Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 CENTS

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January 24, 2013



From left: Jose Campos, 2nd grade; Nora Fareeha, 3rd grade, and Olivia Gilmer, 3rd grade at James K. Polk Elementary School.



From left: Justus Cruz, 4th grade; Eva Campbell, 4th grade, and Skye Scholield-Sabu, 4th grade at Lyles-Crouch Traditional School.



Under the guidance of art instructor Stephanie Hodge, the first grade class at **Samuel Tucker Elementary** School worked on this portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr. The portrait measures nearly 4 feet by 6 feet.

Justin Cox, student at Crossland High School in Temple Hills, Md., recites King's "I Have A Dream" speech given at the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28, 1963.



Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dream for Our World" was the theme of the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage and the Alexandria Black History Museum program commemorating the birthday and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's program, held Saturday afternoon, Jan. 19, at the Alexandria Black History Museum, also paid tribute to the late Carlton A. Funn. Funn

emember, Celebrate, Act — Dr. King's was the former president of the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage. Traditionally, the society has hosted a poster contest celebrating the life of Dr. King. This year children were encouraged to create art to be displayed. More than 120 posters were submitted by local children for the exhibit. The exhibit will go on display in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall during the month of February.



Col. Ethel S. Underwood (ret.), former city manager Vola Lawson, McArthur Myers and Richard Williams attended the program.



Darcy Setliffe, 2nd grade at Maury Elementary School.



Iris Castro, 5th grade at **George Mason Elementary** School.



Idalia Rivera Romero, 5th grade at Cora Kelly STEM School.

Four Democratic Senators Targeted

puts seats in the spotlight.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE And Victoria Ross Gazette Packet

our Northern Virginia state Senators are targets of a Republican-led effort to draw new districts - Sen. George Barker (D-39), Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) and Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). Democrats say the redistricting effort is a cynical attempt to take advantage of the absence of Sen. Henry Marsh (D-16), a prominent civil rights veteran, who was in Wash-

Redistricting effort ington, D.C. for the inauguration on Monday. But state Sen. John Watkins (R-10) of Powhatan defended the effort as a way to create a sixth majority black Senate district in Southside. It passed the Senate on a 20-to-19 vote.

> "This is about political power," said Barker, who was in one of the most competitive races of 2011. "They are trying to target the Democratic senators who represent districts that are basically swing districts."

> The drama took place Monday afternoon, when the state Senate took up a bill that would have made small changes to four Senate districts. During the floor the debate, Republicans amended the bill in a way that would radically change districts throughout Vir

> > SEE SENATORS PAGE 24

Coming for the Guns

Alexandria delegate wants to expand police powers to confiscate guns of the detained.

By Michael Pope Gazette Packet

magine the scenario: Sheriff's deputies arrive at a home to issue a temporary detention order against an individual. While on scene, law-enforcement officers realize that the person has a stockpile of weapons and ammunition. The police are interested in confiscating the guns while the person's mental health is evaluated, but existing law prevents that from happening. Legislation introduced by Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45) seeks to expand police powers for law enforcement officials to confiscate. But the Virginia Citizens Defense League says no.

"If you don't have access to your guns why the hell do the police need them? You are not locked up at home, you are locked up away from your guns in a secure facility," said Van Cleave. "So to go get your guns is asinine."

Krupicka wrote the bill along with Alexandria Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter, who is running in the Democratic caucus for the job this spring. Porter said the legislation was created in response to several specific recent incidents in which

SEE GUNS PAGE 4

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COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

Registering Cycles

Should bicycle owners register their vehicles and pay a regis-

That's a question that city officials will be taking up soon, and a formal recommendation is expected by spring. But there's a catch. Alexandria bicycle owners are already required to register their vehicles and pay a fee. But nobody does it. After Tuesday night's City Council meeting, Councilman Justin Wilson admitted that he was in violation of the city regulation.

"I've tried," said Wilson. "We don't make it very easy to register a bike."

The quirky city code dates to 1963, and has a number of surprising features. For example, not only are bicycle owners required to register their vehicle with the city but they are also required to pay a 25-cent fee. All bicycle sales are required to be reported to the city, along with the name and address of the individual making the purchase. City officials are already looking at updating the existing code, and are expected to issue recommendations in the spring.

"Cars are registered and charged a fee. Motorcycles are registered and charged a fee," said Old Town resident Kathryn Papp during a recent public hearing. "Dedicated revenues generated by something even as small as a \$25 annual fee can cover the cost of putting in bicycle facilities."

Carshare Pilot

Alexandria already has a number of carshare services that use private parking spots. But this week, members of the City Council approved a pilot program that would allow the leasing of onstreet spaces to carshare vendors for an annual fee. Although city leaders initially considered Old Town and Carlyle for the pilot, the program was narrowed to Carlyle because of concern about a lack of parking in Old Town. But City Manager Rashad Young indicated that he would like to see the effort expanded through-

"To make car sharing more accessible to residents, the city is considering a citywide on-street carshare policy that would allow on-street parking spaces in the city to be designated as carshare spaces," Young wrote in a memorandum to council mem-

Interested vendors requesting consideration for on-street parking spaces must submit a request to the city's Traffic and Parking Board. The director of Transportation and Environmental Services will then make a recommendation. City officials say no more than two designated on-street parking spaces may be reserved on each block. The cost for renting an on-street space in Carlyle is \$1,500 a year, and the pilot program is expected to last for two

"That's a huge investment," observed Coucilwoman Del Pepper. "Why would they want to do that for such a short period of time?'

'They are aware it's going to be two years, and they are aware it's a pilot," replied Transportation and Environmental Service director Rich Baier. "They are making a business decision and it's up to them."

Hack Swipe

Get your credit cards out. Soon passengers in Alexandria taxicabs may finally be able to swipe their plastic to pay the taxi

This week, members of the Alexandria City Council asked the Traffic and Parking Board to consider a requirement that all taxicabs in Alexandria accept credit cards as payment. The move came as part of suite of new regulations for the industry, which increased the mileage charge from \$2.04 a mile to \$2.16 a mile. City leaders have wanted to expand the use of credit cards in taxicabs for years, although some companies and drivers said it would be a hardship for them to pay for new infrastructure. Now that technology has allowed cards to be swiped with a smartphone, city leaders are ready to move forward with a mandate

SEE COUNCIL NOTEBOOK, PAGE 9

News



Alena Cooper, Helen Cooper, Ciara O'Toole and Knox West rocked it at the Kids' Inaugural.



From left: Jennifer, Catie and Claire Poersch of Alexandria at the Kids Inaugural on Saturday in D.C.

Tweens and Teens Have a Ball

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden host Kids Inaugural Concert to honor military families.

> By Victoria Ross Gazette Packet

> > Amid cheers

and applause, the

first lady told the

crowd of nearly

1,000 fans that

although the swearing-in cer-

emony was a "pretty big deal,"

her favorite part

of the weekend

was "being right

here with all of

"When I think

makes America

great, I think

about you, our

military spouses

what

you."

about

eens, tweens and their parents danced in the aisles, on their chairs and around the stage at the star-studded, Kids' Inaugural Concert honoring military families on Saturday, Jan. 19, in Washington, D.C.

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, the vice president's wife, kicked off the event at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. surrounded by their children and grandchildren. A group of children from Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

"It was awesome and really fun to be a part of President Obama's inauguration. We also loved Katy Perry and showing our support for our military families."

— Helen Cooper, a third-grader at Maury men and women **Elementary School** in uniform, our

and our military kids," she said.

Headlined by Katy Perry, who showcased her patriotic spirit in a red, white and blue bustier and stars and stripes shorts, the event also featured perfor-

mances by Usher; Glee cast members Amber Riley, Darren Criss and Nava Rivera; Mindless Behavior and The Soul Children of Chicago, who received rousing applause. Nick Cannon hosted the event, with D-Nice as DJ and Rocsi Diaz and J.R. Martinez as presenters. Attendees included the families of active duty, reserve and retired service members.

"Usher wanted to be here, Katy Perry wanted to be here, the folks from 'Glee' wanted to be here — they are not here for me, they are here for you," the first lady said. "They know that military kids serve this country right alongside their moms and dads ... they know the kind of sacrifices you make every day."

"It was awesome and really fun to be a part of President Obama's inauguration. We also loved Katy Perry and showing our support for our military families," said Helen Cooper, a third-grader at Maury Elementary School, who attended the concert with her sister, Alena, a first-grader at Maury, and friends Ciara O'Toole and Knox West.

SEE TWEENS AND TEENS, PAGE 23



First Lady Michelle Obama, with daughters Sasha and Malia, waved to the crowd and officially kicked off the Kids' Inaugural concert to celebrate military families on Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Walter E. **Washington Convention Center in D.C.**

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Dir.: Alex S on GW Pkwy. R on Tulane. L on Park Terrace to 7108 on right.

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window treatments and wall paper . New shatter proof windows and hard wired alarm system • New wash room with wall to wall maple cabinets, sink and 8 foot counter Master bedroom and bathroom with sunlit filled vaulted ceiling, skylights, steam room, jacuzzi, walk in closet and designer his/her vanities • Two separate AC/heating systems with humidifier • Double faced gas ventless fireplace with remote • Full outdoor living space with Viking kitchen • Heated pool/spa and hand selected river flat stone surround • Screened gazebo eating area • Striking season round flowering plants and landscaping Dir: Fort Hunt Road, L on Marine Drive, R on Burtonwood Drive to **7210** on right.

News

Detained People and Their Guns

"The way the bill is

process that allows

people to get their

— Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45)

written, it doesn't

take guns away

indefinitely.

guns back."

There's a due

a magistrate issued a temporary detention order against an individual only to learn that the person has been stockpiling weapons and ammunition. Porter says if the person can be detained without a

judge, his weapons cache should also be able to be confiscated without a judge signing off on it first.

"I would expect to see support for this from the law-enforcement community," said Porter, a former Alexandria Police Department officer. "This is aimed at taking guns away from dangerous people."

BUT WHAT qualifies as a threat, and who gets to make that determination? Those issues will be hammered out in the coming weeks during the legislative process. Courts of Justice House Chairman Del. Dave Albo (R-42) said he might be willing to support the bill if a judge signed off

on the confiscation before the fact, although he added that the House committees will also be taking a close look as to whether or not the bill is constitutional.

"When you are talking about an imminent threat of bodily injury or death, I would find it hard to believe that there would be anybody against that,"

said Albo. "If you could make the bill work."

Making the bill work might not be easy. The Virginia Citizens Defense League is one of the leading gun-rights groups in Virginia. Opposition from league members could well scuttle the effort in

Richmond, where the group has influence with the Republican majority. When asked about Krupicka's bill, Van Cleave said that some people have invested \$25,000 to \$50,000 in their gun collection, so it would be more appropriate for a family member to determine what happens with the stockpile.

"This is property we're talking about," said Van Cleave. "The police can't just go in and take someone's property."

THE EFFORT WAS inspired by the recent school shooting in Connecticut, where a man used a militarystyle Bushmaster rifle to blast his

way into a school before killing 20 children and six adults. Krupicka crafted the legislation as a way to bridge the gap between improving mental-health services with tightening gun laws.

"The way the bill is written, it doesn't take guns away indefinitely," said Krupicka. "There's a due process that allows people to get their guns back."



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month.

Gazette Packet

Residents Attend 57th Presidential Inauguration

Many brave crowds to witness history.

By Marilyn Campbell
Gazette Packet

ocal residents were among the hundreds of thousands who left their homes on a cold winter holiday, Jan. 21, to brave packed Metro trains and slowmoving security check points for a chance to celebrate and witness President Barack Obama's second inauguration.

Standing among a sea of waving American flags that stretched beyond the Washington Monument, area residents say their reasons for wanting to attend the second swearing-in ceremony ranged from pride to curiosity. Their emotions ranged from joy to frustration.

Potomac, Md., resident Marjorie Goldman attended President Obama's first inauguration and was proud to witness his second. "This time a lot of people brought their young kids. It was a lot of fun," said Goldman, who is on the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee. "The crowd was large, but you a shared common purpose.

Goldman, who volunteered for the inaugural committee's transportation team as driver, attended with her husband Mitchell Stabbe and daughters Meredith, 17, and Dylan, 19. "I think Barack Obama is a terrific president and I was so glad to be there today," she said. "I thought his speech was measured and inspirational and gave an indication of where he's going."

Marcia Chamblin says she left her home and arrived at the Vienna, Va., Metro station at 5:30 a.m. to avoid crowded trains. "I am a huge Obama supporter," she said. "President Obama's speech was very inspirational and inclusive for all Americans. I am so proud to be an American and witness this historical day."

Some people came hoping to hear the president's plans on specific issues. "I was very interested



Alexandria resident Genea Luck, a Girl Scout leader, attended the inauguration with Girl Scouts from Troop 4087 at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Arlington. Pictured with Luck are Sydney Whitherspoon, Brianna Smalls, Mikayla Venson, Ashley Christopher, Kimana Bowen, Sharel Jones and Kiersten Criddle.

in what he had to say about immigration reform," said Arnon Alom, a Fairfax engineer who immigrated to the United States from

Bangladesh.

Others came out of a sense of pride and responsibility. "It is an historic event and is part of my

civic duty," said Girl Scout leader Genea Luck of Alexandria. "I have to set a good example [for the] SEE MANY BRAVE, PAGE 19





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Commemorating Second Inauguration of 44th President

he Departmental Progressive Club held an inaugural ball on Monday evening in Norman Reynolds. celebration of the second inauguration of Barack Obama as president of the United States. Members and their guests were feted to dinner and later music by DJ

Chair of the ball was secretary of the Departmental Progressive Club Ladies Auxiliary Barbara Wilks.



Club member Paul Sheppard volunteered to work the coat check room.



Rosa Byrd, Georgia Brown and Patricia Steele



Alexandria School Board member Bill Campbell talks with Patricia and Chanel Yancy.



DPC house chair Harold Miner, club president Melvin Miller and past president Jim Henson.



Club president Melvin Miller, DPC house chair Harold Miner and chair of the inaugural ball Barbara Wilks. Also pictured is DJ Norman Reynolds.



Ninety-four-year-old Alexandria resident Betsy Brown is recognized and given a standing ovation by the guests at the ball. With Brown is Alexandria school board member Bill Campbell.



Clarence Day and Florence Calloway pose for a picture with cut-outs of President Obama and First Lady Michelle at the ball.



Guests applaud Betsy Brown as she takes her seat for the dinner.



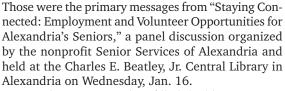
David Baker, president-elect of the Senior Services of Alexandria board of directors, opens the panel "Staying Connected: Employment and Volunteer Opportunities for Alexandria's Seniors," held on Jan. 16 at the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Library.

Getting Back to Work with Confidence

Panel reassures seniors looking for jobs

BY COURTNEY M. McSWAIN Gazette Packet

or older adults looking to return to the labor force, getting back to work requires confidence and a willingness to embrace new technologies.



More than 100 attendees filled the library's meeting room to hear from employment and volunteer experts on the best ways to secure a job. Shortly into the program, attention turned to the significance of technology and social media when the panel's first speaker, career management consultant Annabelle Reitman representing AARP, asked if the audience was familiar with the social networking site LinkedIn. With only a handful of arms raised, Reitman went on to describe the importance that LinkedIn plays in today's hiring process, asserting that the website is quickly "becoming the way to find your job."

Reitman then described AARP's new website www.workreimagined.org. The website, which according to its description is "powered by LinkedIn," allows visitors to search for jobs, read articles about work place trends and participate in online discussions. All of these services help seniors update their knowledge on the hiring process, leading to more confidence, Reitman said.

The need for self-assurance when dealing with technology in the workplace was repeated by many of the panel's experts. And though it can be intimidating, becoming skilled in new computer programs and software is necessary, according to Janet Barnett, executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria. When you get back into the workplace and are not familiar with technology — that is a very scary and intimidating thing," Barnett said. "Some [seniors] have the computer skills and technological skills that are so necessary today. But I would recommend [that] those who don't, do two things. One, learn them. It's scary, but it can be done." Barnett's second recom-



Mary Lee Anderson

mendation is for seniors to hone in on their existing skills and align them with what a prospective job requires.

"As seniors we always have to keep learning and looking for new opportunities," Barnett said. For those who need help sharpening their computer skills, Barnett recommends calling Senior Services of Alexandria, which can assist people to find resources for instruction and a donated computer if they do not own one.

The City of Alexandria's Joblink program is another resource for job seekers who need hands-on assistance. Joblink helps match local employers with suitable employees and

provides one-on-one counseling for job seekers. Representing Joblink on Wednesday's panel was Ralph Critten, employment training specialist, who reiterated the need for seniors to have confidence in the experience that they bring to the table. "You guys certainly have a place in the work place," Critten told the crowd. "Your experience and your expertise are very much valued in this young workforce. Most employers seek you out because of that," Critten said.

Nonprofit organizations also made their appeals for attendees to use their knowledge and experience for the benefit of social causes like tutoring, mentoring and the arts, noting that volunteering provides valuable networking and sometimes leads to employment. "In my time at the library, we have hired four of our volunteers," Renee DiPilato, manager of the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, told the audience. "In many instances, we wish we could hire our volunteers," DiPilato said.

Hearing the presentations from both employment and volunteer experts proved beneficial for Alexandria resident Andrew Pohl, who has lived in the city for 40 years. "I was in the computer business, but I've been out of it for so long and it changes so fast, it's hard to keep up," Pohl said. "So now I have to look either back in that field or find an entirely new field to work in."

Pohl thinks discussions like Wednesday's are valuable. "It's good to see, especially the volunteer stuff that they talked about today. It gives you an opportunity to find another area that you might be able to get into and develop something," Pohl said.

Wednesday's panel discussion was part of Senior Services of Alexandria's 2012-2013 speaker series and featured speakers from AARP, City of Alexandria's Joblink, National Council on Aging, Volunteer Alexandria, Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, Torpedo Factory Art Center and Alexandria Mentoring Partnership.

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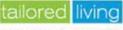
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THURSDAY/JAN. 24

Meeting. Colonial Republican Women will meet from 6:30-9 p.m. at Virginia Hills Administration Center at Old Virginia Hills School, 6520 Diana Lane. Refreshments will be served. E-mail colonial republican women@gmail.com

or call Debbie at 703-768-1934. **Commission for the Arts - Arts Forum Comm.** Noon. Dr. Oswald

Durant Memorial Center, 1605

Cameron St. Contact Diane Ruggiero,

diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5565.

Waterfront Commission - Tour of Brandt Building. 5 p.m. For address, contact Jack Browand, jack.browand@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5504.

Commission for the Arts - Grant Requests Panel. 6 p.m. Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center, 1605 Cameron St. Contact Diane Ruggiero, diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5588.

Town Hall Meeting. 7 p.m. Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, 435 Ferdinand Day Drive. Contact Mildrilyn Davis, 703-746-4990.

English as a Second Language Class. 10 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All levels welcome. Free. 703-746-1702.

School Board Meeting. The Alexandria City School Board will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. at 2000 N. Beauregard St.

FRIDAY/JAN. 25

Tech Zoo Fridays. Noon at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn about ereading devices or bring one already owned. Free. 703-746-1704.

SATURDAY/JAN. 26 Commission on HIV/AIDS. 9 a.m. Alexandria Health Department, 4480 King St. Contact Nechelle Terrell, nechelle.terrell@vdh.virginia.gov or 703-746-4933.

Re-zoning Advisory Group

Meeting. 9 a.m. at Polk Elementary School Cafeteria, 5000 Polk Ave. The meeting will focus on the Beauregard Design standards and guidelines. Free and open to the public.

MONDAY/JAN. 28

City Council - School Board

Subcommittee. 5 p.m. George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Contact Jackie Henderson, 703-746-4550.

ACVA Board of Governors. 5 p.m.

ACVA, 625 N Washington St Contact Patricia Washington, 703-746-3302.

Alexandria Housing Development Corp. (AHDC) 6 p.m. Alexandria Housing Development Corp., 801 N. Pitt St. Contact Mildrilyn Davis, 703-746-4990.

Alexandria Citizen Corps Council. 7 p.m. Fire Station 204, 900 Second St. Contact Kim Purcell, 703-746-

Environmental Policy

Commission. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Contact Bill Skrabak, 703-746-4065.

Alexandria Sister Cities

Committee. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1102, 301 King St. SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 19



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Making Schools Safer

Two Northern Virginia Democrats take part in panel to consider school security.

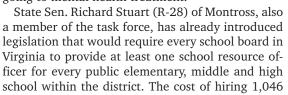
> By Michael Lee Pope Gazette Packet

> > **Barker**

o Virginia schools need more guns? That question is at the heart of a debate that's now reaching a fever pitch in the commonwealth, especially after a man with a Bushmaster assault rifle blasted his way into a Connecticut elementary school and killed 20 children and six adults before killing himself. Republican Gov. Bob

McDonnell responded to the tragedy by creating a School Safety Task Force, which is considering a proposal for every school in Virginia to have an armed school resource officer.

"I fear that's the direction they're going," said Arlington Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), who is a member of the task force. "I would like to see more resources going to mental health treatment."



new officers and funding a statewide program would be about \$65 million a year if all the school resource officers are full-time. The new standardized system would replace the current patchwork of approaches taken from jurisdiction, with some positions full-time and others part-time.

"It varies from place to place," said Fairfax County state Sen.

George Barker (D-39), who is also a member of the task force. "Some places, they are police officers and other places they are simply a security guard officer that's not a member of the police department."

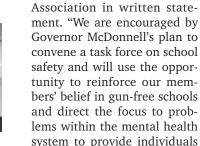
THE STAKES are high in Virginia, where the memory of the Virginia Tech massacre is still a fresh

The governor launched the task force in the hothouse environment of the General Assembly, which means fast action or no action. McDonnell has already signaled that he wants the task force to issue recommendations at the end of January. That means legislators who already have a full slate of bills to introduce have to do double duty to meet the expedited

"I am confident this group will develop thoughtful recommendations that will ensure a safe learning environment for our students," said McDonnell in a written statement. "As a commonwealth, we must evaluate safety in our schools and ensure recommendations that will ensure safe learning environment of our students."

The governor has signaled that he would like to see an increase of armed school-resource officers in schools across Virginia, and he has indicated that more than \$30 million could be available to implement the recommendations of the task force. Although the task force will not be considering gun control, many stakeholders indicated that they would like to see the gun-show loophole closed.

"This is a problem long overdue to be fixed," said Anne Carson, president of the Virginia Parent Teacher



Hope

"I would like to see

more resources

going to mental

health treatment."

— Del. Patrick Hope (D-47)

needed."

the help so desperately FOR NOW, the debate is about how many school resource officers should be protecting schools in Virginia. Hope said that's a difficult question to answer because school-resource officers are already present

> the elementary school his children attend. But he's quick to add that the task force has been presented with a question of priorities, and he feels that addressing the mental health priorities of Virginia is much more important than paying for an armed officer guarding every schoolhouse.

"I'm talking to principals who don't have them, and they don't

have them for a reason," said Hope. "They don't think they are necessary."

in a majority of schools in Arlington — including

The proposal now under consideration, Senate Bill 940, would cost Virginia about \$69,000 for each fulltime school resource officer. It would also create two new positions in the Department of Criminal Justice Services to handle the increased workload associated with training the additional officers. Earlier this week, the Senate Finance Committee approved a bill that would facilitate the hiring of retired police officers to work as school resource officers.

"We worked out an arrangement so that they could work as school resource officers without it impacting the retirement system," said Barker, "either for them or for the system as a whole."

— Council Notebook -

From Page 3

that all drivers accept credit cards for payment.

"We need to make sure that all of our cabs and companies move forward with the new technology in terms of accepting credit cards for making payments," said Mayor Bill Euille. "Our neighboring jurisdictions have these requirement in place as we speak.

If the Traffic and Parking Board approves the credit-card mandate in February, city officials say the requirement could be implemented as soon as September.

- MICHAEL LEE POPE

In Session

Off-Year Redistricting

Alexandria City Council members are planning to send a message to Richmond — hands off the Senate districts. After a surprise move in the state Senate this week to draw a new map, members of the Alexandria City Council are preparing a letter expressing their outrage.

"We need to state our views on the record," said Councilman Paul Smedberg.

"I would, of course, consult our sister jurisdictions to make sure we maximize our effort," added City Attorney Jim Banks.

Under the proposed redistricting effort, Alexandria would go from having three senators to one. Sen. **Adam Ebbin** (D-30) would represent all of Alexandria under the proposed change, while Sen. George Barker (D-39) and Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) would lose all their Alexandria precincts. Democrats say they are likely to lose about a half a dozen seats in the next election if the Republican-led redistricting plan is approved by the governor. Senate Democrats have already vowed to pursue a court challenge if the governor signs the legislation.

"This is not how the House or the Senate or anyone should be conducting business," said Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille.

Restoring Rights

Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell shocked many Northern Virginia Democrats earlier this month when his State of the Commonwealth address included a strongly worded passage supporting automatic restoration of voting rights for nonviolent felons. This week, the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee approved the measure on a 10-to-5 vote, sending the bill to the

"Stealing is wrong, but should you lose your voting rights for life for stealing \$200?" asked Republican Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli in a written statement this week. "I stand alongside Governor McDonnell in fighting to restore the civil liberties to nonviolent felons who have served their time."

Despite having bipartisan support and potential approval in the state Senate, the effort is likely to die in the House of Delegates. Earlier this month, a Republican-dominated House panel killed a similar proposal. Even if the Senate bill makes its way to the House, it will face the same legislators who are already on record opposing the idea.

Some are calling on the governor to bypass the General Assembly and take executive action.

"The legislature, thus far, seems unwilling to move Virginia ahead," said ACLU of Virginia executive director Claire Gastanaga in a written statement. "The governor cannot and should not wait for legislators to take action."

A Dreamy Session?

Northern Virginia Democrats are hoping to put a spotlight on the issue of immigration during the General Assembly session this year, drawing attention to an issue that may continue to hurt Republicans if current demographic trends continue. This week, Senate Democrats proposed legislation that would grant in-state tuition at Virginia colleges to young people with deferredaction status, allowing them full access to the benefits of a college education for the first time in history.

"In-state tuition for students with deferred-action status will help young Virginians realize their full potential and become integral parts of the Virginia economy," said state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) in a written statement. "Education can and should be their ticket to the American dream."

The Virginia Dream Act is based on Texas legislation introduced by a Democratic legislator and signed by Republican Gov. Rick Perry. To qualify, students must have graduated from a Virginia high school and lived in Virginia for at least three years.

"The cutting-edge companies that thrive in the global economy are always looking for educated workers," said state Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36). "The Virginia Dream Act means more and better-educated workers, working better, higher-paying jobs."

- MICHAEL LEE POPE

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Expanding Medicaid Good for Virginia

Real health coverage for an additional 400,000 people is in reach.

irginia has an opportunity to expand Medicaid in a way that could extend health coverage to more than 400,000 residents who currently have no health insurance while the Federal government picks up the tab; Virginia would pay 10 percent of the additional cost after 2020.

The Medicaid expansion would give medical insurance to 25,000-30,000 Fairfax County residents, where more than 132,000 have none.

More than 12 percent of the slightly more than 1 million people who live in the wealthiest county in the nation are without health insurance. Household income in Fairfax County averages more than \$122,000 a year.

In Arlington, 17 percent of adults under age 65 lack health insurance.

Under the health care reform act, many of Virginia's uninsured residents could be covered who earn up to 133 percent of the poverty line, and that expansion would be paid for almost entirely by federal funds. But while the reform act itself was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, the court also opened a door for states to opt out of the expansion of Medicaid.

Virginia's current eligibility requirements for Medicaid are so strict that although it is the 11th largest state in terms of population and 7th in per capita personal income, Virginia ranked 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per capita Medicaid spending, according to a

2013 Fairfax County report.

The report says that new coverage would extend to individuals earning less than \$15,302 per year or families

earning less than \$31,155 per year, low income children who lose Medicaid when they turn 19, and adults with disabilities not currently eli-

It isn't as if there were no health care costs for these currently uncovered residents. Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room, where the hospital spreads the cost of care around.

by an expansion of Medicaid to cover residents But this is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy. Expanding Medicaid coverage would allow far less expensive preventative care and lead to better health outcomes.

> A new analysis by the Commonwealth Institute shows that expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty level would generate state general fund savings and new revenues that would total \$2.08 billion and more than offset the state's share of expansion costs over the next eight years, plus provide significant numbers of new jobs and economic growth. Expanding health care will add tens of thousands of new jobs. People with access to preventative and early health care use fewer sick days and are more productive on the job as well.

> From a practical perspective, declining federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation because you don't like the feds telling you to wear your

> From a human perspective, passing up the chance to offer health coverage to 400,000 Virginians is inconceivable.

— Mary Kimm,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Imposing User Fees on the Poor

To the Editor:

In Michael Lee Pope's article ["Smart Growth Vs. Affordable Housing," Jan. 17], the premise is that Alexandria must choose between smart growth and affordable housing. Certainly, in its vote about the imposition of parking fees on the new building at 3600 Jefferson Davis Highway, that's the way that the Alexandria City Council seems to have framed the ques-

The real question, and Council members Chapman and Silberberg deserve kudos for getting it, is imposing user fees on the poor. By charging for parking in this new building, no one has incentives to use the BRT or Metro whose work is not already accessible to public transit. People who work near transit will use transit. People who work far from transit need cars, just as people who shop for groceries need

Imposing a fee on the poor to park their car requires a higher level of income to qualify to rent these new apartments. Federal guidelines call for a person's shelter cost (that is rent plus parking fees) to be no more than 30 percent of income. The \$500 in parking fees will mean that renters will need an additional roughly \$1,700 in income each year to qualify to live in these new apartments.

\$1,700 doesn't sound like a lot, but every fee generates additional costs and before you know it, affordable housing doesn't serve those who need it the most.

Smart growth and affordable housing work together. The wise act by AHC to locate this development adjacent to BRT means that its residents have a transit option. The wise investment by the City Council in this development means that the city will assist in creating small affordable housing in the face of the tide it has lost, and continues to lose.

Locating affordable housing near transit and jobs potentially removes a vehicle from having to travel through our streets (and over a long distance) to get to a job in Alexandria. That's smart growth and affordable housing working together. Imposing a parking fee on renters of this housing, however, turned an "and" into an "or" and Alexandria's lower income workers lost out.

Herb Cooper-Levy

Hold the Applause

The letter to the editor, "Former Board's Achievements," read as if it were a carefully crafted, self-promoting pamphlet generated by the superintendent's office. Those who drafted and signed the letter relied heavily and almost exclusively on ACPS press releases and ACPS presentations to bolster their case of support. By only citing ACPS material the authors and signers of this letter nearly passed along the unsubstantiated beliefs of ACPS. Believing that something is taking place and presenting clear evidence that it is occurring are two very different things. That was the lesson learned by the former board and the superintendent when they took their beliefs to the Virginia Board of Education to seek conditional accreditation for Alexandria's lowest achieving school. The state board reviewed the facts and determined that

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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Numerous people joined the line that snaked through Snapshot the Torpedo Factory on Saturday morning, Jan. 19, as tickets for the annual Art League Patron's Show drawing went on sale.

OPINION



Conrado Castro, a T.C. King Street campus student, leads a writing workshop for students from Ramsay Recreation Center. The other student facilitators are Laura Olliverrie and Hadii Kaleed.

Commemorating MLK through Service

BY McKenya S. Dilworth LEAD TEACHER TC SATELLITE CAMPUS

oth T.C. Williams campuses — King Street and Satellite at Landmark worked together on Saturday, Jan. 19, for the National Day of Service and in commemoration of the 57th Inaugural Celebration.

The day started at the TC Satellite Campus with the MLK Youth Summit where students were busy counting, collecting and assembling items for the purpose of putting together emergency first aid kits for the homeless. Donations from the Dollar Store at Landmark, Morning Bishop Theatre (The-

COMMENTARY

atre of Purpose), Dr. Wilson and Ellen's Boutique made it possible to have the cotton balls,

wet wipes, Band-aids, plastic zip bags, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes and Q-tips. There were 150 kits assembled by Satellite students early Saturday morning and quotes of the late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were placed in each kit.

Discussions about the significance of service projects, education and King's legacy were led by TC Satellite principal Dr. James Wilson.

He shared his experiences of growing up in the segregated South and how those experiences served to influence his life and career choice. The MLK Youth Summit began at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center and has become an event that brings community members, students and other volunteers together to remember to do service projects that benefit the least fortunate among us. The emergency kits were delivered to the Carpenter Shelter. Thank you to the Satellite Students and staff that worked for hours assembling these care packages for the homeless and they are: Andrew Bangura, Bre Nee Ruffin, Cierra Boyd, Norman Frye, Kris Whitehead, Carlos Custodio, Milton Medrano, Anthony Pullen, Elijah Lomax, Dionna Lundsford, Fahirah Jackson, Dr. James Wilson (principal), Crystal Patterson (lead teacher), Tara Newton (social worker) and Bassil Hashim i(volunteer). Special thanks go to Dr. Madye Henson for being supportive both on and behind the scenes.

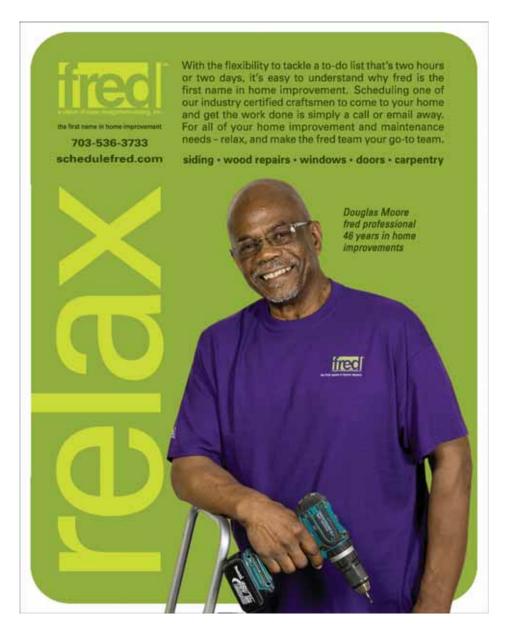


Andrew Bangura and Norman Frye - seniors at Satellite - put together emergency packages for the homeless.

THE SECOND HALF of the National Day of Service was held throughout the city of Alexandria at two other sites: Nannie J. Lee and Charles Barrett. The organizers of this successful event which brought hundreds of youth together to create a commemorative book for the First Family were Shawn Thorpe, academic principal at T.C. Williams and director of the Center for the Arts within ACPS and Jason Ellis, program coordinator for ARHA (Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority).

There were 52 T.C. Williams student facilitators that helped to engage youth from the community recreation centers and community at large in the creative process of poetry writing, singing and dancing. The student facilitators did a fantastic job and should be commended for their service to the community.

The turnout for the day was impressive and there were other community groups on hand to assist with the day of service. One such group was the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Thank you to all and especially the following: Dr. Sherman (superintendent), Dr. Henson (deputy superintendent), Dr. Wilson (TC Satellite principal), Shawn Thorpe (ACPS), Roy Priest (CEO of ARHA), Jason Ellis (ARHA), Gaynelle Diaz (ARHA), Ms. Nora (ARHA), Ms. Archer (ACPS), Melvin Miller (ARHA board member), Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and all of the youth that participated. For those that were not specifically mentioned here please blame the omission mistake on the head and not the heart.





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OPINION

Gun Safety Among Early Legislative Actions

By Adam Ebbin STATE SENATOR (D-30)

hough barely two weeks old, the General Assembly Session is already moving at breakneck speed, with multitudes of bills being considered and with ongoing discussions of how to move Virginia forward on key issues including transportation and gun safety.

In the aftermath of Newtown and other tragedies, I introduced a package of gun safety measures seeking to make Virginians

COMMENTARY

safer. My bill to criminalize firearm sales to those ruled mentally incompetent or involun-

tarily committed was unanimously recommended by the Courts of Justice Committee and sent to the Finance Committee for funding consideration. My legislation regarding stolen firearms was combined with



passed would see that police report stolen weapons to the National Crime Information System. Regrettably my measure to require a background check before every firearm purchase in the Common-

wealth, closing the "gun show loophole," was not passed out of committee, nor was my legislation that would have prohibited guns in the State Capitol and our legislative office building.

The nomination of University of Virginia Board of Visitors Rector Helen Dragas has been a hot topic within the UVA community and with many constituents since last summer. You may remember the controversy over the forced resignation and subsequent rehiring of UVA President Teresa Sullivan. There was considerable criticism

another bill and if over the lack of transparency and Ms. Dragas' leadership in the episode; indeed, UVA's accrediting body sanctioned the university with a "warning" for not following its own governance requirements. For the first time in nine years, I opposed confirming a gubernatorial appointment and spoke against the nomination. However, the full Senate confirmed the nomination, which now moves to the House of Delegates.

> I remain concerned with the incredibly long lines at the polls of last November. Two of my bills to simplify and clarify the absentee ballot process have passed committee unopposed. Legislation I co-sponsored to allow senior citizens to vote absentee without an excuse passed the Senate. Unfortunately, legislation I co-sponsored for "no-excuse absentee voting" failed, along with my bill extending polling hours to 8

> Governor McDonnell has offered a transportation plan acknowledging the need for

increased funding. Notably, he proposes that we become the first state to eliminate the gas tax and instead raise Virginia's sales tax from 5 percent to 5.8 percent. However, eliminating the gas tax is no guarantee of a correlating price cut at the pump. He also proposes an additional \$100 annual fee for fuel-efficient vehicles.

I disagree with this approach and oppose penalizing clean fuel vehicle drivers - especially if other drivers no longer have to pay a gas tax at all.

I have been working with Senator Don McEachin of Henrico for several years to codify prohibitions against state employment discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. After a prolonged debate in the General Laws Committee and an 8-7 vote, the bill now moves to the Senate floor.

To read more about Senator Ebbin's agenda, visit www.adamebbin.com. He can be reached at 804-698-7530 or at district30@senate.virginia.gov.



Baker, Goodwin House, Alexandria administrator of operations and president-elect of Senior Services of Alexandria; Janet Barnett, executive director, Senior Services of Alexandria; Mike McCaffrey, chair, **Goodwin House** Alexandria Memorial Chapel Outreach Committee, and Rev. J. Bruce Steward, and director of chaplaincy services at **Goodwin House** Alexandria.

From left: David

Goodwin Supports Meals Program

BY MARYANNE BEATTY Senior Services of Alexandria

enior Services of Alexandria is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of the Goodwin House Angel Tree program sponsored by the Goodwin House Alexandria Memorial Chapel Outreach Committee.

Each year the committee sponsors an "Angel Tree' program to benefit designated community organizations in Alexandria. The Angel Tree arrives during the Christmas Season, and is placed in the Goodwin

COMMENTARY

House Alexandria Chapel. An angel is added to the tree each time combined contributions from Goodwin House residents

and staff reach \$25. Contributions are also received Bradley Foundation, Westminster Presbyterian during the Chapel's Sunday services.

The Memorial Chapel Outreach Committee was delighted to select Senior Services of Alexandria as its 2012 recipient. Goodwin House Alexandria has enjoyed a long and very productive partnership with

Seniors Services of Alexandria with each sharing a common goal to support, honor and uplift the lives of older adults and the people who care for them. More than 120 beautiful angels decorated the Angel Tree representing \$3,058 in contributions to SSA's Meals on Wheels program.

Because Senior Services of Alexandria is one of the designated charities recognized by the Goodwin House Foundation, the money raised during the Angel Tree campaign will be matched by the Foundation, bringing the total contribution to Senior Services of Alexandria to more than \$5,000.

SSA is grateful to the Goodwin House Foundation for its generous contribution as well as our other Meals on Wheels sponsors including the City of Alexandria, Yellow Cab of Alexandria, The Ronald M. Church and the Gift Shop at Christ Church. SSA and its tremendous corps of dedicated volunteers deliver hot meals to homebound seniors 365 days a year! We couldn't do it without the support of our meals on wheels community partners.

GOP's Naked Power Grab

By Charniele Herring Delegate (D-46)

irginia's General Assembly session carries forward; however, this week we have seen the Senate re-tread issues of the past. Earlier this week, the Republicans in the State Senate manipulated their close numbers to force an issue through that Virginians already thought was settled for the decade — redistrict-

Normally, redistricting occurs once every 10 years after the census is completed. Districts are redrawn as populations change. Redistricting is an issue that we dealt with in 2011 after the 2010 census. Unlike more volatile democracies, the United States has not allowed political parties to eliminate their opposition through tactics like gerrymandering year in and year out based on which party has the majority at the moment slim as it might be. While political parties may try and favor their membership during the process, there is also public input and extensive debate.

What occurred in the Virginia State Senate was not anything like the normal redistricting process. It was rushed, with limited debate. Most importantly there was no their opinion. On Monday, we saw a naked power grab by Senate Republicans — on a purely party line vote when one Democratic Senator was absent. By cutting off debate and trying to qualify their actions as a technicality, Senate Republicans redrew district lines for



the House of Delegates and the State Senate in every part of the Commonwealth. This means that a few state sena-

tors will decide who represents people for well over the next decade — they want this to be their Commonwealth, a Commonwealth for the few.

There are many important matters on which the General Assembly needs to spend its time. We have upcoming debate on transportation issues, promoting job growth, and protecting the environment. Instead, from the majority party we are still seeing divisive issues that are social and political in nature, in place of real solutions. There are important debates we have not yet had like whether to lift the ban on uranium mining or how to improve our public schools. I intend to vote no on this blatant power grab. My goal is to move our conversation back to the important issues that are affecting people in the Commonwealth, instead of issues like this redistricting, which is on dubious constitutional ground.

I do look forward in the upcomchance for the public to register ing weeks to have news that we have worked hard to solve the challenges facing us—transportation, education, and being good environmental stewards. In the meantime, I will continue to loudly champion a Commonwealth that is for all of us, not a Commonwealth for the few.

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Westgate Colonial-Custom Pool! Classic 4BR Colonial i orgeous setting or arge lot fronting quiet cul de-sac in prime

Westgate location Fabulous features include bright open kitchen, economical gas heat and hot water and oversize 2 car garage. Custom pool and much privacy located on what is widely considered to be one of Mt



\$1,150,000 Waterfront Value! Make seller's sudden job change work to your advantage! Home is totally redecorated and shows beautifully! Large home (app 4925 sq ft)

4712 Neptune Dr

with exceptionally bright open floor plan. All major rooms oriented to capitalize on fabulous water views. Special features include large kitchen with brand new stainless appli. 3 main level BRs including master suite with private balcony. Improved water frontage with stationary and floating dock. Best waterfront value on market today!

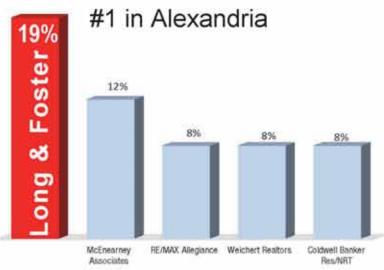


Vernon's prettiest streets.

#1 Long and Foster Agent in Virginia-2009/2010! CHRIS WHITE ~ 703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com - chris.white@longandfoster.com

The Choice is Obvious.



*No one has more expertise selling homes than Long & Foster®.



LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE



Alexandria / Old Town "DETACHED TOWNHOME"

NEW PRICE! - Enjoy the location and abulous updates of this 2BR/2.5BA TH. Updated kitchen with granite counters and windows on two sides! Fireplace living room, hardwoods on ML, 2 master suites with private BAs. LL amily room, 1/2 BA, and

Pat Wilson 703.598.7279 Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

\$ 170,000

Alexandria

250 REYNOLDS ST



NEW PRICE! Spectacular views from the largest bedroom condo in the area.

room with floor to ceiling windows. Renovated kitchen with 42" cabinets, W/D, updated 1.5 baths and lots of closets. Storage too! 2 miles from Metro and easy access to 1-395 and 1-495

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! \$ 650,000



Entertain your family and friends in this home with lots of room for everyone! Custom-built in 2006, this 3,444 sq ft beauty has 3

\$899,000

Alexandria

"COMMERCIAL!"

nmediate occupancy

available in this recently

renovated building including

3 levels, 7 individual offices

plus reception area and a

large lower open finished

finished levels with 6BR/3.5BA, 2-story foyer and family room with massive stone fireplace, spacious kitchen with granite and maple, MBR with sitting room and so

level. A half bath and small kit with sink and dishwasher

are on the top level. 5 deeded parking spaces plus

more M-F by agreement. Walk to King St Metro.

Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



granite and breakfast area. Built by Long Homes of VA located in heart of Mt. Vernon. Easy access to GW Parkway, shopping, bike trails, swimming and more.

includes water, gas, exercise room and

Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

susanselis@longandfoster.com

Susan Haughton

storage. EZ commuter routes.

Randy Bender 703.906.1749



\$ 869,900 Alexandria "RARE OPPORTUNITY'

unique properties - custom built Normandy Post and Beam on wooded 1 acre lot with stocked, spring-fed

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

\$ 265,000

5903 MT EAGLE DR

Lovely views and resort

amenities simply magnify

this gracious 1BR/1.5BA

updated kitchen awaits you

OPEN SAT / SUN 1 - 4!

\$ 879,000

Hollin Hall Knolls

8115 YORKTOWN DR

ONLY ONE left of these

luxury 5BR /4.5BA homes

with all the upgrades and

options-gourmet kitchen

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

\$ 284,000

53 SKYHILL RD # 201

Sophisticated 2BR/2BA

condo with lots of natural

light conveniently located

just minutes to Old Town

and King St Metro. Large

balcony. Low condo fee

pond. Water views from every room. 2-story great room with fireplace. Kitchen with granite and passthrough. Oversized 2-car garage with extra storage. Only minutes to Mark Center, Pentagon and DC!

Brad Kintz 703.519.6644

with a spacious master bedroom/bath suite including a huge walk-in

Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914

closet. The den has a closet and could certainly be

used as another bedroom. The bathrooms have been

updated too! Indoor/outdoor pools, tennis, cafe and



\$ 499,900 / Old Town 334 N ST ASAPH ST An adorable TH, spacious

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

28R, on 3 levels in Brocketts Crossing

Incredible location - 2blks from King Lovely patio; off-street parking

Open floor plan with fireplace in LR Kitchen with SSA & granite counters

Hardwoods floors

thru-out, crown molding. chair rail & much more

Martine Irmer & Alexander Imer 703.346.7283 or 703.403.2465



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! \$ 510,000 / Alexandria 400 MADISON ST

Breathtaking Views! That is just one highlight of this abulous high-rise home. Gleaming hardwood floors throughout living and

leeping areas. Updated kitchen and bathrooms. Beautifully appointed home. Garage parking. Alexandria louse amenities. This is a must see!

www.brianandjery.com Brian Hong & Jery Beamer 703,929,5764





OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! \$ 975,000 Mt Vernon / Wycliffe 3800 WASHINGTON WOODS DR

Bordering on the Mt Vernon Estate this classic brick Colonial is located in a ought after community. A 2-story foyer is a grand introduction to the

5BR/4.5BA home. Special features include hardwoods. library, eat-in kitchen, formal living and dining rooms, sunroom and a family room that leads to a large, private brick patio. A community path leads to the Potomac.

Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441





OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4! \$ 449,900 Arlington / **Fairlington Green** 3259 S Stafford St

NEW PRICE! Renovated citchen with gorgeous cabinets, granite, SSA and ceramic tile. Both baths

have been updated. Crown molding, dry-walled basement, high efficiency windows, finished wood floors, heat pump and a lovely backyard patio.

Gary Ansley 202.288.7946





Long & Foster / Old Town Historic District Office ● #1 Long & Foster Office in Virginia 2011 ● 703.683.0400 400 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 • Fax 703.683.1303 • www.LongandFoster.com • www.OldTownAlexandria.com









Entertainment

Dancing Life into Books

Upcoming shows from Jane Franklin Dance incorporate movement and storytelling.

> BY AMBER HEALY Gazette Packet

ane Franklin likes to keep busy and to keep her company moving. During the next few weeks, the Arlington-based dance company is performing a number of pieces, each of which depend in movement and music to tell stories.

"I try to keep the repertoire active so the dances can be performed many times,"

The company is slightly nomadic when it comes to performance spaces — a partnership with Arlington County helps provide rehearsal space on South Four Mile Run, but most performances are done elsewhere,

including Alexandria and Washington, D.C. new with movement and "We're all out in the community. We don't

rent or own our own building," Franklin said, adding that she also teaches classes and leads after school programs a few times each week. "We try to have a pretty full schedule with performances for children, our

for the general public." Two of the upcoming shows are based on children's books. "Penelope's Pesky Pen,"

40+ program and shows

based on "The Obstinate Pen" by Frank Dormer, is the story of a girl who receives the gift of a pen with its own ideas about creativity. "The Big Meow" is about a little kitten with an unusually loud meow, based on the book of the same name by Elizabeth

For those dance aficionados who might be interested in something a little more cerebral, the company is presenting "From One Place to Another," a series of movements that involve an interactive kinetic sculpture, and some pieces will include live music performed by Mark Sylvester. Some of these pieces have been performed in public spaces in the past few years, Franklin said.

The dancers have to balance themselves on the sculpture, created specifically by Franklin and her company, which also presents the audience with the challenge of watching not just the movement of the people on stage, but the moving metal structure, she said.

"I'm challenging myself to find something

not just the movement itself," Franklin said. "I'm al-

Details

"Penelope's Pesky Pen," based on a children's book, will be presented on Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. at the Athenaeum in Alexandria, and again on Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. at the Theater on the Run in Arlington. The company is also presenting "The Big Meow" on Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. at the Theater on the Run, and "From One Place to Another," a series of vignettes incorporating wire sculpted shapes, cardboard and a kinetic sculpture manipulated by dancers, on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Theater on the Run in Arlington. Visit www.janefranklindance.com.

> ways trying to find a concept that I can hook on to as a reason for the dance."

SHE'S ALSO PREPAR-

ING to introduce a new piece, "Fire and Ice," which features wooden branches that have been smoothed and painted in white to represent branches covered in snow, and dancers incorporating rustling garbage bags shaped into dresses to mimic the sound of fire.

The dances that aren't immediately based on books or formal stories still

try to express emotion or take the audience on a journey, Franklin said.

But the ones that are based on books, the performances that are mostly geared toward children, are just as bright and colorful and lively, she said. In "Penelope's Pesky Pen," for example, the sets are mostly white and

Dancers from Jane Franklin Dance have a series of performances coming up, including "Penelope's Pesky Pen," based on the book by Frank Dormer, which will be performed Jan. 27 at the Athenaeum in Alexandria and Feb. 2 at the Theater on the Run in Arlington.

> colorless, which makes the bright blue pen all the more vivid.

> "The whole thing is in black and white, the sets and the costumes except for the last section, where people free themselves to express themselves through drawing," she

Calendar

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

ONGOING

Homeschool Studio Class.

Beginning in February at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The

Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street. Open daily through September, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See how Robert E. Lee's hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital, and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this tumultuous time through their own words, as well as in period photographs and collections items. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Art Exhibit. Alexandria artist Francis Seeger will display "People" in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St.

through Feb. 24. Free. Features a number of the artist's larger figural paintings. Often appearing to be waiting for time to pass or expressing a touch of boredom, Seeger's subjects are captured with vibrant palette. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-

Life in Civil War Alexandria

Exhibition. Daily exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. Through September 2013 at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Tavern Toddlers. Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Mondays through the end of April. Designed for walkers through 36 months and their caregivers. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal St. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org

THURSDAY/JAN. 24

Jeffrey Osborne. 7:30 p.m. \$65. Visit www.jeffreyosborne.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-

Art Focus Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Custom color painting — explore routines and practices for mixing a unique color palette and painting with

tempera paint. Classes are \$25 each or \$200 for the 10 class series. A school or group of teachers can share the registration for the full series. At 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Call 703-201-1250.

Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call for title. Free. 703-746-1702.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 years. Free. Registration required. 703-746-1702

Fire Safety Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 can learn about fire safety from a representative from the Alexandria Fire Department. Free. Registration required. 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. One-year-olds can sing, enjoy fingerplays and bounces. Free. 703-746-1705. **Story Time.** 11 a.m. at James Duncan

Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, play time and a craft. Free. 703-746-

Short Story Discussion. 7 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Discuss stories fron "Other Voices, Other Vistas" edited by Barbara Solomon. Free. 703-746-

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Pajamas optional, but children ages 3-6 can enjoy stories, songs, games and crafts. Free. Story Time. 4 p.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and more, including a weekly craft or short film. Free. 703-746-1703.

THURSDAYS/JAN. 24, 31

Success as an Artist Seminar. 6-9 p.m. at the Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. \$85 registration fee for both days. Learn how to succeed in the business of being an artist. To register 703-683-1780.

JAN. 24 THROUGH MARCH 17

Theater Performance. "Ladies Swing the Blues," a world premiere by Thomas W. Jones II and William Knowles at Metrostage, 1201 N. Royal St. Explore the jazz folklore, mythologies and backstage stories of the '40s and '50s with four legendary jazz divas as they gather to commemorate the passing of jazz legend Charlie Parker. Performances are 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 \$50 (students \$25). For tickets call 800-494-8497 or visit www.metrostage.org, Groups/Info 703-548-9044. Fully accessible, free parking.

THROUGH JAN. 24

Watercolors and Collagraph **Prints: African Encounters:** Coast to Coast. The Alexandria

Black History Museum will open an exhibition of watercolors and collagraph prints entitled African Encounters: Coast to Coast. Artist Kathleen Stafford explores the landscape, architecture, and people of Africa, providing a kaleidoscope of variety and color for the eye. Free and open to the public. The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe St. and is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Solo Preview Exhibit. Features a premiere piece of work by each of the Art League's nine 2013 solo artists. Gallery is located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 25

Music. The Steep Canyon Rangers will perform at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., at 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-

Invasives: What Not to Plant, 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$10. Learn what native alternatives you can grow. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 183 3401.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Aldersgate Church Community Theater, see Disney's "Little Mermaid. Jr." Visit acctonline.org or 703-660-2611 for tickets and

See Calendar, Page 17

w.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Entertainment

Roz White, Lori Williams, Yvette Spears, Sandy Bainum appearing in MetroStage's "Ladies Swing the Blues."



Swingin' Ladies at MetroStage

By Carolyn Griffin MetroStage,

Producing Artistic Director

nother world premiere musical opens at MetroStage, Thursday, Jan. 24. MetroStage Associate Artist Thomas W. Jones II, based in Atlanta, Georgia, has written some of our favorite shows — from "Three Sistahs" and "Harlem Rose" a decade ago to "Cool Papa's Party," a Helen Hayes

Award-winning musical that premiered here in 2009. And now we are proud to present his latest, "Ladies Swing the Blues,"

and boy do they swing! With original music and all new arrangements of some of the 1940's and '50's standards by another MetroStage favorite, William Knowles and a jazz band, MetroStage is Alexandria's own version of Washington, D.C.'s famous Blues Alley, except it has been transformed into Birdland, "The Jazz Corner of the

World" in New York City, named for the legendary jazz musician, Charlie Parker.

"Ladies Swing the Blues" takes place the evening following the death of Charlie Parker in 1955, backstage at Birdland. Four iconic women in the tradition of Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holliday, Sarah Vaughan and Peggy Lee, reminisce backstage at Birdland about the musicians of the era — Charlie Parker (The Bird) along with Dizzy, Basie, Monk, Ellington and so many other legendary musicians who contributed to blues, jazz and even, in the case of Dizzy and Bird, invented bebop.

It is storytelling at its best, as we live the lives of these iconic musicians, revel in their musical genius and enjoy the best music of the era, as well as the original music of Knowles with lyrics by Jones. We invite you to Birdland to share the stories and lives of the most influential musicians of our time. "Ladies Swing the Blues" runs through March 17 at MetroStage — a jazz club in a converted warehouse here in the north end of Old Town.

CALENDAR

From Page 16

information.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and under can enjoy songs and stories. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

SATURDAY/JAN. 26

Winter Concert. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 Beauregard St. Peter Trofimenko and the American Balalaika Symphony perform "A Russian New Year Balalaika Bash." \$20/advance; \$25/door; \$15/seniors, students and groups. Visit www.ABSorchestra.org or www.InstantSeats.com.

Winter Garden Treasures. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$15. Learn about the dogwood and witch hazel families. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 182 2801.

Art*iculation. 2-5 p.m. at The Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Workshop to help visual artists communicate effectively. Free. Registration required. 703-683-1780.

Saturday Stories. 11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free. 703-746-1702. **Theater Performance.** 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Aldersgate Church Community Theater, see Disney's "Little Mermaid, Jr." Visit acctonline.org or 703-660-2611 for tickets and information.

Civil War Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Period or after-five wear encouraged. Enjoy period dances with live music, desserts and more. \$45/person. Reservations required, 703-746-

Storytime with Author Michael
Muller and Mirabelle. 10:30-11
a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King
St. Children ages 5 and under can
enjoy story time with Michael Muller
and his Boston terrier Mirabelle.
Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com
or 703-548-4092.

SUNDAY/JAN. 27

"Penelope's Pesky Pen." 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Children can see a dance production based on Frank Dormer's "The Obstinate Pen." \$10-\$15. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-

Designing a Layered Garden. 1:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$10. Learn how to recreate the display of David Culp's Brandywine Cottage. Book signing to follow. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 182 4501.

Drop Dead Gorgeous Tea

Program. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$28. Learn about the history of fashion and beauty trends that have proved harmful, even fatal. Register at 703-941-7987.

Coffee, Critique, Conversation. 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Photographers and art enthusiasts can share their work and get feedback and questions answered. Free. 703-683-2205.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. at Aldersgate Church Community Theater, see Disney's "Little Mermaid, Jr." Visit acctonline.org or 703-660-2611 for tickets and information.

Event. 3-6:30 p.m. at Ireland's Own, 111 N. Pitt St. Enjoy music, auction, raffle and more. Proceeds help support Alexandria's St. Patrick's Day Parade Visit www.ballyshaners.org

Ladies 18th-Century Tea. 3 p.m. or 3:15 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Sip the museum's special blend and eat period-inspired delicacies. \$35/person. Reservations required. 703-746-4242.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall. Hear the American Youth Philharmonic perform with violinist Ricardo Cyncynates of the National Symphony Orchestra. \$15/adult;

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18









The Best in Family Dining



An Alexandria community fixture for more than 100 years, the Royal Restaurant offers the best in Greek, Italian and American cuisine. Enjoy burgers, steaks, prime rib, chicken, seafood, pasta and full salad bar complete with special children's menu items.



734 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 703-548-1616 • www.theroyalrestaurant.com

Award-winning wine menu • Major credit cards accepted

ENTERTAINMENT

From Page 17

\$10/senior and student; free for music teachers. Tickets available at www.aypo.org or at the door. **My Kissing Hands Keepsake**

My Kissing Hands Keepsake
Impressions. Noon-2 p.m. at
Hooray for Books, 1555 King St.
Custom ceramic pieces. Visit
mykissinghands.com for styles and
pricing. RSVP to
info@hooray4books.com. Visit
www.hooray4books.com or 703-5484092.

West African Drumming

Workshop. 2-3:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Bring a drum, bell or shaker. \$5/person; \$15/max per

Chamber Players Concert. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear the United States Air Force Band brass quintet and brass soloists. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

THROUGH JAN. 27

Art Exhibit. "Shades of White" by Del Ray artisans at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. White isn't "just white." It has tones and hues ranging from blues to beiges to yellows and more. In addition, some white pigments chemically interact with others (e.g. lead-based v. sulfur-based) to create beautiful blues and grays. Curators: Betsy Mead and Hillary Mead. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more details.

Art Exhibit. See "Between the Lines:

Art Exhibit. See "Between the Lines: Contemporary Drawing Now" at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. An allmedia exhibition focusing on current trends in drawing today. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

Alexandria Restaurant Week:
Inaugural Edition. Alexandria celebrates the inauguration with a special edition of Restaurant Week. Kicking off inaugural weekend and lasting 10 days, Alexandria's presidential hotspots and more than 50 eateries are offering \$35 three-course dinners or \$35 dinners for two. Find menus and more presidential connections at www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 28

Biography Book Club. 7 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Discuss "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls.

Little One-Ders. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children age 12-23 months with adult. Free. Preregistration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Baby Time. 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to 11 months can enjoy songs, fingerplays and bounces. Free 703-746-1705.

German Story Time. 10 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Ages 1-5 can enjoy stories, fingerplays and songs in German. Free. 703-746-1705.

Meet a K-9 and Deputy Sheriff. 3:45 p.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children in grades K-5 can learn and ask questions about what they do and how they train. Free. 703-746-1705

Read, Sing, Play, Baby. 4 p.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children up to 11 months can enjoy songs, games and playtime with toys Free. 703-746-1703.

MONDAY-THURSDAY/JAN. 28-31

Discovery Painting 1. 1-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$105. Learn basic painting skils, tools and techniques to

Ricardo Cyncynates

The American Youth Philharmonic welcomes violinist Ricardo Cyncynates of the National Symphony Orchestra, performing a concert of "Americana" and featuring the Violin Concerto by Samuel Barber. The concert takes place Sunday, Jan. 27, 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center of Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. Additional repertoire includes the Overture to Candide by Bernstein, Billy the Kid Suite by Copland, and An American in Paris by Gershwin.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+) and students (including college with ID), and free for music teachers. Tickets are available online or at the door. Visit www.aypo.org/events.



create simple works of art. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/JAN. 29

Monarch Butterfly Presentation.

10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Learn about the life cycle, migration and more of the butterfly. Free. Call 703-765-4573 to reserve a seat.

English as a Second Language Class. 10 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Charles
Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All
levels welcome. Free. 703-746-1702.

Tech Zoo Tuesdays. 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn about the latest e-reading devices or get help with one currently owned. Free. 703-746-1702.

Time for 2s. 11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702

Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Game Night. 7 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 8-12. Games change monthly. Free. 703-746-1702.

Songs and Stories. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501
Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy songs, fingerplays and

stories. Free. 703-746-1705. **Tuesday Tots.** 11 a.m. at Ellen
Coolidge Burke Library, 4701
Seminary Road. Children ages 2-3
can enjoy stories, songs, games and
making crafts. Free. 703-746-1704.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy songs, games and interactive fun. Free. 703-746-1703.

Stories to Grow On. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and interactive fun at 11 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Free. 703-746-1703.

Wax Museum. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at St. Louis Catholic School, 2901 Popkins Lane. Fifth grade students will dress up as an important person in history or modern society and then assume a pose with a sticker acting as a start button, telling them to present their report on that person. 703-768-7732.

WEDNESDAY/JAN.30

Robert Earl Keen. 7:30 p.m. \$39.50, all standing in the flex stage. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Author Series. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. William Burton McCormick will discuss his book "Lenin's Harem." Free.

Time for 2s. 11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5

E-book Training. 7 p.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Learn how to use Alexandria Library's e-book collection on your e-reader, smartphone, mp3 player or computer. Free. 703-746-1705.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy songs, games and interactive fun. Free. 703-746-1703.

Stories to Grow On. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and interactive fun at 11 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Free. 703-746-1703.

THURSDAY/JAN. 31

Music. Blackstreet featuring Teddy Riley will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 years. Free. Registration required. 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. One-year-olds can sing, enjoy fingerplays and bounces. Free. 703-746-1705.

Story Time. 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, play time and a craft. Free. 703-746-

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Pajamas optional, but children ages 3-6 can enjoy stories, songs, games and crafts. Free. 703-746-1704.

Story Time. 4 p.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and more, including a weekly craft or short film. Free. 703-746-1703.

THROUGH JAN. 31

Art Exhibit. Multiple Exposures Gallery in Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. See Clifford Wheeler's "Axis: Bold as Love, The Luthier's Art." Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Many Brave Crowds To Witness History

From Page 5

girls and practice what I preach."

Arlington resident Angela Harris, who is African American, says she came so her 5-year-old twin daughters could witness history. "I am happy that my children have two girls in the White House who look like them," she said. "I thought it was important for them to see that there really is no limit to what you can achieve in this country."

The warmer temperatures and smaller crowd made the president's second swearing in more pleasurable than the first for some.

"During the last inauguration it was so cold and there were so many people that you could barely move," said Marley Harmon of McLean. "It was not nearly as cold this time around and we actually had elbow room, so it was more comfortable."

For some, the second swearing in ceremony was also more important that the first. "It is still historic this time, but reality has set in," said Jackie Jackson of Reston. "The fact that he was elected for a second term means that he is more than just a fad riding a wave of enthusiasm. It means that he is a smart, solid president."

Others pointed to a few glitches in the ceremony: Kelley Green of Centreville, said her inauguration experience was marred by an anti-abortion protester who climbed a tree near the Capitol and shouted anti-Democratic messages throughout most of the service.

"It was disrespectful and disruptive, and distracted from the speech and the singing," said Green. "He yelled the whole time. I wondered why the police



Genea Luck of Alexandra, who got tickets from the office of U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, says she attended the inauguration out of a sense of pride and responsibility.

wouldn't just Taser him, but I guess he has a right to free speech."

The doyenne of household hints and former Arlington resident Heloise, who was in town for the Home and Remodeling Show in Chantilly, was also in the crowd. "[His speech] wasn't Earth-shattering, but it is appropriate and what you'd expect to hear," she said.

Bulletin Board

From Page 8

Contact Rose Boyd, 703-746-4300. **Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board**. 7:30 p.m. City Hall,

Board. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact Robert Garbacz, 703-746-4101.

ARHA Board of Commissioners. 7:30 p.m. Ladrey Highrise, 300

7:30 p.m. Ladrey Highrise, 300 Wythe St. Contact Roy Priest, 703-549-7115.

Reception and Presentation.

6:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. Agenda:Alexandria presents "Powering Alexandria's Economy: Tourism, Associations, and More' with Val Hawkins, CEO and President, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership; John Long, CEO and President, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce; and Patricia Washington, CEO and President, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, Reservations required. Members with reservations by Tuesday, Jan. 22: \$28; with reservations after deadline: \$33; without reservations: \$38/non-members with reservations by Jan. 22: \$33; after deadline: \$38; without reservations: \$43. Contact Sherry Brown for reservations at agendaalexandria@aol.com or 703-548-7089.

Meeting. The third meeting of the Jefferson-Houston Project Community Engagement Committee will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the library at Jefferson-Houston, 1501 Cameron St. Discussion will focus on the topic "Designing with Educational Content: Building Connections between Architecture and Learning."

TUESDAY/JAN. 29

Second Community Dialogue. 7

p.m. at a location to be announced. The community will wrap up its work on the principles of civic engagement and then discuss potential methods for achieving those principles, including the range of engagement formats and approaches identified by the community in the recent poll. Childcare and simultaneous Spanish translation will be available. Visit alexandriava.gov/WhatsNext or contact Carrie Beach, project manager, at 703-746-3853.

Blood Drive. 1:30-8 p.m. at Alexandria Chapter House, 123 N. Alfred St. Donate blood through the American Red Cross. Visit www.redcrossblood.org or 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

Academic Fair and Orientation.

All current T.C. Williams High School students in 8th through 11th-grade can get information needed to select courses for next school year. 6 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St.

WEDNESDAY/JAN.30

Computer Basics. 11 a.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn the basics of using a computer. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1704





OBITUARIES

John Bruce Hammond

After a six-year battle with a rare form of cancer, John Hammond died peacefully while surrounded by family on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013. His final days were spent at home under hospice care and marked the end of a determined battle with malignant Pheochromocytoma – a cancer of the adrenal gland. During this time, a steady stream of visitors poured through the doors of John and his wife Kerry's home. Never without his dry wit or a big smile, John often sent well-wishers away laughing.

John was born Oct. 27, 1965 at Sibley Hospital in Washington, D.C. to Julia West and Donald B. Hammond. He grew up in Alexandria and after attending Fort Hunt High School, joined the U.S. Army. He proudly served in the 10th Mountain Division and remained in the Reserves until 1995. After completing his active duty assignment, John returned to Alexandria where he became a fixture working at Union Street Public House in Old Town Alexandria. He was well known not only by regulars and patrons, but throughout the res-



taurant community.

John continued to build on many of these relationships when he moved to Premium Distributors to serve as their national accounts manager. Both old and new acquaintances enjoyed working with John. "People were

very comfortable with John and trusted him," said John's good friend and colleague at Premium, Carmine Pechie. According to Pechie much of John's success came from his clients knowing that his "heart was as big as the outdoors" and that he truly cared about their businesses.

John was first diagnosed in fall of 2006. After complaining of persistent back pain, multiple tumors were discovered on his spine. Since then, John endured 10 surgeries including three reconstructions of his spine. Those surgeries, combined with over 30 rounds of chemotherapy, radiation treatments and countless complications might have taken the smile from anyone but not John. He never

missed an opportunity to display his sense of humor or make someone smile.

While there is currently no known cure for malignant Pheochromocytoma, the medical team at the National Institutes of Health helped John fight what proved to be a ferocious and persistent disease for more than six years. Throughout these challenges, John remained positive and determined to fight a winning battle. Dr. Tito Fojo, the medical oncologist involved in John's care at the NIH recalled that from the first day he met John, "He impressed me with his courage, his sense of humor, and his ability to flow with what fate sent him." Those traits, Fojo came to learn, defined John's experience. He not only served as a role model for fellow patients battling the disease, but inspired his team of doctors, caregivers, friends and family with his resiliency and strength. These characteristics led Dr. Karel Pacak, director, Pheo Para Protocol, NIH and Karen Adams, Program Coordinator, NIH to recall that John was "an absolute treasure of a person."

There were two constants during John's experience with cancer — his determina-

tion to fight, and the unflinching devotion of his wife Kerry. Though John and Kerry had been together for many years, his cancer got in the way of their plans until they were finally able to wed Sept. 28, 2012. On that beautiful fall day, John finally married his longtime love, devoted caregiver and best friend in a beautiful ceremony on the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria.

John was many things to many people — an all-star sales and marketing man, a trusted business associate, a loyal friend, a devoted Jimmy Buffett fan, a playful son, a protective brother, a doting uncle and a loving husband. His longtime friend and neighbor Ram Todd summed up what many felt: "Thank God I knew him, he helped make me a better person."

A celebration of John Hammond's life will be held on Monday Jan. 28 at Columbia Firehouse Restaurant at 109 S. Saint Asaph Street, in Old Town Alexandria. The reception will take place from 12-4 p.m. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested donations to the Pheo-Para Alliance. P.O. Box 504, Arlington VA 22216 or online at www.pheo-para-alliance.org.

Dr. Bernard Greifer

On Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, Bernard Greifer, 91, of Rockville, Md., previously of Alexandria, died. Bernie, son of Morris and Nettie Greifer, was born in the Bronx, N.Y., Dec. 22, 1921. He graduated from City College of N.Y. with a BS in chemistry. A decorated war veteran of WWII, he received his M.S. from NYU and his Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University. Bernie was a gifted scientist in the fields of organic and environmental chemistry. He was active in both the American Chemical Society and Alpha

Chi Sigma.

Beloved husband of Ruth Greifer, loving father of Carla Paris Teich, Helen Grimm, and Amy Godin, grandfather to Andrew Paris, Rebecca and Jacob Grimm, and Sophia and Shira Godin. He will be missed by family and friends.

A funeral service was held at Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria, on Tuesday, Jan. 22. Shiva was to be observed at the home of Amy and Ed Godin starting Tuesday. Memorial contributions may be made to Agudas Achim Congregation.

Gerald V. Godfrey

Gerald V. Godfrey, born March 26, 1938, died on Jan. 20, 2013 at his home in Alexandria. He was originally from western North Carolina and moved with his parents to Alexandria, where his father helped construct the Pentagon, during his high school years. He attended George Washington High School for one year before moving back to Crossnore, N.C. where he graduated from Crossnore High School.

Following high school, he served in the U.S. Army for two years to include a year overseas in Korea. He married Carolyn Betz in 1960 and they had two sons, David and Sean Godfrey. They lived in Alexandria where their

sons attended St. Rita's Elementary and Bishop Ireton High School. He worked his entire career in the automotive industry until his retirement in June 2012. He was a hard worker who enjoyed horseracing, basketball, football, and admiring old cars. For the last 20 years, he lived in Parkfairfax surrounded by many friends and family.

He is survived by his two sons and their wives, Caroline and Diane; four grandchildren, Ryan, Travis, Colton, and Baylor; and sister, Peggy Godfrey. He was good man and will be missed by all who knew him.

Family will welcome friends from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25, at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria.

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Page 6

the facts did not support the beliefs held by ACPS. The same is true in this case. There are beliefs and there are facts. Independent review and assessment from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and local media suggest that a number of points in this letter must be addressed with a dose of reality.

1) ACPS is failing to meet the most important core principle of its strategic plan, "educational excellence." As a school division ACPS failed to meet all federal annual measurable objectives. According to the VDOE SOL Division Report Card (available to the public) 14 of the 19 ACPS schools failed to meet state and/or federal accreditation benchmarks. The status of those 14 schools: Charles Barrett- Improvement Plan Required, Francis Hammond 2- Accredited With Warning, Francis Hammond 3- Improvement Plan Required, George Mason-Improvement Plan Required, George Washington 2- Improvement Plan Required, George Washington 1- Improvement Plan Required, James K. Polk-Improvement Plan Required, Jefferson Houston- Accreditation Denied, John Adams-Title 1 Focus School, Maury- Improvement Plan Required, Mount Vernon- Improvement Plan Required, Patrick Henry- Title 1 Focus School, Samuel Tucker- Improvement Plan Required, T.C. Williams- Title 1 Focus School.

2) The ACPS 21st Century Curriculum mirrors the Virginia Standards of Learning. The one-page summary available to parents cites SOL objectives and is in line with the pacing guides and curriculum ACPS already had in place prior to the arrival of the "new" curriculum. The current curriculum was hurriedly and haphazardly pushed out with mistakes and problems and has had to be reworked a number of times. ACPS is currently using and changing curriculum version 3.0 which halfway through the school year remains incomplete. A number of the "new" ACPS curriculum "resources" are nothing more than existing VDOE SOL links, hardly custom-designed.

3) A "transformed" T. C. Williams High School is still failing to meet the needs of its students. Advanced placement enrollment has increased while the number of students actually taking the AP tests has decreased from 765 students in the 2010-2011 school year to only 659 students in the 2011-2012 school year. Between the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school year the number of drop outs at T.C. Williams nearly doubled from 60 children to 109 children.

4) ACPS makes a budget look good, what they actually do with the money is another story. This past spring one of Alexandria's most respected public servants, former twoterm mayor of Alexandria, parent of five former ACPS students, former T.C. Williams administrator, and, until recently, Alexandria's vice mayor publicly called for the resignation of the superintendent due to the gross mismanagement of taxpayer dollars within the school system. Mismanagement which was allowed to occur under what ACPS' former chief financial officer was called an "extremely hostile, abusive and punitive work environment." According to the Virginia Department of Education SOL Report Card for ACPS, nearly 40 percent of ACPS operating expenditures do not go towards instructional costs. A

recent Freedom of Information Request by the Education Association of Alexandria called ACPS administrative spending into question. The EAA went as far to state that the administrative "salaries, benefits, and bonuses of which Mrs. Gorsuch has been made aware are staggering, considering this staff does not work with children."

The majority of ACPS schools requiring improvement plans, a historically failing elementary school having its accreditation denied, increasing drop-out rates, declining SAT trends, haphazard policy and curriculum decisions, and questionable spending are just a few of the ongoing concerns within our small school system. The new school board has a variety of issues to address before congratulations or blame should be bestowed upon anyone who served on the previous school board. ACPS's record of recent years should lead many to hold the applause.

Edmund Lewis Alexandria

SPORTS

TC Loses Second-Half Lead to First-Place Woodson

Titans' Wilson scores 17 points, Carney 14 in defeat.

> BY JON ROETMAN GAZETTE PACKET

he Woodson boys' basketball team's collection of tall sharp shooters is a primary reason the Cavaliers entered Tuesday night's contest against the T.C. Williams Titans riding an 11-game winning streak.

With four players listed at 6 foot 4 or taller capable of stroking 3-pointers, Woodson provides a tough matchup for any opponent. TC, on the other hand, compensates for offensive shortcomings with a physical brand of basketball and a group of bruisers strong enough to make an impact in the paint.

With a chance to pull within one game of first-place Woodson, TC, the defending Patriot District champion, pounded the ball inside and tested whether the Cavaliers were as interested in defending the paint as they were launching shots from the perimeter. The Titans succeeded with their physical attack into the third quarter, but it was the Cavaliers who left The Garden with their win streak intact.

Woodson defeated TC 64-54 on Jan. 22 at T.C. Williams High School. The Cavaliers



T.C. Williams junior Malik Carney drives against Woodson's Peter Murray on Tuesday night at T.C. Williams High School.

and extended their win streak to 12 games. The Titans dropped to 9-7 overall, 6-3 in the district and into a third-place tie with West Potomac. Lake Braddock is in second place with a 7-2 district record.

A post-up bucket by TC's Landon Moss improved to 15-2 overall, 9-0 in the district gave the Titans a 34-28 lead with 6:14 re-



T.C. Williams' Jeremiah Clarke (22) reaches for the ball against Woodson's Andy Stynchula (42) on Tuesday night at T.C. Williams High School.

maining in the third quarter. Woodson battled back and took a one-point lead into the fourth quarter before outscoring the Titans 23-14 in the final period.

"We felt we had a quicker first step than they did," said Moss, who finished with six points. "They've got strong guys, but we felt

"[The Titans] came out real hyped and were pushing us around at the beginning, but as the game went on we got a little chip on our shoulders and decided in order to be in this game and to win this game, we've got to push back."

— Woodson senior Peter Murray

like we could overpower them, maybe, if we got the ball inside ..."

Of the Titans' first 34 points, 28 came near the rim or from the free-throw line. Of TC's final 20 points, only five came near the rim or at the free-throw line.

"You've got to be kind of physical with us and that's what they did the first time we played them — they really pounded us down low," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "They got the ball inside. They've got a lot of guys near the basket that make shots. ... I think in the first half we didn't really respond very well to the physical na

SEE WILSON SCORES 17, PAGE 22

SSSAS Girls' Basketball Stepping up to the Challenge

Saints manage winning record against the odds.

> By Jon Roetman GAZETTE PACKET

idway through the fourth quarter of a tightly-contested home game against Sidwell Friends, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes guard Lizzie Zulauf's head slammed against the court, forcing the senior to the bench for precautionary concussion testing.

With the Saints' leading scorer sidelined, Sidwell Friends scored eight straight points to take control of the game. Facing a doubledigit deficit in the closing minutes, Zulauf re-entered the game and continued battling, knocking down a late jumper to finish with 19 points.

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' basketball team entered Saturday's contest against the Sidwell Friends Quakers with a lack of height and multiple banged-up or injured players. The Saints also entered the contest with a winning record despite the loss of 6-foot standout Dhyamond Crenshaw, who averaged 22.9 points per

game for St. Stephen's last year before transferring back to Robinson, and moving up to the ISL AA division. After losing to Sidwell Friends, 53-44, on Jan. 19 and Holy Child, 45-33, on Jan. 22, the Saints still had a 9-7 record. At one point, St. Stephen's was

"One of the things that we worked on a lot last year was trying to make sure that we were a team," SSSAS head coach Calvin Crenshaw said after the Sidwell Friends game. "Whether Dhyamond was playing or not, we wanted to make sure we were a team. I think that has rubbed off to this year where all the kids are playing well. ... We just have kids stepping up and doing their

Against Sidwell, St. Stephen's held a 41-36 lead after three quarters before being outscored 17-3 in the fourth. Zulauf finished with a team-high 19 points and made a trio of 3-pointers. According to stats from the Washington Post's Web site, Zulauf is the team's leading scorer at more than 14 points

Coach Crenshaw said Zulauf had the talent to be a primary scorer last season, but played timidly. This year, however, she has stepped up to fill the void left by Dhyamond Crenshaw.

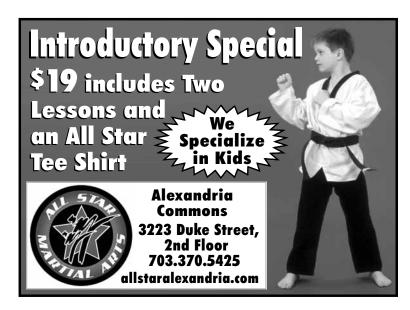
SEE SAINTS STEP UP, PAGE 22



At 5 feet 8, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes senior Alexis Sargent has to battle taller opponents.



St. Stephen's & St. Agnes senior **Lizzie Zulauf scored 19 points** against Sidwell Friends on Jan. 19.





SPORTS

Saints Step up to the Challenge

From Page 21

"She was our main scorer, so I just felt I needed to step up and help my team out," Zulauf said. "I definitely try to make sure the offense is running smoothly. I've been getting better at taking the open shot. Last year, I would be looking for Dhyamond all the time, but now I've been getting better at taking shots."

Sophomore guard Priscilla Badu-Sekyere scored 16 points against Sidwell Friends. Senior 5-foot-8 post Alexis Sargent grabbed 10 rebounds.

"We never gave up," Sargent said of the Saints' approach this season. "It would be easy to fold after losing a star like Dhyamond, but Lizzie really stepped up and she took a leadership position — a quiet leadership position — but she really shows us that we can't give up and we keep fighting. ...

"I've just got to keep fighting and stay strong and keep a positive attitude. God gave me the height I have and I can use what I have to my advantage and just look for my teammates who are always going to have my back and kick it back out for the 3 to Lizzie. ... Priscilla also drives to the basket all the time. She's fearless going against those bigs."

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes will host Flint Hill at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25.

"Everybody can sit back and say, 'What if?" Crenshaw said. "What if we didn't have any injuries? What if Dhyamond was still here? We can all sit back and say 'What if?' But this is what we have and I'm very appreciative of these kids. These kids are working their butts off."



St. Stephen's & St. Agnes sophomore Priscilla Badu-Sekyere scored 16 points against Sidwell Friends on Jan. 19.

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Special Thanks to Alexandria Gazette Jacket

Wilson Scores 17 Points, Carney 14

From Page 21

ture of the game. Especially on the defensive end on the backboards, we were a little soft. I think that was kind of our challenge to them at halftime was we wanted to get after them and do that."

How did the Cavaliers respond in the second half? "I thought we were fine in the second half," Craig said. "Once we strung together a couple stops, I felt like I could kind of see our confidence growing. We're going to score the ball against most teams. We're blessed with a lot of guys that can put the ball in the hole. For us, it's about the defensive end and the

consistency at the defensive end of the floor."

Woodson received a late boost from senior Alex Boock, who sat on the bench for most of the first half after being whistled for his second foul less than three minutes into the game. After not scoring a point for the first three quarters, Boock tallied 12 in the fourth, including eight points during an 11-3 Cavalier run to open the period.

"The main thing was just to make sure I stayed focused," Boock said, "because sometimes you can sit awhile [and] you get out of the game, you lose your focus [and] you lose your rhythm."

A three-point play by Woodson senior center Peter Murray gave the Cavaliers a 52-43 lead with 4:05 remaining in the fourth. With TC trailing by six late in the game, Murray came up with a tip-in to extend the Woodson lead to 59-51 with 1:02 to play.

Each of the Cavaliers' vertically-gifted shooters scored at least eight points. Six-foot-6 Tommy Stepka led Woodson with 15 points and made a trio of 3-pointers. Six-foot-4 Boock scored 12 points, including a pair of 3-pointers. Six-foot-4 Murray had 11 points and 6-foot-4 Andy Stynchula knocked down two 3-pointers and finished with eight points.

Sophomore point guard Eric Bowles, who is listed

at 5 feet 11, finished with 13 points. Bowles' jumper in the closing seconds of the third quarter gave Woodson a 41-40 lead. The Cavaliers led for the remainder of the contest.

Along with a 12-game win streak, Woodson is ranked No. 12 in the Washington Post's top 20 and is the only school from the Northern Region to make the list. VirginiaPreps.com has the Cavaliers ranked as the No. 1 public school team in the state of Virginia. T.C. Williams is ranked No. 22.

"It kind of [makes you a] little cocky," Bowles said, "... but you can't just come out and think that people are going to just give up because you're ranked 12th [by the Washington Post]. You still have to play your game, play hard and do what you do to get the win."

Javon Wilson led TC with 17 points, including four 3-pointers. Malik Carney scored 14 for the Titans.

TC head coach Julian King said the Titans need to find a way to get more players involved at the offensive end.

"I think [Carney] played really well," King said. "He's been pretty consistent for the last few games. We just have to find some consistency from someone else. Javon Wilson played well, but it just can't be a two-man show. It's got to be six or seven guys with the type of team we have."

Woodson went 13-1 during the 2011-12 Patriot District regular season, including a pair of wins against TC, but lost to the Titans in the district tournament semifinals. Does the way last season played out make Tuesday's loss any easier to take?

"It means absolutely nothing," King said. "We lost an opportunity to help ourselves with the seeding in the district."

Woodson will travel to face Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25. TC will travel to face Lee at 7:45 p.m. on Friday.

Tweens and Teens Have a Ball

From Page 3

"We all thought Michelle Obama's remarks in support of our nation's military families and the children of military families were excellent and very poignant," said Kevin Cooper, Alena and Helen's father.

Allison Ingram of Alexandria said her daughter Mackenzie's favorite part was seeing Sasha and Malia and watching Katy Perry's colorful finale.

"I thought it was cool that it was sort of a small intimate affair. It made the cause feel more personalized. For us, it was a oncein-a-lifetime event," Ingram said.

Catie Poersch, also of Alexandria, said her favorite part of the concert was dancing and her sister Claire said she loved "dancing on my chair to Katy Perry." Mom Jennifer said the family "felt honored to be a part of this special event."

The concert was part of the ongoing work of "Joining Forces," the organization started by Michelle Obama and Jill Biden to rally all Americans to recognize, honor, and support the nation's military families, troops and veterans. The organization also provides education, training and employment resources for military families.

"The first lady and I are so excited to be here with all these military kids," Jill Biden said, sharing with the crowd the experience of her son Beau's deployment to Iraq for a



Mackenzie Smith, Anne Feighery, **Camille Powilatis and Sarah** Feighery at the Kids' Inaugural.

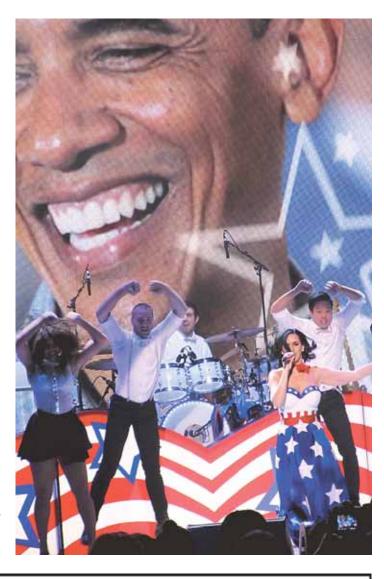
When Perry took the stage, the crowd danced, chanted and sang along with her mega-hits "Teenage Dream,"" Fireworks" and "Part of Me." She gave a special shoutout to President Obama.

"I'm so proud to be here, and to see the

Bidens here for four more years," she said as the crowd chanted "four more years" along with her.

"Oh my God, I can't believe I just saw Katy Perry," gushed Caitlyn Reynolds, 11, at the end of the show.

Headliner Katy Perry rocked the pin-up look with an American Flag inspired outfit for the Kids' Inaugural concert. The performer gave a shoutout to President Obama, and featured a dance number with slides of the president in action





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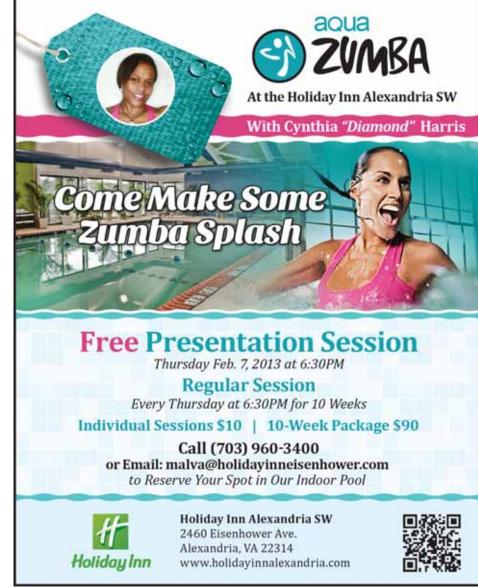
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partisanship.

It's downright

undemocratic."

— Del. Charniele

Herring (D-46),

Virginia

chairwoman of the

Democratic Party of

beyond

Four Northern Virginia Senators Targeted

From Page 1

ginia. Barker's seat and Marsden's seat, for example, would be about 80 percent different. And Puller's seat would swap about 70 percent of her current precincts for new ones. Petersen, who represents sections of Fairfax City, Vienna, Dunn-Loring and Centreville, said in a call Tuesday he stands to lose nearly half of his constituents if the politically redrawn map holds

up to legal challenges. He said he would lose precincts that he's held for 12 years, including Mantua, Mosby Woods, Fairfax Villa and some newer precincts in Centreville.

"This is outrageous, and it be must stopped," said Del. Charniele Herring (D-46),

chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia. "This goes beyond partisanship. It's downright undemocratic."

REDISTRICTING USUALLY takes place once a decade, a

process that's tied to the decennial census. Lawmakers have deviated from that once-in-adecade timetable from time to time, usually to address problems with split districts that have presented problems for registrars. The effort that passed the Senate this week, however, goes far beyond that kind of tweaking by dramatically redrawing the map for the entire commonwealth. On the Senate floor, Watkins said failing to create a sixth majority black district in Southside Virginia would invite lawsuits under the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

"I wish to avoid litigation," Watkins said during the floor debate Monday afternoon.

Democrats countered that a court fight is imminent.

"We will fight this all the way to the Supreme Court of Virginia if necessary." said Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw "First voter suppression efforts, then the war on women, and now draconian changes to a Justice Department-approved redistricting plan. It appears their overreaching political against us."

agenda."

THE TIMING of the effort was galling to many Democrats, who accused the Republicans of taking advantage of the presidential inauguration to score political points. Because the state Senate is evenly divided between 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans, any change in the balance of power could create an imbalance. Although the Re-

publicans have delayed the bill on several previous occasions, they waited until Monday to move on the legislation.

"To plot to do this on Martin Luther King Day, when civil rights icon Sen. Henry Marsh, left to attend the historic inauguration of our president is truly embarrassing,

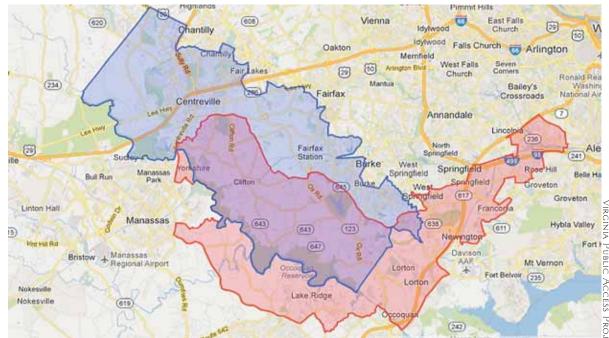
Marsden. "I am deeply disappointed that the Republicans continue to play these petty partisan games."

Republicans pointed to a 2011 newspaper column by former Democratic Gov. Doug Wilder, the nation's first elected black governor, supporting a Senate redistricting plan passed when Democrats ruled the Senate. Democrats countered by accusing Republicans of "packing" the districts by using the change in Southside Virginia to free up more districts that would be friendly to Republicans.

"Obviously we went through redistricting in 2011. The constitution specifically speaks to 2011 as being the redistricting year, not 2012, not 2013,' Petersen said. "You can't say 'Obama was elected in 2012, but now we don't like him in 2013, so we'll just have another election in a year when the constitution doesn't authorize elections ... That's absurd."

Petersen said he is confident any judge would find the bill unconstitutional, but one question still out there is whether Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, (D-35) in a written statement. a Republican who is running for Governor in 2013, will defend the tactic.

"This is what happens when Republicans regulate other Republicans," Petersen said. "Evthat there are no boundaries to ery layer of oversight is stacked



State Sen. George Barker (D-39) would lose Alexandria and gain Centreville.



State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) would lose Centreville and gain Woodbridge.



State Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) would lose Dumfries and gain Belle Haven.

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21 Announcements

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Gnosis, Inc trading as Vasos Kitchen, 1118 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The

above establishment is apply

ing to the VIRGINIA
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE

CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed beverages on premises

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Vasiliki Volioti,President

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Alexandria City School Board will hold a FY 2014 Budget Public Hearing during the meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013, in the School Board Meeting Room at 2000 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Budget information is available at http://www.acps.k12.va.us/budgets/. For more information or to register to speak at the public hearing, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 704-824-6614 or board-

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir has requested authorization to construct a 190-foot submerged crossing of Dogue Creek and 20 foot crossing of an unnamed tributary to Gunston cove to install a 6-inch force main using the directional drill method in the vicinity of the Dogue Creek

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OBITUARY

Elizabeth Randolph Newell (Betty) Johns, most recently of Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge in Charlottesville, died peacefully there on January 17, 2013, sur rounded by her loving family after a period of declining health A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on January 21st.

Born in Newport News on September 2, 1926, Betty was the daughter of William Talman Newell and Helen Woolfolk Newell. After graduating from Newport News High School, she attended Sweet Briar College for a year before enrolling in the Cadet Nurse program at the University of Virginia, where she received her R.N. in 1947. There she met the love of her life, Benjamin Irving Johns, whom she married the following year.

After a few years in the Fredericksburg area, they moved to Alexandria, where Ben taught at St. Stephens School and, pri or to having a family, Betty worked as a public health nurse. Af ter moving onto the campus of Episcopal High School in 1958, Betty assumed the additional duties of being a Master's wife, which she performed in the most gracious manner, often play-ing the role of surrogate mother, counselor and consummate hostess. Betty later returned to her nursing roots serving as loyal assistant to long-time friend and surgeon, Dr. John Hoyle

After 31 years at E.H.S., where Ben was Head of the Sci ence, Master and Coach. In 1989, they retired to Orange where they devoted themselves to work at St.Thomas Episcopal Church, the Food Pantry, Red Cross, and most devotedly as grandparents to their growing family. They also engaged in an active social life with new friends and bridge partners. Devoted to one another, Betty was predeceased by her husband only three months ago.

A nurturer and engaging friend to all, Betty is survived by their four children: Mary Page Johns Sullivan Charlottesville; Elizabeth Newell Johns Ferguson and husband, Richard, of Germantown, TN: Benjamin Irving Johns, Jr. and wife Deborah of Washington, DC, and William Randolph Johns and wife Christine of Reston, and their ten grandchildren: Elizabeth Pandchild and William Mal led Sullivan Matthe Research Randolph and William McLeod Sullivan; Martha Page Ferguson Burke and Harrison Smith Ferguson; Benjamin Tucker Johns, Bowman Bates Johns, Gibson Waterman Johns and Gussie Thayer Johns; and Lucy Grace Johns and Henry Randolph Johns. She is also survived by her brother, William Talman Newell, Jr. and wife Mary of Mathews, Va.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the "Go Bo Fund c/o Ben Johns,1633 29th Street, Washington DC 20007 or the Scholarship Fund of St. Georges Independent School, 1880 Wolf River Blvd., Collierville TN

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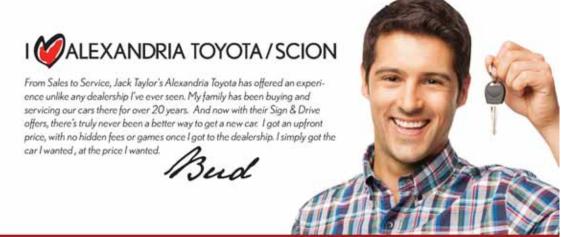


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