

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 10, 2009



The pipe and drum bands filled the air with the keening of pipes and roll of the drums.

39th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET



Fred Parker drove "Rudolph" in the Hard Times Café truck.



John Ariail and friends parade behind the Sinclair banner.



The Scottish Highland Regiment.



The terriers line up waiting for their cue to lead.

Ramped Up Anger

Residents and city leaders unite against proposal affecting preserve.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The sound of construction cuts through the bucolic scenery at the Winkler Botanical Preserve, where a monolithic construction site rises over the tree-tops in the distance. This is the Washington Headquarter Service, an annex to the Pentagon for more than 6,000 employees of the Department of Defense. Advocates for public transportation harbor lingering hostility about the selection of the Mark Center site because it's not near a Metro station.

Now environmentalists and schoolchildren have joined forces to prevent the Virginia Department of Transportation to allow an offramp to be constructed through the nature preserve.

"I'll put it succinctly by quoting

Gertrude Stein," said Diane Costello, who lives near nature sanctuary. "A preserve is a preserve is a preserve."

This weekend, City Council is set to hear comments from the general public on a set of proposals that would allow direct access from Shirley Memorial Highway to Washington Headquarter Service. A pair of similar proposals from the Virginia Department of Transportation shows an offramp cutting through part of the Winkler Botanical Preserve. The nonprofit foundation that maintains the land has opposed any effort to encroach into the preserve, and a number of children appeared at a public hearing last week to oppose the tree-slashing proposal.

"The reason we moved to the West End was the green space and

SEE OFFRAMP, PAGE 12

Slow Junket to China

Delegation from Alexandria school system travels to the Far East.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Only Nixon could go to China. But a delegation of seven school administrators and a School Board member from Alexandria were only a few decades behind.

"It's not costing us anything other than the registration fees," said school spokeswoman Mary Jane Solomon, adding that partici-

pants cost city taxpayers \$400 each.

The eight-member, eight-day excursion started last Wednesday and is sponsored by the College Board in conjunction with the Confucius Institute, a Chinese nonprofit organization owned by the Office of Chinese Language Council International. The delegation from central administration head

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 13

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Uncle Santa

Have members of the Alexandria City Council spent the year being naughty or nice? **Uncle Sam** will have the final say when he plays **Santa Claus** in the coming days, considering the stimulus wish of the elected leaders.

The craze this year? Trolleys.

City Council members put a request for four hybrid trolleys at the top of their holiday wish list earlier this week, approving a measure to seek \$2.4 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The city-owned trolleys will eventually replace the rented trolleys operated by the Maryland-based Martz Group, a service that was launched in April 2008.

"We really see this as a stimulus project that is going to be very good for the city," said **Rich Baier**, the city's director of transportation.

When City Manager **Jim Hartmann** suggested that the council should purchase five diesel trolleys, council members handed him a lump of coal. Instead, they insisted, the city should purchase the more expensive hybrid model. During a Tuesday night discussion of the purchase, council members said the high profile vehicles will have fewer emissions, cut down on noise and smell better.

"If you have a stinky trolley going up and down King Street, this is not a good advertisement," said Councilwoman **Del Pepper**.

Leaning on Comcast

Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** is someone who knows the art of the deal. His experience as vice president at Virginia Commerce Bank has given him a solid grasp on the world of finance. And his years as mayor of the city season his comments from the dais. But it's his direct way of expressing himself that makes an impression.

Take this week.

Council members were considering a proposal to extend the deadline for a franchise agreement with cable-giant Comcast. If they failed to act, the franchise would have expired at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve — not the best way to ring in 2010.

"I don't know about you," explained Donley. "But I want to watch television."

But negotiations between city officials and cable lawyers have dragged on longer than expected. Now that the council has approved a 10-month extension, both sides have a new deadline to shape their discussions. To emphasize the point, Donley took a moment to lean on the Comcast representative on hand in the council chambers Tuesday night.

"Hi there. How are you? Good to see you," the vice mayor said before abruptly changing his tone. "Get it done."

Accreditation Humor

How easy is receiving reaccreditation from the National Recreation and Park Association? Accreditation manager **James O'Connor** had an answer Tuesday night, when he presented the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities with a "crystal award" recognizing the agency's adherence to 155 standards.

"It's no walk in the park," he said, prompting groans from the audience.

This is the End

Left with no budget and nothing to do, the Consumer Affairs Commission may soon become a thing of the past. In a memorandum outlining annual reports from board and commissions, the city manager explained that commissioners have recommending disbanding their own commission in the wake of a budget cut eliminating their annual budget.

Correction

Speaking of budget items, an item in last week's notebook incorrectly identified the cost to taxpayers of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade as \$67,000. In fact, the parade is scheduled to cost \$24,000 in the coming fiscal year. The Alexandria Birthday celebration is the event that will cost taxpayers \$67,000.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

Truth Is Out There?

Alexandria jail awaits London man who hacked Pentagon looking for evidence of UFOs.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

He never pretended to be on a guest list, but he was able to use commercially available software to crash into top-secret computers at the Pentagon multiple times looking for proof of extraterrestrial visitors. Now federal prosecutors in Alexandria are awaiting word from the British courts on their efforts to extradite Gary McKinnon, a 43-year-old unemployed computer systems administrator who suffers from a form of autism known as Asperger's Syndrome.

According to the BBC, McKinnon insists he hacked the

computers looking for proof of UFOs. And the London Daily Telegraph reported that a London judge warned that he might try to kill himself if extradited. That means that Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne would be responsible for detaining a man with Asperger's Syndrome who may also be suicidal. Lawhorne says it's just another day at the office for his deputies in Alexandria, who have hosted the likes of former New York Times reporter Judy Miller and convicted terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui.

"The first thing we would do in a situation like this is screen him," said Lawhorne, adding that the jail has a special unit for detainees who suffer from chronic mental



FILE PHOTO/THE CONNECTION

Dozens of computers at the Department of Defense were hacked by an unemployed computer system administrator in London.

illness. "If we determine that he's a threat to himself or other inmates, we would house him sepa

SEE WAITING, PAGE 5

The Wrap on McKinnon

♦ **Hacking the Army:** Between Feb. 1, 2002 and Feb. 22, 2002, according to the indictment, McKinnon installed RemotelyAnywhere to an Army computer at Fort Myer and deleted 2,455 user accounts, trashed operating system files and copied a document containing account names and passwords. The indictment lists 13 different Army bases and facilities where he is charged with "impairing the integrity and availability of data, programs, systems and information." Prosecutors say he caused more than \$400,000 in damages by hacking into Army computers.

♦ **Hacking the Navy:** Between March 2001 and March 19, according to the indictment, McKinnon installed RemotelyAnywhere and deleted operating system files, installing software tools and copying files. The indictment lists six different Navy bases and facilities where computers were compromised. Prosecutors say he caused more than \$200,000 in damages by hacking into the Navy computers.

♦ **Hacking NASA:** Between September 2001 and March 19, 2002, according to the indictment, McKinnon installed RemotelyAnywhere and deleted operating system files, installed software tools and copied files. The indictment lists six different NASA bases

and facilities that were compromised. Prosecutors say he caused more than \$30,000 in damages by hacking into NASA computers.

♦ **Hacking the Air Force:** Between February 2001 and March 19, according to the indictment, McKinnon installed RemotelyAnywhere to an Air Force computer in Arlington and installed software tools for "unauthorized access to computers." Prosecutors charge that the Air Force hack and a separate Department of Defense breach of security at Fort Meade in Maryland caused more than \$10,000.

— Source: United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia

No Longer A Target

In the six years since the murder of Nancy Dunning, one image has served as an enduring symbol for the mystery surrounding the killing. Now police say the focus of their investigation has changed, and they are no longer looking for the mystery man in the photo.

The image features a man of unknown identity strolling through the entrance of the Potomac Yard Target store wearing a black jacket and jeans. He is glancing to the left as he chats into a cell phone. The photo was released by the Alexandria Police Department in the days following the Dec. 3, 2003 murder of Dunning — a well-known real-estate agent in Del Ray and the wife of

then Sheriff Jim Dunning.

Now — as Alexandria marks the sixth anniversary of the still-unresolved case — police say they were never able to determine who this man was or interview him. But they say the focus of the investigation has shifted, and now the Target mystery man is no longer in the radar of homicide detectives.

"He is not a prime suspect, and he is not a person of interest," said Jody Donaldson, a spokesman for the Police Department. "But it's important to note that if this man or anybody else has information about that day, they should contact our investigators."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

Man in surveillance image is no longer a focus of six-year-old murder investigation.



COURTESY OF THE ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police say this man is no longer a person of interest.

BUSINESS MATTERS

As the Smoke Clears

The smell of cigarette smoke is still faintly present in many of the Alexandria's bars and restaurants, but the smokers are gone. Or at least they are standing in the cold outside.

Virginia's statewide smoking ban went into effect last Tuesday, and restaurateurs say they have not been harmed — at least not yet. Because the District of Columbia and Maryland already have smoking bans, Virginia smokers are not liable to ditch Alexandria restaurants in favor of a place where they can light up indoors. But Irish restaurateur **Pat Troy** says he fears the loophole allowing smoking at restaurants with special ventilation systems will create competition among those who are able to afford the high-priced air-filtration technology.

"It's a half-assed smoking ban," said Troy, whose Pitt Street bar has long been one of the smokiest spots in town. "They should have gone all the way instead of allowing smoking at places with the certain kind of ventilation system."

On the plus side, Troy said, he said he's encouraged that his chain-smoking customers might cut back. On the first day of the ban, he kept a close eye on cigarette-smoking regulars. Troy said he was surprised to notice the chain-smokers heading for the door only once or twice in an evening. He hopes they'll kick the habit and remain loyal customers for years to come.

"These are people who would puff, puff, drink, puff, puff, drink," said the Irish entrepreneur. "Now things are different."

Dispatching the Dispatch Rule

How many dispatch trips should Alexandria taxicab drivers be required to make each day? City officials would like to require them to two dispatch trips each day, a measure that would prevent the taxicab drivers from hanging out at hotels or the airport instead of responding to calls. But the city's taxicab industry is opposed to the idea.

All six of the city's cab companies sent a letter to the City Council members asking for an "indefinite moratorium" on the requirement. Late last month, representatives from all six companies met with the city manager and transportation officials in an effort to ditch the dispatch rule. This weekend, the council will consider postponing the annual review of the taxicab industry for six months to examine alternatives to the two-dispatch-trips-per-driver rule.

"It's become a problem because the economy is down and ridership is down," said **Ken Aggrey**, general manager of the White Top Cab Company. "We are able to comply with the rule, but some of the other cab companies are not. So enforcing this rule would put all those taxicab drivers out of work."

City Council members are set to consider the six-month postponement this weekend.

Agreeing to Agree

When attorneys for the Atlanta-based power company Mirant

SEE BUSINESS MATTERS, PAGE 28

BUSINESS

Neighborhood Pharmacy in Del Ray

A place where everyone wants to know your name.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Remember the good old days of the local drug store — the one that was owned by a pharmacist who knew everyone and their children by their names?

Well, the good old days have returned to Alexandria with The Neighborhood Pharmacy where they'll even remember your pet's name.

Co-owned by Pharmacist Stacey Swartz and National Community Pharmacist Association (NCPA) Executive Barbara Hayward, The Neighborhood Pharmacy is located on Mount Vernon Avenue in the heart of Del Ray.

One of Swartz's goals is to get to know her patients by their names, and she wants them to call her by her first name.

"I want customers to know that it's their pharmacy, that I'm their pharmacist and I'm not going anywhere," she said.

"Stacey and I want to make the pharmacy visit less intimidating for customers and the medications and instructions more understandable for patients," added Hayward.

Swartz, who lives in Del Ray and Hayward, who hails from Mount Vernon, met when Swartz was still a pharmacy student doing a residency rotation at NCPA here in Alexandria.

Swartz knew she didn't want to work at an association long term. She wanted to be a practicing pharmacist — but not for a big chain.

AS THE DIRECTOR of the Management Institute at NCPA, Hayward provides education that helps pharmacists get into ownership and successfully run their new businesses. Hayward kept telling Swartz she should open her own pharmacy.

One day, Swartz called Hayward's bluff. "I said fine. But I'm not doing it without you."

Hayward agreed right away.

"It just seemed like a really great idea," she said.

The decision to locate in Del Ray was prompted by a friend who has a business there.

"Any place that has a cheese shop and a butcher shop — we just knew this is the kind of place where a community pharmacy would work," Hayward said.

Swartz earned her Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE

Customer Danielle Tucker of Alexandria (left) picks up her special order from The Neighborhood Pharmacy's Barbara Hayward (center) and Pharmacist Stacey Swartz.

Hayward noted that most people don't realize the rigorous training that goes into earning the PharmD. In addition to six to eight years of education, training includes clinical rotations in every practice area possible. Swartz's rotations included a hospital pharmacy, mail order pharmacy, the FDA and retail pharmacy.

ONE OF THE REASONS Swartz prefers the independent pharmacy setting is that she's able to spend more time with patients on patient care.

"Every single patient who comes in here every day gets medication counseling," she said. "We love talking to patients."

According to the American Pharmacists Association, patients often have multiple physicians who don't always know every medication a patient is taking. That's one reason The Neighborhood Pharmacy offers medication reviews for all new customers. Swartz encourages people to call or email stacey@delraypharmacy.com to make an appointment for this free service. Swartz explains it as a 25-30 minute session where she'll go through all of the patient's medications — both prescription and non-prescription — and provide an assessment of his or her current medication regimen. "I'll make recommendations and discuss any problems with the patient's doctors," she said, adding that it's also an excellent opportunity to ask any health care question in a relaxed, non-rushed environment.

"We're trying to get patients in the habit of asking us everything they need to know about their medi-

SEE PART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD, PAGE 28

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Waiting for the Pentagon Hacker

FROM PAGE 3

rately from the general population.”
According to a 2002 indictment filed by former United States Attorney Paul McNulty, McKinnon faces charges of hacking into dozens of computers between February 2001 and March 2002. Prosecutors say he caused more than \$640,000 in damages by hacking into computers used by the Army, Navy, Air Force and NASA. The British computer whiz apparently used a commercially available software program known as “RemotelyAnywhere” to hack the top-secret computers. After that, the indictment charges, he deleted user accounts, deleted operating system files and copied documents containing account names and passwords.

The more he hacked, the feds say, the more access he gained.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

ONGOING

Annual Christmas Tree Sale to benefit the Alexandria Police Youth Camp. The sale will be ongoing, weeknights from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and every weekend from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., until they are sold out. The sale is held by the Amtrak Station at 110 Callahan Drive, Alexandria.

“Once installed on a host computer, RemotelyAnywhere allowed a user to remotely control the host computer and access the host computer from any other computer connected to the Internet,” McNulty wrote in the 2002 indictment.

When asked if the Pentagon has any information about UFOs that McKinnon might have uncovered, a spokesman for the Department of Defense referred questions to a “fact sheet” on the issue. According to the official Pentagon document, the federal government investigated UFOs from 1948 to 1969 — an operation that was known by the name “Project Bluebook.” But the program was shuttered after officials failed to prove that any UFO report could be determined to be an extraterrestrial vehicle.

“This issue is no longer being investigated by the Defense Department,” the fact sheet explains.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

Latin American Book Discussion Group. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. The discussion is in English. Contact the Reference Desk at 703-519-5900.

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Professional Networking Breakfast. 7:30 a.m. At the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Register online at www.alexchamber.com. \$25/members; \$35/non-members.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7



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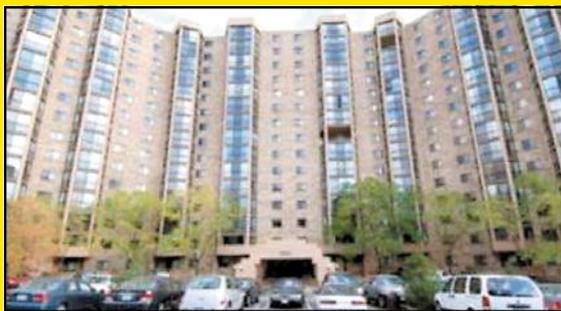
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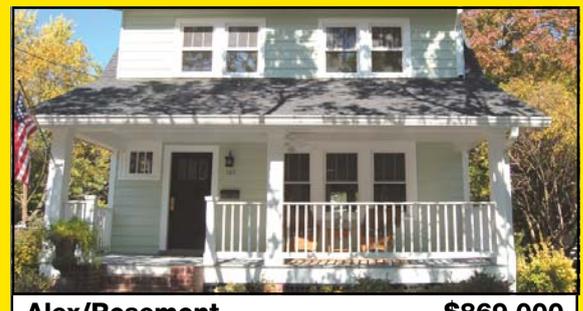
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OBITUARY

Ruth Mary (Shuman) Norris

Ruth Mary (Shuman) Norris, 101, died in Yarmouth, Maine, on Friday, Dec. 4, 2009. She was born in Hagerstown, Md., in 1908, to Aubra and Annie Virginia Shuman. Her family moved to Alexandria, Va., where she attended Alexandria schools and where her father was well-known as the owner/operator of Shuman's Bakery. After graduation from Madison College, she taught in the Alexandria school system for five years. During World War II she worked for the Red Cross at the headquarters in Washington, D.C.

She married Edward J. Norris when he was stationed at Ft. Belvoir, Va, with the Army Corps of Engineers, and they returned to

his native Portland, Me., to live. Her former husband died in 1998. She moved to the assisted living facility at Bay Square in Yarmouth, Me., in 2003, where she bloomed under wonderful care in pleasant surroundings. Her positive attitude and sense of humor kept her interested and interesting throughout her long life.

Mrs. Norris leaves her daughter, Virginia Ann (Norris) Taylor and her husband, Allen, of Annandale, Va.; nephew I. Meade Hufford of Weems, Va.; nephew Lonny Marchant and his wife, Teddy, of Alexandria, Va.; nephew Frank



Marchant and his wife, Jeanette, of Richmond, Va.; nephew Denbeigh Lee Marchant of Newport News, Va.; several grandnieces and -nephews; and innumerable friends and admirers. In lieu of

flowers, please consider a donation to the American Red Cross or the Alzheimer's Association.

A memorial service was scheduled for Wednesday Dec. 9 in the Woodfords Congregational Chapel. Interment will be at a later date in Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria, Va. Arrangements are under the direction of Jones, Rich & Hutchins Funeral Home 199 Woodford St., Portland.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Health Care Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Hosted by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Health Justice Initiative. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Contact Krysta Jones at krystanjoness@gmail.com or 703-969-9647.

FRIDAY/DEC. 11
Commonwealth Academy Open House. 9-10 a.m. Learn about its

award winning college-prep program for students with learning differences and AD/HD. Grades 4-12. Meet with faculty and staff and tour the school. At the Commonwealth Academy, 1321 Leslie Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6912 or go to www.CommonwealthAcademy.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 12
Alexandria City Council Public Hearing at Council Chambers. 9:30 a.m. At City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria. Contact Jackie

Henderson at 703-838-4550.

SUNDAY/DEC. 13
Jewish Genealogy Society. 12:15-1:30 p.m. tours of the Jews of D.C. Exhibit. Joint program with the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington. Speaker Anne Rubin, an expert on the Civil War, will speak on "Father Abraham and the Children of Israel: Lincoln and American Jews." At Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Visit www.jewishgen.org/jsgsw/

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OPINION

Choose Responsibly

Many families have paid dearly for the mistakes of others; SoberRide offers a safety net.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend. But the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents should provide a chilling cautionary tale.

William Cameron Schlifke, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, less than three days after his Volkswagen Jetta was rear-ended in Newport News. He was 22.

Schlifke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, Eric Fowler, 20 at the time and also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol, and later with involuntary manslaughter.

Last week on Nov. 30, 2009, just after the one-year anniversary of Schlifke's death, Fowler was convicted of involuntary man-

slaughter in Newport News, according to court records. Fowler's bail was revoked and he will be in jail over the holidays awaiting sentencing in March.

Unfortunately, such tragedy is not rare. In fall 2008, a different young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007 that resulted in unspeakable tragedy for three families. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to life for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home; the family of the defendant has also seen life as they knew it change.

DON'T TAKE THE RISK. Plan ahead, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home on your own, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with

Free Ride Home

WRAP's 2009 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. For more, see www.wrap.org.

you when you head out, and be sure any young adults in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 41,010 safe rides home. Call 800-200-8294. For more information, see www.wrap.org

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Moran Opposes Afghanistan Surge

BY JIM MORAN
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

The war in Afghanistan is into its eighth year, yet an end to the violence and the establishment of just civil society remains far from reach. The president announced last week he will send an additional 30,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan to wage a counterinsurgency campaign, coupled with an exit strategy to begin reducing our military presence in July 2011. I appreciate the time and effort the president put into this major decision. His call for an exit strategy is the right move and took courage. I cannot, however, support an increase in troop levels in Afghanistan for the following reasons:

First, the cost, in blood and treasure, is too high. Even though there are only 20,000 Taliban in the country today, the American experience and that of the British and Russians before us, has shown that an increase in the total number of foreign troops in Afghanistan to over 100,000 will only harden and grow the number of insurgents and undoubtedly lead to more American and Afghan casualties.

How America would pay for the escalation has also yet to be explained. The entire Afghan economy is \$12 billion, only one-third the cost of this single incremental surge. The final tally for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars will approach \$2 trillion dollars — more than the cost of reforming our health care system and rebuilding our own nation's infrastructure. Every dime of it will be borrowed from our children and grandchildren. I have joined a handful of my

colleagues in supporting a "war surtax" to pay for the cost of these wars.

SECOND, al-Qaeda is a threat to our national security, not the Taliban. Eight years ago our mission in Afghanistan was to deny al-Qaeda the safe haven that Afghanistan's Taliban were providing it. Today, there is more al-Qaeda in France and Germany than in Afghanistan. The terror group has moved elsewhere, principally to the Pakistan border with Afghanistan, as well as Yemen, the horn of Africa, and Europe. We should be working with local governments to pursue al-Qaeda where it exists. Instead, we have opted to further embroil ourselves in the long simmering, decades old civil war that has once again engulfed Afghanistan.

Finally, history shows that without a credible government partner, counterinsurgency cannot succeed. To defeat the Afghan insurgency, we need a credible, legitimate partner in Kabul to work with; one that enjoys the loyalty and respect of its people when called upon to sacrifice for the common good. According to Transparency International, the Karzai regime is the second most corrupt in the world, ahead of only Somalia. Graft, bribery and cronyism have allowed President Karzai to remain in power, and I have serious doubts his government can clean itself up in order to win the hearts and minds of its own people.

INSTEAD OF ESCALATING the conflict, the U.S. should limit its mission and begin to bring our troops home. We can do this by focusing our efforts on securing Afghanistan's key stra-

tegic population centers, demanding significant reforms by the Karzai government in exchange for the continuance of U.S. development aid, and empowering the ascent of provincial leaders, especially in the Pashtun region.

America's military and civilian personnel have served this country valiantly in Afghanistan (and in Iraq). And they have achieved their mission, having largely cleared the country of the terrorists responsible for 9/11. Yet our soldiers remain in the land-locked country, fighting what has increasingly become a civil war. No surge of foreign occupying troops can permanently solve such a nationalist conflict waged between rural illiterate tribal members and urban educated (albeit corrupt) central government supporters. The cautionary lessons from the British and Russian failed attempts to incorporate Afghanistan's tribal people under a more modern central government are not being heeded.

For better or for worse, the future of Afghanistan must be decided by the Afghan people. Whatever the outcome of this mission it will not prove worthy of the dollars, let alone the lives, we commit to it.

Write

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LETTERS

Long-Term Costs To Proposed Budget Cuts

To the Editor:

This letter is written in response to the letter from Bud Miller of Alexandria Taxpayers United, dated Dec. 3, in which he advocated eliminating the Office on Women in Alexandria. Mr. Miller provided several reasons for his proposal, including that "the office provides little in the way of services or education that is not redundant with other City Services." As this year's Chair of the Alexandria Commission for Women, which was created by the City Council in 1974, and continues today, I feel it incumbent upon me to correct this misconception.

To begin, the Office on Women provides Crisis and Advocacy Services to victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the City by, among other things, providing 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotlines, running the Battered Women's Shelter in the City, helping victims through the medical and legal process, and providing individual and group counseling to victims of these ter-

rible crimes. These services are not redundant with other City Services, as Mr. Miller contends, but are only provided for by the staff of the Office on Women.

Additionally, in his letter Mr. Miller says that "people of all genders can take care of themselves, especially in a community as progressive as Alexandria." What kind of progressive community would we be if we didn't take care of the people (both women and men) who are subjected to domestic or

sexual violence in our City? The dedicated staff of the Office on Women does this tireless and often under-appreciated work on a daily basis.

The Office on Women also provides significant programs directed towards the young people of our City including, among others, the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP), Project Stepout, an after-school

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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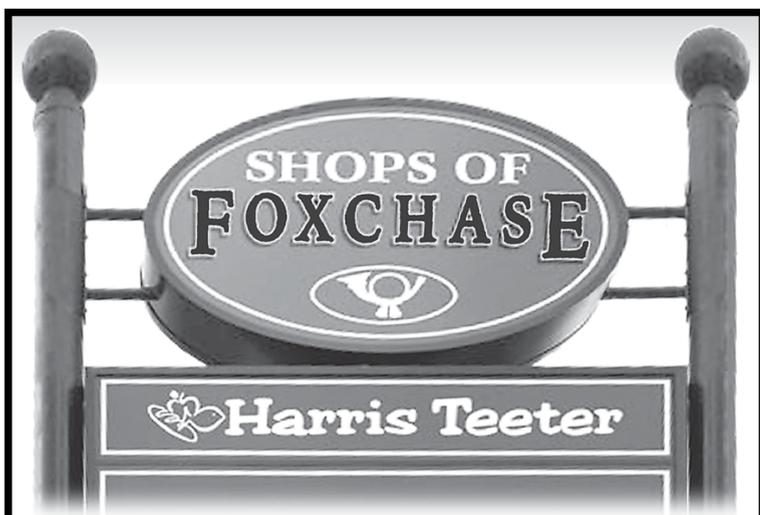
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

mentoring program, and the Expect Respect program focused on preventing domestic and sexual violence and preventing teen pregnancy for middle and high school youth.

While I agree with Mr. Miller's point that saving money in these troubled economic times is important, eliminating the essential services to victims of domestic and sexual violence provided by the Office on Women in order to make ends meet is not in line with the values of our community. Likewise, terminating the preventative youth programs run by the Office on Women will result in larger costs and negative outcomes further down the road.

Mary Catherine Gibbs, Chair
Alexandria Commission for
Women

Hopeful Change

To the Editor:

Once or twice I would hold a meeting for our community of Olde Towne West. This year the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority and the Office of

Legal Aid was invited, along with the City of Alexandria Office of Landlord and Tenants Relations, Office of Fire / Code Enforcement as well as an Officer of the Alexandria Police Department. The topic was "our voice, our rights, our concerns."

For once I had a chance to ask questions that I felt needed to be heard on behalf of our community. While many complaints were on parking, air and heating system, etc., we all need to be heard sometime or another. For the record I do not believe it's a good thing to give the microphone to any community manager if anyone wants to hear from the residents. It could be intimidating.

Changes will take some time by the new owners and new property management company. Two scriptures come to mind in thinking about the new staff. The first scripture: "Isaiah 61:4; And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations." The second scripture: "Isaiah 61: 11; For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness

and praise to spring forth before all nations."

Thanks to all and may all your seasons be bright.

Geri Baldwin
Alexandria

Yesteryear's Health Care

To the Editor:

To my displeasure recently, I developed a toothache and went to see a dentist on Wednesday. The pain was quite severe, but the dentist wouldn't take any action besides providing me a prescription for Moxicillin and a referral to an oral surgeon.

Painfully, I went home and spent my Thanksgiving day without food.

On Friday, I called the referred oral surgeon, but was unable to reach him until I tried his "emergency" number. I told him I was experiencing severe pain and asked him whom I could turn to. He told me that most dentist offices would be closed until Monday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25



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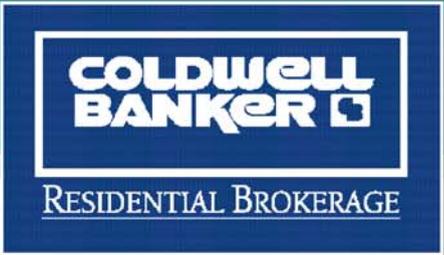
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NEWS



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The BRAC building rises up on the property edge of the Winkler Botanical Preserve in the West End of Alexandria.

Offramp Could Run Through It

FROM PAGE 1

the balance of neighborhoods and retail," said Julie Edelson, who attended the public hearing to express opposition to VDOT's proposal. "In general, the West End is going through a horrific increase in potential traffic, gridlock and loss of that green space that we bought into."

THE WINKLER PRESERVE is a private nature sanctuary set aside by developer Mark Winkler in the early 1990s after constructing condominiums and office space through much of the city's West End. The centerpiece of the property is a lake, which is surrounded by dense woods, a waterfall and a mountain lodge.

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 15

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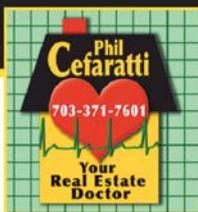
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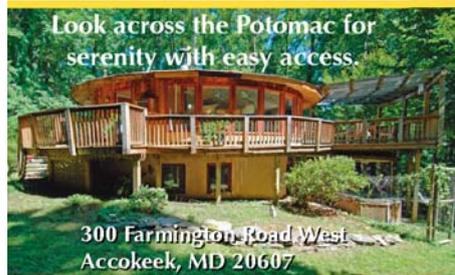
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School Delegation Goes to China

FROM PAGE 1

quarters on Beauregard Street spent the week visiting schools, participating in workshops, sharing experiences and visiting cultural sites. Since the inception of the College Board's "Taking the Next Step" program in 2006, 2,000 American educators have participated in five Chinese Bridge Delegation trips.

"In the new global economy, students will need fluency in other languages and an understanding of diverse societies," said College Board president Gaston Caperton in a written statement. "Advances in technology offer us a great opportunity for sharing ideas and creating a better future, and I look forward to that future being made brighter by the Chinese language and cultural initiatives that we are building together."

School Board member Mimi Carter has been updating her Facebook status with highlights of the trip, highlighting meetings with Chinese education bureaucrats and children from the Jiangsu province before dashing off to the Forbidden City. Carter says that students in Chesterfield, Va., already have about 3,000 children taking Mandarin.

"In China, most public schools have compulsory English language instruction and school partnerships with school around the globe," wrote Carter in an e-mail message. "In order for us to provide language instruction with context we will have to work hard to provide our students and teachers with exchange opportunities with countries like China."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIMI CARTER

Pictured enjoying breakfast in China, from left to right, are Keisha Boggan, Mary Gibson, Kimberley Graves, Linda Whitfield, Kris Clark, Dawn Feltman and Sara Schafer.

ing a program for Chinese language instruction in Alexandria. Face-to-face instruction is offered at the middle-school level, and students at T.C. Williams have access to online Chinese-language instruction. The program will expand next year, when school administrators hope to hire a new Chinese teacher at the high school.

"We didn't want to hire teachers if only five kids were going to sign up," said Margee Walsh, executive director of secondary programs. "We want to move toward offering Arabic as well."

Although a 2008 survey of students revealed that

BACK IN 2008, the School Board approved launch-

SEE FROM BEAUREGARD, PAGE 15

I'm Phillip Norris - Your Alex Neighbor

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U.S. Treasury Issues New Guidelines on Short Sales to Help Homeowners

The Government announced new guidelines earlier this week aimed at helping homeowners in the short sale process. A Short Sale sometimes referred to as a "pay off" or "short pay", is a transaction authorized by the mortgage company / lender in which they agree to the sale of the home for less than the Seller owes on the mortgage. As a part of the Short Sale, the Mortgage Company / lender "usually" agrees to write-off / forgive the balance difference in order to avoid greater losses of the mortgage loan that a foreclosure would cause. In order for the Seller to be pre-qualified for a short sale the Seller must be experiencing a financial hardship that meets the lender's criteria.

Over 10 million homeowners are upside down on their mortgages across the U. S.; Dynamic Duo & Associates a local real estate company brokered by Coldwell Banker has helped many people struggling to obtain Short Sale approval and are considered experts in the field. One of their clients's referred to DDA as "Angels sent from GOD". Over the past 3 years, DDA has SOLD over 920 properties with a specialization in Short Sales & Foreclosures.

Joan Williamson, Partner of DDA states "historically, borrowers were typically issued an unsecured note for a portion of a deficiency amount. Imagine, going through a hardship of being forced to sell your home due to financial reasons in order to avoid foreclosure and the lender then requires a deficiency payment on the balance". "Under the new plan, borrowers are not only relieved of the debt, but now... they will receive a bonus of \$1,500 from the government for selling their home for less than the mortgaged amount" says Racquel Sharpton another Partner of the Dynamic Duo. The lender will also see a bonus at \$1,000 as an incentive.

"Often times negotiating a short sale can be a painstaking process. While the approval is gained from the primary lender, the 2nd lender can very well kill the deal by requesting more than the primary lender will allow, which is typically \$3,000. The 2nd lien holder has been known to ask for as much as \$25,000 or more" states Williamson. Under this new guideline, the mortgage holder can receive no more than \$3,000 of the sale's price in exchange for releasing the lien. Another awesome guideline, and this is really where the assistance to home owners comes in...now if the lender accepts a Short Sale, the Borrowers must be "fully released" from future liability of the debt. To qualify under the new guidelines the property must be the homeowner's principal residence; the home owner must be delinquent on the mortgage or close to defaulting on the loan; the loan must have been made before Jan. 1, 2009 and be for less than \$729,750; and the borrowers' total monthly mortgage payment must exceed 31 percent of their before-tax income. For additional information or to get started on a short sale, please contact DDA at 703-680-9551 or email asharpton@cbmove.com

Nancy Dunning was my friend. Thirty years ago, she envisioned Del Ray as a community full of active citizens, thriving businesses and excellent schools. Not only did she work tirelessly over the years to help create this community, but she inspired many of us to join in her effort. For those of you who did not know Nancy, read this beautiful tribute written by her daughter, Elizabeth. For those of you who did, join me in remembering her contribution to Del Ray and Alexandria.

—Jack Taylor, Alexandria Toyota



*Nancy
Dunning*

The Best Mom In The World

A Eulogy for Nancy Dunning written and read by her daughter, Liz

A lot of people, I think, have moments when they imagine that they have the best mom in the world. I was lucky enough, however, to be absolutely certain – for a long time – that I actually did. My mom was my best friend. We talked just about every day. And, anyone who knows her, knows a couple of things about my mom, one of which was that she was more or less always right. When I was a teenager, that pissed me off sometimes. I mean, seriously, when you're sixteen and supposed to be going through that phase where you know everything, it puts a crimp in it to live with someone who actually does.

But, another thing that you must know if you met my mom was that she wasn't smug about her omnipotence. Like any good superhero, my mom used her powers for good, not evil. To make other people – not just herself – feel good and be better. She taught my brother and I how to do that, too. I hope we were paying attention. I'm pretty sure we were.

My mom also taught me just about everything I know about optimism and joy. Those were things at which she excelled. It started, when my brother and I were kids, with crazy names for things. I bet that you thought that playground on Old Dominion was just the Beverly Hills Co-op. Nope. It was the Super Deluxe Playground. And, back when the Mt. Vernon school playground was that log-thing which is probably now illegal in most states, a trip to the Super Deluxe Playground was an adventure indeed. Every day was an adventure. Whether we were sneaking food into movies when I was younger, or she was singing hilariously bad opera while she made breakfast, my mom made clear that every day had something good in it, something to be happy about. Even if it was just that they'd just started selling Christmas Blend at Starbucks. These small events and details weren't small – they were big. They warranted a phone call. So did a great song on the radio. So did anything that made her smile. These were great calls to receive. Random, sometimes, but great. I mean, who doesn't want to know that she busted the person next to her at the last traffic light picking their nose in the car? Who didn't want to hear her joyful voice, her laugh? She loved to laugh and there isn't a better feeling than making my mom laugh. Because, if you really got her going – and there are lots of ways to do this – she'd just get to that level where she's crying because she's laughing so hard. That's when you know that you've really won. Bonus points are given if you do that while one of you is driving.

Her gift with joy, with optimism, gave her part of her gift with people. She had, what I jokingly called, her secret decoder ring. That was our short-hand – and there is always short-hand – for her ability to listen, really listen, to people when they talk. And, more than that, to understand what they're really saying and, who they are and where they're coming from. That's why she wasn't just people's neighbor, or real estate agent, or neighborhood activist, or columnist, she was their friend. It didn't take much to be my mom's friend. She didn't make you jump a lot of hoops. Or wear overalls and a baseball cap with the same aplomb that she did. (And thank god, because really? Who can pull off overalls and a baseball cap like my Mom? Nobody.) She wanted to learn more about people and know more people. So she lit people up when she talked to them.

And, as a consequence, people mostly did what my Mom wanted them to do, or what she asked of them. Because her ideas were smart. They were filled with the energy and the joy that she carried with her all the time. And they reflected an understanding and awareness of the thoughts and values of everyone involved. So, if you did what she wanted you to do, you were also doing the right thing.

But, mostly, she wasn't a superhero – complete with secret decoder ring – to me. She was my Mom. She was better at that than anything else. She told my brother, and me, and my Dad that she loved us at the end of every phone conversation. That's what our family does. And so, individually, knowing that the last words we said to each other were, "I love you," helps.

There wasn't a day of my life – and there won't be one – when I wasn't sure that my mom loved me, that she believed in me, that she was proud of me. And with or without a secret decoder ring, a cape, or a phone booth to change in, it truly takes a superhero to, in this crazy messed up world, love people so well and so much. So perfectly. It takes all that to be what I have – the best mom in the world.

On December 5, 2003, Nancy Dunning was murdered in her home in Alexandria, VA. Nancy's family, friends and co-workers have not forgotten her and celebrate her life daily. We will not give up and believe that the person who murdered her will be caught and prosecuted.

A \$100,000 reward available for the individual who comes forth with information leading to the arrest and conviction of this murderer.

If you have any information, we urge you to please call the Alexandria Criminal Investigations Section at 703-838-4711 or e-mail them at <http://alexandriava.gov/dunning>.

From Beauregard Street to China

FROM PAGE 13

Italian was their top pick, board members went with Chinese in part because of a recommendation from the United States Department of Homeland Security.

“Chinese is considered an important language for American kids that are going to compute in the global economy,” said School Board member Charles Wilson. “We tried to make a strategic decision rather than going with something the kids thought would be a fun thing to do.”

Residents, Leaders Back Preserve

FROM PAGE 12

Nature enthusiasts enjoy the hikes on the land, and schoolchildren from the city’s public schools frequently visit the preserve on field trips at no cost to the city.

“One of our lessons is about the forest,” said Jody Smallick, director of the nonprofit foundation that operates the nature preserve. “It would be really hard to do my job if I didn’t have all the 100-year-old trees that are there.”

Controversy over the best way to construct an offramp from the Interstate to the Pentagon annex has been brewing for months as a result of a military realignment known as BRAC 133. City officials say direct access is critical because it will keep the thousands of Washington Headquarter Service employees off already-clogged city roads. In a departure from business-as-usual, the Virginia Department of Transportation has presented the city with seven options and asked for two recommendations.

“We’ve been pretty fortunate that VDOT has actu-

ally involved the city at a very early stage,” said Rich Baier, director of transportation. “This is much earlier than normal in a process like this.”

WHETHER OR NOT VDOT chooses to use the city’s two options or go with its own, only two proposals are expected to become part of the interchange justification report early next year.

Last week, the Transportation Commission voted unanimously to take any offramp through Winkler Preserve “off the table.” Now it’s City Council’s turn. After hearing testimony about the issue on Saturday — expected to include numerous citizens and schoolchildren — the elected leaders are set to green light two options.

“I would like to think that if VDOT is offering us this early opportunity instead of waiting until everything is chiseled into stone that they will pay attention to what we offer them,” said Councilwoman Del Pepper. “The message from the city is going to be that we don’t want VDOT to do anything to take away from the Winkler property.”

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The most spectacular property you will ever find has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 fin lvls including full w/o LL, 4/5BR, 3.5BA, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning MBR suite and custom river view screened porch house with deck. Expansive glass window walls capture river views and natural beauty of almost full acre site. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Old Mt Vernon Rd, L Rive Dr.



4413 Ferry Landing Road \$559,900
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9316 Allwood Drive \$540,000
Stunning!
Home features bright, open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings in the main living area. This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more. Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mount Vernon.



4821 Stillwell Avenue \$499,000
Curb Appeal!
Character abounds in this fabulous Cape Cod, lovingly maintained and significantly updated by its caring owners. Four bedrooms, two full baths, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, custom built-ins, updated kitchen and finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on magnificent half acre lot just steps to acres and acres of Fairfax County parkland!



4401 Jackson Place \$475,000
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!



2220 N FAIRFAX DR #308 North Arlington \$429,000
1BR / 1.5BA + Den in Park at Courthouse. Highlights: light-filled living/dining rms, kit w/SS & granite, ceramic tile in Baths, HW floors, crown molding, abundant closet space, w/d, & 1 gar prkg space. Located just blks from Courthouse Metro & Clarendon.
Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252



1208 Tatum Drive \$875,000
Villamay!
Magnificent Colonial in exceptional condition on one of prestigious Villamay's nicest streets! Three finished levels, large room sizes, updated kitchen and baths. MBR suite has private balcony which provides panoramic vistas of the area with seasonal river views. Elevated grounds afford the ultimate privacy with gorgeous custom pool.



1810 Hollindale Dr \$625,000
Gorgeous Setting!
Estate sale of spacious rambler on gorgeous 3/4 acre grounds in premier location just minutes from Old Town in prestigious Hollindale/Mason Hill area! Home features five bedrooms, three full baths, large room sizes, open floor plan and oversized two car garage. Fabulous potential to remodel or build your dream home on this special site with rural ambiance in "close-in" location convenient to everything!



4816 Stillwell Avenue \$525,000
Renovated!
Unique opportunity! Exceptionally large 5/6 BR home is located in a gorgeous setting on a 1/2 acre lot bordering acres of county parkland. Renovated throughout, it features an updated kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, finished lower level, in-law suite and large deck. A recently remodeled home of this size in a premier setting creates a truly one of a kind value!



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Laura Blederman 202.309.1350



7532 HOLLINDALE CT Alex / Hollindale \$599,000
This 3BR/3BA rambler features gourmet kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters & state of the art appliances. Other highlights include HW floors, remodeled baths, custom closets, 2 FPs, rear patio, landscaped yard & more!
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7501 Park Terrace Drive \$1,150,000
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8108 East Boulevard Dr \$2,395,000
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5205 Polk Avenue \$999,000
Brand New Home!
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Open House: Sunday, December 13th, 12-4 PM

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FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Brightly colored trains, planes, automobiles and more are guaranteed to delight on Christmas morning. Names can be special ordered. Hand-painted by Alexandria artist Christel Hignett. Prices start at \$15 each. Available at A Show of Hands, Locally Made Craft and Artwork, 2301 Mount Vernon Ave.



Gift Ideas

Jingle bell ornaments crafted out of recycled iron provide a holiday accent for a Green Christmas celebration. These environmentally friendly decorations are available in six different designs at \$19 each. Gather them up in a reclaimed stump bowl. Pictured is the large size for \$77; it's also available in medium for \$49. Available at Bungalow Homewares Gallery, 1901A Mount Vernon Ave.



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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Ornament Celebrates Restoration of the Friendship Firehouse

Celebrate the holiday season and Alexandria's firefighting heritage with the newest collectible ornament from the Office of Historic Alexandria. The 2009 ornament of the Friendship Firehouse reflects the cupola restoration completed earlier this year. The commemorative ornament features an etched brass-finish design of the museum entrance decorated with festive holiday greenery. Each ornament costs \$16 and comes in an embossed gift box.



Order your 2009 ornament online or stop by Gadsby's Tavern Museum, The Lyceum, or another Historic Alexandria museum gift shop. Call 703-838-4242 or visit www.historicalexandria.org.

The ornament shows the original color of the historic cupola of the Friendship Firehouse Museum, located at 107 South Alfred Street, which was discovered during a six-month restoration.

Through analysis of paint chips, consultants determined that the cupola was originally painted a shade of brown. As a result of this discovery, the white cupola was repainted with a custom color that matches the original paint.

When constructed in 1855, the firehouse was built and decorated in an urban Victorian manner. The brownish paint identified as the first finish was very commonly used during the Victorian era to simulate brownstone.

Further analysis revealed that the date of Friendship Company's founding, numbered "1774" on the street side of the base of the cupola, was also originally done in gold leaf. The 2009 ornament reflects both of these significant discoveries.

The Friendship Firehouse Museum, located at 107 South Alfred Street in Old Town Alexandria, is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

www.connectionnewspapers.com

Arena Stage Hosts GrooveLily

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE CONNECTION

Is GrooveLily a rock band or is it a theater troupe? Does it matter? No! This becomes clear as the three-member ensemble performs their one-act concert musical "Striking 12" at Arena Stage's facility in Crystal City where they will hold forth through this weekend.

The blend of mod/pop/rock music led by a distinctive electric violin and inventive lyrics telling an entertaining tale with wit and clarity results in a fun evening of music, comedy, drama and charm.

The three performers are: electronic violinist Valerie Vigoda; her keyboardist husband Brendan Milburn; and inventive drummer Gene Lewin. All three help tell the story and sing the songs as the spotlight shifts back and forth among them. Their exchanges are bright, literate and fun as they work their way through a snappy version of an updated Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale.

The tale here is "The Little Match Girl" but the show uses that trifle of a story as the jumping-off point for a story of a "Grumpy Guy" who tries to avoid any celebratory gatherings on the last night of the year. A visit from a door-to-door saleslady peddling strings of lights as a cure for "SAD" (Seasonal Affective Disorder — depression due to the lack of sunlight) brings to his mind a parallel between the visitor's plight selling lights when everyone else is partying, and the Hans Christian Andersen tale — until he actually reads the story and finds its ending incredibly sad — which is not the same as "SAD."

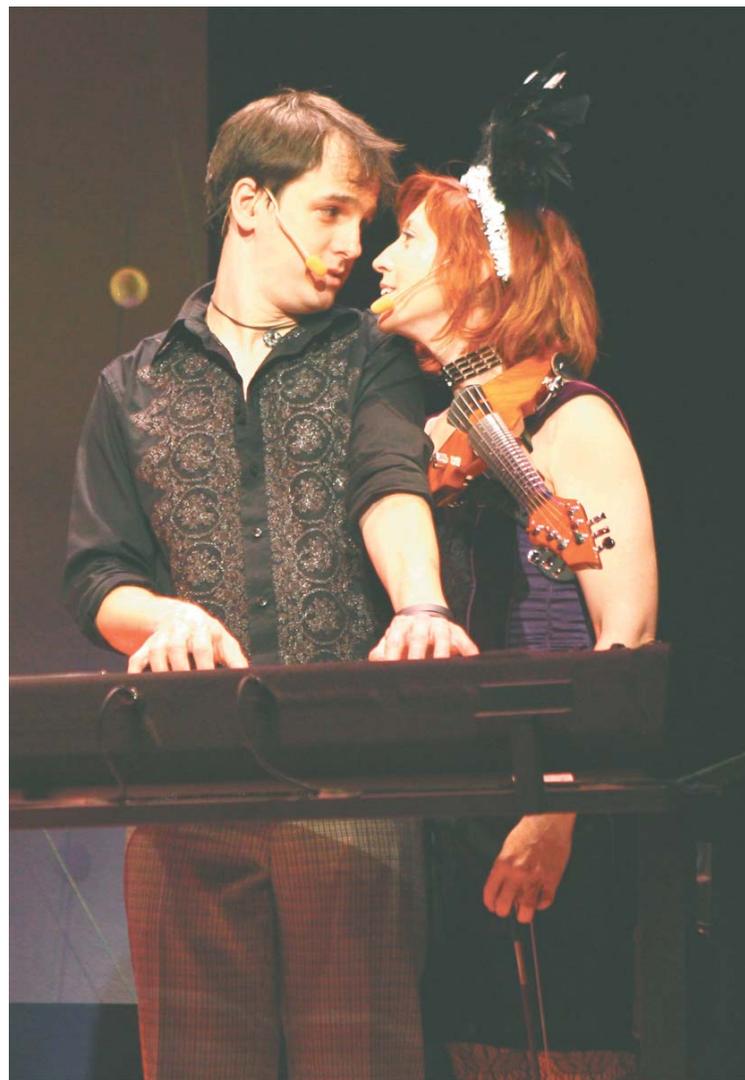
Vigoda's six-string electric violin provides a unique sound for the group. She can make it seem like a whole string section with its electronic reverberation and delay capability, and her vocals are lovely when that is called for and an all-out wail of rock for the harder moments. She plays the light saleswoman/match girl and provides some of the narration as well.

Milburn provides both piano-like melody effects and bass-like percussive figures from his electric keyboard, which is programmed for many effects triggered by his nimble fingerwork. He's the "Grumpy Guy" and helps out with the narration too.

The roles in the story have been carefully matched to the personalities of each of the members of the rock group. The drummer, Gene Lewin, whose personality is the most distinctive, provides a good deal of the humor that makes the piece so unique. He's no slouch as a drummer, either. His beat drives the group and his solos exhibit not only technical skill but impressive rhythmic logic, making them exciting and well worth the amount of time devoted to them.

Charm is at the heart of the appeal of this hour and a half, intermission-less concert show. The script is by Milburn, Vigoda and Rachel Sheinkin who won a Tony Award for her book for the musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," which also relied a great deal on charm to make a slender story a satisfying evening of theater.

The group has been together for nearly 15 years and their collective career has been accelerating over the past five or so with their increasing involvement in theater. "Striking 12" was their first "concert musical" and it earned them an off-Broad-



Electronic violinist Valerie Vigoda and her keyboardist husband Brendan Milburn.

way run in New York. Since then, they have produced a score for a musical titled "Sleeping Beauty Wakes" at Deaf West in California, the company that had such a big hit with the half-hearing, half-signing staging of "Big River" a few years back. They have also provided the score for a production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey.

The group is only here for a short stay with performances this Thursday, Friday and Saturday but they have scheduled three shows for Saturday so it should be fairly easy to find a convenient time to catch this engaging concert musical.

Where and When

GrooveLily performs "Striking 12" this Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m., 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. at Arena Stage, 1800 South Bell Street in Crystal City. Tickets are \$25-\$45. Call 202-488-3300 or log on to www.arenastage.org.

Old Town Merchants Open Late

Bring enjoyment back to holiday shopping. On Thursday, Dec. 17, the 26-member stores of the Old Town Boutique District will stay open until 8 p.m. to help hurried shoppers recapture the hometown experience the holidays once had.

"I think it's safe to say that most holiday shoppers feel pushed, hurried, stressed out," said Elizabeth Todd, owner of The Shoe Hive, a member of the Boutique District. "It didn't used to be that way. The holidays used to mean window shopping, strolling the sidewalks with Jack Frost nipping at your nose, then taking the chill off in a warm, friendly place where carols filled the air," she said.

The Old Town Boutique District shops will also offer customers free gift wrapping and hometown customer service. Many will also be providing refreshments to help celebrate the season.

Most of the Old Town Boutique District shops are located within a few blocks of each other, so one can park once and visit several local stores, restaurants and night spots.

Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

DVP Children's Holiday Party

Every year the Alexandria Office on Women organizes a Holiday Party for children and their mothers who have been recently served by the Domestic Violence Program.

This year's Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 16. At the party, the families can reunite with past shelter friends and staff and take pictures with Santa Claus, among other events.

Each mother and child also receives a bag of gifts to place under their tree.

To participate, donate unwrapped gifts or gift certificates to area stores in denominations of \$25. This way each woman will have the opportunity to purchase something special for herself or her children.

Donations will be accepted at the Office on Women, 421 King Street, Suite 400, Alexandria, on Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., except on holidays.

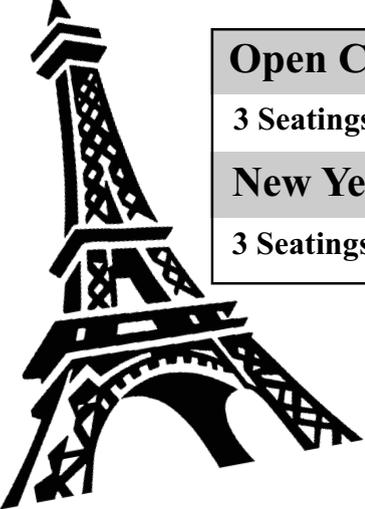
The deadline for unwrapped gifts is Friday, Dec. 11 by 4 p.m.

Contact Shannon McGregor at 703-838-4911 or via email to Shannon.mcgregor@alexandriava.gov.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Martinis & Mistletoe Contest

**Thursday, Dec. 17
at the Holiday Inn
Hotel & Suites.**

Mike Anderson had so much fun at last year's Martinis & Mistletoe event that he is coming back for more. He has divulged the drink that he is preparing — 'Partridge in a Peartini' but not the delivery method for the drink.

While most bartenders are content to mix the drink and hand it over, Anderson has other ideas. As some may recall, Anderson had an exotic igloo express rigged up to deliver last year's drink, so this year's method will be sure to surprise guests as well.

The ingredients for this year's drink are no secret; they will be Grey Goose LaPoire, amaretto, simple syrup and fresh lemon juice.

"I had a great time last year," said Anderson. "We're very excited about it and I encourage everyone to come down and vote for Mango Mike's, which, hands down, will be the best."

Last year was the first time for the Martinis & Mistletoe event, but it

was so successful that the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce is holding it again.

More than 230 people attended last year as 14 bars went head to head in a battle for the title of 'Best Martini in Alexandria.' The Carlyle Club sparkled with holiday cheer as smiling faces, old and new, speculated as to who they thought would win. Entertainment Sponsor, Simpson Development presented music by the Satin Doll Trio, who will be back again this year.

In the end, last year's runner up was Fernando Tejada of La Tasca with his Sangriatini. The third place winner, Andres Lazo of Mango Mike's picked up a \$100 gift certificate to the Carlyle Club with his delicious Havana Banana Split Martini; \$100 went to the second place winner, Las Tapas' Diana Morgan for her Sangritini. The winner of \$400 and the title of "Best Martini in Alexandria" was Clinton Terry of Restaurant Eve/PX with his Kissing Santa Martini.

According to Todd Thrasher, Clinton Terry will be back again representing Restaurant Eve.

"He will have a good cocktail — much different from last year," said

Thrasher. When asked if Restaurant Eve would be the winner again, Thrasher said, "It's no fun competing if you don't win."

Several other participants from last year have already signed up for this year's event, among them: Finn & Porter's, Jackson 20, Landini Brothers and St. Elmo's Coffee Pub.

Some new players are joining the competition: Vermillion, Columbia Firehouse, Federal City Caterers, Bistro on First, Ramparts, South Side and Redpeg Marketing will be collaborating on a drink with Guiffre Distributors.

Martinis & Mistletoe will be held on Thursday, Dec. 17, from 6-9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites at 625 First Street. To register for this event, visit www.alexchamber.bluekeyinc.com/view_events.php. The entrance fee is \$75 for members and \$90 for non-members. Any bar/restaurant interested in competing should contact Janelle Schmidt at jschmidt@alexchamber.com or 703-339-3808. The entrance fee this year is \$150 with prizes for the top three drinks totaling \$850. Sponsorships are still available for this event.

— GALE CURCIO

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Photo by Steve Vaccarello



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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.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 18

Toys for Tots. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Drop off toys to these locations:

- ❖ The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington Street, Alexandria.
- ❖ Weichert, Realtors, 121 North Pitt Street, Alexandria.

If you're unable to make it to either of these drop off locations, an agent from Weichert, Realtors will pick up the gift from your home. To arrange a pickup, contact Kim Sarina at 703-549-8700 or Christine Garner at 703-587-4855.

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

Tea Dances. 1-3:15 p.m. Group class from 1-1:30 p.m. Ballroom, Latin and Swing music. \$11/person. At the Dance Studio Lioudmila, 18 Roth Street, 2nd Floor (off Duke Street), Alexandria. Call 703-751-8868.

DEC. 10-19

A Tuna Christmas. By Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard featuring Katherine Bisulca and Erin Gallalee. Presented by Zemfira Stage. Dec. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/adults; \$10 seniors, students. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-615-6626.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

David LaFleur in Concert. 7 p.m. David LaFleur performs a unique mixture of folk, Appalachian, blues and

bluegrass. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or www.nvfaa.org.

Chocolate and Shopping. 6-9 p.m. Browse the open studios for holiday gifts. Target Gallery reception 6-8 p.m. Art League Gallery Reception 6:30-8 p.m. Free admission. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565

Chanukah on Ice. 6-8:30 p.m. ice skating. In celebration of Chanukah, there will be a lighting of the 6-foot ice Menorah at 7 p.m. At the Pentagon Row Ice Skating Rink, 1201 S. Joyce Street, Arlington. Tickets are \$12/door, \$10/advance (includes skate rental). Visit www.ChabadAA.org or call 703-370-2774.

FRIDAY/DEC. 11

Holiday Buffet Ball for Couples.

8:30-11:30 p.m. Join the Friday Nighters at their holiday ball and enjoy waltz, fox trot, cha cha, swing and more to live music on large wooden dance floor. This month's dance is a buffet where guests and members bring "fork-friendly food." Cost is \$15/person. Private club in Mount Vernon area; reservations required. www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com.

Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. Thomas Jefferson High School Chorus. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria. Afterwards, the chorus will move to the Torpedo Factory Arcade, King and Union Streets, for caroling at 8 p.m. Call 703-883-4686.

DEC. 11-12

Gunston Hall Plantation Christmas

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22



Saturday, December 12, 2009 @ 8pm
& Sunday, December 13, 2009 @ 3pm

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 21

and Yuletide Dinner. Ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip warm cider by the fire and sample period foods prepared in the colonial hearth kitchen. Costumed characters will greet you in the house and throughout the grounds. Friday, Dec. 11, 6:30 and 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 12, 4:30, 6 and 8 p.m. Admission: Adults \$15; Children 6-18 years, \$8; Children 2-5 years, \$2. Yuletide dinner: adults, 11 and older \$49.95; Children 6-10 years, \$24.95; 2-5 years \$9.95. Reservations required. At 10709 Gunston Rd, Mason Neck. Call 703-550-9220, www.GunstonHall.org.

DEC. 11, 12, 13

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5-8 p.m. Mrs. Washington hosts 18th-century Christmas with candlelit walks, fireside caroling, and early American décor. Cost is \$18/adults, \$12/children under 11. At Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Call 703-780-2000 or www.MountVernon.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

Christmas Concert. 7:30 p.m. With the Blessed Sacrament Adult Choir, the Folk Group, and The Bells of Blessed Sacrament. At Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call John McCrary at 703-998-6100, or online at www.blessedsacramentcc.org

Choralis: A Classic Brass Christmas. 7 p.m. The full Choralis chorus; The Classical Brass Quintet; The Choralis Cantus Youth Choirs, Gretchen Kuhmann, conductor. Tickets are \$40/premium; \$25/general; \$5/students; children free. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Go to www.choralis.org or call 703-237-2499.

Wreaths Across America. 11:30 a.m. Members of the Alexandria Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 609, with the assistance of the Alexandria Boy and Girl Scouts, American Legion Posts 24 and 1775, Vietnam Veterans of America, Patriot Guard Riders, and Alexandria's patriotic citizens will place wreaths at each grave marker in the Alexandria National Cemetery, 1450 Wilkes Street.

Craft Sale. 9 a.m. to noon. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Proceeds go to support the women's outreach programs for children and women. Call 703-360-9546.

"Lion, Witch and Wardrobe." 10 a.m. Kaleidoscope Theatre presents



Conductor, Kim Allen Kluge

SUNDAY/DEC. 13

Alexandria Symphony Performs The Nutcracker. 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$25/person. Tchaikovsky's original and Duke Ellington's jazz arrangement. At the Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria. Free post-concert reception for all immediately following. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

"The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," in Old Town Alexandria. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Free parking is available. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-912-4005 or email info@ktheatre.org to reserve seats. Visit www.ktheatre.org.

Hollywood Auction. 10 a.m. High-quality furniture and decorative objectives from Antique & Contemporary Leasing & Sales, a Washington staging company that provides furnishings for movie sets, diplomatic events, will be sold at auction at The Potomack Company. At 526 North Fayette Street, Alexandria. Visit www.potomackcompany.com or call 703-684-4550.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair Fund-Raiser. Hosted by Maury Elementary School PTA. Storytimes at 10 a.m. 11 a.m. and noon. Volunteers will be providing free gift wrapping and a portion of all purchases made that day will go to the PTA when the customer says "I support Maury" at the checkout. At the Potomac Yard Barnes & Noble Store. Contact Kelly Smith at 703-739-0983 or kellyandwill@aol.com

Christmas Radio Program. 7 p.m. Free. Bishop O'Connell High School presents their annual "WDJO 1939 Christmas Radio Program," an evening of one-act plays and music in a radio station format of the '30s. All proceeds benefit a holiday charity chosen by the cast. At Bishop O'Connell High School, 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Visit www.bishopoconnell.org/theatre, or call 703-237-1448.

Holiday Concert. 1 p.m. Bell's Angels and the St. John's Lutheran Church Handbell Choir perform. At 2 p.m., the Alexandria Harmonizers perform. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-883-4686.

Opera Production. 7:30 p.m. \$20 admission/\$15 students. The

Repertory Opera Theater of Washington presents Giuseppe Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera," a story about love, betrayal, and the fate that binds us all. At Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. For advanced tickets, call 571-403-0814 or email ROTW@live.com.

Christmas in Camp. Noon to 4 p.m. Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War by attending Fort Ward Museum's Christmas in Camp Open House. Features a patriotic Santa Claus, living history presentations, period music, Victorian decorations, tours and crafts. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria.

Used Book Sale. At Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.

"Tis the Season". 8 p.m. Alexandria Choral Society concert with the ACS Children's Chorus.

Program includes a wide range of holiday and winter-themed music, including Morten Lauridsen's Mid-Winter Songs, with opportunities for the audience to join in singing familiar carols. \$20/adults; \$10/seniors. At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Alexandria. Visit www.AlexChoralSociety.org.

The Alexandria Black History

Museum. 902 Wythe St., will host two free Kwanzaa programs. At 11 a.m., Brian Sales explores the history of Kwanzaa, performing the Libation Ceremony and leading a presentation of the holiday principles through illustrations and food samplings. At 4:30 p.m., filmmaker, M.K. Asante, Jr., presents his film, "The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration." Call 703-838-4356 or visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org.

Caroling for Cats. The Vola Lawson Animal Shelter stays open from noon till midnight to offer people more time to find and adopt cats. Festivities will include caroling for the cats, refreshments, crafts activities and holiday movies. At 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Contact Carrie Drummond at 703-838-4774, ext. 245, or at cdrummond@alexandriaanimals.org.

DEC. 12-13

Historic Candlelight Tours. Saturday from 6-9 p.m. and Sunday from 3-6 p.m. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House and the Apothecary Museum by candlelight and enjoy seasonal decorations, entertainment and refreshments. Cost is \$20/adults, \$15/seniors, \$5/children. Call 703-838-4242 or go online at www.historicalexandria.org.

Christmas Tree Sale. Sponsored by

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 22

North Ridge Civic Association. Beautiful, Fresh (cut since Thanksgiving), Affordable Christmas trees — Douglas Fir, Frazer Fir, Blue Spruce, a few Norway Spruce \$20-\$80 (over 10 foot). White pine garland \$16 per 25-ft coil or \$2/yard. wreaths \$15. Superior Tree stands \$20. Hours are Saturday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Beverley Hills United Methodist Church, 3512 Old Dominion Blvd., off West Glebe Road, Alexandria. Call 703-548-9604.

SUNDAY/DEC. 13

Advent Lessons and Carols. 11 a.m. With the St. Paul's Choir, St. Cecilia Choir and Good Shepherd Ringers; Douglas Beck, conductor. At St. Paul's Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-3312 or email: douglas@stpaulsalexandria.com

Service of Lessons and Carols. 4:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir and Festival Ringers with strings, organ, and harp; Melvin Goodwyn, Director of Music and Organist; Nick Hanson, Director of Bells. At Bush Hill Presbyterian Church, 4916 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Call 703-971-1171.

Lighting of Menorah. 6 p.m. Mayor Bill Euille and Del. David Englin will light the city's 6-foot Menorah in this Family Chanukah Celebration. At the Crown Plaza Hotel, 901 N. Fairfax Street, in Old Town Alexandria. Contact Rabbi Newman at 703-370-2774 or visit www.chabadAA.org.

Vesper Organ Concert. 6 p.m. Free. With Ann Carney, organist, playing on the new DiGennaro-Hart pipe organ. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1980.

Holiday Concert. St. Matthews United



THURSDAY/DEC. 17

Port Tobacco Pickers. 7-9 p.m. Free. This seven-piece bluegrass band from southern Maryland will perform a musical medley of traditional bluegrass, Southern rock, train songs, and even an Irish whiskey tune. Part of the Thursday Nite Local Spotlight series. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

Methodist Church Youth Handbell Choir performs at 2 p.m., followed by the Alexandria Singers at 3 p.m. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-883-4686.

Holiday Children's Concert. 3:30-4:30 p.m. The Alexandria Symphony brings "The Nutcracker Suite" to Alexandria in two versions — Tchaikovsky's original and Duke Ellington's hip jazz-band arrangement. \$25 admission. With the Alexandria

Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Kim Allen Kluge. At Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 Alfred Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0885 or go to www.alexsym.org/buyTix.shtml.

Christmas Candlelight Service. 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:35 p.m., brass prelude at 5:45 p.m.) Entitled "How Brightly Beams the Morning Star," this Christmas celebration will feature readers, the APC Adult and Children's choirs, instrumentalists, and congregational carol singing by candlelight. At Alexandria Presbyterian Church, 2405 Russell Road, in Del Ray, Alexandria. Call 703-683-3348 or go to www.alexandriapres.org.

DEC. 14-15

Journey to Bethlehem. 6-8 p.m. A Living Nativity and Living Bethlehem with live animals, live music and free guided tours. On the lawn of Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-6555 or visit www.aldersgate.net.

TUESDAY/DEC. 15

Willow Oak Tree Celebration. 10 a.m. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland will host a ceremony to celebrate the life and history of the Sherwood Hall Willow Oak beneath the tree. Call 703-780-7518 or by email at mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

Front Pond Families Celebration. 5:30 p.m. A celebration of the Winter Solstice with music and food, lights and decorations made by the children. At Frog Pond Learning Center, Huntley Meadows Nature Park, 7204 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-7663.

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Featuring **The Nutcracker Suite** by Tchaikovsky and Duke Ellington's jazz-band arrangement, along with seasonal favorites and sing-a-long selections.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CONCERT
Sunday, December 13
3:30pm
Alfred Street Baptist Church
301 South Alfred St.,
Alexandria, VA 22314
TICKETS: \$25 General Admission
includes post-concert candy
reception in the Parish Hall

ASO in Arlington!
Saturday, December 5
8:00pm
Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre
1611 N. Kent St.,
Arlington, VA 22209
TICKETS: \$10 youth/student;
\$20 adult

www.alexsym.org 703-548-0885

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Burger Night (Kids eat 1/2 price) Each child must be accompanied by adult having entree.

Tuesday - Greek Night
Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours, Athenian Roast Chicken, Moussaka!

Wednesday - All American Night
Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

Thursday - Italian Night
Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

Friday - Fish Night
Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

Saturday -Steak and Chop Night
Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

Sunday
Brunch served 7am - 2pm

Dine in or call ahead and your dinner will be ready for pick up.

Dinner hours 2:30-9:30pm
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Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 548-1616

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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

The Alexandria City School Board will hold a public hearing on the FY 2011-2015 CIP budget at the meeting at 7:30 p.m. on December 17, 2009, in the School Board Auditorium, 2000 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. If you would like to address the Board, please contact Clerk of the Board Rosemary Webb at 703-824-6614 or rwebb@acps.k12.va.us



In Memorium:

On January 23, 2008, the world lost a wonderful man, Farah S. Farah. We believe that God gave us memories so that we may have roses in December. To our December rose, we love and miss you dearly. We seek comfort in the hopes that one day we shall be reunited. Happy Birthday Farah.



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, December 12, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 5-8-21 (DEFINITIONS), Section 5-8-22 (ABANDONED, UNATTENDED AND IMMOBILE VEHICLES TO BE REMOVED), Section 5-8-24 (NOTICE THAT VEHICLE HAS BEEN IMPOUNDED), Section 5-8-25 (REPOSSESSION

Legal Notices

ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Alexandria Transit Company is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Alexandria Transit Company Board of Directors. All applicants must complete a Personal Data Form and return it to the Alexandria Transit Company Administration Office at 3000 Business Center, Alexandria, VA 22314, no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 4, 2010. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

To obtain a Personal Data Form, contact Marlene D. Jones, ATC Secretary, at 703-746-5637 or by email at marlene.jones@alexandriava.gov.

Paul Abramson, Chairman

Legal Notices

VIRGINIA
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

ESTATE OF JAMES E CERVENAK FIDUCIARY NO. CW06001259

SHOW CAUSE ORDER

Upon Motion of the personal representative;
IT APPEARING to the Court that

1. A report of the accounts of the personal representative of the Estate has been filed in the Clerk's office;
2. The Commissioner's Report on the Debts and Demands against the Estate has been filed in the Clerk's office, and that
3. Six (6) months have elapsed since the qualification of the personal representative, it is therefore,

ORDERED that creditors and all other persons interested in the Estate show cause, if any they can, at 10:00am on the 23rd day of December, 2009, before this Court against the payment and delivery of the Estate of the decedent to the distributes without requiring refunding bonds and it is further

ORDERED that this Show Cause Order be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Alexandria Gazette, a newspaper published in the City of Alexandria, in accordance with provisions of Virginia Code 64.1-179

ENTERED this 24th day of Nov, 2009.
JUDGE

I ASK FOR THIS:

Jordan Nowak (VSB#74731)
William L. Babcock, Jr, PC
Counsel for Jason Cervenak and Lauren Cervenak
Personal Representatives of the Estate of James E. Cervenak
526 King St, Suite 518
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-518-8400

Legal Notices

OF IMPOUNDED VEHICLES; TOWING AND STORAGE CHARGES), Section 5-8-27 (SALE OF UNREPOSSESSED VEHICLES; PROCEEDS OF SALE), Section 5-8-28 (DISPOSITION OF INOPERABLE ABANDONED VEHICLES), Section 5-8-29 (SURRENDER OF CERTIFICATE OF TITLE, ETC., WHERE MOTOR VEHICLE ACQUIRED FOR DEMOLITION; RECORDS TO B-E KEPT BY DEMOLISHER) and Section 5-8-30 (DELEGATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY) of Article C (DISPOSITION OF ABANDONED, UNATTENDED AND IMMOBILE MOTOR VEHICLES) of Chapter 8 (PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

To amend the City Code to reflect recent changes to the Virginia Code related to the City's process for providing notice of motor vehicle impoundment and auctioning abandoned motor vehicles, updating the City Code to reflect changes to the definitions of abandoned and inoperable abandoned motor vehicles, and adding scrap metal processors to the list of those permitted to demolish motor vehicles and adding new process and recordkeeping requirements for demolishers and scrap metal processors.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the postponement of certain matters required by Section 9-12-31 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance postpones the 2009 annual review of the Alexandria taxicab industry and related orders, reports and approvals for six months.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-4-110 (CREATION, COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION), Article M (ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COMMISSION), Chapter 4 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance changes the membership of the Environmental Policy Commission replacing the high school student member with a member from the Alexandria Business Community.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 9-301 (REVIEW REQUIRED), Article IX (SIGNS, MARQUEES AND AWNINGS), and

Legal Notices



PHOTO BY ANN MORTON HABILSTON

Lee St. Park Turkey Bowl On Thanksgiving morning, friends and neighbors in South Alexandria met at the Lee St. Park for the annual Turkey Bowl. From left to right (middle row): Skip Calvert, Mary Calvert, David Calvert, Chuck Smith, Taylor Manning, Jamie Nemeroff, Bennett Habilston, Chaso Habilston, Zsolt Harsanyi, Jordan Yarboro, Caroline Habilston, Lindsey Wright; (back row left to right): Mitch Namrow, Duncan Ferguson, Bobby Brandt; (front row left to right): Fulton Taylor, Matthew Brandt, and William Brandt.

Seminary Valley

The holiday season would not be the same in Seminary Valley were it not for the big holiday party at Polk Elementary School. The event gets underway this Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. There will be goodies, crafts, songs and a visit from a special guest.

A nod to Thanksgiving ... it was good to see some neighbors at Alexandria's Turkey Trot ... I am proud to say that I finished ahead of Kerry Donley and Mark Chopko, but not Emily Haitsuka, who is 19 years old, by the way.

Our neighborhood's efforts appear to have been somewhat influential in the debate over the onramp to the new BRAC development. A groundswell of effort, aided by Facebook and the Seminary Valley listserv, as well as an excellent analysis of the options by the BRAC Advisory Committee has helped local officials see that obliterating the Winkler Preserve is definitely not the best option.

Seven Francis C. Hammond students recently visited the White House to film a public service announcement about physical fitness. The announcement featured President Obama and several NFL players. The announcement promotes Play 60, which encourages young fans to be active each day for at least 60 minutes advice we should all attempt to follow.

With inclement weather now firmly in

place, please be neighborly and remember to clear your sidewalks. We have a very pedestrian-friendly community and we don't want our two- and four-legged friends walking in the street.

Handyman Alert: Polk Elementary is looking for a volunteer to repair two birdhouses that were vandalized this fall. The birdhouses were attached to posts in our Children's Garden. The posts are still standing, but the birdhouses need to be repaired and reattached to them. If you are handy and have a little extra time, please contact Wendy at 703-209-1985 or wsparrow@verizon.net.

Please send all your neighborhood news for 2010 to: mamamiajones@gmail.com.

— MIA JONES

North Ridge

North Ridge denizens who are getting ready for the holidays should mark their calendars now for two traditional neighborhood events: the North Ridge Citizens' Association Christmas tree sale and the caroling and tree lighting ceremony.

The Christmas tree sale will be held at the Beverley Hills Methodist Church ("BHUMC") on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 7 to 5 and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 9 to 4. Tree varieties will include Douglas and Fraser Fir and Colorado Blue Spruce.

Most trees are grown and freshly cut by our supplier in West Virginia and are trucked in Friday night. The church is one block up the hill from the corner of Old Dominion and West Glebe Road. The very best trees go fast, so be warned. Many neighbors show up early Saturday to get the best selection.

The Christmas caroling and tree lighting ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 7 (half an hour earlier this year than in the past) at Beverley Park (a/k/a "The Pit") at the corner of North Overlook and South Overlook. The family event will feature carol singing, a visit by Santa, and a NRCA "citizen-of-the-year" honoree who will light the tree. Donuts and hot cider will be served. Remember to bring flashlights.

— RUSS BAILEY

Taylor Run

CAROLLING ALERT

The commercial world may have started their Christmas push the day after Hallowe'en, but Shuter's Hill Ecumenical Carolers will stick to their old-fashioned ways and go around on the hill singing carols and collecting money for Children's Hospital on the third day of Christmas, Dec. 27.

Everyone is invited to come help, starting at 5 p.m. from 310 Park Road and eating potluck supper there after we finish singing.

42 YEAR TRADITION

This neighborhood tradition started 42 years ago because the Hunt, Biache, and Stelluto children needed something to do in their Christmas break from school.

Those carolers have all grown up, but others have come to help. We did have to cancel one year because it was 10 degrees, and once we did have to shorten the route considerably because of 2 feet of slush. (I shall never forget little Bridget O'Brien, age 3, getting up and trudging bravely on every time she fell.)

Don Mela, our accordion player, is now 86, but he says he certainly will walk and play.

Our splendid neighbors have given more than \$1000 for several years. We always ask for checks made out to Children's Hospital, because we hand all the money right over.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

Legal Notices

add a new Section 10-113 (ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PERMITS) and a new Section 10-213 (ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PERMITS), both of Article X (HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND BUILDINGS), all of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2009-0005.

The proposed ordinance amends the Zoning Ordinance to allow administrative approval of certain signs within the Historic Districts, as recommended to the City Council by the Planning Commission on November 5, 2009, which recommendation was approved by the City Council at the public hearing on November 21, 2009.

AN ORDINANCE to add a new Section 11-350 (REQUIRED APPLICATION DISCLOSURES), to Division A (ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ORDINANCE), Article XI Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2009-0007.

Legal Notices

The proposed ordinance amends the Zoning Ordinance to require public disclosure of parties having an ownership interest in an applicant or the real estate which is the subject of an application, as recommended to the City Council by the Planning Commission on November 5, 2009, which recommendation was approved by the City Council at public hearing on November 21, 2009.

Public Hearing on the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Proposed Route I-395 Direct Access Ramp Alternatives for the BRAC-133 Project at Mark Center.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. JACKIE M. HENDERSON, CMC, CITY CLERK



Burke & Herbert Bank president Hunt Burke as a Medieval knight receives visitors in his office at the bank.



Teller Agnieszka Ignaczko.



Ladybugs from the Wire Department Kim Festerman and Rocio Lopez.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Parrot Day at Burke & Herbert

Continuing the annual celebration of Parrot Day, the bank staff dressed for the day in their favorite costumes. Later in the afternoon, a party for all the employees was held at the Fairfax Street branch.

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Admission Information Session
December 15
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

I was incredulous and I tried to arrange another appointment. After calling several dentists, as well as a emergency room at a neighboring hospital, I couldn't find a single dentist who would treat me.

I am sure that I would have had more luck had I been a family pet or a farm animal. But the lack of compassion by my fellow human beings was unanticipated. I am old enough to remember when doctor's came to your home to treat a sick patient. Where has all that compassion gone? Has the medical field been reduce to just another mindless occupation where the "bottom line" is the only thing that matters? Has the old maxim: "Do no harm" been rewritten to "Do nothing at all?"

I know there are a lot of conservative doctors who do not want Obama's health care pass because it would change the status quo, but what I want to know is where was that logic when doctor's ended home visits?

After all, now they can drive to your home in those Porsches and Mercedes they own.

RJ Brown
Alexandria

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Christ the Saviour Anglican Church

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Sunday Worship Service - 10am
Inter-generational Sunday School - after service
Vicar, The Rev. Huey J Sevier

www.christthesaviouranglican.org
703-953-2854

Word!

10 am Sunday Worship Service
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9 am to noon Monday through Friday Pre-School

Wesley United Methodist Church
8412 Richmond Ave, Alexandria, VA 22309
(just off Richmond Highway, near Fort Belvoir & Mount Vernon)
703-780-5019 • www.wesleyva.org

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

<p>Saturday Evening 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)</p> <p>Sunday 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon 2:00 pm (en Español) 6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 13)</p>	<p>Weekdays (Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)</p> <p>Children's Liturgy of the Word Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)</p> <p>Sign Language Interpreter Sunday at 9:00 am Mass</p>
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Despite Inconsistency, TC Girls Beat Hayfield

Titans show even record at 1-1, travel to face West Springfield on Friday.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

As a third quarter of offensive struggle came to a close for the T.C. Williams girls basketball team on Tuesday, Titans guard Sade' Barber stood with the ball behind the top of the arc, seemingly oblivious to the expiring clock.

Suddenly, Barber launched a 25-foot buzzer-beating 3-point attempt, which banked in off the glass and gave T.C. Williams a 13-point lead against Hayfield at The Garden.

During the break between quarters, head coach Cavanaugh Hagen appeared to vent frustration while lecturing the Titans, including sophomore point guard Sofia Schedler. In the opening minute of the fourth quarter, Schedler, who had missed some shot attempts from close range, responded with a steal and breakaway layup on which she was fouled.

The rest of the evening was similar for T.C. Williams. The Titans played well half the time, producing a combined 34 points in the first and fourth quarters, but they also managed only 16 combined points in the second and third quarters.

In the end, an inconsistent effort was enough for the Titans to win, 50-29, during their home opener. But while beating Hayfield evened T.C. Williams'

record at 1-1, Hagen is looking for a more complete effort.

"We had spurts of goodness," the coach said. "We're just trying to get to the point where that's consistent."

BARBER'S 3-POINTER to close the third quarter sparked an 11-0 run for T.C. Williams, which gave the Titans their biggest lead of the night at 21 points. Hayfield pulled to within 16 after five straight points but got no closer.

"I think it was the first home game, we had some jitters," T.C. Williams junior Rainier Summa said of the team's inconsistent play. "At least we cleaned it up in the fourth quarter."

T.C. Williams lost its opener to Freedom, 70-49 on Dec. 4.

T.C. Williams' 19-point fourth quarter was its highest scoring of the evening. The Titans put up 15 in the first quarter, thanks to an 8-2 run during the final two minutes of the period. Jasmine Norman scored a pair of baskets during the last minute.

Norman, who finished with 12 points, was the only Titan to score in double-figures. Barber scored eight points and Summa added seven. Schedler and Diamond Copeland each scored four points for T.C. Williams, Charnelle Huggins finished with three and Tanera Jackson, Demi Williams, Keely Porterfield and Chelsae Hopson each added two.

"We had spurts of goodness. We're just trying to get to the point where that's consistent."

— Cavanaugh Hagen,
T.C. Williams head girls
basketball coach

PART OF THE TEAM'S offensive struggles can be attributed to forced passes. T.C. Williams turned the ball over 20 times.

"I'm very basic as far as, 'Make the easy pass,'"

SEE TITANS, PAGE 27



T.C. Williams guard Sade' Barber dribbles the ball during Tuesday's victory over Hayfield.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

SPORTS BRIEFS

BI's Irwin, Tela Sign Letters of Intent

Bishop Ireton senior lacrosse players Madeline Irwin and Janet Tela signed national letters of intent to compete at Division I programs starting in the fall of 2010. Irwin will attend the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, while Tela will attend the University of Connecticut.

Bishop Ireton finished the 2009 season ranked No. 25 in the nation with a 19-4 overall record, advancing to the finals of the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference and Virginia Independent School state semifinals. Last season's team also posted a collection of awards and accolades including four All-Americans, five Academic All-Americans, six All-Area, three first-team All-State, six first-team All-WCAC and three second-team All-WCAC. Bishop Ireton also sent five players to the US Lacrosse Women's Division National Tournament. The Cardinals return nine players in 2010, including seven seniors and open the season at home against St. Stephen's/St. Agnes on March 17.

T.C. Boys Lose Season Opener

The T.C. Williams boys basketball team lost its season opener to Hayfield, 57-49, on Tuesday at Hayfield Second-

ary School. Billy Rowland led the Titans with 21 points, and Ryan Yates finished with 14.

T.C. Williams head coach Julian King said Rowland was whistled for three fouls in the first half and the Titans started falling apart when Rowland was called for his fourth midway through the third quarter. The coach added losing early in the season is a wake-up call for his players that

opponents are going to give their best effort against T.C. Williams.

The Titans host Patriot District opponent West Springfield at 7:45 p.m. on Friday. T.C. Williams has not lost a district game since the 2004-05 season.



Pictured are: (front row, left to right) Bishop Ireton head girls lacrosse coach Steve Tela, Madeline Irwin (signed with University of Maryland Baltimore County), Janet Tela (signed with University of Connecticut), principal Tim Hamer, (second row) Megan Fyffe, Katherine Simmons, Liz Tauke, Jacqui Galdos, Maddy Connor, Hayley D'Antuono, Erin O'Connell, Olivia O'Sullivan, Aubrey Gartlan and Eva Irwin.

COURTESY PHOTO

Titans Show Even Record at 1-1

FROM PAGE 26

Hagen said. "Pass it to someone that's open, get a better angle, then pass it inside, they'll kick it out." Our kids try to risk a little bit too much. ... We're trying to teach them, 'Take what's there. That what the defense gives you."

The Titans are also working on building team chemistry — including each player finding comfort in her role — after losing all five starters from last year, including All-

American Tierra Ruffin-Pratt.

"As long as everybody works together," Copeland said, "I think we'll be fine."

T.C. Williams travels to take on West Springfield at 7:45 p.m. on Friday.

"We're a whole new team — a whole different team," Hagen said. The expectations we had last year are different than this year. They're not any less, but they're just different. For the kids to accept that and stay positive throughout everything, I think that's how we'll come out on top."

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 26

Boys Basketball Doubleheader Rescheduled

The Parker-Gray Memorial boys basketball doubleheader was rescheduled for Dec. 19 at T.C. Williams High School. Annandale and Norview will face off in the 6 p.m. opener before T.C. Williams hosts Kecoughtan and former Titans head coach Ivan Thomas at 8 p.m.

Titans Wrestling Sits at 2-2

The T.C. Williams wrestling team defeated James Madison, 49-24, and lost to Potomac Falls, 54-21, on Saturday at Potomac Falls. On Dec. 2, T.C. Williams defeated Wakefield, 46-26, and lost to Washington-Lee, 45-31.

The Titans competed against Mount Vernon on Wednesday. Results of the meet were not available at the Gazette Packet's deadline. The Titans will compete at the NOVA Classic Tournament on Friday and Saturday at Fairfax High School.

Saints Swim Teams Have Strong Showing

The St. Stephen's/St. Agnes boys swim team defeated Sidwell Friends 113-52 on Dec. 3. Standout performances included sophomore Joe Lindsay in the 200 freestyle and 50 freestyle. He placed first in both events. Sophomore Ferrel Atkins had another solid meet placing first in the 200 IM and 100 backstroke. Senior Parker Davis proved his versatility by turning in an upset performance and taking first place in the 100 butterfly. In diving, senior Robbie Long dominated the competition and placed first. Senior diver Robbie Hyatt participated in the 200 free relay and posted one of the fastest splits of the night.

The St. Stephen's/St. Agnes girls swim team continues to improve as it posted big time drops from the first meet. Although the team lost with a score of 110-77, there were many notable performances. Freshman Marian Shaw found her event in the 50 freestyle and placed second with a time

of 27.95 seconds. Junior Rachel Movius cruised to first place in the 100 freestyle. Senior Taylor Bono dropped six seconds off her 100 fly time in the previous meet and placed second in that event. The divers had a good night with freshman Kelsey Stowers, sophomore Cristina Thompson and senior Sarah Mathiesen placing second, third and fourth, respectively.

Sports Club Meeting Tuesday

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club will hold its December meeting on Tuesday at the Old Dominion Boat Club. The guest speaker is Thom Loverro of the Washington Times. Social hour begins at 7 p.m. and the meeting begins at 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and free food and beverages will be served.

Avengers Open Season Saturday

The Alexandria Avengers, a semi-pro basketball team and member of the Eastern Basketball Alliance, open their season at 7 p.m. Saturday against the Newark Patrons at Mount Vernon High School. The team is owned and coached by 1997 T.C. Williams graduate Dominic Manuel.

Cheerleading Exhibition

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will host the Annual City-Wide Cheerleading Exhibition on Saturday at T.C. Williams High School beginning at 11 a.m. The exhibition features cheerleading teams from Charles Barrett, Charles Houston, Cora Kelly, Mount Vernon, Nannie J. Lee, Patrick Henry and William Ramsay Recreation Centers. There will also be special performances by the T. C. Williams High School cheerleaders and others.

The exhibition features teams in three divisions: the pee wee, junior varsity and varsity divisions. Teams will display their skills and enthusiasm as they prepare for

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SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 30

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ DECEMBER 10-16, 2009 ♦ 27



Safety Awards NVAR presents its first Realtor Safety Awards to those involved in this year's arrest of two individuals who were stealing from area open houses. From left to right: NVAR Chairman Susan Mekenney; Mary Hurlbut and Kim Farina from Weichert Realtors in Old Town Alexandria; Pat and Jim Bryant of the McLean Dolly Madison Weichert; Baltimore Police Officer Jeffrey Mellot, Fairfax County Detective Patrick O'Hara and Alexandria City Detective Dan Plank; Convention Chairperson Suzanne Granoski.

Part of the Neighborhood

FROM PAGE 4

cines," Swartz said. "Pharmacists are the medication experts. We know what side effects to look for when a new prescription is started, and I can help put a patient at ease about what they might experience."

Open since summer, Swartz and Hayward have started to learn more about what the community needs when it comes to healthcare. They're responding to customers but also working with the various alternative practitioners in the area. They've discovered, for instance, that there's more of a calling for homeopathic remedies than they'd originally thought. They've also learned how family-oriented the area is, so they've been stocking more items to serve parents and children such as teething paste and remedies for diaper rash.

The Neighborhood Pharmacy will also be expanding its pet medications — both prescription and over-the-counter. According

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to Hayward, they can help with concerns like proper dosage based on the size of the pet. They will even add flavor to pet meds that make them more palatable.

"We can make Whisker's medicine taste like tuna," she said.

"We really want people — and their pets — to be happy with their health care and we'll work hard for that."

BUSINESS MATTERS

FROM PAGE 4

struck a deal with the Alexandria City Council last year, part of the agreement stipulates that the city "agrees to cooperate" and "will not initiate" any action against Mirant. The document stipulates that the company will shell out \$34 million to improve air quality — \$32 million to reduce output of particulate matter from the plant and \$2 million to control fugitive dust.

So what happens now that Mirant is in the midst of figuring out how to spend the loot? For years, city leaders have publicly condemned the coal-fired power plant on the waterfront. But since the agreement was struck, some have been concerned that

a cross word from a City Council member or a senior government official might jeopardize the \$34-million deal to reduce air pollution. Through a spokeswoman, Mirant declined to comment on whether or not disparaging comments from city officials might violate the terms of the agreement.

"Mirant will abide by the terms set forth in the agreement," said **Misty Allen**, a spokeswoman for the coal-fired power plant. "Whether or not the statements or actions of either party would trigger legal action under the settlement is a decision of each individual party to the agreement."

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SPORTS

FROM PAGE 27

the main event, the cheerleading competition, in April of 2010. The April competition will be an invitational event with teams from the Washington D.C., Virginia, and Maryland areas competing against the Alexandria teams.

Tickets will be on sale in advance of the exhibition at the neighborhood recreation centers as well as at the Lee Center Recreation Services Division Office now through 5 p.m., Dec. 10. Adult tickets for ages 13 and older are \$5; youth tickets for 6-12 years are \$2, and youth 5 and under are free. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

For more information on the cheerleading program and other youth sports programs, call the Youth Sports Office at 703-746-5402.

MVHS Dinner and Auction Approaching

Mount Vernon High School Girls Basketball 11th Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Dec. 19. Tickets are \$5. See a student athlete from the girls basketball team or contact Terry Henderson at 703-619-3146 or Terry.Henderson@fcps.edu.

Saints Swim Teams Win Big

The St. Stephen's/St. Agnes boys and girls swim teams won by wide margins over Edmund Burke on Tuesday. The girls team won with a score of 118-35 and placed first in every event. Standout performances included junior Rachel Movius in the 500 free and 100 breaststroke. She earned state qualifying times in both events. Other first place performances were turned in by freshmen Kelin Baldrige, Marian Shaw and Lizzie Beane and Senior Laura Goff.

The boys team won with a score of 124-34. Sophomore Ferrel Atkins and junior Conor MacNair qualified for States in both the 200 I.M. and 100 backstroke. Freshman Lucas Jennings also qualified for states in 100 backstroke. Other standout performances included sophomore Luke Frerichs in the 200 freestyle and 100 breaststroke, senior Parker Davis in the 50 freestyle and senior Matt McLean in the 500 freestyle.

Winter Box Lacrosse Registration

The Beltway Box Lacrosse League is registering now for a boys high school and youth winter box lacrosse program beginning Dec. 19. Games will be played in Alexandria at the in-line hockey rink behind Francis C. Hammond Middle School. Divisions are boys high school varsity and JV and youth U-9/ U-11, U-13, and U-15. A seven-game season is planned. US Lacrosse membership is required. Information is available at www.BeltwayBoxLacrosse.com.



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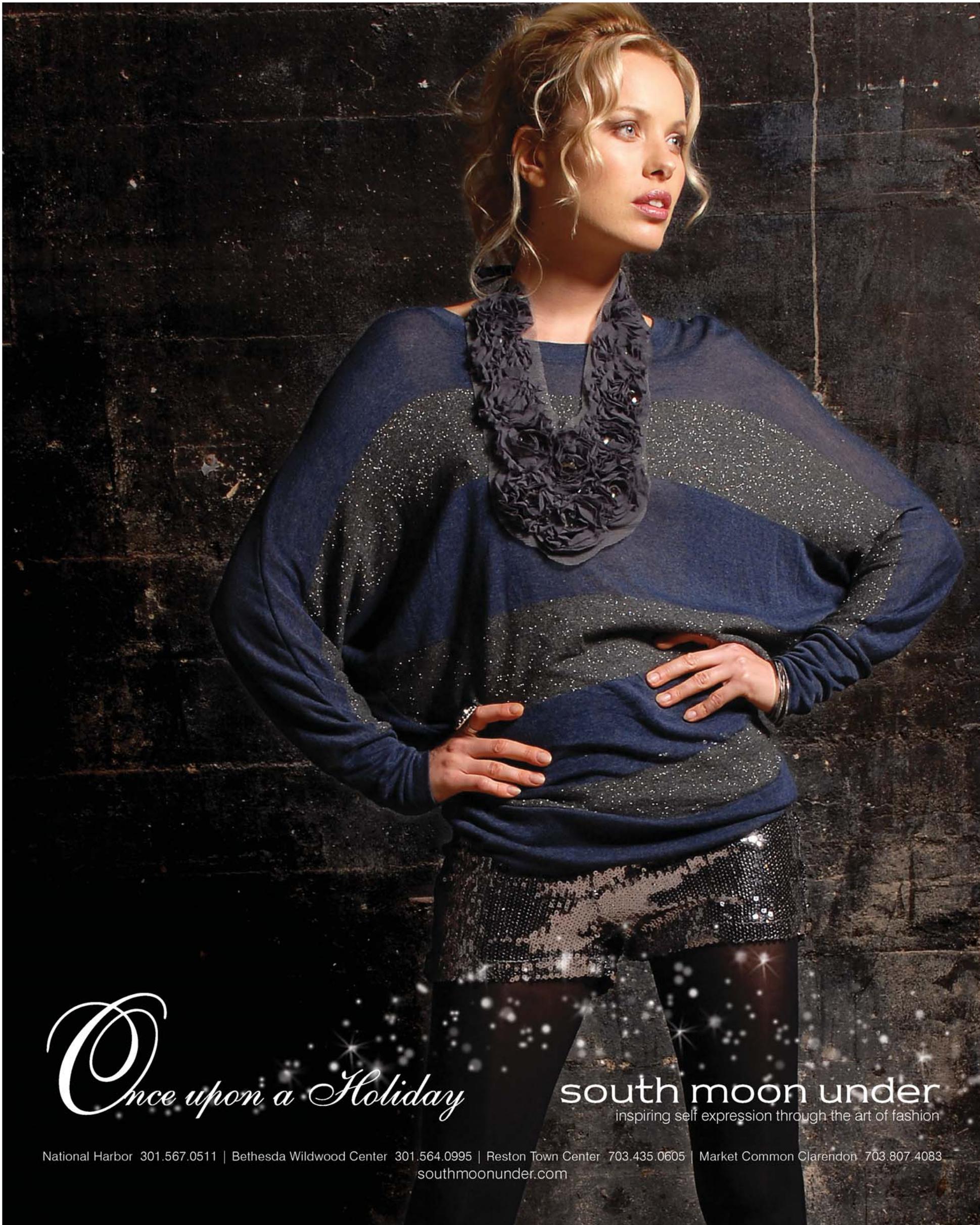
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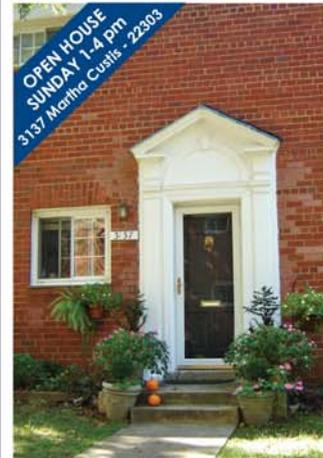
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