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picks



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manances of favorites
ou in the mood,
p.m. and 9:30
ts, 2700 F St. NW.

at the
ry

ays of George Washing-
ham Lincoln are just 10
n February, so the third
f the month is devoted to
ring their (and all presi-
ntributions to America.
e any excuse for a day off
gid weather!) This year,
sonian National Portrait
ll celebrate with a week-
vents worthy of the Oval
aturday, the gallery will

lay in its courtyard, with themed craft projects and a visit from the Washington Nationals
ts. On Sunday, museum guides will tell stories about "Honest Abe" and his portrait in the
nts" gallery, which showcases official portraits and iconic images of the other presidents.
sure to check out "Viewpoints of Billions: Portrait of America," a 12-foot multimedia piece
nology to enhance the viewing experience. **Family Day on Saturday at 11:30 a.m., story-**



 Pick of the pack

Exhibit
Passion of the Empress: Catherine the Great's Art Patronage

Olympics organizers may have glossed over decades of communist rule during last week's opening ceremony in Sochi, Russia, but they did accurately portray Russia's contributions to the arts in a colorful performance. For those contributions, Moscow can thank Catherine the Great, who ruled from 1762 until her death in 1796 during the period now considered Russia's Golden Age for arts and culture. The czarina was devoted to developing a distinctly Russian style of artwork, and worked to secure St. Petersburg's reputation as a cultural center. Throughout her rule, she commissioned paintings, decorative pieces, and liturgical artwork made of gold, silver, porcelain, and jewels. Today, several of those pieces belong to Washington's Hillwood Museum, which boasts the largest collection of imperial art outside Russia. (Hillwood heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post was known for her love of ornate Faberge eggs from the period.) On Saturday, the museum debuts an exhibit on Catherine's arts patronage, featuring the museum's pieces and others from galleries around the country. **Through June 8 at the Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, 4155 Linnean Ave. NW. 202/686-5807. Web: hillwoodmuseum.org.**



Musical Theater
American Idiot

In 1987, punk rock singer-guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong joined fellow musicians in Berkeley, Calif.'s punk rock scene to form Green Day, which would go on to produce numerous chart-topping alternative albums. The band found mainstream radio fame in 2004 with the release of "American Idiot," which won the Grammy Award for best rock album with hits like "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" and, of course, the title track. You probably don't know, however, that the album features a rock opera concept, with a story about three young men who chase drugs, sex, and rock 'n' roll in post-9/11 America. The musical premiered on stage at Berkeley's Repertory Theatre in 2009; following its successful Broadway run, the show is touring, with a stop in Washington beginning Tuesday. **Through Feb. 23 at the National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. 202/628-6161. Web: thenationaldc.org.**

Gala
A Celebration of Women Chefs

Ovarian cancer is one of the most common cancers — and, unfortunately, one of the most deadly as early detection remains difficult. This week, you can help the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance raise awareness about the disease and funds for ovarian cancer research. On Wednesday, the Alliance will host the 9th annual "Turn Up the Heat: A Celebration of Women Chefs," featuring tastings and demonstrations by more than 40 female chefs, restaurant owners and mixologists from around the region, such as Ris Lacoste of RIS, Jamie Leeds of Hank's Oyster Bar, to name a few. Attendees will hear from U.S. gymnast Shannon Miller, an Olympic gold medalist with the "Magnificent Seven" in Atlanta in 1996, who will speak about how her Olympics experience helped her survive a battle with ovarian cancer. **Wednesday at H**

