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JANUARY 7, 2010

Ahead In 2010

McDonnell could bring end to state run liquor stores.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

If Bob McDonnell has his way, Virginia's state-run liquor stores will be on their way to extinction by the end of this coming spring.

The Republican governor-elect made the privatization of liquor sales a high-profile piece of his campaign in 2009 and intends to push hard for the measure in the upcoming General Assembly session, which starts Jan. 13.

McDonnell thinks selling off the commonwealth's liquor operations could provide a much-needed injection of cash, estimated at \$300 million to \$400 million, to Virginia's lagging transportation network. The Republican said extra money would also be generated if the liquor storefronts became private property, since the sites



Critics of Gov.-elect Bob McDonnell's (R) plans to privatize Virginia's liquor sales worry that the local storefronts with modest signage and advertising — such as this one located on Richmond Highway — would give way to those that are as flamboyant as this private outlet in Washington, D.C.

could then be subjected to a real estate taxes.

McDONNELLE'S PROPOSAL was championed mostly by Republican candidates in the run up to the fall election, though support does not necessarily fall along partisan lines. Former Virginia Gov. Doug Wilder (D) called for the privatization of the commonwealth's liquor operations for years and several state legislators from both sides of the aisle said they didn't have a problem with the concept.

"I could certainly see the ben-

efits of privatizing," said State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), who represents Fairfax and Vienna.

Yet many state legislators, even those who support the idea of liquor sales privatization "in theory," said making such a decision is impractical in a time when the state is already facing such large budget deficit.

Selling off the state liquor business may provide a quick infusion of cash for transportation projects but it would also

SEE CONCERNS, PAGE 5

Line in the Water

Duck hunters found violating federally protected nature preserve.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

The new started with a bang for two duck hunters, who were charged with violating the federally protected boundaries of Dyke Marsh in the early hours of 2010. Hunters at buoy 3 and buoy 4 were each slapped with a summons to appear at the Fairfax County General District court for a class 3 misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum fine of \$500.

The sting operation was conducted by Conservation Police Officer Randy Graver, acting on a tip from the National Park Service. According to Graver, neighborhood residents became concerned when they noticed that buoys outlining legally available hunting



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Ducks at the Dyke Marsh wildlife preserve are the target of duck hunters who wait at hunting blinds outside the federally protected boundaries.

SEE DUCK HUNTERS, PAGE 5

Mount Vernon Poet Advises 'Keep Writing'

BY SENITRA MCCOMBS
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon native Clifford Bernier combines his love of traveling, nature and jazz in his latest collections of poetry "Earth Suite" and "Dark Berries."

"Earth Suite" is available from Finishing Line Press (<http://www.finishinglinepress.com/NewReleasesandForthcomingTitles.htm>), and "Dark Berries" is available from Pudding House Publications (jen@puddinghouse.com).



SEE PERFORMING, PAGE 4

Clifford Bernier

Deeper Cuts for Public Schools?

Freezing state funding would add \$50 million to the schools' projected budget shortfall.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

The Fairfax County School Board was already discussing the elimination of elementary school foreign language instruction, most full-day kindergarten classes and the majority of the county's summer school program as a way to cope with a projected budget shortfall of \$100 million to \$200 million during the 2010-2011 school year.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Budget cuts at West Potomac High (pictured above) and other Fairfax schools could be worse than expected if Virginia General Assembly members from other parts of the commonwealth refuse change a state funding formula.

SEE MORE SCHOOL CUTS, PAGE 4





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Business Leaders Look Back — and Ahead

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

2009 was, by all accounts, universally viewed as one of the worst economic climates in recent memory nationwide and locally. High unemployment and a severe drop in housing values are but two negative factors which confronted the region, and continue to present problems for individuals, businesses, and the local county government. Will this continue in 2010? The following is a sample of local business leaders' view of what they believe is likely to happen.

REX & LIZ REILEY, Remax Realtors, Fort Hunt Road



Liz and Rex Reiley, Remax Realtors

Q: How did you do in 2009?

A: Although the volume was down overall we didn't do bad. Certainly it was nothing like 2005 or 2006. But given the general economic climate we hung in there largely because of our long-standing reputation for quality service and word of mouth referrals. Also, because of the first time homeowner's tax credit program from July through to the end of November we had a surge of deals with customers taking advantage of that federal tax credit program. December is slow; but it usually is around this time of year.

Q: What is your prediction for your business in 2010?

A: We are very optimistic for the upcoming year. The prices of homes in the Mount Vernon region are as low as they have been in a long time. Couple the low prices with a very favorable interest rate for the foreseeable future, add the influx of more personnel in the expanded Fort Belvoir complex, and our slogan is: Buy now! Good deals are out there.

E. HUNT BURKE, CEO, Burke & Herbert Bank, branch offices on Sherwood Hall Lane and Richmond Highway in Mt. Vernon. Headquarters in Old Town Alexandria.

Q: How did your Bank do in 2009?



E. Hunt Burke, CEO, Burke and Herbert Bank

A: We did very well this year. The reason is we were very conservative in our lending policies and worked hard to provide quality service to our customers. Our Mt. Vernon branch offices were very busy; so much so that we plan in the upcoming year to establish two new branch offices in Fairfax County and one in Woodbridge.

Q: What is your prediction for your business in 2010?

A: We fully expect to build on our success in 2009. Our principles and values will remain consistent. Qualified borrowers will receive favorable treatment and we will work with all our clients to make their loans with us a positive and fruitful experience.

LOUIS and RICK GENUARIO, owners, Genuario Construction Companies, Radford Avenue.



Rick and Lou Genuario of Genuario Construction Companies

Q: How did you do in 2009?

A: Until this November it was terrible. However, we see signs of an upturn in our business.

Q: What is your prediction for your business in 2010?

A: I think we will do very well; we are optimistic that the steps we took to prepare for this poor economic climate are going to pay off; we closed several building contracts in the past few months. That is very encouraging .

Q: What did you do to counteract the economic downturn; and what are you doing to move forward for 2010?

A: We temporarily cut back on our staff; changed some of our focus to do more remodeling work and not rely solely on new home construction, and sought partnerships with other businesses. This helped us through the tough times and gave us some planning and management tools that will help us in 2010. We are essentially a countercyclical business; we stay with our proven strategies and business values. This past year our retrenchment and examination of our niche market has prepared us well for the future.

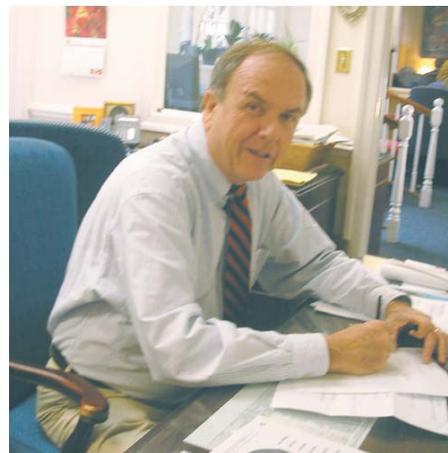
Q: How do you predict you will do in 2010?

A: For the previously mentioned reasons, our excellent local reputation, and the general positive economic climate in this region, we expect to have a good year.

CHRIS WHITE, real estate agent, Long & Foster Real Estate; Mount Vernon and Alexandria city.

Q: How did you and the company do in 2009?

A: We had a good year.



Chris White of Long & Foster Real Estate

Q: What did your company do to cope with the weak economy?

A: We stayed with what has worked for us in the past: our proven business networking practices, enhanced marketing online, in-service training, and quality service to our customers.

Q: What do you predict for 2010 and why?

A: If the interest rates stay low, and I think they will, we will have a successful 2010. The new "move up" interest rate federal incentive program which will continue through April, 2010 will give us a good boost in sales, and have the effect of compressing the market which we target.

HOLLY DOUGHERTY, executive director, Mount Vernon - Lee Chamber of Commerce

Q: Recognizing you represent a diverse membership of retailers, service contractors, builders, real estate companies, etc., please comment on the year just completed; how did the Mt.Vernon-Lee business community do in 2009?

A: 2009 was a difficult year for many local businesses. While not every business sector has been caught in the economic downturn, those that have

Holly Dougherty, executive director, Mt.Vernon - Lee Chamber of Commerce



are struggling. They need community support. Local businesses are the ones who contribute to our schools and sports teams, donate to non-profits and provide jobs. Losing local businesses in this economic downturn would critically hurt the quality of life we all enjoy.

Q: What is your prediction for the region in 2010?

A: We are cautiously optimistic about 2010. The George Mason Center for Regional Analysis tells us we will start to see more economic activity the end of the first quarter of 2010 or the beginning of the second quarter. Business owners tend to be optimistic about the future and are hoping these reports prove to be accurate.

KATIE FIKE, administrative/marketing coordinator for the Commercial Department, McEneaney, & Associates



Q: How did McEneaney & Associates do in 2009?

A: Considering the economic climate we did well. It is in part a reflection of our company's reputation and quality staff work.

Q: How do you think your firm will do in the upcoming year?

A: I believe we will do well, for the same reasons I previously stated. In addition, the significant expansion of the Fort Belvoir military base will have a positive ripple effect on many sectors of the local economy that will help trigger business activity for us.

Katie Fike: Commercial Division Associate: McEneaney & Associates



Nicole Barker is skating her solo performance at the holiday ice show.

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE



Jennifer Varghese is skates during the holiday ice show.



Holiday Ice Show

Jenae Barne is skating to the music, "Requiem for a Tower" at the Mount Vernon RECenter ice arena on Saturday, Jan. 2.



The Hopper train heads down a popular sledding hill located at the Collingwood Library off the George Washington Parkway. The Hopper girls, Julia, Kyra, Gabriella, Haliegh, with their father Rob, took many such trips down the hill Monday evening Dec. 22.



PHOTOS BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS/THE GAZETTE

Wintery Fun

Leighton Hunt and Tess Wilbur, West Potomac High School students, enjoy the extended vacation that the Blizzard of '09 blew their way.

More School Cuts from Richmond?

FROM PAGE 1

Now, they may have to come up with a longer list of program cuts thanks to Gov. Tim Kaine's latest state budget proposal, announced in December.

Kaine (D) recommended freezing the state education funding formula, a move that would result in Fairfax schools losing an additional \$50 million to \$60 million in financial help from Richmond during the next school year.

Fairfax County already provides the majority of its school system's budget.

In 2010 for example, the locality covered approximately 73 percent of Fairfax Public Schools \$2.2 billion operating budget.

If Fairfax County wants to make up for a state funding cut of that magnitude, the local Board of Supervisors would have to raise the local property tax rate approximately 2.5 to three cents this spring.

Fairfax's foreign language in elementary schools program costs about \$2.5 million and the foreign language immersion program costs about \$2.1 million annually. The school system spent just under \$5 million on traditional summer school and about \$30 million on full-day kindergarten this year.

"If we had \$50 million, we might be able to avoid an increase in class size," said school board member Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill District).

VIRGINIA'S education funding formula takes into account several factors but largely relies on localities' property values and median household income to determine how much money each school district receives from the commonwealth.

Described by legislators as a "complicated algorithm," the formula is designed to cover a larger portion of public education costs in Virginia's school districts with the fewest financial resources. The formula assumes that jurisdictions like Fairfax — considered one of the wealthiest localities in the country — can more easily afford to fund its own education systems through local taxes.

As a result, the state covers relatively little of Fairfax County Public Schools budget when compared to what they provide for other localities.

Virginia provides approximately \$23.47 for every \$100 spent on public education in Fairfax County. In other Virginia school districts which reap the most from the current funding formula the state provides \$84.47 for every \$100 spent on public education, according to Fairfax County documents.

"Any time you have a state funding formula that is based on relative wealth, we don't do very well," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who represents Lorton, Springfield, Fairfax Station and Burke.

BUT FAIRFAX, Loudoun and Prince William counties were expected to benefit financially from a scheduled recalculation of the state education funding formula this year.

Though property values and average household incomes remain high in Northern Virginia overall, Fairfax and these other local jurisdictions saw a more substantial drop in home prices when compared with other Virginia localities.

The result should have been that Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William received a larger slice of the state's overall education funding

next year.

But if incoming Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) and the Virginia General Assembly take up Kaine's suggestion and decide to "freeze" the state's education funding formula, Fairfax and others will not see an increase in education funding.

Ninety-seven of the commonwealth's 136 school districts — and constituents represented by the majority of the Virginia General Assembly's members — would be negatively impacted by the scheduled change in the formula, so it is likely that the freeze will be seriously considered and approved in the upcoming session.

The situation may be particularly tense because the General Assembly will likely have to cut state education monies across the board anyway, as the result of an overall budget shortfall.

"Any time you cut education, people are trying to get as much money as they possibly can," said Albo.

ALBO and other local members of the General Assembly said they are ready to fight any proposal to freeze the formula, even if they are outnumbered by their colleagues in the state legislature.

"The [funding formula] is used to measure the wealth of a locality and, for years, it has been used to jerk us around. Now, for the first time, the numbers are actually moving in our direction. Now that the system is actually starting to benefit Fairfax, they are asking us to freeze it out," said state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34).

"No other region of Virginia would tolerate this type of discriminatory treatment. ... We must fight against it," he added.

Performing Jazz Poetry

FROM PAGE 1

In addition, he will be featured on the National Public Radio show "The Poet and the Poem from the Library of Congress" this year.

Currently, he is working on a short collection of jazz poetry.

TRAVELING was a way of life for Bernier and it helped to shape his career as a poet.

"When I was 10, my family moved to France. I didn't have any friends there initially and I started reading books and then eventually I started writing. It came out as poetry," Bernier said.

His literary influences include many classic poets such as Walt Whitman, Eliot, Yeats, Stevens, Walcott, WS Graham, WS Merwin and Geoffrey Hill.

In addition, Bernier has traveled to parts of Asia, Africa, Europe and South America.

After he married, Bernier lived in Japan for awhile. As a result, many of Bernier's poems have "foreign settings and themes."

Bernier's love of nature also began at a very early age. In response to what his favorite childhood memory was, he said, "Running barefoot on the gravel on Tauxemont Road and down to the woods behind the Tauxemont Preschool to catch crayfish and frogs in the stream."

ANOTHER INFLUENCE on Bernier's poetry is jazz.

He has performed his "jazz

poetry" with Joshua Carr Band, the Poesis band, the Villainelles in a variety of venues around the D.C. metropolitan area, including IOTA café, Bistro Europa, Bistro Lafayette, Kensington Row Books, Caboose Café and Fireflies in Del Ray.

Although he has been performing his "metaphorical heavily cadenced free verse" jazz poetry live for 10 years, he has spent the last five years as the host of a poetry reading called "Poesis" at Greenberry's in Arlington and at the Borders and Pentagon City.

In addition, Bernier has three CDs of his jazz poetry which he performed live at IOTA Club and Café, Bistro Europa and Poetry in Black & White.

Bernier advises young poets is to "keep writing, keep submitting your work, get out to readings and open mikes."

He also said that writing is a way to understand the world and make something beautiful out of life. "I like to create beauty," he said. However, Bernier adds that it is a challenge finding time to write with his other work and family obligations.

Like many artists, Bernier has a second job working for the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation.

Bernier has a degree from Bowdoin College and he currently resides in Mount Vernon with his family.

Concerns over End of ABC Stores

FROM PAGE 1
mean the loss of substantial revenue for Virginia over the long term, they said.

Currently, Virginia's liquor business generates about \$100 million annually for the Virginia budget and even the optimistic estimates for what the commonwealth would receive for its liquor store business top out at approximately \$400 million.

The General Assembly and McDonnell are already facing approximately a \$4 billion dollar shortfall in the budget this year and the incoming Governor has indicated that he will not support a tax increase.

STATE-RUN liquor stores have not required that same regulation or restrictions that a private industry would need, said several local elected officials. There are no reasons for localities to be concerned about the proximity of a public liquor store to a school or church. Likewise, Virginia's state-run liquor stores do not engage in

"flashy advertising" — like neon signs — that some consider visual pollution.

With state-run stores, localities also do not run the risk of having multiple hard liquor outlets locating in close proximity to each other. Del.-elect Scott Surovell (D-44), who will represent Mount Vernon starting this month, said he was particularly concerned that private liquor stores would start proliferating in his district along Richmond Highway. "I don't think we want to see the private liquor stores next to the payday lending places, next to the 'checks cashed' places along Route 1. I don't think we want that for our community," said Surovell, during a candidate's forum in the fall.

When asked about such worries during an interview in August, McDonnell said regulations could be put in place to prevent commercial districts from being overrun with liquor stores.

Still, Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said he is looking into whether Fairfax could en-

act zoning restrictions about the placement of liquor stores prior to the General Assembly voting on the proposal. McKay represents the western side of Richmond Highway and central Springfield, two of the county's commercial "revitalization" districts, and he fears that the General Assembly might vote hastily — without putting the appropriate restrictions in place — and create an "open season" for private liquor sellers at first.

"I want to know if we should be putting restrictions in the zoning ordinances about where these things can go now. ... I want to be able to do something before these things proliferate," said McKay, who is not sure Fairfax can legally restrict private liquor stores without approval from the General Assembly to do so. "I don't want to wake up one morning and find a liquor store in every shopping center on Route 1," said McKay. Only two liquor stores are currently located along the Fairfax section of Route 1, he said.

Duck Hunters Violate Nature Preserve

FROM PAGE 1
area had moved closer to Dyke Marsh. Graver says he personally moved one of the buoys back to its rightful location late in the afternoon on New Year's Eve only to discover that it had been moved back by New Year's Day.

"One of the hunters said he thought the buoy was in the wrong place and he was moving it to where he thought it was supposed to be," said Graver. "The other one adamantly denied moving the buoy and said it was like that when he got there."

The Mount Vernon riverfront has long been home to duck hunting, with George Washington himself chasing canvasback waterfowl through the creeks and coves along the Potomac River. But recent years have seen the longtime practice challenged in Fairfax County, where preservationists and homeowners have become more vocal about their opposition. Last year, a group known as Friends of Dyke Marsh made a formal request to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to ban duck hunting near the wildlife preserve. That request was denied, and hunters say they have every right to hunt in this area — if they follow the rules.

"Moving the buoys was a tremendous mistake," said Kevin Paulson, a duck hunter who frequently hunts in the area sur-

rounding Dyke Marsh. "It's an absolute disgrace."

THE GAME WARDEN says part of the problem is confusion created after the buoys were moved from the longtime previous locations. About a year ago, the National Park Service requested that the buoys be moved away from the shoreline. The purpose was to align the floating blinds with property owned by the National Park Service rather than the natural boundary created where the water meets the land. Since then, hunters have been frustrated about being moved away from their target.

"At this point, we want to make sure the hunters know that we've

used GPS equipment to make sure all the buoys are where they are supposed to be," said Graver. "So don't move them."

Friends of Dyke Marsh say they will continue their fight to end duck hunting at the federally protected wildlife preserve. Until then, the nonprofit's president says she is happy that the state is taking action to make sure the existing rules are being followed.

"We suspect that hunting has been going on inside the boundaries for years but nobody has been there watching," said Glenda Booth, president of Friends of Dyke Marsh. "So we pleased that the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is finally doing something."



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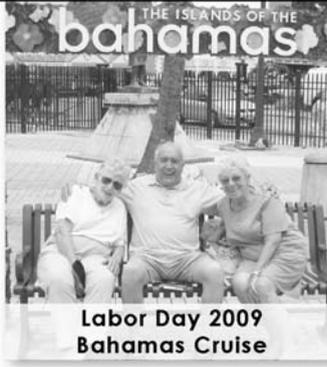


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OPINION

Happy New Year

Keep in touch.

At the Gazette, we invite our readers to fill us in, literally. As we begin the New Year, we are reminded that we need to hear from our readers.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Gazette's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

To succeed at any of that, we need your help.

Let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, call us or send us an e-mail.

We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an e-mail letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or something you have a question about, give us a call,

or drop us a line.

If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, we are looking for people to feature each week.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. E-mail us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars

EDITORIAL

Richmond's Attack on Fairfax's Middle Class

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
DELEGATE-ELECT

Last week, Gov. Tim Kaine proposed his 2011-2012 budget to the Virginia General Assembly. Governor Kaine has a responsibility to balance the budget, but I also believe that his proposal unduly focuses its burdens on Virginia's poor and Northern Virginia's middle class.

First, his budget proposes to delay "rebenchmarking" or correction of the formula that determines state funds for local schools — the Local Composite Index ("LCI"). Because Fairfax County has some of the highest income earners and property values in Vir-

ginia, the LCI approach disadvantages us and we get very little money from the state. However, because our property values cratered more rapidly than other Virginia localities, Fairfax County is slated to receive an additional \$60-70 million more per year from the state.

The budget proposes to delay rebenchmarking one year to give local jurisdictions "more certainty." One would think that "more certainty" would favor 25 percent of the Commonwealth (e.g. Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria) getting this money to avoid cuts to full-day kindergarten, elementary band and strings, focus programs, or increased class

sizes, after all, most rural jurisdictions have property tax rates that are half of what we pay in Northern Virginia and they have room to grow. If his proposal is adopted, we could pay higher 2010 property taxes to make for the shortfall or that the Fairfax County School Board will have to cut an additional \$315,000 from every school (\$60 million divided by 190 schools).

Next, the Governor's budget proposes to prohibit any new enrollees in Medicaid and to cut Medicaid payments to health care providers by \$419 million. "Cutting" Medicaid does not "cut" anything. It reduces the availability of health care and it causes health care pro-

viders to increase rates for private insurance to make up the "cut" — small businesses and middle class working families in Fairfax County. "Cuts" to government healthcare programs (Medicaid or Medicare) are really not "cuts." They are simply a way to pass the buck on health care for the uninsured to those with private health insurance — in other words, Northern Virginia's middle class. These so-called "cuts" are what causes businesses' health insurance costs to rise 15 percent per year.

In addition, people who have no way to pay for their healthcare, end

SEE RICHMOND'S WAR,
PAGE 16

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appreciate Trash Pick-up

To the Editor:

Rarely do we thank the people who really make government work for the citizenry. However, the recent storm that virtually brought the area to a halt prompts me to write to thank and congratulate the county's sanitation workers who picked up our trash on Monday morning in spite of hazardous conditions on the roads. These

men (and, I suppose, women) work in all kinds of weather and difficult circumstances to provide a very basic service to the county's residents. I, for one, have come to rely on their arrival on time (or very close to it) regardless of the conditions under which they have to work. I truly wish I could have put something extra in their stockings on Christmas morning.

Bill Rhatican

Political Expediency

To the Editor:

I just received my IRS Income Tax forms for 2009 in the mail today. I quickly scanned the first few pages showing all the "new" items for the 2009 tax filing. Most were new or increased tax "credits" that many people might be eligible for. But nowhere in the form have I found the explanation that reveals

the truth about the "middle class tax cut" that we have all heard repeatedly touted by so many on the democratic side of Congress and the White House. I have no doubt that many of you out there still believe you got a tax cut last year. You all have been fooled. You did enjoy a "withholdings" tax cut and that as a result you have more money to spend. But here is the little detail that Congressman Jim

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

Contact Us

For the Mount Vernon Gazette, email gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or contact editor Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6431.

should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Get Involved

The first day of the 2010 General Assembly session is Wednesday, Jan. 13.

The House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees will hold a Regional Public Hearing on Friday, Jan. 8, at 10 a.m., at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus. The hearing will focus on the Governor's proposed 2010-12 Biennial State Budget and is open to the public.

Fairfax County's delegation to the General Assembly will hold a pre-session public hearing on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 9 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. Sign up to speak by calling the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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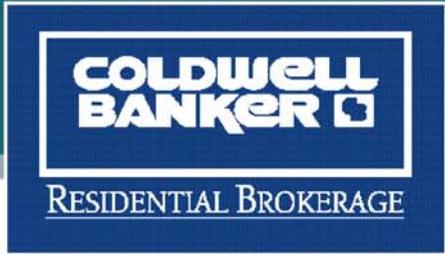
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

Moran and even President Obama didn't tell you. When you file your taxes on April 15, 2010, you still owe the same amount of income tax that you would have owed regardless of how much they withheld from your paycheck because they did not cut the income tax rates. You will have to make up the difference — some tax cut.

The President said recently that unless the Congress passes his healthcare scheme the "federal government will go bankrupt." Will go bankrupt? All this borrowed money will have to be repaid through exorbitant taxes on our children and grandchildren. But that does not concern many of you, Jim Moran or the President. You keep electing them to office. From government buyouts of private industry, to the global warming myth and now the supposed healthcare crisis, we are slowly being financially strangled as this nonsense is rammed down our throats and many of you are cheering on the government. The \$700-plus billion stimulus bill that accomplished little, and the massive, untenable and fiscally disastrous healthcare takeover bill are perfect examples. But remember, everything was Bush's fault caused by the "tax cuts for the wealthy." I wish I had a dime for every time I heard that garbage from Jim Moran alone — he says it every other sentence. The trouble is millions of you believe it. Our leaders think they are so above us intellectually and that we are dumber than dirt. Sadly, as evidenced by

the glowing support many voters provide these buffoons, that assumption is slowly becoming true. A great example is Barney Frank. Who in their right mind can vote for him?

As a legal citizen of the United States, taxpayer, husband, and father of two children (whose financial future is being mortgaged), I am angry and I truly fear what is ahead for my kids. I, and many ordinary Americans like me, have had enough and have thankfully started to speak out. I truly wish I had the means to run for Congress against Jim Moran, I would in a heartbeat. But it is unlikely that I would win because I would not promise to soak the rich and hand it out to others in order to uphold the President's and now Moran's socialistic mantra of "spreading the wealth around." Jim Moran said that just because one has earned great wealth they think they are entitled to keep it. What? I would demand that others live as my wife and I do — work hard and earn your own fortune, not cry foul and expect it be given to you at the expense of others.

Our two-faced incompetent governmental representatives do not understand what the word "representative" means. And they will continue to be elected by the short-sighted and uninformed who still think like the woman, who was all over the media following the election of President Obama. She gleefully and with complete expecta

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



Registration for Camp Greenway begins on January 19, 2010.

Riding Workshop lottery forms due January 8, 2010.

Visit www.madeira.org/on_campus/summer.aspx for all the details.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

tion exclaimed, "I won't have to pay my mortgage anymore or worry about paying my credit card bills anymore or paying for my gasoline!" Who does she think will pay for it? And more importantly, why does she think anybody besides herself should?

I did a little research on our Benjamin Franklin and I found two quotes ascribed to him. "When the people find that they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the republic" and "this will be the best security for maintaining our liberties. A nation of well informed who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the religion of ignorance that tyranny begins." Read those quotes out loud and really think about them. As a nation we have tightly embraced the "religion of ignorance" that Franklin warned against 200 years ago. And millions celebrate this ignorance. Our leaders have embraced it as evidenced by their blindly passing massive spending bills (mostly opposed by the people), without even knowing what is in them.

I do remain optimistic that we have not fallen so far as a nation

that we cannot re-embrace the brilliance of Benjamin Franklin and avoid the tyranny he talked about. But I fear that unless we start today to reverse our way of thinking and educate ourselves as to how this country became the greatest on earth and reject the subtle tyranny that is being forced upon us by the leaders we have elected, we will never again regain the American Dream as we knew it for our children and generations to come. I don't blame America for all the ills of the world as does our President. I blame all of us for ever allowing our country to fall to such levels of

ignorance, avarice and greed in the first place. Now we must grasp the seriousness of this true crisis and return to our government, leaders who have the United States, our American heritage (not that of other cultures) and our future generations at the top of their priority list. And we must demand representation not capitulation to political expediency. That is my New Years Resolution — one we can all sign on to and one we all can keep next November.

Happy New Year America!

Garry A. Scutt
Alexandria

Woman Charged with Animal Cruelty

Animal Control officers charged a 33-year-old woman with animal cruelty and being an unfit animal owner after spending nearly 12 hours removing animals from her Ramsgate Terrace home on Tuesday, Dec. 29. Officers responded shortly before 8:30 a.m. following neighbors' complaints of foul odors coming from the home.

Authorities removed over two dozen live cats, five dogs, a rabbit, three guinea pigs, a hamster and nine birds from the home,

amidst cluttered conditions including animal feces and debris. Additionally, officers also removed 28 dead animals from the premises.

The initial medical conditions of the living animals ranged from poor to good, with most appearing unclean and malnourished. All animals were transported to local veterinarians to undergo thorough assessments.

The investigation is continuing and additional charges are pending.

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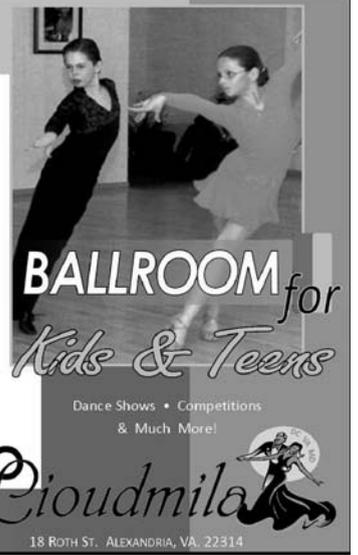
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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
Monday, January 18, 2010
from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
George Mason University's Johnson Center

Families of all shapes and sizes can volunteer at projects with Fairfax 4-H, FACETS, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and the Orphan Foundation of America – in the convenience of one, central location.

To register to participate, visit
www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Walk-in registrations will be accepted as supplies are available; pre-registration is encouraged. Projects best suited for elementary-aged children.

"Everybody can be great
because anybody
can serve."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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8311
Mount Vernon Hwy
\$779,000
Brand New Home!
Stunning opportunity! Leading builder's model home has been loaded with options and was planned to sell for over \$1,000,000! Fabulous special features include: bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, four levels, upgraded kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, custom trim detail, spacious screened porch and two car garage. Prime location convenient to everything! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, at estate take sharp R onto Rte 235 N/Mt V Hwy.

OPEN SUN!

4413
Ferry Landing Road
\$559,900
Yacht Haven!
Recently installed top quality gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets & granite counters, hardwood floors, large deck & covered parking. Bright, open floor plan overlooks gorgeous half acre grounds in one of the area's leading waterfront communities! Less than 5 mins from Ft Belvoir, GW Pkwy, Mt Vernon Yacht Club & Mansion House Club. Home warranty! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Ferry Lndg Rd.

OPEN SUN!

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

3724 HAMPTON COURT
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SHOWS LIKE A MODEL! Move right into this turn key home! Remodeled by a builder, this 3 lv TH features 2 generously sized bedrooms, 1.5 upgraded BA. The gourmet kit boasts granite & SSA, slider to private yd, new cabinets & more! Fab low lvl offers sep laundry rm, rec rm/3rd BR. Hurry to this one!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

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- New brick TH
- 3BR, 2.55 BA
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- Hardwood thru-out
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- Decks off Kit or LR
- Rec room w/frpl
- Drenched in sunlight
- 1 car garage + driveway
- 2128 Under Contract

BRAND NEW TOWNHOUSES!

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2114
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Alexandria
\$539,000

- BRAND NEW Basement
- Recessed lighting
- 3rd Full BA
- 4th BR (legal)
- Sep Laundry + Storage
- plus 3BR and 2BA
- Hardwood thru-out
- Renovated Kit
- LR w/frpl
- Large fenced yard

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.

3906
Rive Drive
\$998,500
Stunning Property!
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.

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 custom deck overlooks magnificent level grounds. Rare opportunity to find a well maintained Mount Vernon home for under \$500,000!

828 SLATERS LA
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\$699,000

MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION!
Spectacular Condo! 1,890sqft!! 3BR, 2.5BA, 2 Master suites, gourmet kit, 9' ceilings, Gas fireplace, Plantation shutters & hardwoods thru-out, handicap accessible + 2 inside parking spaces. City views from rooftop. Shops & rests.

Mary Bourke 703.906.5825
Shane Canny 703.346.2067

7330 STREAM WAY
Springfield - \$319,000

START THE NEW YEAR . . . in this bright & spacious 3BR, 2.5BA, 3LV TH convenient to METRO, malls & major roadways! All new baths, new carpet & flooring, newer roof, windows, paint landscaping, HVAC & more! Fin w-out bsmt w/plumbing for future BA! Fenced, private yd & lovely upper deck. Come See!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

OPEN SUN 1-4pm

116 ROBERTS LANE
#301
Alexandria
\$330,000

ALEXANDRIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET! The location and space you need, the updated kitchen you want.

2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, granite counter-tops, stainless steel appliances. Come check out this move-in ready unit.

Susan Haughton 703.470.4545
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

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.

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!

WATERFRONT!

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

OPEN SUN 1-4

540 SECOND ST
#403
Old Town
\$605,000

MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION!
A chic high end condo built in 2006. This 1,485 sq ft, 2BR, 2.5BA home boasts a large open Chef's kitchen, granite, stainless steel appliances, double sided gas fireplace, hardwoods, plantation shutters, closets galore & 2 garage spaces.

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6621 Wakefield St
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Norma Stratton 703.966.0756

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East Boulevard Dr
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3102
Waterside Lane
\$798,500
Waterfront Value!
Updated and expanded home on gorgeous elevated grounds overlooks Little Hunting Creek! Private dock, custom glass walled family room, updated kitchen with granite, stainless & custom cabinets, hardwood floors, two car garage and much more! Unique opportunity - do not miss out!

SOLD!

3706 Riverwood Ct

SOLD!

4821 Stillwell Ave

SOLD!

1810 Hollindale Dr

302 SOUTH SAINT ASAPH STREET
\$1,495,000

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Jim Crowe 703.856.8244

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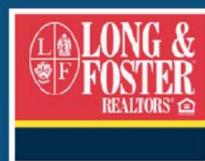
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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Schoolchildren Honor Dr. King's Legacy With Poster Contest

Alexandria schoolchildren are celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., again this year by taking part in a citywide poster contest. Winners of the 20th annual juried competition and exhibition will be honored at an awards program on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 18, from 1-3 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street, and City Councilwoman Alicia Hughes will deliver the keynote speech. This event is free.

The contest and exhibition are sponsored by the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage (ASPBH) and the Alexandria Black History Museum. The posters represent students' interpretation of this year's King Holiday theme, "Continuing to Keep the Dream Alive." The artwork of all finalists will be on display in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall through Sunday, Feb. 28.

The contest serves as a means of recognizing the life and accomplishments of Dr. King while encouraging the students to express their artistic talents. The ASPBH designed the competition to provide an opportunity for children of all cultures to express their understanding of the late civil rights leader.

Student submissions are judged in two phases, beginning with the individual elementary schools. Three finalists from each grade (first through fifth) from each school are selected and sent on for further consideration. In the second phase, a panel of ASPBH representatives evaluates the artwork within grade levels but across the city, so students are competing against their peers from all city elementary schools. First-, second- and third-place winners for each grade level will be selected. Winners will be announced and will receive their prizes at the Jan. 18 ceremony.

Under the leadership of chairman Carlton A. Funn, Sr., the ASPBH hosts programs and exhibitions presented by the Alexandria Black History Museum while providing yearly funds to help promote educational programs at the museum. The Alexandria Black History Museum, located at 902 Wythe Street, is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 703-838-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

The Women of Folk Music

Friday, Jan. 22 and Saturday, Jan. 23 at The Birchmere.

This year, the 24th Annual World Folk Music Association Benefit Concert Weekend returns to The Birchmere in Alexandria for two big nights of music on Friday, Jan. 22 and Saturday, Jan. 23. Each night will feature top women performers of today's Folk music scene. These Women of Folk Music will amaze, transport, and delight you with their angelic voices and pure talent.

The performers scheduled to appear include: Herdman, Hills & Mangsen, SONiA & disappear fear, Catie Curtis, The Nields, Maura Kennedy, Aoife Clancy (pronounced "Eefa"), Hot Soup!, Lisa Taylor, Doris Justis, Carolyn Hester, and Lea, with additional performers to be announced.

Tickets for reserved seating on Saturday include a desert and coffee reception with the performers following the show, at the Holiday Inn National Airport/Crystal City Hotel, 2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington.



Maura Kennedy

7:30 p.m. on Friday, 6:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria
Ticket prices: from \$44.50 to \$134
Visit www.wfma.net or call 866-412-5943

Alexandria Restaurant Week Is Jan. 15-24

More than 50 dining establishments will be showcasing their culinary expertise during the second-annual Alexandria Restaurant Week, Jan. 15-24.

For 10 days throughout the City of Alexandria, diners can sample \$35 pre-fixe three-course dinners, or \$35 dinners for two, or \$3.50 sweet treats at participating restaurants.

This 10-day gourmet and gourmand event enables residents and visitors to enjoy tantalizing multi-course meals and distinctive treats prepared especially for the occasion showcasing the culinary diversity offered throughout the city.

For event details and online reservations, go to www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com or call 703-746-3301.

\$35 3-COURSE, PRIX FIXE DINNER

219 Restaurant
A La Lucia (+)
Bastille (+)
Bilbo Baggins
Cafe Salsa
Chart House
Columbia Firehouse
DC Metro Food Tours
Del Merei Grille (+)
Finn & Porter (+)
Fish Market
Geranio (+)
Grape + Bean wine bar
Hank's Oyster Bar
Jackson 20
Joe Theismann's Restaurant
La Bergerie (+)
La Strada (+)
La Tasca (+)

Laporta's Restaurant (+)
Daniel O'Connell's Restaurant
Raw Silk, Indian Restaurant & Lounge
RT's Restaurant
Seagar's Restaurant (+)
Tempo Restaurant (+)
The Carlyle Club (+)
The Jamieson Grille
The Warehouse Bar & Grill
The Wharf
Union Street Public House

\$35 DINNER FOR TWO

Austin Grill
Bombay Curry Company
Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant & Sports Bar
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Dishes of India (+)

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Food History Symposium Is Jan. 23

The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, is hosting a daylong symposium exploring early American food production and consumption. "Food For Thought: A Food History Symposium" will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23, at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street. The series of lectures will examine public markets, pottery vessels, bakeries, chocolate, and African-American foodways, with an emphasis on Alexandria and the Chesapeake region.

The registration fee is \$50. Advance registration is encouraged and can be done online at www.alexandriahistory.org or by calling 703-838-4994. Those wishing to register the same day should arrive no later than 8:45 a.m. Participants will have a break for lunch on their own.

The schedule of lectures follows:

9:15 a.m. – "Public Markets and Civic Culture in Nineteenth-Century America" by Helen Tangires, administrator of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. Tangires, who holds a Ph.D. in American

studies from The George Washington University, is the author of *Public Markets and Civic Culture in Nineteenth-Century America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003) and *Public Markets* (W.W. Norton, 2008).

10:15 a.m. – "Chocolate – The Indian Drink, 1500-1700" by Marcy Norton, an associate professor of history at The George Washington University. Norton, who holds a Ph.D. in history from U.C. Berkeley, is the author of *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World* (Cornell University Press, 2008).

11:30 a.m. – "Pottery for Alexandria Kitchens" by Barbara Magid, Assistant City Archaeologist for the City of Alexandria and the top authority on Alexandria pottery. Magid, who holds an M.Phil. in archaeology from Cambridge University, is the author of several studies of Alexandria pottery, including five articles in *Ceramics in America* (Chipstone).

2 p.m. – "African-Virginian Foodways in Alexandria and the Potomac Region" by Michael Twitty, a leading expert on African-American foodways. Twitty, a culinary historian who is completing his undergraduate degree in African-American studies and anthropology at Howard University, is the proprietor of *Afrofoodways.com* and the author of *Fighting Old Nep: The Foodways of Enslaved Afro-Marylanders 1634-1864* (Michael Twitty, 2006).

3 p.m. – "Everyone Can Afford a Cracker: The Rise and Fall of George Hill's Alexandria Bakery" by Elaine Hawes, an independent researcher with an M.A. in American studies from the University of Delaware. Hawes has worked for a variety of art and historical agencies and lectures widely on American material culture, with a concentration on the material culture and related commercial development of Alexandria.



For more information, visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-838-4994.

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.

ONGOING

Ms. Senior Virginia America is searching for candidates statewide for this year's May Pageant, which will be held in Alexandria. The current Ms. Senior Virginia America, Maureen Ribble, will end her reign in May. The Pageant showcases women age 60-plus who live in Virginia and are U.S. citizens. For details, call 703-978-3663.

Tea Dances. 1-3:15 p.m. on Fridays. 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.

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS

Storytelling Sessions. 2 p.m. Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during Mount Vernon's storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon," at Historic Mount Vernon in the Hands-On History Room in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; youth ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free.

THURSDAY/JAN. 7

Civil War Dance Classes. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. In preparation for the Civil War Ball on Jan. 23. Learn the waltz, polka, Virginia reel and more from an expert dance master. \$12 per class; Reservations recommended. 703-838-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org.

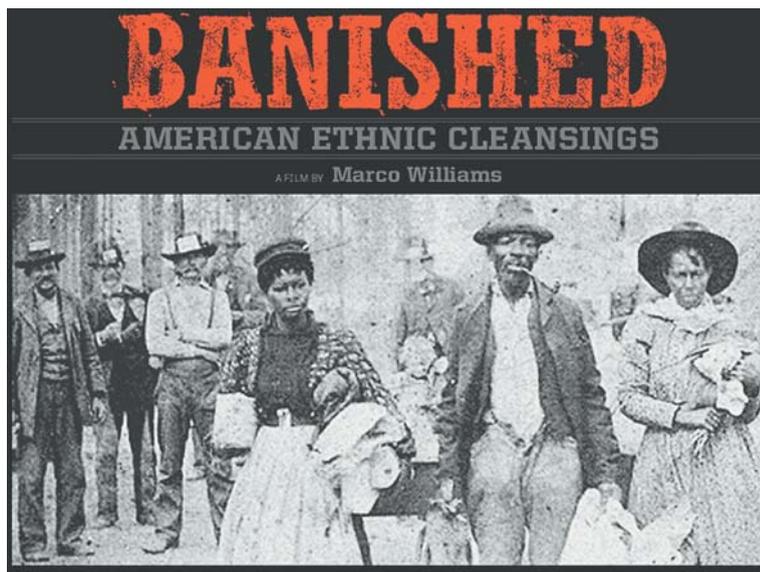
FRIDAY/JAN. 8

Ballroom Dancing for Couples. 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The second Friday of each month. Enjoy waltz, fox trot, cha cha, swing and more to live music on large wooden dance floor in Mount Vernon area; cost is \$15/person. Private club; reservations required www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com.

JAN. 8, 9

One-Act Play Festival. Friday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 9 at 2 and 7 p.m. The performance on Saturday night will be judged. At T.C. Williams High School, in the Blackbox Theatre across from the auditorium.

SATURDAY/JAN. 9



SATURDAY/JAN. 9

"Banished" Film Screening. 4:30-6:30 p.m. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. How did three U.S. towns make African Americans disappear? Filmmaker Marco Williams visits some of the whitest counties in the country to confront the legacy of "banishment" — a wave of racial purging that tore through the South 100 years ago. The wounds of history are opened as Williams sits down with KKK leaders, white residents of these all-white communities, as well as descendants of the banished alike. Free! 703-838-4356 or www.alexblackhistory.org.

Rockin' in a Winter Wonderland.

10-11 a.m. Featuring Rocknoceros and benefitting the St. Clement Episcopal Day School in Alexandria. Cost is \$10/advance; \$12/door. At Grace Episcopal Day School Auditorium, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. For tickets, go to <http://preschool.fufa.net>.

Women's Handyman Classes.

10 a.m. to noon. Basic electrical, plumbing and handyman classes for interested women hoping to learn about everything from hanging a ceiling fan, repairing a leaky faucet, installing a door knob or replacing ceramic tiles. At Michael and Son headquarters building, 5730 General Washington Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.michaelandson.com.

Birding for Beginners.

8-10:30 a.m. The program for adults will start with a discussion about field guides and optics. A walk will follow to look for and identify resident birds. It is the perfect introduction to a hobby that may last a lifetime. Reservations are required. The charge is \$6 per person. Call 703-768-2525 to reserve. At Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

Vesper Organ Concert. 6 p.m. With Jane Bourdow, Choir/Music Director of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. The concert will feature music of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, by J. S. Bach, Dieterich Buxtehude, Paul Manz, Gerald Near, Craig Phillips, and Max Reger, on 2009

a Di Gennaro-Hart pipe organ. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1980 or e-mail music.director@gracealex.org.

Hungry for Music Concert.

7 p.m. Four folk/American duos perform. Starring Siobhan Quinn and Michael Bowers; BumpKin Pie with Michael Dunkley and Suzanne Ives; Lisa Taylor and Dana Connor; and The Sweater Set. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance at FocusMusic.org. Contact Kay Coyte at kay@focusmusic.org or 703-501-6061

MONDAY/JAN. 11

Tavern Toddlers. 10:30 a.m. to noon. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. A program for toddlers (walkers through 36 months) and their caregivers! Tavern Toddlers features an open playtime in Gadsby's ballroom. Themes change monthly. \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, or purchase a 5-week pass for \$30. Call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org

TUESDAY/JAN. 12

Rehearsals for NOVA Community Chorus. No audition is required. Join by registering for this one-credit class at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus. Rehearsals are 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, at NVCC Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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Tuesday - Greek Night

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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

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Sunday

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

Beauregard. Contact Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, at 703-845-6097 or e-mail: mwhitmire@nvcc.edu

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

Ladies Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$17. Sponsored by the Springfield/Alexandria Women's Connection. At the Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. For reservations, call 703-569-4670 or 703-590-6562.

All About Dogs. 7:30 p.m. Friends of Duncan Library are hosting Robin Bennett, author of All About Dog Daycare: A Blueprint for Success and Off-Leash Dog Play. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4566 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Second Thursday Art Night: Snowy Winter Nights. 6-9 p.m. Free. Walk through an artistic wonderland of open studios and artist-made snowflakes at this free event. Enjoy fun activities for the whole family with opening receptions in Target Gallery and The Art League Gallery and a kids' scavenger hunt. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; or call 703-838-4565.

JAN. 14, 15, 16

Used Book Sale. At the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch. Hours are Thursday, 4-9 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4555.

JAN. 15-24

"Disney's Mulan Jr." Performances at 3 p.m. on Jan. 17, 18, 23, 24, and at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 15, 16, 22 and 23. Travel back to the legendary, story-telling days of ancient China with this action-packed stage adaptation of Disney's Mulan. A youth production presented by Aldersgate Church Community Theater, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Tickets can be purchased at www.acctonline.org. Seats are \$9/online and \$10/door.

JAN. 15-24

Alexandria Restaurant Week. More than 40 dining establishments participating in this second-annual event. Offering \$35 pre-fixe three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two, or \$3.50 sweet treats. Throughout the City of Alexandria. Menus, event details, and online reservations at: www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com. Call 703-746-3301

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

Messing Around with Creativity Workshop. 1-3 p.m. Fee: \$10/\$12. Explore how the creative process works so that you can apply it to traditional artistic pursuits and life in general. At the DRA Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Details, fees and pre-registration at www.thedelrayartisans.org. Contact Lynn Wyvill at 703-299-0848 or lwvill@comcast.net.

TUESDAY/JAN. 19

Winter Concert. Works by Philip Glass with Dana Tae Soon Burgess Dance Co. Schönberg "Verklärte Nacht". At Episcopal High School, in Pendleton Hall in the Ainslie Arts Center, 1200 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-933-4135.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

Square Dance Lessons. 7:30-9:30 p.m. With the Boomerangs Square Dance Teaching Council. At Lincolnia Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. Contact Nancy at 703-573-8378.

SATURDAY/JAN. 23

Civil War Ball. 8-11 p.m. In Gadsby's Tavern ballroom. \$45/advance; \$50/door. Period attire, either civilian or military, is encouraged. In preparation for the Ball, dance classes will be offered at Gadsby's Tavern Museum from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21. Learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more. Cost is \$12/each of \$30 for the series. Call 703-838-4242. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

JAN. 23-24

"Mint Condition." Jan. 23 at 8 p.m.; Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. Jane Franklin Dance and Washington Saxophone Quartet perform in a shared evening. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$28 - \$16 can be purchased by phone 703-933-1111 or at www.janefranklin.com

SUNDAY/JAN. 24

Classical Pianist Sara Leila Sherman. 4 p.m. Free. The recital will feature solo piano works from German, French and American composers. The program includes Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Sonata in A-flat Major Op. 110, Gabriel Fauré's Nocturne for Piano No. 6 in D-flat major Op. 63, and Samuel Barber's Sonata for Piano Op. 26. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Combo Fun with Cards and ATCs. Noon to 4 p.m. Create handmade cards for Valentines. Materials supplied with suggested donations. Artist Trading Card-ers are invited to trade/swap and participate in DRA's New Year's theme of What is "In" and What is "Out" for 2010. Contact Karen at schmityk@yahoo.com or www.theDelRayArtisans.org. Del Ray Artisans gallery is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria; call 703-838-4827.

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Mathewson's Passing Records Brighten Dreary WP Season

Wolverine cross country teams place third at regionals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Oct. 24 was a cold, wet, miserable day during the latter parts of a disappointing season for the West Potomac football team. Facing a T.C. Williams team with a revamped offense and a stingy defense, the 2-5 Wolverines had plenty of excuses available in case of an uninspired effort.

Instead, quarterback Colin Mathewson rewrote the West Potomac record book and the Wolverines battled the Titans until the final whistle.

Despite less-than-stellar conditions for West Potomac's pass-happy offense, the senior Mathewson completed 17 of 29 passes for a single-game school record 438 yards. He also tied a West Potomac single-game mark with five touchdown passes.

Mathewson overcame the elements to throw touchdown passes of 72, 70, 66, 25 and 20 yards. West Potomac trailed by 11 points, 23-12, in the second quarter before Mathewson connected with Daryl Copeland for a 20-yard score, cutting the deficit to four before halftime.

A 72-yard scoring toss to Copeland and a 25-yard touchdown pass to DeAndre Essex gave the Wolverines a 31-23 lead in the third quarter, but T.C. Williams rallied to win, 38-37.

Mathewson said the performance was the best he ever had.

Copeland was the biggest beneficiary of Mathewson's record-setting performance. Copeland caught seven passes for 245 yards and four touchdowns. His 66-yard touchdown reception gave the Wolverines a two-point fourth-quarter lead.

"I thought they both had a really positive game and we saw flashes of what we thought we could be," West Potomac head coach Eric Henderson said in an e-mail in the Nov. 5 edition of the Gazette. "I think Copeland has a bright future and can play football at a high level. For Colin, his season was pretty rough with the injury at Chantilly so it was good that he was able to put together a complete game and get his team in position to win."

From a team standpoint, the game ended in another loss for the Wolverines. But the individual efforts of Mathewson and Copeland helped brighten an otherwise dreary season.



West Potomac quarterback Colin Mathewson, seen during the team's season opener against Mount Vernon, set the school's single-game record for passing yards Oct. 24 against T.C. Williams.

West Potomac

What happened in the fall: The football team opened the season with a 42-3 blowout of Mount Vernon, but dropped eight of its next nine games to finish the 2-8. West Potomac's other victory was a come-from-behind 14-7 effort against Robert E. Lee on Oct. 16. The Wolverines suffered several injuries at key positions, including losing their starting quarterback Mathewson for parts of four games.

Shawn Lee caught 29 passes for 309 yards and five touchdowns. DeAndre Essex tallied 26 receptions for 364 yards and three touchdowns. Running back Darel Lane led the team in carries (139), rushing yards (629) and rushing touchdowns (4).

Colin McConville led the team with 88 tackles, followed by Shakil White (66) and Stephen Howell (65). Matt Cunningham tallied a team-high 5.5 sacks, while Silas Agyenabg totaled five.

The boys and girls cross country teams each qualified for the state meet with a third-place finish at the Northern Region meet. Sarah Jane Underwood led the girls with a sixth-place finish (18 minutes, 14 seconds). Julianne Bigler finished seventh (18:17), Colleen Boyle 24th (18:59), Dale Lescher 27th (19:06) and Kelsey Rosenberg 36th (19:19).

The boys were led by Peter Coffey's 19th-place time of 16:04. Mark Hanak finished 22nd (16:08), Peter Stebbins 24th (16:09),

Marc Lotterie 30th (16:15) and Max Muir 32nd (16:17).

The field hockey team won its first three games and finished 8-8. The Wolverines lost to T.C. Williams in the opening round of the Patriot District Tournament.

The volleyball team finished 3-13, losing

to South County in the opening round of the Patriot District Tournament. The Wolverines defeated Washington-Lee, Mount Vernon and Falls Church.

The golf team defeated Mount Vernon for its lone win of the season.

What's next: The boys basketball team, which started 4-3, will host Annandale at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8. Led by Daryl Copeland, Keevyn Hankins and Martez Redfearn, the Wolverines have an athletic mix of guards and forwards who can score. Head coach David Houston III has high expectations for the team.

The girls basketball team, which started 1-4, will travel to face Annandale at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8. Talya Dawson and Ravyne McFail are the top offensive threats for first-year head coach Vincent Tate.

The boys and girls swim and dive teams will travel to face T.C. Williams at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 8. The girls started the season 2-2, while the boys are 1-3.

Mount Vernon

What happened in the fall: The field hockey team won the National District championship with a 1-0 victory over Washington-Lee on Oct. 20. Senior goalkeeper Sara Duncan recorded the shutout for the Majors, despite Washington-Lee attacking for most of the game.

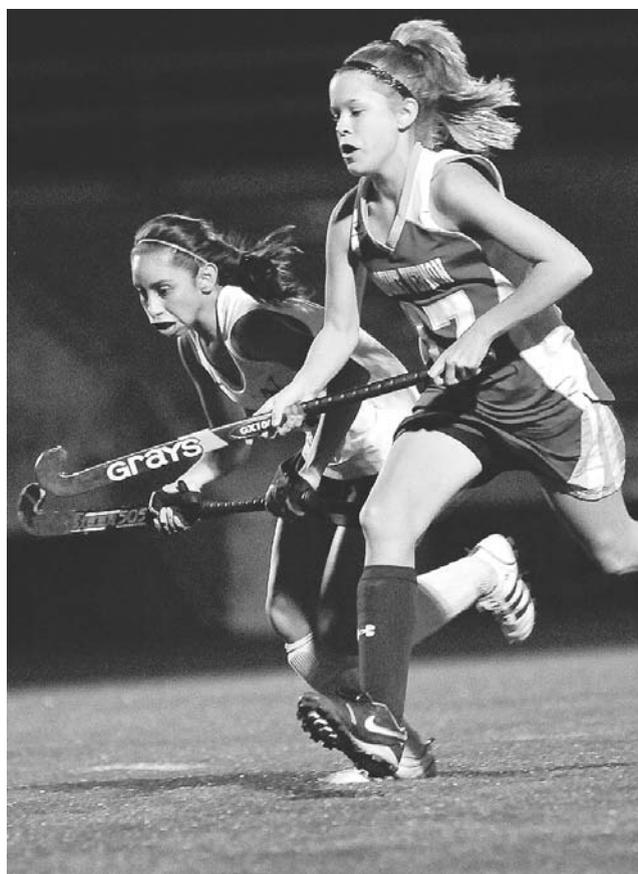
The football team did not win a game, ending its season with a 34-29 loss to previously winless Wakefield. The 29 points were a season high for the Majors. Mount Vernon was edged by Stuart, 19-17, on Sept. 25.

The volleyball team did not win a match, ending its season with a loss to Yorktown in the opening round of the National District Tournament.

What's next: The boys and girls basketball teams look to repeat as National District champions. The boys started the season 5-2 with both losses coming against Paul VI. Skylar Jones, Jesse Konadu and Robert Smith are each averaging double figures for the Majors. Mount Vernon will travel to face Yorktown at 7:45 p.m. Jan. 8.

The girls team started 2-1 without the services of its top offensive threats — all-state guard/forward Tracy King and point guard Jalinda Venable, who was a first-team all-

district selection last season. King was working her way back from a knee injury suffered last season and Venable was suspended from the team. If Mount Vernon can get both players back, the Majors would be in good shape toward defending their district crown.



Ashleigh Sable, right, and the Mount Vernon field hockey team were National District champions in 2009.

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OPINION

Richmond's War on Fairfax

FROM PAGE 6

up in hospital emergency rooms, the most expensive form of health care for which we all pay. Medicaid also pays for 43 percent of all nursing home care. As the population ages, cutting funds for what little coverage we have for long-term care makes no sense.

Third, in October 2009 Governor Kaine cut higher education by 15 percent. He proposes cutting by another 26 percent over the next two years. Historically, when there are budget shortfalls, Virginia cuts funds for colleges and universities and then raises tuition rates or admits more out-of-state students — taking up positions that should be reserved for Virginia residents. These are not “cuts” they are cost shifts to the middle class who make long-term plans to utilize our high-quality public universities for their children. To add insult to injury, he proposes to inflict these costs on middle class families right in the middle of an anemic economy.

If you think the attack on the poor and Fairfax County's Middle Class is over — just wait. It has just begun. Remember that the budget that was just proposed contained \$300 million of tax increases to close a \$4 billion hole. Also, remember that this does

not even begin to address transportation. While raising taxes is rarely welcomed by anyone, revenues must come from somewhere or government services must be cut. Governor-Elect McDonnell and House of Delegates leadership has already rejected Kaine's proposals foreshadowing what in my view will be an all-out assault on Fairfax County's middle class instead spreading the burdens fairly among people who can afford to bear them. This is just the beginning of the War on Fairfax.

While this budget may be bad, it is also partly a function of an outdated tax system that was designed for a homogenous rural and agricultural economy that cannot support an increasingly urban-suburban and service-oriented economy. If we approached this rationally, we would view this budget crisis as an opportunity to transform the way we do business in this Commonwealth. It is time for a fair tax structure that raises revenues commensurate with all income and productivity, and equitably focuses expenses commensurate with need and economic development.

So long as we adhere to old constructs, Northern Virginians will be sacrificed in the process and I will fight all efforts to balance this budget on the backs of the poor and Mount Vernon's middle class.

OBITUARY

Anne Audibert Brown

Anne Audibert Brown, died on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 2009. Anne left the party at her Hollin Hills, Alexandria home she shared with her husband of 54 years, Phil Brown. She joined the heavenly celebration in progress and was reunited with her mother, Catherine Audibert, father Vincent Audibert, and her eight brothers and sisters formerly of Fort Kent, Maine, where she was born on March 2, 1922. Anne left behind her three children Wm. Phillips Brown, III, Stephen Vincent Brown, Cynthia Brown Czifra, and five adoring grand children.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 8, 2010 at 10 a.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 6744 South Kings Highways, Alexandria, after which interment will take place at Mount Comfort Cemetery,



Brown

6600 South Kings, approximately a mile away from St. Mark's Church. A reception at St. Mark's Church will follow the interment for Anne's relatives and friends.

Two periods of visitation are scheduled on Friday, Jan. 8, at Cunningham Funeral Home, 811 Cameron Street, Alexandria, Virginia, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.



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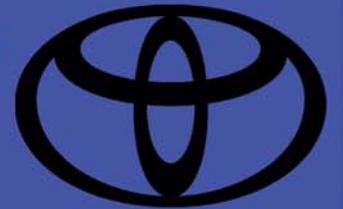
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