

Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

SEPTEMBER 10, 2009



PHOTO BY JEFFREY AARON/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon High School students watch and listen in the auditorium to President Obama's back-to-school speech.

Obama's Advice: Familiar

Deputy Treasury Secretary visits MVHS.

BY JEFFREY AARON
THE GAZETTE

President Obama's back-to-school speech on Tuesday wasn't anything Mount Vernon High School student Andrew McKellips hadn't heard before from his father.

Presidential encouragement such as: "Whatever

you resolve to do stick with it." And "Set your own goals and do everything to meet them." Or "When other people give up on you, don't ever give up on yourself," the President told K-12 students nationwide via satellite from Wakefield High School in Arlington.

SEE DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY. PAGE 8

Transforming a Horse Stable

Park police to benefit from Eagle Scout project.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Peter Martin, a candidate to become an Eagle Scout, led 20 fellow volunteer Boy Scouts in converting a horse stable into a fitness center for the National Park Police Staff assigned to the Horse Mounted Unit located at Fort Hunt Park.

"I enjoy being a part of the Boy Scouts. I feel I am serving my country. Scouting allows you to experience lots of things, such as this project. It gets me to

Working Together

The Boy Scouts of America and the National Park Service have partnered on volunteer projects managed by the Boy Scouts since 1971. Because of this relationship Boy Scouts participate in park interpretive programs, resource management workshops, volunteer cleanup projects, etc. For more information about the Boy Scouts and their relationship with the National Park Police Horse Mounted Unit contact: Lt. Stacey Collins: 202-426-7401, or access the National Park Service Web site: nps.gov.

work outdoors; and you get to meet interesting people," said Martin, a member of Troop 680.

An 11th grader at Hayfield High School, he par

SEE FROM HORSE STABLE. PAGE 22

Tale of Two Schools

West Potomac outperforms state, nation in SATs, while Mount Vernon is below average.

BY JEFFREY AARON
THE GAZETTE

Many students of Fairfax County Public Schools class of 2009 outperformed the national average and Virginia on the SAT college entrance exam, but West Potomac High School, located 4.3 miles apart from Mount Vernon High School, scored on average 60 points higher than Mount Vernon.

West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, scored on average 20 points above the nation on the three sections of the test: specifically 31 points above in critical reading; 11 points above in mathematics; and 20 points above in writing. But scores for the class of 2009 at Mount Vernon, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, fell consistently across the board in the all three areas compared to West Potomac, the state, and the nation.

When comparing Mount Vernon to West Potomac, Mount Vernon scored 66 points below in

critical reading, 60 points below in mathematics, and 52 points below in writing. Compare Mount Vernon's cumulative scores with the rest of the state the result is an average of 43 points lower; nationally, the school scored 38 points below.

But the College Board, which administers the SAT to college-bound seniors, cautions not to distinguish scores by comparing them to other schools.

"The SAT is a strong indicator of trends in the college-bound population, but it should never be used alone for such comparisons because demographics and other nonschool factors can have a strong effect on scores," said College Board spokesperson Sandra Riley.

Do demographics play a role? Absolutely, says Nardos King, who is entering her fourth year as Mount Vernon's principal.

"The data shows me there's a gap in every assessment we give. It's not just the SAT," she said. "I'm disappointed the [scores] are what they are."

West Potomac Principal Cliff Hardison, who is in his first year as principal, says it's more economics than demographics.

"Economics plays a role making sure that homework is done. Every parent wants his kid educated, but if you've been to college you know it entails a different approach. We have a larger middle class of parents who under

SEE SAT SCORES. PAGE 8

	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Mount Vernon	466	466	461
West Potomac	532	526	513
FCPS	552	569	543
Virginia	511	512	498
Nation	501	515	493

	Mount Vernon	West Potomac	Difference
Am. Indian	0.2	0.4	0.2
Asian	5.9	8.1	2.2
Blacks	35.2	23.4	11.8
Hispanics	25.2	20.9	4.3
Multi	5.3	4.5	0.8
Whites	27.8	42.6	14.8
Other	0.3	0.0	0.3

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PEOPLE

Looking after Estate's Objects and Buildings

Meet Elizabeth Chambers, collections manager, Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Elizabeth Chambers manages a staff responsible for the preservation, protection, and stability of over 30,000 objects including paintings, textiles, silverware, furniture, and more; 12 outbuildings, and the historic home of George and Martha Washington. These objects and buildings are accorded a special status which, once "accessioned" — deemed worthy of care into the permanent collection — ensures the highest degree of care by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

This care includes state-of-the art climate control and other scientific techniques to preserve and protect the historic objects.

"I am responsible for maintaining the integrity of all the George Washington collections, and the outbuildings and Mansion. I



Elizabeth Chambers

control access to all of the GW objects and buildings by the public, and the media," Chambers said. "This includes determining,

in collaboration with the curators, conservators, marketing, and education staff of the MVLA in how the artifacts will be displayed."



These are Martha Washington's wedding slippers. The slippers were last on display inside the Donald W. Reynolds Museum last January in celebration of the Washington's 250th wedding anniversary.

PHOTO BY GAVIN ASHWORTH

Upcoming Activities

18th Century Craft Fair: Sept. 19,20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Slave Commemoration Ceremony: Sept. 26, 11 a.m.

Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour: Oct. 2-4, 6-9 p.m.

Fall Harvest Family Days: Oct. 17-18: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mount Vernon Salutes Veterans: Free Admission: Nov. 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Christmas at Mount Vernon: Nov. 27-Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mount Vernon by CandleLight: Nov. 27-29; Dec. 4-6; Dec. 11-13, 5-8 p.m.

Scouting Days: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Club Members: Free Admission: Nov. 1-Feb. 14

See the Mt. Vernon collections online at: emuseum@mountvernon.org

Profile

ELIZABETH CHAMBERS

Age: 33

Marital Status: Married to Justin Chambers who works as a production manager for the Smithsonian Institution. Formerly, he worked for the Holocaust Memorial Museum in the exhibitions department.

Education: Bachelor's degree in American history, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; master's degree in public history (museum studies, history of collections).

Previous Employment:

❖ Registrar: North Carolina Historic Sites, Raleigh, N.C.

❖ Project Assistant: National Museum of the American Indian

❖ Exhibitions Registrar: Mt. Vernon Estate & Gardens

Q. What is your most significant challenge in your job as guardian of the collections and buildings?

A. My greatest challenge is the contin-

ued care and preservation of the historic Mansion. Not a day goes by that I don't worry about some aspect of that responsibility. There are over 1 million visitors to the Mansion yearly. The balance we are constantly working to achieve is allowing the public to access and enjoy the Mansion while still protecting and preserving the building and the objects from degradation or abuse.

Q. What is your biggest frustration in managing your responsibility to preserve and protect the buildings and objects?

A. My greatest frustration and disappointment is the lack of appreciation of the historical significance of some visitors as to where they are and the buildings and objects they are experiencing. One example of this lack of respect is when a child went beyond the public barriers in the Mansion in the Servants Hall, apparently sat down

SEE TAKING CARE, PAGE 5

'Living Within the Truth'

Local resident strives to educate public about the rise of civil society in Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

BY MEGHAN ANAND
THE GAZETTE

A 37-year resident of the Mt. Vernon area and a dedicated humanitarian, John Glaser recently re-published his book "Living Within the Truth: 1989 and the Rise of Civil Society in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland." Originally published in 2005, it focuses on the history of the revolutions in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland, featuring a key leader from each.

Glaser's career has spanned over four decades and has been devoted to the field of human service on both the domestic and international level. Glaser moved to the Alexandria area with his family in 1972 to work for the United Way. He published his first book about the United Way scandal in 1993. He and his wife Rochelle have two children, Matthew and Leah, and four grandchildren. "Living Within the Truth" has been entered in the Frankfurt Book Festival.



John Glaser has published his book "Living Within the Truth: 1989 and the Rise of Civil Society in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland."

What made you write about these three revolutions?

Since the late 1980s, I have been going back and forth to eastern Europe as the chief operating officer of United Way Interna

SEE AUTHOR, PAGE 4

A Life of Giving Through 105 Years of Living

Hannah E. Adams, a retired LPN, celebrated her 105th birthday with former primary care physicia, Dr. Rosario Ignancio, nurse Pat Smith, many friends and family on Aug. 19 at the Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Mrs. Adams is a native of Fairfax County. Unchanged are her social vigor, sharp wit and curiosity about the goings on around her. Friends note she is a tad more delicate these days, and physically, her mobility has been challenged but she looks no worse for the wear having racked up some serious mileage on the meter of a life that early on embraced hard work and service to others.



Mrs. Hannah E. Adams, Dr. Rosario Ignancio and nurse Pat Smith.

PEOPLE

Huffs Celebrate 50th Anniversary

William (Bill) and Julia Baker Huff celebrated their 50th anniversary on Saturday, Aug. 29 at the Tanoan Country Club in Albuquerque, N.M. Long-time residents of the Mount Vernon community, they recently retired and relocated to Albuquerque. They were married on Aug. 28, 1959 at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Bill Huff served until 1980 as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and he went on to own his own engineering firm until his retirement in 2006. Julia Baker Huff served for 32 years at the Copyright office of the Library of Congress until her retirement in 2008. They have two children. Cathryn Wooton and her husband, Evan, live in Richmond, Va., and have two children, Annika and Jansen. Dr. Dave Huff and his wife, Laura, live in St. Claire Shores, Mich. with their two children, Lauren and Joe.



Bill and Julia on their wedding day in 1959.



Bill and Julia today.

Author Re-Issues History Book

FROM PAGE 3

tional, the international service arm of United Way of America. Because of my experiences in the region, I became very fascinated in how civil societies are created out of authoritarian regimes and wanted very much to contribute to that understanding. I appeared to be in the right place at the right time. The histories which I wrote about were not well known (and still aren't), and I was hoping that a new generation could benefit by learning about them

What kind of research did you have to do to compile a history of the revolutions?

I basically used my own experience and approximately 130 secondary written resources, and about 20 or so interviews with knowledgeable individuals with background in the region.

What was the most difficult part of writing the book?

I did not have the benefit of much feedback or collaborative discussions as I did with my first book. Almost all my spare time for eight years (I was employed full-time during the writing and still am) was spent researching, especially hours and hours in the Library of Congress. I had to hire a cover

Where

John Glaser's book may be purchased through his Web site, www.civilsocietyinfo.com, at Xlibris by calling 888-795-4274, Amazon.com, or from the Barnes and Noble Web site.

designer, and an editor (but often had to re-edit it myself), and typists at different times, as well as pay for editing changes.

What was the most interesting thing you learned about the subject matter of the book?

That there are courageous people that seem to emerge in trying times, like Havel of the Czech Republic, Lech Walesa and Adam Michnik of Poland, and Janos Kis of Hungary, and thousands of others.

What was your best experience writing this book?

Learning the history of the various nations and the development of civil society throughout the ages. One of my goals was to see if the early civil society philosophers had any impact on the events in eastern Europe. I found, to my surprise, that the impact was probably negligible. I came to believe that it was because of the different traditions that separated the West from the East, the lack of contact between the regions over much of history, and the seemingly innate courage and passion of their exceptional leaders.

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PEOPLE

Taking Care of George's Things

FROM PAGE 3

on a chair at a small table, and had his brother photograph him sitting at the table. This was a blatant violation of our restrictions. They should have known better but they preferred to ignore the rules we established. Damage to these very old original objects could have taken place. I and others worry about this kind of occurrence all the time. Our goal is preserve the object for another 250 years and beyond.

Q. Who works for you and what do they do?

A. Exhibitions Registrar who is responsible for the care and maintenance of the new 60,000 s.f. Reynolds Museum and Education Center; Collections management assistants and a museum technician responsible for cleaning and monitoring the Mansion, Museum, and the Education Center, and Data entry assistants working on a three-year project to input all of the curatorial collection into our computer data base and eventually to publish it on our Web site.

Q. Just how many Mt. Vernon collections, fine and decorative art objects (silver, paintings, textiles, false teeth, etc.) are you responsible for?

A. 15,000-plus objects

Q. How many special collection items are you managing?

A. There are approximately 15,000-plus special collection items such as letters, maps, books, etc. Many of these items were owned and/or used by George and Martha Washington either here at Mt. Vernon or elsewhere. In addition, there are approximately 650 objects on display in the Reynolds Museum and Education Center.

Q. What else is there that you are responsible for?

A. In the historic Mansion we have over 800 objects on display on three floors. As I have previously stated this is the most challenging area of responsibility as the environmental conditions are less than

ideal. We also have 12 outbuildings where we have some artifacts.

Q. Are there any other responsibilities we have not discussed that you would like to mention?

A. I am responsible for facilitating the legal transfer of title of objects we acquire by either donation, purchase, bequest, etc.

Q. What is it that you like best about your job?

A. Being responsible for one-of-a-kind objects used by George and Martha Washington. We have his dentures, the telescope he used in the American Revolution, a letter written by George Washington to Martha Washington (one of only three that survive). There are so many other wonderful objects that I have the privilege of protecting. The pieces are not extraordinary things in their own right but are significant because of who used them. Also, on special occasions I have been privileged to enter the Mansion after working hours. Sitting all alone in the Mansion is a special thing; it gives me a sense of being closer to the spirit and memory of George Washington, his family, and the slaves who lived and worked here during such an important period of our country's early history.

Q. On a personal level when you are not working how do you spend your time? What are your hobbies or interests?

A. Justin and I live on a houseboat moored on the Washington Channel in southwest D.C. We enjoy taking the boat out on cruises on the Potomac River, and we enjoy caring for our cat "Artoo." Frankly, my work is a labor of love; I thoroughly enjoy the responsibilities entrusted to me and don't consider it strictly "work," but a calling. In my own way I see myself as contributing to American history through the meticulous and dedicated care of the historic objects which make up the history of George Washington and his family, and carrying on the work started so long ago by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. My husband and I share this feeling and philosophy toward our jobs.



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OPINION

Labor Day

Thankful for the jobs we have; states need some bailing out.

After a long Labor Day weekend, most of us with jobs no doubt spent at least a minute in silent thanks for having a job; all the more so for those lucky enough to have jobs with paid holidays and health insurance.

Almost everyone knows someone struggling after having lost a job, someone who personifies and personalizes the so-called "jobless recovery."

In the Washington metropolitan area, the economy does have life, and there is growth in jobs, another reason to be thankful.

But while Northern Virginia has the lowest unemployment rate in the state, 5 percent in July, down from 5.5 percent a month earlier, it also has the highest number of unemployed people in the state.

In Northern Virginia, in July there were more than 75,000 unemployed people, down from

more than 80,000 in June, but up from just over 43,000 a year ago in July 2008.

Northern Virginia also tops the state in the number of people without health insurance, according to a recent Census Bureau report. In Fairfax County, there were 149,642 people without health insurance from all income levels. That's more than 16 percent. These numbers are from 2006, when the economy was quite a bit better than it is now.

EDITORIAL

In Arlington, more than 21 percent, 38,018 people, lacked health insurance. In Loudoun County, the number was 11 percent, or 29,205 people without health insurance. In the City of Alexandria, more than 18 percent is without health insurance, 22,399. In the City of Fairfax, 18 percent or 3,685 people were without health insurance.

These are people who will be unlikely to get seasonal flu shots or swine flu vaccinations.

These are people who will have to turn to emergency rooms if they do get sick.

The Virginia budget shortfall is one looming problem that won't help the economic rebound, and it is a problem replicated at least another 47 times around the country. As the federal stimulus spending is kicking in, Virginia is facing a massive shortfall, and must trim well over \$1 billion in spending. In fact the infusion of federal stimulus dollars prevents the cuts from being far more difficult. But this is a terrible time for states to be forced to cut their budgets. Every dollar the state cuts diminishes the stimulus spending by a dollar.

With transportation spending down to an amount that would be laughable if we weren't all stuck in traffic, what's likely to be cut next include programs for the most vulnerable people. For the recovery to continue on track, the feds should consider spending some money to bail out the states.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Disturbing Misinformation

To the Editor:

It is disturbing to hear senior citizens say they don't want a government-run health care system when virtually all of them are now under a government-run health care system — Medicare. Medicare is one of the best health care insurance programs in the world. It has about 45 million beneficiaries. Seniors can choose their own doctors. Coverage is comprehensive. By law Medicare must cover any-

thing that is "reasonable and necessary" for the treatment and diagnosis of an illness or an injury. No rationing there. If seniors really don't want to be in a government health system, they don't have to be. Nobody is required to be a Medicare beneficiary, just don't sign up. Even people already in Medicare can drop out if they want. But it is most likely that they would not be able to obtain affordable health care insurance from an insurance company.

But most disturbing of all is a comment in your last letters to the editor section claiming that a bill

now before Congress "provides for government bureaucrats to provide end-of-life counseling." Unfortunately, this is no longer an issue because the provision that was being attacked has been removed by its sponsors. No one has ever proposed that "government bureaucrats" would do the counseling. That is just plain false. Doctors do that. It's very important. Most doctors are doing it already when a patient nears the end of life. The problem is Medicare won't pay them for it.

It is already in the law that hospitals admitting patients are re-

quired to ask patients if they have any kind of advance directive. If the patient does not have one, the hospital is required to assist him or her in getting one. Advance directives are important for many reasons. If someone is in a coma or otherwise not able to handle his own affairs, there needs to be a way to see that his interests are protected and his wishes honored. A person 90 years old who is suffering painfully from a terminal disease might not want to be resuscitated after a cardiac arrest. Then consider a 35-year-old father whose heart stops while he's in the hospital. This patient almost certainly would want to be resuscitated. But what about his other interests? Who would look after his property, his financial interests, sell or buy anything in his name? What about a car or a home in both spouses' names? Could the wife trade in an old car when he is in a coma and unable to sign? These are things all families should think about.

But if it comes down to a life or death choice? Wouldn't you be entitled to know what you are facing, your prognosis, the risks of surgery, even your life expectancy? You may or may not want to spend years on life support, but either way it should be your decision. And it can't be your decision unless you make it known in advance. And wouldn't you want to talk to your doctor about it? You can, but Medicare won't pay him for the time he spends on that. The amendment that would have allowed it was crushed by misinformation and rumor.

Victoria McLeod, Alexandria

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

End of First Day Mt. Vernon High School principal Nardos King directs students to the right buses for the ride home at the end of the first day back to school on Tuesday.

LETTERS

Costly Medicare

To the Editor:

I am compelled to respond to Mr. Fina's letter "Health Security Needed" published in the Gazette because he makes a number of speculative assumptions in an attempt to justify his position and bolster his comments about the letter I wrote and published in an earlier Gazette edition regarding a government takeover of the health care system.

His two principle assumptions included in his letter are that I (1) have Medicare and that the medical bills associated with my recent surgery were paid by the government run Medicare program and that I was apparently satisfied with my medical care and payment and (2) am "... opposing the comprehensive health insurance reforms now being considered on Capitol Hill." Neither of these two assumptions is correct.

Since I don't have Medicare insurance coverage, all of Mr. Fina's assumptions and comments about my health care and payment coverage are immaterial and irrelevant. However, the Medicare program needs attention because it is going broke, according to press reports, and, if not corrected, many seniors will suffer. If there is no money to pay the bills, something has to give and the logical conclusion would be less of what one is receiving currently.

I was not "... opposing comprehensive health insurance reform ..." as Mr. Fina contends. My comments dealt with government takeover of the health care system with troubling provisions that could adversely affect health care for Americans particularly for seniors. Mr. Fina could have avoided all his speculations and assumptions by merely making a phone call to me to discuss my positions on health care reform or what I wrote in my letter.

For Mr. Fina's edification, on Page 42 (sec 142) of the House bill being considered on Capitol Hill, establishes the "Health Choice Commissioner" who will choose the health care that patients will receive and patients have no choice. Page 29 (lines 4-16) and page 87 (line 7) is about rationing and Pages 425-430 (sec 1233) provides for end of life instructions, consultations and mandates for such services. I believe end of life decisions are personal family matters and should not be dictated or broached by any government edict or bureaucrats.

Mr. Fina should make less assumptions and deal with reality. As I mentioned earlier, Medicare is going broke and the President said

on TV and reported by the press that he proposes to cut \$500 billion over 10 years in Medicare to help offset the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of the one trillion dollar or more over 10 years for the cost of the proposed government health care reform.

When that trillion dollars is added to the current estimated \$9 trillion dollar government national debt over 10 years, does Mr. Fina really believe that the current health care delivery won't be adversely affected particularly for seniors? You decide.

According to press reports, there is also a proposal to cut reimbursements to doctors. How many doctors will opt out of the Medicare program and how will that affect health care for seniors?

There is no doubt in my mind that the current House bill containing over 1,000 pages could interfere with our right to choose our doctors and health care facilities that could be detrimental to our well being. Also, if the proposed health reform is so great for us, why doesn't it apply to Congress?

The House bill also contains the so-called "public option" that is under attack within the controlling party on Capitol Hill. According to

press reports, there are some congressional members who will vote against the bill if it does not contain the "public option" and others will vote no if it does. The "public option" is a very troubling and contentious provision that should be dropped from the bill. If dropped, it could lead to improvements that should be made to the current health care system without imposing a new health care system. For example: (1) ensure that when employees change or lose their job they won't lose their health insurance, (2) allow people to buy health insurance across state lines instead of within states improving competition that could help reduce health care costs, (3) enact tort reform to reduce frivolous medical malpractice law suits that increase malpractice insurance premiums and health care costs, (4) eliminate billions of fraud in Medicare payments and (5) use tax incentives to encourage people to obtain health insurance coverage instead of tax penalties to force them to do so.

According to recent polls as disclosed by the press, 80 percent of the American people with health insurance like their health care

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20



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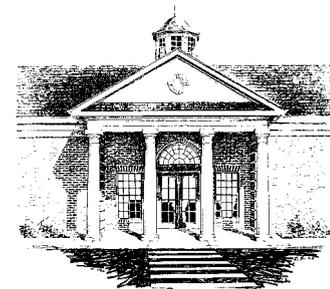
Celebrating 30 years in Alexandria this September, we would love to hear from you if you were a Wright to Read volunteer or student from 1979-2001 and have a story to share.

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Deputy Treasury Secretary Visits Mount Vernon High

FROM PAGE 1

"I agree with everything he said," McKellips said. "It was the same thing my dad tells me."

McKellips, 17, who is also president of the Student Government's Association, was joined by about 50 other students in the high school's auditorium to hear to Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin speak immediately following the president's 18-minute address. More than half of the students in attendance were on the SGA, the remaining were from an accounting class.

Wolin grew tearful on two separate occasions, first when he spoke about taking his son, Ethan, to pre-kindergarten Tuesday for his first day in school, and later when he cited the value of education.

"Education allowed me to do what I never imagined I'd be able to do," he said.

Wolin, a lawyer, became deputy treasury secretary in May. Before that he was deputy assistant to the president and deputy counsel to the president for economic policy. He has also held counsel positions in the Clinton Administration. He also served The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.

The President sent his Cabinet across the country Tuesday to speak to students following his address. Secretaries and deputy secretaries were dispatched to North Carolina and North Dakota, New York and Rhode Island, Texas and Illinois and elsewhere, while others were at local schools: Energy Secretary Chu was at Thomas Jefferson, Defense Secretary Gates was at Fort Belvoir, and Attorney General Holder was downtown.

Valerie Manu, 15, a sophomore at Mount Vernon, had never met a government official before.

"This is really inspiring to meet someone from the White House. For him to take the time out to do this is a good thing," she said.

Some conservative parents saw the President's back-to-school speech as an opportunity for him to press a political agenda. Attuned to that controversy, Principal Nardos King stepped into overdrive last week by giving students the opportunity to



PBS senior correspondent Ray Suarez interviews Neal Wolin, U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, after a speech he gave at Mount Vernon High School Tuesday.



Neal Wolin, U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, (center), watches and listens via satellite to his boss's speech Tuesday with students from Mount Vernon High School. Student Government Association President Andrew McKellips is far right.

forego watching and listening to the address, which was shown in the school's cafeteria and classrooms via satellite. She also sent emails to parents and to the community outlining her position.

education. It's reiterating what we tell students." No student or parent came forward to skip either speech.

King is not unaccustomed to receiving phone calls from the White House. Two



Mount Vernon High School Principal Nardos King delivers a jacket to Neal Wolin, U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, after a speech he gave at Mount Vernon High School Tuesday.

"Anytime I can put important people who are role models before students I'm going to do it," she said.

"Some parents didn't support [Obama's speech] but his focus is

support [Obama's speech] but his focus is

support [Obama's speech] but his focus is

years ago secretaries of Commerce, Energy, and Transportation from the Bush Administration used her school to hold a news conference.

When she received her most recent phone call from Pennsylvania Avenue, she was hoping that the President would use her school to deliver his speech. Despite his absence, she was still "thrilled" to have the deputy treasury secretary visit.

In the end, "Most were excited about the speech," McKellips said, "and missing classtime."

SAT Scores Tell Different High School Tales

FROM PAGE 1

stand what it takes to get into colleges and perform," he said.

Mount Vernon's total student population in 2008-2009 was 1,813 compared to 2,070 for West Potomac, a difference of 257 students. But a more detailed breakdown of ethnicity shows greater differences.

King plans to combat the decline of her school's SAT scores by prepping the class of 2010 with a program called "Triumph College Admissions," an online study guide for the SAT, something West

Potomac has done for years.

"Obviously what we've been doing isn't good enough," King said.

She plans to meet with students and parents to outline her strategy and develop a schedule which will allow students time to prep for the test during the day and after school "to get the help they need."

"We just have more of a challenge getting our students counseled. Some [students] come here not speaking English. They take these tests because they think they have to. If they go to NOVA [Northern Virginia Community College] they don't have to take the SAT [for admission].

Sometimes they're not prepared, but I don't want to deny their right to take the test," she said.

Across Fairfax County, 8,769 or 68.6 percent of students in the Class of 2009 took the SAT out of a total of 12,783 students.

Fairfax County Public Schools spokeswoman Mary Shaw theorized one reason for the difference is due to the drop in the number of students taking the SAT because of the current economic climate.

"You have students that have gone to a four-year college as freshmen but community colleges don't require the SAT for entrance. It could be a way of families trying

to save money. That just a theory, but based on what's going on nationally it could hold some water."

But officials at the College Board say that "scores tend to decline with a rise in percentage of test-takers," according to its Web site.

Fairfax County continues to outpace the rest of the state and the nation, scoring a composite score of 1664 out of a possible 2400, according to figures released by Fairfax County Public Schools. That's 143 points above the state, 155 points above the nation, and an overall 10 point increase compared to last year.

E

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



TOM DZIEDZIC/THE GAZETTE

Tom Lewis reflects back on his American journey.

Alexandria Film Festival

Thursday, Sept. 24 – Sunday, Sept. 27

Opening Night Event: “Contrast”
Simultaneous “Silent” Film Screenings, Live Music, Open Artist Studios
Thursday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Free

Festival Film Screenings and Programs
Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, 7 p.m. – midnight
Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009, 10 a.m. – midnight
Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA
Day Pass \$10 or \$15 at door/ Festival Pass \$25 or \$35 at door. Buy tickets online at www.AlexandriaFilm.org

Highlights

Friday, Sept. 25:

7:15 p.m.: “Rumba”

Synopsis: Teachers in a rural school, happy couple Fiona and Dom have a common passion: Latin dancing. One night, after a glorious dance competition, they have a car accident and see their lives turned upside down.

9 p.m.: “Clean Mic: Laughing Until It Hurts”

Special Guests: Will Gorham, Director and Writer
Freddie Vernell, Comedian
Sam Beamon, Comedian

Synopsis: “Clean Mic” is an entertaining, thought-provoking journey into the realities facing ethnic comedians performing in American comedy clubs.

11 p.m.: “Idiots and Angels”

Synopsis: In Bill Plympton’s newest animated feature film, a morally ambiguous man spends his days at a dead-end job and his nights in an unfriendly dive bar. And then, one morning, a pair of wings begins to sprout from his shoulders. Filled with the Academy-Award winning animator’s trademark weirdness and visual fluidity, this film is a surreal masterpiece.

Saturday, Sept. 26:

7 p.m.: “Yoo-Hoo Mrs. Goldberg”

Special Guest: Aviva Kempner, Filmmaker
Synopsis: A humorous story of television pioneer Gertrude Berg, creator, principal writer, and star of “The Goldbergs,” a popular radio show for 17 years, which became television’s first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949. Berg received the first Best



Pink & Brown Boutique, 1212 King Street, Old Town, Alexandria.

Old Town Boutiques Hold Scavenger Hunt

The Old Town Boutique District is celebrating its first anniversary by giving away more than \$5,000 in gift cards and gifts from participating merchants during its Second Annual Scavenger Hunt Sept. 18-20. There are 27 boutiques in the district.

Subscribers to Boutique Buzz, the Boutique District’s e-mail newsletter, will receive Scavenger Hunt passports in their e-mail inbox. Passports can also be downloaded from the Boutique District’s web site, www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com/scavengerhunt.

When they visit participating stores, shoppers will show their passports to the merchants to receive free gifts they can use to build their own gift bags. Each store will offer free items that scavenger hunters can pick up and add to their collections. They can collect as many or as few items as they want.

No purchase is necessary to receive the free gifts, but shoppers must have their passport.

Shoppers can use their passports to collect stamps from each of the participating merchants and enter to win the prize drawing.

“We thought this would be a fun way to encourage shoppers to visit more independent Alexandria shops and boutiques,” said Amy Rutherford, owner of Red Barn Mer-

cantile. “They can get free gifts from the merchants of their choice, or if they really want to win big, they could visit every store and see all that Old Town’s retailers have to offer.”

The first place prize winner will receive \$2,700 in gift cards — \$100 from each participating merchant. Twenty-seven second-place winners will each receive a \$100 gift card from a participating merchant drawn at random.

To qualify for the drawings, shoppers must collect stamps from each of the 27 merchants between Friday, Sept. 18, and Sunday, Sept. 20. No purchase is necessary to receive a passport stamp.

“We did something similar last year when we launched the Old Town Boutique District and many long-time Alexandria residents were happy that we gave them an excuse to visit stores they had never been to before,” Rutherford said.

“And it also drives home the point of supporting local merchants,” she said. “We have a lot of wonderful shops and boutiques right here in Old Town, you don’t have to drive out to Tysons Corner or the outlet malls to find great deals on quality merchandise. And when you shop locally you are also supporting the Alexandria community because more money stays here in our local economy.”

Actress Emmy and paved the way for women in the entertainment industry.

Sunday, Sept. 27:

11:30 a.m.: “After the Storm”

Special Guest: Hilla Medalia, Filmmaker

Synopsis: A film that follows the production of the musical “Once on this Island” in New Orleans, from auditions through performances and also includes the story of each young actor’s life in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

1:45 p.m.: “Crude”

Special Guest: Steven Donziger, attorney featured in the film

Synopsis: The inside story of the infamous “Amazon Chernobyl” case, Crude is a real-life, high-stakes legal drama, set against a backdrop of the

environmental movement, global politics, celebrity activism, human rights advocacy, the media, multinational corporate power, and rapidly-disappearing indigenous cultures. Crude was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at this year’s Sundance Festival. Film by Joe Berlinger.

4:15 p.m.: “Redemption Stone”

Special Guests: Tom Lewis and Tom Dziedzic, Director/Producer

Synopsis: Jury Prize Award Winner. Redemption Stone introduces Tom Lewis, a storyteller of quiet power, who recounts the social upheaval and rebirth that shape his American journey. A life-altering vision inspires Tom to open a place called The Fishing School and to turn hardship into hope for the children in his community.

Go to the Web Site: www.AlexandriaFilm.org *



“La Traviata” Opera

The first season of the Repertory Opera Theater of Washington promises to be a wonderful collaboration of artistry, talent, and classic operas from some of the world’s greatest composers. The first performance of the season is Giuseppe Verdi’s “La Traviata,” the story of an ill-fated love between a courtesan named Violetta, and a young nobleman named Alfredo.

One of Verdi’s masterpieces, “La Traviata” is most famous for the opening chorus, Libiamo ne’ lieti calici, (a.k.a. the “Drinking Song”) a flirtatious scene between Violetta and Alfredo while the other partygoers drink in merriment, and Di Provenza, in which Alfredo’s father sings to him of his family back in Provence.

The cast of “La Traviata” artfully pulls the music off the page to bring Verdi’s masterpiece to life. Come see the Repertory Opera Theater of Washington’s production of “La Traviata” on Sept. 18-19 at 8 p.m. at Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$20 General Admission, \$15 Student/Senior. For presale tickets, call 571-403-0814.



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Living Legends Nominations Are Due Sept. 30

Nominations for the Living Legends of Alexandria - 2010 are due by Sept. 30. Living Legends of Alexandria is an on-going, not-for-profit project to identify, honor and chronicle those making history in Alexandria today. Criteria are: (1) Individuals who have contributed at least one tangible improvement to the quality of the city's life that would likely be missing without this person's vision and energy, or (2) Individuals demonstrating exemplary service to the city over an extended time (10 years or more). Nominees must live or work in Alexandria. Those currently running for or holding political office are not eligible for consideration. The contributions of City employees should be beyond the responsibilities of their jobs. One may nominate as many Legends as one considers worthy of consideration. Use a separate form for each nominee. Nomination forms are available at www.tisaraphoto.com/legends or by calling 703-625-2330. Send nominations to alexandrialegends@earthlink.net or mail to Living Legends, 6408 Hayfield Place, Alexandria, VA 22310.

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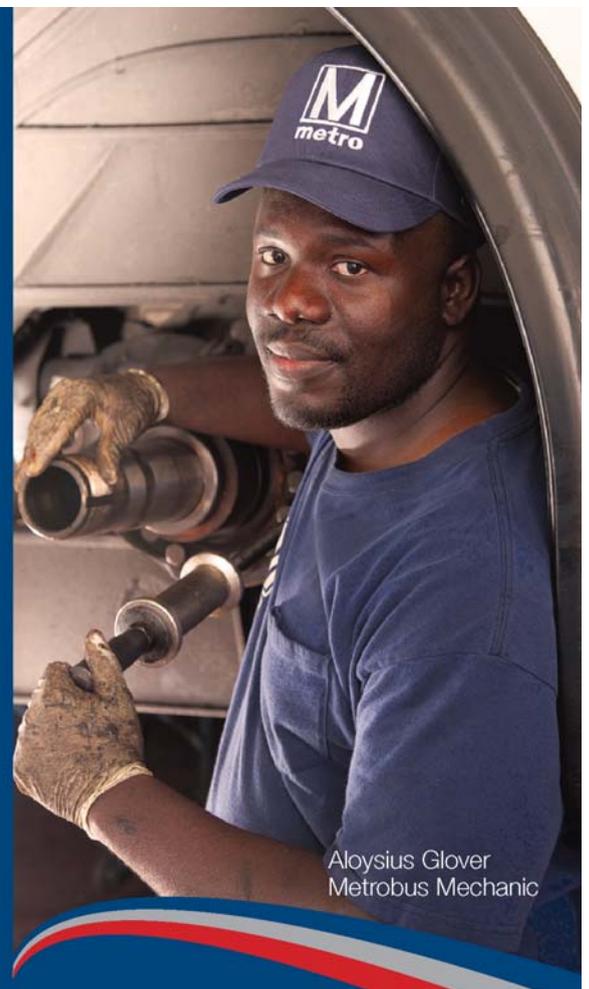


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NEED ADDRESS
\$495,000 | Barcroft Mews
Sunny townhouse in small close-in community with a perfect location! Three bedrooms/three and a half baths, family room, eat-in kitchen, living room, separate dining room, fabulous master suite, lower level family room with fireplace, lovely deck off kitchen, private landscaped patio off family room. and two car garage.

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703.518.6165



JUST LISTED! OPEN SUNDAY, 1-4!

8302 Riverton
\$849,900 | Manors at Mt Vernon
Bright, open - Center hall colonial; 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage; plus new roof, HVAC, gourmet kitchen, hardwoods on top 2 levels ... the list goes on. 'I didn't even know these homes were here'. From OT, take GW Pkwy So. to right at Collingwood; cross Ft Hunt; left at 1st stop sign to Riverside, 2nd right Lakeshire, 3rd left Riverton.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



JUST LISTED

250 S Reynolds Street, #607
\$205,000 | Templeton of Alexandria
Spacious (1086 sq ft), one bedroom, 1.5 bath condo with many updates including bedroom built-ins, light fixtures, cabinet hardware, appliances, kitchen, fresh paint. Lots of closet space + extra storage; large balcony from which to enjoy the sunsets. Convenient to Old Town Alexandria and I-395. Plenty of off-street parking. Email: carol@carolhooks.com.

Carol Hooks | 703.509.4199



JUST LISTED

2509 Arlington Blvd, #302
\$262,000 | Cambridge Courts
Stunning top floor unit with cathedral ceilings & courtyard views! Renovated kitchen with corian counters, semi-custom cabinets, upgraded appliances, hardwood floors, washer/dryer in unit, attic storage, updated bath with tile, walk-in closet, crown & chair moldings, recessed lighting & fireplace. Prime location minutes to Clarendon Metro, DC, Pentagon & Fort Meyer. www.joydeevy.com

Joy Deevy | 703.930.5198



OPEN SUNDAY, 1-4 WATERFRONT!

501 Slaters Lane #209
\$489,000 | Marina Towers
Stunning 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo overlooking the Potomac River renovated with new kitchen and baths. Amazing views from every room! Building on the bike and jogging path features pool, gym, convenience store with valet and 24-hr. desk. Garage space, combo washer/dryer. Near National Airport and DC, minutes to grocery, shops, restaurants, and easy Metro access.

Eloise Brantley | 703.408.4887



OPEN SUNDAY, 1-4!

2415 Lakeshire Drive
\$1,175,000 | South Alexandria
New Price and new warm neutral colors! Sunny center hall colonial with open floor plan on .97 acres. Expansive master suite, 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, sunroom, gourmet eat-in kitchen with center island, hardwoods, numerous upgrades and all the bells and whistles you would expect in this great family friendly home. 5000+ sq ft. Come take a look and be amazed at the value of your own private retreat.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788

Coldwell Banker is owned and operated by NRT, LLC.

Old Town Alexandria King Street Office
310 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300 Main Office

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Chris White

\$20,000,000 + worth of real estate SOLD so far this year!



Alexandria / Old Town Historic District

#1 Long & Foster office in Northern Virginia!



Managing Brokers
Anne Rector & Bill Jourdan

JUST LISTED! **OPEN SUN!**

7116 Marlan Drive \$750,000
Spacious Rambler!
Rare opportunity for one story living on a spectacular 3/4 acre lot off the G.W. Parkway just minutes from Old Town! Large room sizes, main level master bedroom, spacious kitchen/family room, full finished basement and side load two car garage. Fabulous screened porch and deck overlook private back yard. Super value! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Tulane Dr, L Park Terrace Dr, R Westgrove Blvd, L Marlan Dr.

NEW PRICE! **OPEN SUN!**

7501 Park Terrace Drive \$1,150,000
Stunning!
Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style, this 1.13 acre property sits on a bluff overlooking acres of parkland with seasonal river views! Heart of redwood features, large room sizes, high ceilings and expansive glass window walls capture the natural beauty of the grounds. Off GW Pkwy just 3 miles from Old Town. (Adjoining 1.18 acre available for \$975,000.) Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Morningside Ln, R Park Terrace Dr.

4401 Jackson Place \$495,000
Special Value!
Spacious brick home on gorgeous half acre lot with open floor plan, hardwood floors, family room with fireplace, covered parking and extra driveway space. Fabulous custom deck overlooks magnificent level grounds. Rare opportunity to find a well maintained Mount Vernon home for under \$500,000!

OPEN SUN 1 - 4

540 SECOND ST #403
Old Town - \$660,000
Sophisticated light-filled top floor condo w/9ft ceilings, hardwoods & plantation shutters. This 1,485 sqft, 2BR, 2.5BA home boasts Chef's kit, granite, SS, double sided FP & closets galore! DIR: N Washington St to E on First, left on Second
Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144

OPEN SUN 1 - 4

600 SECOND STREET #205
Alex / Liberty Row - \$795,000
Don't miss this fab, high end, luxury condo in OT. 2BR, 2.5BA + Den. This 1,769sqft home offers gourmet kit w/SS, granite & wine cooler. Also, bamboo floors, gas FP, W/D, plantation shutters, balcony, crown + 2 indoor gar spaces.
Adele dePalo 703.298.5987

OPEN SUN 1 - 4

2367 QUEEN ST Arlington - \$749,000
ELEGANT TH w/over 3,000 sqft of living space on 3 lvls - 3BR/2.55BA. Stainless appliances, large cozy FP w/built-in bar, wet bar in LR, sep DR, HWs, circular staircase, private brick patio backs to woods - Low homeowner fees - Located near Pentagon City, DC & METRO.
Frankl Roberts 703.898.0840

WATERFRONT!

4003 Belle Rive Terrace \$4,200,000
Riverfront!
Just reduced! Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft with five bedrooms including main level river view master suite with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River!

WATERFRONT!

9380 Mt Vernon Circle \$3,500,000
Private Estate!
Classic Colonial facade with magnificent interior featuring glass walled addition across the rear. Meticulously maintained four bedroom, three level home is loaded with special features and upgrades. Stunning custom addition overlooks beautifully landscaped yard & the most spectacular custom pool you'll ever find!

WATERFRONT!

9516 Mt Vernon Landing \$2,900,000
Waterfront!
Waterfront homes rarely become available in Mount Vernon on the Potomac! This spacious custom Tudor was carefully crafted with the highest quality materials and planned with three levels of Pella window walls to maximize water views. Six bedrooms, five baths, full walk out lower level and many rooms with dramatic river views.

619 SOUTH ST. ASAPH STREET
Old Town Alexandria - \$2,500,000
EXCEPTIONAL Tuscan inspired home in the SE Quadrant. With 3,300sqft of luxury, this home features 5BR/4.5BA, 6 FP, gourmet kitchen, outdoor FP, garage and more!
Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252

OPEN SUN 1 - 4

1923 SHIVER DRIVE
Alex / South - \$719,000
FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD & QUIET STREET!
Spacious center hall colonial with 1st floor BR. Private landscaped rear yard with slate patio & large deck. Granite, hardwood, skylights & more.
Marylou Sage 703.851.5441

422 EAST CUSTIS AVE
Alex / Del Ray - \$699,900
CLASSIC 1930's DEL RAY FARMHOUSE on fab lg corner lot! 4BR/2BA w/newer addition and updated kit, sep LR/DR, rear yd w/patio & deck. Enjoy front wrap porch or easy strolls to the "Avenue". Mins to OT, DC & Reagan.
Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

8826 Camden Street \$899,500
Stratford Landing!
There's nothing like it on the market today! This fabulous new Wakefield Home has been custom designed for this half acre lot overlooking acres of natural conservation land. Bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, granite countertops and two car garage. Pre-construction sale allows for maximum customization!

PRICE SLASHED!

4307 Sheridan's Point \$794,500
Georgian Colonial!
Large price reduction! Classic updated Colonial in prime Mount Vernon location. Home has a combination of location, size and features typically only available in \$1,000,000+ homes! Three finished levels, open kitchen/family room, stunning master suite, two bonus rooms on lower level and dramatic sun room overlooking private fenced yard. Just off the GW Pkwy - easy commute to DC!

9411 Bramble Lane \$975,000
New Luxury Home!
This top quality luxury home is loaded with custom features, including: an exceptionally bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, fabulous large family room, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail and the most spectacular master suite you'll ever find! This home is almost complete and ready for occupancy! Special financing is available.

7800 ELBA ROAD
Hollin Hall - \$859,000
UPSCALE 2 lvl home w/4-6BR + den/ofc & 4FBA. LivRm gas FP - deluxe kitchen w/island - MstrBR suite w/spa bath - full fin walkout LL w/masonry FP opens to brick patio w/seating & pond/fountain - FamRm features ceramic flr w/radiant heat - beautiful park-like landscaping backs to natural reserve - A very special home.
Frankl Roberts 703.898.0840

1105 POTOMAC LANE
Waynehood / Alexandria - \$699,995
A SECOND LOOK!
Back on the market & move in ready! This 3,400sqft, 5-6BR, 3FBA home w/gar. Newly refinished Hdwd floors gleam! Country kitchen. Covered deck & lovely stone patio. Within walking distance to Waynehood School & community pool.
Catherine Foltz@longandfoster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914

9326 OLD MANSION ROAD
Alexandria - \$3,950,000
5BR/5.5BA historic villa on banks of the Potomac. Gourmet kit, media room, heated pool, open air cabana, outdoor kit & sweeping year round views. Subdivided lot also available for \$1,250,000.
Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252

CONTRACT! **CONTRACT!**

1210 N. Pegram Street \$1,351,500 **9500 Ferry Hall Court \$1,450,000**

CONTRACT! **SOLD!**

9304 Allwood Drive \$639,000 **9511 Mt Vernon Landing \$900,000**

CONTRACT! **CONTRACT!**

7107 Colgate Drive \$598,900 **7114 Coventry Road \$548,500**

RENTALS

3926 El Camino Pl #8 \$1,100
Sequoyah Patio Home 2BR/1.5BA/1FP
Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359

4204 South 36th St #B2 \$1,550
Fairlington Glen Garden 2BR/1BA 1 assigned prkg
Bonnie Clark 703.725.9449

5108 Donovan Drive #208 \$1,895
Carlton Place Garden 2BR/2BA 1 garage prkg
Inderjeet Jurnani 703.472.8804

1138 Colonial Avenue \$2,250
Westover Townhouse 2BR/2BA
Jane Harter 703.431.4949

OPEN SUN 1 - 4

NEW PRICE! **NEW HOME!** **GREAT LOCATION**

8311 Mount Vernon Highway ~ Alexandria / South - \$859,000
Lofty Oaks at Mount Vernon is a small cluster of lavishly appointed Wakefield Homes starting at \$799,000. Come preview our models and take advantage of pre-construction prices and the opportunity to personalize your new home.
Mary Rice Prosser 703.625.4461



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CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Art is Everywhere. 6-9 p.m. Free. Part of the Second Thursday Art Night. Treat the family to an evening of open studios, wine and sweets, and a fun craft activity for kids. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

Rick Udler in Concert — Music at the Athenaeum. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. At 201 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Go to nvfaa.org.

Children's Chorus Auditions. 6:30-7:30 p.m. With the Alexandria Choral Society Children's Chorus. (Grades 3-12). Rehearsals are at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. All dates by appointment. For details and/or to schedule, email Kevin@AlexChoralSociety.org.

"Bronx Princess" Screening. 7 p.m. Port of Harlem magazine and the Alexandria Black History Museum will preview the new documentary "Bronx Princess," followed by a short discussion. "Bronx Princess" follows the real-life journey of headstrong 17-year-old Rocky as she leaves behind her mother in New York City to reunite with her father, a chief in Ghana, West Africa. Filmed during the tumultuous summer between high school and college, "Bronx Princess" tells Rocky's coming-of-age story. By confronting her parents' ideas of adulthood, Rocky reconciles her African heritage with her dream of independence. PBS will broadcast the 40-minute TV movie on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 10 p.m. The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in the Parker-Gray Historic District. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call the museum at 703-838-4356.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

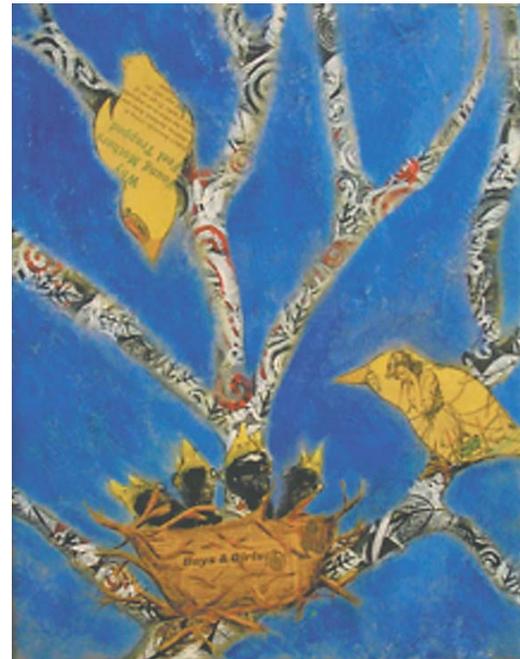
Piano Trio Performs. 8 p.m. "Triptych" will perform piano trios by Beethoven, Dvorak and Turina. With John McCrary (piano), Sonya Hayes (violin), Charlie Powers (cello). At Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call John McCrary at 703-998-6100, or online at www.blessedsacramentcc.org.

African Children's Choir. 7:30 p.m. The choir performs throughout the world in such venues as the UN, Royal Albert Hall and Madison Square Garden to raise funds for Africa's children through the choir's programs. An offering will be received. At Washington Street United Methodist Church. Call 703-836-4324.

"That Day in September." Zemfira Stage presents one performance of the true story of playwright Artie Van Why's experience surviving 9/11 and how he coped with the changes that experience brought to his life. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Tickets \$15/general, \$10/seniors and students. For information about Zemfira Stage call 703-615-6626. For reservations call 703-318-0619 or 703-615-6626.

Free Concert. At 7:30 p.m. By the internationally acclaimed African Children's Choir. At Washington Street United Methodist Church, 115 S Washington St., Alexandria. Visit www.africanchildrenschoir.com or call 703-836-4324.

Irish Band. Piper Cillian Vallely and flutist Kevin Crawford from the Irish band Lunsá. At 8 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$29 at the door, children under 14 with an adult half price. Reservations can be made at www.sunspotpro.com or by calling 800



THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Art is Everywhere. 6-9 p.m. Free. Part of the Second Thursday Art Night. Treat the whole family to an evening of open studios, wine and sweets, and a fun craft activity for kids. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

"Why Young Mothers Feel Trapped" by Elizabeth Seaver.

404-9049.

Children's Chorus Auditions. 6:30-7:30 p.m. With the Alexandria Choral Society Children's Chorus. (Grades 3-12). Rehearsals are at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. All dates by appointment. For details and/or to schedule, email Kevin@AlexChoralSociety.org.

Casting Concrete Leaves. 1-3 p.m. \$55 fee. At Green Spring Gardens. Learn to cast concrete leaves in this workshop. At 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Church Yard Sale and Fair. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tons of household items, toys, clothing, etc. Games and prizes for the kids, glitter face painting, hot dogs, drinks and bake sale. At Calvary Presbyterian Church, 6120 N. Kings Hwy., Alexandria. Go to www.calvarypres.org.

Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Lincolnia United Methodist Church, 6335 Little River Turnpike at Lincoln Ave., Alexandria, two blocks west of I-395. Rain date Sept 19. Call 703-354-5176 or lincolniaumc@verizon.net; www.lincolniaumc.org.

Mindful Eating Workshop. 2:30-3:30 p.m. What do yoga and cupcakes have in common? Approached with the right intention, both can avail you more self awareness, fewer binges, more joy and less stress. \$15/advance, \$25/at door. Held at Radiance Yoga, 110 King St., Alexandria. Register online at www.radiance-yoga.net

Tea Tasting at Lee-Fendall House Museum. 3-4:30 p.m. \$25/person. Learn about the history of tea and Victorian tea practices. Includes six teas and tasting notes. At 614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-1789 or contact leefendallhouse.org.

Art Activated. Noon to 4 p.m. Features artist demonstrations, hands-on projects, and special performances from BosmaDance (2:30-4 p.m.) and a member of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; call 703-838-4565.

Craft and Family Fun Fair. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria. Including crafts from over 50 vendors, pony rides, petting zoo, food and face painting. Rain or shine. Event is free. Contact 703-417-9219.

SEPT. 12-13

7th Annual Alexandria Festival of the Arts. Some 200 artists will be exhibiting their works as King Street in Alexandria's Old Town is transformed

into an outdoor art gallery. Discover spectacular paintings, life-size sculptures, jewelry, photography, ceramics and more. The weekend continues at the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Art Activated on Saturday, Sept. 12, from noon to 4 p.m. Hours: Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. King Street in Old Town, from Washington Street to the Waterfront.

Other weekend events include Children in the Church Yard, with family friendly activities from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, September 12-13 at Christ Church, 118 North Washington Street. On Saturday from 5:30-7:30 p.m., live swing band music will be playing in Market Square at 301 King Street.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 13

Dick Morgan in Jazz Concert. 4 p.m. Free. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Limited seating. Admission first-come, first-served. Call 703-505-0700.

Revive Your Closet. 1-3 p.m. Del Ray Fashion guru Susan Boyd, owner of Wear It Well Wardrobe and Image Consulting, will show how to restyle, remake, repurpose, and otherwise revive what's in your closet during this hands-on workshop for you and your clothes. Open to men and women. Fee: \$10. Register on-line by Thursday, Sept. 10 (www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

Old Towne Dogge Walke. 9-11 a.m. This event gives pet lovers the opportunity to stroll through historic Old Town while raising funds for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Starts at North Pitt and Oronoco Streets. Call Robert Mahoney at 703-836-7643 or email bobby@capitol-heel.com. Visit www.alexandriainimals.org.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

Fall Book Sale. 4-9 p.m. At The Charles Barrett Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4555.

The Jefferson Street Strutters. 7-9 p.m. Enjoy traditional jazz and American popular songs from the early years of the 20th century. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, part of the Thursday Nite Local Spotlight series. At 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or go to www.torpedofactory.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

Fall Book Sale. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. At The Charles Barrett Library, 717 Queen

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EXPERIENCE THE ARTS

INTERNATIONAL children's festival

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2009 | 10AM-4PM · RAIN OR SHINE!

The Arts Council of Fairfax County presents the International Children's Festival — the premier international arts education experience in the U.S. — featuring the exciting young U.S. dance sensation TAP KIDS; young performers from Georgia, Serbia, and Spain; hundreds of local artists and performing groups representing a diverse range of art forms, genres, and cultures; interactive arts and education tents and more! For more information visit: internationalchildrensfestival.org

TICKETS (GENERAL ADMISSION):	LOCATION:
ADVANCE: \$8 for adults; \$4 for seniors & children.	Wolf Trap
WEEK OF: \$10 for adults; \$6 for seniors & children.	1551 Trap Road
Free for ages 2 and under. Weekend passes available.	Vienna, Virginia, 22182

Photo Credits: Christopher Robles, Stan Weinstein, Performer Credits: Conservatorio Profesional de Danza Faria, Fairfax Chinese Dance Troup, Yocome Anashu Brown

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

MONDAY, SEPT. 14

Gadsby's Tavern Museum will be hosting its fall session of Tavern Toddlers, beginning Monday, Sept. 14, and continuing weekly through Monday, Nov. 16. Because it's never too early for kids to appreciate history, the museum developed this special program for toddlers (walkers through 36 months) and their caregivers. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime on Mondays anytime between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal Street in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.



703-799-8697 (TDD);
Visit MountVernon.org

MONDAY/SEPT. 21

Wine Tasting. 5:30-7 p.m. Discuss the wine making process with Dan Dineen and Michael Kerrigan while sipping on bottles from Australia and New Zealand and snacking on light fare prepared by Fontaine Chef and Owner Kyong Yi. Priced at \$20 per person. At Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-533-8151.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 23

Virginia WPA Writers. Old Town resident David A. Taylor, the author of *Soul of a People: The WPA Writers' Project Uncovers Depression America*, will discuss "The WPA Writers' Project in Virginia," and talk about the process of making the 1930s Virginia guidebook at 7:30 p.m. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street in Alexandria. Go to www.alexandriahistorical.org or 703-683-2636. Free.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

Alexandria Film Festival Kickoff. 6-9 p.m. Up to a dozen "silent" films will show simultaneously throughout the building with live music enhancing the sensory experience. Guests are encouraged to dress in black and white. The 3rd annual Alexandria Film Festival will be at the Masonic Temple from Sept. 25 to 27, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The festival includes high quality independent short and feature length films, documentaries, filmmaker panels and arts presentations. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4555.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Genealogist Char McCargo Bah. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Tells how she successfully traced descendants of people buried at Freedmen's Cemetery and how these techniques can be applied to any family research. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Annual Gala. 6-10 p.m. at River Farm. The American Horticultural Society gala's honorary chair is Cathal Armstrong. 703-768-5700 ext. 127 for tickets.

Country Western Dance. 8:30-11 p.m. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Bill Cole will be the DJ. Eileen Scott will teach the "Quarter to Six line dance and review the "My New Life" line dance beginning at 7:30 p.m., and Keith and Linda Buckle will review the "Chiquita" and Charleston Bump" couples

specialty dances at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 for NVCWDA members, \$12 for non-members, and \$5 for ages 16-20 with student ID. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call the hot line 703-860-4941.

Book Signing. 10 a.m. to noon. Author Laurie Cameron, who wrote "The Ghost at Old Oak Way," a kid's mystery set in Alexandria, visits Barnes and Noble, Potomac Yards, and Horray for Books from 1-2 p.m.

Author Connie Briscoe. 10:30 a.m. Will discuss her newest book, "Sisters and Lovers," and celebrate 10 years with The Harambee Readers at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria.

Fall Book Sale. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At The Charles Barrett Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4555.

SEPT. 19-20

18th Century Craft Fair. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More than 40 juried artisans will demonstrate their trades and sell their wares. Demonstrations, crafts and entertainment. At Mount Vernon. \$15/adults, \$7/ages 6-11; free for children under 5. Call 703-780-2000;

2009 ALEXANDRIA

Festival of the Arts

Brio Sculpture by Jimilu Mason

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200 Juried Artists
Paintings, Sculpture, Photography, Pottery, Glass and More!

September 12&13
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday
FREE Live Swing Band music on Saturday 5:30-7:30

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Begins, Wednesday, September 23rd



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Nationally recognized for its early-American architecture, hotels, unique boutiques, award-winning restaurants and historic attractions, Alexandria is a uniquely memorable place to shop, dine and celebrate. Go to VisitAlexandriaVA.com to plan your visit around our many events, such as:

- September 10 & October 8: Second Thursday Art Night
- September 12: Art Activated at the Torpedo Factory
- September 12-13: Alexandria Festival of the Arts
- September 12-20: Boutique Week
- September 19-20: 18th Century Craft Fair at Mount Vernon
- September 24-27: Alexandria Film Festival
- September 26: 68th Annual Tour of Historic Homes
- October 2-4: Mount Vernon's Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour
- October 3: Art on the Avenue
- October 9-10: Old Town Food and Wine Festival

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Featured Special Event:

18th-Century Craft Fair

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Immerse yourself in a bustling early-American marketplace where 40 costumed artisans demonstrate their crafts and sell their wares. Nearby, entertainers showcase 18th-century amusements, some of daring and magnificent feats!

FREE sightseeing cruises, courtesy of Spirit Cruises and Potomac Riverboat Company, while space is available.



FIND MORE SPECIAL EVENTS & VISITOR INFORMATION
AT VISIT.MOUNTVERNON.ORG OR 703-780-2000

FINE ARTS

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Gallery West Presents: Petals and Leaves, Blossoms and Greens.
Opening Reception: Saturday, Sept. 12 from 5 - 7 p.m. 2nd Thursday
Reception: Sept. 10, 6 - 9 p.m. The exhibition features an exploration of lines, shapes and colors of flowers and greens in different settings and environments by Kathy Guzman. Member work will also be on display at the gallery. Located in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, Gallery West is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2009. The gallery is opened 11 - 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

SEPT. 10-OCT. 18

"From There 2 Here." At the Target Gallery. Reception on Sept. 10 from 6-8 p.m., gallery talk with Marian Van Landingham, founder of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 7 p.m. And at the Athenaeum, Sept. 10- Oct. 4; reception on Friday, Sept. 11 from 6-8 p.m. Part of the Torpedo Factory's 35th anniversary celebration. Exhibition features artwork from three regional art centers that were inspired by the Torpedo Factory's groundbreaking concept. The participating art centers are Liberty Town Arts Workshop (Fredericksburg), GoggleWorks Center for the Arts (Reading, PA) and the Prizery (South Boston, VA).

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 27

Preview the exhibit, Reveng of the Sequel, Del Ray Artisans' September Art Show. At the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Exhibit shows artists depicting their uninhibited and unabashed versions of a sequel. A reception to meet the artists will be on Friday, Sept. 11 from 7-9:30 p.m. Call 703-838-4827 or visit



www.TheDelRayArtisans.org. The Del Ray Artisans gallery is located in the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2407 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria; call 703-838-4827.

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 30

"Creation Sings!!" a journey through the beauty of nature as photographed by Allen Pearson will be at The Gallery at Convergence, now through Wednesday, Sept. 30. The artist reception will be on Sunday, Sept. 13, 3-5 p.m. Pianist Mary Dart will join Photographer Allen Pearson to present the musical "Journey through Creation's Song". The Gallery at Convergence is located at 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria; call 703-998-6260. Gallery hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., by appointment at all other times. Visit www.allenpearsonphotos.com or www.convergencececcf.net.

SEPT. 11-OCT. 12

Artist Elisabeth G. Hudgins Common Threads, mixed media paintings. Opening reception is Saturday, Sept. 12 from 2-4 p.m. with an Artist's Talk at 3 p.m. The Gallery Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

The Gallery at Convergence hosts Art in Autumn. This one-day event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 1-6 p.m. at the Gallery at Convergence located at 1801 N Quaker Lane in Alexandria.

Art in Autumn will feature contemporary artists who work green using non-toxic, renewable and recyclable materials. Hundreds of original works of art for sale including: paintings, jewelry, fiber art, photography and much more.

A portion of all art sales will benefit Convergence programs including Artists Way, Convergence Shared Artists Studios, and Club Tiger. Gallery hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and by appointment at the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-998-6260. Go to www.convergencececcf.net

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Wednesday - All American Night

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Thursday - Italian Night

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Friday - Fish Night

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THE MUSIC LISTINGS

Know of a local venue that we don't have listed? Contact Steve Hibbard at gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9412.

The Athenaeum of Alexandria

201 Prince Street, Alexandria; call 703-548-0035. nvfaa.org.
♦ Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. — **Rick Udler**, on tour from Brazil, creator of DVD Brazilian Sound for Fingerstyle Guitar.
♦ Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. — **Andrew McKnight**
♦ Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. — **Scott McKnight & The Jelly Roll Mortals**.
♦ Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. — **David LaFleur**.

Bangkok Blues

926 W. Broad St., Falls Church. Call 703-534-0095. http://www.bangkokblues.com/.

The Birchmere

3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.
Aug. 27: **Phil Vassar**
Aug. 28: **Fender Presents: An Acoustic/Electric Evening** with Guitar Legend Dick Dale and his son Jimmy Dale
Aug. 29: **Kim Waters**
Aug. 30: **Teena Marie "Up Close & Personal"**
Aug. 31: **Teena Marie "Up Close & Personal"**
Sept. 1: **Living Colour (All Original Members)**
Sept. 2: **Peter Frampton**
Sept. 3: **Rhonda Vincent and The Rage**
Sept. 4, 5, 6: **Maysa**
Sept. 10-11: **Amel Larrieux**
Sept. 13: **The Proclaimers**

Sept. 16: **K'Jon with guest Corneille**
Sept. 17: **Jackpierce**
Sept. 18: **Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives, with Jon Dee Graham**
Sept. 19: **Johnny Winter**
Sept. 20: **Jane Monheit**
Sept. 21: **Robin Trower**
Sept. 22: **Steeleye Span "40th Anniversary Tour"**
Sept. 23: **Riders in the Sky**
Sept. 24: **Keiko Matsui**
Sept. 25: **Harmony Invitational**
Sept. 26: **The Subdudes**
Sept. 27: **The Whispers**
Sept. 28: **Corea, Clarke & White**, featuring Chick Corea, Stanley Clarke, Lenny White
Sept. 29: **Marianne Faithfull**
Sept. 30: **James McMurtry** and the Heartless Bastards
Oct. 1-2: **The Bacon Brothers with Rebecca Loebe and Raina Rose**
Oct. 3: **Paula Poundstone**
Oct. 4: **Will Downing**
Oct. 5-6: **The Acoustic Brotherhood Tour with Los Lonely Boys and Alejandro Escovedo with Hacienda**
Oct. 8-9: **Nanci Griffith w/ Eric Brace & Peter Cooper with Mike Aldridge**
Oct. 10: **Tom Paxton with the Kennedys**
Oct. 11: **Girllyman with special guest PO' Girl**
Oct. 13: **Marc Broussard "Welcome to My Living Room"**
Oct. 14: **Chris Hillman and Herb Pedersen with the Grascals**
Oct. 15: **Dave Koz**
Oct. 16: **Aaron Kara "I'm Having More Fun Than You"**
Oct. 17: **Cheryl Wheeler & Christine Lavin**
Oct. 18: **Acoustic Alchemy**

Oct. 19: **Little Richard**
Oct. 20: **Playing for Change Band**
Oct. 21: **Robert Earl Keen & Todd Snider with Bruce Robison**
Oct. 22: **Kathleen Madigan**
Oct. 23: **Belly Horror Show 2009**
Oct. 25: **David Garrett**
Oct. 26: **David Garrett**
Oct. 27-28: **KEB' MO & Band**
Oct. 29: **Mike Doughty "The Question Jar Show"**
Oct. 30: **Bill Kirchen & The Hammer of the Honky Tonk Gods with Candye Kane**
Nov. 1: **Patty Loveless**
Nov. 2: **American Revival feat. Uncle Earl, Sierra Hull and Highway 111, and The Dixie Bee-Liners**
Nov. 3: **Jesse Cook**
Nov. 5: **Gerald Albright**
Nov. 6-7: **Dar Williams**
Nov. 11: **Milton Nascimento**
Nov. 13: **Chris Smither with Paul Cebar (solo)**
Nov. 14: **Don McLean**
Nov. 15: **Los Lobos**
Nov. 18: **Kinky Friedman**
Nov. 19: **Delbert McClinton with Steve Bassett Band**
Nov. 20: **Kate Clinton**
Nov. 21: **Del McCoury Band**
Nov. 22: **Jeffrey Osborne**
Nov. 25: **Tommy Castro & Coco Montoya**
Nov. 27-28: **The Selcom Scene & The Dry Branch Fire Squad**
Dec. 3: **Hot Tuna "Acoustic"**
Dec. 4-5: **Four Bitchin' Babes** Diva Nation starring Sally Fingerett, Debi Smith, Nancy Moran and Deirdre Flint
Dec. 6: **Norman Brown & Mindi Abair**
Dec. 7: **A Very Jerry Christmas Show** featuring Jerry Douglas with guests John Oates and Maura O'Connell
Dec. 8-9: **Mint Condition**

THEATRE



C. STANLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Jay Hardee and James Finley with the cast of "Camille: A Tearjerker."

Tears in High Drag

Washington Shakespeare Co.'s "Camille" is a tearjerker.

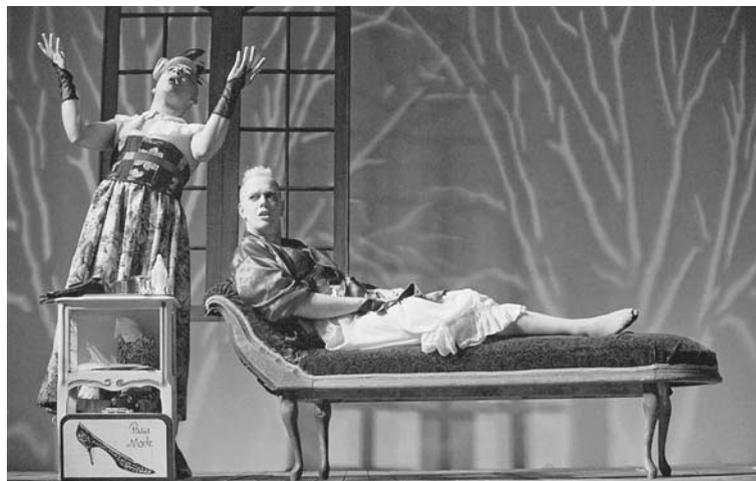
BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

The Washington Shakespeare Company's new production of "Camille: A Tearjerker" answers the question "Can one story accommodate the extremes of tragedy and comedy?" with a resounding "Yes, if it is extreme in the first place." What's more, they throw in the very theatrical elements of a drag show, with marvelous actor Jay Hardee in the title role.

The novel written in 1848 which became both a classic of the stage and screen with such memorable actresses as Sarah Bernhardt and Greta Garbo, and a classic of grand opera as Verdi's "La Traviata," makes a unique drag show that is fun and funny at one extreme and lives up to the promise of the subtitle "tearjerker" at the other.

The company didn't just decide one day to have the role of the beautiful but fatally ill prostitute played by a man instead of a woman. The approach is one of the most notable innovations of Charles Ludlam, the author of that other classic of drag theater, "The Mystery of Irma Vep" who, with his Ridiculous Theatrical Company, produced this drag version of the tale in 1973 with Ludlam himself as Camille.

Ludlam subtitled his version "A Travesty on La Dame aux Camélias by Alexandre Dumas Fils" providing both the full title of the original novel and its author, the son (or "fils") of the Alexandre Dumas who had written such hits of the adventure-romance genre as "The Count of Monte Cristo" and "The Three Musketeers." There were no sword fights in the son's story, just a heart-touching tale of a love that



Frank Britton and Jay Hardee star in "Camille: A Tearjerker."

couldn't succeed in the Parisian society of its time.

With Hardee as Camille, the production under director Christopher Henley takes on a heft that belies mere transvestitism or camp drag flippantry. That's not to say that the production isn't campy, it superbly fits the definition of "camp" as "humorously and outrageously utilizing exaggerated feminine behavior or attitudes." From outrageous costumes (designed by Jennifer Tardiff) to over-the-top strutting and flouncing from actors like Kim Curtis, who makes some of the prose dialogue sound like spirited poetry, and Frank Britton, who lip-synchs nearly flawlessly to Lena Horne's recording of "Stormy Weather," the production doesn't shy away from excess. Indeed, the bare bottom of one actor caught in a spotlight is the opening image of the entire show.

Hardee joins in the spirit of humor and high energy vamping for the lighter scenes of the play, but manages to shift to a heart-tugging

sadness as his/her character's illness turns terminal and the romance appears hopelessly undermined by society's expectations. Hardee takes the show to a higher level of emotional impact.

Also impressive are two non-campy performances, those of James Finley as Camille's lover who hasn't the fortune she needs to support her life style and John C. Bailey as the lover's father who begs Camille to break it off before the relationship ruins his son's reputation beyond repair.

Where and When:

The Washington Shakespeare Company production of "Camille: A Tearjerker" plays through Sept. 27 at the Clark Street Playhouse, 601 South Clark Street just north of Crystal City. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 - \$35. Call 800-494-8497 or log on to www.boxofficetickets.com/WSC.



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE

"Martha Washington" portrayed by Mary Wiseman, "Dr. Craik" portrayed by Tom Plott, "Billy Lee" (white coat, red vest) Washington's servant is portrayed by Willie Wright and "Caroline" Mrs. Washington maid-servant is portrayed by Denise Braxtonbrown-Smith: They just finished an re-enactment ceremony before the citizenship certificates were issued.

Earning U.S. Citizenship

George Washington's home hosted a citizenship ceremony for more than 60 children on Sept. 3.

The children, whose ages range from one to 17, received their official citizenship certificates on site at Mount Vernon. United States Citizens and Immigration Services' Sarah Taylor, district director, administered the oath.

"Mrs. Washington" and George Washington's close friend "Dr. Craik" welcomed America's newest little citizens. Children from the following countries received their citizenship: Bolivia, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam.



Muneeba Azam from Pakistan became a citizen of the United States of America.



Omar Kettani from Morocco is holding his citizen certificate.



Andy Ngoyen from Vietnam (middle) is standing with his parents and his sister Huong Ngoyen after he received his citizenship.

Nelly Addo Ghana and Addo Kwabena Gyasi are standing with their father after they receive their citizenship certificate.



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OPINION

Tips about Returning to Work

BY GERALD A. FILL

"Boomers" and other seniors, motivated by economic need or the desire to keep busy in a meaningful way, are increasingly moving back into the workforce. Some are well prepared to return to an increasingly fast-paced often technologically-oriented work environment, others are not. Here are some suggestions and issues to consider for those who have been retired for a time and are considering going back to work.

IF YOU ARE NOT computer literate take one or more courses in Microsoft Word. Ideally, you should also become comfortable with Excel, Access, and Power point. This step, if you need it, is perhaps the most crucial feature of your preparation and ability to be successful in returning to work.

THE NEW MIDDLE AGE People skills, and experience in one or more subject areas, are always important; however, computer literacy is key to a retiree's ability to compete in today's technologically-oriented workforce.

ONCE YOU ARE successful in securing a job be prepared to set aside your ego, your background in a former leadership position, and be low key and deferential to your supervisors and peers. Most will initially view you first and foremost as a "senior," then secondarily as a co-worker able to carry his or her weight in your assigned areas. You will be tested technologically, socially, and just how productive you can be over a sustained period of time. Be prepared for situations in which it will be best to set aside your desire to be an independent self-starter, and go along with what you may view as micro managing by your supervisor. First impressions are important so your willingness to follow the narrower bureaucratic path rather than asserting your independence will be watched closely. Be extra

cautious in what you say and how you say it. Above all, be humble. Failing to do so may hurt your integration into the office culture.

BE PREPARED to schedule dental and doctor appointments early or late in the day to avoid work schedule conflicts. Grocery shopping, Bank appointments, mowing the lawn, and other personal chores will need to be scheduled and condensed so that you are not in conflict with your new work schedule. Your freedom of movement to accomplish chores and socialize with friends may need planning to avoid the frustrations of saying there is not enough time in the day for personal needs. If you are frustrated by the condensed personal time you will not be as effective in your workplace. Get organized.

GETTING INTO workplace shape is more than becoming computer literate. Your physical well-being will have a huge impact on your alertness, your energy, and the consistency with which you produce in the workplace. Get that physical exam you have been putting off. Resolve any problems before you start a new job. Check out your eyesight; do you have cataracts that need to be removed? Don't delay the surgery. It is simple and safe.

Your health is essential if you want to have a smooth transition back to work. Also, either organize your own in-home workout, join a fitness center, or join a fitness group which organizes early morning and weekend fun runs. The exercise will help give you the energy you need to hang in there with the younger crowd. Be more attentive to your nutrition, your sleep habits, your lifestyle choices. The National Institute on Aging has a Web site: SeniorHealth.com, which can offer you an important authoritative starting place for tips on good eating habits, exercise, and other health-related matters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7

plans. Are all these people wrong as opposed to those who want a government run health care system that includes putting the government between patients and their doctors?

Also, will a government takeover of the health care system lead to socialized medicine like Canada and Britain where the press has reported horror stories of long wait times for seeing doctors and for having surgery with detrimental consequences for patients? According to Merritt Hawkins and Associates, the National Physician Search and Consulting firm that did a study of wait times to see doctors stated that despite the concentration of doctors in the Boston area that the average wait time is 70 days to see an OB/ GYN, 54 days to see a dermatologist, 40 days to see an orthopedic surgeon and 21 days to see a cardiologist. The study points out that the higher wait times in Boston may be attributed to the fact that in 2006, Massachusetts implemented a health

care reform plan mandating coverage for all residents. With the hundreds of thousands of newly insured patients, demand for doctors greatly increased.

Before I sent my earlier letter to the Gazette editor, I had communicated my concerns and views to appropriate elected officials about the proposed government run health care system. I also asked that citizens do the same.

Again, I urge everyone to make their concerns and views known to their congressional member and U.S. senators to improve the existing health care system to cover all citizens including those not covered by health insurance. In my view we don't need government telling us what to do as contemplated by the House bill being considered on Capitol Hill including coming between us and our doctors and end of life decisions ever. Life and our freedom to choose are too precious.

Frank Medico
Mount Vernon

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West Potomac Dominates Rival Mount Vernon

Wolverines gain more than 300 yards in first half.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

The West Potomac football team put on an offensive clinic during its season opener against rival Mount Vernon on Sept. 3 and cruised to a 42-3 victory at WPHS.

West Potomac's no-huddle spread attack accounted for 312 yards in the first half and helped build a 35-3 advantage before halftime. The Wolverines finished with a 394-46 advantage in total yards.

West Potomac quarterback Colin Mathewson completed 17 of 28 passes for 295 yards and four touchdowns. Receiver DeAndre Essex caught eight passes for 194 yards and two touchdowns, and running back Darel Layne rushed 13 times for 79 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

"We executed really well in the first half," Essex said. "It's a good first win but we've got to work hard next week in practice."

West Potomac (1-0) led 21-3 before putting the game out of reach with two touchdowns in the final three minutes of the opening half.

Mathewson hit Essex on a slant route for a 12-yard touchdown, putting the Wolverines ahead 28-3 with 2:26 to play in the second quarter. The pass was set up by a 16-yard run from running back EJ Johnson.

Mount Vernon (0-1) moved the ball into West Potomac territory on its ensuing possession, but fumbled the ball away to the Wolverines on the 32-yard line with 50 sec-



West Potomac's DeAndre Essex, with ball, caught eight passes for 194 yards and two touchdowns during the Wolverines' win over Mount Vernon.

onds remaining. West Potomac responded with a five-play, 68-yard touchdown drive, which lasted 29 seconds. The drive was capped with a 32-yard pass from Mathewson to Daryl Copeland, who made a leaping grab over a Majors defender near the end zone.

The West Potomac defense held Mount Vernon to six first downs and seven rushing yards. Wolverine linebacker Shakil White finished with three sacks and two fumble recoveries.

"We played good. We were aggressive, we attacked," White said. "I loved it."

Colin Amerau's 38-yard field goal in the

second quarter accounted for Mount Vernon's points.

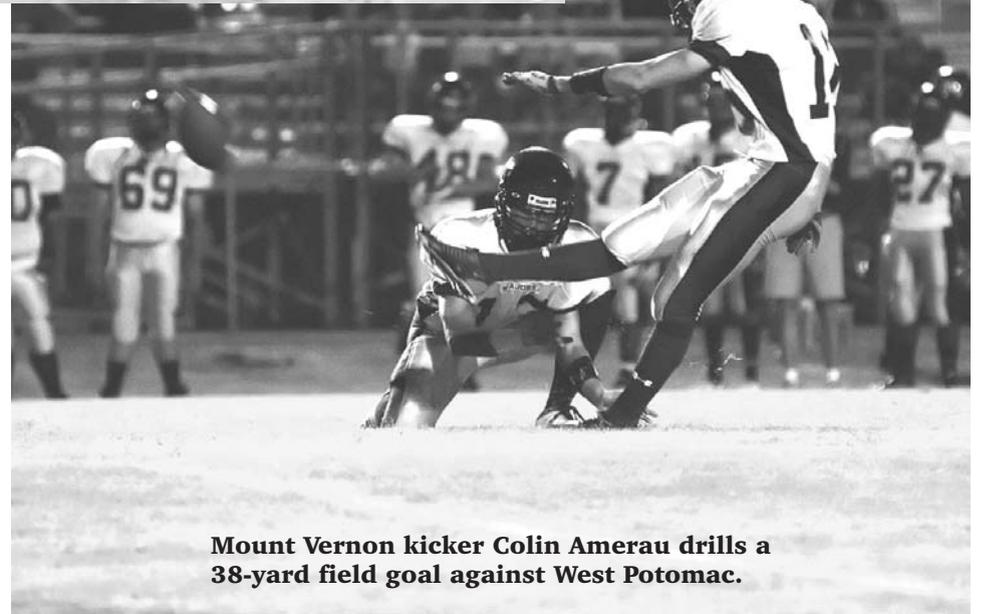
"He's going to be a weapon for us," Mount Vernon coach Tom Glynn said before the season of Amerau. "He's pretty good. He's been working with us for four years. ... He's starting to come around real good."

Sean Stewart had one catch for 39 yards for the Majors, and Kenneth Harris totaled 39 rushing yards on 11 carries.

Shawn Lee had six catches for 39 yards and a touchdown for West Potomac.

West Potomac travels to take on Westfield on Friday. Mount Vernon will host T.C. Williams.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE/
THE GAZETTE



Mount Vernon kicker Colin Amerau drills a 38-yard field goal against West Potomac.

MVCC Wins Women's State Team Championship

Team sweeps all three of its matches.

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
THE GAZETTE

To quote a well-known catcher-philosopher, it was "déjà vu all over again" on Sept. 3 when Mount Vernon Country Club golfers won the Virginia women's state team championship.^o The win was the club's second team title in a row and the fourth in the past nine years.

Twenty teams entered the three-day event at Belle Haven Country Club. Medal play in the first round

resulted in five flights with four teams each. In the final two rounds of match play, each club fielded three two-woman teams that played four-ball matches for a point a hole. On the last day, Mount Vernon swept all three of its matches and won the championship flight over Country Club of Virginia (Richmond), 30-24.

"We really prepared for this tournament," team member Katie Cox said. "We created maps of each green to better understand how to putt possible cup locations."

Another player, Debbie Simpson had devoted separate practice sessions at Mount Vernon to specific shots she expected to play at Belle Haven. The host course, for example, features deep bunkers, so she worked on getting the ball up quickly with a lob wedge.

"All of that paid off," she said afterward, smiling broadly.

Simpson played her bunker shot stone dead on the 18th green to secure a halve and a one-shot win with teammate Shawn McCullough.

Mount Vernon displayed considerable team chemistry, as well as creative pairing. Simpson, a systems engineer for Lockheed Martin, has played for years with

McCullough, a Boeing software engineer. Their approach seemed particularly precise and analytic. Cox, a financial analyst at the Federal Reserve, paired with Joan Gardner, an executive with BlueCross BlueShield, and they steered clear of costly mistakes. Lawyer Susan Podolsky and FBI special agent Kim Franks were keen on the rules of golf and the need for orderly play.

Belle Haven's team played in the first flight, but lost in the first round of match play. Team members included JoAnne Domson, Nancy Duncan, Joan Flippin, Arline Hoffman, Heidi Smith, and Ruth Ann Verell.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon player Shawn McCullough jumps for joy after a birdie putt on the last day of the Virginia women's team tournament.

From Horse Stable into Fitness Center

FROM PAGE 1

ticipates in his school's varsity track and field team in the shot put and discus events in addition to Boy Scout activities. "I am thinking of going to college and studying to be an environmental lawyer," said Martin, who lives in Lorton.

His mother, Mary Aring-Martin, an assistant Scout Master, said he is a good student. She and her husband, a former U.S. Customs official, helped their son with logistics, leadership, and arranged for mirrors, flooring, and shipping to be donated toward the project. Local companies donating materials were: Delray Glass & Mirror; Nora Flooring Systems, Inc.; a school system contractor, Tony Taylor, provided labor and flooring expertise, and New Penn Shipping donated the shipping costs.

National Park Police Horse Mounted Patrol Officer Denise Maradiaga proposed the project as part of a Good Turn for America partnership agreement with the Boy Scouts of America. She is the Park Police community



The Fort Hunt Park stable currently houses three horses. The horses are transported by trailer to the District of Columbia for patrol work. This includes a former Thoroughbred Stakes race horse, Sassy Hound; shown here with Officer Denise Maradiaga, and Eagle Scout candidate and project leader Patrick Martin.



Patrick Martin and one of his Boy Scout helpers, William Haas, at work on the horse stable conversion project.

representative for the horse stable conversion project. "I couldn't be more pleased by the Boy Scouts' efforts," Maradiaga said. "They really worked hard to get this done. With the cuts in our Park Police budget, this kind of volunteer project is so helpful to our efforts to continue to serve the public in the Nation's Capitol."

History of the Horse Mounted U.S. Park Police

The U.S. Park Police was created by George Washington in 1791. It was originally called the Park Watchmen. In 1919 it was designated the U.S. Park Police by an Act of Congress. The mission of the U.S. Park Police is to investigate crime, apprehend violators, and provide safety and security in the National Parks.

To accomplish these functions there are several branches and units: Criminal Investigations, Special Forces, and specialized units: SWAT Team, K-9 Patrol, Aviation, Motorcycle Unit, and the Horse Mounted Patrol Unit. Today, the Horse Mounted Unit — created in 1934 — allows uniformed police access to patrol the many trails of Rock Creek

Park, and other areas inaccessible by other means of transportation. The Horse Mounted Unit has evolved into a crowd management and urban policing function. It is frequently called upon during demonstrations that occur on the National Mall, the Capitol, and the White House.

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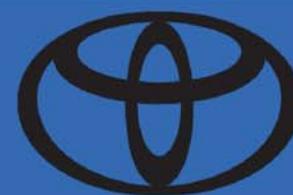
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