

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY
Lions take third straight state title B1



LIFE & TIMES
Max Groft creates jewelry work C1



Carroll County Times

Weather 45/32 Cloudy, becoming partly sunny **A6**

Sunday, November 12, 2017

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CELEBRATING VETERANS

Veteran Burbank reflects on time flying Chinook helicopters in Vietnam after joining Army at 17



KEN KOONS/CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

Larry Burbank flew a helicopter in the Vietnam War and served a total of 43 years with the U.S. Army before retiring in 1996.

'I'd do it again. Absolutely'

By **EMILY CHAPPELL**
 Carroll County Times

Larry Burbank was just 17 when he joined the U.S. Army. The now 81-year-old Manchester resident was still in high school, and his parents had to sign a form for him to enter. It was November 1953. "The guard unit just returned from Korea and they'd lost just about a third of

their people, so they had a recruiting campaign," Burbank said. "So in our high school class we had 28 total, and five of us went down and enlisted on the same night." Born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1936, Burbank was the oldest twin. He entered Primary Army Rotary Wing Flight School in March 1961, and completed Advanced Rotary Wing Flight Training in October 1961. He served as an active army aviator

for 35 years. He completed a total of 43 years of service before retiring in 1996 as a CW5, chief warrant officer. "[It was] about half my life," he said of the more than four decades of service. "I never had a break in service." Burbank served one tour in Vietnam as an Army aviator with the Muleskinners, flying Chinook helicopters. He was active **PILOT**, page A9

City moves to buy building

Westminster to purchase BB&T building for use as administrative offices

By **CATALINA RIGHTER**
 Carroll County Times

Westminster plans to purchase the BB&T Building at 45 W. Main St. for \$1.6 million to relocate its administrative offices. The city has been leasing space at 56 W. Main St., where the offices are currently located, for many years. Robert Wack, president of the Westminster Common Council, said that no longer paying rent for the property will be good financially. "No. 1, it's going to save the city a lot of money," he said. "We will be owning the building that we work in." Mayor Joe Dominick is quoted in a release from the Office of the City Administrator as saying: "I am pleased that the City and BB&T Bank were able to reach agreement on the City's acquisition of this important anchor site in Westminster's downtown. Purchasing the bank property is in keeping with the City's goal to be a good steward of public funds and will save See **BUILDING**, page A8

Board of Education approves calendar

Guthrie says choice was between two bad options

Carroll County Times staff

The Carroll County Board of Education approved the calendar for the 2018-19 school year at its monthly meeting Wednesday, Nov. 8. Under the calendar Superintendent Stephen Guthrie recommended to the board, classes will start Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018, and the last day for students will be Friday, June 14, 2019, with a 2-hour 45-minute early dismissal for students on the final day. The last day for teachers will be Monday, June 17, 2019. The school board voted to approve this option 4-0, with President Devon Rothschild absent due to injury. The calendar includes four emergency closing days. If none of those are used, the earliest last day of school for students would be Monday, June 10, 2019. The day immediately following the last student day will See **CALENDAR**, page A8

Carroll communities celebrate Veterans Day

Monocacy Valley Memorial VFW, Integrace Fairhaven host commemorations

By **MICHEL ELBEN**
 Carroll County Times

With solemnity and deference, generations celebrated Veterans Day around Carroll County on Saturday. The Monocacy Valley Memorial VFW Post 6918 hosted its annual Veterans Day

Observance at 11 a.m. Veteran Thomas Williams, the current commander of VFW District 7, spoke about the importance of teaching history to the next generation. "We can't let history be forgotten," Williams said. "As veterans and Americans, we need to teach the next generation about our history. We can't forget the ones that have fallen. We need to go to schools and tell them about our experiences and teach them how to honor and appreciate veterans." The observance included a recognition See **VETERANS**, page A9



PHIL GROUT/FOR CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

Senior Airman Kate Irvin, a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, plays taps to conclude the Veterans Day observance.

NATION
President affirms Russian leader
 Trump: I believe Putin's denials about election. **A2**



CARROLL
Help wanted on new mascot
 Carroll Community wants input for sports program. **A8**

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Westminster, Maryland

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The Mammothon: An all-day breast screening event on Monday, November 16
 Advanced Radiology Eldersburg, 8:30 a.m. – 6:15 p.m.
 Community Radiology Mt. Airy, 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 Center for Breast Health at Carroll Hospital and Advanced Radiology Westminster, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
 Call 1-888-601-WELL (9355) to make an appointment. Visit LBHmammothon.com for details.

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In Saudi crackdown, some fear cracks

In gilded royal circles, corruption long a way of life

By **NABIH BULOS AND LAURA KING**
Los Angeles Times

BEIRUT — Behind the walls of one of his many opulent palaces, the king was troubled. He knew all too well that the self-dealing ways and gold-plated lifestyle of the House of Saud — whose princes and princelings numbered in the thousands — had spiraled out of control.

Things had to change. That was a decade ago. Leaked American diplomatic cables from the time described the attempts of then-King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to rein in the money-skimming excesses of his fabulously wealthy fellow royals.

The Saudi Arabian monarch, already an octogenarian, reportedly told his brothers that he didn't want to face Judgment Day with "the burden of corruption" on his shoulders, the diplomatic memos said. He died in 2015.

Now the kingdom's brash young crown prince, 32-year-old Mohammed bin Salman, has proclaimed a new war on corruption.

Acting at his behest, Saudi authorities have accused hundreds of people, including a dizzying roll call of prominent princes, of crimes that include graft, bribery and money laundering.

The arid peninsula's business lore brims with tales of ambitious infrastructure projects that shimmered like mirages, their cost vastly inflated by



FAYEZ NURELDINE/GETTY-AFP

Hundreds have been accused under 32-year-old Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's new war on corruption.

blatant bribery demands from royal and VIP patrons, their completion delayed or doomed altogether by brazen high-level malfeasance.

A gleaming subway in the capital, Riyadh, a promised-but-unbuilt sewer system in the port city of Jidda, even the Grand Mosque complex in the holy city of Mecca — all have come under scrutiny over kickbacks and misappropriated funds.

In past years, other Saudi deals, such as lucrative arms contracts, have ensnared foreign partners.

The Jidda case had tragic consequences.

A powerful Saudi businessman had accepted a multimillion-dollar payment to build a new sewage and drainage system, but merely pretended to have completed it — a ruse that was widely known among commoners as well as the

ruling elite.

Later, in 2009, flooding sent torrents of water coursing through the city, killing more than 100 people. The lack of a viable drainage system was a key underlying cause.

To the point of cliché, trappings of the luxurious life have become the Saudi royal family's calling cards the world over: yachts and private planes, an endless array of designer goods, venerable enterprises purchased like baubles, sumptuous apartments in London and Paris, the commandeering of entire wings of the planet's most exclusive hotels.

"Clearly, they understand they've had a corruption problem for decades, and know they have to do something," said Robert Jordan, a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, citing the "shakedown culture" that

surrounded the royal family and other elites.

Many veteran Saudi watchers, and more than a few wary investors, are questioning whether the prince's ostensible cleanup drive is primarily a bid to consolidate power and sideline potential rivals — following a template used by authoritarian leaders such as Chinese President Xi Jinping or Russian President Vladimir Putin, both of whom have jailed potential adversaries on corruption charges.

"There are some concerns that what this is really going to do is centralize oversight of public spending, and the same practices will continue, but among a smaller group of people," said Allison Wood, an analyst for Control Risks, a London-based global risk and strategic consulting

firm.

The "real test" of a serious anti-corruption drive, she said, would be "not just to pursue these people for corruption, but to maintain and set a new standard for transparency."

Even some of the prince's many critics, though, acknowledge that he is correctly reading the zeitgeist in the kingdom's less exalted quarters, especially among less privileged Saudi youth.

Popular resentment over royal money grabs poses a potent threat as a new generation of leaders struggles to envision life beyond the petrodollars that fueled Saudi Arabia's extraordinary transformation from barren desert to a realm of gilded shopping malls and superhighways.

Detractors say the problem is that the crown prince and his particular branch of the family tree are part of the kingdom's patronage system, which makes his startling move against his royal brethren even more of a high-wire act.

Critics call it a campaign of selective prosecution waged by an indulged young royal — widely known by his initials, MBS — who reportedly made an on-the-spot purchase of a \$500-million yacht while vacationing on the Riviera in 2015, and is tied to business entities that stand to benefit immensely from the removal of some of those arrested.

Prominent whistleblower Ali Adubisi, a Saudi in self-exile who heads the Berlin-based European Saudi Organization for Human Rights, called the crown prince's campaign a "black comedy."

"This move is more a matter of organizing corruption," he said, "so that it is in the hands of MBS and his coterie."

As Saudi investments tighten the once-insular kingdom's ties to the outside world, head-spinning sums of money are in play.

And those are likely to increase exponentially with next year's expected public offering of shares in Saudi Aramco, the oil behemoth, and moves to privatize other state assets under an economic blueprint known as Vision 2030.

True reform would have to go much further than these arrests, many analysts say.

With few Western-style regulatory mechanisms in place, little is made public about the scale and nature of holdings of the royal family and the myriad ways in which the royals' wealth overlaps with the state budget.

It's not even clear precisely how many royals there are.

Joseph Kechichian, a scholar at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, estimates the descendants of founding monarch King Abdulaziz al Saud at about 20,000 men and women, with an influential core of about 200 members.

"No one knows what the collective wealth is," Kechichian, who has authored a book about the clan, wrote in an email from Riyadh, "but probably in the hundreds of billions."

Special correspondent Bulos reported from Beirut and Times staffer King from Washington.

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The colors are posted during the Veterans Day Observance at VFW Post 6918. The two riflemen, Ron Ridinger, left, and James Trawinski, are Vietnam veterans.

VETERANS

From page A1

of the military branches and laying of wreaths followed by a 21-gun salute and taps. Organizer Frank Rauschenberg said the VFW has hosted the event for 10 years.

"It's important to keep doing it because so many veterans are getting older and we're losing them every day," Rauschenberg said. "We want to recognize them for their dedication, loyalty, and the sacrifices they have made."

Monocacy Valley Memorial VFW Commander Michael Hess agreed.

"It's important to observe Veterans Day because it makes veterans feel like what they did and everything they went through is worthwhile," Hess said. "If not even a single person showed up, we'd still have the ceremony because it needs to be done."

Integrace Fairhaven hosted its 21st annual Veterans Day Reception on Saturday afternoon. The event included a posting of the colors, readings on the origin of Veterans Day, a video presentation, a group sing-along of the service anthems, a remembrance ceremony and group service photos



PHOTOS BY PHIL GROUT/FOR CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

VFW member Wayne Baker, of Taneytown, salutes the colors to open the Veterans Day Observance at the Monocacy Valley Memorial VFW Post 6918 on Saturday morning.

representing each branch of the military.

Fairhaven resident Max Wiener, an Air Force veteran, described the reception as "inspiring."

"You see all the branches of service represented when the military songs are played and it's amazing to see how many military people are here," Wiener said. "Most of us who have been in the military tend to continue to be proud of it. Veterans Day is the one day of the year that you really get to see that you're not alone. You see that you have comrades."

Fairhaven resident Ann Milne, the chair of the community's reception, said 98 veterans live in the retirement community.

"We owe them our freedoms and we ought to recognize them for that," Milne

said. "It's always a very moving program and there's always a few tears. It brings back a lot of memories for them, but I think they're happy to be recognized and proud of their service."

Fairhaven resident Bob LaFollette, a Navy veteran, agreed that the reception can be very emotional.

"It can be a very tearful event when we read each name of those veterans who have died and ring a bell," LaFollette said. "Our whole way of life can be credited to those who put their life on the line and it's important to remember them."

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PILOT

From page A1

vated in May 1968 and came back in December 1969, he said.

In Vietnam, he said his missions revolved around supporting fire support bases, transporting United States troops — including those wounded or killed, in addition to the army of the Republic of Vietnam — and bringing supplies to remote South Vietnam villages.

In that time flying, he added, he never once had an accident.

Burbank said he enjoyed his time in the military. It wasn't always easy though, he said.

"Probably the worst part of the combat tour was family separation. Means of communication back to the states was almost zero then," he said.

Flying an aircraft was also hard, he said. Some may think it looks easy, but it's really not. It is a cleaner career though, Burbank said, because you're not down in the dirt.

That is, he added laughing, unless you're shot down. He was lucky enough never to be, he said.

But it's all about mindset. There are difficult days, of course, Burbank said. But it's all about having the right attitude as you go in, and knowing that you're there for "the good of the country."

And, Burbank said, being in the military and flying helicopters taught him a lot.

"It makes you grow up in a hurry. It really does," Burbank said.

It teaches you to take care of your people and your machinery — you have to take care of them, he added.

After being enlisted for about seven years, Burbank moved around throughout his life. He spent time in Kansas, Missouri and Virginia. He came out of Kansas in the late 1980s and flew with the Maryland Guard in Aberdeen, and then the National Guard bureau in Washington, D.C.

Of those tough places, he said, coming to Carroll was one of his favorites. He moved here in 2000, he said.

"Carroll County's the best-kept secret. It really is," Burbank added.

The most meaningful missions for him, he said, were those where he got to support his own people and help his community.

Burbank was on flood duty, blizzard duty and hurricane duty, and got to help people and bring medical support.

"That's the best mission. Bar none," he said.

On a rainy November afternoon, Burbank sat in his Manchester home, which rests atop a large hill with a winding driveway that snakes its way up to his door. Decked out in his green flight suit, he held a large model of a Chinook helicopter — just like the ones he used to fly — though this one is made of Vietnamese teak wood instead of metal.

He's got binders full of certifications and documents, and some pictures of his younger years. In boxes, he has the awards he's won, from the Bronze Star Medal to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

These days are spent with his wife, Susan, and their dog. He chairs the Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council and is a member of the VFW Post 467 in Westminster.

He also volunteers, assisting the Manchester Volunteer Fire Company with fundraising projects, and he is an instructor for the AARP Safe Driving Course on a regular basis, having just completed 17 years in the program.

"We don't get bored," he said of his life he's created with his wife.

He even gives presentations in schools to talk about his time serving his country.

"Our youngsters need to know a little bit about our military when they grow up," he said.

And while he looks back at those years, and some of them were hard, Burbank said it was all worth it. The good outweighs the bad, he said.

He created a bond and made friendships you can't get anywhere else, he said. If you go in with the right attitude, Burbank added, you're going to be OK.

"I've been asked if I would do it again," he said. "I'd do it again. Absolutely."

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