

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 1, 2012



Rehearsing 'Romeo And Juliet'

Aldersgate Children's Community Theatre will present "Romeo and Juliet" on March 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and on March 4, 11 and 18, Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m.

Discount tickets may be purchased online at www.acctonline.org. Prices are adults \$14 and youth/senior \$11. Tickets purchased at the door are adults \$15 and youth/senior \$12.

Additional information is available online at www.acctonline.org or 703-660-2611.

All shows take place in Wesley Hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road.

Dancing begins at the Capulet's masked ball.



Romeo (Alex Wong) meets Juliet (Emily Whitworth) at the ball.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Mercutio (Erik Harrison) and Balthazar (Aubrey Blount) wait for the arrival of Romeo.



Juliet's nurse (David Adler) talks to Romeo (Alex Wong).

Griffin's Final Budget Proposal

Outgoing county executive seeks 6.1 percent budget increase.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Appearing before members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for the last time, outgoing county executive Anthony Griffin had the luxury of taking the long view. When considering the challenges that currently confront the county, Griffin reminded the elected officials that it wasn't all that long ago that Fairfax County has essentially a rural backwater of the capital.

"If you take a look at where we

were at the end of World War II, when we were the second largest dairy producing county in the state of Virginia and we had 50,000 people and then you look at where we are today with 1.1 million people," said Griffin, "we had huge challenges."

Since that time, Fairfax County has emerged as the powerhouse of Northern Virginia with a \$6.7 billion budget — larger than many countries across the globe. Griffin's budget for fiscal year 2013 keeps the current tax rate at \$1.07 for

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 7

Historic Mount Vernon's President To Retire

Jim Rees devoted 29 years to George Washington's estate.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

Retiring for health reasons from his position as president and CEO of Historic Mount Vernon June 1 after 29 years service, James C Rees IV says the hardest part about his impending departure is not seeing the new George Washington Library finished.

"That's one of the saddest parts about leaving in that we raised most of the money. We've raised 82 out of a 100 [million]. We've poured the foundation and we'll get our building permit any

SEE 29 YEARS, PAGE 7



COURTESY PHOTO

Jim Rees began his career as a cub reporter for The Daily Press in Newport News.

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Beautiful Renovation in Quiet Setting

Spacious open layout with gleaming hardwood floors and sun-filled rooms! The dining room features a window seat with a wall of windows and French doors opening to the large screened porch. It is also open to the renovated kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Finished lower level and pretty stone terrace.

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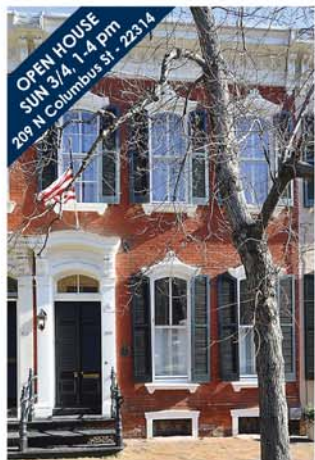
Nestled in the heart of Hollin Hills, this exquisite home sits gracefully under a canopy of mature oak trees. It has over 4,300 square feet of living space and many amenities rarely seen in this historic community. There is a dramatic foyer, gleaming hardwood floors and a fabulous main level master bedroom and bath. The upgraded gourmet kitchen overlooks a lovely family room with wet bar and a walk-out view to the patio. Upstairs, three additional bedrooms, including a second master suite, open to a bank of clerestory windows and the gorgeous view beyond. The lower level offers a recreation room with a wood burning stove, a fifth bedroom/office, full bath, separate laundry room, an oversized two-car garage and a huge storage room.

Robin Arnold
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Come home to historic charm and modern convenience at this enchanting townhouse in the heart of Old Town. Old world features throughout including wide plank flooring, built-ins, and high ceilings meet sleek appliances and custom cabinets in the updated kitchen. Brick patio, spacious master suite.

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Incredible 1900 home is one stop light to DC. Fine home is expanded and updated by noted Historic Preservation architect/owner. Six bedrooms, five full baths, four levels, original hardwoods, and new price!!!

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Nestled on a cul-de-sac in beautiful Belle Wood offering five bedrooms, three full and one half baths, stunning kitchen renovation opening to stylish family room, den/home office, formal dining room and gorgeous living room with fireplace. Lower level perfect for au-pair or game nights, plus a stunning view, and garage parking.

Joy Sutherland
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www.joysutherland.com



ALEXANDRIA

\$565,000



Stroll to Metro

Just a short walk through a courtyard to the Metro from this rarely available end-unit townhouse in sought-after Braddock Place. This wonderful home offers a distinct location overlooking green space, bright open floor plan, two serene master suites, gourmet kitchen, designer paint colors through-out, relaxing lower level family room with corner fireplace, lovely back patio, garage, and so much more...

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\$515,000



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Charming, two-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath in desirable Watergate of Alexandria. Freshly painted with new granite countertops and tile floor in kitchen. New windows throughout outfitted with plantation shutters. Private patio. Attic storage. Two garage parking spaces. Easy commute to DC, parks, grocery, bike trails and restaurants.



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Hollin Meadows Elementary Hosts Multicultural Fair

The students at Hollin Meadows Elementary School showcased the international diversity of their community on Saturday, Feb. 25. The kindergarten class performed German folk dances, the first graders sang and danced to a South African song. The second graders performed Mexican folk songs, while the third graders sang songs from Australia.

American square dances, classical Indian dances, folk dances from the Philippines, Brazilian folk songs and rhythms from the Island of Bequia were performed by the 5th and 6th grade drum circle.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



The second grade class sings two Mexican folk songs.



Jaden sits still while his father Jimmy fits a hat on his head.



Presenting Irish culture, Kathleen Holmes performs a dance. Her dad served up Irish stew at the multicultural fair.



Donye Dailey practices writing Chinese numbers with pen and ink.



Janelle Makuwa begins work on a mask at one of the activities tables.



Dolls from all over the world are displayed in the hallways and the cafeteria during the fair.





Fairfax County Public Schools: Food and Nutrition News

Coming in March: Go Inside the Classroom with Teachers

Recognized for Food Safety

Food safety and sanitation are critical processes that require strict procedures and training. All FCPS food service managers have successfully completed the Fairfax County Sanitation Certification requirements and a manager training course. As a second safety measure, all FCPS schools have implemented a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program, which requires managers to follow a purchased food product from the moment the food is received to the time it is served to ensure proper handling and temperature control. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized the Office of Food and Nutrition Services for maintaining the highest levels of food safety and cleanliness in its food preparation areas.

Learn the 9-5-2-1-0 Zip Code for Your Health

- 9** Get 9 hours of sleep each night
- 5** Eat 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day
- 2** Limit screen time to no more than 2 hours each day
- 1** Get at least 1 hour of exercise each day
- 0** No sugary drinks

Right: First Lady Michelle Obama visited Parklawn Elementary School in Alexandria recently to unveil new federal standards for school meals which will require reducing sodium and fat levels, and increasing fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes in school lunches and breakfasts.

Healthy School Environment Starts with Nutritious Meals and Exercise

What are your memories of school lunches? Today's students look forward to lunch not just because they're hungry, but because of the variety of foods offered: baked chicken, fish tacos, pork egg rolls, spaghetti, hummus, whole wheat pretzels and yogurt, chef's salad with tuna, assorted fruits and vegetables, and much more.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is recognized as a leader in creating a healthy school environment by teaching children about the importance of eating a variety of healthy foods and getting regular exercise.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture established the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) award to recognize schools that have created healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity. This year 160, or more than 80 percent, of FCPS schools will receive the HUSSC award for enhancing the quality of school meals, increasing physical activity, and providing nutrition education to students.

"FCPS school meals exceed the HUSSC standards and offer students a variety of daily options including fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain products, fat free milk, and foods with zero trans fats,"

said Penny McConnell, RD, Director of Food and Nutrition Services.

"We value the important role we play in our students' nutritional well-being and contribution to the reduction of childhood obesity," she said.

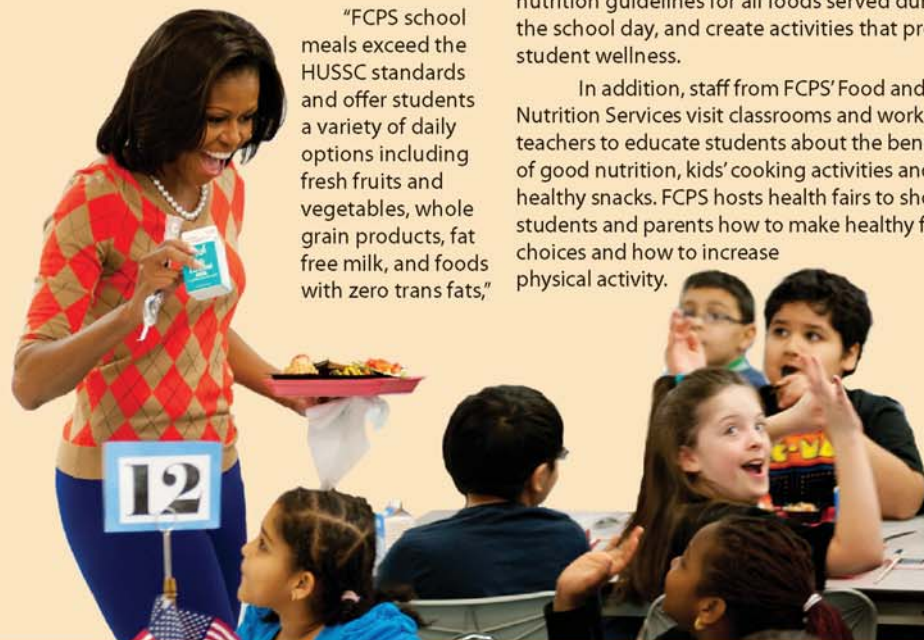
FCPS' Food and Nutrition Services program also places special emphasis on purchasing locally grown seasonal produce and supporting school learning gardens.

"We've talked to different groups within our community and share their desire to offer a wide variety of locally grown foods on our menu," said McConnell.

More than 30 FCPS schools have planted learning gardens that provide spring and fall produce for school lunches as well as a great learning experience for students.

A wellness policy guides FCPS Food and Nutrition staff as they develop programs in nutrition education and physical education, determine nutrition guidelines for all foods served during the school day, and create activities that promote student wellness.

In addition, staff from FCPS' Food and Nutrition Services visit classrooms and work with teachers to educate students about the benefits of good nutrition, kids' cooking activities and healthy snacks. FCPS hosts health fairs to show students and parents how to make healthy food choices and how to increase physical activity.



Getting To Know Us

FCPS Operations Coordinator, Food and Nutrition Services
Amy Hubal

Seeing the smiling faces of students as they go through the lunch line is one of the perks of the job for Amy Hubal, Operations Coordinator in Food and Nutrition Services.

Hubal supervises the eight central distribution centers, or central kitchens, for the school district. The distribution centers prepare and deliver food to more than 200 schools and community organizations on a daily basis.

Her passion for food began at an early age, working in the restaurant business when she was 16.

"I enjoy feeding my family and friends and I am fortunate to be able to work with food for my job as well," she said. "Everyone loves to eat and preparing healthy food is so rewarding."

Hubal is interested in the process of garden-to-table and educating others about how to have a healthy relationship with food.

"Learning to grow and prepare food is a life-long skill that promotes health and wellness," she said.

Hubal serves on the district's menu committee helping to develop new recipes for Food and Nutrition Services.

The one aspect of Hubal's job she enjoys most? Her team of 180 staff, 24 managers, and 32 van drivers.

"I work with a dedicated, hard-working team of nutritional professionals that really care about what they do and the impact they make on a student's school day."

Want to learn more about FCPS school nutrition? Visit www.fcps.edu and click on the A-Z index for Food at School.

Did You Know?

FCPS Office of Food and Nutrition Services is a nonprofit business. The program is self-supporting and receives no local real estate tax dollars.

Providing Nutritious Meals to Students, Community

Food and Nutrition Services employees take pride in preparing and serving more than 140,000 meals each day. Eight distribution centers (central kitchens), two secondary school production kitchens, a vending center, a central warehouse, and elementary, middle, and high school finishing kitchens, under the direction of highly trained managers, provide nutritious meals in all public schools and centers. Free and reduced-price meals are provided to needy students. In addition, food is catered to day care locations, senior citizen programs, Alzheimer centers and Meals on Wheels.

"Meals are planned by registered dietitians to reflect the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans," said McConnell. "But we also make sure that the menus reflect student cultural and personal preferences by conducting monthly student taste parties. Our goal is to plan menus that are affordable and provide students with several nutritious choices that they will select and eat."

Food and Nutrition Services Revenue Sources



www.AppleFCU.org
703-788-4800



2011 BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

This year's State of Schools Report courtesy of Apple Federal Credit Union

PEOPLE



Service to the Community

Pamela Beggan was awarded an honorary membership in the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club for over 30 years of community service, especially for organizing the fresh fruit and produce collection after the weekly Farmers Market at the Sherwood Hall library's parking lot. She takes the food to UCM's Food Pantry. Her plaque read: "In commemoration of exceptional service to the local community, first, for originating the program, and second, for the dedication demonstrated by weekly collection of donated fresh produce from the Mount Vernon Farmers Market and delivery to the local food bank at United Community Ministries for use of local needy families, from May through November annually for thirty years, the last five years assisted by Mount Vernon Kiwanis." Above are Marcos Castillo, volunteer coordinator of UCM; Greg Engelking of MVKC; Joanne Malkin, membership chair of MVKC; Pam Beggan, and Dr. Dave Reynolds, president of MVKC.



\$1,000,000 Winner

Jeffrey Jones of Alexandria, who works as a truck driver, won \$1 million in the Virginia Lottery's \$1,000,000 Cash Blast game. He had a choice of taking the full \$1 million over 25 years or a one-time cash option of \$628,000 before taxes. He chose the cash option. He bought the winning ticket at C-Store, 8178 Richmond Highway in Alexandria. The store received a \$10,000 bonus from the Lottery for selling the winning ticket.



Grant from Cox Charities

The Hollin Meadows Partnership for Science and Math Education received a \$10,000 grant from Cox Charities, a foundation of Cox Communications of Northern Virginia. The grant is yet another in the latest success for the HMP, a 501(c)3 organized two years ago in response to budget cuts that would have eliminated Hollin Meadows Elementary School's designation as a Science and Math Focus School. Since its inception, the HMP has raised over \$100,000 to preserve Hollin Meadows Elementary as a Science and Math Focus School. Above, from left, are Allen Roberts, vice president of operations, Cox Communications; Jon Gates, principal, Hollin Meadows; Kimberly Monroe, treasurer, HMP; Sue Bernstein HMP; Gina Wolery, HMP; Diane Moery, chair, HM, and Kathryn Falk, vice president for government affairs, Cox Communications.

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Burke/Burke Centre
\$336,500

10222 Quiet Pond Terrace

Stunning 3 Finished Level Town House, updated from top to bottom. Beautiful new kit-new cabinets, SS, granite & ceramic tile. 3.5 refinished baths. LR/DR offer beautiful refinished hwd floors, stone FPL, SGD to lovely wrap around deck perfect for entertaining. New carpet in BRs. Lower level offers 4th BR or Family Rm, 3rd full bath, SGD to ground level deck. Could be an in-law suite or perfect for a teenager. Close to schools, shopping & library. This is a gem!!



Alex/Riverside Estates \$669,000
3120 McGeorge Terrace

The Best of Riverside Estates! Spectacular 2 level 1000sq ft addition which offers a gorgeous great room w/3 skylites, 4th & 5th BRs & 4th full bath- perfect for a growing family or In-law suite. Remodeled kitchen-custom cabinets, corian & SS. Inter/exterior painted, refinished hwd flrs & spacious 2 car garage. This home exudes charm & class! Private & serene setting backs to woods. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 30 to Pentagon & 35 to D.C. You've got to see this home!!



Alex/Hollin Hall Village
\$409,000

2007 Clark Place

Lovingly and meticulously maintained home on cul-de-sac in sought after Hollin Hall/Waynewood Elementary. New roof, refinished hwd floors, freshly painted, replacement windows, carport, family rm addition w/washer/dryer and gas FPL. Wood burning FPL in living rm. Deck and beautiful bkyd. Fabulous location-walk to neighborhood shopping. 1 mile to GW Pkwy, Potomac River and Bike Trail. 5-10 mins to Old Town.



Alex/Riverside Estates
\$434,900

3017 Battersea Lane

Lovely 4BR, 2.5BA Split in popular Riverside Estates. Freshly painted interior, stunning refinished hwd floors throughout main lvl. New wall to wall carpeting in lower lvl. Energy efficient replacement windows throughout. Lg 2 tiered & freshly stained deck w/gas line for BBQ. Lg one car garage. Walk to elementary & high schools. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 30/35 to Pentagon and D.C. Great Value!!



Alex/Riverside Estates
\$499,900

3202 Norwich Terrace

If you love nature & gardening, serenity & privacy, you'll love this home-a beautiful 4BR, 2.5BA Col w/3 finished lvls, 2 gas FPLs, on a quiet cul-de-sac. Lower lvl offers rec rm, den, wet bar, gas Fpl, workshop & w/o to a spectacular greenhouse w/its separate heating sys. Throw in a whole house back-up generator & spectacular backyard. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 25 to Ntl Airport, 30/35 to Pentagon/D.C. This is special!!!



Alex/Stratford Landing
\$409,900

2412 Londonderry Road

Solidly built 5BR, 2.5BA Cape Cod with carport in lovely community near Potomac River and Gw Parkway. Needs work but it is priced accordingly. Great opportunity to renovate and put sweat equity into your home.



Alex./Riverside Estates
\$405,000

8507 Wagon Wheel Road

Lovely, updated, 5 BR/3 BA Split, walking distance to elementary & high schools. Double pane windows, freshly painted interior, & beautifully refinished hwd floors on main level. Lower lvl offers 2 spacious bedrooms, full bath, family rm w/fpl, large utility/ workshop & walkout to a lovely screened porch. Great location. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 25 to National Airport.

For more information:
www.RexReiley.com

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OBITUARY

Linda Carr Lynch

Linda Carr Lynch, 62, of Alexandria, Va., died at Mount Vernon Hospital Saturday Feb. 25, 2012 of complications of metastatic breast cancer. She is survived by her husband Manfred Lynch, Jr. and a son Manfred Lynch III, both of Alexandria. She is also survived by brothers and sisters-in-law Ashby Lynch and Colleen Lynch of Williamsburg, Va. and Ruth L. Boone and Glenn Boone of Rogersville Ala.; two nephews and one niece.



Linda was born at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 12, 1949. She was the only child of the late BG (USA Ret) James W. Gunn and Roberta M. Gunn. Linda grew up on U.S. Army bases until her family settled in the Fort Hunt area of Fairfax County in 1964. She graduated from Fort Hunt High School in 1967 and from Radford College in 1971. She married in 1971 and moved with her husband in support of his career to North Carolina, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania before returning to Fairfax County in 1975.

Linda's work career included working for the U.S. Army at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, N.J.; various secretarial positions in the Washington, D.C. area with the U.S. Army Audit Agency and Department of Energy. She was also a budget analyst with the Naval Air Systems Command in Arlington, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Arlington and the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve at the Pentagon.

Linda always saw the bright side no matter what the situation and considered everyone, even total strangers, her friend. Linda was an avid piano player

and entertained family and friends with her musical arrangements. She was also a craft enthusiast and grew flowers and pressed them. She designed pressed flower arrangements which she sold at arts and crafts shows. She also knitted scarves and hats which she also sold. She appeared in many arts and crafts shows in the Washington area doing business as L&M Pressed Floral Designs.

Linda was very concerned with the poor and homeless people in the south Fairfax County area. She volunteered to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the Mondloch House homeless shelter for women and children. She also volunteered her time by working in the food ministry of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church. She also volunteered to collect contributions from the neighborhood for the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and the March of Dimes.

Linda could captivate everyone with her smile and joyous attitude toward life. Her sunny disposition and positive outlook will be missed by all.

Family visitation was at Demaine Funeral Home 520 S. Washington St., Alexandria, on Wednesday, Feb. 29. The funeral service will be at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road in Alexandria on Thursday, March 1, at 11a.m. Internment immediately following the church service will be at Mount Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria. A reception at the church will follow the internment.

Memorial Contributions for Linda can be made to New Hope Housing at 8407-E Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA, 22309 or Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church food ministry at 8220 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22309.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

ONGOING

The new exhibition Hoecakes & Hospitality: Cooking with Martha Washington is now open to the public. The exhibit at Mount Vernon Estate features more than 125 kitchen and food-related objects from Mount Vernon. Following food from the Estate's field to kitchen to table, visitors will see recipes and cookbooks that Martha treasured, pots that simmered in her kitchen, and fine tablewares that made Mount Vernon's dining room fit for a president. Learn about little know items from the Washington household, including a heart-shaped waffle iron, three-foot olive jar, and other unique items. On display in this exhibition is a letter in which the first president states that if no one "pops in for dinner tonight", it will be the first time that he and Martha Washington have dined alone in 20 years. Visit

www.MountVernon.org.

Fort Ward Museum is now registering for its annual Civil War Kids' Camp, a week of learning and fun for boys and girls ages 8 to 12. Participants explore the lives of Civil War soldiers and civilians with marching, drilling, reenactor guest appearances, games, crafts and other activities.

Civil War Kids' Camp runs Monday, June 25, through Friday, June 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. Registration is limited to 24 participants. Spaces fill quickly, and applications are accepted on a first-come basis. Registration, including souvenirs and healthy snacks, costs \$200 per child, with limited scholarship assistance based on financial need. Contact Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

UCM's food pantry depends on community donations. Canned meat and fish are needed, as well as canned soups, fruits and vegetables. Help by dropping off food donations at UCM's main office, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria. UCM's food pantry accepts food donations Monday –

Friday, from 9 am to 5:30 p.m. and the first Sunday of the month from 9:30 am to 1 p.m.

UCM's Back Porch Thrift Store is in need of donations of furniture. UCM will pick up furniture, as well as other larger donations, or they can be dropped off at the back of the store Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To arrange for pickups, call 703-768-7106, ext. 320. Located at the Mt. Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center at 7838 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Alexandria will meet at 2 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.

SATURDAY/MARCH 24

Fairfax County Mega Job Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.



PHOTO BY FRED DIERSMEIER

Gift Shop Supports Hospital

The newly remodeled Gift Shop at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital is located in the Blue Lobby entrance of the hospital. Hours of operation are as follows: Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sundays, 12 - 3 p.m. The Gift Shop is staffed by Auxiliary volunteers. All of the proceeds earned in the Gift Shop benefit the hospital. The Gift Shop carries sundry items (toothpaste, hairbrushes, deodorant, etc.), jackets, tops, jewelry, candy, gifts, fresh flowers, books, cards, magazines, toys, See's candy at Christmas and Easter, and more.

Police Investigate Burglary

Police are investigating a reported burglary of an 82-year-old woman's home that occurred around 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 19, in the 8000 block of Russell Road. The woman was sitting in her bed watching television when her bedroom window was smashed out. As the woman went to the window she was surprised to find a man crawling inside.

The suspect grabbed the woman and forced her into another room. He demanded money and the victim complied. The suspect disabled the home telephone and took a cell phone, along with the victim's car keys. The suspect fled in the victim's car, a 1989 gray Pontiac Firebird. Police recovered the car on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the Beacon Hill area. The victim did not require medical treatment.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Intro to Mount Vernon At Home

Mount Vernon At Home, a nonprofit helping seniors age in their community, will offer an information session for seniors and volunteers on services and programs in the Mount Vernon Community on Wednesday, March 7, and Wednesday, March 21, at Sherwood Regional Library at 2 p.m. Call 703-303-4060 for more information or to attend this free seminar. All are welcome. Volunteer opportunities are available.

Apply for Chamber Scholarships

Scholarship applications for the 2012 Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce Education Partnership Scholarships are now available. Scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded to graduating high school seniors in Mount Vernon and Lee Districts pursuing further education in a business-related field.

Applications are available at <http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org/Education-Partnership.html>, at high school career centers, or by calling 703-360-6925. Students may apply online or download an application and return it. All applications must be received by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce by Friday, April 27. Those applying for the scholarships must plan to pursue further education in a business-related field, have a minimum high school GPA of 3.0, and have work or community volunteer experience. Applicants must submit an essay with the application and a copy of their high school transcript.

For the past 15 years, the Chamber of Commerce has invested in the future by awarding more than \$96,000 in scholarship money to graduating high school students in Mount Vernon and Lee Districts. The scholarship fund is maintained through funds raised at the Chamber's annual Golf Classic and through contributions by Chamber members and businesses in the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts.

Academy Students To Work on Documentary

Television production students at West Potomac Academy will have the opportunity to work with a professional camera crew that is filming a documentary on Monday, March 5.

The filming will take place in West Potomac Academy's TV Production studio. TV Production students will serve as production assistants on the project working alongside a professional camera crew and producer-director from Ironcutter Media, a New York-based production company. Students will hear from the producer-director about

her personal experiences while working on the project.

The documentary, "Profiles in Service: It Takes a Nation," is being produced in conjunction with the Code of Support Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to bridging the gap between civilian and military America. Six individuals representing the U.S. Armed Forces and six civilians will read articles from the Code of Conduct and Code of Support; one of the TV production students will serve as a civilian reader.

6.1 Percent Budget Increase Proposed

FROM PAGE 1

every \$100 of assessed value. Because of rising property values, that means the average homeowner will pay \$4,801, which is \$34 more than last year. County leaders say the rising property values have eased some of the tension created by the recession, although they were quick to point out that the county has yet to return to the boom times of the last decade.

"This proposed budget reflects the difficult economic situation as we recover from the Great Recession," said Fairfax County Board Chairwoman Sharon Bulova. "We are not yet out of the woods, but we are seeing some modest growth."

THAT GROWTH has funded several new spending initiatives at the Fairfax County Government Center. The largest new spending measures in Griffin's proposed budget is a 2.18 percent market-rate adjustment for county employees. That will cost more than \$22 million and will become effective this summer if supervisors approve the proposal. Griffin added that this is the fourth year that public safety employees will not get a step increase and county employees will not get a pay-for-performance bonus.

"I have to tell you that employees are getting anxious," said Griffin. "They're concerned about their ability as individuals to continue to maintain their lifestyle and their requirements in the absence of any change in pay."

In addition to raising property taxes, Griffin's budget also imposes a host of new fees. The stormwater

fee would increase from 1.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value to 2.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value. The solid waste fee would increase from \$15.50 for each ton to \$17.50 for each ton. The sewer service charge would increase from \$6.01 for every 1,000 gallons to \$6.55 for every 1,000 gallons.

"There really is a crisis in this country right now because the infrastructure that is below ground, which people do not see is in serious shape," said Griffin. "We are better off because our community developed since World War II primarily."

GRIFFIN'S PROPOSED BUDGET maintains the current funding for the school system at 52.5 percent. That's \$1.68 billion, a 4.5 percent increase over last year. Yet it's also \$70 million less than the request from the school system, which was \$1.75 billion. As a result, Griffin suggested supervisors advertise a tax rate of \$1.09 to give supervisors some flexibility. The county executive also presented a PowerPoint slide to supervisors that showed the average residential property taxpayer's bill had declined \$45 since fiscal year 2007. But Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) pointed out that didn't include the stormwater fee, which is part of the annual property tax bill. Although Griffin said the average tax bill is \$4,801, Herrity pointed out that when the stormwater fee is added the average bill is \$4,913.

"So instead of decreasing by \$45, the check the average homeowner writes actually went up \$80," said Herrity.

"I'm not intending to try to confuse people," said Griffin. "But the stormwater is a separate account and a separate fee."

29 Years Devoted to Washington's Estate

FROM PAGE 1

minute. I will miss watching that coming out of the ground and being dedicated," he said.

Rees managed to raise the funds during the worst recession since the Depression. The library's full name is the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington and it's just one of Rees' projects.

Altogether over his 29 years he oversaw the raising of a quarter billion dollars and the building of the \$60 million, 67,000-square-foot Ford Orientation and Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center buildings, in addition to restoring and reconstructing the Distillery and Gristmill along with establishing a four-acre exhibition farm, plus numerous smaller projects.

Also, Mount Vernon's endowment has grown from \$4 million to \$125 million.

Asked to imagine what General Washington himself might proclaim at his retirement, Rees said, "I think he would say that we've done a great job at putting back a lot of his outbuildings in a pretty authentic way. He would be pretty amazed at the number of people who still love and respect him so much that they come to his estate." About one million visit each year.

On his way up to the executive post at Mount Vernon, Rees' beginnings were modest. Graduating from William & Mary with a degree in English, he first became a cub reporter, lasting a year at The Daily Press in Newport News. "Back then editors were very stiff about their rules," he said. "I decided I liked public relations better."

He went back to school, this time earning a master's degree in public administration from George Wash-

ington University. He soon was working for the National Trust, traveling to numerous properties to develop fundraising.

"When an opportunity came to work at the nation's premier property, it was just too good to pass up," he said.

That was in 1983 when he became director of development and associate director at Mount Vernon. "You know, quite frankly," he said, "I think when I first took the job I was most excited about the estate, and like most people took for granted that George Washington was powerful and great, but also somewhat boring."

"I think what's kept me here so long is that nothing could be farther from the truth. He's as fascinating as any character in the 18th century."

Named president and CEO in 1994, he says he feels a close relationship to Washington that is "a somewhat distant one as it was for his friends too."

"He wasn't a backslapping, have-a-beer-type guy, and for that reason it's sometimes difficult for the 21st century American to relate. But I think he is predictable in terms of his honesty and his selflessness and his integrity. He's been a great role model for me."

Rees is philosophical about his departure. "That's the breaks," he said. He also sees that things are working out well.

"We're fortunate that a new person will come in and take over well before the new library is finished in September of 2013. That person will have a chance to already be established, be well-liked and admired before it opens."

What will he miss most?

"The people here are pretty terrific," Rees said of his staff. "I will miss them an awful lot."

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UCM is thankful for the generous support of the Mount Vernon Gazette.

Mount Vernon Gazette



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OPINION

State Shirks Transportation Responsibility

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AND JEFF MCKAY

LEE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

COMMENTARY

Maybe we should rename our County The Bank of Last Resort. At our Board of Supervisors retreat in early February, board members and staff discussed the tools available to local government to narrow the chasm between growing needs and shrinking resources. As the state and federal governments continue to slash programs and funds to localities, the needs in areas like human services, education, public safety, and transportation continue to grow.

Fairfax County is at ground zero in all these areas. We're home to a growing population of seniors in need of basic services; our top notch schools are growing fast; and our first responders keep our community safe despite being asked to do more with less.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Balance of Opinions Needed

To the Editor:

I have sent two letters to the Mount Vernon Gazette editor regarding Delegate Surovell's opinions that make misleading claims but his opinion pieces are published and my letters that provide some balance to Delegate Surovell's opinion pieces are not. Is that fair to your readers and particularly his constituents?

Delegate Surovell's opinion published in the Feb. 9-15 Mt. Vernon Gazette states: "I was very concerned about the amount of legislation we are passing that has nothing to do with turning our economy around, transportation, edu-

The current debate over transportation responsibilities is instructive. The Commonwealth of Virginia has primary transportation responsibilities that go back to the years of the Great Depression when the state took on all public road maintenance and construction for all counties except for Arlington and Henrico. In recent years, we've seen the fraying of this traditional responsibility and core function of state government as the state's failure to act has left many of our most well-traveled roads in deplorable condition. Saying, "Can't afford it anymore, it's your problem" seems to be the General Assembly's solution. That's not reasonable and it's certainly not responsible governance.

The current proposals in the General Assembly are either devolution-lite or the camel's nose under the tent. Either way, they amount to an abdication of the state's moral and legal responsibility to maintain our roads. Any effort by the state that does not result in a long-term dedicated revenue stream is a decision

cation, health care or the issues that most of my constituents identify as priorities." The bills, including his, discussed in his opinion piece have nothing to do with the economy, transportation, education or health care. Since Delegate Surovell didn't reveal what most of his constituents' priorities are there is no reasonable way to assess whether the bills he sponsored are what his constituents want. It's up to Delegate Surovell to introduce bills, co sponsor bills or push for changes that will meet his constituent's priorities. After all he is supposed to be representing them.

Delegate Surovell's opinion piece is also critical of some bills passed by the General Assembly implying that the party in control is wasting time and money and don't address what he believes are the important issues. But, he

to sidestep our transportation challenges. Fairfax County should not be forced to choose between its citizens' important needs simply because the state government is looking to take the easy way out. And keep in mind — as Fairfax County's fortunes go, so goes the Commonwealth. Our economic vitality supports and funds the rest of the state. A crumbling transportation infrastructure here will ultimately show up on the wrong side of the ledger downstate.

As elected leaders, we have the responsibility to listen and respond to the needs of our constituents. Time after time we hear that transportation is one of our residents' top concerns and key to our economic fortunes. Fairfax County has a creative and solutions-oriented local government. We believe that our transportation problems can be solved. Identifying a dedicated transportation revenue stream is the first and most important step in finding that solution and we ask that the Governor and the General Assembly meet their responsibility and identify that stream.

conveniently is silent about legislation introduced by his party caucus to study the sale of marijuana in (state liquor) stores, to impose tax on plastic bags which he co sponsored, abolish the court of appeals, to reinstate the inheritance tax (death tax) which he co sponsored, to allow convicted drug offenders to receive government benefits. And he also co sponsored a 5 percent fuels tax and a tax on tobacco products and cigarettes.

In his Feb. 16-22, 2012 Mount Vernon Gazette opinion piece, Delegate Surovell criticizes severely the General Assembly for passing legislation that "attack the poor," yet he voted against tax credits to encourage individuals and corporations to contribute to non-profit organizations who provide education improvement scholarships to students in low and middle income families and qualifying disabled students. What's wrong with giving the needy a hand up to help them succeed? It seems he is using a pick-and-choose system to favor or oppose depending on his ideological beliefs.

The rule for publishing any elected official's opinions should be balanced to the extent possible to provide readers particularly constituents both sides of the issues so that they have information to make their own decision about what is happening.

I encourage you to publish more votes of all northern Virginia General Assembly politicians on major issues as you have done in the Feb. 9-15 Mount Vernon Gazette whether you agree with the issue or not. We should hold the politicians accountable for everything they do and not be selective. A pick-and-choose system should not be used in fairness to the readers and politicians' constituents.

Fairness should be the rule.

Frank Medico
Mount Vernon

Editor's note: The Mount Vernon Gazette encourages letters from a variety of perspectives. The Gazette found and published one of the missing letters in last week's edition; the second regretfully was no longer timely.

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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PHOTO BY RICH COOPER

Pinewood Derby

James Pinter, Danny Diaz, Edwin Robinson and Kent May from Cub Scout Pack 1509 are waiting for cars to cross the finish line at their annual Pinewood Derby Race. Pack 1509 and Pack 95 held their annual Pinewood Derby race at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church on Saturday, Feb. 4. Some 63 Scouts from these two packs participated at the race.

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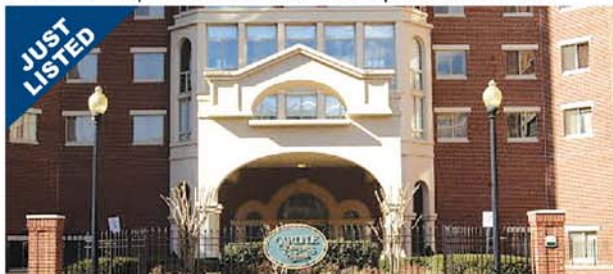
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LETTERS

Why Little League Matters

To the Editor:

In a matter of weeks, millions of boys and girls in nearly 90 countries around the world will begin playing baseball and softball in more than 7,000 Little League programs. Little League is the world's largest youth sports organization, run in large part by adult volunteers who give their time and energy to create the opportunity for children from age 4 to 18 to play baseball and softball on local neighborhood fields with their friends and classmates.

I have been associated with Little League for nearly 20 years, and I work with many other volunteers who have spent far longer committed to the ideals first put in place by Carl Stotz in 1938. In local Little Leagues today, it's not uncommon to find three generations involved in various ways, grandparents in the stands, parents coaching and children participating. Simply put, Little League baseball is engrained in the culture of most communities in the United States, both reminding us of the core values of our country and demonstrating the virtues of

teamwork, leadership and mutual respect.

In a time when competition for our children's time is intense — school related activities, a rich variety of sports options and even a variety of choices for youth baseball — it's fair to ask why Little League matters in today's world. To me, the answer speaks less to how children find ways to exercise, and more to the challenges that will face them as they grow up in an increasingly complex world.

Most of us of a certain age can remember childhoods filled with neighborhood activities that involved physical activity and interactions that provoke rich memories even today. Our parents shooed us outside in the morning and called us back for meals. School activities were open to everyone, regardless of ability. Today, most schools are cutting back on PE programs; kids are devoting more time to gaming, social media and other technology-driven activities that keep them inside, inactive and apart from physical interaction with others their age.

Today, many families are dual-income households, free time is at a premium and activity schedules are more regulated. Childhood has

become less about unstructured collaborative fun and more about competition and pursuing individual achievement. I know parents mean well and are certainly working towards the best interests of their sons and daughters. But in a world where parents are bombarded with messages about giving their kids an edge and developing elite skills, where you can find coaching and mentoring pitches that almost guarantee a path to scholarships and success, something crucial can be lost.

When I was a coach in Little League, my team was involved in a game for the league championship. The players were nervous, so I took them out into left field before the game and tried to put things into perspective. I told them that 10 years from then, they would not remember the outcome of the game or what the score was. They would remember that it was a glorious spring day, the sun was shining and they were playing baseball with their friends. It has now been almost 15 years since that day, and these 12 kids have grown into adults, one of them my son. I still see many of these former Little League players from

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

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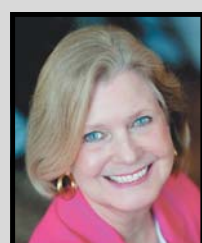
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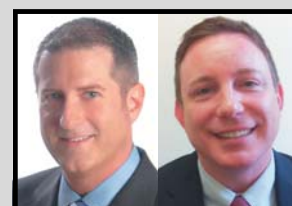
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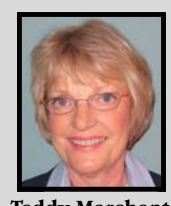


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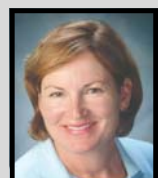
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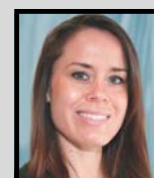
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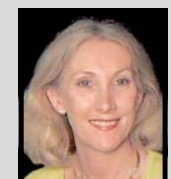
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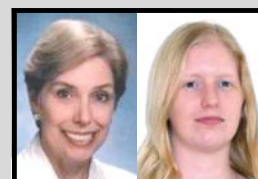
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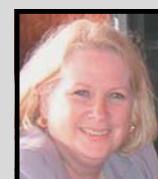
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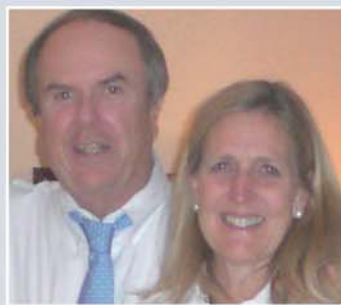
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Owner has spared no expense updating this spectacular, spacious Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, expansive glass window walls, recently updated gourmet kitchen, family room off kitchen, formal living and dining room, office, 2 levels of hardwood floors, stunning master bedroom suite and the list goes on. Truly a remarkable home!



NEW PRICE!

9405 Ludgate Dr
\$2,195,000
Stunning Price Reduction!

Magnificent colonial custom designed to capitalize on views from elevated site overlooking river. Home has approx 10,000 Sq Ft of luxuriously appointed space. Numerous features: 4 finished levels, elegant trim detail, high ceilings, multiple decks & private balconies, fabulous gourmet eat in kitchen, formal dining, 5 fireplaces, elevator. Direct river access.



NEW HOME!

4009 Colonial Ave
\$749,500
New Home - Gorgeous Site!

Pre-construction opportunity - fabulous home by Wakefield Homes on gorgeous half acre level lot on quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Popular Belle View model with open floor plan, fabulous amenities and quality construction that have made Wakefield Mt. Vernon's leading builder for generations. Exceptional value - priced significantly lower than other new home on street. (Pre-construction picture is of similar house)



8826 Cooper Rd
\$395,000
Country Club Views!

You won't believe this large updated rambler is available for under \$400K! Numerous features include: large 1/2 A + lot, updated kitchen with granite countertops & SS appliances, fully updated baths, thermal windows, large family room w/high ceilings, spacious living and dining rooms, garage & oversize deck. Prime location minutes from Ft. Belvoir.



7006 Stone Mill Pl
\$460,000
Classic

Colonial! - Reasonable Price!

A rare find, reasonably level

CONTRACT!

priced three Colonial in prime location on quiet cul-de-



Colonial!
Custom colonial in enclave of 17 quiet cul-

CONTRACT!

homes on de-sac surrounded by grounds of Mt Vernon



2300 Candlewood
\$569,000
Expanded Tri-

Level!
Builder's own! Exceptionally maintained

SOLD!

large well home for the money! Fabulous property in prime



4200 Kimbrelee Ct
\$949,000
Updated Custom

Home!
Majestic brick quiet cul-de

CONTRACT!

colonial on -sac in prestigious Oxford the Potomac. Fabulous features include all brick



Exceptionally spacious home - the most largest

CONTRACT!

Featuring size and room dimensions for the price in the area!



8528 Monticello Ave
\$559,000
Updated Colonial! Classic

Colonial in pristine cond. & updated throughout!

CONTRACT!

Features inc: 4 large BRs, gourmet with custom cabs, granite countertops and



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THEATER

Life's a Beach

Port City shines with 'Dixie Swim Club.'

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

They met long before the phrase “BFF” was part of the American lexicon, but for five college teammates, the comfort and frustrations of “best friends forever” are rays of sunshine in the Port City Playhouse production of “The Dixie Swim Club,” now playing at Alexandria’s Lab Studio Theatre at Convergence.

Written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten, “The Dixie Swim Club” is a glimpse into the lives of the swim team friends as they meet annually at a beach house in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Over the course of 33 years, babies are born and divorces happen as life’s twists and turns are served up with a heavy dose of Southern hospitality and humor.

“This was a lot of fun to do,” said director Eddie Page following the

Feb. 24 opening night performance. “The playwrights are so talented and the writing so good, although when we first began rehearsals, I did stop and ask myself ‘what have I gotten into with all these women?’”

The colorful cast of characters begins with Sheree (Tina Anderson), the perpetually organized team captain; Lexie (Barbara Hayes), the femme fatale who has been divorced more times than the others have had their nails done; Dinah (Kacie Greenwood), a caustic overachiever who never met a martini she didn’t like; Vernadette (Gayle Nichols-Grimes), the embodiment of every woeful country song ever written; and the perennially sweet and innocent Jeri Neal (Laura Champe Mitchell).

Jones, Hope and Wooten are three of the most widely-produced playwrights in the country and have shaped the script so well its lines would work for radio. Jones



PHOTO BY EDDIE PAGE

Tina Anderson as Sheree Hollinger, Gayle Grimes as Vernadette Simms, Kacie Greenwood as Dinah Grayson and Barbara Hayes as Lexie Richards.

co-authored the Southern-fried funeral comedy “Dearly Departed” while Wooten was a writer and producer on the “Golden Girls” TV series.

But what makes this production shine is its talented cast of actors. As Sheree, Anderson is the glue that holds the group together, while Hayes is spot on in her man-

nerisms and narcissism of the oft-married Lexie.

As Dinah, Greenwood is acerbic with an understated sense of humor and Mitchell is Southern sweetness as eager-to-please Jeri Neal, a nun whose life takes the most surprising turns of the group.

Nichols-Grimes, as the self-deprecating Vernadette, is a riot with

her deadpan delivery of some of the best lines in the show.

“Vernadette is really a lovely character,” said Nichols-Grimes, a WATCH Award-winner most recently seen in the Little Theatre of Alexandria’s production of “Noises Off.” “It’s not often you find a script that makes you laugh out loud and cry at the same time so when Eddie sent this to me, I just knew I had to do it. It was too good to pass up.”

Page, who does double duty as set designer, is assisted by producer Robert Kraus and costume designer Susan Boyd in mounting a funny and poignant production that makes the audience want to dive right in during each of the team’s annual group swims.

With a powerhouse of talent on stage, “The Dixie Swim Club” is a can’t-miss hilarious and touching comedy about BFF friendships that truly last forever.

The Port City Playhouse production of “The Dixie Swim Club” is playing now through March 10 at the Lab Studio Theatre at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. For tickets or more information visit www.portcityplayhouse.com.

‘Heaven Can Wait’

Celestial shenanigans at LTA.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Joe Pendleton is in for the fight of his life — literally. A professional boxer and pilot, his soul is mistakenly “collected” from his body some 60 years too soon after a plane flight gone awry in the comedy “Heaven Can Wait,” now playing at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

In playwright Harry Segall’s 1938 classic — the basis for the Academy Award-winning “Here Comes Mr. Jordan” in 1941 and the more recent “Down to Earth” with Chris Rock in 2001 — 23-year-old Joe enlists the help of chief angel Mr. Jordan to find a suitable host body to inhabit for his remaining days on earth.

The hilarious hijinks begin when Joe ends up as Jonathan Farnsworth, a wealthy financier

who has just been murdered by his wife and personal secretary. Even as the devious duo are hell-bent on finishing him off, Joe decides to stick around as Farnsworth long enough to help Bette Logan, a young woman whose father the financier has railroaded into jail.

As Joe, Brandon DeGroat effortlessly maintains the indefatigable pace of a supercharged athlete fond of describing his physical condition as “in the pink.” Cal Whitehurst, meanwhile, is an oasis of calm as the efficient and sophisticated Mr. Jordan and the perfect foil for the spunky Joe.

“There is nothing like a performance here at LTA,” DeGroat said following the Feb. 25 opening night performance. “The community that comes to it, the people that volunteer here and all of the actors make for an incredible experience. This really is my theatre home.”



PHOTO BY DOUG OLMSTED

Colin Davies (Doctor), Brandon DeGroat (Joe Pendleton), Geoffrey Baskir (Passenger), Michael Gerwin (Williams), Geoffrey Brand (Lefty), and John Shackelford (Max Levene).

Shackelford is an engaging jolt of wise-guy panache, playing Joe’s shifty fight manager Max Levene with the dodgy hustle of, well, a fight manager.

“It’s great to be back on stage here,” said Shackelford, who was

last seen in LTA’s “It Runs in the Family.” “This is as professional an experience as you can get in a volunteer organization.”

As Mr. Jordan and his assistant 7013 (Mary Ayala-Bush) struggle to find Joe a body better suited for

his habitation, Joe falls in love with Bette (Melissa Berkowitz) before being finished off as Farnsworth by the murderous duo of his wife Julia (Hanna Wolfe) and her haughty lover Tony Abbott (Steve Lada). Berkowitz in particular effortlessly evokes the innocence of vintage film heroines.

Masterfully directed by Roland Branford Gomez, the production is humorous and employs slapstick and satire to maximum effect. Best at playing with the talking-to-thin-air illusion is Shackelford, who repeatedly steals the show as the understandably befuddled Max.

LTA brings their customary stamp of high production values, talented cast and innovative design to a play that is entertaining for all ages. Heaven may be able to wait but theatre fans only have until March 17 to see this engaging classic.

“Heaven Can Wait” is playing now through March 17 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. For tickets or more information call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

THEATER

MARCH 6 THROUGH APRIL 15

“Brother Russia.” Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are now on sale starting at \$63. Single tickets are available in person at the Signature Box Office or by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT. Student discount tickets are \$30 and must be purchased the week of the performance. At Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave. in Shirlington.

FEB. 24 TO MARCH 10

“The Dixie Swim Club.” Port City Playhouse presents a delightful comedy about five women who were on their college swim team and get together for a “girls only” weekend at a cottage on the Outer Banks every summer. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 24-25, March 2-3 and 9-10; Tues., March 6 at 8 p.m.; Sat. matinees March 3 and 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane,

Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.org.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 25

“Really Really.” Showtimes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$56 - \$80 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting

www.signature-theatre.org. Signature is offering a special “20 Seats for \$20” ticket deal for every performance. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

FEB. 9 TO MARCH 3

“Genesis Reboot.” Tickets are \$30. Presented by Synetic Theater. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. At Crystal City Theater, 1800 South Bell St., Arlington.

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

Frank Lloyd Wright Lecture. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Alexandria. Two homeowners discuss the experience of living in Wright-designed houses. Sponsored by Woodlawn/Pope Leighy, Historic Sites of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Ticket information: popeleighy1940.org.

Gala Benefit. 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$125. Featuring “Mad Men” theme celebrating the style and sophistication of the 1960s. With a Silent Auction, a Mini Raffle, “Be A Star” station where patrons can buy gifts that benefit the Center, and a Cocktail Buffet. Hosted by the Center for Alexandria’s Children, a child-friendly facility that protects children and strengthens families by coordinating the investigation, prosecution, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect. At Virtue Feed and Grain, 106 South Union Street, Alexandria. Visit <http://madforalexandriaschildren.eventbrite.com>.

FRIDAY/MARCH 2

David Bromberg Quartet. 8 p.m. **Indie Singer-Songwriter Marye Lobb** will be the opening act. Bromberg will perform from the new CD, Use Me. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500.

Mardi Growl Gala. 7 to 10 p.m. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) is hosting its 2012 Mardi Growl Gala and fundraiser at the Terminal A at Reagan National Airport. Last year’s event raised \$80,000 for the League. The proceeds from this event provide for thousands of animals throughout the year. Becky’s Pet Care is giving away two tickets and a parking pass. Anyone is eligible to win. Enter by going to Facebook (facebook.com/beckyspetcare) and write on the wall saying you would like to enter the Mardi Growl ticket raffle. Or send an email to Jenny@beckyspetcare.com. For details, visit www.AlexandriaAnimals.org/MardiGrowl.

MARCH 2-3 AND 9-10

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” Tickets are \$5. Show times are March 2, 9, 10 at 7:30 p.m.; Matinee on March 3 at 2 p.m. At St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes Upper School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen’s Road, Alexandria. Visit www.sssas.org/arts.

MARCH 2, 3, 4

“Once Upon a Mattress.” Tickets are \$5. Sandburg Middle School presents the musical version of the fairy tale, “The Princess and the Pea.” Friday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 4 at 2:30 p.m. At Carl Sandburg Middle School. Call 703-799-6241.



MARCH 2, 3, 4

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MARCH 2 TO APRIL 1

20 Years on The Avenue. The 20th Anniversary Committee invites you to celebrate DRA’s 20 years on “The Avenue” with past and present masterpieces. This member-only show runs from March 2-April 1, 2012 and will be juried from outside our DRA family of members. Opening Reception for the “XX” show on Friday, March 2, 7-10 p.m. and will feature local jazz band “Veroneau”. (www.VeroneauMusic.com). Running March 3- April 1 special exhibits of Del Ray Artisans’ history will be featured. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 3

Used Book Sale. Noon to 4 p.m. At John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria.

Chamber Music Concert. 7:30 p.m. Featuring music of Mozart, Schumann, Ravel and Brahms. At St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

One God Ministry Church Grand Opening. 10 a.m. to noon. At new Alexandria building location at 6318 Grovedale Road, Alexandria. Visit www.onegodministry.org.

Fun Dog Show. Presented by Barkley Square. Email grayson@karingbykristina.com to receive the official sponsorship form. In the Market Square in Old Town Alexandria.

MARCH 3 TO 18

March Madness. Features 200 panels of artwork each \$150, a free kids art activity on March 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the Art Party on March 16, from 7-10 p.m., featuring prizes, music, food drinks and more. The Art Party will be located in the main hall of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, outside of the Target Gallery. Cost is \$15/advance; \$20/door. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/marchmadness.

MARCH 3 AND 4

26th Annual Jazz & Tap Dance Festival. Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 4 p.m. At Northern Virginia Community College. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$22 at the door. Performers include Encore Performers, Center Stage Dance, Capitol Movement, Impulse, and MYTE. For tickets and information, visit www.dujdc.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 4

YoKid Yoga Challenge. 2 to 4 p.m. The challenge is open to kids of all ages, adults, and families. No yoga experience is required. Suggested donation: \$20 for adults; \$5 for kids ages 5-17, or the whole family can participate for a \$20 donation. At the Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 West Reed Avenue, Alexandria. Register online at www.yokid.org.

Playing Against Type. 2 p.m. The Marine Chamber



Adhana Reid as the Narrator and Matthew Mirliani as Joseph in St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School’s upcoming production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.”

MARCH 2-3 AND 9-10

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” Tickets are \$5. Show times are March 2, 9, 10 at 7:30 p.m.; Matinee on March 3 at 2 p.m. At St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes Upper School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen’s Road, Alexandria. Visit www.sssas.org/arts.

Orchestra performs. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria.

BINGO Fundraiser. 1 to 4 p.m. The West Potomac All-Night Graduation Celebration committee is holding a BINGO fundraiser from 1 to 4 p.m. At Belle View Elementary School, 6701 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Email westpoANG2012@gmail.com with questions.

MONDAY/MARCH 5

Dinner Meeting. 6:15 p.m. The R.E. Lee Camp will host its Dinner Meeting at the American Legion Post 24 Hall, 400 Cameron Street at N. Royal St behind Gadsby’s Tavern, Alexandria, and the cost to attend the dinner meeting is \$25 per person. Nicholas Ward will speak on the topic of the battle of the Ironclads, the USN Monitor and the SCN Virginia. RSVP to Mr. J.J. Smith at 703 299-1725. Checks should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to 401 Wilkes St., Alexandria. Payments will be accepted at the door. Visit www.leecamp.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 6

The Peculiar Insurrection. 6 p.m. Free. Morrison House Presents: Michael Lee Pope, Author of “Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C.” He will discuss the days when Alexandria was part of the District of Columbia and the events that led to the eventual return of Alexandria to the Commonwealth of Virginia. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit www.morrisonhouse.com.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the Tom Cunningham Orchestra. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 7

Big Trees All Around Us. 7:30 p.m. A presentation by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, co-sponsored by the American Horticultural Society. Greg Zell, Arlington County’s Natural Resource Specialist, will conduct a visual tour of some of the big trees and discuss tree conservation. At Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria; call 703-768-2525. Visit Friends of Dyke Marsh website: www.fodm.org
National Nutrition Month and You. 10:30 a.m. Presented by the Senior Citizens’ Resource Center. At Inova Alexandria Hospital, 4320 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414.
Musician Ruthie Foster. Will celebrate the release of her new CD, Let It Burn. At the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000 or call 703-549-3701.

THURSDAY/MARCH 8

Ten Thousand Villages Celebrates Women in March. The store at 915 King Street in Old Town Alexandria will donate 15 percent of its sales to the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program. In honor of International Women’s Day. The store is

opened 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

2nd Thursday Art Night: Child’s Play. 6 to 9 p.m. The Torpedo Factory hosts the launch of Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Children and the Arts with an evening of gallery receptions, fun activities, live music by local teen Keira Moran, and more. At the torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

Bob Sima. 7 p.m. Poet, observer, scribe, and sometimes reluctant healer all bundled up into one singing/songwriting bundle of energy. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 9

Artisan Beer Tasting and Silent Auction. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$50. At the Campagna Center. If you wish to pay by check, mail to: The Campagna Center, Attn: Lee Stenberg/NN Event, 418 S. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314. All proceeds benefit New Neighbor’s ESL and Family Literacy Programs.

Wine and History. 6:30 p.m. The Mount Vernon Inn’s inaugural wine dinner, A Well-Stocked Cellar: Dinner and Wine Tasting at Mount Vernon, begins with a private reception and remarks from Mount Vernon staff. Following the reception, guest will move up to the Mansion for a private tour that includes Washington’s cellar. Concludes with a special four-course dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn with historic commentary between courses from Mount Vernon staff. Tickets are \$110 and include tax and gratuity. Available beginning Feb. 1 through www.MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

House Storybook. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Alexandria Black History Museum is offering a fun activity to help kids tell stories about a favorite house or building. Local artist and writer Sushmita Mazumdar will hold a workshop for children ages 6 through 12; adult family members are welcome to join in. Sushmita will show how she makes books that are houses for all kinds of creatures and all kinds of stories. Then kids will learn how to make their own “House Storybook.” At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org. Call 703-746-4356.

Art Auction. 8 p.m. Free. The Art Auction features original works of art by Rob Vander Zee and twenty-five local Washington, D.C. artists known as the Vander Zee Gallery Painters. At Vander Zee Gallery, 105 S. Lee St., 3rd Floor, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.vanderzeeart.com/artauction.

Trace Your Civil War Ancestor. 1 p.m. Cost is \$10. Learn how when experts from the National Archives and Records Administration present “Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor” at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4848 to make reservations. Visit www.fortward.org.

THEATER

Nominees for 2012 Helen Hayes Awards

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Nominees for the 2012 Helen Hayes Awards were announced Feb. 27 with Signature Theatre, Synetic Theatre and MetroStage among the 25 theatre companies nominated in 26 categories.

Signature Theatre received 12 nominations for three productions: "Hairspray," "The Hollow" and "Side By Side By Sondheim." Synetic Theatre's production of "King Lear" received 15 nominations and MetroStage received one nomination for Bernadine Mitchell's performance as Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical for "His Eye Is On the Sparrow."

Theatre Washington's president and CEO Linda Levy Grossman read the nominations at the National Theatre in Washington and winners will be announced April 23 during the Helen Hayes Awards Ceremony at the Warner Theater.

For a complete listing of the 2012 Helen Hayes Award

nominations, visit
www.theatrenewashington.org

SIGNATURE THEATRE

"Hairspray"

- ❖ Outstanding Resident Musical
- ❖ Outstanding Choreography, Resident Production, Brianne Camp, Karma Camp
- ❖ Outstanding Director, Resident Musical, Eric Schaeffer
- ❖ Outstanding Ensemble, Resident Musical
- ❖ Outstanding Lead Actress, Resident Musical, Carolyn Cole
- ❖ Outstanding Musical Direction, Resident Production, Jon Kalbfleisch
- ❖ Outstanding Sound Design, Resident Production, Matt Rowe
- ❖ Outstanding Supporting Actress, Resident Musical, Nova Y. Payton
- ❖ Outstanding Supporting Actress, Resident Musical, Lauren Williams

"The Hollow"

- ❖ Outstanding Lighting Design, Resident Production, Chris Lee

"Side By Side By Sondheim"

- ❖ Outstanding Resident Musical
- ❖ Outstanding Lead Actress, Resident Musical, Nancy Anderson

SYNETIC THEATER

"King Lear"

- ❖ Outstanding Resident Play
- ❖ Outstanding Choreography, Resi-

dent Production, Irina Tsikurishvili, Ben Cunis

- ❖ Outstanding Costume Design, Resident Production, Georgi Alexi-Meskhishvili
- ❖ Outstanding Director, Resident Play, Paata Tsikurishvili
- ❖ Outstanding Ensemble, Resident Play
- ❖ Outstanding Lead Actress, Resident Play, Ira Koval
- ❖ Outstanding Lead Actress, Resident Play, Irina Tsikurishvili
- ❖ Outstanding Lighting Design, Resident Production, Andrew F. Griffin
- ❖ Outstanding Set Design, Resident Production, Phil Charlwood
- ❖ Outstanding Sound Design, Resident Production, Irakli Kavsadze, Konstantine Lortkipanidze
- ❖ Outstanding Supporting Actor, Resident Play, Ben Cunis
- ❖ Outstanding Supporting Actor, Resident Play, Chris Dinolfo
- ❖ Outstanding Supporting Actor, Resident Play, Philip Fletcher
- ❖ Outstanding Supporting Actress, Resident Play, Mirenka Cechová
- ❖ The Robert Prosky Award for Outstanding Lead Actor, Resident Play, Irakli

METROSTAGE

"His Eye is On the Sparrow"

- ❖ Outstanding Lead Actress, Resident Musical, Bernadine Mitchell

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ENTERTAINMENT



The St. Patrick's Day Parade will be Saturday, March 3 at 12:30 p.m.

31st Annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade

The 31st Annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place on Saturday, March 3 at 12:30 p.m. in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. The parade will start at the corner of King St. and Alfred St., and proceed East down King St. to the corner of King St. and Lee St.

"Our Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade falls very early in March this year, and we know it will be a wonderful way for the thousands of spectators who view the parade every year to kick off their celebrations of Irish American Heritage Month," said Pat Troy, Ballyshaners Chairman and Parade Master of Ceremo-

nies.

This year's parade will be lead by co-Grand Marshals Tom and Melinda Mooney, who are the proprietors of the Murphy's Grand Irish Pubs in Alexandria, Washington, D.C., and Virginia Beach. The Mooneys are long-time supporters of Irish-American activities in the Northern Virginia area.

As always, the parade will feature more than 100 units, including groups celebrating their Irish heritage, marchers from the military services, Irish dancing schools, bagpipe bands and other Alexandria community groups.

In addition to the parade, festivities will include a Classic Car Show, held on Pitt St. between King and Cameron Streets beginning at 10 a.m., and a Fun Dog Show held in Market Square, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

All events are free to the public. Parade organizers suggest using Metrorail to the King Street Metro stop, and walking 10 minutes East on King Street to the Parade Route.

All events are sponsored by the Ballyshaners – Gaelic for "Old Towners". A not-for-profit group, the Ballyshaners' goal is to promote and preserve Irish heritage through sponsorship of the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Alexandria Irish Festival, held every summer.

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Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
2:00 pm (en Español)
6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 11)

Weekdays

(Mass or Communion
Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

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Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am
Mass (English)

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Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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Artwork of 30 oil paintings and six pencil drawings will be displayed at the 2nd Floor Room 2000, Chet and Sabra Avery Room, City Hall in Old Town. An exhibit opening will be held Friday, March 2 from 6 to 7 p.m. All paintings are for sale. Contact the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, 703-746-5588 or aca@alexandriava.gov.

National Spotlight Shines on State and Fighting Education Cuts

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



RICHMOND REPORT

This past week, the Virginia General Assembly received even more national media attention. None of it related to our budget debate and none of it was good.

Early in the week, the legislature was featured by The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. That led to a slew of news stories, negotiations, speeches, and legislative maneuvers. When all the dust was cleared, the so-called “personhood” bill that would ban contraception was continued by the Virginia Senate to 2013 for discussion.

The mandatory transvaginal ultrasound bill was amended to require an internal ultrasound only with a woman’s consent, and it was continued to this week for a vote. Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel pulled her bill after she had second thoughts when she heard from women. However, the House Bill sponsored by Delegate Kathy Byron is still alive in the State Senate. It was scheduled for a vote Monday of this week, but pushed to Tuesday. It is still not clear whether the

Senate will pass it. The Governor has indicated that he will sign the legislation if it gets to his desk.

Even though the House of Delegates has passed both the transvaginal ultrasound bill and “personhood” bills in the past, the press is finally covering these matters because they could pass in the State Senate. I have received more spontaneous emails (not generated by interest groups) opposing these bills than any measure we have considered since I have been in Richmond. I will continue to oppose these measures whenever I have the opportunity.

We also debated the House version of the budget this week. The Senate failed to pass any budget. The House Budget continues to reflect the wrong priorities. It contains tax exemptions for yacht purchases, a \$40 million tax credit for coal production, diverts \$20 million for private schools, \$8 million in credits for movie productions, and continues a \$22 million tax break for the

purchase of equipment relating to natural gas fracturing or “fracking.”

The House proposed to fund secondary education at minimal levels. In FY 2009, the state was funding secondary education at \$5,277 per child. The proposed House Budget funds secondary education at \$4,750 per child for FY 2013. In 2005, Virginia has the second smallest class sizes in the country — today we are 42nd. The House Budget does nothing to eliminate Virginia’s 12,000-child subsidized childcare waiting list. The cuts to Medicaid will push 4,700 elderly Virginians off the Medicaid rolls and out of nursing homes.

A group I am leading, identified \$480 million of tax loopholes and gimmicks in the budget. If we invested those funds in education alone it would result in Fairfax County receiving over \$40 million or enough to pay for over 400 new teachers.

Part of the reason there is no money for education is because the House Budget diverts \$110 million (\$50 million per year or the equivalent of a one-penny gas tax per year) from the General Fund and directs it to roads on an ongoing and increasing basis over five years. This is the wrong way to

fund transportation.

Roads have always been funded separately from schools, public safety, health care and the safety net. It should stay that way. Thirty-percent of gas taxes are paid by people who live outside Virginia. Sales taxes are largely paid by Virginians and income taxes are only paid by Virginians. Our highways should be funded by users — not only Virginians.

Moreover, the monies the House Budget and the Governor have proposed are largely a gimmick. In 2010, the Department of Transportation estimated our annual transportation shortfall to be at least \$3.1 to \$4.4 billion per year. The Governor’s Plan funds 1.6 percent of that in FY2013 and 3.5 percent of that in FY2014. We need to have a real discussion about how to solve this problem, and stop wasting time with gimmicks that cause damage to existing programs.

With the Senate deadlocked, it is not clear what will happen next with the budget, but we are all working to try to start a discussion that will lead to a conclusion. If you have any ideas, please send me an email at scottsurovell@gmail.com.

It is an honor to serve as your delegate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

time to time. Invariably, they still remember their time playing baseball with their friends. More importantly, they retained the life lessons that Little League baseball taught them, lessons that help during the difficult path from childhood to becoming successful adults.

Baseball is a team sport. You may be a star pitcher, but without the help of eight other players, you cannot be successful. I found that, during my year of coaching, every one of the players on my team contributed substantially in winning at least one game. Some of them were gifted players, some of them were not. They were friends, classmates and neighbors before and after the game ended. During the course of the season, all of them learned to depend on the others, to take pleasure in the other’s success and find ways to work together towards common goals. Some of them continued to play baseball through their teen years, others went on to other sports and interests. All of them took their experiences from Little League baseball into their adult lives.

Many people know Little League from the tournaments that conclude with the World Series in Williamsport in August each year. But Little League is so much more than this. Little League is open to everyone, regardless of talent, ethnicity, sex or ability to pay — anyone who wants to play baseball. No one is turned away. There are and always will be opportunities for better players to play in more competitive programs. But I believe that talented players can learn far more from Little League than from these elite programs. I believe that a truly talented baseball player is one who helps make his entire team better than it would otherwise be; one who understands that contributing

to team success provides more benefit than can be achieved alone. A child that learns these lessons has all the perspective and tools he or she needs to be a success in life.

Elite programs provide opportunities to showcase personal skills. While such activities have their place, Little League baseball’s message is engrained in the pledge recited before games — “I trust in God, I love my country and will respect its laws. I will play fair, and strive to win, but win or lose I will always do my best.”

The world has changed since I was a kid, and it’s unrealistic to expect Little League baseball to remain entirely as it was in the 1950s. Our sense of neighborhood and community has evolved as well. Children today face many more challenges and pressures than we did as kids. I am not involved out of a sense of nostalgia. I am involved because in a world where interactions are increasingly impersonal and indirect, Little League provides a place where kids can have fun, where they can learn important life lessons. It provides a sense of connection across generations, common ground between parent and child and a reminder of what binds us together as a community, and the source of our strength as a nation.

John Donaldson
Alexandria

John Donaldson is a District Administrator for Little League, a former president of Fort Hunt Little League and an active umpire.

Fiscal Prudence Is Not War on Poor

To the Editors:

I was surprised to see your recent front page article entitled “New Laws Attack Poor.” A paper that seeks to be a commu-

nity resource should not allow itself to be used by self-serving politicians, and professional journalists should not present blatant editorial pieces as “news” on the front page.

It is clear that Del. Scott Surovell and Sen. Toddy Puller have a particular agenda in Richmond. As members of the minority, their strategy is to create the impression that Republicans do nothing but pass “extreme” legislation, and additionally that they care not for the plight of those less fortunate. Your paper was clearly used as a tool for this strategy in the article I reference.

As a Republican concerned with the plight of the poor in our community, I take great offense at the assertion that any legislation promoting good financial stewardship or good governance is an attack on the poor. Yes, Surovell and Puller are proponents of bigger government. They are also proponents of higher taxes, having called for increases in government revenue in every session. What they appear not to be are proponents for sound fiscal policy, good governance, or a government that lives within its means, nor a government that evaluates and controls spending programs to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. They certainly have a right to these opinions. What they, and especially your paper, are wrong to do is cast every opponent as a non-caring extremist who “attacks” the poor or who conducts a “war on the needy.” Those are outrageous claims that unfairly divide our community. For your paper to help them do that in the guise of “news” is unprofessional and wrong.

The General Assembly has successfully passed important legislation dealing with issues that matter most to Virginians. With our Governor they are ensuring a positive future for the Commonwealth. Delegate Surovell and Senator Puller, for partisan reasons, wish to create the impression that

the majority has only focused on legislation they deem extreme. As Delegate Tim Hugo stated “Fewer than 3 percent of the bills passed so far in the House are what the Democrats are calling ‘divisive’.” The disparity between their talking points and the facts suggests they are at best wildly unaware of the legislation before them this session and at worst intentionally misleading Virginia’s citizens.”

I suggest your paper report on these real accomplishments instead of serving as a platform for divisive tactics from partisan politicians.

Jay McConville
Mount Vernon

Truly Representative Of Mount Vernon?

To the Editor:

In last week’s Gazette, Del. Scott Surovell had a column in which he discussed the Republican legislative agenda including requiring a woman to undergo an invasive ultrasound procedure prior to having an abortion. I concur with Delegate Surovell’s opposition to this proposal which was subsequently withdrawn. In the same Gazette, former Del. Frank Medico, who served our community with distinction for many years, wrote in to suggest that responsible citizens monitor the records of their representatives and speak out with regard to those records. Taking a cue from Mr. Medico, I checked into Delegate Surovell’s legislative record this session and found out the following:

He was one of only 18 delegates (out of 100) to vote against HJ 3, a proposed Constitutional amendment that would make it

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 21

Mount Vernon Girls Fall One Victory Shy of States

Majors lose to Oakton for the second time this season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon girls' basketball coach Courtney Coffey hung his head and fought back tears as he sat at the end of the Majors' bench after their Northern Region semifinal matchup with Oakton on Feb. 24. As time passed, he wondered if he had done enough. How could this happen again?

Mount Vernon entered the contest with a 25-1 record, but that lone defeat was a 30-point shellacking from Oakton on Dec. 6. The Majors had won 23 consecutive games and captured a National District title since that lopsided loss, and entered their rematch with the undefeated Cougars with a shot at revenge and berth in the state tournament.

With a chance to show they belonged among the top teams in the region, Mount Vernon went more than three minutes before scoring a point, trailed by 19 at half-time and eventually lost to Oakton 59-35 at Robinson Secondary School. After the game, Coffey stood outside the Majors' locker room and expressed confusion about the team's performance.

"It definitely hurts," Coffey said. "It hurts because deep down in my heart I know we're on the same level with that team and for some odd reason we just refuse to show that we're on the same level with them when we play them. I don't know what it is. Maybe I could have done a better job coaching. I don't know. Maybe I'm not preparing them for these types of games when they're playing these types of teams. I'm going to take all the blame because for some reason when we come to play that team, we're not ready."

Mount Vernon scored at least 80 points in seven games this season, reached the 90-point mark three times and even eclipsed 100 points on two occasions. The Majors won the Boo Williams Christmas Classic and earned notable victories against Western Branch and Robinson. But when it came



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon junior guard Kelly Loftus was a first-team all-region selection.

time to face Oakton, Mount Vernon produced its two lowest offensive outputs (41 and 35) of the season.

"These kids work hard," Coffey said. "We put in all this work. We had a great year. I'm not taking anything away from what we did, but I'm at a loss for words. I don't know what we have to do to get these kids to play and show that we're on the same level as that team, and I've got my head down fighting back tears because I feel like I'm not preparing them. [Oakton beat us] twice [and] we're not even close, and that hurts me at the end of the day."

Junior Tiffany Webster led Mount Vernon with nine points. Senior Lafatima Gray and juniors Taylor Dunham and Kelly Loftus

each had six.

Senior Caroline Coyer led Oakton with 20 points and senior Katherine Coyer finished with 19.

Gray and Elizabeth Owusuwaa were the only seniors on Mount Vernon's roster. However, Coffey didn't use youth as an excuse.

"We took lumps last year," he said. "We've got a lot of juniors on this team that play all year round. ... It's not about taking lumps right now. This was our year. Everybody always says next year, I don't believe that. Our year is now."

Mount Vernon finished the season ranked No. 19 in the Washington Post's top 20. While Coffey had his sights set on making it the state tournament this season, the



Sophomore forward Samantha Porter figures to be an important part of the Mount Vernon girls' basketball team's future.

Majors figure to be loaded for the 2012-13 campaign. While Oakton will lose the Coyer sisters and West Springfield will graduate standouts April Robinson and Logan Battle, Mount Vernon will return the majority of its roster. Led by Loftus, the Majors' top scoring threat and a first-team all-region selection, Dunham, the team's primary ball-handler, and forward Samantha Porter, Mount Vernon will likely be one of the favorites to compete for a region championship.

"Only thing I can say is, with only having two seniors, we'll be back next year," Coffey said, "and hopefully we won't be going through this again."

SPORTS BRIEFS

West Potomac Relay Finishes State Runner-Up

The West Potomac girls' 4x800-meter relay team of Dale Lescher, Sarah Jane Underwood, Colleen Boyle and Lauren Price finished state runner-up with a school-record time of 9 minutes, 19.37 seconds at the state meet in Hampton last weekend. The previous record of 9:25.09 was set in 2011. The team's new time also set the Boo Williams Sportsplex record and is the ninth-fastest time ever run by a team in Virginia.

Underwood placed fifth in the 1000 meters with a time of 2:56.53 and Tyrone Jenkins took sixth in the triple jump. Underwood is a three-time regional champion in the 1000 meters.

Lacrosse Scrimmage

The Mount Vernon and West Potomac boys' lacrosse teams will scrimmage at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 at West Potomac. Mount Vernon opens the regular season at home against T.C. Williams on March 14. West Potomac opens its season at Hayfield on March 26.

West Potomac Baseball

The West Potomac baseball team will host scrimmages against Paul VI (4 p.m., Thursday, March 1) and Bishop Ireton (March 8) before opening its season at home against Mount Vernon on March 13.

West Potomac Softball

The West Potomac softball team will host scrimmages against Bishop Ireton (6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 6) and Hayfield (March 10) before opening its season at home against Mount Vernon on March 15.

OPINION

Citizens Oppose Contentious Social Bills

By LINDA T. "TODDY" PULLER
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



RICHMOND REPORT

A new poll conducted by Christopher Newport University and the Richmond Times-Dispatch published last week shows voters oppose much of the controversial social legislation being brought before the General Assembly. Sixty-six percent want the "one-gun-a-month restriction to remain." Only 31 percent favor repealing the restriction enacted in 1993 "in response to interstate gun-trafficking problems on the East Coast." Legislation to repeal that law has passed both the House and the Senate and is expected to be signed by Governor Bob McDonnell.

"Of the 1,018 registered Virginia voters surveyed, the majority opposed requiring state workers to pay more toward their pensions and defining life as beginning at conception, referred to as the "personhood" bill. The Senate was successful in "carrying over" the "personhood" bill to 2013 by a vote of 24-14 which effectively killed the bill this session. Also, over 1,000 women came to Richmond last week to protest against an invasive ultrasound before an abortion. The Governor has asked that this issue be amended.

Jobs and the economy seem to have taken a back seat to the "dozens of Republican-sponsored bills relating to abortion, guns, whether gay couples can be prevented from adopting children, immigration, banning state subsidies for poor women whose fetus is severely deformed, requiring voters to have photo identification, and drug testing of welfare recipients. In the past few years, a more reasonable Senate was able to stop many "highly contentious socially con-

servative" bills. Now with the 20-20 split allowing tie votes to be broken by the Lieutenant Governor, committee reorganization has permitted many of these socially conservative issues to be passed out of Senate Committees on a party line vote.

Senate Democrats do have some leverage in voting for the budget. The Lieutenant Governor cannot break a tie on the budget vote. Last week, we voted down the budget presented to us. It will likely be taken up again this week.

The Senate has proposed restoring \$42 million to support cost of competing adjustment for education, which is more than was included in the House budget. This would mean that the adjustment would be fully funded the first year but would need about \$12 million for full funding the next year.

Work still remains on the budget if we are to protect funds being taken from the General Fund that now go to education, public safety, health care and mental health care. The Governor and Republican members propose diverting some of the sales tax from the General Fund to help fund transportation.

We must continue to lead responsibly to keep Virginia the "best managed state, the best place to do business, and the best place to raise a family."

Please continue to contact me on issues of concern:

Senator Linda T. Puller, P.O. Box 396, Richmond, VA 23218; phone: 804-698-7536, fax: 804-698-7651, and email: district36@senate.virginia.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 19

more difficult for the government to exercise the eminent domain power to seize private property;

He was one of only three House patrons for HB 419, a bill to reinstate the estate tax for people dying after July 1, 2012;

He supported HB 16, a bill seeking restoration of civil rights for certain classes of convicted felons who have completed their sentences and parole;

He was one of only two House patrons for HB 124, a bill seeking to impose a 20 cent tax on plastic bags used by purchasers to carry purchased merchandise;

He was one of only two House patrons for HB 160, a bill seeking to almost quintuple the state's cigarette tax.

He was one of only two House patrons for HB 165, a bill seeking to accelerate parole for prisoners over 60 years of age, regardless of the length of their sentence;

He was one of only seven House patrons for HB 422, a bill seeking to impose a 5 percent gas tax;

He was one of only two House patrons for HB 446, a bill seeking to repeal tax credits for the coal industry.

Our district is somewhat moderate politically. The legislative

record listed above is way to the left of center, advocating increased government intrusion in our lives and significantly higher taxes. It reminded me that in the last session, Mr. Surovell sought to remove our right to vote on the proposed meals tax, to leave it to the Board of Supervisors to take that decision instead of requiring a referendum. Fortunately, that effort failed as I hope will happen to the above-listed proposals. To his credit, Delegate Surovell has sponsored legislation to more fairly balance the Commonwealth Transportation Board that determines the amount of transportation money we re-

ceive, but in the context of his overall legislative record, unfortunately, this is an aberration.

If members of Delegate Surovell's district refrain from steering him toward a more mainstream representation of our community, they have no one to blame but themselves when he pursues a radical agenda as the above list suggests is the case. Delegate Surovell has been asking his constituents to send in his survey form. Responsible citizens should do so, the sooner the better.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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Scholarship applications for 2012 graduating high school seniors in Lee and Mount Vernon Districts, pursuing further education in a business related field, are now available. Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 each.

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Good is not good, where better is expected.
-Thomas Fuller

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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Cricket Communications, Inc. is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on a building at 4600 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304. 3 new panel antennas will be mounted on the penthouse at a centerline height of 179 feet above ground level. Support equipment will be installed on the roof. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 61120315-SLF c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403 or via telephone at 717-449-4085.

OBITUARY

MORAN, C.M.F., REV. THOMAS

Rev. Thomas D. Moran, died on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago, IL, after complications from pneumonia. Father Moran was born on January 27, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois. The son of Thomas and Mary (nee Roach) Moran, he grew up in a family of four children on the south side of Chicago. Fr. Moran is survived by his two remaining living sisters, Joan McGoldrick and Marie Tarpey; beloved uncle of many. The fourth sibling, his brother Roger is also deceased. Father made his first profession as a Claretian Missionary in 1947, perpetual profession in 1950 and was ordained a priest on June 9, 1955.

After his ordination, Fr. Moran served as a teacher and Principal at the Saint Jude High School Seminary in Mokena, Illinois from 1955-1967. At the suggestion of his then Superior, Fr. Moran was assigned to mission in Guatemala, where he spent approximately 25 years of his religious life as a missionary. During his time in Central America, he constantly championed for the rights of the indigenous and working people of the towns of El Estor and Livingston. Fr. Moran says his ministry on behalf of the impoverished Indian families encompassed "the happiest and some of the saddest years of my life as a priest." He was instrumental in helping to establish and promote an elementary school for children who could not write or speak in Spanish, the country's native language. His work in advancing the cause of education resulted in a new Indian school being named in his honor in Livingston.

After returning from Guatemala in 1982, and taking a 2 year sabbatical, Fr. Moran was then assigned to St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Fairfax, Virginia as parish priest from 1984-1990. In 1990, he returned to Guatemala for a second tour of duty for nine years. In 1999 when he returned to the United States, he was assigned as an associate pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on the south side of Chicago, where he served until December of 2011. Visitation on Tuesday, February 27 from 2-9pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church 3200 E. 91st Street, Chicago, IL 60617 with a prayer service at 8pm. On Wednesday, February 28 viewing at 9:00 a.m. until time of Mass of the Resurrection at 9:30 a.m. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery - Hillside, IL. Elmwood Chapel Chicago, IL in charge of arrangement. 773-731-2749. www.elmwoodchapel.com

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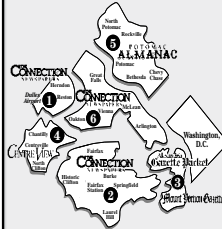
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Paola A. Maldonado-Torres, a senior, of Alexandria was named to the University of Mary Washington's President's List for the fall semester of the 2011-12 academic year.

Mount Vernon High School held its annual Science Fair on Feb. 9. A total of 186 IB and Honors students displayed and presented their projects in 11 different categories that spanned and integrated Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Geosystems. The team of judges for this year's science fair was comprised of staff and community volunteers, as well as scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The judges recognized the top three projects in the fair as overall winners. **Callista Skaggs** was awarded third place overall for her project, The Effect of Plastic Amount on Salt Water Temperature, and **Kevin Ng** received second place for The Effect of Temperature on Magnet Strength. **Benjamin Deneault** was the Grand Prize Winner for his project, The Effect of Filters on Road Salt Run-off.

The University of Mary Washington has announced its Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2011-12 academic year. The following area students are among the 802 students who have been named to the Dean's List:

- ♦ **Andrew C. Cole**, a senior, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **Elizabeth H. Crowe**, a senior, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **Paul C. Eskridge**, a senior, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **Zachary S. Feinstein**, a senior, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **Elizabeth C. Gillispie**, a senior, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **David W. Heller**, a sophomore, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **Rachel L. Martin**, a sophomore, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **Hannah C. Moser**, a junior, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **Emma K. Stotz**, a junior, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **Sarah R. Watson**, a senior, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **Natalie M. Motley**, a freshman, from Alexandria;
- ♦ **Robert E. Schoonover**, a junior, from Alexandria.

West Potomac Academy students in Music and Computer Technology have provided 50 copies of a holiday compilation CD to hospice patients, community physicians, and nursing staff members at Capital Caring of Alexandria for the second year in a row. This service learning project gave the gift of music to hospice patients in their homes and in long term care facilities. The compilation CD consists of original and remixed musical compositions of a variety of music genres of easy listening and holiday favorites.

The MVHS Girls' Track and Field is selling Papa John's Pizza Cards. For \$15, use the coupon card for a buy one-get one free scenario for the upcoming year (equal or lesser value). Contact Coach Melissa Ferry to purchase one: MCFerry@fcps.edu or 703-619-3314.

Katy Bradley, a 2009 graduate of West Potomac High School and resident of Collingwood, has been named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll at Louisiana State University for the Fall 2011 semester. She received this honor based on her perfect 4.0 for the semester while taking 18 credit hours. Katy is majoring in anthropology and is scheduled to graduate in July of 2012.

Leslie Attonehngu Ambe, a resident of Alexandria, has earned an Associate in Applied Science, Administrative/Management Studies from Excelsior College.

Sasha Spriggs is the recipient of the 2011 Pamplin Leader Award at West Potomac High School. The Pamplin Leader is a one-year, \$1,000 tuition scholarship to Virginia Tech. It is presented annually to a top student from each public high school in Virginia. It was established by Robert B. Pamplin, Sr. (VT class of 1933) and Robert B. Pamplin Jr., to acknowledge students with a record of outstanding academic achievement that is balanced with a commitment to community service and leadership experience.

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