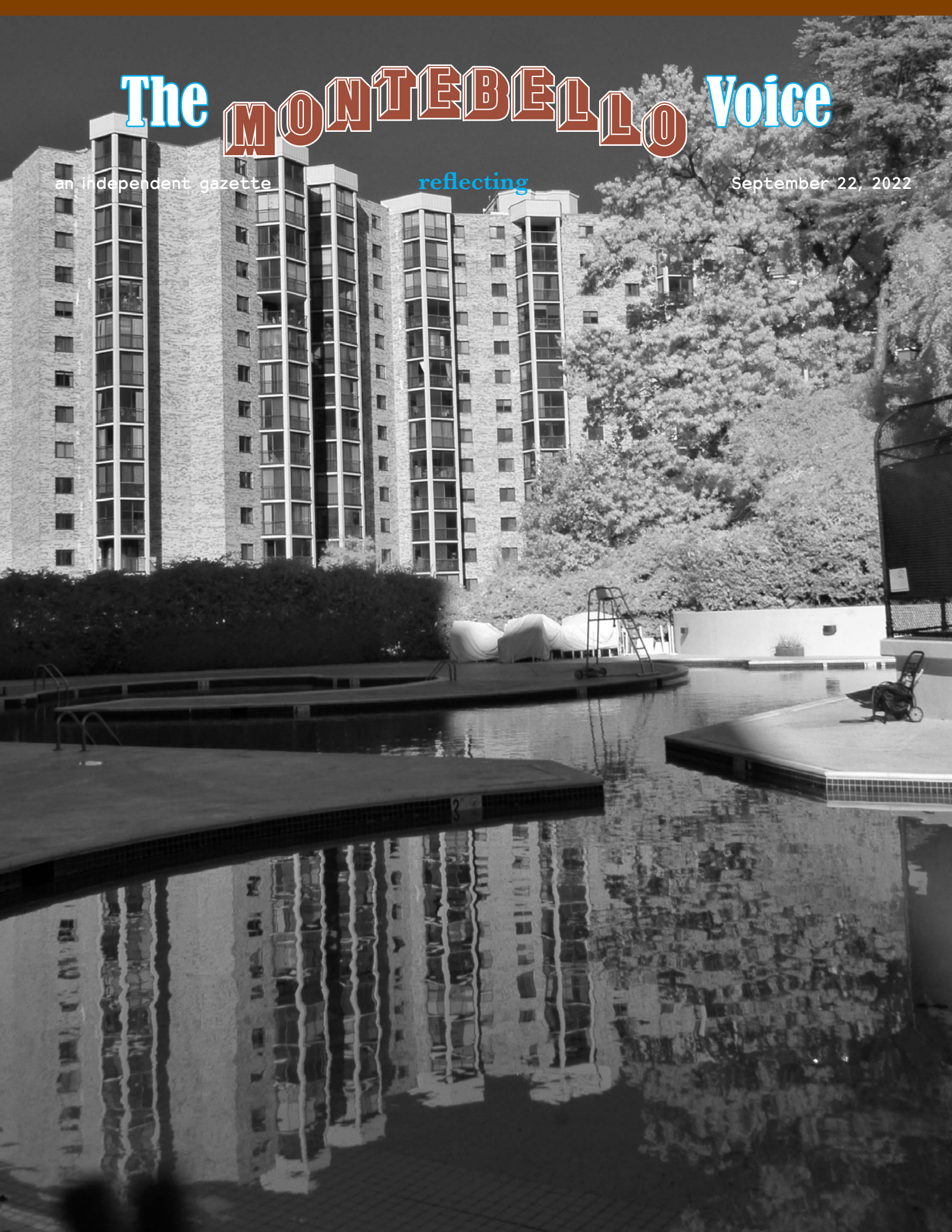


The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

reflecting

September 22, 2022



Need to know

For a while I was Internal Security Officer for the US Navy’s Bureau of Ordnance. My security clearance was Top Secret. This did not however mean that I was free to look at anything that I chose to. There is an additional, more stringent, criterion: Need To Know. Material that one wants to see must be at or below one’s security clearance level and directly related to one’s job and duties.

I never dealt with Presidents or ex-Presidents in my job but I doubt that they would have been qualified to see any of our material. BuOrd was the second most-secret bureau in the US Navy, responsible for all the weaponry that we had or were developing. Our goodies were what the other Navy bureaus were tasked with delivering.

From the media reports it sounds like what Donald Trump is said to have done was a major breach of security and totally unjustified. His lawyers and spokespersons have their work cut out for them! – *Richard Titus* 📧



Performers from Modine, Queens and Friends in memory of Lee Ghiglio

Photo by Dian McDonald



A new definition for long-term parking. This motorcycle has been parked for more than three years on short Mount Eagle Drive. When security was asked about it they said they were working on it. – *Jackie Fleming* 📧



Duo Beaux Arts Dr. Catherine Lan and Steinway Artist Tao Lin perform a program of the German Romantics

Photo by Dian McDonald

Cover photo by Joel Miller

The MONTEBELLO Voice

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Editor & Designer

Mikhailina Karina

Contributors

Suzanne Beerthuis, Jackie Fleming, Azita Mashayekhi, Dian McDonald, Joel Miller, Don Savage, Bob Shea, Chester Taylor, Richard Titus

Scary

By Chester Taylor

Having suffered a humiliating setback in Ukraine this September, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, like a cornered rat, has responded with an ill-conceived plan that will continue the war for a very long time at a tremendous cost of life and money. One misstep, one miscalculation, one accidental weapons launch, and there could be a nuclear holocaust. Even if we survived the initial bombing, most of those remaining on Earth would starve to death as the ash and soot entered the atmosphere and blocked out sunlight. If you aren't scared, you should be.

Putin's declaration of a partial mobilization with the option to expand it to a full mobilization means he can use his giant war machine of 3.5 million military personnel, if necessary, to completely destroy Ukraine and fend off NATO. His plan is to use referen-

dums to declare that Luhansk, Kherson and partly Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions are part of Russia. So, an attack on them would be considered an attack on Russia and could be used to justify tactical nuclear weapons or just about anything he wants to do.

Will he resort to tactical nuclear or chemical weapons as we have been warned by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other principals? Will he try to freeze out Europe this winter? We were warned by CIA Director William Burns and others. Are we prepared? What will the United States and NATO's response be?

Hopefully, the Department of Defense has reviewed its defensive plans and prepared measured options for the President and Congress to respond to whatever Russia decides to do next. We need to be vigilant. As General Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff recently said, "It's incumbent

upon all of us to maintain high states of readiness, alert... In the conduct of war, you just don't know with a high degree of certainty what will happen next."

Designated military units need to go C-1 (the highest readiness level, meaning that it is ready to be forward deployed and perform its mission). All war stocks given as aid to Ukraine should be replenished. Logistics should be prepositioned. FEMA needs to review its plans to respond to any war-related disasters.

Yes, it is scary: the fear and uncertainty. Think of the people in Ukraine who have and will be experiencing the constant threat of shelling, shooting, and losing loved ones. Having lost more than 54,480 Russian soldiers in 207 days and will probably lose double that in the near future, one hopes that the Russian people will want to stop the war and move Russia back to a modern, open state. Putin and his people need to go. It is truly a needless tragedy. 🇺🇸



Montebello Music Club commemorative 9/11 concert

On the road again

By Chester Taylor

Some 85 miles northwest of Montebello is Volvo Group in Hagerstown, Maryland. They develop and manufacture heavy-duty diesel engines, transmissions, and axles for Volvo Trucks, Mack Trucks, Prevost Coaches, and Volvo Buses.

I have visited their operations there and it is quite impressive. They have stayed ahead of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations rather than trying to circumvent them as some of their competitors have. Because their engines and transmissions reduce power losses and improve fuel efficiency, their trucks and buses save the operators substantial fuel cost. Their new trucks meet both the EPA and the California Air Resources Board diesel emissions standards, the most stringent in the world.

Some of the unique features include the industry's most advanced automated manual transmissions that includes upgraded hardware and software for faster shifting and greater durability. It uses a countershaft brake system for

improved performance. Their vehicles have a computer system that remembers the topography of every road driven and uses intelligent cruise control for greater fuel savings.

Volvo Truck has invested heavily into carbon dioxide neutral solutions to power vehicles, and they have electric

electric cars or with a DC charger unit that can recharge the battery up to 80% in 90 minutes. Also, it uses braking energy to help recharge the batteries. They have a range of about 275 miles.

The first fuel cell electric trucks, made by Volvo Truck partnered with Daimler, was unveiled in June of this year. These trucks will be available for sale in 2025. They need hydrogen for fuel and omit only water. They can operate in more challenging environments where you need 24/7 operations or have less infrastructure to support electric recharging. They can handle long distances and heavy loads. These fuel-cell trucks will have a 600-mile range, a 15-minute refueling time, and a 65-ton hauling capacity.

The Volvo Group in Hagerstown is Swedish-owned. They give their employees benefits similar to those given in Sweden. It offers well-paying jobs, encourages women with engineering and IT degrees to work there, and the plant is clean and well lit. As you enter the plant you will notice a doctor's office to the right and pharmacy to the left for workers and their families to use for free. See: (1)



and hydro cell/electric trucks and buses ready to meet the zero emissions requirement for the near future. It is now rolling out its fleet of electric battery trucks with zero carbon emissions that will contribute to cleaner air and quieter cities. The electric battery trucks can be recharged with AC overnight like most



Photo by Suzanne Beerthuis

One of two EV charging stations is getting ready for business After years on the building 1 parking lot, the storage unit is gone

A few questions about front gate security checks

September 15, 2022

Beginning Monday, October 3rd, 2022, several security department rules and regulations that have been lenient due to Covid-19 and other world events will be reinforced. Effective 8:00 am on October 3rd, 2022; the Security Department will enforce 100% ID checks for all guests and contractors arriving at the Front Gatehouse. This will ensure that our officers and department heads can provide the highest level of safety, security, and service to you, our residents. When you call down to the Front Gatehouse to inform the officers of your guest's future arrival, please also inform those arriving that they will be required to provide a Government issued form of identification to receive their guest pass or temporary parking pass for the property. This is to ensure that those guests invited on the property are permitted to be present and to assist in maintaining accurate records.

ANY GUEST or CONTRACTOR that is unable or unwilling to show identification at the Front Gatehouse WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON PROPERTY.

Andrew Gaylord
 Director of Security Operations & IT Infrastructure

Without exception, every Montebello resident appreciates the high level of security in our gated community. It's one of the main reasons people bought homes here. Last week, our new security chief, Andrew Gaylord, sent out an email informing us of the 100 percent ID check policy at the front gate. I am not anti-security, yet I have some legitimate questions about Chief Gaylord's communiqué I believe deserve clarification. This Monday, I sent him an email with the following six questions for publication in today's edition. I promised non-snarky, opinion-free coverage of this basic Q&A. Below are my questions and his responses.

Q: Please explain the rationale for instituting the policy and what 100% ID check means. (Is there an increase in trespassers getting onto the property, an increase in property crimes? Why would security have been lenient during covid and "world events"?)

Q: Please define guests and contractors. (Guests could be friends dropping off or picking up residents or coming to an event. Contractors include food delivery, furniture movers, cleaning crews, medical personnel, and construction

workers. Does EVERY person in the vehicle have to show ID? Does it apply to children?)

Q: If a resident submits a guest request through BuildingLink, why does this guest have to show an ID? Is there a chance of a scoundrel impersonating the guest? What about family and friends on the permanent admit list?

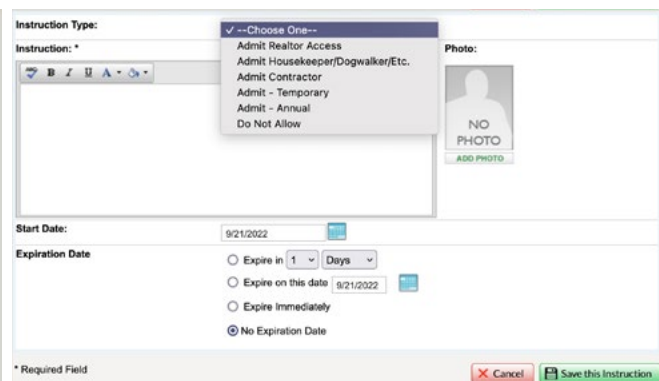
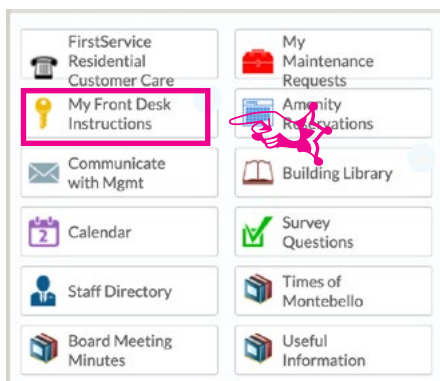
Q: What will SAC do with visitors' IDs? Will they digitally store them, and if so, why and where? Or is it just to match the name on the list? How can you be sure you're seeing a legitimate ID?

Q: If residents use the front gate to exit the property for a walk or bike ride, do they have to show an ID upon return? How will this policy affect the back gate and guests using the shuttle from the Metro?

Q: In the past, we frequently used "open admit" without a specific list when hosting parties. Is this policy no longer in use?

In my experience, the easiest and fastest way to inform the gate of your visitors is to submit a written request via BuildingLink. Calling the front desk or the gate can be less efficient if staff are busy with other tasks and cannot answer the phone.

On the BuildingLink home page, click on **My Front Desk Instructions**, which will take you to the next screen where you'll choose what type of admit you're requesting. Crucially, you can also indicate which persons you absolutely *don't* want to darken your threshold. Please consider this user-friendly online feature when having guests or contractors on the property. – MK 📷



President of the United States Zachary Taylor

By *Chester Taylor*

Zachary Taylor was born in Orange County, Virginia on November 24, 1784. His parents, Colonel Richard Taylor and Sarah Dabney Strother, were prominent, wealthy Virginians, having inherited substantial land holdings in and around Orange. Life had been mostly good for Sarah and Richard at their plantation, Hare Forest, but the tobacco their family had grown for so many years had depleted the soil of its nutrients. So they decided to move their family west for more fertile land, like many of their friends were doing. Richard had acquired 8,000 acres of land in Kentucky and started clearing land and building a house. In 1785, with their three young boys (Hancock, 4, William Dabney, 3, and Zachary, nine months) they loaded up what they could in wagons and moved to Kentucky. They named the new place Springfield.

This is where young Zachary Taylor grew up. Louisville was booming with trade and the Taylors' farm was expanding. It grew to 10,000 acres and had 26 enslaved people. Taylor was a bright young man, but had no formal schooling. He lived on the frontier where fighting Indians was an everyday experience.

Eventually, Taylor settled for a career in the U.S. Army, and in 1808, at the age of 18, was commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant and was sent to New Orleans. During leave in 1809, he met Margaret "Peggy" Smith who was visiting her sister. Taylor married Peggy on June 21, 1810. He was 25 years old, and she was 21. Their marriage was a happy one. Peggy was a devout Episcopalian and prayed regularly for her husband's safe return. Taylor was promoted to

Captain. Taylor also made some lucrative investments – he bought bank stock in Louisville and a plantation with 83 enslaved people, for \$95,000. Next, he bought the Cypress Grove Plantation in Jefferson County, Mississippi, also with enslaved people.

In July 1811, he was sent to the Indiana Territory to restore order to the Fort Knox garrison after its commandant had fled. Taylor did so in short order, and territorial Governor William Henry Harrison was very impressed and grateful.



As a major, Taylor had distinguished himself in the War of 1812. After the war, he established forts along the Mississippi River, continued to fight in the Indian Wars (the Shawnee, Seminoles, and the Sauk). He was promoted to lieutenant colonel and earned the nickname Old Rough and Ready because he lived in the field with his troops.

During this time, his daughter, Sarah Knox Taylor, fell in love with an Army Lieutenant Jefferson Davis. Taylor was not happy. He didn't want his daughter to become a military wife and en-

sure the hardships that he and his wife knew too well. To get around Taylor's objections, Davis resigned his commission and his brother, Joseph, gave him a plantation called Brierfield, located adjacent to Joseph's plantation Hurricane. Davis and Sarah married in June 1835. In August of that year, they traveled to Davis's sister Anna's home in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, where they hoped to escape the August heat away and enjoy some of the shade and breezes of the countryside. Tragically, both contracted either malaria or yellow fever. Sarah died on September 15. Davis was severely ill and slowly improved, but never fully recovered.

As for Taylor, his successes were rewarded with promotion to Brigadier General. He corresponded with President William Henry Harrison. In May 1841, Taylor was made commander of the Second Department of the Army's Western Division (the entire southwest of the United States). He was headquartered in Arkansas. Texas had gained its independence as a republic and was proceeding to annexation by the United States. President Polk, as a safeguard against any Mexican attempts to reclaim Texas territory, issued a succession of orders that moved Taylor and the U.S. Army to Fort Jesup, Louisiana, then to Corpus Christi, Texas, and then the Rio Grande

River. In March 1846, negotiations with Mexico failed, and war broke out. Taylor took prompt action and forces defeated the Mexicans at the Battle of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. He received a brevet promotion to major general and was considered a national hero. Congress presented him with a formal commendation. In September, his forces defeated the Mexican forces at the Battle of Monterrey. He was criticized for not obtaining a full-scale surrender. Orders were given for him to join his army with General Winfield

Scott's army fighting at the Battle of Veracruz. Taylor sent over most of his forces, but kept some 4,594, including Texas Rangers, to defend Buena Vista. Mexican General Santa Anna learned of the situation through an intercepted letter and decided to attack Taylor with forces numbering 15,000-20,000. It should have been an easy victory for the Mexican Army and a major setback for the Americans.

Taylor, astride his white horse, moved his forces into defensive positions that controlled the key terrain. His artillery batteries were well placed to rack the likely avenues of advance. He left a reserve force of infantry and artillery units. The Mexican Army marched into a killing field. At one point, as the Mexicans renewed their attack on

the main U.S. position, Taylor rode up to the young Army Captain Braxton Bragg, a battery commander, and asked him what sort of shot he was using. Captain Bragg replied he was using single canister shot. Taylor ordered him to "double shot your guns and give 'em hell, Bragg." The Americans were devastating in their execution. With a cost exceeding 2,000 dead, wounded, and missing, the Mexican Army retreated. Losses for the United States were 264 dead and 450 wounded. It was a resounding victory for the Americans.

The successes in the Mexican War, and particularly the victory at Buena Vista, catapulted Taylor into the Presidency. As President, Taylor was trying to hold the nation together. The Southerners were threatening secession

over the issue of slavery, particularly in the large new territories acquired after the Mexican American War. Taylor, a Southerner and a slaveholder, did not push for slavery in the new territories. This laid the groundwork for the Compromise of 1850.

That year, Taylor attended a 4th of July celebration at the Washington Monument, then under construction. It was a hot day and he ate some cherries cooled with iced milk. Hours later, he fell ill with a very high fever and died five days later at 65. Taylor was transported to Louisville, and buried in the family cemetery plot on Springfield Plantation. 🏠



Mary Quinn with her magnificent King of the Condo Felix III. A Maine Coon who will turn 1 on October 1, His Floofiness will nearly double in size when fully grown in two years.

Photo by Dian McDonald

September 22, 2022

Inside the barbed wire, part II

By Bob Shea

A recap: Over 140,000 Korean and Chinese POWs are incarcerated at Kojé Do during the Korean War; negotiations are under way in Panmunjom to end the war; the American and the United Nations position is that no POW would be repatriated unwillingly; the peace talks stalemate; the war goes on; the POWs organize.

Eventually, the North Korean and Chinese negotiators agreed to a prisoner screening process to determine individually which of the 140,000 POWs desired to be repatriated. A hastily organized survey at Kojé Do found that only about 50 percent wanted to return to North Korea or China.

This fact caused the Communist delegates in Panmunjom to vehemently demand that at least 110,000 prisoners be returned regardless of their preferences. They declared that, unless this was agreed to, the UN Command would never have peace in Korea. On April 25, 1952, they cancelled the negotiations and refused to meet with the UN team.

The Communist intent was to begin a campaign to prove to the world that the captives were being tortured and coerced. Via a newly captured officer, the ranking Communist official on Kojé Do was instructed that further screening of POWs was to cease and be resisted to the death. A subplot was to capture a high ranking U.S. officer who would be held hostage until all screening was stopped.

With the life of a high-ranking American at risk, a public pledge was to be extracted that all further screening was to be halted. Otherwise, the Americans were to be provoked into such violence that the claims of UN brutality and coercion would be proved and easily displayed to the world.

The ranking Communist officer at that time, Joen Moon Il, forecast no difficulty in capturing Brigadier General (BG) Francis T. Dodd, U.S. Army, the first general officer to command Kojé Do. His estimate proved correct.

On May 7, BG Dodd was informed that the Communist leadership wanted to discuss important issues in Compound 76, the headquarters of the hard-line POWs. Trusting and terribly naive, General Dodd walked into the POW compound without any security detail – not overly bright. He was



quickly overwhelmed and taken to a hut deep in Compound 76 where he became the center of negotiations.

The Army headquarters in Pusan was notified and dispatched Brigadier Charles F. Colson to Kojé Do. Via a field telephone, BG Colson engaged in hostage negotiations. The POW demands were simple: BG Colson was to issue a public statement pledging to stop torturing and mistreating POWs who resisted repatriation. Otherwise, BG Dodd's throat would be cut.

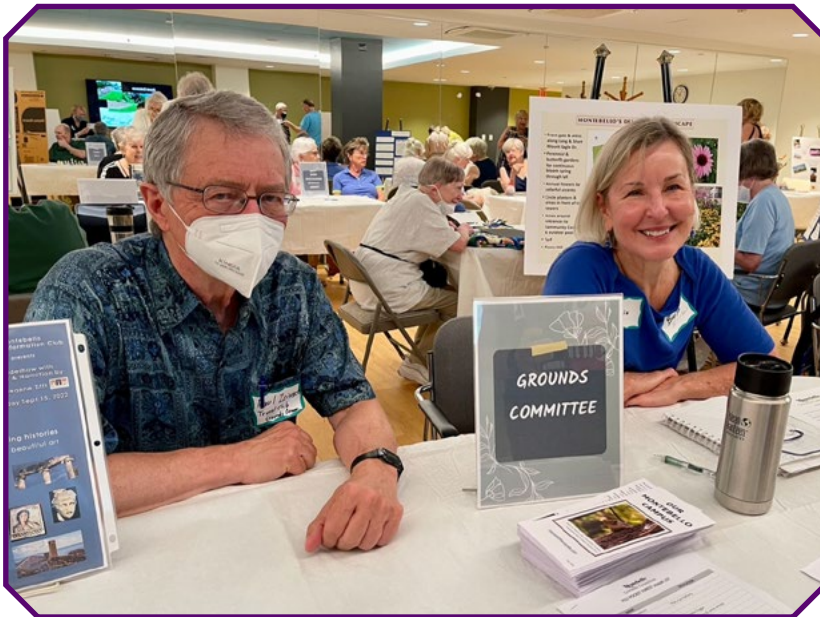
It was a variation of the old “have

you stopped beating your wife?” question. There was no good answer. General Colson was equally naive. He was convinced that the demands were ludicrous. Unfortunately he did not know that a vast worldwide propaganda machine was operating far from Kojé Do. *Pravda* had called Kojé Do an “island of death.” Some world newspapers suggested that “where there is smoke, there must be fire.” Friendly nations and UN allies asked for an explanation of the practices on the island. With other higher priorities such as continuing to wage the war as well as the Panmunjom negotiations, the U.S. Army and the UN Command failed to provide BG Colson with definitive guidance. He was focused on saving his fellow general's life.

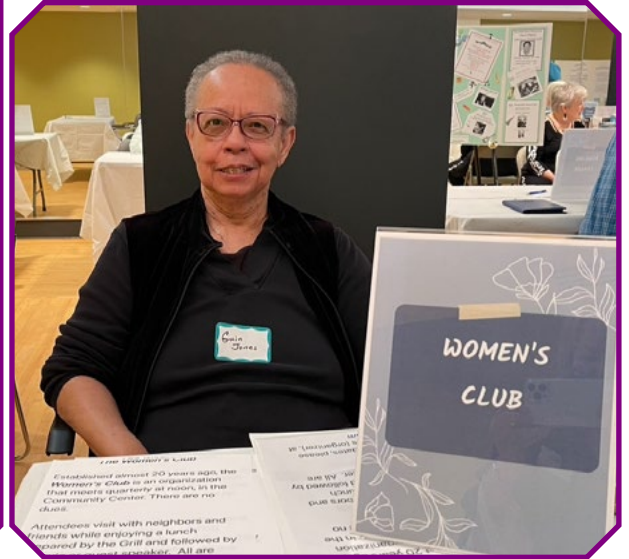
After three days of negotiations with the Communist leadership in Compound 76, BG Colson agreed to their demands. He published and signed a statement agreeing to stop torturing the POWs. He thought it was a ridiculous internal camp document and secured BG Dodd's release on May 10.

Brigadier General Dodd was flown to Tokyo where he learned that he had incurred the wrath of the Secretary of the Army, Frank Pace. BG Dodd was returned to the United States where he was demoted to colonel and retired in disgrace.

That left Brigadier General Colson still commanding Kojé Do, having given the POWs a startling propaganda victory. The prisoners continued to stage demonstrations and practice brutality on the less committed fellow POWs. It was questionable who controlled the island. On which side of the barbed wire were the men who actually controlled Kojé Do? The staff in Compound 76 drew up plans that, if implemented, would indeed turn Kojé Do into an “island of death.” 🏠



Photos by Dian McDonald
The Montebello Voice



Photos by Dian McDonald



Photos by Azita Mashayekhi and MK
The Montebello Voice



Something I've never seen before, found in one of our parking areas: a well-preserved dead frog, possibly an American toad (Anaxyrus americanus). It looked almost lifelike and I was surprised when it didn't move when I got close for a photo.

Photo by Don Savage