

# This old house

## County set to spend \$3 million restoring historic Rippon Lodge

By MIA RAGLAND  
For the Potomac News &  
Manassas Journal Messenger

George Washington slept here — really. His nephew was married here and Revolutionary War soldiers trained near its Neabsco Creek bank.

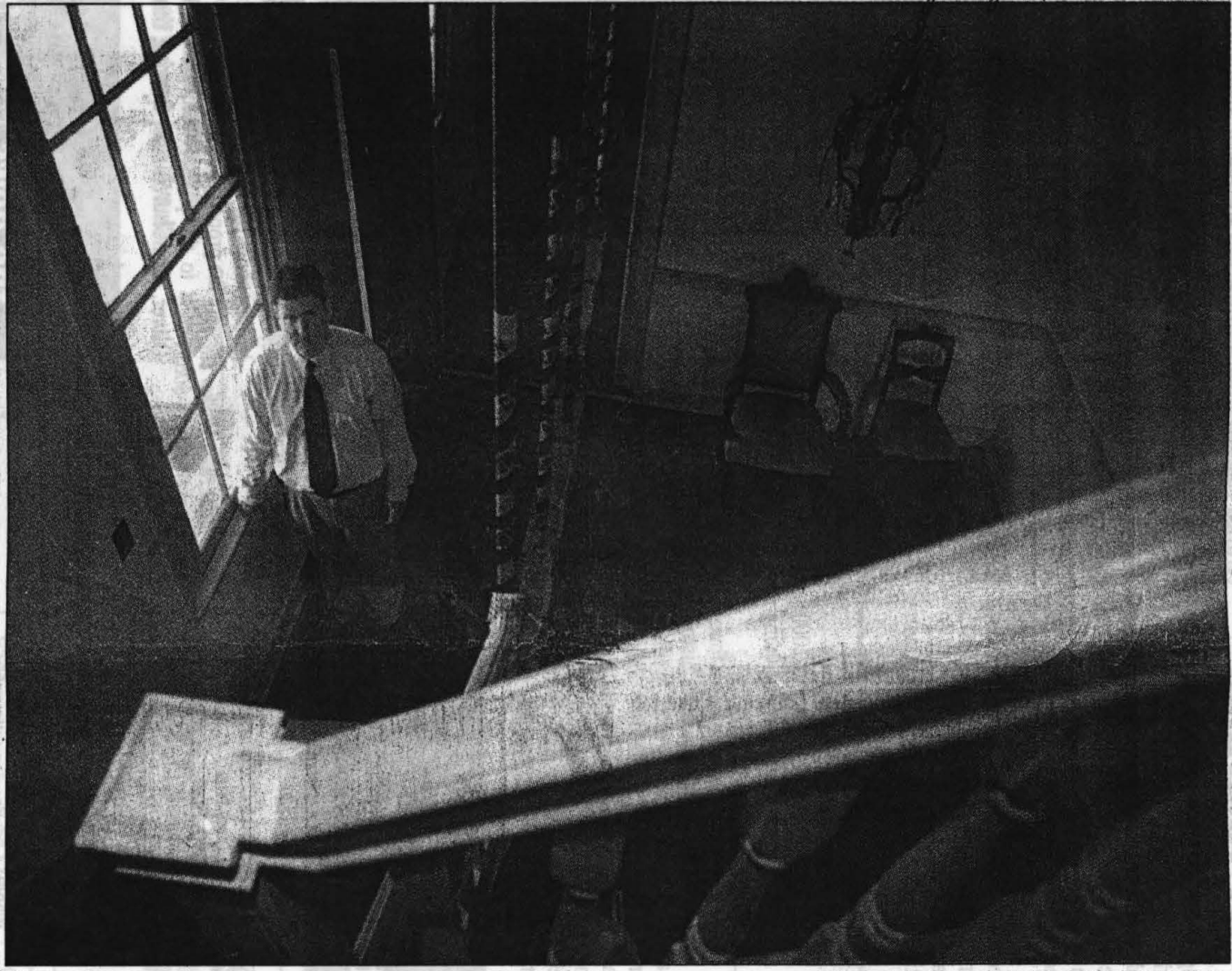
Rippon Lodge, one of the oldest Colonial homes in Prince William County, was built in 1745 by Colonel Richard Blackburn. He named the small plantation for his hometown of Rippon, England.

Prince William County bought Rippon Lodge for \$1.4 million in fiscal 2000 from Debra Black Decko, the daughter of Admiral Richard Blackburn Black, a descendent of the original owner.

The county plans to spend more than \$3 million this year on its renovation. Funds will come from grants, the county's general fund and a county tax on lodging.

County officials will apply for federal grant funds during fiscal 2004. The general fund will provide \$70,000 annually, which can be used as a local match for obtaining federal or state grants. One million dollars of a court settlement with the federal government reserved for historic preservation will also be used to fund restoration and renovation.

The original house was situated on 40



Peter Cihelka/News & Messenger

**Brendon Hanafin, Prince William County historic preservation manager, said the county will spend more than \$3 million to renovate the 256-year-old Rippon Lodge.**

acres and contained six buildings, including two cabins, a caretaker's cottage, garage and a barn.

Renovations of the lodge's exterior are under way done so tours of the grounds can be held in the fall.

Damaged beams and trusses in the basement will be secured or replaced.

From 1924 to 1940, the lodge was owned by Judge Ellis and was one of the premiere social hubs of Prince William County.

Ellis renovated the house in 1924, adding two wings on opposite ends and porches.

Throughout the 1950s and until his

death in 1992, Black owned the estate as a working farm.

The house has 17 rooms.

"Rippon Lodge has tremendous history," said Brendon Hanafin, historic preservation manager for Prince William

See RIPPON, Page A2

# Moose book court

## Muhamma try to delay

By STEPHEN  
Associa

GREENBELT, for sniper suspect Muhammad asked Thursday to delay mer Montgomery Chief Charles Mc sniper manhunt, s jurors and cause frenzy."

In a motion fil Court, attorney Tl the push to maxi would lead Moose dential informatio leading the Washi investigation.

"Moose ... has with the publicatio cally planned the l just prior to Muha attempt to obtain : possible from the cial investigation, motion.

Moose's book, October: The Man Sniper," is due to 15, according t Amazon.com.

See I

crossed through a channel at Belmont Bay at 4:45 p.m. The victim hit his head and hurt his hand. Injuries did not appear seri-

A witness in another boat called 911 from a cell phone.

— Daniel Drew

# Manassas School Board re-elects chairman and vice-chairman

At its organizational meeting Wednesday, the Manassas Park School Board re-elected Frank Jones Jr. as chairman seat. Jones will begin his fifth term on the board. Bryan Polk was re-elected vice chairman and will serve a third term on the board. The board elects the chairman and vice chairman each year at its organizational meeting, in compliance with

Virginia law, according to Lois Steele, School Board clerk.

Each of the five members on the board are appointed by the Manassas Park City Council. Board members are appointed to serve a three-year term. At a meeting in June, the council re-appointed Jones and George Chichester.

— Jennifer Brennan

# RIPPON

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County.

"We are doing archeological research to try and find out more history about the home, so we can restore the property like it was and open it to the public," said Deb Oliver, Prince William County

spokeswoman.

Work begun at the site in 2000 has uncovered artifacts including Colonial-period pottery.

The county is setting up a foundation to help restore more historical properties of Prince William County, such as Bennett School, built in 1908, and the old Prince William County courthouse, which served as the county seat from 1822 to 1894, Oliver said.

government has essentially supported Pakistan and its intelligence agency in its dispute with India. Assistant U.S. Attorney Gordon Kromberg, one of the prosecutors in the case, has said Br...

# accident on Occoquan

# Charges brought against man who

VIRGINIA BEACH (AP) — Charges were brought against a man who was charged with manslaughter after a helicopter crashed into the water Wednesday. The man, Michael J. Oschmann, 41, was charged with manslaughter, assault and battery and attempted murder. The charges were brought by a grand jury on Thursday.

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# BINGO

Continued from Page A1

"This is the gymnasium of the school and the smoke from a Thursday and a Friday night stayed in this room all week. That's just not good for the health of the children," he said.

Non-smokers Carol McDonald, Loretta Hicks and Harry Kuhn are also long-time bingo players at Our Lady of Angels.

"This is the best thing that's ever happened. Smoking is bad for you," said Kuhn, 79, who sits next to Hicks, 68, of Dumfries at the bingo table.

"I really enjoy it," McDonald, 63, said.

"You can see it before you open the door. You could see it before you opened the doors. Tonight we are doing archeological research to try and find out more history about the home, so we can restore the property like it was and open it to the public," said Oliver, Prince William County spokeswoman.

# Manassas School Board re-elects chairman and vice-chairman

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# RIPPON

Continued from Page A1

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# MOOSE

Continued from Page A1

Muhammad goes on William County for the murder of Dean Harold Meyers at a gas station outside Manassas.

Mann asked U.S. District Judge Bennett to order the publication delayed "by a matter of weeks" until after Muhammad's trial.

Moose's attorney, Ronald Karp, did not immediately return a call by The Associated Press seeking comment. A message left at Moose's home was also not returned.

Capitalizing on his fame as the sniper probe, Moose signed a book in January with publisher E.P.

# the news that affects us most

# Lotteries



These numbers were drawn Thursday, July 3:

Virginia	
Midday Pick 3	2-7-4
Midday Pick 4	0-5-6-4
Midday Cash 5	3-6-9-20-30
Pick 3	
Pick 4	
Cash 5	
Lotto South M. Millions	

District of Columbia	
Midday Lucky Nos	3-3-5
Midday D.C. Four	2-4-6-8
Lucky Numbers	5-1-4
D.C. Four	5-0-1-9
D.C. Hot Five	13-29-2-18-16
Quick Cash	10-14-7-33-32-26

Maryland	
Midday Pick 3	2-5-5
Midday Pick 4	4-4-2-9
Pick 3	3-4-4
Pick 4	2-4-7-3
B. Match 5	18-19-20-24-34 (33)

# Corrections and clarifications

The Potomac News and Manassas Journal Messenger wishes to present a fair and accurate news report each day. It is the policy of this newspaper to correct all errors. If you have a concern about a story or photo published, please contact the editor of the department concerned. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed below.

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