

new terrier, Dylan, will be there to gently nudge her awake instead of the startling alarm, and second, she will have an extra hour to sleep in as daylight

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Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat signed a breakthrough land-for-peace agreement Friday at the White House.

President Clinton medi-

world should be heightened by this achievement today," Clinton declared. "Israel can have the genuine security and recognition it has sought for so long. The Palestinian peo-

of the Jordan River. return, the Palestinian pledged steps to fight terrorism by Islamic militants and agreed to aish provisions in the charter that call for abol-

items taken from the base, were transported for use a Volunteer Fire District in Stafford. Fire District volunteers declined comment Friday. Shelton is president of the Hpany. Both that position and

See S

Beverly Mill fire investigated as arson

By SETH MEIXNER
Staff Writer

The fire that destroyed the Beverly Mill Thursday afternoon was deliberately set, according to Prince William County fire officials, who have asked federal agents to help them investigate the blaze.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is assisting in the arson investigation because the mill, located at the end of Beverly Mill Drive near the Fauquier County line, is a historic landmark, said Prince William County Fire and Rescue Capt. Steve Kersse Friday.

Approximately 20 fire and rescue units from three different counties responded to the blaze around 4 p.m. Thursday. The first firefighters to arrive

on the scene found the mill fully engulfed in flames, Kersse said. A motorist on I-66 reported the fire, according to Kersse.

Embers from the blaze sparked a brush fire in the surrounding woods.

Firefighters worked into the night to completely douse the fire inside the mill — a six-story stone structure full of wooden timbers and mill machinery, Kersse said.

"Basically you're just talking about heavy trees in there. Those things burn forever," Kersse said.

County building inspectors are expected to examine the remaining structure — four exterior stone walls — to determine if it needs to be knocked down. Kersse said the walls, weakened by heat and water,

pose a danger of crumbling and hurting people nearby.

This is not the first time the approximately 250-year-old mill has burned. It was rebuilt in 1857 following a blaze and suffered damage twice last year as the result of someone lighting fires inside, according to Ron Turner of the Prince William County Historic Commission.

While the mill is closed to the public, Turner said it wasn't uncommon for people to break in.

History buffs are mourning Thursday's blaze as the final moment in the mill's long and varied life.

The building first served as a grist mill along Broad Run. After the 1857 fire it assumed

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Reza A. Marvashti—Staff Photographer

OPENING NIGHT. Patrons filter through the front doors of the Cramer Center on Center Street in Old Town Manassas Friday to catch the opening night performance of "Man of La Mancha." See story, Page A2.

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