

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 30, 2012



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Ready for School

Fairfax County firefighter and professional barber Craig White works on Marquis Hagans. The firefighters hosted back-to-school haircuts at Gum Springs Community Center on Monday, Aug. 27.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 14.

McKay Promises Field Improvements

VOICE tour highlights needs of area youth.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

Touring three neglected athletic fields Aug. 15, Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay and Park Authority board member Edward Batten heard public testimony urging them to take action. Both expressed their intent to make the fields playable and safe.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland was also expected to tour the fields but had to be out-of-town. A follow-up tour is being arranged for him in September.

The tour was arranged by members of VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) and featured the testimony of youth, parents and coaches.

First visiting the field at Muddy Hole Farm, McKay and Batten heard the testimony of Crystal Compton, a booster, neighbor and parent who is co-owner of a non-profit that supports the Fairfax

SEE TOUR, PAGE 3

Rising Hope Food Pantry in Critical Need

"We're getting by day-to-day."

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

Shelves are bare at the Rising Hope Mission Church food pantry, which is in critical need of food donations.

"We're getting by day-to-day, hour-by-hour," said Sarah Heckman who manages the pantry.

"I'm coming in the mornings and really praying God will put food on the shelves. I don't think people know how much it takes to feed over 900 people a week."

Heckman and her husband Craig were formerly missionaries in Micronesia. She is new to the Rising Hope staff.

Donations of food can be brought to Rising Hope Tuesday



PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

"I'm used to giving it to the Lord and trusting He'll provide," said food pantry manager Sarah Heckman.

through Friday.

Though shelves are barren she said she is not feeling worried and apprehensive. "I'm used to giving it to the Lord and trusting He'll provide."

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Westridge of Alexandria	3 BR/2.5 BA	\$2,495	MLS# AX7912756
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Emergency Closes Belvoir Gates

Fort Belvoir Police responded to a report of a possible gunman at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital just before 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 21. The individual was quickly detained without incident. Officials indicate the individual was carrying a training aid and not an actual weapon.

Fort Belvoir initiated gate closures in accordance with established procedures to ensure the continued safety of the entire Belvoir community. The gates were restored to normal operations once the issue was resolved. Response and control of the situation were accomplished so swiftly Belvoir officials had no time to issue the announcement of gate closure before they were reopened.

Boater Education Course Offered

A boater's education course that meets the boating education requirements for Virginia, Maryland and D.C. will be offered by Flotilla 25-8 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary on Oct. 20. The class is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 8592 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

To legally operate a powerboat, proof of completion of an approved boating education course must be carried on the boat.

Contact Paul or Fran Spoltore at 571-257-9692 or email pspoltore@cox.net for more information and an enrollment form.

SFDC To Host Apartment Tour

Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation will host a tour to highlight new multi-family developments in the Huntington-Groveton area. This free event will be held on Saturday Sept. 22, from noon to 4 p.m. The tour will highlight three new luxury apartment developments that have opened in the area in the past three years: The Beacon of Groveton, The Courts at Huntington Station, and 800 Carlyle.

The tour will begin and end at the brand new Beacon of Groveton.

SFDC will host the tour to provide community members an opportunity to view the changing rental housing market firsthand. The developments represent the future of rental housing in this part of the region, with well-appointed units and luxurious amenities like salt water pools, coffee bars, poker/game rooms, and concierge services.

There is no cost to attend the tour, and lunch will be provided. There is only space for 40 people on the tour, and registration will be on a first come, first served basis. To sign up for the event contact David Ben at david.ben@sfdc.org by Friday, Sept. 14.

The Multi-Family Bus Tour is presented by Home Properties, which owns and manages The Courts of Huntington Station, and by Redbrick Development and Wood Partners, who collaborated to develop the Beacon of Groveton.

Honest-1 Auto Care Opens

Honest-1 Auto Care, a full-service auto repair and maintenance franchise that is 100 percent ESA Certified Eco-Friendly, recently opened its newest location at 8648 Richmond Highway in Alexandria. This opening marks the first Honest-1 Auto Care location to open in Virginia.

Honest-1 Auto Care offers specialized, eco-auto care programs for those who want to play a greater part in helping the environment. An example is the ECO TuneUp with a Eco-360 fuel treatment. Through a partnership with Green Earth Technologies, Honest-1 also sells G-OIL Ultimate Biodegradable motor oil, made of renewable animal fats. To further show its commitment to the environment, Honest-1 Auto Care has a partnership with American Forests, a leading nonprofit organization that plants trees for environmental restoration, and has funded the planting of 100,000 trees through the charitable donation of revenues collected from repair orders nationwide.

Sudhakar Tammireddi is co-owner of the new Honest-1 Auto Care shop with his wife Veni. The Tammireddis were born and raised in southeast India and came to America in 1997 to pursue a better life. Sudhakar has a background in mechanical engineering and more than 17 years of experience in the software industry.

The Alexandria Honest-1 Auto Care is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visit www.honest-1.com or call 571-257-9930.

Tour Highlights Needs of Area Youth

FROM PAGE 1

County Colts All Star Football Team.

"This area of Route 1 that resides in Lee District is a high-youth, high-need area," she said.

Yet, as coach Ricky Hairston pointed out, the Muddy Hole Farm practice field is unsafe and needs significant improvement.

"We had several players injured due to holes in the field and several players acquired poison ivy while on the field," he said. "The lack of bleachers, field lines, and goal posts hampered our ability to teach the game properly." The field also has a pronounced slope and needs grading. Additionally, building a pavilion would provide safety in thunderstorms and there should be lights.

Todd Johnson, division director for park operations, said goal posts would be provided, holes filled and bleachers built. He said he would look into lining the field. However, grading the field was too expensive although it may be provided for in the upcoming \$75 million Park Authority bond referendum.

Next touring the rocky field at Mount Vernon Woods which could serve the high concentrations of youth at Audubon, McKay said he'd see to it that the field became a playable soccer field. "It may take us a while but we'll get it done."

Also at Mount Vernon Woods, the group heard from teenager Carla Claire who grew up in Audubon. "Audubon started out as a nice community but the neighborhood changed with violence, drugs, fewer activity for youth and sexual assaults.



PHOTOS BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

Crystal Compton appeals for a safe practice field at Muddy Hole Farm. At left is Coach Ricky Hairston.

The third field visited was a rocky practice field at Mount Vernon High School that needed grass. Rick Genuario, booster president for West Potomac High School, said the West Potomac practice fields were even worse.

Batten, Park Authority board member, urged the group to keep up the pressure on the school board to provide artificial turf fields at both Mount Vernon High School and West Potomac.

"We're on your side," he told the group. "We do need for you to continue providing incentives and do vote for the Park Authority bond."

Audubon resident Linda De Leon presented McKay and Batten with ceremonial keys she had made. "Each of you is the key to make things happen in the Lee District," she said.



Edward Batten, Park Authority board member, urges voting for the upcoming \$75 million park bond. At right is Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay.



Carla Claire tells of violence, drugs and sexual assault in the Audubon neighborhood and appeals for youth activities.

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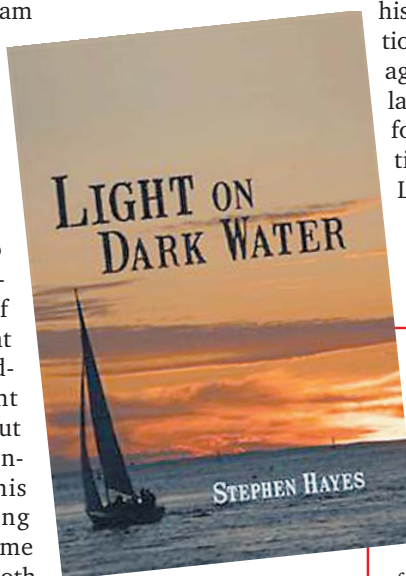
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PEOPLE

Local Author Writes First Novel

Stephen D. Hayes, a Belle Haven resident since 1976, has written a fictionalized story that combines his love of sailing with his wartime experiences gained while serving for two years in the U.S. Navy in the Vietnam war.

A decorated Vietnam veteran (Bronze Star and Navy Commendation Medal) Hayes is now retired and continues to enjoy his love of the sea on his sloop, "Born Too Free." The local resident has used some of his time in retirement to write an action/adventure story, "Light on Dark Water," about an ocean sailing venture that weaves his knowledge of sailing with his past wartime experiences that is both a fiction and personal memoir. The result is a story of a battle for survival at sea written by someone who witnessed the brutality of war firsthand during his service on the Mekong Delta waters of Vietnam. "It is a story that has been in my gut for 43 years," said Hayes. "It is good to now bring it forward."



Hayes grew up in Wilmington, Del. and spent much of his youth sailing the bay waters of the Chesapeake. After college, he joined the Navy and served in Vietnam for two years, earning a Bronze Star and Navy Commendation Medal for heroism in combat. Upon his return to the U.S., he began a career in international development and public relations. He managed the public relations departments at several large trade associations and served as speechwriter for the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. Now retired, he and his wife split their time between Lewes, Del. and Alexandria.

Profile

STEPHEN D. HAYES

Marital Status: Married.
Wife: Barbara

Military Service: U.S. Navy; Lieutenant (jg)

Education: B.A., Dartmouth College; M.A., Georgetown University

Past Employment: Vice president, public affairs, Air Transport Association; managing director, public affairs, American Automobile Association

Personal Interests: Sailing on the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay; member, Lewes, Delaware Yacht Club

Readers interested in Hayes' novella "Light on Dark Water" can purchase it through Amazon.com, or iUniverse.com, or check it out on loan through the Fairfax County or Alexandria City library system.



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PEOPLE



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Dance Class at Hollin Hall Senior Center

Maureen Ribble starts the line down the floor leading Pat Takken, Mary Fierritto, Joanne Cox and Judy Conolly.



Former Ms. Senior Virginia Maureen Ribble leads the students in a dance set to music by Ricky Scaggs.



Virginia Moore laughs as she takes hold of the new steps.

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Alex./Riverwood \$792,500
9301 Ludgate Drive

Beautiful, brick 3-level colonial in prestigious waterfront community of Riverwood, with Potomac water views in the back. One of Riverwood's largest models, this stately home has over 3500 finished sq. ft. 5BR, 3.5 Ba, 2 fireplaces, fully finished basement, 2 car garage. Beautiful hwd floors main and upper level. 2-tier deck overlooks spectacular backyard. 5 min to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 to Reagan Nat'l Airport, and scenic commute along GW Pkwy and Potomac into D.C. This house is a gem!



Alex./Mt. Vernon Grove \$535,000
4112 Scotland Road

Lovely 4BR, 3BA Split in the heart of Mt. Vernon on a spacious .33 acre lot. Beautiful hwd flrs thru out the main lvl, freshly painted interior. Bright & light filled rooms, large 2 car garage & beautifully landscaped yard w/in-ground sprinkler system. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 17 to Old Town, 28 mins to National Airport & 35 mins to Pentagon/D.C. Priced for a quick sale.



Alex./Riverside \$444,900
8406 Wagon Wheel Road

This is a lovely home, beautifully renovated, on a large landscaped lot, in a great-neighborhood, AND...at a great price! Open floor-plan, easy flow, gorgeous hwd flrs main & upper lvls, replacement windows. Beautiful kit w/corrian counters & cherry cabinetry. Remodeled baths. Lots of light. Carport. It's a Gem! Minutes to Fort Belvoir, 15 to Metro and Old Town.



Alex./Wessynton \$649,900
8802 Four Seasons

Large, stunning, contemporary Colonial in popular Mount Vernon Community of Wessynton. This lovely home is highly updated: kitchen remodeled in '07, HVAC & hot water heater replaced '07, energy-efficient replacement windows, freshly painted interior - family room w/vaulted ceiling off kitchen - large beautiful picture windows throughout overlook a large, private, landscaped lot on a quiet cul-de-sac - In-law bedroom & bath on main level - 5 minutes to Fort Belvoir - This is a Keeper!



Alex./Mt. Vernon \$452,900
8620 Curtis Avenue

Lovely, spacious 4BR/3BA Split in the heart of Mt. Vernon - Hardwood floors throughout main level, eat-in kitchen with ceramic tiled floor. Walkout lower level offers a family room w/wood FPL, new carpet and new sliding glass door to a large, fenced back yard. Also, a 4th BR, 3rd bath and den. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 25 to NTL Airport and 30 to D.C./Pentagon. Priced for a quick sale.



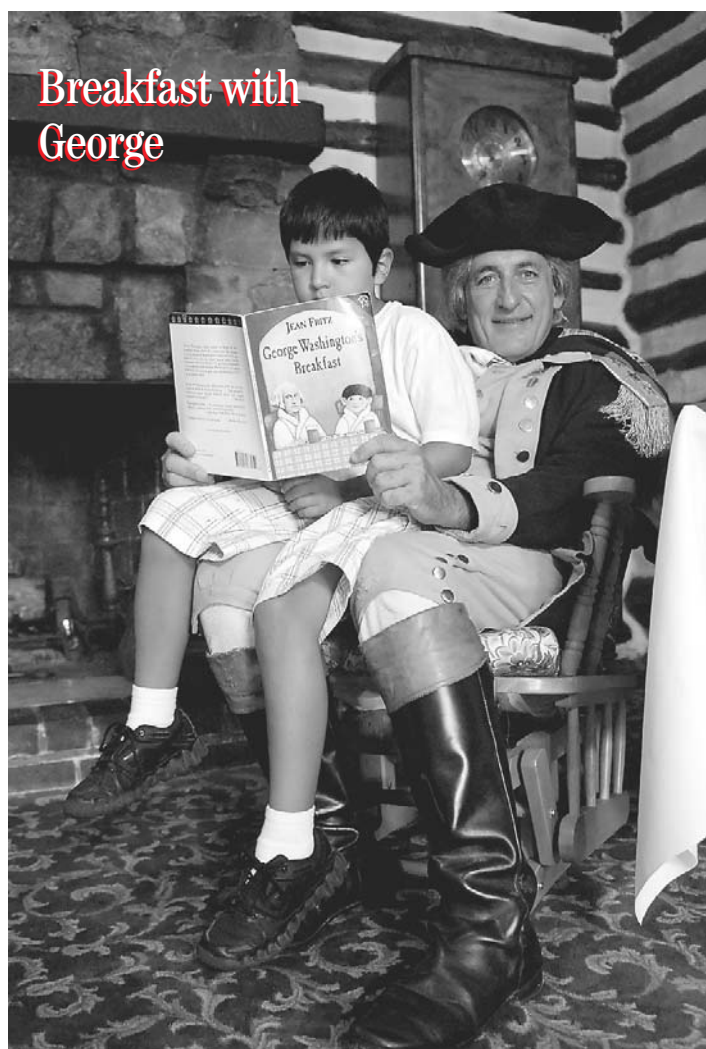
Alex./Wessynton \$669,900
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Breakfast with George

President George Washington reads the book “George Washington’s Breakfast” by Jean Fritz with Jeremy Flores during breakfast and story time with George Washington inside Cedar Knoll Restaurant on Saturday, Aug. 25.



George Washington’s breakfast menu included hoe-cakes topped with butter and maple.

PHOTOS BY
LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/
THE GAZETTE

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is the Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

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 pick-ups, call 703-768-7106, ext. 320. Located at the Mt. Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center at 7838 Richmond Hwy.

MONDAY/SEPT. 10

Voter Registration Volunteers. 7-9 p.m. A training session for volunteers who would like to help

people register to vote in the fall presidential election will be led by Karla Mahoney, retired outreach director of the Fairfax County registrar’s office, at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church (MVUC), 1909 Windmill Ln. Email mary.paden@gmail.com for more information.

MONDAY/SEPT. 24

Horticulturist Exam. The American Horticultural Society has partnered with the American Society for Horticultural Science to offer the ASHS Certified Horticulturist Examination at River Farm. Visit the ASHS website at ashs.org.

A Complete Failure

Fairfax County says Verizon “failed completely” during June 29 derecho.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

The eerie silence is what Steve Souder, Fairfax County’s 911 director, remembers about the night of June 29, when the derecho hit Fairfax County.

“The derecho was fierce and sudden, a lot of things most storms aren’t,” Souder said in an interview on Friday. “We were busy as all get-out.”

The fast-moving storms slammed Fairfax County at about 10:20 p.m., resulting in a record number of emergency calls — a 415 percent jump for 911 dispatchers and a 2,000 percent jump for Fire and Rescue. Approximately 30 minutes later, power flickered and then died in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC), where 46 911-dispatchers were fielding hundreds of calls.

“We can’t afford to be crippled, so our generators came on, and we’re rocking and rollin’ in the blink of an eye,” Souder said.

At 1:30 a.m., the first wave of calls started to subside.

“We’re taking a deep breath and looking ahead to sunrise, when we fully expected another wave of calls as people wake up and take a look around their homes at the damage,” Souder said.

THE NEXT MORNING, as hundreds of thousands of county residents awoke to smashed cars, split fences and downed power lines from uprooted trees, the county’s 911 operators braced themselves for another onslaught of calls.

But the next wave never came.

“The phones just stopped ringing. We were dead in the water ... Never, ever, ever has this happened to us,” said Souder, who has been in emergency operations for 44 years.

It would be several more hours before Souder and other county officials learned that no calls were getting through due to a problem with Verizon. According to Souder, all calls to Fairfax County’s 911 go through the Verizon network, regardless of the commercial carrier service. From 7:36 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 30, 911 service was completely down and for the next three days service was sporadic.

Souder said signs of trouble with Verizon came around 7 a.m., when Verizon sent a cryptic email to Fairfax County staff saying that the Arlington central office was without power or backup battery/generator. The references to Arlington, according to Souder, suggested that 911 service was affected only in Arlington County, so Fairfax County’s 911 staff continued with their normal operations.

“We are completely unaware that incoming 911



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County’s 911 Call Center located in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center, named after former Fairfax County Supervisor Elaine McConnell.

call service from Verizon is slowly dying ... We don’t get officially notified until about 10 hours after [the] whole mess begins, which is completely unacceptable,” Souder said, adding:

“It’s like the captain of the Titanic telling passengers the ship hit an iceberg when the bow is on the bottom of the ocean floor.”

As a result of this critical outage, Fairfax County submitted official comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) detailing what happened, suggestions for Verizon to improve its service and exhibits to show supporting documentation and actions.

“During and after a storm, and in any emergency or disaster, the loss of the public’s ability to contact emergency responders is most profoundly felt,” according to County officials. “Families in darkened homes crushed by fallen trees, motorists unable to get through roadways blocked by downed electric power lines, elderly residents in care facilities without power in temperatures over 90 degrees, and any other citizens in need of emergency services must be able to call 911 to seek assistance.”

— Steve Souder,
Fairfax County 911 Director

“Fairfax County is, and will stay, on top of this,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at large). The county’s response to the FCC, released last Thursday, lays the blame for the outage squarely at the feet of Verizon, and Verizon acknowledged some responsibility in its Aug. 13 report to the MWCOC.

After first denying it had major problems with Arlington County’s 911 service, Verizon officials admitted they did not know 911 emergency service was out in Fairfax County until alerted by county officials.

In the Verizon report, officials said two major generator failures — one in Fairfax and one in the central Arlington office, which routes 911 calls to multiple centers — caused “multiple failures cascading from these specific generator problems.”

SEE COUNTY FILES COMPLAINT, PAGE 22

POLITICS

Known and Unknown

Democrat has detailed agenda for Richmond while his opponents have outlined little.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Voters in next week's special election will be faced with a choice between the familiar and the unknown in the Sept. 4 special election. On one end of the spectrum is Alexandria City Councilman Rob Krupicka, who enjoys name recognition and has a slate of legislative proposals largely aligned with his work on the City Council. At the other end of the spectrum are Republican Tim McGhee and Libertarian Justin Malkin, neither of whom have much to say about what bills they would introduce as freshmen legislators.

"I don't know what bills I would introduce," said McGhee, a web developer who ran an unsuccessful campaign for the Virginia state Senate last year. "There are a lot of people in the world who believe that character of person is more important than exact policy specifics of what is going to be in every paragraph of every bill."

"I can't say that I have a particular agenda in mind as of day one," said Malkin, a credit analyst and first-time candidate. "I think I've kind of got to get my feet wet before I can really figure out exactly what I can accomplish."

Krupicka, on the other hand, has a long list of legislation he's interested in proposing if he wins the special election. If elected, Krupicka said, he would like to focus attention on early childhood education. That's been an ongoing theme of his years in politics over the last decade, although one in four children in Alexandria remain without a quality pre-K-Kindergarten experience. Krupicka

also said he would work to give the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission more revenue authority, reducing the role of the Virginia Department of Transportation. That could mean that the commission would be able to create new taxes, although Krupicka would not endorse any specific proposal.

"That would have to be part of a package," said Krupicka. "I want to move away from VDOT determining our destiny."



Krupicka



McGhee



Malkin

ON THE ISSUES, the three candidates offer variety for voters even if their legislative agenda lacks clarity. Krupicka approaches the campaign from the left, supporting health-care reform and gun control while opposing limitations on abortion. McGhee approaches issues from the right, supporting limitations on abortion while opposing health-care reform and gun control. Malkin approaches the campaign from a Libertarian perspective, opposing health-care reform, gun control and limitations on abortion.

"My campaign is aimed at voters who are socially tolerant and fiscally responsible," said Malkin. "That's what would guide my decision-making in Richmond."

McGhee, on the other hand offers a much more traditional Republican campaign. When asked about the hot-button social issues considered in the most recent General Assembly session, McGhee agreed with every major initiative of the new conservative majority. For example, he supports requiring a transvaginal ultrasound procedure before women can receive an abortion. And he supports the effort to create strict new regulatory standards for abortion clinics, holding them



The 45th District of the House of Delegates stretches from south Arlington through Del Ray and Old Town into the Belle View neighborhood of Fairfax County.

responsible for hospital construction standards.

"Despite what you may hear from the other side on this issue, this industry does have a track record of creating some very dangerous and deadly situations for women," said McGhee. "We need to make sure that as long as we continue to allow this procedure that we provide as much care for those involved."

KRUPICKA OFFERS voters the most familiar face. First elected to the City Council at the age of 32, he spent many years as the youngest elected official in Alexandria. Now he finds himself as the oldest candi-

date in the race, and the one with the most experience as an elected official. He also has an existing campaign team from his failed bid for the Democratic nomination to fill the seat vacated last year by state Sen. Patsy Ticer (D-30), a hotly contested race with Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49). If elected, Krupicka says he would stand up to what he calls "the war on women" in Richmond.

"This should be an easy win for the Democrat," said Toni-Michelle Travis, professor at George Mason University. "The only way Krupicka is in trouble is if voters are outraged by something he did on City Council or he makes some kind of major gaffe, neither of which seem likely."

Our Health Depends on the Quality of Air We Breathe

BY JIM MORAN
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-8)

For too many Americans and Virginians, simply breathing the air can be dangerous. That's especially the case for the 306,000 Virginia children and 96,000 adults who battle asthma, the 1.1 million with cardiovascular disease, the

154,000 with chronic bronchitis and the estimated 411,000 who live in poverty. But it is true for all of us and it's that way because of soot in our air.

Soot, or fine particulate matter (PM2.5), is composed of a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets, usually made up of several different types of harmful chemicals. It's easy to recognize as it con-

tributes significantly to the haze that blankets many cities and national parks. Smokestacks and tailpipes churn out soot and we breathe it in, every day.

The body reacts to it in much the same manner as it does to tobacco smoke. Smaller than a grain of

sand and only visible with a microscope, tiny soot particles travel deep into the lungs when inhaled and swiftly penetrate the bloodstream, immediately increasing the risk of severe respiratory distress, heart attacks and strokes.

Soot kills; leads to hospitalizations; triggers asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes; and has been linked to causing permanent lung tissue and airway damage, re-

productive complications and cancer.

For decades, the Clean Air Act has helped protect the air we breathe by letting us know and track what pollutants make it into our air and allowing us to set targets, make plans, and have accountability for reducing those pollutants over time. And perhaps most importantly, it requires that

SEE THE AIR, PAGE 9

OPINION

First Day of School Coming Up

And never too early for parents to get involved.

The first day of school in most of Northern Virginia is Tuesday, Sept. 4. We don't agree with having the General Assembly dictate the first day of school, requiring the start date to be after Labor Day, but starting school after Labor Day does seem more hospitable than the Aug. 27 start in many other areas.

Attending Back to School Night and making contact with teachers is one of the most important things parents can do to set up the school year for success. Back to School Nights begin the first week of September. Find the date for yours:

Fairfax County <http://www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool/>.

This school year will be the last for superintendent for Fairfax County Public Schools Jack Dale, who has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2013. The School Board will spend much of the coming months in the search

and selection of the new superintendent.

In Fairfax County, students will be encouraged to BYOD. That's "bring your own device." With written parental permission, students will be allowed to connect to school wireless with their smart phones, tablets and laptops. Students and parents should remember that school officials will be able to examine those devices and discipline students for content and activities that are in violation of conduct rules and act accordingly. More at <http://www.fcps.edu/it/byod>.

Reminder: Check Voter Status

While Northern Virginia has remarkable rates of voter registration, many changes to polling places, political district boundaries and rules for voting in Virginia, make it worth double checking your status now. Virginia's front seat role at the Republican National Convention serves as a reminder that every Virginia vote cast will count in November.

To vote on Election Day, you must be regis-

tered at your current address no later than Oct. 15, 2012. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov. There you can also download a voter registration form and mail it to your local elections office address.

Every Virginia voter should expect a new voter identification card in the mail at the beginning of October, very close to the Oct. 15 deadline, so better to check now.

Mail or FAX updates to your local Electoral Board.

Fairfax County Board of Elections,
703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax,
Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205;
email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Correction: Last week's *Newcomers and Community Guide* omitted the name of an independent candidate, Mark T. Gibson, running for U.S. House of Representatives in the 11th District. The same paragraph also mistakenly referred to that district by the wrong district number in a second reference. The correction have been made in our online and PDF editions.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Official Position, Unchanged

To the Editor:

Apparently my letter in the Aug. 9 Gazette hit the target because Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) President Terrence Liercke felt the need to write in last week to try to restore credibility to ASNV's wayward Advocacy

Chair Glenda Booth. In my letter, I pointed out that when Ms. Booth spoke at the Master Planning meeting for Westgrove Park, she claimed she was speaking in opposition to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Area (OLDA) on behalf of ASNV. I quoted Mr. Liercke in support of the fact that ASNV had taken no such official position.

Here is the complete narrative of my e-mail exchange with Mr. Liercke (that was previously fur-

nished to the Gazette Editor):

Dear Mr. Liercke:

I'm writing to inquire as to whether the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia has taken any official written position concerning the proposed off-leash dog area at Westgrove Park in Fairfax County? If so, I'd appreciate receiving a copy of the written position. Thanks,

H. Jay Spiegel

Hi, I just returned from out of town so apologies for the delayed reply. While individual members have been asked to

weigh in on this matter, ASNV has taken no official written position on the issue. Thanks, Terry Liercke

I'll let readers decide if Ms. Booth was authorized to oppose the OLDA on behalf of ASNV or if, rather, she was restricted to personally opposing it without stating, implying or inferring that she was expressing an official position on behalf of ASNV.

At the master planning meeting, Ms. Booth clearly stated that her opposition of the OLDA was on behalf of Friends of Dyke Marsh and, quoting her, "the 5,000 members of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia."

Mr. Liercke's letter to the Gazette, while expressing ASNV's policy of encouraging the maintenance and creation of natural resource areas, enhancing "connectivity" in the area in and adjacent to Westgrove Park, and master planning the park, did nothing to dispute what he said in his e-mail to me. ASNV has taken no official written position concerning the OLDA.

I support Glenda Booth's right to personally oppose the OLDA, but when she drifts off into the netherland of trying to multiply her personal opposition by attaching it to organizations that haven't officially agreed with her, or have not taken an official position she can point to, it would be irresponsible to refrain from pointing it out.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/THE GAZETTE

In Process

Construction workers are busy Aug. 15 as the new George Washington library takes shape at the Mount Vernon Estate.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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OPINION

The Air We Breathe

FROM PAGE 7

we review those standards as science helps us understand new risks.

That's happening now with soot. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reviewing the current standard for soot, last set in 1997. Since then, more than 10,000 studies have demonstrated that soot is a public health threat and that we must ensure that fewer smaller particles are able to get into the air and into our lungs.

Earlier this summer, the EPA proposed a new stronger standard for soot and is accepting public comments on these standards until the end of August. What are the potential benefits of enacting the strongest standard? By cleaning up soot, we can prevent 35,700 deaths, 23,290 visits to the hospital and emergency room, 2,350 heart attacks, 1.4 million cases of aggravated asthma and 29,800 cases of acute bronchitis every year. An estimated 2.7 million days of missed work and school due to air pollution-caused ailments would be avoided annually.

It's August in Washington and

the humidity makes it hard enough to breathe for even the most healthy among us. While we see the haze of air pollution on really bad days, we do not see the particles within it. And those particles are a threat to our health and the health of our families and neighbors. I hope all Virginians and Americans will join me in asking the EPA to stand strong for a strong soot standard. We'll all breathe a bit easier when you do.

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.

Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Gazette
1606 King St.

Alexandria VA 22314

Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail:
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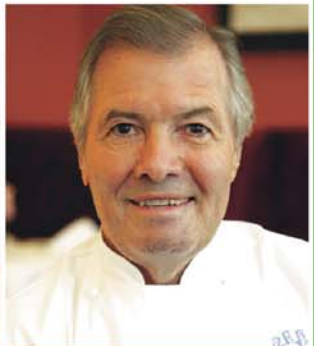
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OPINION

Route 1 and Mount Vernon Community

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

The Mount Vernon area has been my home since 1975. It has been a wonderful place to raise a family and become a part of the community. We are fortunate to have good schools, the Potomac nearby, biking and hiking trails, Dyke Marsh and Huntley Meadows. History is part of our everyday lives with Mount Vernon, the home of our first President George Washington, and Gunston Hall, home to George Mason, often referred to along with James Madison as the "father of our U.S. Bill of Rights." But most importantly, the Mount Vernon area is a real community welcoming everyone of any age.

One of the greatest issues facing us is the congestion on Route 1. I've fought for improvements to Route 1 since I first took office in 1992 as a delegate in the 44th District of Virginia in the General Assembly. And, I've continued that fight since 2000 as the senator from the 36th Senatorial District of Virginia. While in the House of Delegates, I introduced three House Joint (HJ) Resolutions, agreed to by the General Assembly, to mandate the first comprehensive studies of the Route 1 Corridor in Fairfax and Prince William Counties. These studies in 1994, 1996, and 1998 verified that improvement of the highway would result in: increased capacity, improved safety, accommodation of economic redevelopment, and improved pedestrian access.

During this time, the federal, state, and local governments have worked together to bring about much needed positive change to the Route 1 area, the economic route as well as the only direct alternative or emergency diversion route for Interstate 95. It has been a challenge to get funding.



COMMENTARY

In 2011, I introduced and got passed a bill to initiate and fund the Route 1 Transit Study in both Fairfax and Prince William counties. My Transit Study bill was approved and funded.

The Fairfax Department of Transportation is planning to perform an alternative analysis study to recommend various ways to assist with transit in the area. They have applied for a \$2 million grant from the Federal Transit Authority. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit has made available \$500,000 to assist with the alternative analysis study. Completing this alternative study is key to receiving Federal funding whether it is bus rapid transit, eventually

metro, or any other type of transit service. The county is hoping to be able to announce that the Federal grant has been approved soon. It will take two years to complete the transit analysis in Fairfax.

Congressman Jim Moran was able to obtain \$180 million in Federal funding to provide congestion relief exacerbated by the new community hospital at Fort Belvoir between Woodlawn Plantation south to Telegraph Road. In that project, the right of way for future transit will be saved to be ready to hook up with whatever transit decision is made and built. The Federal Highway Administration has held community meetings and should be making a decision as to which alternative can be worked out to widen Route 1 in that area.

Making improvements to Route 1 area transportation and transit are important to our area. With the addition of personnel to Fort Belvoir, we are experiencing more overflow traffic on side streets and on Fort Hunt Road. We must continue to improve our infrastructure to keep our community a thriving but also welcoming to those who make their homes here and travel our roadways.

NEWS BRIEFS

Training for Voter Registration Volunteers

A training session for volunteers who would like to help people register to vote in the fall presidential election will be led by Karla Mahoney, retired outreach director of the Fairfax County registrar's office, at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria Virginia, Monday Sept. 10 from 7-9 p.m. The event is sponsored by the MVUC Social Justice Council.

The training covers how to conduct a voter registration drive, ways to register (in person or by mail), how to check that the registration form is accurately completed, laws about handling and submission of registration forms, registration deadlines, new voter ID laws, and absentee voting. Voters can also use the registration form for an address or name change. The name and address on a voter's ID must match the name and address in the poll book on Election Day.

Trainees will be connected with two local organizations that have been running voter registration drives over the summer. Working at shopping centers and the Huntington Metro, they registered 625 voters in Mount Vernon District north of Fort Belvoir during June and July. Voter registration efforts will

intensify in the fall through the registration deadline of Oct. 15, thus there is a need for more trained volunteers.

Voters can check whether their registration is current at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections. The site also gives the eligibility requirements for early/absentee voting and the dates and hours for in-person absentee voting at the Mount Vernon Government Center on Parker's Lane beginning October 17. For information on the training contact Mary Paden at mary.paden@gmail.com.

Correction

In a story on Aug. 22, 2012, "Shaping By Pass Proposal," the tunnel is for farm equipment not for riders. Also Shelly W. Castle represents the "Save the Woodlawn Stables," a local support group and is not a spokesperson for Woodlawn Stables.



Fall Arts Jubilee

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Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900



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Jolee Rubin 703-548-0697



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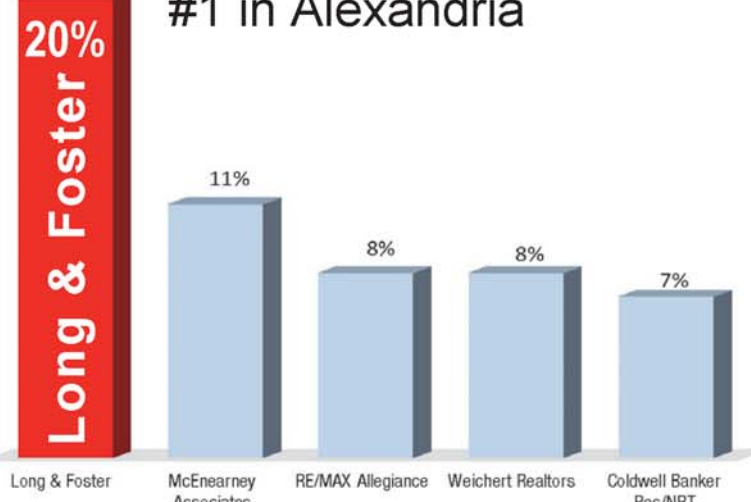
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Franki Roberts 703.898.0840

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Suzanne Briar 703.728.4999

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Elfie Biankini 703.593.2634

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Susan Houghton 703.470.4545
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

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Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264

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Alexandria / Kingstowne
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Renee Reymond 703.507.5330

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Marvin Goldsmith of Marvin's Barber & Beauty in the Marcel Center sets up his tools for a morning of haircuts.



Modine the clown hams it up with Robert Overbey in the gym at the Gum Springs Community Center.

Shear Fun

2nd Annual Cuts for Kids Day.

More than 90 students from throughout the area were treated to free back-to-school haircuts thanks to Alexandria and Fairfax County firefighters who sponsored the second annual Cuts for Kids Day Aug. 27 at the Gum Springs Recreation Center.

"We saw the need for something like this last year and are excited about the success of our Cuts for Kids Day," said Capt. Willie Bailey, an organizer of the event. "I can't thank the barbers enough for donating their time today to help kids get excited and ready for school next week."

Children were entertained by a clown and were treated to face painting and animal balloons courtesy of Apple Credit Union while volunteers from Life Safety used puppets to teach fire safety.

"I can't thank our sponsors enough for all their help in making today a success," Bailey said. "Serving the community and helping kids feel more confident as they head back to school is why we are doing this."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Gary Bailey finishes up a trim on Robert Overbey.



Jeremiah Hagans, a Head-Start student, is Marvin Goldsmith's first client of the day.



Fairfax County Firefighter and professional barber Hakim Newsome and Demari Patterson.

MILITARY NOTES

Navy Seaman Recruit Kwadwo A. Danquah, son of Barima A. Danquah of Alexandria, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Danquah is a 2004 graduate of West Potomac High School of Alexandria.

Air Force Airman Gregory E. Wallace graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the grandson of Irene Kumitis of Orville Street, Alexandria, and Lewis

McDaniel of Little Stone Court, Fayetteville, N.C. Wallace is a 2008 graduate of Brentsville District High School, Nokesville, Va.

Navy Airman Melony Sot, a native of Alexandria, and a 2006 graduate of Thomas Edison High School, is currently deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS TRUMAN in the Gulf of Oman. USS TRUMAN is presently supporting ongoing operations in Afghanistan. Sot is an aviation ordnanceman, responsible for the maintenance, repair and installation of aviation ordnance essential for the protec-

tion of ground forces. Her husband, Joshua Harding, resides in Alexandria.

Margaret A. Haley has entered Basic Cadet Training at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., in preparation to enter the first academic year at the academy. She is the daughter of Louis and Barbara Haley of Westmoreland Road, Alexandria. Haley is a 2010 graduate of West Potomac High School, Alexandria.

Major Jonathan Doyle, the 1st Infantry Division provost marshal, and a

native of Alexandria, was awarded the Order of the Marchaussee July 3 at Contingency Operating Base Basra. The Order of Marechausee is awarded to military police members who uphold the highest service traditions.

Navy Seaman Recruit Shadia T. Everett, daughter of Ronnie Everett, of Alexandria, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Eugene D. Bush graduated from

basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Bush is a 2003 graduate of Bryant High School, Alexandria.

Navy Seaman Apprentice Ryan P. Glass, son of Angelique R. Glass of Alexandria, and Pat Glass, of

SEE MILITARY, PAGE 21

ENTERTAINMENT

Jacques Brel is Alive and Well at MetroStage

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
METROSTAGE, PRODUCING
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER

Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living is Paris is a classic. It landed in New York in 1968 with an English translation and played at the Village Gate for four years. Since then it has played all over the world and is a beloved compilation of music by Brel, an artist growing up in Brussels, then living and performing in Paris. His music was translated by Eric Blau

and Mort Shuman and “Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living is Paris” introduced this stunning, passionate music to American audiences. The rest, as they say, is history.

I was introduced to Brel’s music in the ’80s at d.c. space, a funky little performance venue on the corner of 7th and E St. NW (now a Starbucks). I still own the original vinyl cast album. It has been a favorite of mine for decades. And

now MetroStage is producing it, opening our season with an amazing cast and band

to celebrate this brilliant music which covers life and death, love and loss and all of the human experiences in between. It is just as relevant today as it was when it was first introduced to English-speaking audiences of the late ’60s.

In 2006 a new production of Brel opened at the Zipper Theatre in New York.

MetroStage’s 2012-13 Season

Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin announces that the 2012-13 season will open with the musical **Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris**, featuring Natascia Diaz from the 2006 production of the off-Broadway revival at the Zipper Theatre, and a remarkable cast of Bobby Smith, Bayla Whitten and Sam Ludwig. Aug. 30-Oct. 21, 2012.

The revival of **A Broadway Christmas Carol** will follow just in time for the holidays, featuring Michael Sharp as Scrooge and Tracey Stephens and Russell Sunday playing all of the other characters in this parody of *A Christmas Carol* using Broadway showtunes. Nov. 15-Dec. 23, 2012.

The world premiere of **Ladies Swing the Blues**, book and lyrics by Thomas W. Jones II and original music by William Knowles, will feature Roz White, Lori Williams, Yvette Spears, Sandy Bainum, and Anthony Manough. This is a new work that includes many MetroStage artists. A staged reading of it will be part of Page to Stage at the Kennedy Center on Saturday, Sept. 1 at 4 p.m. at the Terrace Theatre. Jan. 24-March 17, 2013.

The area premiere of Michael Hollinger’s **Ghost-Writer** will conclude the season. It will feature Susan Lynskey (last seen at MetroStage in a featured role in *Girl in a Goldfish Bowl*). John Vreeke returns to direct. April 18-May 26, 2013.

MetroStage is located at 1201 N. Royal St. in Alexandria in North Old Town. Tickets are \$48-55 and may be ordered by calling 1-800-494-8497 or online at boxofficetickets.com. For group sales and information call the theatre at 703-548-9044. Visit www.metrostage.com.



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER BANKS

Natascia Diaz, Sam Ludwig, Bayla Whitten and Bobby Smith will appear in MetroStage’s “Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living is Paris” through Oct. 21.

One of the acclaimed actors in that production was our very own Natascia Diaz. We are delighted that she will be headlining this great cast, also comprised of Bobby Smith, Sam Ludwig and Bayla Whitten. Natascia is well known to our audiences from our world premiere of “ROOMS a Rock Romance,” where she won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical. She has also been at MetroStage in “Glimpses of the Moon” and, most recently, “Savage in Limbo.” Nationally she has been seen in “Cabaret” and “The

Capeman” and other Broadway and national tours. Bobby Smith, you will remember from our hilarious parody “Musical of Musical” (The Musical!), Sam Ludwig was seen opposite Natascia in “Glimpses of the Moon,” and Bayla is a beautiful young ingénue we will be introducing to MetroStage audiences for the first time.

“Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris” will run at MetroStage through Oct. 21. With this great cast, great band and great music this production of this classic show is a must-see this fall.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

THURSDAY/AUG. 30

Kenny Lattimore. 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. The Music Hall. Visit www.kennylattimore.com.

Leukemia/Lymphoma. 7 p.m. Free. Make a difference in the fight against blood cancer. Team In Training will be at Residence Inn Old Town to discuss upcoming races, registration, and training tips. Visit www.teamintraining.org/nca/ or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TNTNCA.

AUG. 30 THROUGH OCT. 21

Jacques Brel. The classic compilation of Brel’s brilliant music about life and death, love and loss, will be in performance at MetroStage Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets, \$48-55, at 800-494-8497 or www.metrostage.org. MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Call 703-548-9044.

FRIDAY/AUG. 31

BIG CHALK DRAW. 8-10 a.m. Community art event in Art at the Center’s parking lot at 2804

Sherwood Hall Lane. Free. Donations of new backpacks and school supplies to benefit families served by Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services needed. Visit www.artatthecenter.org

Beatlemania Magic. The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. 8 p.m. \$25. A national touring Beatles Tribute band recreating the early Beatles concerts with identical costumes, equipment and spot on harmonies. Visit <http://thecarlyleclub.com> or call 703-548-8899

SATURDAY/SEPT. 1

Alexandria Art Market. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Alexandria’s newest outdoor art market featuring a variety of original artwork from more than 25 artists displayed for sale including painting, photography, pottery, jewelry, and glasswork. Market includes live music and food from local restaurants. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-838-4827.

THROUGH SEPT. 2

Boarderlines. Thursday-Sunday. Free. This exhibit is an individual and group journey across “boarders” and features a silent auction, 2-D and 3-D gallery artwork, and take-away art. At the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center,

2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.theDelRayArtisans.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 5

“Out of the Past.” 7 p.m. Free. Starring Robert Mitchum, Kirk Douglas, and Jane Greer. Part of the monthly Film Noir Series at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., in Del Ray. After the movie, viewers are invited to discuss the film at St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub at 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. Call 703-746-1705.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 6

Fashion’s Night Out Alexandria. Presented by Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association. 6-11 p.m. Participating boutiques, restaurants and businesses throughout Alexandria. Visit www.fashionsnightoutalexandria.com

Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade retailer on King Street in Old Town, will be transformed into an oriental rug showroom, when more than 300 rugs, all hand made in Pakistan by fairly paid adults, arrive for the annual 4-day sale. Ten Thousand Villages is located at 915 King St. Call 703-684-1435.

Free Rug Seminar. 7 p.m. Enjoy the seminar at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Call 703-684-1435 to

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16



IMAGES COURTESY OF

Alexandria King Street Art Festival

Historic King Street from Washington Street to the waterfront is transformed into an outdoor art gallery with original fine artwork by over 200 artists. Sept. 8-9, Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit AlexandriaVA.com, 703-746-3301 or www.ArtFestival.com, 561-746-6615. Free.

Art Activated 2012

Part of the Alexandria King Street Art Festival

Saturday, September 8th
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www.torpedofactory.org

ENTERTAINMENT

Alexandria's Ready for Fashion's Night Out

Fashion's Night Out Alexandria will run from 6-11 p.m., with shopping until 10 p.m., on Sept. 6. More than 80 boutiques, restaurants and other specialty stores have signed up for the inaugural celebration, and will present the City one big shopping party with a variety of store events, including cocktails and restaurant specials, music, fashion shows, trunk shows, makeovers, designer appearances and exclusive style events.

Fashion's Night Out, launched in 2009 by Vogue's editor-in-chief Anna Wintour, is a global initiative to celebrate fashion, culture, lifestyle, restore consumer confidence and boost the retail industry's economy. In 2011, FNO was celebrated with more than 4,500 events in the U.S., including designer appearances, restaurant specials, retail happenings and other special events.

FNO Alexandria is presented by the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association and endorsed by the City of Alexandria. In addition to store events, the evening will feature some fashionable public events:

Discover Fashion and Del Ray

East Oxford & Mount Vernon Avenue, 6-9 p.m.

The Del Ray neighborhood has big plans for their fashion-themed affair as they host the City's "fashion block party." Events include a runway show, live music, performance art and a few surprise performances. The fashion show will present some familiar fashionistas, mommies-to-be, hip-hop kids, beautiful brides, and stylin' pooches.

Fashion Show

Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. 8-9 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.)

The Torpedo Factory Art Center, located on Alex-



Alexandria
CELEBRATES

**FASHION'S
NIGHT
OUT**

andria waterfront, will host Fashion's Night Out Alexandria's Inaugural Fashion Show. With Alexandria filled with hip and trendy boutiques, the event will showcase the City's historic ambiance and contemporary flair for fashion.

The Torpedo Factory will also have a collection of fashionable artwork from area artists displayed throughout the gallery. Internationally known couture milliner and Art League instructor Jan Wutkowski will join with a

special collection of millinery creations made for the evening's runway show, and a video demonstration showcasing her inspiration and process for one of the featured headpieces. Guests will be treated to celebrity runway appearances, beauty treatments, wine sips by Barefoot Winery, and wonderful bites by Bread & Chocolate.

Shoppers & Visitors Kiosk

King Street & Fayette Street, 6-9 p.m.

Fashion's Night Out Alexandria Visitor Kiosk (located on the intersection of King Street & Fayette Street) will offer cool activities, music, giveaways, and event maps. The first 100 shoppers who visit the kiosk will receive a swag bag of items from Alexandria businesses. Shoppers can strike a pose in our "Fashionable Photo Booth" and enjoy goodies from the evening's event sponsors.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 15

reserve a seat.

First Thursday in Del Ray. 6-9 p.m. Celebrating Fashion's Night Out with the theme "Always in Fashion" during this month's family-friendly street festival. Festivities along Mount Vernon Avenue include music, exhibitions by local organizations, and businesses open late with activities. At Mount Vernon Avenue. Call 703-746-3301.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 7

Jazz Supper Under the Stars. 5-9 p.m. An evening of food and jazz with Al Williams' jazz band and catering by Hard Times Cafe. Hosted by the Old Town Business & Professional Association and the King Street Gardens Park Foundation. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. At King Street Garden Park, Diagonal Road and King Street. Call 703-683-0333.

Theater Night. Sponsored by Alexandria Bar Association Beat the Odds Committee. The evening features a reception and a silent auction (start at 6:30 p.m.), and the riotous play "Funny Money (8 p.m.)." at the Alexandria Little Theatre. 600 Wolfe St. \$35. Call 703-548-1106 or email alexbar@alexandriabarva.org.

SEPT. 7 THROUGH 30

'It Runs in the Family' art exhibit.

Artists explore many ways art runs in families; presenting collections of their own and their family's artworks. Details at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

Family Fun: Autumn is for Apples. 4603 Green Spring Rd. Code: 290 484 7501. \$6/person. Children ages 5 and older with registered paying adult. Listen to the story of Johnny Appleseed and take a walk through our orchard. Register on-line at www.greenspring.org or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Green Spring Gardens. Flourishing, Flowering Salvias. 4603 Green Spring Rd. Code: 290 488 6301. 9:30-11 a.m. \$22. Make room in your garden for fall blooming salvias. Take home a sample of hardy salvia. Register on-line at www.greenspring.org or call 703-642-5173.

Art Activated. 12-4 p.m. This free, 6th annual event takes place during the Alexandria King Street Art Festival. Studios and galleries will be open to meet the artists. Demonstrations, hands-on projects, and activities throughout the afternoon. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Call 703-838-4565.

Melissa Ferrick. 7:30 p.m. The singer-songwriter and indie trailblazer returns to The Birchmere with special guest Astra Via. At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$25. Tickets at

www.ticketmaster.com or visit www.birchmere.com.

SEPT. 8 THROUGH 29

"Funny Money." Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m. \$17-20. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 9

Autumn Cabaret. 7 p.m. An evening of song, dance, variety and comedy at the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. \$20. Call 703-941-7464.

Matinee Film. 2 p.m. Featuring: Dave (PG-13). The Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702. Free. Refreshments will be served.

Green Spring Gardens. Springfield Art Guild Art Reception. 4603 Green Spring Rd. 1-3 p.m. Free. Meet local artists from the Springfield Art Guild and their mixed media show of botanical art. Light refreshments served. Call 703-642-5173.

Family Concert. 7:30 p.m. Melissa Cox, at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. At the MVUC Chapel, 1909 Windmill Lane. Donations will help Beacon House, which provides mentoring, athletic, and nutritional programs to at-risk children in the Edgewood Terrace community of Washington, D.C. Visit www.mvuc.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

'Best Little Whorehouse in Texas'

Muscial comedy is running through Oct. 7 at Signature.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

It was known as The Chicken Ranch, a century-old "business" in La Grange, Texas, that earned its nickname for accepting chickens as payment for services rendered. But when a crusading TV reporter makes the brothel the subject of an expose, the legendary house of ill repute is forced to close, providing the basis for "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," a boot-scooting musical now playing at Signature Theatre in Arlington.

Originally staged on Broadway in 1978 (followed by the movie starring Dolly Parton and Burt Reynolds), "Whorehouse" stars the incomparable Sherri L. Edelen as Miss Mona, the proprietor of the Chicken Ranch. Edelen brings a sultry sexiness to the role, exuding charisma and charm in a range of songs from "A Lil' Ole Bitty Pissant Country Place" to the poignant closing strains of "A Friend to Me."

In addition to Edelen, the exceptional cast

includes Thomas Adrian Simpson, who turns in a stellar performance as Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd, a hot-tempered good-old-boy with a tender spot for Miss Mona. Simpson delivers his many expletive laden monologues with conviction and flair, while his rich vocals shine in "Good Old Girl."

Nova Y. Payton returns to Signature as Jewel, Miss Mona's trusted assistant who, along with the ensemble of "working girls," brings down the house with a rocking rendition of "Twenty-Fours of Lovin'."

With relentless energy and humor, Christopher Bloch commands the stage as the pompous and pious Melvin P. Thorpe, the TV reporter hell bent on shuttering the whorehouse, while Dan Manning is the Texas governor who comically sidesteps his political dilemma.

The entire ensemble is equally impressive, with the male Aggie Boys especially memorable in the sizzling, athletic routines that literally bare all save for the strategic placement of a few 10-gallon Stetsons.

Music and lyrics are by Carol Hall and book by Larry L. King and Peter Masterson. Gabriele Mangiante provides the musical direction of the seven-piece orchestra with choreography by Karma Camp.

The original Chicken Ranch may have ceased operating in 1973, but under the masterful eye of Signature's Artistic Direc-



Sherri L. Edelen (as Miss Mona, center) leads the cast of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" in the production's toe-tapping finale. The musical comedy "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" plays at Arlington's Signature Theatre through Oct. 7, 2012. Visit www.signature-theatre.org.

tor Eric Schaeffer, the legacy of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" lives on in one of the most entertaining, toe-tapping productions of the year.

"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" is

playing now through Oct. 7 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. For tickets or more information, call 703-820-9771 or visit www.signature-theatre.org.

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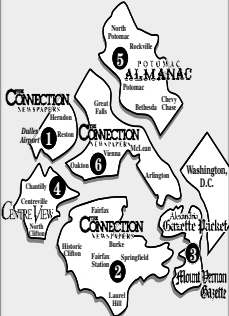
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NEWSPAPERS

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements



Harold Wilson Holtzclaw

4 October 1928 – 24 August 2012

Retired Colonel Harold Wilson Holtzclaw, PhD, 83, long-time resident of Alexandria, VA, passed away on 24 August of natural causes.

Hal was born in Harrodsburg, KY on 4 October 1928. He attended Breckenridge Training School in Morehead, KY, as well as the University of Kentucky where he received a Bachelor of Arts in 1949 and a Master of Arts in 1950. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa. He received a PhD from the University of Denver in 1963. He also attended the National War College.

Hal received a reserve commission in the United States Air Force in June 1950 and served on active duty from 1956 to 1985. His assignments included Chairman of Government and Associate Professor, Department of Political Science USAF Academy 1960-67. He received the Legion of Merit, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He retired from the faculty of the National Defense University in 1991.

Hal was a highly respected bridge player, achieving the rank of Gold Life Master. He won dozens of events at sectional, regional and national tournaments sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League. He was also very involved in Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, sitting on the Board of Trustees for a time and was always a respected elder. Hal was also an inveterate traveler, an insatiable reader, and a lifelong Redskins fan with a penchant for friendly poker games.

Harold was married to Margaret "Em" Holtzclaw for 40 years; she left this Earth in 1996. He then shared many years with Isa McGuire of Bradenton, FL.

Hal is survived by his children Sheryl Gusman of Sterling, VA, James Holtzclaw of Savannah, GA, and Debra Early of Charlottesville, VA and 11 grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Claudia Holtzclaw of Sarasota, FL and brother Barry Holtzclaw of Dayton, OH.

There is a visitation at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314, on 14 September from 6-8 pm. A memorial service will be held at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, VA 22307, 15 September at 11 am.

He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery next to Em and receive full honors.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Hospice of Northern Virginia, Hospice of Northern VA, 2900 Telesar Court, Falls Church, VA 22042

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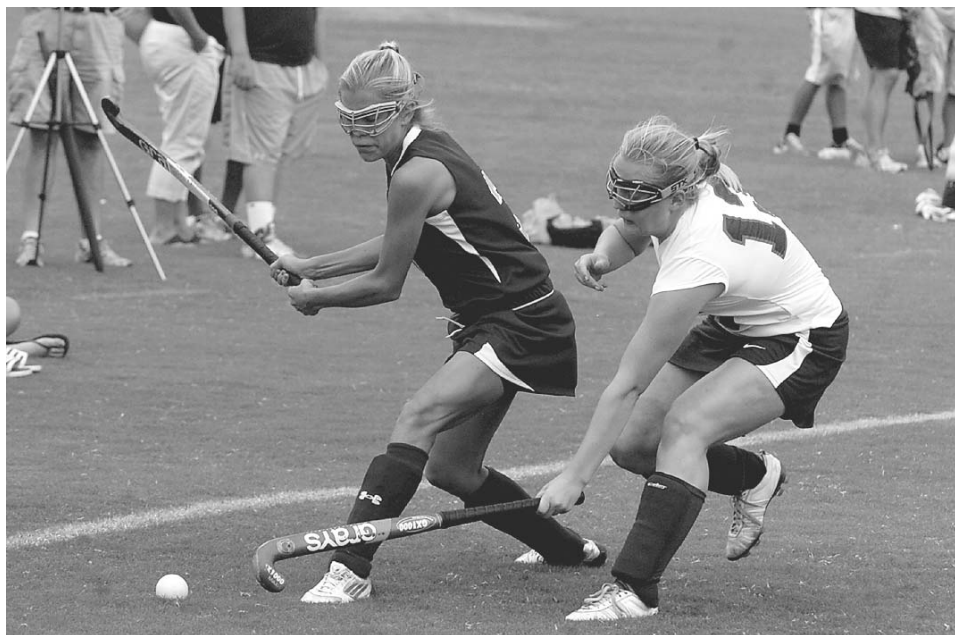
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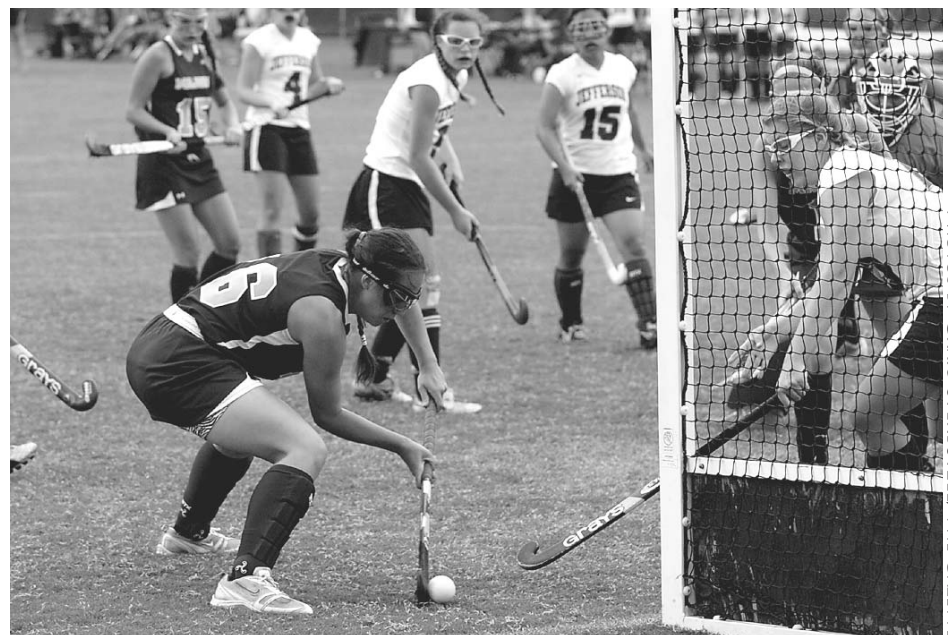


Blue Ridge
Mountain Views!





Mount Vernon senior Ashleigh Sable scored two goals in the “Under the Lights” field hockey tournament Aug. 24-25 at Lee High School in Springfield.



Senior forward Gabby Ocker and the Mount Vernon field hockey team won their pool at the “Under the Lights” tournament Aug. 24-25 at Lee High School in Springfield.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERNUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Field Hockey Led by Senior Class

Majors have played in three consecutive district championship games.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon field hockey team has appeared in each of the last three National District championship games, capturing titles in 2009 and 2010.

Six games into the 2012 season and it doesn't appear the Majors plan on slowing down.

Mount Vernon is off to a 4-1-1 start, including a 3-0-1 performance at the “Under the Lights” tournament Aug. 24-25 at Lee High School in Springfield. The Majors won

their pool, which included West Springfield, Thomas Jefferson and Oakton.

After dropping its season opener against West Springfield, 2-0, on Aug. 22, Mount Vernon faced Oakton on the first day of “Under the Lights.” The Majors beat the Cougars, 1-0, on an unassisted goal by senior forward Lizzy Sagar. Later in the day, Mount Vernon tied West Springfield, 1-1, in a rematch with the Spartans. Sagar again scored for the Majors, this time on an assist from senior forward Tamara Warren.

“We were a little bit slow and disorganized when we played Oakton and they actually outplayed us for a good portion of the game, but our goal was a good goal,” Mount Vernon head coach Jessica Edwards (formerly Hebel) said. “... Our second game against West Springfield, we played really well. I was very happy with the way that we passed that game.”

On the second day of the tournament, Mount Vernon beat Thomas Jefferson, 3-0, and Hayfield, 3-0. Warren, Sagar and senior midfielder Serenna Schantz scored against TJ, with two assists coming from sophomore defender Amber Sable. Against Hayfield, senior midfielder Ashleigh Sable scored a pair of goals and Warren finished with one goal and one assist.

Two days after the tournament, Mount Vernon defeated rival West Potomac, 3-0, on Aug. 27. The Majors have outscored opponents 11-3 through six games.

Edwards said this year's Mount Vernon team has a strong senior class, including five athletes who played varsity field hockey as freshmen: Warren, Schantz, Ashleigh Sable, defender Megan Cole and midfielder Jane Heller, who returns after tearing the ACL and meniscus in her right knee last season.

“It's so much fun,” Heller said of returning to action. “It's amazing. I really missed it after a whole year of not playing and it feels great to be on the field.”

Edwards said Heller has strong leadership qualities and is a good decision maker.

“Even though we lost her as a player on the field last year,” Edwards said, “she was never lost as part of the team because she was always there.”

Edwards said Cole and senior Sabrina Smith are two of the Majors' top defensive players. Sagar and senior forward Gabby Ocker are standouts at forward. Freshman midfielder Jessica Miller could be a con-

tributor during the season. Sophomore goalkeepers Lindsay Gardiner and McKenzie Moore have rotated.

Mount Vernon will open National District competition at 7 p.m. on Sept. 4 at home against Wakefield.

“It's definitely one of our goals to be the district champions again, but we really try to focus more on the process of what we need to do instead of the outcome,” Edwards said. “Hopefully if our processes are good, are outcome will be good, too.”

SCHOOL NOTES

The following students enrolled at Virginia Tech were named to the dean's list for the spring 2012 semester:

Kelly E. Wood is a senior majoring in political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Charlotte M. Crump is a sophomore majoring in history in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Adam D. Frank is a junior majoring in sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Travis E. Frank is a junior majoring in landscape architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Alan A. Gomez is a senior majoring in electrical engineering in the College of Engineering.

Andrew K. Hicks is a sophomore majoring in construction engineering and management in the College of Engineering.

Lauren E. Kurz is a senior majoring in marketing management in the Pamplin College of Business.

Juan G. Montolin is a junior majoring in geography in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

Katherine A. O'Neill is a freshman majoring in environmental science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

James Riddle is a sophomore majoring in computer engineering in the College of Engineering.

Rebecca J. Quigley is a senior majoring in psychology in the College of Science.

Sarah M. Baldwin is a sophomore majoring in biological sciences in the College of Science.

The following **Virginia Military Institute**

cadets were named to the Deans' List for the second semester of academic year 2011-12.

♦**William D. Alewine** - A senior from Alexandria, is majoring in Economics/Business. Cadet Alewine's parents are MAJ William R. Alewine and Ms. Sherry A. Smith.

♦**Alexandra L. Hastings** - A sophomore from Alexandria, is majoring in Modern Languages & Cultures. Cadet Hastings's parents are Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Hastings Jr.

♦**Michael W. Hixson** - A senior from Alexandria, is majoring in Chemistry. Cadet Hixson's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Stanley G. Hixson.

♦**Kenia R. Hurtado** - A junior from Alexandria, is majoring in International Studies. Cadet Hurtado's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Antonio L. Hurtado.

♦**Brett R. Kitchen** - A senior from Alexandria, is majoring in Computer Science. Cadet Kitchen's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Bruce R. Kitchen.

♦**Ray D. Montolin** - A junior from Alexandria, is majoring in International Studies. Cadet Montolin's parent is Ms. Lydia G. Padilla.

♦**Ryan F. Schaedel** - A recent graduate from Alexandria. Cadet Schaedel's parents are Mr. & Mrs. Stephen F. Schaedel.

The following Virginia Tech students were among those honored at the university's spring commencement ceremony.

Dale Shifflett received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree in mechanical engineering from the College of Engineering.

Michael Adu received a Bachelor of Science degree summa cum laude in biological sciences from the College of Science.

SPORTS BRIEF

Mount Vernon Football To Host West Potomac

The Mount Vernon football team will host West Potomac at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 30. West Potomac has won the last five meetings between the rival schools, outscoring the Majors 148-30 during the last three matchups.

Mount Vernon is led by third-year head coach Barry Wells. West Potomac is led by first-year head coach Jeremiah Davis.

MILITARY

FROM PAGE 14

Alexandria, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Glass is a 2004 graduate of West Potomac High School of Alexandria.

Army Reserve Pvt. Hilary M. Kiundi has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. Kiundi is the brother of Felix Kiundi of Skyhill Road, Alexandria.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Theodore J. Kent, son of Gretchen Rhedman of Alexandria, and Thomas Kent, of Richmond, recently graduated from the Marine Corps Basic Combat Engineer Course at Marine Corps Engineer School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N. C. Kent is a 2007 graduate of Fork Union Military Academy of Fork Union, Va.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian P. Krivonak, son of Leanne Krivonak of Alexandria, along with 1,000 fellow sailors and Marines on USS New Orleans (LPD-18), home ported in San Diego, Calif., recently embarked on a scheduled three-month deployment in support of Southern Partnership Station (SPS). Krivonak is a 1998 graduate of West Potomac High School of Alexandria, and joined the Navy in April 2007.

Air Force Airman Michael J. Vega graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Michelle Wulfaert of Desiree St., Alexandria. Vega is a 2006 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria.

Marine Corps Pfc. Kevin I. Carrillo, a 2009 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria, recently completed the Marine Corps Basic Enlisted Supply Course. Carrillo joined the Marine Corps in December 2009.

Navy Seaman Marjorie J. Florence, daughter of Edith B. Guitlen of Alexandria, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Evan W. Godwin graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Cheryl Godwin of Observation Way, Alexandria.

Navy Seaman Recruit Gina L. Caianiello, daughter of Elaine M. Reibsam of Hollister, Calif. and Joseph P. Caianiello, of Alexandria, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

More than 500 members of the New York Air National Guard received recognition for their service in a combat zone on Sunday, Sept. 12 during the 106th Rescue Wing Hometown Heroes Salute ceremony. 2nd Lt. **Eugene A. Finkle** from Alexandria, assigned to the 106th Maintenance Squadron was recognized for service overseas. The Hometown Heroes program recognizes Airmen who deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom (operations in Afghanistan) since Sept. 11, 2001.

John T. Conway of Alexandria earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and commissioned as a

second lieutenant into the Army's infantry branch. He is the son of Randall and Brenda Conway of Alexandria and graduated from West Potomac High School in Alexandria.

Master Sergeant David Biscaro from Alexandria has reenlisted in the New York Army National Guard to continue service with the Joint Force Headquarters.

Navy Seaman Fayette A. Hardwick, son of Regina A. Hardwick of Alexandria, and Aurelio A. Padmore, of Falls Church, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Hardwick is a 2007 graduate of Bryant High School of Alexandria.

Mende J. Wentzel graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. The cadet is a student at James Madison University, Harrisonburg. She is the daughter of Bruce M. and Mende M. Wentzel of Budd Way, Alexandria.

Wentzel is a 2007 graduate of Thomas A. Edison High School, Alexandria.

Army National Guard Pfc. Jimmie H. Robinson has graduated from basic military training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga., under the Split Option Enlistment Program. The program allows high school students between their junior and senior year to attend and complete the Army National Guard or Reserve six-week basic training program during the summer of their junior year. He is the son of Jimmie and Rika Robinson of Kidd St., Alexandria. Robinson is currently attending Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria.

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State Commits \$1 Million to SySTEMic Solutions

General Assembly provides funding over next two years towards science and technology courses.

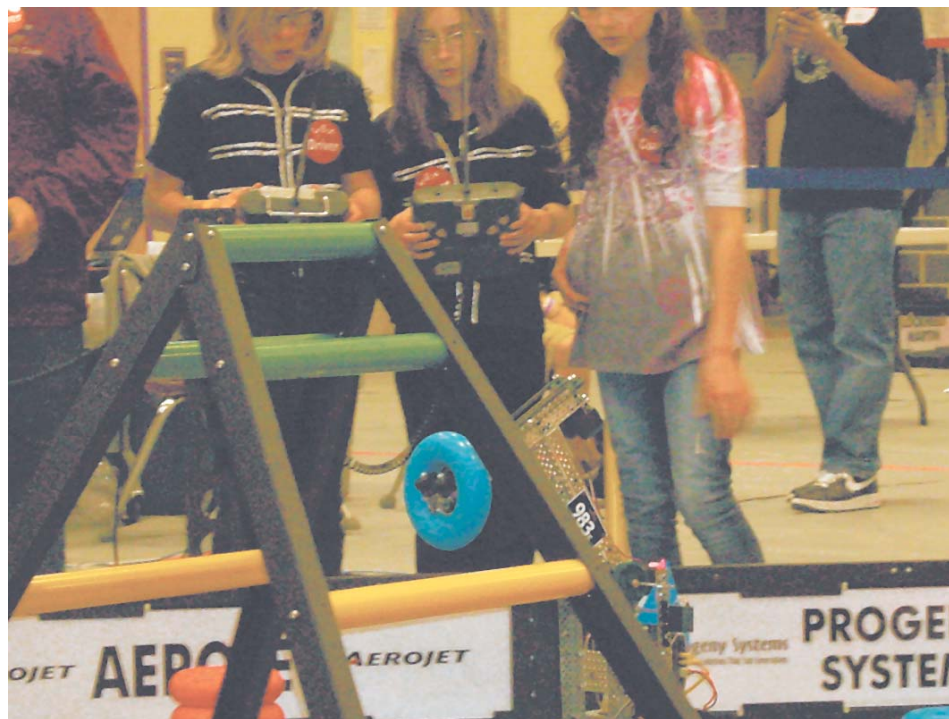
By ERIK HEANEY
THE GAZETTE

Despite a high unemployment rate, many companies in the technology and research industries have unfilled positions because they cannot find enough skilled workers. In response to this maldistribution of skills, the General Assembly plans to commit \$1 million over the next two years to expand Northern Virginia Community College's SySTEMic Solutions program.

The ultimate goal of the program is to encourage K-12 students to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), earn a two-year or four-year degree, and become employed by a technology company. Since its inception nearly three years ago, over 1,000 students have entered into the "pipeline," a term used to describe the education-to-occupation goal.

The \$1 million commitment will help expand the program into Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun school districts. It is estimated that by 2015, 3,000 students will be in the SySTEMic Solutions pipeline.

Students in Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park have been introduced to the sciences early. Engineers from local technology companies such as Aerojet and Micron Technology visit those elementary school classrooms and show stu-



Students engage in hands-on activities to encourage students to focus on science and math.

dents dry ice and have them make lemon-powered batteries.

"What we're really hoping is to catch you before you're in high school," said Amy Harris, director of NOVA's SySTEMic Solutions.

Additionally, the program offers extracurricular activities and summer camps. In elementary schools, students can participate in an after-school robotics team called First Lego League. There are middle school and high school teams as well, so that the program can continue to make STEM fun and engaging. This past April, a Manassas Park Middle School team qualified and participated in the World VEX Robotics tournament in Anaheim, Calif.

"Students are making connections with what they are learning in robotics and what they are learning in the classroom," said superintendent of Manassas Park Public Schools, Bruce McDade, in an email. "Plus, in order to be a part of the program, students must be successful in the classroom so the program serves as a great motivational tool as well."

In high school, students are then given STEM counselors who help with course selection, study skills and preparation for

college. Students are also visited by engineers and researchers, who give advice about colleges and careers. Finally, when they are enrolled in George Mason University or NOVA, students have access to internships.

But SySTEMic Solutions hasn't just benefited public schools. The program has been a boon to local technology and research companies, who are dependent upon a highly skilled workforce and recognize the lack of STEM funding. Corporate partners, which include Micron Technology, Aerojet Corporation, Insystech and Lockheed Martin, help fund programs and educate students about job opportunities.

For nearly three years, Aerojet has contributed \$45,000 towards SySTEMic Solutions. "We do this because this could be our future workforce," said Wanita Garcia of Aerojet. "We recognize that our school systems need assistance from industries."

SySTEMic Solutions is a part of a greater effort for NOVA to collaborate with local companies to better prepare students for employment. Micron Technology used NOVA educators in 2005-6 to retrain their workforce after automating one of their semiconductor factories.

Most students in the program are first generation college-goers and many of come from moderate or lower income families.

Both educators and engineers seem to agree that further funding in STEM will help reverse the negative economic trends. "We need to prepare our students for the opportunities that exist, and will only magnify in the future, in our very own backyard," said McDade. "We need well-qualified students to make our workforce strong so that we may compete in the global economy."

County Files FCC Complaint

FROM PAGE 6

Verizon also reported that it lost visibility over its own network, so that technicians did not know that power was draining from battery-operated generators until it was too late.

"When the batteries in the Arlington central office were being depleted ... why was there a delay in deploying additional resources to remedy the situation before the Arlington facility went dark?" asked county officials, in concluding statements in the FCC report. "Verizon's 911 service in Fairfax County failed completely during the June 29, 2012, derecho. Both immediate and longer-term changes are needed to improve 911 service in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area."

THE CURRENT FCC REPORT is one of several investigations launched into the 911 fiasco. According to officials, Fairfax County is pursuing the issue from many angles, in-

cluding the report to the FCC and regional work through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government.

"We are very fortunate that no one died as a result of the 911 outage," said Supervisor Pat Herrity, (R-Springfield). Herrity is a member of the statewide 911 panel tasked with looking into the outage.

"I have every confidence that Fairfax County is up to whatever emergency comes our way — in as much as we have control. I'm more worried about third parties such as Verizon based on our 911 experience. Frankly, that was wholly unacceptable and we are going to do everything necessary to hold their feet to the fire," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Souder said it's gratifying to know Verizon is taking some responsibility, and attempting to fix its communication problems.

"The public should know that, seven weeks after this storm, we're still a long way from being done from making sure this [911 failure] doesn't happen again," Souder said.



PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILI/THE GAZETTE

Drive Nets 1,026 Backpacks

UCM exceeded its goal to raise \$10,000 and collect 1,000 backpacks for the children and youth in UCM's programs. Each backpack contains approximately \$40 worth of school supplies. Student volunteers put the final touches on the remaining backpacks to be donated to needy students in the Route 1 Corridor. From left are Brenda Arriaza, Hayfield Secondary School; Cody Binstock, Mount Vernon High School; Kelly Gallagher, Bishop Ireton High School, and Danielle Page, Woodbridge Middle School.

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