

USE OF THE
 Prince William County, the
 Boys & Girls Club of Manassas,
 the Future are hosting the
 Community Picnic at
 10 a.m. Saturday, at the Boys
 & Girls Club of Manassas,
 9501 Dean Park Lane. Since
 September, Make the Future,
 a nonprofit that focuses on
 youth development, has
 held free workouts for kids
 7 through 18 every Saturday
 morning in collaboration
 with the Boys & Girls Club of
 Greater Washington.

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book signing

Simply Sweet on Main coffee and snack shop will host a book signing by Manassas resident B. N. Peacock for "A Tainted Dawn" from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday at 9360 Main St. The author examines naval history and the French Revolution from the view of three characters and two nations.

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website for seniors

SeniorNavigator.org has programs, services and information for Virginia seniors, caregivers, baby boomers and their families. A representative from the site will address the Bull Run Regional Library's popular North of 50 brown bag lunch and learn program for adults older than 50 at 12:30 p.m. April 26. For more, call 703-792-4530.

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on this date ...

Around 5 a.m. 1775, 700 British troops marched into Lexington to find 77 armed minutemen under Capt. John Parker waiting for them on the town's common green, according to history.com. British Maj. John Pitcairn ordered the Patriots to disperse, and after a moment's hesitation, the Americans began to drift off the green. Suddenly, the "shot heard around the world" was fired from an undetermined gun. When the Battle of Lexington ended, eight Americans lay dead or dying, and 10 others were wounded. The American Revolution had begun.

BEL AIR
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
 Bull Run Reg Lib, Manassas, VA

BEL AIR MANSION

Bill Run Library

APR 19 2012

Stewart buys oldest home in Prince William County



JEFF MANKE/NEWS & MESSENGER

Bill Naedele, the former owner of Bel Air mansion, has sold the estate at an auction.

18th century home, 25 acres go for \$875K

BY KIPP HANLEY
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Prince William County's oldest private residence is now owned by Prince William's County chairman of the board.

Corey A. Stewart's wife, Maria, and family friend Sam Young placed the winning bid of \$875,000 to purchase the Bel Air mansion in Dale City. Stewart was campaigning for Virginia lieutenant governor Wednesday and couldn't attend the auction.

"I am thrilled to death for Corey, Marie and the boys," said Young, who first met Stewart when the latter was campaigning door to door in Lake Ridge in 2003.

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ABOVE PHOTO BY KIPP HANLEY/NEWS & MESSENGER; BOTTOM PHOTO BY JEFF MANKE/NEWS & MESSENGER



ABOVE: Billie Smith (left), of Hanover, and Suzanne Hendrix, of Richmond, tour Bel Air mansion before the auction. LEFT: Prince William Board of County Supervisors Chairman at-large Corey A. Stewart and his wife, Maria, are the new owners of Bel Air mansion.

Young Democrats
Group hosts schools forum

Panel examines state of education in Prince William

BY KEITH WALKER
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The future of education was the topic at a forum recently hosted by the Young Democrats of Prince William County.

Ocoquan Mayor Earnie Porta moderated the forum where Bonnie Klakowicz, the outgoing president of the Prince William County Education Association, and Babur Lateef, a recent Democratic candidate for Prince William County chairman, joined with several teachers to examine the state of education in Prince William County.

Porta posed questions on the county's proposed tax rate, the school system's revenue sharing agreement with the county and what students in the future will need to know.

The panel also included teachers Brandie Provanzano and Holley Rupert Scheffel along with Myra Sawyers, a former candidate for chairman of the Prince William County School Board, and community representative Cydney A. Neville.

Panel members seemed to agree the county needed to take growth into account when deciding the tax rate.

Briefly

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Va. man pleads guilty in Army Corps bribery case

WASHINGTON — The owner of a Virginia-based construction management company has pleaded guilty to his role in a bribery and kickback scheme involving the awarding of federal government contracts.

James Edward Miller pleaded guilty in Washington's federal court on Wednesday to a charge of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

He is the sixth person to plead guilty in the investigation, which concerns more than \$20 million and bribes and kickback payments in contracts awarded by the

Laptop computers stolen from DC auditor's office

WASHINGTON — Authorities are investigating the theft of two laptop computers that were stolen during a burglary at the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor.

The break-in occurred over the weekend at the auditor's office on 14th Street in Northwest. D.C. Council Chairman Kwame Brown's office said in an email Wednesday night that the laptops and several other items were stolen.

From wire reports

Home

From Page A1

On a rainy Wednesday afternoon, more than a dozen individuals gathered in the 18th century home once frequented by President George Washington on his honeymoon.

After starting at the listing price of \$1.4 million, the first bid came in at \$300,000 before Young secured the 25-acre property with an \$875,000 offer. The actual contract price is \$962,500, which includes a buyer's premium fee charged by online auction company tranzon.com.

Current owner Bill Naedele lived there 20 years and said in a recent interview that the upkeep of the property eventually became too much for him to handle.

Naedele's wife's family, the Florys, purchased the property more than a half century ago — before much of Dale City was built. At one point, the property stretched

from the Silverdale subdivision of Dale City all the way up to Cardinal Drive, Naedele said.

Eventually, parts of the property were sold off for development. However, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources placed an easement on the remaining 25 acres in the 1980s, which kept the current parcel of land intact. It also is on the Department of Interior's National Register of Historic Places.

Maj. Charles Ewell, a friend of Washington's, built Bel Air. Along with Washington, President Thomas Jefferson spent time in the home. The property later served as the home of the Rev. Mason Locke Weems, the first biographer of Washington.

The next oldest home in the county is Rippon Lodge, located off Blackburn Road near the Potomac River. Rippon, which was constructed around 1747, is now owned and operated by the county.

Staff writer Kipp Hanley can be reached at 703-530-3904.

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