

## TODAY'S NEWSMAKERS

**JOSEPH GENTILE**

The Metropolitan Police Department will hold a retirement ceremony to honor Sgt. Joseph Gentile at 7:30 tonight at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. Gentile served with the department for 40 years, including 30 years as its spokesman. He was the face and voice of the department during the hostage takeover and killing in District Hall, the 1981 shooting of President Reagan and the drug arrest of Mayor Marion Barry in 1990.



Robinson

**MARY ROBINSON**

Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson will discuss how international migration and cultural exchange enrich societies at 11 a.m. today at Georgetown University. Robinson was president of Ireland from 1990 to 1997, and she served as U.N. high commissioner for human rights from 1997 to 2002. Following Robinson's address, Carol Bellamy, former executive director of UNICEF, and Carol Lancaster, Georgetown professor, will moderate a discussion with the audience.

**TANYA GOTT**

Tanya Gott, nominee for the director of the Prince George's County Office of Information Technology and Communications, has been confirmed and sworn in by the County Council. Gott, who was nominated to the position by County Executive Jack Johnson, was promoted to this position from her role as the junior management information systems coordinator for the office.

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## Federal lawyers get more time to probe tax scandal

Prosecutors extend deadline to indict alleged mastermind by 90 days to prepare case

By Scott McCabe  
Examiner Staff Writer

Federal prosecutors and defense attorneys Thursday agreed to extend the deadline on indictments in the case of the woman charged as the mastermind of the largest corruption scandal in D.C. history.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C. faced a deadline of March 18 to indict or dismiss charges against Harriette Walters. But lawyers from both sides told U.S. Magistrate Judge John M. Facciola they needed 90 more days to prepare due to the complex, far-ranging nature of the investigation.

It is the second 90-day extension in the case against Walters, 54, who was arrested in November on charges that she conspired to embezzle millions of dollars from the D.C. property tax office.

Federal investigators continued to pore over large volumes of government and financial records covering a significant period of time, the government officials said in court filings. Sources have told *The Examiner* that the records go back to the 1980s.

The joint motion was filed a week after a judge agreed to extend the deadline of co-conspirator and former tax office employee Diane Gustus by another 45 days.

Prosecutors in Maryland and D.C. have been in intense plea discussions with all 10 defendants in the case, sources told *The Examiner*.

Although Walters and her co-defendants have been formally charged with stealing more than \$20 million, independent auditors commissioned by the District have told lawmakers that \$43 million was stolen in the long-running scam.

The scandal has embarrassed D.C. Chief Financial Officer Natwar Gandhi and opened questions about the outside accounting firms that gave a clean bill of health to Gandhi's shop.

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Sgt. Nick Breul, D.C. police historian, inspects the recovered historic log book that may be the first written record of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Local lore has it that the book was pulled out of a dumpster years ago. — Photos by Andrew Harnik/Examiner

## Report of Lincoln assassination found in log of District police

By Scott McCabe  
Examiner Staff Writer

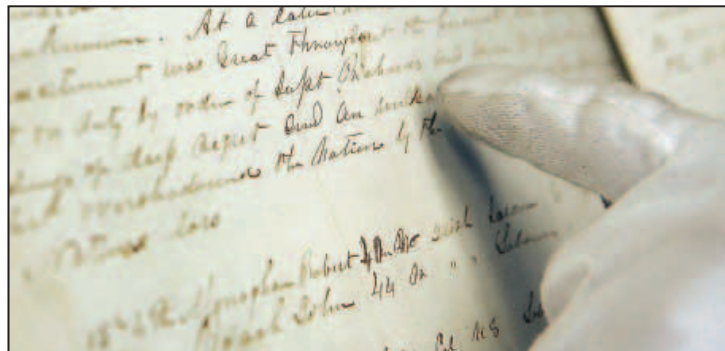
The D.C. police department has recovered a historic booking log that they say is one of the first written records of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

Much about the book's 143-year journey back to police officials remains unclear, but department historian Sgt. Nick Breul says the bound blotter highlights the role D.C. police have played in American events.

"This has national historic value," Breul said, "but also points out MPD's standing in national history."

Local lore has it that in the 1960s or '70s, someone found the book in a police trash bin with other discarded files. The book circulated among retired police officers for years, until a former police chief recently convinced the previous owner to donate it to the D.C. police department.

In flowery prose, the writer reports on the actions and the mood of the members of the then-8th Precinct at E and 5th Street Southeast. It appears to have been written between the time of the assassination — around 10:30 p.m., April 14, 1865 — and the next day's first arrest. John Wilkes Booth



The historic log book, above, reports on the actions and the mood of a D.C. police precinct from the time of the shooting to the next day's arrest.

was already a suspect and Lincoln had not yet succumbed to the gunshot wound.

The entry, on two pages in faded brown script, reports that a telegram was sent from police headquarters between 10 and 11 p.m., announcing that the president was shot at Ford's Theatre and that Secretary of State William Seward was seriously wounded and his son fatally injured.

Police officers were anxious "to avenge the death of the beloved chief magistrate," the author wrote.

"The assassin or assassins were at the time unknown. At a later hour it became currently reported J.W. Booth was the person who shot the president. The excitement was great throughout the

precinct," the book states.

"The gloom that overshadows the nation by this sad occurrence deeply affects the whole force and brings forth many heartfelt sympathies for the nation's loss."

The book likely had been moved from the Civil War-era precinct at E and 5th Streets SE to a new station at 500 E St. SE in 1904, where it remained until it was tossed out with the trash. Breul plans to place it in a hermetically sealed case in the department's museum on the sixth floor of police headquarters.

"This is something that's bigger than anybody here," Breul said, "not something that belongs in someone's basement."

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## THE 3-MINUTE INTERVIEW

### Dorcas Adkins

*Dorcas Adkins is the safety education program director for the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. As a bicycling instructor certified by the League of American Bicyclists, Adkins is the leader of several safety programs for both children and adults, including the organization's Confident City Cycling classes. Adkins is a retired manufacturer of garden fountains and a lifelong biking enthusiast.*

**Why is it important for WABA to promote bicycling?**

I think it's the most elegant solution to the largest number of problems we face nowadays. It's a no brainer for me — air pollution, traffic congestion, obesity, you name it. People just need to be more active.

**What programs do you have coming up for the spring?**

For the spring, I'm leading a program in schools in D.C. which teaches children in kindergarten through fifth grade pedestrian and bike safety ... In Maryland, we have another program, a similar one, where we train the teachers.

**You teach Confident City Cycling classes to adults. What do you teach in these courses?**

Usually, we teach three general things. We teach about the bicycle itself and how to do bicycle maintenance, we teach about the rider's needs ... and most importantly, we teach about the cycling environment, which for a commuting cyclist is the road itself.

**What is the most important rule bikers need to follow?**

I think the simplest one is always wear your helmet, and that's the easiest to convey. But certainly, in the case of children, teaching them how to stop a bicycle and when to stop a bicycle is most important.

**Do you have a favorite bike path?**

Yes, lots! Certainly, the Capital Crescent Trail [and] the towpath along the canal — it's not paved, but it's beautiful. — Jeanette Der Bedrosian

