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MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016

Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies at 94

BY CHRISTOPHER WEBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES—Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president—and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease—has

died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids

and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. By the time she

moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she was a behind-the-scenes "dragon lady" wielding unchecked power over the Reagan 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.

Mrs. Reagan carried that charge through the rest of her days. She served as a full-time caretaker as Alzheimer's melted away her husband's memory. After his death in June 2004 she

SEE FIRST LADY, PAGE A5



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
First lady Nancy Reagan holds Rex, with President Reagan at the White House.

WOUNDED WARRIOR » VOLUNTEERS PITCH IN



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE CARR ROSSI / THE FREE LANCE-STAR
Brandon Burns (left) of North Stafford is surprised by Brandi Hall of Wounded Warriors and Robert Schwartz (right) of Helmets to Hardhats as he returns Sunday to find his home repaired and cleaned by volunteers.

Fallujah vet sees his home spruced up



BY ROB HEDELT
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

A Stafford County family and its decorated Marine veteran witnessed what a difference a day and 37 skilled tradesmen and laborers can make this weekend.

Just after daybreak on Saturday, a steady stream of carpenters, electricians, painters and workers connected with the Wounded Warrior Project, Helmets to Hardhats and Team Rubicon reported to the Garrisonville home of retired Marine Lance Cpl. Brandon Burns, who received a traumatic brain injury after being shot in Iraq in 2004.

In a whirlwind of keenly coordinated construction, the skilled volunteers installed ramps, shelving, a breakfast bar, track lighting, two new toilets, attic insulation, electrical outlets, a chimney cap, patio lattice, spindles on railings and gutter guards.

Other volunteers raked the yard and installed mulch all around it.

On Sunday afternoon at 1, Brandi Hall of the Wounded Warrior Project met Burns, his wife Lauren, and



Laura Burn, Brandon and their children Maccree and Morgan, with project organizer Brandi Hall, eye their residence's new kitchen.

their three children at the front door with a key to the house vastly improved in the two days they'd been away.

The couple, who recently moved

to the area so Burns could follow a religious calling to share the Gospel through an organization called the Praetorian Project, were visibly

SEE VET, BACK PAGE

Experts: Zika not big threat for area

STILL, HEALTH OFFICIALS URGE RESIDENTS TO WARD OFF MOSQUITOES AND PREPARE FOR VIRUS

BY LINDLEY ESTES
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

The Zika virus could spread into the United States this summer, but local experts do not expect it to be a major problem in the Fredericksburg region.

Given the low number of mosquito-borne diseases in this area, and Virginia as a whole, infectious disease experts say local residents would probably be most at risk of contracting Zika if traveling to countries where the disease is prevalent.

But state and local experts are advising residents to take steps to eliminate mosquito breeding areas to make sure the virus does not become a problem.

Prior to 2015, Zika virus outbreaks were limited to areas of Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific islands.

But outbreaks have since occurred in Brazil and other countries in South and Central America, reaching as far north as Mexico.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website, "Zika virus will continue to spread and it will be difficult to determine how and where the virus will spread over time." So far, all 82 U.S. cases have been travel-associated, meaning none of the illnesses were contracted in the United States.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe has created a statewide task force to address the Zika virus. Led by the Virginia Department of Health, the group will work with localities on mosquito surveillance and control programs prior to the May 1 start of mosquito season.

"At this time, the risk of Zika virus being spread by mosquitoes in Virginia is low, but during mosquito season, mosquitoes do carry

SEE ZIKA, BACK PAGE

INSIDE TODAY

world

MIGRANTS BARRED FROM MACEDONIA

Officials blocks some refugees from Damascus or Baghdad from crossing from Greece. A5

computing

SCIENTIST, EMAIL'S INVENTOR, DIES

Raymond Tomlinson of Lincoln, Mass., the inventor of modern email, died Saturday. Tomlinson wrote and sent the first email on ARPANET, a network created for the government. He chose the "@" symbol, now an icon, to connect the username with the destination.

INDEX	KIDSCOOP	D6
ADVICE	LOTTERIES	B4
CLASSIFIEDS	OBITUARIES	C2
COMICS	REGION	C1
EDITORIALS	SPORTS	B1
FAMILY	SUDOKU	D4
HOROSCOPE	TV PAGE	D4

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Caroline reins in odd critters

BY DAWNTHEA PRICE
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Three months after a long-time Caroline resident was nearly booted from the county for owning numerous monkeys, supervisors have approved a comprehensive ordinance that will allow her to keep the primates.

In a 4-2 vote last week, supervisors passed a new, permanent ordinance outlining the rules regarding the ownership of "any wild, exotic or vicious animal" within county lines. One supervisor acknowledged that their initial guidelines were too restrictive.

Western Caroline Supervisor Jeff Black, along with Mattaponi Supervisor Floyd Thomas, voted against the measure.

"It's a little concerning to have pets that can eat people," Thomas said. "If you've got a pet monkey, is that a pet? Where do you draw the line?"

The ordinance, which incorporated some 11th-hour

SEE EXOTIC, BACK PAGE