Activist Lillie Finklea dies at 83

Longtime resident hailed for cemetery preservation

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Lillie Finklea, an activist and cemetery preservationist, died on Dec. 27. She was 83.

Finklea was known across the community for her tender mentorship of young people, her dogged ambition, and most notably, her work in spearheading efforts to create the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial.

Born on Feb. 13, 1939, to Ealie Miller and Bernice Bittle Miller, Finklea was a longtime Alexandria resident. She went through the Alexandria City Public Schools system, having attended Lyles Crouch Elementary School and Parker Gray High School.

After high school, Finklea passed the civil service exam and became first a clerk typist. Activist Lillie Finklea speaking in 2000 at the Virginia State Marker dedication ceremony for Freedmen Cemetery.

Here is how the boys' basketball teams at each of Alexandria's four high schools are doing:

**Episcopal**

The Episcopal High School boys' basketball team (5-4, 0-0 Interstate Athletic Conference) hasn't gotten off to the start that they wanted in the early part of the season. A combination of factors – including a young roster and multiple, lengthy breaks with no practice – have contributed to this rocky beginning. But Fitzpatrick believes that this rough patch will ultimately...
Christine Roland Garner

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2500 KING ST. | GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK | $2,200,000

Timeless elegance and panoramic vistas from this classic brick four square perched majestically in the shadow of the Masonic Temple! Sited on the corner of Highland and King St–this landmark home has been brought back to life by Bluestone Builders in collaboration with ThompsonMoran Design team. This approx. 3,400 sq ft residence is the epitome of classic: showcasing quality custom finishes and true craftsmanship the home has been taken down to the studs, the floor plan reconfigured, the basement dug out and the 3rd upper level finished! The home has 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and is ready for many more years of memories. Be it front door or backdoor guests all are welcomed by covered porches, a gracious front entry foyer and a light filled home with an open floor plan, exposed brick wall and gourmet kitchen with soapstone center island! The main and upper levels have 9 foot ceilings, transom windows above the doors, wide plank wire brushed white oak wood flooring, open staircase, 9” baseboard and oversized 2 over 1 windows. Entertaining is effortless with the open circular floor plan making this the social center of the home.. or use the pocket doors between the family and living room for multi-funtional use or some quiet time! The dining room is thoughtfully located close to the kitchen and has a secondary entry. Tucked away off the hall is a main level powder room, beautiful french doors off Family room lead to the back porch overlooking and convenient to National Airport & Amazon HQ2.

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For additional information & photos, go to: www.ChristineGarner.com
None injured in Mia’s Kitchen fire

On Monday morning, a fire broke out at Mia’s Italian Kitchen in Old Town. According to nearby residents, the fire led to a chaotic scene consisting of a large gathering of trucks and ambulances. One resident counted 35 firefighters, and another counted seven trucks.

“I was very impressed with how quickly the fire department responded and with multiple engines and firefighters,” Cal Simmons, a resident on the scene, said. “I was very thankful for the rapid response living in this neighborhood.”

No patrons were involved in the incident and no one in the kitchen was harmed, Alexandria Restaurant Partners Managing Partner Dave Nicholas said in a statement. He called the incident a “small, contained kitchen fire” that occurred before the restaurant opened for service.

“Safety is one of our top priorities, and our team is taking some additional time to review preventative measures,” Nicholas said.

Mia’s reopened for service on Tuesday.

SNAP emergency food benefits to end

Next month will mark the last payment of emergency food benefits, leaving approximately 3,845 Alexandria households with a decrease in their SNAP benefits, according to a news release.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, many individuals receiving SNAP assistance received temporary benefits and anyone without health insurance could receive Medicaid, regardless of income or citizenship status.

But come March, those SNAP benefits and emergency Medicaid coverage will end, requiring recipients to undergo reevaluation of their eligibility.

According to the Department of Community and Human Services, approximately 6,549 city residents receiving Medicaid will lose coverage in the eligibility redetermination process.

The DCHS Benefits Division will mail a notice of action statement to all SNAP beneficiaries, with steps to appeal, and a notice to those no longer eligible for Medicaid, according to the release.

Affected Alexandrians are encouraged to email DCHS PublicBenefits@alexandriava.gov or call 855-635-4370 with any questions.

Meet King!

2-year-old King is looking for a castle to call home. This handsome fellow has a distinguished white muzzle, all the better to show off his happy grin. King is an energetic boy who loves laps around the park, long walks and, of course, naps after playing. His enthusiasm is catchy – he will be your best friend.

AlexandriaAnimals.org/Adopt-By-Appointment
703-746-4774

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“Because everyone needs a home.”
City launches BIPOC grant program

The City of Alexandria is gearing up to launch a BIPOC Small Business Grant Program. Alexandria business owners who identify as Black, indigenous and/or a person of color are encouraged to apply for a business grant by Feb. 10 in order to be considered.

According to a news release, grant funding form $1,000 to $7,000 will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Submissions open on Jan. 26. For more information about eligibility, award criteria, and frequently asked questions, visit alexandriava.gov/BIPOC.

-oanderson@alextimes.com

Crash causes temporary road closure

A single-vehicle car crash caused a downed traffic signal early Monday morning, according to the Alexandria Police Department.

At approximately 3:12 a.m., APD tweeted that there was a temporary closure at the southbound lanes of 3400 block of Richmond Highway at Reed Avenue due to the crash. The road remained closed for five hours, at which point APD said the debris had been cleared and the road had been opened. Stop signs were placed at each corner of the intersection until the light became fully functional, and encouraged drivers to “exercise caution while using that intersection.”

No injuries were reported and the driver remained on the scene, APD said.

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Historic Alexandria to celebrate MLK Day

On Jan. 16, the Office of Historic Alexandria will offer various opportunities to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. throughout the community.

The public is invited to attend a free awards ceremony at 1 p.m. to honor the student artists who participated in this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. poster exhibition.

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. poster exhibition entries will be on display in the Viola Lawson Lobby of Alexandria City Hall from Jan. 17 through February. The exhibition features artwork by Alexandria City Public Schools second through fifth graders. The 2023 theme is “It Starts With Me: Creating a Beloved Community!” and aims to create art that shows what people can do to honor King’s vision.

Finally, a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will take place at the George Washington Masonic Memorial at 4 p.m. The program will celebrate the life, dream and legacy of King and will include food, music and a panel of experts to discuss King’s message.

-oanderson@alextimes.com
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Finklea and then computer analyst in the federal government. Though Finklea’s agency moved to Alabama, she wanted to stay in her home in the city’s Southwest Quadrant, so following 30 years of service, she made the decision to retire.

But Finklea wasn’t done serving others. Initially to supplement her income after retirement, she became a nanny to a young girl named Mary Ferrill and the two quickly developed a meaningful relationship. The Ferrills loved Finklea so much that she stayed to work with them into Mary’s teenage years.

Finklea was also a helpful resource for many neighborhood children and supported parents and kids during challenging times. A devout Christian, Finklea attended church every Sunday and mentored families; there, she provided encouragement, emotional guidance and sponsorship through the “adopt-a-child” program.

According to Katy Cannady, a longtime friend of Finklea’s, one young woman who lived with an alcoholic mother in a disorganized home would often go to Finklea’s home to focus on her homework without distractions.

“She took care of half the kids in the neighborhood, I think,” Cannady said. “If you went to Lillie’s house, it wasn’t unusual to meet somebody who was in his 20’s or older who would say, ‘Oh yeah, I had to come visit Miss Lillie ‘cause she helped raise me.’”

From environmentalism to politics – Cannady and Finklea met while supporting local politician Andrew Macdonald’s campaign – Finklea was civically active in the community. Perhaps Finklea’s most notable contribution was her work in protecting Civil War gravesites for Black freedmen and runaway former slaves in Alexandria.

In January 1997, Finklea and another resident, Louise Massoud, discovered the history underneath a Flying A gas station near Washington Street and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The site had served as a burial place for more than 1,800 African Americans who fled to the city to escape from bondage during the Civil War.

Finklea learned that the site was previously called Freedmen’s Cemetery, but the wooden markers that once memorialized the interred had decomposed and the GW Memorial Parkway had been built on top of the graveyard. She also learned that a new bridge spanning the Potomac River was planned that would potentially affect the burial ground.

She swiftly embarked on a tireless journey to both preserve what remained of the cemetery and prevent the incoming Wilson Bridge from further negative impacts. Through a nonprofit organization she and Massoud created called The Friends of Freedmen’s Cemetery, Finklea recruited many community residents to help spread the word about the story of Freedmen’s Cemetery in

Lillie Finklea is co-founder of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial.

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FINKLEA

Phyliss C. Reddington

October 4, 1930 – January 3, 2023 (age 92)

Phyliss Reddington has passed away peacefully in Alexandria, Va., at the age of 92. She is survived by her daughter Sarah Reddington Ingram and Sarah’s husband Timothy, her son Jay Reddington and his wife Lori, her son Peter Reddington and Sarah’s husband Timo, and her granddaughter Maggie Phelan, and Maggie’s husband Jacob Conrad. She is also survived by her grandchildren Charles Conrad and Maggie’s husband Patrick Phelan, and Maggie’s husband Patrick Phelan and their children (Phyliss’ great grandchildren) Hadley, Holden, and Teddy. She was also survived by her brother John Cuillo and his wife Patricia of Norwalk.

Phyllis was born on Oct. 4, 1930, in Norwalk, Connecticut, growing up on Chapel Street, the third of seven children. Her parents were Aniello and Christine (Tocci) Cuillo, and she spoke lovingly of times spent with her siblings — brothers Salvatore “Sal,” Frederick “Fred” (Claire), John (Patricia), and Edward, and her sisters, Rita (Richard “Rit”) Hodges and Marie Antoinette (David) Cifatte.

Phyllis lived for many years in Fairfield County, first in Norwalk, and later in New Canaan and Redding. She loved music – particularly Frank Sinatra – old movies, reading, Broadway shows and cooking her favorite Italian dishes. Some of her happiest moments were spent at Roton Point and Compo Beach on Long Island Sound. Later Phyllis moved to the Washington, D.C., area, and lived for 40 years in Old Town, where she was an active member of the community.

Phyllis was a teacher’s aide at Saxe Middle School in New Canaan, and an office secretary at Saugatuck Elementary School in Westport. In Washington, she was the office manager for the Association of College and University Offices. She also volunteered for many years. At Inova Alexandria Hospital, Phyllis created and ran a mobile library to benefit patients and their families, and she tutored students at the local elementary school.

The family gives special thanks to staff and caregivers at Sunrise of Old Town Alexandria, where Phyllis was a beloved member of the community for the past year and a half. They also thank the staff and caregivers at Sunrise Jefferson for their specialized care.

Arrangements will be private. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made in her name to the charity she supported throughout her life, Saint Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.
strenthen the team.

“This December was a time for us to build our new identity and to really allow the new players to mesh with the returning players,” Fitzpatrick said.

After a historic 2021-22 season, in which Episcopal was co-champion of IAC – along with Alexandria rival St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School – for the first time since 2013, the team found itself without the core group of players who had led them to victory. The graduated seniors left a scoring hole in the team that has proved difficult to fill.

To counteract this loss, Fitzpatrick has emphasized fostering a healthy competitive nature within the younger contingent of his team.

“Our primary goal is to compete,” he said. “We really feel like if we can compete in a positive way with all of our opponents and put ourselves in the position to be successful and win games and play for championships, then we’re doing what we’re supposed to do.”

Fitzpatrick views the season as split into two phases – before and after winter break. Because Episcopal is a boarding school, players go home during the holidays and practice ceases for two weeks. This creates a significant break in continuity, but Fitzpatrick also sees it as a way to re-energize the team. By viewing the two halves of the season as separate, it allows a fresh start that he hopes will lead to more wins down the road and an eventual championship run.

Bishop Ireton

Episcopal is not the only young team in Alexandria – the Bishop Ireton boys’ basketball team (7-5, 0-2 Washington Catholic Athletic Conference) is also composed of multiple underclassmen, which has resulted in a tumultuous start.

“It’s been a little bit of an up and down,” head coach Dwayne Bryant said of the season so far.

But Bryant believes in the talent of his players and their ability to perform at a high level throughout the rest of the season. He says that with a young team comes an opportunity for growth and to develop the team as one cohesive unit; the growing pains of the untested group are accompanied by a chance for the players to bond and learn each other’s strengths and weaknesses.

“Our younger guys are growing up,” Bryant said. “We have five freshmen on varsity and they’re getting to play and they’re growing up quickly.”

In order to foster this growth, Bryant has been making sure to give his players freedom. He emphasized the importance of allowing his players – especially the inexperienced ones – to take chances and make mistakes, as it will make them better players in the long run.

Furthermore, he praised the job that the team has been doing on the defensive end, calling it the “catalyst for the success we’ve had so far.” He thinks that this defensive prowess bodes well for the team’s future matchups, as its offensive efforts will steadily improve with the confidence of the developing players.

Bryant holds that this is something that will help them fight and succeed throughout the rest of the regular season and also into the postseason.

“We know what kind of team we have and what kind of talent we have,” he said. “I believe we have the talent and the ability to [fight for the WCAC championship].”

St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes

The St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes boys’ varsity basketball team (6-4, 1-0 Interstate Athletic Conference) graduated multiple players last year, leaving the remaining younger players with big shoes to fill.

After tough early losses to Bishop Ireton and Shabach Christian Academy, the Saints have been focusing on fostering unity and working together, which is something that first-year head coach Andre Hunter hopes to accomplish with them.

“We’re not exactly where we thought we would be, but I think progress is being made...

SEE BASKETBALL
Senior forward Finn Obrien battling for a shot for the 8-2 Titans boys’ basketball team.

BASKETBALL FROM | 9

daily,” Hunter said. “Every day is going to be a fight, day in and day out.”

However, he believes that many of the young players have stepped up to the plate and are beginning to perform at a high level, which he views as a significant marker of progress for the developing team. When asked about positive takeaways from the games the team has played so far, he said players are beginning to flourish in their new leadership roles.

In order to take the next step, Hunter is focused on remaining patient with his new players and giving them the space to grow. He also preaches accountability to his team, which aids in increasing each player’s commitment to the game and improving their attitude toward basketball.

The rest of the season will be a hard challenge for the Saints, with a tough gauntlet of conference matches on the horizon, but Hunter believes that with an open mindset the team will ultimately be able to triumph.

“There’s always going to be things that need to improve – there’s never going to be a perfect game,” he said.

But the ability to continue to grow will also allow the performance threshold of the team to continue to rise.

Alexandria City High School

The season has gotten off to a storming start for the Alexandria City High School boys varsity basketball team (8-2, 2-1 Patriot District, Virginia High School League). This is largely due to standout performances by junior and senior leaders of the team, and a strong sense of camaraderie among the players.

“I think the most important thing [in our success] is the guys liking each other,” head coach Tyrone Sally said. “I think great things [are] ahead of us.”

Last season was tough for the Titans, as they finished with a losing record of 10-11. However, according to Sally it brought the boys together and gave them the fight and drive to perform at a higher level this season.

“I feel like we’re figuring each other out as a team,” senior power forward Finn O’Brien said. “We’re learning a lot.”

Additionally, the team has gained an x-factor in the Robinson brothers, who have been topping the stat sheets at both the offensive and defensive ends. Junior guard Kye Robinson averages more than 23 points per game and leads the team in assists. His brother, senior Kullen Robinson, boasts a 57% shooting accuracy and averages around six rebounds per game. The combination has led to a much more productive team on both ends of the court.

Looking forward to the rest of the season, the team is making an effort to not let up. The players want to finish on the same high that they started on, which requires one thing in Sally’s eyes: “main goal execution.”

And that goal? To stay focused during close games and keep winning.

“I think we finish games strong, and I think for the most part we do a good job sticking to the game plan,” Kullen Robinson said.

The Titans look to continue to execute this game plan in their remaining games.

Andrew Stephen Duet

Andrew Stephen Duet, Jr. beloved husband of Sandra E. Duet, died on Sunday Dec. 18, 2022, at 7:50 a.m. Andy was born on Aug. 26, 1955, and lived in St. Charles Parish for over 50 years before moving to Alexandria, Va. “Andy” was a proud alumnus of Hahnville High and played as a drummer in a local jazz band. He also attended Nichols State University studying to be a paralegal, but his passion was in photography.

During his career he owned a photography studio in Luling, worked as a stringer for UPI, a reporter for the Times Picayune and a reporter for several local newspapers. He received a prestigious award from the Louisiana Press Association for his photojournalism. Mr. Duet arrived on the scene and took photos of a plane crash minutes after it occurred upon takeoff at Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans.

Mr. Duet was predeceased by his parents Andrew S. Duet, Sr. and Margaret T. Duet as well as his half-brother Robert E. Worthington.

Visitation was held on Jan. 5 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Cunningham Turch Funeral Home, 811 Cameron St., Alexandria, Va. 22314. Burial will be at the St. Charles Cemetery and Mausoleum, 1279 Paul Maillard Road, Luling, La. 70070 on Jan. 17 at 11 a.m.

Sandra Engelhart Duet

Sandra Engelhart Duet, beloved wife of Andrew S. Duet, Jr. died on Dec. 18, 2022, at 5:51 p.m. at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. of embolic strokes. “Sandy” graduated as the salutatorian in 1969 from Red Bud High School in Illinois. Then she attended Southeastern Missouri State University where she graduated cum laude with a teaching degree in physics.

Initially she worked as a science teacher before entering an emerging field as a cardiovascular sonographer. She earned multiple certifications and worked at West Jefferson and Touro Hospitals in New Orleans. In 2001 she moved to Alexandria, Va. to work at Sibley Hospital as the chief tech and then a clinical instructor training students from Montgomery College.

She is survived by her sister, Cindy L. Engelhart. She was predeceased by her husband Andrew S. Duet, Jr. as well as her parents, Gerald L. Engelhart and Veda Mae Marie Bartle Engelhart.

Visitation was held on Jan. 5 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Cunningham Turch Funeral Home, 811 Cameron Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314. Burial service will be at the St. Charles Cemetery and Mausoleum, 1279 Paul Maillard Road, Luling, La. 70070 on Jan. 17 at 11 a.m.
Colder, shorter days call for a little comfort. Cozying up with a hearty meal on brisk winter evenings can help fight off the chill while savoring favorite flavors alongside the ones you love.

Avoid venturing into the cold for a trip to the store by turning to a pantry staple like sweet potatoes. As one of the most versatile veggies, they’re easy to add to a variety of recipes while enhancing both flavor and nutrition. Perfectly suitable for both simple and elevated dishes, they can be baked, microwaved, grilled, slow cooked or prepared on the stove so their sweet taste never goes out of style.

Their long shelf life – up to four weeks if stored properly in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from heat sources – means you can rely on sweet potatoes throughout the winter as an on-hand ingredient. Additionally, as a “diabetes superfood” according to the American Diabetes Association, they’re rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and fiber, all of which are good for overall health and may help prevent disease, making them a key source of nutrients during wintertime.

When your family needs a warm-up on those frosty days, put sweet potatoes at the center of mealtime – with an added kick – in this jalapeno sweet potato chowder. Loaded with the flavors of winter comfort, it’s a filling meal that makes enough for a crowd so no one goes hungry.

**Jalapeno sweet potato chowder**

**Ingredients**

- 2 large sweet potatoes, baked
- 1 small onion, 1/4-inch diced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 quart chicken or vegetable stock
- 2 cups cooked chicken, cubed
- 1 1/2 cups whole corn kernels
- 2 teaspoons minced jalapenos
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- chopped scallions, for garnish

**Directions**

1. Peel baked sweet potatoes; discard skin and puree.
2. In soup pot, sauté onion in butter until softened. Add pureed sweet potato and stock, as desired. Bring to boil, reducing liquid slightly.
3. Add chicken, corn, jalapenos, heavy cream and salt. Simmer 10 minutes.
4. To serve, ladle into bowls and garnish with chopped scallions.
How to make your home come to life with tile

BY BRANDPOINT

Whether you are looking to make a dramatic statement or add a pop of color to a more neutral space, tile is an excellent and expressive choice for any home renovation project. Because of the range of glazes, surface patterns and materials, there are virtually limitless options to elevate and personalize your home.

Tile’s expressive nature allows you to define your spaces with pattern, color and personality. You can use tile to update your flooring, create a focal point within a room – like a coffee nook, bar area or fireplace – or as decorative borders.

If you’re considering updating your home’s design, check out these four ways you can create welcoming and unique spaces using tile.

1. Ideal for kitchens

Because of tile’s versatility and vast range, it’s a natural choice for adding color and pattern to your kitchen. For example, if you have a white kitchen, choose a colorful tile with interesting patterns or textures to draw the eye. A benefit of using tile in the kitchen is that depending upon the tile selected, it can also provide the strength and durability to address any cooking misadventures with its easy maintenance.

2. Bold patterns for bathrooms

Tile is also an excellent choice for bathrooms for many of the same reasons it’s become so popular for kitchen surfaces. Its water-resistant quality makes it the perfect material to add color and pattern to showers, walls and flooring.

3. Outdoor spaces

Tile isn’t limited to indoor design. It’s tough enough to withstand the natural elements as well as daily use. It’s a versatile option for pool surrounds, fountains, pavers and outdoor kitchens and patios.

The Liaison Linqs collection is a great choice for outdoor tile with interesting patterns or textures to draw the eye.
door projects, depending on climate and method of installation. Like the Tuxedo Check pattern, the geometric designs are imaginative and playful, with visual textures and natural colors that add depth and composition to any space.

### 4. Adding decorative touches

While tile is a great material for big projects, it also excels as a decorative element. Ceramic tile is a superb choice to create decorative accents throughout your home.

It can range from traditional to contemporary in approach with various colors, shapes and patterns to help you express yourself. Whether in an imaginative fireplace surround, intriguing trim, elegant border or sophisticated backdrop, there is virtually no limit to the creativity and level of customization you can achieve.

Ceramic tile can range from traditional to contemporary in approach with various colors, shapes and patterns to help you express yourself.

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### HOME OF THE WEEK

**Historic charm meets modern renovation**

Originally an academy, the first St. John’s Square building dates to the early 1800s. The second building, dating to the 1980s, parallels the historic structure and together comprise 10 unique residences conveniently located near Duke Street and South Columbus Street. The 1800 building was reimagined and converted to new residences with many historic embellishments intact. The 1980s building was fabricated to resemble its forebear.

Boasting two parking spaces per home, the ample parking lot is at the south end of the campus. The well-landscaped central courtyard path offers convenient access for all residents.

Ideal for entertaining, 302 S. Columbus St., located on the historic side, has tall ceilings, an exposed brick wall, handsome, random-width, heart pine floorboards and three fireplaces. A large, eat-in kitchen with a fireplace will welcome your guests and they will want to linger. The large windows encourage natural light creating a cheery atmosphere.

The principal en suite bedroom features a large, renovated bath with separate shower and soaking tub, plus a double vanity. Two walk-in closets and a fireplace complete this appealing suite.

The charming top floor provides two additional bedrooms, each with their own personality including tall and slanted roof lines, a sky light, spacious closets, built-ins and the washer/dryer.

The full lower level offers a family room with a fireplace, plus a spacious storage room with a workshop. This is truly a sensationally renovated and well-kept home.
**Opinion**

"Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe."

- Thomas Jefferson

**Photo of the Week**

A football fan shows their support by displaying an enormous Georgia flag in Old Town as the Bulldogs captured their second consecutive national championship by defeating Texas Christian University 65-7 on Monday night.

**Your Views**

**Remembering Lillie Finklea**

To the editor:

Alexandria has just lost one of its most noteworthy citizens of the last 40 years, Lillie Finklea. During her long life, Lillie did many things. Despite having no college degree, she was a computer specialist with the federal government. I think she was on the ground floor of the computer revolution. She signed up for extensive computer training as soon as it was offered to all employees, attaining a more responsible and well-paid position than her previous clerical jobs. Unfortunately, her agency moved to Alabama. Lillie had too much loyalty to Alexandria and to her Southwest Quadrant neighborhood to consider a move. She retired from federal employment, but not from her life of dedicated service to others.

Although Lillie never had children of her own, she was a resource for neighborhood children, particularly teenagers who needed guidance from a responsible adult.

Lillie was a devout church woman who reserved Sunday to hear the Gospel. The other six days of the week, she worked on her new profession: political organizer and lobbyist. No K Street lobbyist ever had anything on Lillie when it came to raising awareness and political support.

Lillie's great cause was the creation of the Freedmen’s and Contraband Cemetery. When she and many others, including me, first committed ourselves to bringing the cemetery into being, most...
The opinions expressed in letters and columns are those of the writers only and do not reflect the views, nor receive the endorsement, of the Alexandria Times.
Martin Luther King Day in Alexandria

On Jan. 14, 1986, Alexandria Mayor James P. Moran proclaimed Jan. 20 as Martin Luther King Day in the city. This contrasted with the state government, which declared the new holiday Lee-Jackson-King Day. The state continued to celebrate Lee-Jackson-King Day until 2020, although Martin Luther King Day was separated from the other holiday in 2000.

Alexandria celebrated its first King Day by focusing on the life and message of the civil rights leader with the annual Martin Luther King Jr. memorial program at Washington Street United Methodist Church with speeches by Rev. Moses Beasley of Shiloh Baptist Church, Rev. Columbus Watson of Beulah Baptist Church and former Vice Mayor Melvin L. Berghem.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Poster Exhibition started as a contest in 1990. Created by the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, Inc., the contest highlights the artwork of Alexandria City Public Schools students. The ASPBH is the friends’ group for the Alexandria Black History Museum. Under the leadership of two memorable society presidents, Harry Burke and Carlton A. Funn Sr., the contest grew from a small exhibit and program held at the Alexandria Black History Museum to a larger exhibition held in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall in January and February of each year. A formal program is also held in city hall on King day. In 2013, the contest became a memorial exhibition honoring Funn.

The poster exhibition’s theme is always drawn from the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. This organization, founded in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, has as its mission “to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community.” The 2023 theme is “It Starts With Me: Creating a Beloved Community!”

This year, Historic Alexandria offers three opportunities to celebrate the life and spirit of King.

• On Jan. 16, at 1 p.m., an awards ceremony honoring the student artists who participated in this year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Exhibition will be held. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

• The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Exhibition entries will be on display in the Viola Lawson Lobby of Alexandria city hall from Jan. 17 until the end of February 2023. The exhibition features artwork by ACPS students in grades two through five. How do students create King’s idea of the Beloved Community? They create art that shows what we can do in our families, schools and communities to bring King’s vision to light.

• Readers are also invited to the City of Alexandria’s Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Sunday at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, at 4 p.m. For more information, see drkingmemorialprogram.org/annual-commemoration

Weekly Poll

D) What is the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial?

A) Very aware and involved with the memorial.
B) I have visited the site.
C) I’m aware of the memorial, but have never visited.
D) What is the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial?
Weekly Words

FAREWELL TOUR by Jessie and Ross Trudeau, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS
1 "Regretfully ..."
5 Group with submarines
10 Post-punk aesthetic
14 Maker of Froot Loops Waffles
18 Famous person, briefly
20 Mostly smoked joint
21 Barely cooked
22 Crawl (with)
23 Spud
24 *Emotionally supports a prof's aide?
27 Subtract
29 "... man ___ mouse?"
30 Savor, as a scene
31 *Issuance of fines for bogeys?
36 Autograph
37 Had a loan from
38 Really, really
39 Yankees great who hit 696 HRs
42 Large settlement?
44 What dogs' tails do
45 Baton Rouge sch.
46 One-legged support
48 Sushi topping
49 *Plea from a "Little Women" casting director?
50 Womb
51 Golf target
52 Edison's middle name
53 German chancellor Scholz
54 Prohibition related to nukes
59 Very unfortunate
61 Crafty
62 ___-haw
63 Poke tuna
64 Rapper ___ the Funky Homosapien
66 To life," at a Seder
67 In advance
68 Justin Bieber and Keith Richards, as children
70 Hollow cylinder
71 Apt Super Bowl opponents for the Titans?
73 Taiwanese singer Jay
74 Go blond, say
75 Had a loan from
76 Part of L.A.
77 "Listen up, iPhone"
78 ___ instant (momentarily)
79 Regulation
80 Admit (to)
82 ID on a lanyard
86 Have a snack
88 "You can clap now!"
89 Protected, as an invention
94 Fancy bag letters
96 Dis-tressing places?
98 Ladders' partners in a game
99 Poolside structure
100 Orthodontist's org.
102 "Green Eggs and Ham" nickname
104 Picture file in a pronunciation debate
106 ___-Wan Kenobi
107 Drivable toy, for short
108 ___ instant (momentarily)
109 Bottom-left PC key
110 "Scat, cat!"
114 Brooding music genre
115 Pic from a parlor
116 ___ half bad
117 Affectionate text
118 Inflicted upon
120 "That's my cue!"
121 A.S. ___ (team in Italy's capital)
123 Super pumped
125 Pirate's booty
126 Man/goat of legend
127 Pils, for short

DOWN
1 Ballet segment
2 Escort to the exit
3 Secondary selves
4 Ranked in a tourney
5 Certain corn chip
6 Part of L.A.
7 Devour
8 Returns from the Grand Canyon?
9 Lead-in to "stat"
10 Future prof's test
11 Slogan for a parade
12 Pity
13 Mister, in Munich
14 Cultural
15 Annual fandom gathering for women
16 Develop an unwanted routine
17 Yemen neighbor
18 Super Bowl ___ (2023 game)
19 Main force
20 Mostly smoked joint
21 Barely cooked
22 Crawl (with)
23 Spud
24 *Emotionally supports a prof's aide?
25 "Awkward Black Girl" creator Issa
26 Twas, in the present
28 $$$ exec
31 Punch sound
32 Stood
33 Drink quickly
34 Prefix with "bot"
35 Chi-Town paper, with "the"
36 Autograph
37 Had a loan from
38 Really, really
39 Yankees great who hit 696 HRs
42 Large settlement?
44 What dogs' tails do
45 Baton Rouge sch.
46 One-legged support
48 Sushi topping
49 *Plea from a "Little Women" casting director?
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88 "You can clap now!"
89 Protected, as an invention
94 Fancy bag letters
96 Dis-tressing places?
98 Ladders' partners in a game
99 Poolside structure
100 Orthodontist's org.
101 Try to stay safe?
102 "Green Eggs and Ham" nickname
104 Picture file in a pronunciation debate
106 ___-Wan Kenobi
107 Drivable toy, for short
108 ___ instant (momentarily)
109 Bottom-left PC key
110 "Scat, cat!"
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123 Super pumped
125 Pirate's booty
126 Man/goat of legend
127 Pils, for short

DEATH NOTICES

RAYMOND BRYNTESON (64), of Alexandria, Jan. 4, 2023
CLETUS MILLER (92), of Alexandria, Dec. 20, 2022
ELAINE PETITO (76), of Alexandria, Jan. 5, 2023
PHYLISS REDDINGTON (92), of Alexandria, Jan. 3, 2023
CLARENCE SWANNER (86), of Alexandria, Dec. 23, 2022
CLAIRE WAMSLEY (95), of Alexandria, Dec. 31, 2022

Solutions from last week
RAYMOND BRYNTESON
CLETUS MILLER
ELAINE PETITO
PHYLISS REDDINGTON
CLARENCE SWANNER
CLAIRE WAMSLEY
**JANUARY 14**

**SISTER ACT AT LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA** Start the year right with the feel-good musical comedy smash based on the hit film that has audiences jumping to their feet. The musical features original music by Tony and Oscar winner Alan Mkenk. All patrons are required to wear a mask while inside LTA.

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Location:** 600 Wolfe St.

**Information:** thelittletheatre.com/

**JANUARY 22**

**PAINT YOUR PET** Local artist Kellie Sansone will lead this event, giving attendees a sketched picture of their pets and guiding them through the painting process. First cider and all supplies are included.

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Location:** 317 Hooffs Run Dr.

**Information:** visitalexandria.com/events/paint-your-pet/

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**JANUARY 15**

**MUSIC BINGO AT LOST BOY CIDER** Who doesn’t love a good game of Bingo? Grab some friends and stop by Lost Boy Cider for music bingo. Prizes include free cider or Lost Boy Cider merch. Space is limited, so RSVP to reserve a spot.

**Time:** 2 to 4 p.m.

**Location:** 317 Hooffs Run Dr.

**Information:** eventbrite.com/e/music-bingo-at-lost-boy-cider-
tickets-505747222557

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**JANUARY 20**

**ALEXANDRIA RESTAURANT WEEK** Starting today, for 10 days more than 70 restaurants in Alexandria will offer a $25, $35 or $45 prix fixe dinner for one. Special menus will be available for in-person dining at participating restaurants, many with heated outdoor dining options.

**Time:** Varies

**Location:** Varies

**Information:** visitalexandria.com/restaurants/restaurant-week/

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Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICE

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The following requests have been received for administrative review and approval.

For information on the following applications or to comment, visit the City’s website at www.alexandriava.gov/planning or call (703) 746-4666.

Special Use Permit #2022-00118 515 King Street Suite 102 Administrative Special Use Permit request for a New Use for a Restaurant; zoned: KR/King Street urban retail

Proposed Business Name: Tatte Bakery & Cafe

Applicant: Tatte Holdings, LLC

Planner: Patrick Silva – patrick.silva@alexandriava.gov

In accordance with Section 11-500 of the Zoning Ordinance, the above listed request may be approved administratively by the Director of Planning & Zoning. If you have any comments regarding the proposal above, please contact Planning & Zoning staff at 703.746.4666 or email the planner listed no later than February 2, 2023.

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PUBLICATION NOTICE

The Alexandria City School Board will hold a budget public hearing on the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget during the School Board Meeting on January 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room located at 1340 Braddock Place in Alexandria.

Public comments regarding the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget may be submitted in the following ways:

• Sign up to speak at the January 19 public hearing at: https://acpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/w1fupe0e0zg4wi/

• Email written comments to the Clerk of the Board at:
  boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us

• U.S. Mail:
  Clerk of the Board
  Alexandria City School Board
  1340 Braddock Place
  Alexandria, VA 22314

Only comments related to the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget will be heard at the public hearing. Requests to speak or to submit written comments must be submitted by Noon on January 18, 2023.

For more information, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 703-619-8316.

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