



“If I was lying on my deathbed and I had kept this secret and never ever did anything about it, I would be lying there saying, ‘You just blew your entire life. You never dealt with yourself.’”

— Caitlyn Jenner, in her interview with Vanity Fair

“I would feel like it was again a recognition of what I have tried to do over the years. And for the children, it would be an unforgettable experience.”

— Vivian Bailey

Surprise of a lifetime

97-year-old Maryland woman on White House field trip commended by Obama for community service

By EMILY LESLIE
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Vivian Bailey, 97, rode elephants in Thailand and camels in Morocco long before she ever had the opportunity to go on a school class field trip.

Ms. Bailey traveled to over 50 countries as an adult, but she never had a chance to visit historical sites with classmates while attending Tulsa, Oklahoma’s segregated schools.

Nearly 80 years after her graduation, she took her first school field trip to the nation’s capital along with students from Running Brook Elementary School in Columbia, Maryland, where she helps raise funds for school trips and supplies.

“The favorite thing for me was seeing the children enjoy it. They were very excited about the fact they were going to see these historical places,” Ms. Bailey said. “Some of these children probably have not even been out of Howard County, and many of them probably have not been to the District.”

The White House took notice of Ms. Bailey’s commitment to community service and invited her there for a second field trip Tuesday, when President Obama and Vice President Joseph R. Biden surprised her in the Oval Office.

“It’s an awesome, wonderful honor to meet the president of the United States.



President Obama and Vice President Joseph R. Biden visited with Vivian Bailey last week at the White House, which took notice of her commitment to community service. Ms. Bailey, who lives in Columbia, Maryland, helps raise funds for school trips and supplies.

I never dreamed of our having a [black] president, and to have a [black] president in my lifetime and to get to meet him

— both things are just beyond my wildest dreams,” she said.

Mr. Obama is not the only president

Ms. Bailey has met. She once spoke at an event with Bill Clinton and later joked about making him her adoptive grandson.



Fourth-graders from Running Brook Elementary School in Columbia, Maryland, visited Washington with Vivian Bailey, 97. It was her first-ever school field trip.

“I have a bunch of adopted children, but [Mr. Clinton] wrote me a nice personal note, and he said he would be proud to be my adopted grandson,” she said.

Even after receiving the surprise of a lifetime in the Oval Office, Ms. Bailey nonetheless had a request for first lady Michelle Obama, who was unable to join the president.

“I’m going to put in a request, a hope that maybe in the fall [Mrs. Obama] could visit our school!”

Ms. Bailey said that having the nation’s first black first lady speak to children at Running Brook Elementary would be “icing on the cake.”

“I would feel like it was again a recognition of what I have tried to do over the years,” she said. “And for the children, it would be an unforgettable experience.”

Ms. Bailey shared her perspective on changes in the nation’s social climate throughout her nearly 100 years, from having to use separate water fountains and buses in the segregated Oklahoma of her youth to meeting the nation’s first black president as a near-centenarian.

“Any progress is good, and we still have a ways to go, but so many things have improved. There’s no denying that,” she said. “Sometimes, if I’m doing a [survey] or something where they have [categories] of black and white, I just scratch that out and put ‘human.’ I know we are all members of the human race.”

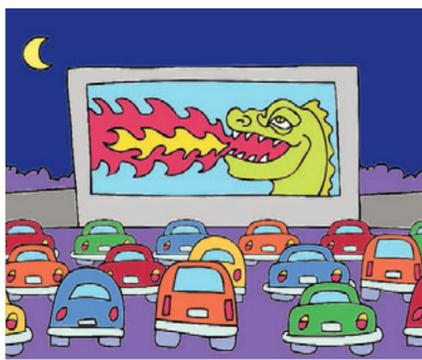
Get Out

The week’s pocket picks

By SAMANTHA SAULT

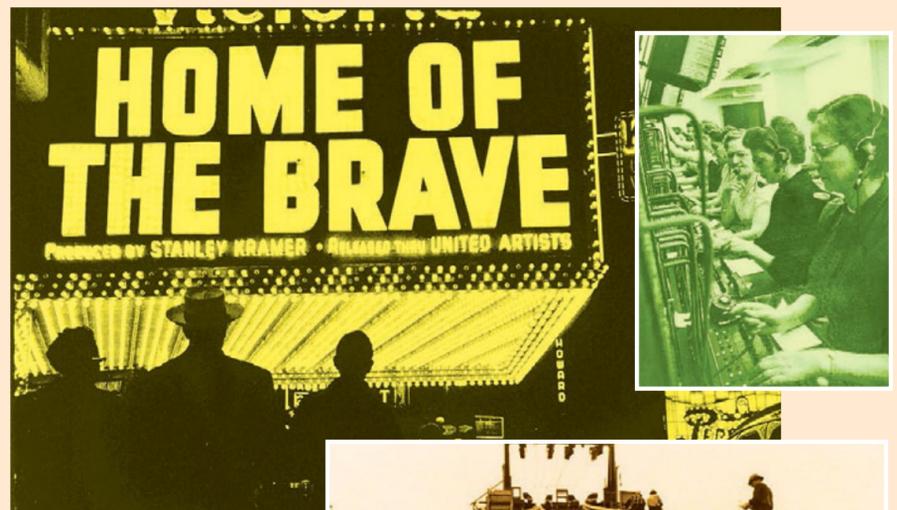
Film Union Market Drive-In

The drive-in cinema was a summer hot spot starting in the early 20th century, but such venues were out of reach for many city dwellers. Every Friday in June, however, Northeast’s Union Market will turn back time to host a drive-in theater showing favorite ’80s and ’90s flicks, including “Jurassic Park,” “Pretty Woman,” “Space Jam” and “Beverly Hills Cop.” The \$10 parking fee includes free popcorn and soda, but admission is free if you bike or walk. The gates open at 6 p.m. and close at 7:45 p.m. before the 8 p.m. film. All 40 Union Market vendors will be open. **Fridays through June 26 at Union Market, Florida Avenue and Sixth Street NE. Web: UnionMarketDC.com.**



Museums Dupont-Kalorama Museum Walk

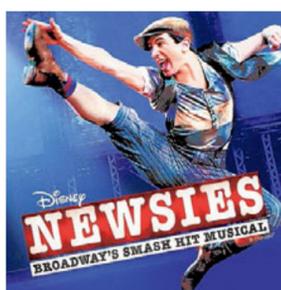
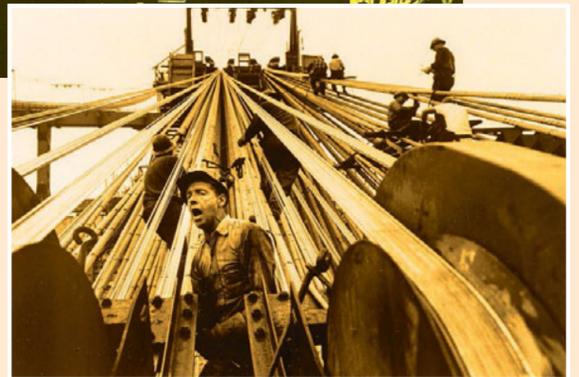
It’s time to welcome thousands of tourists to our museums and landmarks — and an opportunity for locals to skip the crowds on the National Mall and explore seven off-the-beaten-path museums in Dupont Circle and Kalorama, which will open their doors free of charge this weekend. We recommend the Woodrow Wilson House, where you can celebrate the 100th anniversary of Flag Day with crafts and croquet and learn about the work to protect Italian art and culture during World War I. Revolutionary War buffs will want to see “Lafayette & l’Hermione: Symbols of the French-American Friendship” at Anderson House, while Jane Austen fans should drop by Dumbarton House for English country dance lessons. Other highlights include classic garden games and a botanical drawing workshop at the Heurich House Museum, jazz at the Phillips Collection and Mary McLeod Bethune Council House, and the chance to learn about the Jewish American soldier who liberated Dachau at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. **Saturday and Sunday in the Dupont Circle and Kalorama neighborhoods. Web: DupontKaloramaMC.com.**



Pick of the pack

Photography American Moments

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the Phillips Collection’s newest exhibit will offer an encyclopedia of modern American history. Opening Saturday, “American Moments: Photographs From the Phillips Collection” will showcase more than 140 photographs spanning 1917 to 1980 from the museum’s permanent collection. These photos were chosen for how they capture the American experience in the 20th century, particularly post-World War II urbanization, the Great Depression and the rise of photojournalism. On Thursday, you can meet one of the 30 featured photographers, Bruce Davidson, known for his stirring images of New York from the 1950s to today, including Brooklyn’s gangs and scenes from the subway. On July 2, the Phillips After 5 happy hour event will feature gallery talks, discussions of different lenses and printing processes, live music, and themed cocktails and bites. **Through Sept. 13 at the Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW. 202/387-2151. Web: PhillipsCollection.org.**



Theater Newsies: The Musical

When Disney’s “Newsies,” starring a young Christian Bale as a homeless newsboy in New York, debuted in 1992, it became an instant cult favorite. Based on the Newsboys Strike of 1899, it tells the story of a group of young orphans who rise up against Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst and ultimately receive better pay for their work hawking the newspapers on the city streets. With music by Alan Menken (Disney’s “The Little Mermaid” and “Aladdin”) and lyrics by Jack Feldman (Barry Manilow’s “Copacabana”), the musical premiered at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey in 2011 before moving to Broadway the following year and winning the Tony Award for Best Score and Best Choreography. The show is now touring North America, with a stop at the National Theatre. **Through June 21 at the National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. 202/628-6161. Web: TheNationalDC.org.**