Owners have just completed a beautiful renovation top to bottom. Open and Sunny floor plan. New fiberglass windows, kitchen with granite and SS appliances, baths, hardwood floors throughout main level, designer carpet and closets, high ceilings, 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 2 car garage, study, 2 fireplaces, 2/3 acre in cul de sac with private deck and play set. A perfect home for entertaining. Model home condition.

Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158 Alexandria S

New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



4909 John Ticer Drive | \$940,000

Spectacular detached cottage home in prime location. Sun-filled with 3,350+ square feet on 3 levels, 4BRs, 3.5BAs, chef's kitchen with granite, SS appliances opens to fabulous great room, high ceilings, custom moldings, gleaming hardwoods, plantation shutters throughout, 2-car garage, et al. Second fam rm on lower level can be 4th BR. One half block to beautiful Brenman park, free shuttle to Metro. Photos on www.paddockhomes.com.

Vaughn & Diane Paddock | 703 628-2828 Cameron Station

New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



9216 Presidential Drive | \$569,000

Welcome home to this charming 5 bedroom/ 3 bath rambler on half-plus acre near historic Mount Vernon. Main level features eat-in kitchen, living room/ dining room with fireplace, a main level master bedroom with bath, and two additional bedrooms with bath. Lower level features family room with fireplace and French doors leading to patio. Two more bedrooms with bath perfect for au pair, guest or teenagers. Located just off GW Parkway, near Potomac River, Old Town and Fort Belvoir.

Cindie Fish | 703 201-4451 Mount Vernon

New Listing



2151 Jamieson Avenue #1111 | \$389,900

BEST WASHINGTON DC VIEW at Carlyle!
One bedroom, 1.5 bath has separate dining room, breakfast area the 827 square feet). Upgrades include marble foyer & powder room, Berber carpet, larger washer dryer, custom blinds, etc. Enjoy pool, two gyms, tennis courts, putting green, 24-hr security. Just blocks to two metros, shops, movies, restaurants & Whole Foods.

Brenda Stone | 703 615-4862 Alexandria City

New Listing



2121 Jamieson Avenue #1603 | \$739,000

Absolutely Gorgeous! Beautifully updated & maintained. 2 BD with BD 3/Den end unit with lots of light, one garage space and extra storage. Special custom French doors to glass enclosed balcony, many built-ins! Whirlpool tub, glass enclosed shower, views of Masonic Temple. Condo fee includes swimming pool, two gyms, tennis, 24-hr management and security. Close to two metros, movies, restaurants, shops and Old Town.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703 836-2080 Alexandria City

New Price Open Sunday 1-4



409 North Columbus Street | \$789,000

Historic Home built in 1890 with 12 foot ceilings, 2 fireplaces, wood floors, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, updated kitchen and fenced-in patio; this brick end townhome had great room sizes and tons of sun! From Washington and King Streets, north on Washington Street, left on Princess Street and right on Columbus Street to 409. Please call Bonnie Rivkin for more information 703.598.7788 www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Old Town

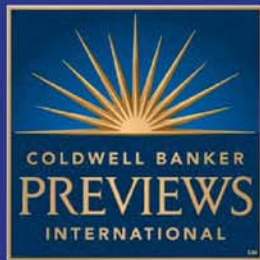
New Listing



2151 Jamieson Avenue #1911 | \$387,750

Fantastic 19th floor panoramic DC Skyline view from Carlyle Towers. One bedroom, 1.5 bath has many upgrades including wood floors, Brand new master bedroom carpet, larger washer/dryer, tiled balcony, custom blinds. 827 square footage does not include the enclosed glass balcony with stunning views, perfect as den or office. Enjoy pool, two gyms, tennis, putting green, 24-hr security. Just blocks to two metros, shops, movies, restaurants & Whole Foods.

Brenda Stone | 703 615-4862 Alexandria City



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New Listing

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



500 South Fairfax Street
\$1,199,000



Fabulous brick end townhome filled with light and space and a practical floor plan for everyday living. Four bona fide bedrooms and 3.5 baths, two master bedrooms, newly redone kitchen with stainless appliances and granite counters. Private patio with off-street parking— The list goes on. The attic has the capacity to be expanded into living space - the choice is yours. To see more photos, go to www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com or call 703.598.7788 for more information or a private showing.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Old Town, SE

Coming Soon

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



600 Upland Place
\$1,549,000

Gorgeous home completely renovated and expanded on a double corner level lot in one of the finest neighborhoods in Alexandria. 5 BR/4BA; gourmet kitchen with Wolf double oven, Sub-Zero refrigerator, granite countertops, and island; two fireplaces; hardwoods and plantation shutters throughout; master suite with balcony; two car garage; and huge backyard with charming playhouse and slate patio. Only blocks to King Street Metro, Starbucks, restaurants, and shops.

Jill Milliken | 703 338-6614 Alexandria
Sherry York | 703 625-3377

Open Sunday 1-4

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



1500 Grassymeade Lane
\$899,000



A lovely, all brick spacious colonial featuring five/six bedrooms and 3.5 baths with a 2-car garage. Off a "country lane" just down the George Washington Parkway on a wooded lot. Open and spacious with cozy two fireplaces, hardwoods, lovely eat in kitchen with large island and granite countertops inviting family room perfect for gatherings. Directions: South on George Washington Parkway, right on Collingwood Road, left on Fort. Hunt Road, right on Grassymeade Lane.

Karen Leonard | 703 328-7041 Alexandria S

Everything on Your Wish List

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



610 South Washington Street
\$1,899,000



Every once in a while a special property becomes available that will excite even the most discerning purchaser. This sun drenched brick end townhouse is only 2 years old and has extraordinary attention to detail, from the high ceilings, double crown molding, to the reclaimed pines floors on 3 levels to the media room with it's mini-kitchen and wine closet on the lower level. This home also includes a private gated entrance leading to its' detached 2 car garage. Perfect for entertaining, the gourmet kitchen flows into the family room and the back yard/patio area. Four gas fireplaces, including one on the rooftop deck. 3 BD and 4.5 BA completes the over 3300 finished sq ft. Call 703.598.7788 for more information. www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Old Town

Perfection

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



904 North Overlook Drive
\$835,000



Sited on a lovely level lot with towering oaks, this beautifully maintained three bedroom plus two and a half bath brick colonial awaits the most discriminating purchaser. Many special features including a formal living room with fireplace, separate dining room, cheerful sunroom and a recently updated kitchen with adjoining breakfast room and charming bay window. This fine home boasts hardwood floors, plaster walls, Pella windows, spacious family room, garage plus abundant storage. This is a gem! Reasonably priced at \$835,000.

Donnan C Wintermute | 703 518-6156 Beverley Hills

New Listing

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



502 Upland Place
\$1,195,000

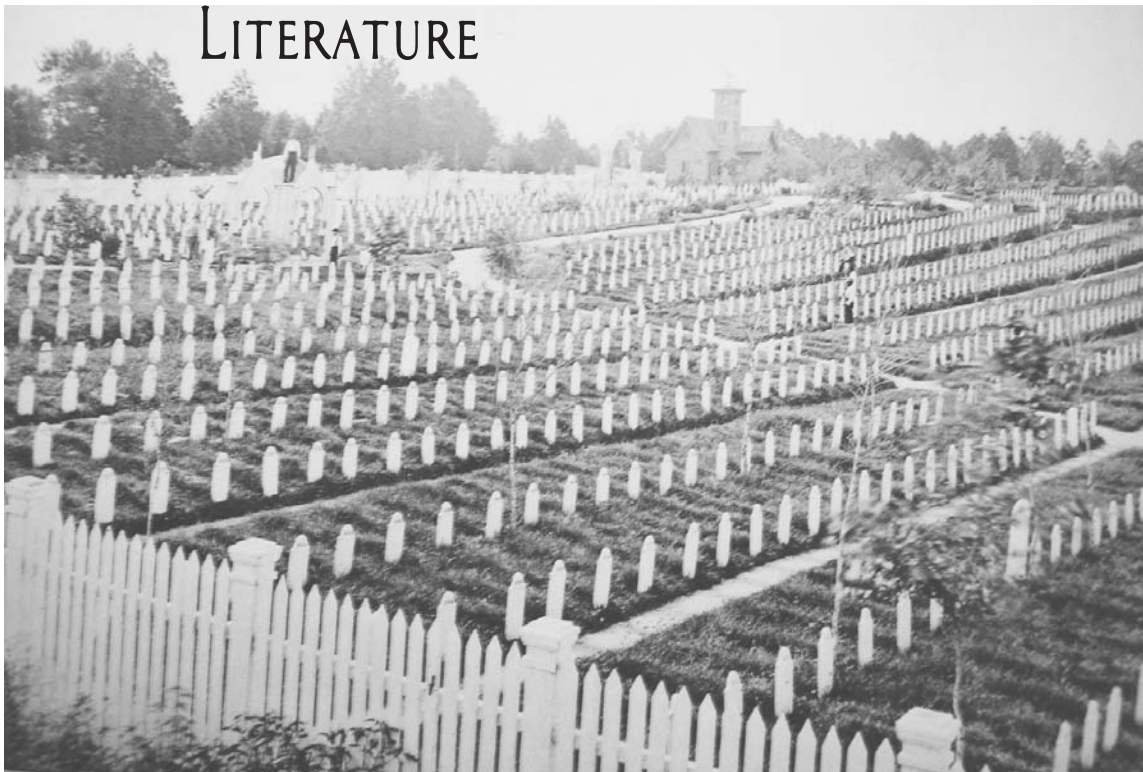


Wonderful home just blocks from the metro. Six bedrooms, 3.5 baths, kitchen plus breakfast room, living room, dining room, family room, gorgeous master suite, four fireplaces and full basement! You won't believe the size of the rooms. Perfect house for relaxing or entertaining. Great, close in location. First floor bedroom and bath. Totally renovated/updated. For information call: Linda Trinkle Wolf 703-836-8259

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703 518-6165 Alexandria

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LITERATURE



This 19th-century photograph of the Alexandria National Cemetery shows the footpaths that once meandered through the graveyard.

Everything for Everybody

Book of historic Virginia photographs features dozens of images from across the commonwealth.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The silvery crisp image from Fluvanna County in 1912 is an unlikely place to find the heart of “Historic Photos of Virginia,” issued recently by Turner Publishing. Yet there it is painted on the side of L.O. Hayden’s general store — an advertisement boasting “Everything for Everybody.”

“If the proprietor could not be all things to all people,” mused husband-and-wife authors Emily and John Salmon in the caption, “at least he had ‘Everything for Everybody.’”

Although the collection does not include an image from the interior of Hayden’s store, readers of the coffee-table book are taken on a tour through time and space with a collection of dozens of images featuring everything from square-dancing children in Roanoke to beach-going teenagers at Buckroe Beach.

Alexandria features prominently in the book, with images including the Jones Point lighthouse in disrepair, the Carlyle House as part of the old Mansion House Hotel and the now-demolished Alexandria Post Office and Custom House at the southwest corner of Prince and St. Aspah streets.

“With everything that’s going on with the economy right now, it’s really nice to look back and see how far we’ve come,” said Liz Chenery, marketing associate with Tennessee-based Turner Publishing Company. “Looking back on these old photos is a great reminder that our ancestors made it through some really hard times, which is encouraging considering everything that’s going on right now.”

TURNER PUBLISHING COMPANY specializes in producing coffee-table books of historic photos, with 130 titles including books specific to Alexandria, Arlington, Richmond and Hampton Roads. In March the publishing company plans to release a book of historic photos of Ernest Hemingway, and then another book of historic photos from North Virginia Beach in April. The Alexandria book of historic pho-

tographs was compiled by Rita Williams Holtz and Julie Ballin Patton, who dug into the Alexandria library’s archive of more than 38,000 historic photos.

“People think of Old Town, and they think of the seaport, shipping and the founding fathers,” said Holtz in an interview last year. “They tend to forget that Alexandria went through some hard times.”

Following on the success of several successful books focusing on specific cities such as Alexandria, “Historic Photos of Virginia” broadens the frame of reference to include every corner of the commonwealth — from modest frame houses in Virginia Beach to grand estates in Albemarle County. Some of the photos show the original context of buildings now surrounded by the rush of modern life, such as the haunting shot of Alexandria’s Episcopal Seminary during the clear-cut sparse landscape of the Civil War. Others show long-gone buildings, demolished in urban-renewal efforts or to make way for larger roads across the commonwealth. Together they show the sweep of history and hint at a world that is in many ways passing from view.

“We hope that ‘Historic Photos of Virginia’ will be a catalyst for preservation, that people will look at the images and captions, remember the places that are gone, and recognize the buildings that still stand and work to preserve them,” said author Emily Salmon in a written statement about the book.

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— Liz Chenery

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MASON PATRIOTS

OPINION

Helping The Guard

BY KRISTIN AMUNDSON
DELEGATE (D-44)

This week, one of my most important pieces of legislation advanced toward final passage. It is HB 2342, which will provide educational assistance to members of the National Guard.

Earlier in the year, I was contacted by a Guard member who had been on an extended overseas deployment. He arrived home in the middle of the semester, which meant he had to wait to enroll in classes. As a result, he was going to lose some of the education benefit he had been promised when he enlisted.

HB 2342 will provide a day-for-day extension on the education assistance grant for each day the Guard member has been deployed overseas, for a period of up to a year. The Adjutant General may extend the benefit for an additional year at his discretion. I worked closely with the National Guard on this legislation, and they believe this legislation will not only enable us to keep our promises to Guard members, but may also assist with re-enlistment.

This week, the General Assembly also made history. When the Jamestown settlers first arrived in Virginia, they discovered that they could make money by growing and exporting tobacco to England. In fact, without the income that tobacco generated in those early years, the Virginia colony would have failed.

Since that time, tobacco has played an important role in Virginia's economy. So every time any type of smoking ban has been proposed for Virginia, the legislation has failed.

BY A VOTE of 27-13 in the Senate and 60-39 in the House, Virginia passed a ban on smoking in most restaurants in the Commonwealth. There are a few exceptions. Smoking will still be allowed:

- ❖ In rooms separated from the nonsmoking area of the restaurant, with a separate ventilation system so that cigarette smoke can't mingle with air outside the designated smoking zones.

- ❖ On outdoor patios, sidewalks or decks where food or drink is served. If the outdoor patio has tent-style flaps that can be lowered when outdoor areas are used in winter or bad weather, smoking would be banned in those instances.

- ❖ Private clubs such as lodges or Veterans of Foreign Wars posts.

- ❖ Tobacco stores or manufacturing facilities or restaurants within them.

Our telephone number at the Capitol is 804-698-1044, and our address is House of Delegates, P.O. Box 406, Richmond, VA 23218. Email is DelKAmundson@house.virginia.gov/. Our office is located on the 7th floor, room 703, of the General Assembly Building on Capitol Square.

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-Abraham Lincoln

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ART George Washington

FROM PAGE 9



Pitcairn Pistols made by John Murdoch, Doune, Scotland, mid-18th century. British major John Pitcairn lost these ornately decorated, all-metal pistols at Lexington on April 19, 1775, the first engagement of the Revolutionary War.

10 foreign nations. They represented over a dozen professions, ranging from Quaker ironmaster Nathaniel Greene, to New York patrician Philip Schuyler, to Polish military engineer Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

This exhibit puts into visual perspective and mental appreciation Washington's statement after the Battle of Yorktown when he proclaimed of his generals: "There is no danger which they will not cheerfully encounter — no difficulty which they will not bravely overcome."

By learning about the men as ordinary mortals and products of their time, both before, during and after the war, the visitor gains an insight to the American Revolution that takes it out of the text book and into the flesh, blood and emotions of battle weary citizen soldiers and professional military strategists. The ultimate humanization of their victory culminates in the formation of The Society of the Cincinnati — the "Band of Brothers" after the blood of battle.

At its conclusion, the exhibit comes down to two entities — one of tangible beauty and symbolic meaning and the other that captures the emotion of those that have faced common death for a cause and have exited that crucible forever linked in spirit and purpose. One is the Diamond Eagle of The Society and the other is the painting of Washington bidding farewell to his generals, which catches both their overwhelming emotions and their strengths.

The Diamond Eagle, originally drawn by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and created by Duval and Francastel of Paris, became the insignia of The Society. It bears the image of Cincinnatus, the Roman citizen soldier who refused to become a dictator after leading his armies to victory, on both sides and is suspended from a blue and white ribbon — the colors "descriptive of the union of France and America" in the war against the British.

The painting, "Washington's Farewell to His Officers" by Alonzo Chappell in 1857, puts on canvas Benjamin Tallmadge's account of that Dec. 4, 1783 event at Fraunces Tavern in New York City. It captures the emotion of Washington and his officers, especially that of Gen. Henry Knox, his artillery commander who had been with him before and throughout the war.

These men came from all 13 colonies and

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Benefit Performance. 8 p.m. at Little Theater of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Watch "Leading Ladies." Proceeds benefit the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Inova Alexandria Hospital. \$25, \$45, \$65. 703-548-9485.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

Camp Fair. 5:30-8 p.m. at Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Road. Free. Learn about camp programs. Pizza and bake sale will be available.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School. Hear music by orchestras from the high school and others. Free.

Lunch Bunnies. Noon at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 1-5 bring lunch, enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610

Girls Night Out. 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Teens can enjoy a book discussion. Free. To register, 703-971-0010.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

Dining Out for Life. A variety of restaurants in Old Town will contribute 25-100 percent from that day's proceeds to Food & Friends. Visit www.foodandfriends.org/dol.

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-William Van Horne

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GAZETTE

Mount Vernon sophomore Amira Hill (middle) finished in first place in the girl's 55-meter hurdles race.

Race to the Finish at Regionals

Relays power West Potomac boy's; field events set tone for Mount Vernon.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

West Potomac junior Peter Stebbins cruised into the final bend of last weekend's 4x800-meter boy's relay race at the Northern Region Indoor Track and Field Championships certain the Wolverines were about to pick up their first win of the meet.

That's when he heard the PA announcer of the George Mason Field House excitedly yell, "Dan Grimm of Centreville on the back stretch." It prompted Stebbins to take a glance behind to see what all the commotion was about before kicking it into another gear when Grimm's rapidly approaching body suddenly came into view.

"I looked back, saw he was right there, and I just leaned in at the line," said Stebbins. "We came in seeded first by 10 seconds, but obviously it was closer than that."

"We'll talk about that big peek heading into [this weekend's state championship meet]," said relieved West Potomac coach Don Beeby. "He must have known he was coming. Everybody was standing up along the backstretch. ... I was worried, but it ended up working out well."

The victory was the Wolverines' first of two nail-biting relay wins as the West Potomac boy's team finished in seventh place (39 points) amongst the 27-team field. The boy's also took the regional crown in the 4x400-meter relay by 0.24 seconds over Edison.

What made matters more tense was an error by Beeby when entering his team into the competition; senior Alex Triplett was forced into spur-of-the-moment duty running the second leg to set up Stebbins in the 4x800.

But a sizzling third leg by senior Joe Bradley put the Wolverines in position for the narrow and nerve-racking finish. He said running about a half-mile in full gallop could sometimes be more complicated than expected.

"It's like you got a chain holding you back," Bradley said. "You're waiting to break that chain so you can go as fast as you can, but you don't want to go too early. On the beginning of my third lap I started to go around this guy, but I decided not to because I



West Potomac junior Peter Stebbins finishes the last leg of the boy's 4x800-meter relay with Centreville's Dan Grimm close on his heels.

didn't want to waste all my energy for the sprint on the last lap. It's really all about keeping your cool and being able to think during the race."

Stebbins, Bradley, and Triplett were joined on the 4x800-meter relay by senior Ben Hammond. The winning 4x400-meter relay team consisted of seniors Christopher Montgomery, Julian Holden, Brandon Comfort, and Bradley. Comfort and Bradley also finished second and third, respectively, in the 500-meter dash.

On the girl's side, senior Meghan Connor came in second place in the pole vault with a jump of 9-feet-6.

THE MOUNT VERNON BOY'S team came in 11th place overall on the strength of its field events, where the Majors had several point scorers. Senior Jonathon McMillon took third place in the triple jump, leaping 42-feet-11. Senior Joshua Edmonds placed third in the shot put with a throw of 47-03 1/4 feet. Junior Clive Cameron was sixth in the 55-meter hurdles and 300-meter dash.

The 2008 Northern Region girl's shot put champion, Mount Vernon's Elizabeth Ball, was not allowed to compete after it was revealed she had moved out of the district recently, according to coach Chris Loline. Junior Candace Bailey filled in with a throw of more than 33-03 feet, good enough for fifth place.

A pleasant surprise for the Majors was sophomore Amira Hill, who beat her seed time by 0.27 seconds to take first place in the 55-meter hurdles. The Mount Vernon girl's team came in 14th place overall.

Both teams will have participants in this weekend's state championships in Hampton, Va.

Major Victories

FROM PAGE 1

with a 59-52 victory over Chantilly Monday night.

Mount Vernon (23-2 overall, 13-1 district) entered the district tournament as the top seed courtesy of a common opponents' tiebreaker with Edison. The Majors and Eagles split their two regular-season match-ups with Mount Vernon ending Edison's run of 71 consecutive district victories back in December.

That win, coupled with an early triumph over perennial power T.C. Williams, put the Majors on the map. With the district title out of the way, Mount Vernon is now ready to leave an imprint.

"All these banners here are old and dingy," said star Tracy King pointing at the rafters of the Mount Vernon gym. "We wanted to put up a new banner and each year we lose to Edison; they've been winning it a lot of years in a row. This year, we were like it's our turn."

As has been the case much of the year, King led the Majors in scoring against Edison and Chantilly, tallying 20 and 16 points, respectively, in the two games. She was named first-team all-National District after averaging 19 points per game this season.

Aiding her cause has been junior point guard Jalinda Venable, who like coach Terry Henderson, is in her first season donning Mount Vernon colors having transferred over from Paul VI. Venable had 16 and 11 points, respectively, in the Majors' two wins.

Mount Vernon will take on West Springfield Wednesday night in the regional quarterfinals, after the Gazette's press time. The semifinals are scheduled to take place Friday night at Robinson High School.

"I feel that we still don't, as a team, get just dues," said

Major Boy's: 18 and Counting

The Mount Vernon boy's basketball team continued its own torrid pace Friday night, following the lead of its female counterparts by capturing the National District Tournament crown over Stuart with a 55-50 victory.

The Majors won their 18th-straight game Monday when they dominated Centreville, 76-57, in the first round of the Northern Region Tournament. Mount Vernon faces Annandale in quarterfinal action Wednesday night, after the Gazette's press time.

Leading the way in the district finals was tournament MVP Skylar Jones, who poured in 18 points. Sophomore Jesse Konadu chipped in 15. On Monday night Jones, the National District's regular-season MVP as well, showed why he has been inundated with praise of late, pacing the Majors once again with 20 points. Senior Brian Green hit eight-of-nine free throws and scored 15 points in beating the Wildcats.

Konadu also helped out with 14, while senior first team all-district selection Robert Coleman returned from an ankle injury to score eight points.

All this didn't seem possible when Mount Vernon (20-4, 14-0) began the season with losses in four of its first six games. A team deep in talent, the Majors struggled at the start of the year as a 10-man rotation sorted out its roles.

But coach Alfonso Smith, the National District coach of the year, has his team playing its best basketball of the season at just the right time. It could mean some truly historic events are on the horizon should the Majors advance past Wednesday night and into Saturday's regional semifinals, to be held at Robinson High School.

"They want to be remembered as a very good team and one of the better teams that have come through Mount Vernon," said Smith. "I think they challenged themselves, they want to be the best."

Henderson. "Nobody believes in us yet but ourselves. ... I really do feel if we didn't win this game [against Edison], the season would have been incomplete. The regular season, it's nice to win the regular season, but it doesn't mean anything if you can't back it up and win the district tournament."

SPORTS BRIEFS

State Swimming

West Potomac's Reanna Dona finished up her stellar freshmen campaign with a successful showing at this past weekend's Virginia AAA State Swimming and Diving Championships.

Dona finished in eighth place in the girl's 50-yard freestyle with a time of 24.82 seconds, while placing 15th in the 100-yard backstroke.

She was also a part of West Potomac's 14th-place girl's 400-yard freestyle relay team at the state meet alongside sophomore Julia Bolger, senior Cheryl

Olechnowicz, and senior Kathleen McDowell.

Softball Registration

This is a reminder to register now for the Fort Hunt Softball spring season. Late fees start being assessed on Monday Feb. 23. Prior to registering for a Fort Hunt Spring sport, review the Spring 2009 Season information for the sport. See www.fhyaa.org. For questions, contact Ilene Dranoff at fthuntsoftball@yahoo.com or 703-660-6338.

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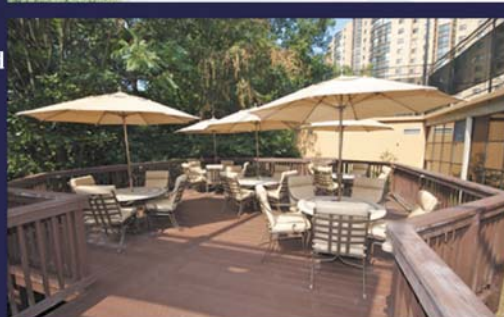
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