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Many influences

Artist Clara Thompson combines elements of fine art, faux finishes and murals in her work C1

Under attack

Bombings, shootings kill at least 50 in Iraq B1

Community Appreciation Day! Saturday, October 20, 2007 Belvoir Federal Credit Union Woodbridge Branch, 14040 Central Loop Win Redskin Tickets or an 37" LCD HD TV!

Jail for illegal immigrants proposed

By FRANK GREEN Media General News Service

that may be recommended by a state legislative study group looking at crimes committed by and against illegal immigrants and the effect on the state's criminal justice system.

The Virginia State Crime Commission's Illegal Immigration Task Force estimates

that 6 percent to 10 percent of the inmates held in local jails throughout the state in the year that ended July 31 may have been illegal immigrants.

State Sen. Kenneth W. Stolle, R-Virginia Beach, co-chairman of the task force, said the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs

Enforcement does not have the bed space to hold all illegal immigrants who commit crimes, much less all illegal immigrants otherwise obeying the law.

As a result, many illegal immigrants convicted of crimes are released from jails after completing their

sentences and not deported.

One proposal being considered would have the crime commission and ICE draw up a list of felonies and misdemeanors which, if committed by illegal immigrants, will guarantee that ICE will hold them for deportation once their trial or

sentence is over, whichever is longer. One crime mentioned yesterday was driving under the influence.

The facility would not be built unless the federal government agreed in advance to

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Bristoe Station Battlefield

Students get lesson at Bristoe Station

Osbourn Park class visits battlefield site to help with restoration

By AMANDA STEWART astewart@potomacnews.com



Dylan Moore/News & Messenger

Students from Osbourn Park High School carry the framework of a wall while working on a barn at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Park on Wednesday in Bristow.

"History" class traveled to the Bristoe Battlefield site to help do restoration work and to learn about the history of the site in the process.

"I'm very excited about this because it's the first time we've really been able to do a hands-on project," said Mike Feldman, who teaches the class.

The class, which focuses on the past and present of Prince William County, has been offered at Osbourn Park for three years, Feldman said.

According to the 2007-2008 High School Course Catalog, it is also offered at Woodbridge and Forest Park high schools.

In past years, the class has used guest speakers to bring the history of the county, and current events, to life for the students.

"We study what happened 200 years ago and we study what happened 20 minutes ago," Feldman said. "We're trying to give the students a different kind of experience.

And a lot of them gain an appreciation for history and the area around them in the process," Feldman said.

Many of the students have lived in Prince William County, and within miles of Civil War battlefields and other historical sites for all of their lives, Feldman and the students said.

"Growing up, I've always seen

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Homer: Transit outlook is better

By LILLIAN KAFKA lkafka@potomacnews.com

The region's transportation outlook is looking brighter, but a lot of regional planning is necessary to keep it that way, said Virginia's Secretary of Transportation.

Legislators this year broke the logjam that's long prevented road and transit expansion in Prince William and its neighboring counties.

Northern Virginia will have about \$400 million a year at its fingertips for its regional transportation network. That money is likely to jump start local projects such as extending the Virginia Railway Express to Gainesville and building a road that connects the Va. 234 bypass to Loudoun County, said Pierce Homer, Virginia's Secretary of Transportation.

Homer was a guest speaker at a lunch that the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce

PN - 9/27/07

## Metro board considering smaller increase for fares

WASHINGTON (AP) — Metro's board is considering a proposed fare hike, but it's smaller than the one General Manager John Catoe proposed two weeks ago.

The options will be presented to the public at an agency board meeting Thursday. Possibilities include the minimum rush-hour fares on the subway going up between 20 and 40 cents. Metro is also planning to increase the costs for longer trips.

Metrobus rides would go up from \$1.25 to \$1.50, and parking fees would go up 50 cents.

Catoe has said he wants to see the increases take effect as early as January.

Metro says higher fares are needed to help with a projected shortfall in next year's budget.

Although the proposed hike was lowered when the budget forecast was revised, it would still be the highest increase in Metro history.

D.C. Council member Jim Graham said he appreciated Catoe providing a range of options, but that the council wants more detail before deciding how to act.

## PROGRAM

Continued from page A1

Since then, the school division has required students to earn a C or better in the college level course.

"We will ask for tuition reimbursement if they don't meet those standards," Byrne said.

"The commitment of making a C or better might have scared some people off, but I don't think it's too much to ask," Conti said. "They need to have responsibility."

About 35 students and parents attended an information night about the program in the spring, but ultimately only four of those students applied this year, Byrne said.

In their senior year, some students want to stay at Osbourn, rather than travel off campus to George Mason, she said. The high school also offers Advanced Placement classes, which are considered college-level courses and through which students can also earn college credit.

Some Mason courses are only offered at the Fairfax campus, and some students aren't willing to travel that far. Others aren't willing to take early morning and late evening classes to participate in the program, Byrne said. Participating in those classes could take away from time students have to participate in extracurricular activities

at Osbourn, Byrne said. And, since the high school students are the last to enroll, the classes students want aren't always available for them, so they may decide not to participate, she said.

"The hardest part for most students is just making that decision," Byrne said. "The ultimate decision is, 'What am I willing to give up at Osbourn High School to do this?'" Byrne said.

But for the students who chose to participate the guest scholars program is a good opportunity, School Board member Sheryl Bass said. Bass's daughter, Kimmie, participated in the program when she was a senior at Osbourn last year.

"It was an unbelievable experience for her," Bass said. "I know it's tough, but I think more students should take advantage of it. It was an awesome experience for Kimmie and I think it's made her a better [college] freshman this year."

Kimmie's classes at George Mason included a 7:30 a.m. calculus class at the Fairfax campus and an astronomy class that ran from 7 to 10 p.m., Bass said.

"She woke up in the morning, got a cup of coffee, and went out with the commuters to get to Fairfax in time for her calculus class," Bass said. "Welcome to the real world, I said."

Staff writer Amanda Stewart can be reached at 703-878-8014.

## JAIL

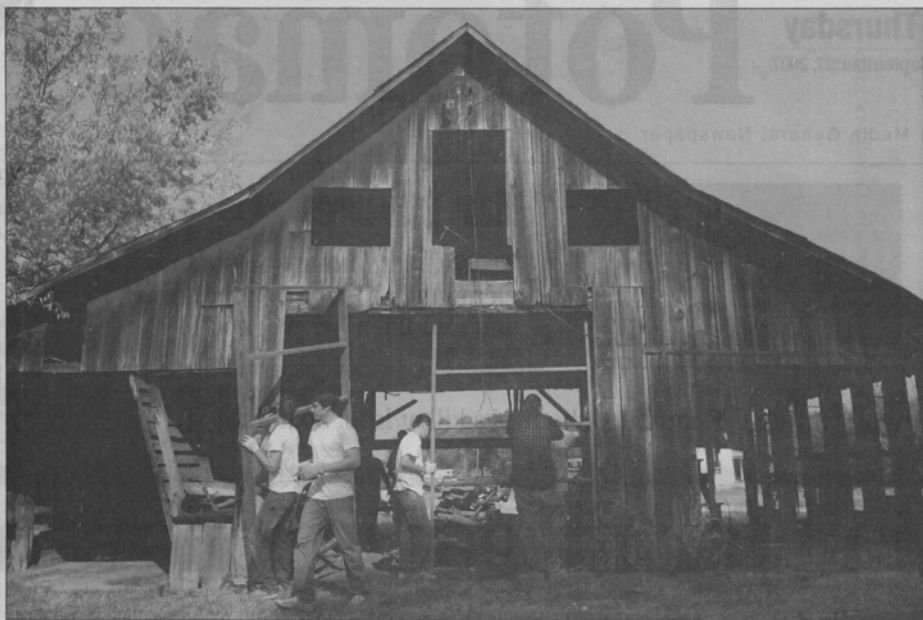
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pay for its use or otherwise compensate the state enough to pay for it.

Stolle said more proposals could be added by Oct. 5. The task force will hold its next meeting Oct. 16, when the public will be allowed comment.

Enforcement with the resources needed to do its job.

Other proposals include making it more difficult for an illegal immigrant to be granted bail when charged with a crime; and adding a representative from ICE to attend regional anti-gang task force meetings so that key gang leaders who are illegal immigrants can be targeted for deportation.



Dylan Moore/News & Message

Students from Osbourn Park High School work with teachers and employees of the Prince William County Department of Public Works Historical Preservation Division on a barn at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Park on Wednesday in Bristow.

## HISTORY

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historical places around here and didn't know anything about them," said senior Amy Via, 17.

Most of the students said their curiosity about their surroundings inspired them to take the class.

"We wanted to know about where we live," said senior Matt Pfifer, 17.

At Bristoe Station on Wednesday, students got a chance to learn about the site's history, and to participate in efforts to restore it.

Welding hammers, sledgehammers and crowbars — and wearing hard hats and protective gloves — the students pried rotting boards off a barn at the edge of the battlefield.

Most of the barn's structure will remain, but the boards that are too rotten will be replaced with newer boards, said site manager David Born.

"As much as we can, we're going to save the integrity of the structure while replacing the sides," Born said, as he supervised the teenagers' efforts.

Some of the students worked to pry some of the original 19th century nails from the wood. Those nails, identified by their square shape, will be saved, Born said. At the other end of the 133-acre site,

other students spread hay and grass seed along a trail at the park.

Students also learned about the Battle of Bristoe Station, which took place on Oct. 14, 1863. The county recently acquired the park and it is scheduled to open to the public on Oct. 12, Born said.

The students said they enjoyed the opportunity to help get the historic site ready for the public.

"It's kind of cool to be a part of something like this," said Amy.

"It's nice to be out doing something, and not stuck in a classroom," said Sydney Lang, 17.

Staff writer Amanda Stewart can be reached at 703-878-8014.

## HOMER

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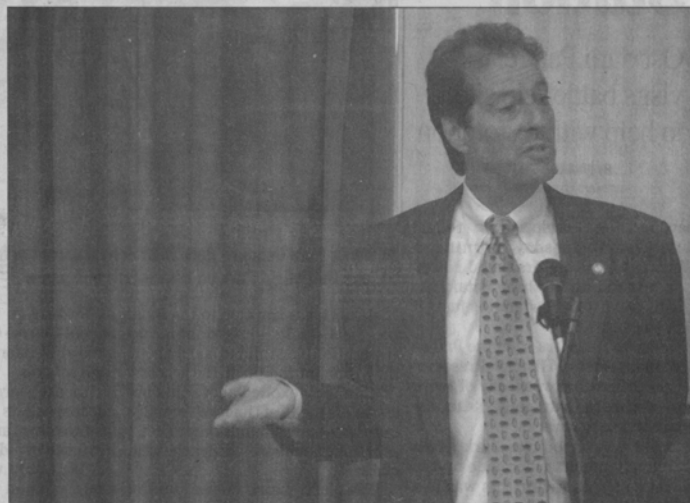
spend on regional road and transit projects.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, which will start collecting an array of taxes in January, is going to change that, Homer said. One of the projects that could likely receive NVTVA funding is the Bi-County Parkway, a road that would extend the Va. 234 bypass into Loudoun County.

It's also important for the NVTVA to fund interchanges along rail lines in and around Manassas, Homer said.

Freight trains could be pulling more cars through Manassas as freight haulers shift from using tractor trailers to rails.

"Every rail car would come through Manassas, so we are needing the commitment to



Ana Pimsler/News & Message

Pierce Homer, Virginia's Secretary of Transportation, speaks to the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday about transportation in Northern Virginia.