

Monday

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# Potomac News

A Media General Newspaper

BULL RUN

## Adoption reform

Rights urged for mothers giving up infants A5



## More pressure

Syria calls on U.S. for timetable in Iraq A7



Photos by Donnie Biggs/News & Messenger

Robert Williams, left, past president of the Friends of Prince William Forest Park, presents the Conservation Champion Award to Ed Zahniser in honor of his father, Howard Zahniser during the park's 70th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday.

# Park celebrates 70 years

By ALEXANDER J. GRANADOS  
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The Prince William Forest Park has served the Prince William County community for the past 70 years, and Sunday it celebrated the achievement with cake, speakers and awards.

A crowd of people gathered in a small room in the visitors center of the park to listen to the keynote speaker, Ed Zahniser, speak about the wilderness.

"What we are celebrating today is not just the 70 year history of the Prince William Forest Park," Zahniser said. "What we also celebrate is the staff, the volunteers, the friends and the partners of Prince William Forest Park: past, present and future."

Zahniser is a writer, editor and poet who hails from West Virginia. His father, Howard Zahniser, was the author of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The act gave federal protection to 9.1 million acres of wilderness in United States forests. That protection now encompasses more than 104 million acres.



Tom Johnson, left, the president of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club signs a Cooperative Agreement on Sunday with Bob Hickman, Superintendent of the Prince William Forest Park.



# to revive Metro tunnel plan for Tysons Corner

ger 23-mile West Falls National Air-ports gathered who argue ated track irt Fairfax he area into milar to Ar-Ballston cor-ig out of the Monett, the

McLean Chamber of Commerce president. "They're upset that no one is standing up for the tunnel, because it's the right thing to do."

But Monett acknowledged that reviving the tunnel now is a long shot. State and federal officials have been pushing to keep the project on schedule for extending Metro to Tysons in 2012 and to Dulles in 2015.

"Our focus is on making the aerial alignment work in a way that helps commuters and helps area businesses flourish," Virginia Secretary of

Transportation Pierce Homer said. For some, the transit project has turned from a highly anticipated transportation improvement to an eyesore. Designs call for a 35-foot-high track to cut through Tysons.

"Once they get going on (the elevated track), the populace is going to be very angry," said Paula Roberts, a McLean resident.

Local officials and residents are pointing fingers of blame for the collapse of the tunnel proposal. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair-

man Gerald Connolly faults Reps. Frank R. Wolf, R-Va., and Thomas M. Davis III, R-Va., for warning Kaine against pursuing the tunnel. They had written that changing designs could imperil federal funding that requires projects to meet "cost-effectiveness" standards.

"They could've said, 'We're going to stand by you if you want a tunnel. We're going to fight for it,'" Connolly said.

Wolf said the decision to abandon the tunnel plan was Kaine's.

# Webb: Diplomacy should precede troop withdrawal

WASHINGTON (AP)—America needs to work with Iraq's neighbors to create stability in the region before withdrawing troops, Sen.-elect Jim Webb said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

John Abizaid, military commander for the Middle East, testified before Congress Wednesday

that troop withdrawal would lead to an increase in sectarian killings and hurt the Iraqi government still in its infancy.

"Well, I can understand why the military people would have concerns about the notion of beginning this process with the announcement of troop with-

drawals," Webb said. "It's almost backwards from the way that we should be solving it."

Webb said countries with long-term cultural and historical ties with Iraq, including Iran and Syria, need to come together to take some sort of diplomatic ownership in solving Iraq's problems.

Webb, who opposed the war long before the U.S. invaded Baghdad, said he always believed that if the U.S. went into the Middle East, the conflict between Israel and the rest of the Arab world should have been the first priority, followed by addressing international terrorism.

## PARK

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Zahniser discussed a history of wilderness and conservation. The first public parks were cemeteries, Zahniser said.

"Then some forward thinking people thought, 'Well, we make parks for the dead. Why not make parks for the living?'" he said.

Zahniser went on to discuss some of the early believers in the importance of wilderness, including Henry David Thoreau.

Zahniser quoted Thoreau as saying, "In wildness is the preservation of the world," and applied that to public parks.

"So we can say with Henry Thoreau, that parklands, and the enlivening brushes with wildness that they offer us ... play a role in the preservation of the world," Zahniser said.

Following Zahniser's keynote address Robert Williams, a past president of the Friends of Prince William Forest Park, presented a Conservation Champion Award.

The award went to Zahniser's deceased father for his work to preserve wilderness.

"He has been an unsung



Donnie Biggs/News & Messenger

### Keynote speaker Ed Zahniser give his remarks during the Prince William Forest Park's 70th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday.

hero," Williams said. "He definitely made a significant contribution."

The celebration finished with the signing of a cooperative agreement between the park and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.

The PATC is an organiza-

tion, located in Washington, D.C., that maintains trails, shelters and cabins in some states near D.C.

The agreement guarantees that the PATC will lend its services to the park.

"We've got 40 miles of trails and it really takes quite a bit of

work to get the trails cleared," said Bob Hickman, superintendent for the park. "We're thrilled to have this help, and this will help us focus resources on other needed areas."

Staff writer Alexander J. Granados can be reached at (703) 369-5738.

## LANE RANGER

Continued from page A1

this area almost exclusively use Kelly Blue Book, not higher NADA values.

Another reader responded.

Dear Lane Ranger: You should also have alerted Ms. Barnes ("Why do car taxes remain high?" November 13) that automobile sales taxes (or transfer taxes, or whatever they are called here) are also based on the NADA value. That means that if she buys a used

**Transit woes?**

Talk back to the Lane Ranger at [PotomacNews.com](http://PotomacNews.com)

(Excuse me! I mean "pre-owned") vehicle, she will pay taxes on the NADA value, and not what she actually paid for the vehicle.

**Mike Novak Dumfries**

Dear Mike: Thanks, Mike. Apparently our state will assess our vehicles at the highest rate possible.

**TRAVELING ON ROADS THIS THANKSGIVING? CALL 511**

VDOT released some helpful information for those readers who are traveling for Thanksgiving.

As usual, you'll probably hit the most traffic on your return trip Sunday.

Because some people work Wednesday, predicting congestion levels is difficult, so VDOT advises drivers to leave early — before noon if you can.

Watch out for rush hour traffic Wednesday.

While you're on the road or getting ready to leave, call 511 from any phone for updated traffic information. This is a VDOT number with information similar to its online con-

**Wednesday** — OmniRide commuter bus: PRTC will operate all regular midday service and all FX trips (normally Friday only trips). See schedules for times.

**Thursday** — No service.

**Friday** — OmniRide commuter bus: Modified Holiday schedule-limited service. See designated trips on schedules.

Metro Direct, including Prince William, Manassas and Linton Hall, will operate on a modified schedule with limited service. See designated trips on schedules.

The Cross County Connector will operate regular service.

OmniLink local bus: Regular service is available, but no same-day, off-route trips may be scheduled.

<b>Lotteries</b>	5/2
Midday Pick 4	.....9-2-4-7
Pick 3	.....7-9-7