

CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

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MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016

NANCY REAGAN, 94

First lady's mission was backing her 'Ronnie'

From Hollywood to the White House, she was his closest adviser and fierce protector

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — First lady Nancy Reagan swept into the White House in 1981, a swirl of designer gowns and pricey china, and was quickly dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. She needed a less frivolous image. And she got it.

By the time she packed up

eight years later, the former movie actress was fending off accusations that she'd become a "dragon lady," wielding secret, unchecked power within Ronald Reagan's administration — and doing it based on astrology to boot.

All along she maintained that her only mission was to back her "Ronnie" and strengthen his presidency.

"I'm a woman who loves her husband," she said, "and

I make no apologies for looking out for his personal and political welfare."

Mrs. Reagan died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure. She was 94.

She was Ronald Reagan's closest adviser and fierce protector throughout his journey from Hollywood actor to governor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. She served as his full-time caregiver as his mind melted away, and after his death in 2004 dedicated herself to

tending his legacy through his presidential library in Simi Valley, California.

She also championed Alzheimer's patients, raising millions of dollars for research and breaking with fellow conservative Republicans to advocate for stem cell research.

Her dignity and perseverance in these post-White House roles smoothed out public perceptions of Nancy Reagan that had been fickle as far back as her days as first

See REAGAN, Page A6



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nancy Reagan waves from the window of a hospital room at the Navy Medical Center in July 1985. The former first lady has died at 94.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bond size, contents are budget mystery

Biscuit Run park funds in governor's proposal, but not House, Senate

BY MICHAEL MARTZ

RICHMOND — As the General Assembly lumbers toward adoption of a new two-year budget, a related set of negotiations is about to begin over a bond package that could exceed \$2 billion.

But no one knows quite what to expect in the final package, not even Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who made a \$2.4 billion splash last fall with a bond proposal that promised huge capital investments in state parks, juvenile justice and research and development for new industries.

"It's probably the biggest mystery of the budget," McAuliffe spokesman Brian Coy said Friday.

The same House and Senate budget leaders who are directing conference committee negotiations on the budget also are running talks to reconcile the bills approved by both chambers to determine what capital projects will be funded by new bond issues and under what terms.

"The capital projects will be part of the budget conference process," said House Appropriations Chairman S. Chris Jones, R-Suffolk, who will be negotiating with Senate Finance Co-Chairmen Thomas K. Norment Jr., R-James City, and Emmett W. Hanger Jr., R-Augusta, along with three other conferees on the bond spending measures.

Originally, the bond package was part of the budget McAuliffe proposed in December, as well as the competing spending plans the House and Senate were preparing early in the 60-day legislative session. When the chambers adopted their budgets last month, bond spending no longer was included

See BUDGET, Page A3

DOMESTICS



MARLA MCKENNA/STAR-EXPONENT

Scents distributor Leslie Duckowitz started her business in July. Duckowitz, of Reva, recently came to Culpeper from Sterling and said she signed up to become a vendor at the Home and Garden Show to reach and meet new people in the area.

Home & garden

Visitors enjoy products, services and food from 40 vendors

BY MARLA MCKENNA

Gary Walker, owner of Gary's Ace Hardware, brought a few unusual products to show off on Sunday at the Fourth Annual Home and Garden Show.

One piece, a colorful ceramic turtle planter, seemed to get a lot of attention from visitors to his display area.

"People were asking me if we sell the turtle in the store. We have so many items, sometimes things

get lost," Walker said. "I wanted to showcase some unique things we have that you can't find in the big box stores."

Sponsored by the Culpeper Star-Exponent, about 40 vendors — including the local hardware store — set up early at Germanna Community College's Daniel Technology Center to share information about their specialized services and supplies.

About 300 people attended the event, which

ran from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There, they learned about roofing, plumbing, building supplies, gardening, home loans, pest control, flooring, lawn care and even home foods.

Realtors Diana Corbin and Holly Westergaard of EXIT Cornerstone Realty said one of the reasons they came to the annual show was to share the good news about the spring real estate market.

"It's a good time to buy a

See GARDEN, Page A3

UVA

Evidence uncovered in 1990 rape case

Innocence Project has doubts about conviction

BY DEREK QUIZON

CHARLOTTESVILLE — Two attorneys with the University of Virginia's Innocence Project have uncovered evidence that may cast doubt on a 25-year-old rape conviction.

Last month, a Virginia Beach circuit judge granted a motion, filed by the Innocence Project, to test physical evidence in the 1990 rape of a 10-year-old Virginia Beach girl.

The evidence — which includes a "rape kit" collected from the victim at the scene — has been in storage for more than 20 years. Although not considered useful at the time of the trial, advances in forensic science could shed new light on the case.

Jennifer Givens, legal director of the UVA Innocence Project, said she believes the man put behind bars in the case, Darnell Phillips, was wrongly convicted.

See DNA, Page A3

Inside the news

European Union

» European Union leaders seek to boost aid to Greece, restore unity. A2

Missing flight

» Man who found fragment of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 found more mysterious debris in nearly same spot. A2

CLASSIFIEDS	B4	NATION & WORLD	A2
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