



PARTNERSHIP BRINGS RARE HORSES
TO PUBLIC ATTENTION PAGE 21

FALSE ALARM!

BOND AND BUDGET PANIC FIZZLES

DANIEL MORROW

On January 11, Jerry Schiro, Middleburg's new Town Administrator reported to a relieved Town Council that most, if not all the town's much-publicized financial crisis had been resolved by simple and long-overdue book-keeping adjustments.

Contrary to fears generated by the town's preliminary audit report, and repeated in local and national media, bond funds earmarked for capital improvements had NOT been spent illegally.

Bookkeeping corrections and the deposit of funds long overdue from the Virginia Department of Transportation also mean, in Schiro's words, "... a much reduced deficit at the close of fiscal year 2006 and a surplus in the current fiscal year."

"Therefore," Schiro concluded, "our current budget is not in deficit."

The Bond Crisis That Wasn't

In November, Leesburg CPA Jeff Mitchell had warned Council that funds borrowed to finance capital improvements in Middleburg's aging infrastructure appeared to have been used, perhaps illegally, to pay on-going, non-capital expenses.

Both former Mayor Tim Dimos, and former Town Administrator Mike Casey repeatedly expressed doubt that such was the case.

Casey, fired by a unanimous vote of the Town

Continued Page 6

HANDSOME BELGIANS AND BARBARO HELP ADVANCE EQUINE REHABILITATION AT MORRISVILLE COLLEGE

PATRICIA BARRAZA VOS

Barbaro may be the nation's most-talked-about equine rehabilitation case, but he certainly is not the only one and, while it may seem like grasping at straws to think of any good that could be derived from the Derby winner's breakdown, there is one encouraging initiative in upstate New York that is truly inspiring.

At Morrisville State College, a group of equine science students are ever more dedicated to the old art and new science of equine rehabilitation. Luckily, the students are enrolled at MSC where the nation's first equine science degree will soon be introduced with a concentration in equine rehab and physiology. In addition, the College plans, and is raising funds, to build a new state-of-the-art equine rehabilitation center.

Located near Cornell, its renowned veterinary

school and several lay up facilities, which are often filled to capacity, the administrators and educators at the SUNY college were too often aware of the shortage of appropriate space and know-how in equine rehabilitation.

"As all colleges should and try to, we are simply responding to industry needs," remarks James Hastie, executive director of the Morrisville College Foundation.

Barbaro

While the sleek and swift thoroughbred Barbaro's heartbreaking injuries and road to recovery may provide essential inspiration to future practitioners of equine rehab in New York, Morrisville's equine program uses quite a different type of horse to bring attention to its program: a team of Belgians.

That's right, the six-horse Belgian hitch that has delighted every-increasing crowds and national media at the "Christmas in Middleburg" parade for the past three years comes from the equine experts and students at Morrisville. Shortly after Dr. Sheila Johnson was invited to give a commencement speech at the college early in this century, Johnson became one of the school's benefactors.

In 2002, Johnson donated \$1 million to Mor-

Continued Page 8

HELPING DOMINION SEE THE LIGHT

"VIRGINIANS FOR SENSIBLE ENERGY POLICIES" WORKS FOR CITIZENS

A recent ad run by Dominion on electric need visually summed up their approach to energy, according to Matt Sheedy, president of Virginians for Sensible Energy Policies (VSEP), "Dominion used an old-style energy-inefficient light bulb as the visual in their ad," he said.

VSEP is a newly formed coalition of Virginia residents including local groups, electric customers, families, farmers, workers and citizens of all ages.

"We initially organized to fight the proposed 500-kilovolt transmission lines in Northern Virginia that experts deem unnecessary. Through this process, we have become aware of the fact that Virginia's energy policy ranks as one of the worst in the nation," Sheedy explained.

Last in the Country

According to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy in their 2006 report, A Nationwide Assessment of Utility Sector Energy Efficiency Spend-

ing, Savings and Integration with Utility System Resource Acquisition, Virginia ranks last in the country in terms of energy efficiency and investment in energy efficient technology.

An article in Public Utilities Fortnightly (January, 2007) ranks Dominion as the top utility company in the nation in dollars spent on capital build-out. This helps make Dominion one of the most profitable utility companies in the country but does not make Virginia more energy efficient, nor does it protect Virginia ratepayers.

Continued Page 8

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MIDDLEBURG ENVIRONS

News of Note	3
Editors's Desk	10
Pastimes	12
Things to Do	24
Parents & Progeny	26
Friends for Life	28



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NEWS OF NOTE

TATE DECLARES CANDIDACY FOR STATE SENATE

PLEDGES TO PROTECT CITIZENS, FAMILIES AND LANDOWNERS FROM POWER LINES, LOBBYISTS, AND POLITICS AS USUAL.



Republican Mark Tate, Middleburg business leader and a founder of Virginians for Sensible Energy Policy (V-SEP), has announced his candidacy for the 27th District State Senate seat. The 27th District includes Frederick, Clarke, Winchester and parts of Fauquier and Loudoun counties.

Tate is a founder of the Virginians for Sensible Energy Policy (V-SEP) a grass roots group dedicated to stopping Dominion Power and Allegheny Power from putting a 500 kv power line – with massive towers and high voltage cables - across the 27th District.

According to Tate, "Dominion and Allegheny Power companies don't care about the 19 historic districts, eight civil war battle fields, and four national historic landmarks – or any of our farms or homes that are in their way."

"They want cheap coal-fired electricity from Ohio to New Jersey so they can skirt federal clean air standards," Tate continued. "...and they have an army of corporate lobbyists and lawyers exploiting loopholes, making deals, and handing out campaign contributions to get it done. It amounts to, an abuse of eminent domain laws."

Tate, a small businessman who co-owns the Coachstop Restaurant in Middleburg with his brother, Mike, is also formerly Vice Mayor of Middleburg, and held elective office locally for 12 years.

On the town council, Tate served as finance committee chairman. During his tenure, growth in municipal spending was held at or under the rate of inflation (adjusted for population), there were no tax increases and the car tax was eliminated in the Town of Middleburg.

"Controlling taxes and spending, is the key to controlling runaway development and unsustainable growth," said Tate. "For politicians in Richmond, however, it is way too

easy to subsidize development – and then leave counties and local communities with the bill in terms of services," Tate explained.

"That's why I want to pursue in the State Senate my three-part plan for Growth Relief and Infrastructure Planning (GRIP)." It includes:

- Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) – limits growth in government spending to the rate of inflation plus and adjustment for population growth
- Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances – requires certain infrastructure be in place before development
- Linking Land Use and Transportation – give local governments veto power over development based on road and highway capacity, or force developers to account for transportation needs.

"These tools are what local governments need - at a minimum – to help get a "grip" on over development and its run away costs," said Tate.

Most of our problems coming from Richmond stem from the "politics as usual" status quo, where lawmakers listen to lobbyists and work to protect their self interest and their campaign contributions. My whole career has been as a small businessman, and a local elected official dealing with the day to day concerns of neighbors, families, and other small business owners. I want to go to Richmond with that same perspective.

"I am committed to restoring dignity to this district. When you meet me you'll notice that I don't look, sound, or think like a career politician. And I'm proud of that. I want to carry on the fine conservative tradition of citizen legislator. I intend to be a Senator who will provide effective representation, common sense leadership, and a voice for the values that make our corner of Virginia the special place it is."

My pledge is to work in Richmond to protect families, taxpayers, and land owners from power lines, lobbyists, and that "politics as usual" that got us in this mess.

JILL HOLTZMAN VOGEL TO RUN FOR 27TH SENATE DISTRICT SEAT

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS AND FUNDING SECURED



Warrenton attorney Jill Holtzman Vogel recently announced her intention to enter the race for Republican State Senator in Virginia's 27th District. The seat is currently held by Senator H. Russell Potts, Jr.

Holtzman Vogel pledged to work in Richmond "...for a government that meets the needs of living in 2007, not 1907."

"Government's inability to keep pace with the demands placed on education, transportation and energy call for reform at the very core of the system," she stated.

"We deserve cost saving transportation improvements like modern rail and a modern energy policy so residents never again have to fight to save their property from the blight of 150-foot-tall power towers in their backyard."

An unprecedented level of support has been raised for the non-incumbent with her exploratory committee receiving more than \$359,000 to date to establish an extensive grassroots network.

She has also received key endorsements from Republican leaders including Delegate Clay Athey (VA-18) and Frederick County Board of Supervisors Chairman Dick Shickle.

"Jill and I share many ideas for Virginia," said Athey. "She wants to protect our farms by giving local government the tools needed to manage growth, and is among the leaders

in our region battling efforts by the power companies to expand towers over our landscape. She's smart, she's energetic and I look forward to serving with her in Richmond."

Shickle highlighted Jill's family's "long tradition of leadership in our community," and said "...Jill wants to make certain our local governments have the tools necessary to establish our own priorities, preserve our quality of life and do so in the most effective and efficient manner possible."

Her platform is designed to uphold conservative values and provide leadership in Richmond to lower taxes, support pro-family and pro-life initiatives, protect the 2nd Amendment, fight Richmond's wasteful spending, find transportation solutions without raising taxes, provide choices in education and preserve agricultural and historic resources.

Jill has deep roots in the Valley going back to the time the Valley was settled, and those values have served her well. She was born and raised in the Shenandoah Valley and has lived and voted in the 27th District her entire life. She attended Central High School in Woodstock, Virginia and graduated from the College of William & Mary.

She received her law degree from DePaul University School of Law. She and her husband, Alex Vogel have four children.

Jill has a successful law practice and is a community activist who has devoted her time to local as well as national civic involvement. She has been active in her church, taught Sunday school, and worked in the community on countless volunteer projects.

She is a former Trustee of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, a Rotarian and a founding member of the Virginia Fife and Drum Club. Jill serves on the Board of Trustees of Massanutten Military Academy and as a Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee for the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum.

A nationally recognized lawyer and political leader, Jill has held many senior posts in the Republican Party and in the Bush administration, including Chief Counsel to the Republican National Committee during the 2004 Presidential election and Deputy Counsel at the Department of Energy. She served as counsel at three Republican National Conventions in San Diego, Philadelphia, and New York.

In 2000, she helped manage the Presidential recount in West Palm Beach, Florida.

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NEWS OF NOTE

FOX CHASE HORSE SHOW SERIES AWARD LARGER CASH PRIZES

Fox Chase Farm, an equestrian events center in Middleburg, VA that specializes in events such as horse shows, children's summer/winter camps, has announced that 9 horse shows to be offered in 2007 will culminate with not just \$10,000 like last year, but \$12,000 in cash prizes. The large cash giveaway for "schooling" horse shows was first of its kind in northern VA in 2006 and by popular demand, is going for round two.

"Like last year, we want to award the hard work and efforts of our local equestrians", says Maureen Hanley, director of Fox Chase Farm, "And to increase the prize money for

2007, shows that we are serious about our dedication to this horse show series!"

Because of hard work and dedication and listening to it's customers, The TCH Fox Chase Horse Show Series 2006 will be awarded one of the TOP TEN Horse Shows by the VHSA in December. "Fox Chase Farm is proud and honored to win this award and hope that we meet everyone's expectations for 2007!"

Because of the dedication to the exhibitor's request, there are a few changes for the TCH Fox Chase 2007 series. First, 2007 qualifications are less strict. Exhibitors and/or their horses must compete in at least 4 out of 9 shows between Janu-

ary and September, 2007 to qualify. AND, something that NEVER happens at any show, the price per class will be going DOWN from \$17 per class to \$15 per class. There still remains the grounds fee of \$15, but if exhibitors stable overnight (\$40), the grounds fee will be waived.

Prize money will again be awarded to overall highest point winners from first to sixth place, plus prize money to the top 3 coach/trainer.

"We understand the importance of schooling shows as an introduction to the world of competition", says Maureen Hanley, Director of Fox Chase Farm and Board Member of the Washington International Horse

\$10,000 TIMOTHY C. HANLEY FOX CHASE HORSE SHOW SERIES 2006 WINS THE VIRGINIA HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR ONE OF THE TOP TEN HORSE SHOWS.



MAUREEN HANLEY ACCEPTING THE AWARD FROM ANGIE MAUK OF THE VIRGINIA HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION.

Show, "As such, we wanted to offer something unique for our community of devoted horse enthusiasts, a reward for their countless hours of hard work and dedication to their sport and their horses."

The first show starts on January 13, 2006 and the last show is September 16, 2007. All shows, like in 2006, will

have prizes awarded at every show. The last show in September 16, Fox Chase Farm will host a year end party and award not only division prizes, but the prize money as well.

For information on judges and a prize list will be available in December on the website: www.foxchasefarm.net or call (540) 687-5255.

DEADLINE FOR STUDENT PHILANTHROPY YOUTH GRANTS

Those seeking funding from the Piedmont Community Foundation's (PCF) youth grant-making program have until January 31, 2007 to apply to the S. Murray Rust and Mary H. C. Rust Student Philanthropy Project for funds.

The student philanthropy project, which functions under the banner of

"Forward Turn" is a committee of students in Loudoun and Fauquier Counties who promote youth leadership through community service. Grants ranging from \$500 to \$2500 are awarded to youth-

driven service projects that make a positive difference in Fauquier and Loudoun Counties.

Funds originate from an endowment set up at the PCF by the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Stirling Rust to encourage and empower permanent strategic student philanthropy.

Youth needing funding for their volunteer projects can find information on how to apply by visiting the Piedmont Community Foundation website at www.piedmontcf.org or call Foundation offices at 540 687 5223

LCPS & INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL HOST STUDENT ART RECEPTION ART OF HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY & MILL RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FEATURED

Wednesday, January 17, 2007 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Inova Loudoun Hospital, along with the Loudoun County Public Schools, will host the first student art reception of 2007. One hundred and eight students will be honored from both Hillside Elementary and Mill Run Elementary for their work currently displayed on the second floor of the Lansdowne Campus.

The event will begin in Conference Rooms A&B (first floor, Lansdowne Campus) and progress to the second floor in order to view the art.

To RSVP for this event, please contact Tony Raker, Director of Community Relations, at 703-858-8059 or e-mail traker@lh.org.

Members of the Inova

NORTHERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS



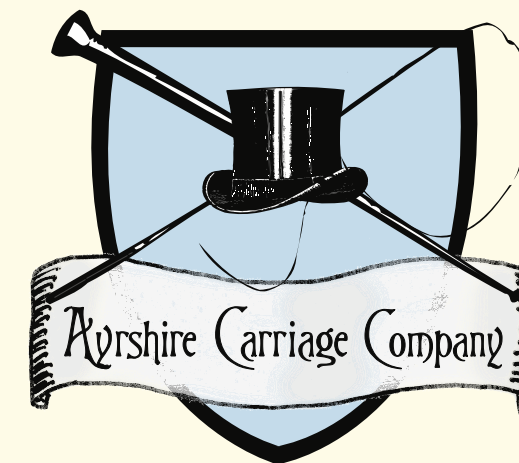
The Northern Piedmont Community Foundation (NPCF) awarded grants to the Blue Ridge Chorale of Culpeper and the American Children of SCORE from its Now & Forever Fund. The Now & Forever Fund, established in 2005, is an unrestricted fund created to provide support to nonprofits in Culpeper, Fauquier and Rappahannock Counties.

The Blue Ridge Chorale of Culpeper, Inc. received a \$250.00 grant for a sign language interpreter to sign a choral concert. The Blue Ridge Chorale is a choral group whose members come from Culpeper and surrounding counties.

The American Children of

SCORE received a \$500.00 grant. This grant will allow children with financial need to participate in the program. The American Children of SCORE is a non-profit music education and performance organization for children ages 8-12 whose students come from Fauquier, Culpeper, Rappahannock and Clarke counties.

The Northern Piedmont Community Foundation is a public charity established in 2001. Over 700 community foundations exist in the United States, with 27 in Virginia. For more information on establishing a charitable fund contact Elizabeth Henrickson at 540-349-0631 or P.O. Box 182, Warrenton, VA 20188



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NEWS OF NOTE

FALSE ALARM!

FROM PAGE 1

Council in July, had, in fact, stated repeatedly that he believed the town was not really in debt, and that there had certainly been no mispending of bond funds for “general expenses.”

According to Casey a large number of expenses had simply been misclassified.

Many bills that had been paid from the town’s “general fund” should have been paid from bond proceeds he said. Once the corrections had been made, Casey contended, the “bond fund crisis” would disappear.

Schiro’s report confirmed Casey’s and Dimos’s contentions.

“Thanks to the hard work of Claudia [Dornin] and Debbie [Jewell],

we have identified additional capital expenditures that should have been credited to the bond proceeds, “ the new Town Administrator told council on January 11.

Indeed, by January 11, former interim Town Administrator Dornin, and current Town Treasurer Jewell, found nearly \$190,000 in expenses that had been improperly classified.

Once these bookkeeping corrections are made, Schiro noted, only around \$44,000 of the \$1.3 million bond fund remained to be spent. The \$44,000, he noted further, had already been earmarked, appropriately, for a pump replacement project.

All bond funds were thus spent

appropriately. No trust was violated. No laws were broken.

The General Fund Crisis That Wasn’t

Because the town’s bookkeepers had inappropriately charged Middleburg’s “general fund” for “bond fund” capital expenses, the Town’s putative “general fund crisis” also proved overblown.

In effect, the Town’s “bond fund” owed the town’s “general fund” more than \$180,000 and, according to Mayor Davis, perhaps more than \$230,000.

“That transfer [of funds from one account to another] combined with the VDOT grant revenue received in the current fiscal year,” Schiro reported, “will result in a much reduced deficit at the close of fiscal year 2006 and a surplus in the current fiscal year.

“Therefore,” Schiro informed a happy council,” our current [2007] budget is not in deficit.”

As for fiscal year 2006, Schiro noted that the “Town Staff will request Council to make some budget amendments prior to June 30, 2007” and that auditor Jeff Mitchell will be amending the final audit to Council at our February 5th work session.”

What Happened?

Auditor Jeff Mitchell’s February 5th report to the Town Council should provide an almost-final account of the town’s accounts for fiscal year 2006.

Until then, persistent questions about who knew what, when, and what should have been done about it remain unresolved.

Both former Mayor Dimos and Mike Casey insisted for months that the “crisis” was overblown. Town Administrator Schiro’s report clearly vindicated that point of view with regard to both the bond and general funds.

Casey has also long contended that his dismissal had nothing to do with the town’s finances. Noting that he had been given high praise and a raise, six months before he was unceremoniously fired, Casey asserts that he was dismissed because of a combination of long simmering differences with key Council members. Among them, he says: resentment over his analysis of the risks and benefits of the Salamander deal; back-channel complaints by disgruntled former employees and current staff members to Council members; and complaints by citizens unhappy about his enforcement of town rules, or resentful that he would not grant them special favors.

Council members, constrained by legal counsel from citing specifics, generally agree that Casey was dismissed because of personnel problems and his management style. Indeed, it was not until after Casey had left his post that questions about financial oversight processes and the true state of town’s finances began to surface publicly.

What is termed an “unbudgeted and unauthorized spending down” of the town’s cash reserves also remains a question. Both Mike Casey and Tim Dimos assert correctly that Council specifically authorized a reduction in the town’s cash reserves. Mayor Davis and Vice-Mayor Kirk both question the degree and manner in which that authorization was carried out. The next edition of the town’s audit for fiscal year 2006, due on February 5, promises to shed more light on the problem.

Most, though not all Council members agree that that there were many missed opportunities to catch



MAYOR BETSY DAVIS, NEW TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JERRY SCHIRO AND ACTING TOWN ADMINISTRATOR/DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CLAUDIA DORNIN

and resolve early all the town’s financial problems, real and imagined.

The town’s treasurer, administrator and Mayor dealt first hand, on a monthly basis with contracting, bill-payment and coding of expenditures. The Council’s Finance & Personnel Committee, and the Town Council as a whole received financial reports monthly (and according to Mike Casey, sometimes more often.) Any and all could, and should have noticed the anomalies that first became widely known in November.

Though some debate the timeliness and completeness of those reports, most who have actually reviewed the records concur that the major anomalies cited in Jeff Mitchell’s preliminary audit, and their root causes, almost literally “jump off the pages.”

For some Council and Staff members this also raises the question of why the Town’s auditor didn’t raise questions about accounting and possible book-keeping errors before making a his preliminary audit public. Had he done so, the Town, its Council and town staff might have been spared considerable embarrassment and negative publicity.

Tax and Rate Hikes Questioned

During the two months between the November audit panic and Town Administrator’s Schiro’s January 11 report that all was well, Town Council raised “meals” taxes by 33%, raised the “occupancy” tax on overnight guests at hotels and bed-&-breakfasts by 66%, and levied a new tax on cigarettes.

The measures, all enacted in an effort to address problems that, according to Schiro, now seem less pressing, if not entirely moot, were strongly opposed by citizens.

At the Council’s first and only public hearing on the matter on December 14, Edward “Snooks” Swain, Jerry Wine, George Archibald, Betty Patterson, Randolph Underwood, Kathy Ribaldo, Pauline Wisdom, Don Woodruff and others, all raised serious questions about Council oversight, staff management of income and expenses, and, especially, the fairness of the increases in water and sewer rates to the disproportionate number of people on fixed incomes who live in Middleburg.

As Swain noted at the January 11 Council meeting, the new tax and rate hikes nevertheless passed immediately with the Mayor breaking a tie vote, despite obvious and vocal opposition.

In the week following Schiro’s report other citizens and some sources close to the Town Council and staff, questioned whether the rate and tax

PHOTO BY CINDY PEARSON

Dominion–Time to See the Light!

An Open Letter to Dominion Power Management, Employees and Board of Directors

Dear CEO Farrell and Chairman Thomas Capps:

The old-style energy-inefficient light bulb used in your recent print advertisement illuminates Dominion’s outdated approach to our future energy needs.

Dominion Power’s print advertisement fails to establish the need for additional energy in Virginia. In fact, there is no proof of that need.

Virginia does not need this transmission line project. The North American Electric Reliability Council found in a 10-year outlook that power capacity in Virginia is “not a reliability concern at this time.”¹ Furthermore, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy suggests that Virginia can do better in energy efficiency, ranking Virginia in the bottom ten states in regard to efficient use of energy.

Virginia can meet all of its future energy needs through a comprehensive state energy plan that promotes the use of modern technology and energy efficiency.

Yet you are proposing to carve a permanent scar across the face of Virginia’s historic Piedmont. This unnecessary plan condemns and clear-cuts forty miles of Virginia’s most scenic and pristine countryside. This land was surveyed by George Washington and revered by Thomas Jefferson.

In its place, you propose to erect a towering chain of hundreds of fifteen-story industrial transmission towers and high-voltage cables, defiling a landscape enjoyed and preserved by Virginia families for generations. This multi-billion dollar construction project will be paid for by all Dominion Virginia ratepayers no matter where they live. It will primarily transport electricity from dirty coal-fired plants through Virginia to the northeastern states.

CEO Farrell and Chairman Thomas Capps—you can stop this unnecessary disaster from happening. We don’t need, don’t want and can’t afford these power towers. Virginia is counting on you to tell your fellow Directors to **stop this project now.**

Sincerely,

Virginians for Sensible Energy Policies

To learn how you can help please visit www.EnergyPolicies.org today.

¹NERC 2005 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, page 81.





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NEWS OF NOTE

HANDSOME BELGIANS AND BARBARO HELP ADVANCE EQUINE REHABILITATION

FROM PAGE 1

risville State College for the creation of the Sheila Johnson Institute, whose mission is to provide support for diversity and character-building initiatives at the college. She continues to be an active supporter of the college, serves on the Morrisville College Foundation board, and was the one to encourage the school to send its charming hitch down to Middleburg to take part in the annual Christmas festivities.

Driver Scott Seymour welcomed Dr. Johnson to his side on many of the early Christmas in Middleburg parade rides.

Two Million Horses

With two million horses within an eight- hour drive, MSC is not just geographically well situated to address that need but historically and academically well ahead of the curve as well.

The College's equine program started decades ago and, since its inception, has provided equine rehabilitation services. During the decades

that followed the school built a stellar reputation for turning out competent and caring equine science graduates.

"And... they are a very caring bunch," says Hastie. "We still get notes from alumni asking how a horse is doing."

In addition to Morrisville State College's ties to Middleburg, the institution is no stranger to being in the forefront of equine science education. It was the first college in New York to offer a four-year equine science degree and the first in the nation to offer a four-year racing management degree.

Currently over 300 students and 400 horses call the Equine Science department home. Its facilities operate as a working equine business offering breeding, training, and raising horses for sale. According to Hastie, the school runs the fourteenth-largest yearling sale in the United States.

Eager Students

Today, the school has plenty of eager students, a full staff of qualified academics including four Ph.D.'s, and 400 horses.

"It's not like getting involved with a start up," Hastie emphasizes.

With this impeccable foundation and a comprehensive plan in place the only missing piece, as often is the case, is funding. The plan requires that Morrisville College Foundation raise \$5 million by June of this year to make the dream a reality.

Thanks to a generous and much-acclaimed donation from Empire Racing, over a million of that has been committed. When The Foundation reaches its goal, in donations and pledges, which must occur by June 2007, it will proceed with the groundbreaking.

Every Horseman's Dream

The realization of this plan will create every horseman's dream reha-



bilitation center.

"We will be able to offer the same services offered by KESMARC (Kentucky Equine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Center), but for 48 percent lower cost," claims Hastie.

The lower price considers a discount that is based on a competitive-bid process that allows the school to purchase hay, bedding, feed and other essentials at significantly lower prices.

Once completed, the Morrisville rehab center will feature a swimming pool; a well-loved, low impact approach to rebuilding horse strength during rehab; a Eurociser (basically a high-tech version of the old stand-by, the hot walker); an Aquaciser (or underwater treadmill); and a hyperbaric chamber (an oxygen chamber that is used in conjunction with other therapies to speed healing by forcing oxy-

gen into diseased or damaged areas.)

Once the facility is funded, the groundbreaking will take place immediately and the new facility will be up and running in eight months. At that point, the college will begin recruiting students for its proposed Baccalaureate in Equine Rehabilitation and Physiology.

According to Hastie, when the idea was first conceived, they did an informal poll of current students and found that 95 percent were interested in the degree. Why the overwhelming desire to rehab horses?

"It may be because of Barbaro," concedes Hastie.

For more information on Morrisville State College, their equine degrees, or their plans for the new equine rehabilitation center please see <http://www.morrisville.edu/equinerehab>.

HELPING DOMINION SEE THE LIGHT

FROM PAGE 1

"The proposed forty-mile transmission line of massive and unneeded power towers through some of the most historic and scenic countryside in the state is indicative of our broken energy policy," Sheedy continues. "Electric companies such as Dominion have financially incentives to build transmission lines with a ratepayer guaranteed return on investment of up to twelve-and-a-half percent. There is no financial incentive to seek alternative, energy-efficient and environmentally-sensitive methods."

In 2005, the North American Electric Reliability Council found, in a ten-year outlook, that power capacity in Virginia is "...not a reliability concern at this time."

"We believe that Virginia can meet all of its future energy needs through a comprehensive state energy plan that promotes the use of modern technology and energy efficiency," states Sheedy.

A comprehensive state energy plan promoting the use of modern technology and energy efficiency will also eliminate the towering chains of fifteen-story towers proposed to carve a permanent scar across the Virginia Piedmont.

Dominion's portion of this multi-billion dollar project will be paid for by all Dominion Virginia ratepayers no matter where they live. It will primarily transport electricity from dirty coal-fired plants in the Midwest, through Virginia to the northeast.

Sensible Energy Policies

VSEP's goal is to ensure affordable, reliable and sustainable energy

for the Commonwealth while respecting the environment, historical heritage, property rights and the prerogatives of state and local governments. VSEP seeks to assist in implementing sensible, responsible energy policies that will:

- Keep the cost of energy reasonable for Virginia ratepayers;
- Protect Virginia's precious natural resources;
- Generate greater energy efficiency;
- Ensure a vibrant business climate; and
- Permit all energy providers in the Commonwealth to operate in a regulatory framework that provides reliable, efficient energy to our citizens.

"It is our hope that we can all work together to bring Virginia from the bottom of the list on energy efficiency, to the top of the list," says Sheedy.

"We are hopeful that our leaders will listen to the concerns of citizens and that Dominion will hear and act on what the ratepayers have to say. We have the opportunity to protect our precious natural resources before it's too late."

Virginians for Sensible Energy Policies (VSEP) is a coalition of local groups, electric customers, families, farmers, workers and citizens of all ages. VSEP is organized to study energy policy, educate the public, and litigate to protect the environment and property rights. For more information, visit the Web at www.EnergyPolicies.org.

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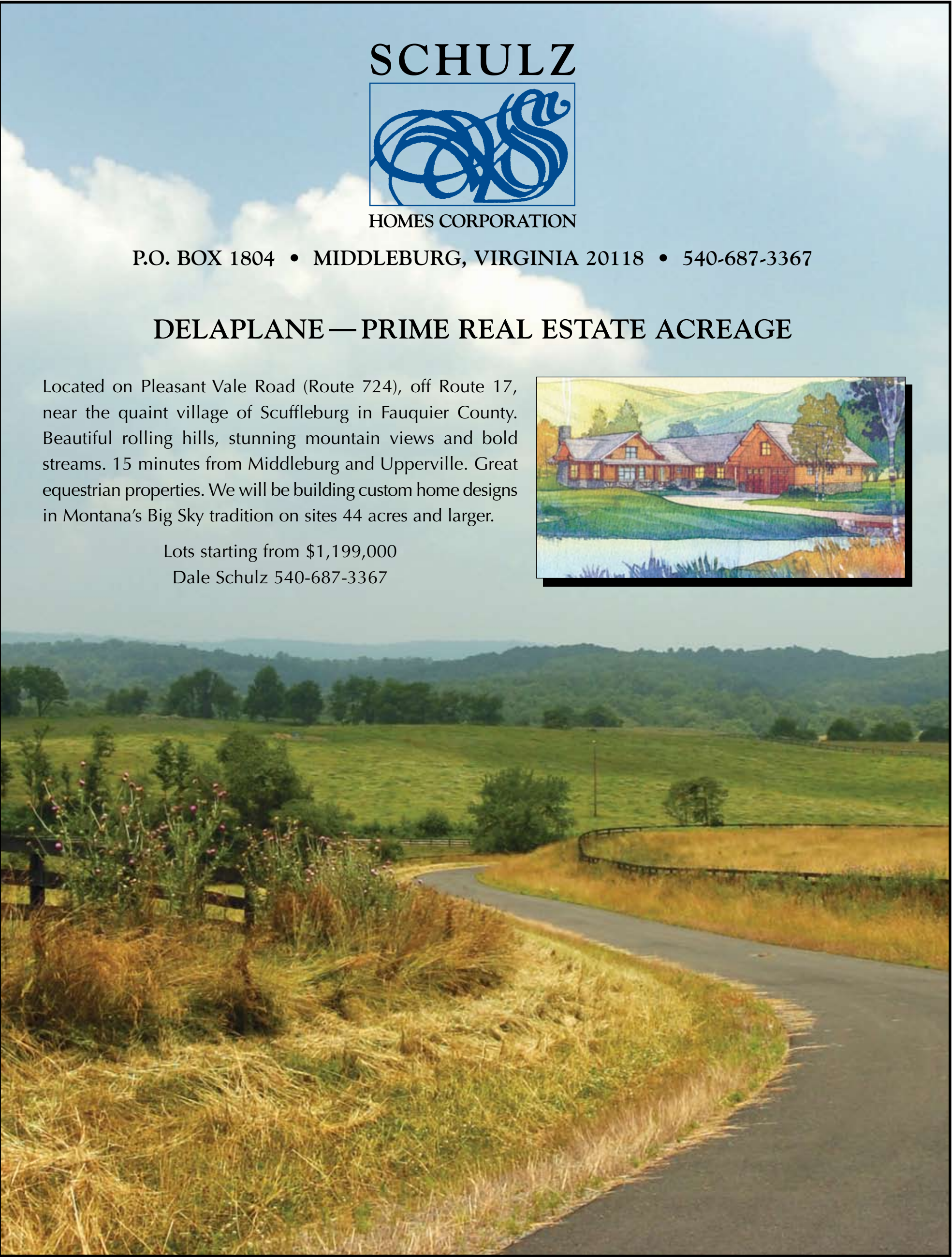
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THE EDITOR'S DESK

WESTERN CIVILIZATION 2007

We are rapidly entering high political season, nationally, regionally and locally.

Announcements are being made in cozy Hunt Country living rooms, on Middle American farmland and, more and more often, on the web. Change is in the air on both sides of the aisle, tempers are restrained and conversations, for the most part, calm and thoughtful.

It's lovely, enlightening and almost like being a guest in an 18th century Doctrinaire Salon, to debate the issues of the day with aspiring politicians and their supporters in these circumstances. One learns so much in truly civilized encounters and, so little in shouting matches between shrill and narrowly focused competitors.

We've all attended events where we hoped to learn what the differences were between candidates, and, too often, we've all come away hot under the collar and angry without really understanding much more than we did when we arrived.

Let's hope for many civilized meetings with candidates who are good listeners and patient responders during this political season. Although it promises to be a long and hard fought campaign, the issues at hand, whether they be transportation, education, energy or security, demand that we elect the very representatives possible to build the foundation of our future.

With a little insight, every candidate will realize that civility attracts votes, and makes for a much more informative election season.

Middleburg Eccentric welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Letters must be signed and include writer's name, address and day-time phone number. Please submit letter via email: editor@mbecc.com or P.O. Box 1768, Middleburg VA 20118

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

President Bush and his Iraq Speech

A little right, A lot still left

A successful resolution in Iraq is necessary because the future of our world is at stake. Thus I listened to President Bush's speech with interest. While he did get a few things right, he still has a long way to go.

What is right! Admitting his failures, is a step in the right direction. Once this is accepted, he can move forward to find the right solution. He did set some goals, that I have been complaining about. He did set a time line.

What is wrong! Admitting the mistakes was right, but what has he done to they sycophants who gave him the wrong advice to

start with. If they are still advising him, then he will get wrong advice again. The goals that he has defined are too dependent on Iraq. On one side he calls them beleaguered, on the other he challenges them with the task of solving the problems. How can a leader who had nominal support until a little while ago do anything significant. Without us how long will he stay in power.

We need to take the lead in this and make sure our goals are completed correctly.

President Bush wants to interrupt the flow of support the terrorists are receiving, but what is to prevent it from starting again in another place. He needs to go after the sources providing the support. Why haven't we been doing this so far.

He wants to send more troops there to help re-

build the nation. The job of troops is not to rebuild a nation. That job belongs to the nation itself. The job of the troops is to put the nation in a stable condition so that rebuilding can start. The troops alone cannot do much by themselves. What support are they getting. Are we collecting telephonic, financial, medical records there, where terrorists do exist in large numbers, as

we are doing on Americans here where terrorists are few? I did not hear anything being offered to help our troops achieve their goal. They need the goal of making Iraq safe, and the support needed to achieve it.

Neeraj Nigam
Sterling, Virginia

RANT & RAVES

POWER NEEDS NOT PROVEN

FROM BEYOND THE BELTWAY

KEN RIETZ

All of us remember the TV images of the CEO of the Nation's largest energy company reassuring employees and shareholders that the company was in good financial condition and they should continue to buy stock. Shortly after, thousands of employees, retirees and share- holders lost their life savings as ENRON crumbled. We also recall the rolling blackouts in California, later proven to have been manipulated.

Then there was the Director of the CIA who told President Bush that finding 'weapons of mass destruction' in Iraq was a "slam dunk". We all know now that they weren't there.

Now DOMINION POWER wants us to believe we need more electricity in Northern Virginia....just because they say we do. They have offered no prove of that need. There is no study or analysis that proves that need. DOMINION is doing what they can to scare us by threatening electricity shortages and rolling 'Brown Outs'. And to solve this unproven problem DOMINION wants to destroy some of the most beautiful landscape in Virginia by erecting 15 story high Power Towers across the Piedmont. One

wonders how gullible DOMINION execs think we are ,given recent corporate history. They want those lines through Virginia in order to sell cheap electricity, generated by old, dirty, coal burning plants to our west, to markets to the east and north of us.

Originally, this high voltage transmission line, managed by PJM, was set to go through Pennsylvania. DOMINION wants to route it through Virginia to be able to participate in the profit these lines would generate. GREED, pure and simple. They don't care about defiling our countryside. Land that ROBERT DUVALI recently called "HALLOWED GROUND". There comes a time in every corporation when 'good citizenship' trumps 'corporate profit'. This should be one of those times. After all, why on earth should DOMINION customers pay the cost of this multi billion dollar proposal. Talk about adding insult to injury. Destroy the Virginia we love and send us the bill for doing so ? I don't think so. Let's hope Dominion comes to its senses before history repeats itself in Virginia.

Ken Rietz lives in Delaplane. He is a former Deputy Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

THINK GLOBALLY, SHOP LOCALLY

GENIE FORD

As a relatively new resident of the Middleburg area, I feel privileged to live in one of the few truly unspoiled places in America. I also recognize that the beauty and charm of the village and its surroundings are precarious, even at the best of times, and so I support the concept of conserva-

tion. Having said that, I also believe that if the village is to survive, we must do more than just say no to growth; we must also say yes to taking care of each other. That means we must support the businesses and shops that help give Middleburg some of its unique charm. I must confess to self-interest here—I am one of the owners of Books & Crannies, Middleburg's only full-service,

RED VS BLUE

2007: AN ODD YEAR

DAN MORROW - (D)

Suspicious and Supervisors

On Sunday, January 22, The Washington Post published a story by Michael Lewis and David Falls headlined, "Influence of Developers, Allies Runs Deep." The results of what the reporters described as their "year-long investigation" yielded the first of what promises to be an ongoing and devastating chronicle of "coziness" (or worse) among well-connected developers and key Loudoun County government officials.

Lewis and Falls name names, and cite at least one FBI inquiry into possible public corruption. Suspicious confirmed? We'll soon see.

For anyone with an interest in the future of Loudoun County this Post series is a "must" read.

High Voltage Silver Linings

Dominion Virginia Power's clumsy efforts to justify the unpalatable as the critically inevitable have given nearly every Republican in northern Virginia an excuse for high dudgeon and suddenly vocal expressions of warm fuzzy feelings for the "environment." If the impact of DVP's power lines on real estate values drives some of our Republican friends into the light . . . and they help us defeat or force radical modification of DVP's current plans . . . we are in debt to DVP's PR strategists.

The Middleburg Town Council

Kudos to Edward "Snooks" Swain, one of the few residents of Middleburg who can be counted on to attend most, if not every meeting of the Middleburg Town Council . . . and speak his mind. One might not always agree with him, but a few good thorns-in-the-side help keep councils, and the rest of us, awake. Join him for as many meetings as you can. The Financial reports due February should be ESPECIALLY interesting.

Candidates for President

How sweet it is for Democrats to have so many good people in the field that all of us feel sorry that some won't be nominated. More

on this later, but my first choice for First Lady is Elizabeth Edwards -- bright, brave, articulate, and clearly her own person -- but with a style that would make her a welcome guest in a mill town or a mansion.

Candidates for State Senate

My friend Mark Tate is running for State Senate, and if I were a Republican, I fear I'd have to endorse him. But since I'm clearly a knee-jerk left-wing liberal Democrat, and because he writes for the Eccentric, and since those Washington Post people are hot on the track of folks with conflicts of interest, I fear any support from me would only work to his detriment. I will say, however, he writes a mean "red" and I'd look forward to crossing words with him whether he's in Richmond or here.

TAKING OUR FIGHT TO RICHMOND

MARK TATE - (R)

Every week we talk about partisan politics in this space. We have discussed the problems in the commonwealth, locally and in the county.

We have discussed the problems created because growth was not controlled, the traffic congestion we face that is associated with rapid, uncontrolled growth, and the threat by Dominion power to condemn the countryside to build a chain of 15-story power transmission towers.

To address these issues and challenges, I have recently decided to run for State Senate.

I have long been active in local politics, fighting to protect taxpayers' pocket books by keeping taxes low. Fighting to protect your local businesses.

families and supporting traditional family values. And fighting to protect our quality of life by helping to control the over development of the countryside and preserve the history and heritage of our community.

The best way to ensure success on these issues is to bring the fight to Richmond. I intend to do precisely that.

Most politicians seem to agree with me on these issues when they campaign on the stump, but I have a record of achievement on these issues.

Richmond is infected with lobbyists and ethically challenged state and local politicians only compound the problem.

We need substantial reform now to protect the taxpayers and families in Virginia.

The Incumbent, my opponent in this campaign, received over \$40,000 in campaign contributions from Dominion Power. He has stayed silent on whether Dominion Power should be able to condemn our land and build this line of 15-story power towers across our historic heritage.

For many years the development industry has virtually controlled the General Assembly. Their lobbyists stop any legislation that helps counties control the rate of growth, therefore we face higher taxes and uncontrolled traffic as by products.

I believe it is time we had someone in Richmond who will stand up for the taxpayers, families, farmers and voters here at home. And with your help I will be that Senator.

You have my promise that, when elected Senator, I will support linking Land-use and Transportation decisions and I will fight hard to stop these power towers from destroying our countryside and our heritage. We need a taxpayer who understands and will fight tax increases. We need a State Senator who will fight to protect our traditional values and fight to protect the most vulnerable in our society. And we need a senator who will support ethics and lobbying reform here and in Richmond.

As a candidate for the State Senate, I will make every attempt to get these things done.

During the campaign, I will be working hard to earn and deserve your support.

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PASTIMES

EVERYBODY WINS (EXCEPT THE PATS!)

SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

The Chicago Bears (da Bears!) and the Indianapolis Colts (formerly of Baltimore, as any Baltimore fan will tell you, ad nauseam, until, blood-sugar levels low, you seek divine intervention just to get the poor schlub to zip his yap) won the right to face each other in Miami, host of its ninth Super Bowl, in two weeks, on Sunday, February 4th.

While the Bears dispatched the New Orleans Saints, this year's feel good team of the year, with relative ease and after a little ill-conceived provocation from all-world Reggie "watch me do somersaults!" Bush, the Colts played what may have been the best Conference Championship game ever, or at least in the top five of all-time, easy.

To appreciate the tension associated with the game played in the RCA Dome in Indianapolis requires an understanding of only one thing, that of expectations built so lofty, so grand, by one's peers, by the media, and by the public that they become a burden of literally painful proportions, expectations that have dogged you your whole career, professional and collegiate, from all the so-called experts who first whispered and eventually shouted from the rooftops, "All that skill and he still can't win the big one, he can't step up when it's all on the line and matters most."

That is what life had been like for Peyton Manning throughout much of his college career at Tennessee (he never did beat Florida) and for all of his time in the pros (all those superhero like numbers and no Super Bowl.) Manning has been the NFL's Sisyphus for much of his seven years in the league, working every season to push, pull, and carry his team to greatness, setting individual records at a boggling pace, playing his position with poise and near perfection week after week, until, ultimately, the rock rolls back down the hill and Manning trudges doggedly after it, determined that next year he'll reach the top.

More likely than not, particularly over the last few years, the team that seemed to be waiting for Manning and his Colts, waiting to derail those best laid plans, waiting to push Manning completely out of his comfort zone, was the New England Patriots, the closest thing (heartbreakingly) the 21st century has to a sporting dynasty, led by their pinch-faced, hoodie-wearing savant of a head coach, Bill Belichick, their diamond in the rough, plucked from the bazillionth round of the draft quarterback, the one with the highest winning percentage of ANY quarterback in the modern post-season era, Tom Brady, and their monstrous defense, built to smash offenses in the mouth hard and often, early in the game, turning many a high-vaulted scoring juggernaut in nothing more than a quivering puddle of goo.

And, as if reading off the same script, the Pats and the Colts played their parts to perfection for almost an entire half, the Pats getting all the bounces and big plays, the Colts seeming to fall completely to pieces to a team that was simply better and more poised, not individually but as a unit, and that, anyone will tell you, is what football is all about. The Colts found themselves down by 18, 21-3, at home, to their nemesis, and you could hear televisions across the country flipping around to see what else was on; we'd all seen this before, you see.

But then, from nowhere, Manning and the Colts started to pull together. Traditionally Patriot-bounces went the other way and suddenly it was linemen for the Colts that were scoring touchdowns. Manning was his miraculous best, Joseph Addai and Dominic Rhodes burst through holes in the Pats defense the QEII could have sailed through, and the much-ridiculed Colts defense shut down the Pats offense.

The rest of the game was what everybody wanted, a slugfest, with two heavyweights trading punches with each other, touchdowns and field goals, until the Colts found themselves ahead, 38-34, with 54 seconds left and Brady marshalling his troops.

On the sideline, Manning sat, head down, hands squeezed together so tightly his knuckles were white. He didn't watch, couldn't really; he'd been here before, had felt victory



ripped from his hands, had watched Brady and Belichick celebrate at his expense. So he sat and he prayed and he wished and he squeezed.

And when Marlin Jackson picked off the normally cold-blooded, quick-witted, sure-handed Brady, Manning raised his head and smiled.

He looked like a man released from a terrible burden, trite as that may sound. A weight really had been lifted from his shoulders, and Manning could see the possibilities unfolding before him.

Peyton Manning and his Colts are going to the Super Bowl, and this year, maybe, just maybe, that damned rock won't roll back down to the bottom before the job is done.

cuda24@yahoo.com

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT—READ ON!

EXPLORING BOOKS

GENIE FORD

Some very interesting and entertaining books arrived on our shelves as 2006 drew to a close, and even more good books are on the horizon. Some of the newest titles have proven to be quite controversial, such as Jimmy Carter's *Palestine Peace Not Apartheid*. This book has been met with both cheers and jeers, but the former president has said he doesn't mind as long as it keeps us talking. *Dangerous Nation*, by the distinguished scholar Robert Kagan, is required reading for anyone who wants to understand the development of American foreign policy and our place in the world. He takes a new look at our country's progress from colonial times to the present and he makes a compelling new case that the term "isolationist" never did fit—and that in fact, we have been viewed abroad as powerful, ambitious, innovative and yes, even dangerous.

Now for something a bit lighter: Rupert Everett's autobiography, *Red Carpets and Other Banana Skins*. Everett is perhaps best known to us as Julia Roberts's gay buddy in the film "My Best Friend's Wedding." He's oh-so-much-more than that—he's witty, unflinchingly honest, openly gay and devastatingly handsome. And if you saw him in the film version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, you'll also know he's a great actor.

Marlena De Blasi, author of *A Thousand Days in Venice* and *A Thousand Days in Tuscany*, now brings us *The Lady in the Palazzo: At Home in Umbria*. This installment concerns the efforts of the author and her husband to restore and then move into a ballroom in a palazzo (or palace). In the process, there's lots of food, wine and eccentric characters.

We can't leave the realm of nonfiction without mentioning *From Baghdad, With Love* by Lieutenant Colonel Jay Kopelman with Melinda Roth. The cover alone is enough to make you want to hug this book. Marines found a tiny puppy in the ruins of Fallujah, named him Lava, and successfully brought him to safety in the United States, despite all the rules and regulations against just such an act. Get out the hankies!

Among the interesting new fiction titles is a book by a local Washington attorney, Patrick Hyde has written a great new mystery, *The Only Pure Thing*, in which his hero, Stuart Clay, takes on such timely issues as homelessness, the mob and Washington, D.C.'s so-called renaissance. As with all good thrillers, there's a whole lot more than meets the eye in *The Only Pure Thing*, which Michael Connelly describes as "a legal thriller full of grit and charm and telling details from every link in the justice food chain." We hope there will be many more legal adventures awaiting Stuart in the future.

Alice Hoffman has written her 19th novel, *Skylight Confessions*. This follows the familiar Hoffman formula (while being anything but formulaic) of magical realism, death, redemption and the faint glimmer of something luminous beyond the destruction and devastation that people impose on each other. This book concerns a girl who decides, after losing her family, to marry the first man she meets, and the consequences of that act, for herself, her children and all those around her, reverberate for decades. In the literary world of Alice Hoffman you'll find lots of pain and sorrow, but also a fair measure of hope as well.

Red River, by Lalita Tademy (*Cane River*), explores a little known but bloody event of the Reconstruction era, the Colefax Riot, in which freed slaves fought and died trying to install the newly-elected white Republican sheriff. Tademy uses her own family's experiences during this period to create a compelling saga of life in the South in the first decades after the end of the Civil War.

There are many new books for children, but one we think will—and should—excite the most interest is one that might cause some readers to groan in protest. This is a newly released version of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Wait! Don't stop reading yet! This book targets readers aged 10 and up, but parents will enjoy it, too. Really! Marcia Williams has reframed nine of Chaucer's tales with beautiful and enchanting illustrations, as well as some delightful commentary. There are even choice bits of the original Medieval English text that is as funny as ever. This is a real treasure that anyone can enjoy at any age.

For those who may have missed it, there's still *The End* to be enjoyed. It's Lemony Snicket's last installment of his unique *Series of Unfortunate Events*, and it's a fitting end (pun entirely intended).

Before long, we'll be talking once again about Harry Potter, as we get ready for the final book in this epic and transformative (for young readers) series featuring the reluctant wizard hero. Till then, happy reading!



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PASTIMES

BRAISING AS A PRIMORDIAL LOCAL

FROM BEHIND THE STOVE

BRIAN LICHOROWIC

Care to drink in a bit of history? A true American aperitif that is “prepared in the favored style of XVIIth century English Settlers”. It’s from Jamestown Cellars and is appropriately called “Settler’s Spiced Wine”. Eight bucks a bottle. A couple of places in town have it including the IGA in Marshall.

It’s very close in flavor to a mulled cider but it’s a grape wine with added spices. Drank warm or

cold, it’s an acquired taste. Like drinking a warm Scotch Old Fashioned with a drizzle of clove cigarette. I imagine the early primordial settlers must have felt the same way and dumped this stuff on a dead boar or pillaged chicken.

It was by accident that I splashed some of this on a pork tenderloin.

(This recipe can be found at <http://www.mbecc.com/fbts>)

This potion is excellent to cook with. Braising most specifically. Braising is basically cooking with high heat, add a little fat,

brown the meat and douse it with a liquid. So easy a caveman can do it. The remains that are stuck in the pan are flavorful morsels that are gifts from heaven and a base for your sauce.

Go here to learn about braising if you’re not a caveman: http://www.ehow.com/how_2551_braise-anything.html

I present one-pan primordial recipes for chicken and brisket along with a superb veggie dish.



Chicken Braised in Virginia Spiced Wine with Shallots & Crimini Mushrooms over Noodles

A personal favorite! Not a Coq Au Vin really but the wine’s heavy spice makes this a unique and wonderful dish.

1 whole Cornish Cross Chicken, Quartered (@ Home Farm Store)

1/4 lb Butter, 1 stick

1 large Shallot, minced enough for about 1/3 a cup

1 cup Jamestown Cellars Settler’s Spiced Wine

3/4 lb Crimini mushrooms, sliced 1/2” (fairly thick)

1/4 cup Sopressata, cut into small cubes (chorizo is good for its added hot kick)

1/3 cup Heavy cream, room temperature

1-2 tbs Flour (for rue)

1 package Extra Wide egg noodles

Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 375. Melt 4 tablespoons of butter in a large cast iron skillet over medium high heat. Add the chicken, legs first. Season with salt and pepper and cook over moderate heat until slightly well browned, about 4 minutes. Add 1/2 the shallots and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add 1/4 spiced wine. Separate the chicken from the bottom of the pan. Cook down and brown the other side and braise with another 1/4 of spiced wine.

Add 2 tbs of butter, mushrooms, sausage and the rest of the shallots. Season with salt and pepper and cook over low heat until the liquid evaporates, about 3 minutes. Add the last of the wine. Cover and place into the oven for 25 minutes (or until the chicken breasts are fully cooked.) Transfer the chicken to a large plate and cover with foil.

Prepare the egg noodles al dente and set aside. Using same skillet, increase the heat to medium. Stir the room temperature cream into the chicken skillet and bring to a simmer. Making a rue, blend the flour and the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter together and gradually whisk into the cooking liquid and simmer, whisking 3 minutes. Return the chicken to its skillet to briefly reheat. Serve atop egg noodles.

Spiced Virginia Braised Brisket with Root Veggies & Dried Fruits

3 1/2 lb Beef brisket -- well trimmed of fat

3 tbs Butter

1 cup Jamestown Cellars Settler’s Spiced Wine

1 lg Onion, chopped

3 Carrot, whole chopped

3 Celery, whole chopped stalks

1 lg Parsnip, cut into 1/8th

2 Garlic cloves, minced

3 cups Beef stock (canned is fine)

1 Bay leaf

1/4 tsp Thyme

4 Parsley sprigs

1/3 cup Apricots, dried

1/2 cup Dried cherries

1/2 cup Raisins and dried cranberries

Sea salt and fresh ground pepper

Preheat oven to 325. Trim the fat from the brisket and season with salt and pepper. Heat a large roasting pan on the stove. Add butter and brisket. Cook for 3 minutes. Braise with 1/4 cup of spice wine and allow to reduce. Do the same to the other side.

Add the vegetables and garlic to the roasting pan. Add the 1/2 cup of the wine, stock, and herbs. Bring the liquid to a boil on the stovetop. Tightly cover the pan and bake in the oven for 1 1/2 hours. Transfer the brisket to a cutting board and thinly slice it on the diagonal. Return the brisket to the roasting pan and stir all of the dried fruit. (Make sure the fruit is submerged in the cooking liquid so it can reconstitute. Add stock, if necessary, to cover it completely.)

Cover and bake for 1 1/2 hours more, or until the meat is tender. Add stock, remaining 1/4 cup of wine or water as necessary to keep the meat and fruit moist. If there’s too much cooking liquid, uncover the pan for the last half hour to allow some of it to evaporate.

Arrange the meat on a platter. Thicken the juices to your liking with a quick whisk of light cornstarch. Spoon some of the gravy over the meat and fruit, serving the rest on the side.

Spiced Braised Crimini & Morel Mushrooms with Rainbow Chard over Angel Hair

Careful now. You’re braising mushrooms. Too much heat and you’ll end up with a science experiment!

1 cup Crimini mushrooms, whole

1 cup Morel mushrooms, whole

2 tbs Unsalted butter

1 tbs Garlic, finely minced

2 med Shallots, minced

1/2 tsp Sea salt

1/2 cup Settler’s Spiced Wine

1/2 cup Heavy whipping cream, room temperature,

1 bunch Chard, fresh rainbow, largely chopped

1 lb Angel Hair pasta

Wipe mushrooms clean. Don’t wash/rinse and this alters the texture. Cut larger ones into quarters, leave smaller ones whole. Melt the butter in a medium skillet over medium heat and add the mushrooms, garlic, shallots and salt. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes. Add the 1/2 wine. Increase the heat to high and cook until the liquid reduces by about 2/3. Prepare the pasta al dente and set aside. Add the cream and cook until the liquid reduces to a sauce-like consistency and is thick enough to coat a spoon. Lastly add the chard and cook briefly until done. Fold mixture into pasta and top with shaved aged parmesan or pecorino cheese.

Comments or Catastrophes?

fbts@mbecc.com

LET’S HOPE FOR THE RETURN OF WINTER

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

A fickle winter, mild with occasional cold. A day of 73 degrees in January came after a prolonged stretch of non-winter like weather, this can only spell doom. Or so many of us think.



I am still a believer in the law of averages so looking at our balmy temperatures leads to the conclusion that winter will arrive and the temperatures will turn to below average. Much below. In anticipation of the impending doom I took a walk into the garden. It was heartening to see that perennials were still dormant. How do they maintain dormancy in the face of record heat? Much of it has to do with their internal temperature requirements. Even seeds have an internal clock, or shall we say thermostat. As winter, with its short days passes, every day with below freezing temperatures is counted, or at least stored in some internal memory bank. It’s fascinating stuff. That is why so many perennials do not survive in warm climates. The first signs of short days with cooler temperatures in fall puts these lovely plants to sleep. Waking up comes in

spring after certain criteria have been met. A temperate perennial in Florida will never reawaken, death is slow, the long, long sleep that never ends. The criteria for cold in a tropical climate never arrived. Key to understanding this comes with knowledge of where any particular perennial comes from.

There are perennials for mild climates, a bit confusing, I know. It helps to put native plants in the garden for just this reason. But the depth and length of cold, often leads to a better show in spring, especially for perennials from Eurasia like peonies, iris and primrose. Colors seem more vibrant, bud count higher after harsh winters. A deep sleep can make a big difference. A peony in Michigan is a far lovelier site than one in Virginia. The colder nights also keep the flower stalks shorter, the need to stake them is negligible. A broad overview on my part, but certainly true for a large percentage of our garden plants. Knowing this leads to concern over record warmth. Will there be enough cold? What about the few plants that have sprouted prematurely? The solution would be cold with snow, at least a foot. Temperatures would then be maintained at 32 degrees within the white blanket.

THE ART OWNER’S MANUAL

THE ART OF ART

TOM NEEL

Art is a most interesting object. We make it part of our lives, but how is one to treat it? Is it a furnishing or a loftier possession? Those of us that enjoy having these forms of creative expressions in our homes and on our walls, may take note that none of it seems to come with an owners manual. I must sadly admit, while I have been painting and selling art for many years, I’ve given tips along the way, but the thought of an owners manual has slipped my attention too.

It may have been overlooked for the obvious. What would be in such a manual? Let’s see, page 1, place hook in wall, hang art on hook, enjoy. Okay, that seems a little too simple. Let me try this again, a real manual would start with “Warnings” or “Caution” and scary symbols, illustrations and stern, expensive legal words about things like unplugging all the lights in the room before hanging “danger shock hazard” and moving light cords “tripping hazard” and that picture hooks have small parts that could be a “choking hazard” and they have points so wear government approved “eye protection” at all times and make



sure you have read all of the warnings for the use of a hammer and that if you do not feel comfortable with any of the procedures outlined in this manual, a professional installer should be contacted. All right now, this is starting to feel a bit more like a manual.

Next, we move on to the contents. Warnings page 1, Preface 2, Features 3, Nomenclature 4, Getting Ready 5, Basic Art Enjoyment 6, Advanced Art Enjoyment 7 and the ever popular, Trouble Shooting, Maintenance and Care.

The Preface alerts you to copyrights, trademarks and legal uses of art. Did you know by the way, that all copyrights stay with the artist? Yep, it’s true. The Features section would be laced with endless details of art size, framed size, weight, width of frame, how many people can enjoy the art properly at one time, light settings for optimal viewing and such. The Nomenclature section would show the art with little arrows pointing all over the place to the beautiful sunrise, a stand of trees, the barn,

Continued Page 19



In the garden my winter aconites are blooming, a full month earlier than usual. They are tough, the flowers of winter are intended for bees, no competition for pollination. Where else would bees go on warm days? The same can be said for helleborus, particularly Helleborus foetidus. It too is almost in full bloom. Some years they suffer, most years they don’t. My Helleborus orientalis is budded at or just above ground level. The plump buds are surrounded by a collar of foliage. Like a protective circle to catch the

cold, they will manage just fine. Flowering trees on the other hand are another matter. The spring show may be diminished. Let’s hope for a return of winter, yes we must. A winter to keep our gardens dormant, just a little while longer.

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PASTIMES

THE ART OWNER'S MANUAL

FROM PAGE 15

artist's signature, the frame and there would be a photo of the back with arrows pointing to the wire for which to hang it on, etc.

Ah, now for page 5, Getting Ready. All I can say is, good thing it doesn't need batteries! Basic Art Enjoyment comes next. 1. Art is an emotional investment. 2. Its placement, height and relationship to things in the room and of course its relationship with the viewer, are all important to its full enjoyment. 3. Depending on size, art should be placed as a focal point or as an enhancement to its surroundings and you. 4. Generally placement should be at an average eye level, likely higher if over a mantle. Most important, too close, art can be over powering (and viewing it this way usually means you yourself are an artist), too far away, it can seem distant and lack an emotional connection. 5. Lighting is an important part of enjoyment. Natural light can bring warmth, but avoid direct sunlight as harsh sunlight may do damage (note- you cannot use sunscreen on artwork, but some varnishes have protective properties and UV protective glass is available for works under glass). Properly placed artificial lighting can enhance enjoyment greatly and it should be noted that viewing your art in a pitch black room with no lighting, may be signs of depression. Go to sleep, you can look at it again in the morning.

This brings us to Advanced Art Enjoyment. Art can be shared with your friends and always is at home at parties, often being just the right thing for great conversation. Along with the narrative opportunities of the art you have selected, the colors can play a cohesive roll in the overall design and style of your room, giving continuity and as previously mentioned, creating a focal point. Art can also be enjoyed with alcohol, fine wines especially, (participants must be 21 years or older). Last, art can be rotated. Rotation can be from room to room or seasonal pieces can be replaced and stored. It is actually even little known fact, that art can even be rotated from home to home. The possible rotation of art that has been displayed in any given place or room for many years can bring new enjoyment to both the art and the room.

Trouble Shooting. If you are having problems with any of this, please call me, I can help. Last, but not least, but most overlooked comes Maintenance and Care - The care of your art is important and yet quite simple. Let's split art into 3 types, sculpture, art not under glass and art under glass, which includes photos. All can be dusted using a "very" lightly dampened cloth so not as to leave moisture behind. This includes the frame, but special care should be taken to the actual paint on your painting, which may have a rough surface from the type of application of paint. These surfaces can be feather dusted, never use a vacuum, as depending on the age, quality or condition of your art, you may suck the nose or ear right off a lovingly depicted family member's portrait! Art under glass - it should be noted that glass should only be used on works of art on paper and that all of these types of art would much rather you keep them dry. When cleaning glass on such works of art, first spray the glass cleaner of your choice on the a rag or paper towel, then wipe the glass. Spraying directly onto the glass often results in the spray running down the glass, getting between the glass and the frame and being then drawn into the mats and art on paper. Also, it's a good idea every few years (they do slip by) to remove your art and clean up the cobwebs, check the wire and make sure all is in good order.

Well, there you have it. Isn't nice that art is so easy to use? Enjoy, Tom

Tom Neel www.tomneelstudio.com

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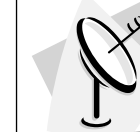
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BARNs OF ROSE HILL AWARDED \$25,000 FROM PHILIP L GRAHAM FUND
MAJOR BOOST FOR BERRYVILLE’S GRASS ROOTS VOLUNTEER ARTS ASSOCIATION

WENDELL HAWKEN

Thanks to the Trustees of The Philip L. Graham Fund, Berryville will soon begin work to convert two early 20th Century barns in Rose Hill Park into a flexible-use community center that will celebrate learning and the arts.

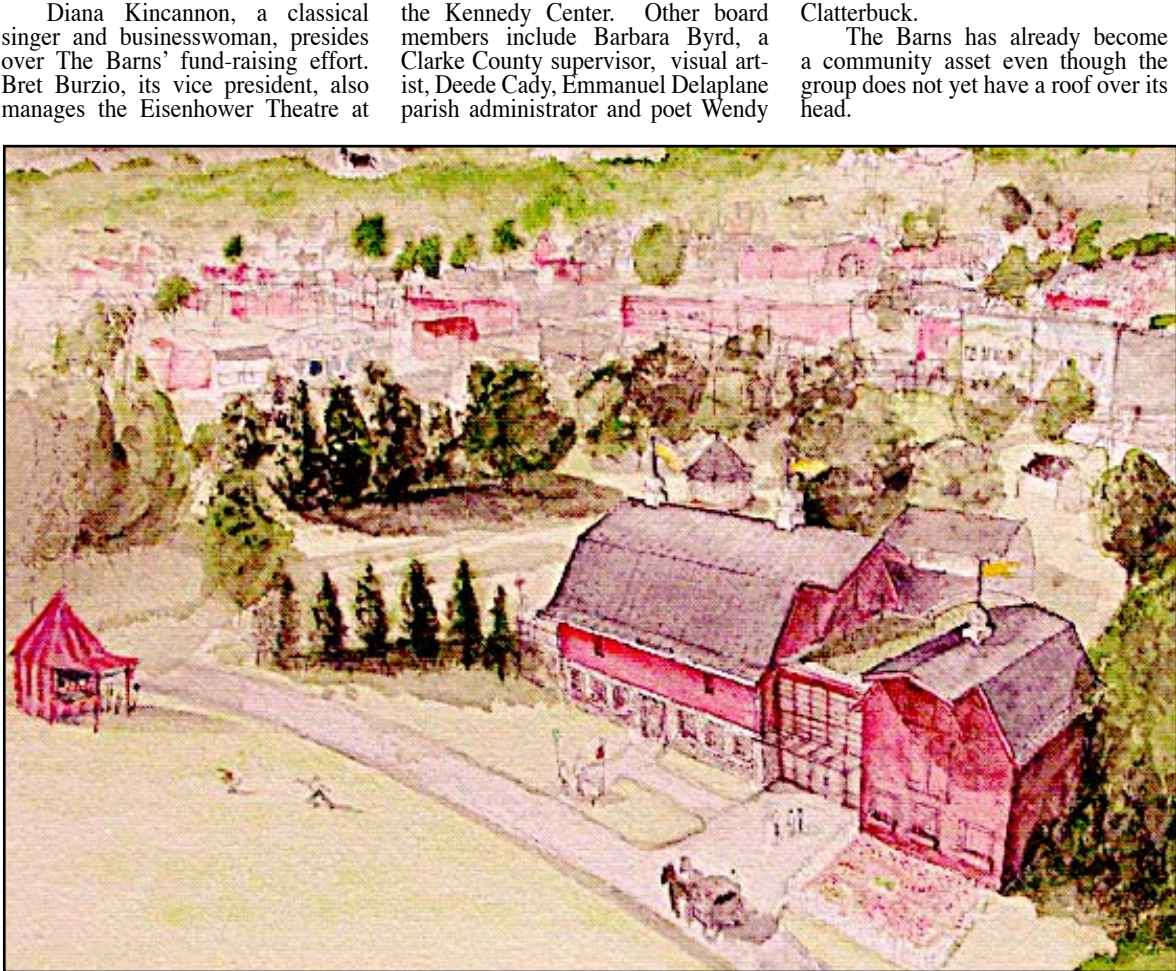
The \$25,000 grant to The Barns of Rose Hill, a fledgling arts organization, was announced in December 2006.

Although The Barns and the surrounding four-acre Rose Hill Park were given to Berryville in 1964 by the Smithy family for "...educational, cultural and recreational purposes," they still stand as vacant as when they were deeded to the town.

Recently, the local Berryville Main Street program revived the campaign to improve the property but it soon became apparent that a separate organization was needed to help fund the initiative.

The Barns of Rose Hill was organized in September 2004 by local citizens and is managed by a volunteer board of directors. The announcement of the grant illustrates the local group’s devotion to the arts and the Philip Graham Fund’s vision.

Established in 1963, the fund is named for Philip L. Graham, former publisher of The Washington Post. The fund’s annual grant list is broad and varied with strong financial support for the Arts and Humanities throughout the Washington, D.C. area. Recent grant recipients include Arena Stage, The Shakespeare Theatre and The National Gallery of Art. Candice C. Bryant, the Fund’s president, stated in her award letter that the trustees were "...happy to support The Barns of Rose Hill in the valuable contributions you make to our community."



“Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will.”
-- George Bernard Shaw

With the help of local volunteers, organizers arranged blues, bluegrass and chamber music concerts, poetry and playwriting workshops, lectures on oriental rugs, costume design and military cuisine, and sponsored an educational theater performance for middle-schoolers. Middleburg resident, Jan Neuharth, launched the Local Author Reading Series last September with excerpts from her latest novel, The Chase.

Although the group has no professional fund-raising experience, they have raised almost \$700,000 since they began their \$1.5 million dollar construction campaign. In December of 2005 they received a \$247,500 HUD grant from the federal government.

When the doors open, The Barns’ programs will include offerings for the under-served elderly and school-age children, especially those in the challenging middle school years, with after-school programs in music, art and dance. At this time, dance is not offered in the local middle school and one art teacher serves its 400 pupils.

This year, The Barns’ will offer a Frontier Festival on September 8th in Rose Hill Park to celebrate 400 years of Virginia history as part of statewide Jamestown 2007 festivities. Volunteers hope to secure state funds for a 2007 film series and for four educational performances by Virginia artists on the colonial experience, including a storyteller, two instrumentalists, a dance troupe; and a theater performance.

More information is available at The Barns’ website: barnsofrosehill.org or by calling Diana Kincannon at 540 955-7091.

PARTNERSHIP BRINGS RARE HORSES TO PUBLIC ATTENTION



How can a seven year old named Darcy and a five year old named Junior enhance the experience for thousands of visitors each year to Temple Hall Regional Park outside of Leesburg? They can if Darcy and Junior are Shires, the most powerful of draft horses, and will be used to offer wagon rides to the public at this interpretive farm park.

Educating the public about Loudoun County’s agricultural resources and promoting rare “heritage livestock breeds” is a shared mission of both Ayrshire Farm in Upperville and Temple Hall Farm Regional Park near Leesburg. With this mission in mind, the two have created a partnership that will further the educational goals of both. “The central elements of our partnership are two beautiful Shire draft horses that Ayrshire Farm has donated to Temple Hall. With these horses, we will be able to give

the park visitor a unique experience as they go back to the 19th Century with a wagon ride through a historic farm,” stated Paul Gilbert, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) which owns and operates Temple Hall Farm. “Thousands of people visit Temple Hall Farm Regional Park every year, particularly during the fall to visit our famous corn MAIZE. Our goal is to have the public come away with a greater appreciation and understanding of both agriculture and the rich history of our area. The draft horse program will allow people to connect with our past and also learn about heritage livestock breeds like the Shire horse that are becoming increasingly rare,” continued Gilbert. “NVRPA looks forward to having these two horses become ambassadors for Temple Hall Farm and the Park Authority as a whole.”

Ayrshire Farm is known for

breeding and showing Shire horses, the largest and strongest of the heavy horse breeds. Weighing approximately one ton each, the pair are capable of pulling enormous loads and have a willing disposition. Currently, Ayrshire Farm manages 23 Shires, participating in draft horse shows and carriage driving shows. “We are extremely grateful for the generous gift of the Shire Horses, and the time and expertise that Ayrshire Farm has shared with Temple Hall,” remarked Su Webb, one of Loudoun County’s two representatives on the NVRPA Board. “Ayrshire Farm’s commitment to Loudoun County’s agricultural heritage is remarkable. The gift of these two show horses is just one of their many public services,” said Webb.

Temple Hall Farm Regional Park is dedicated to educating the public about the agricultural past, present and future of our region. The 286 acre farm was founded by William Temple Thomson Mason, a nephew of George Mason in 1810. The farm was donated to NVRPA by the late Valeria Symington in 1985. Today the farm features heritage livestock breeds ranging from miniature horses, Shropshire sheep, goats, Belted Galloway cattle, Large Black pigs, Royal Palm turkeys, Blue Andalusian chickens, guineas, and peacocks. From March through October the park is open for free farm tours on the weekends. It is a popular destination for school groups, and is heavily visited during the fall season with many family fun activities centered on an elaborate and challenging corn maize that covers over 10 acres. Starting this spring, scheduled youth groups organizing trips to Temple Hall Regional Park will be able to have free farm tours.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY STUDENT ART EXHIBIT



For the tenth year Notre Dame Academy students will showcase their artwork February 7-11 at The Byrne Gallery in Middleburg. The Tenth Annual Exhibition, entitled “10-2-10” (10th Anniversary, February 10th is an exhibition of inspired and imaginative works of art created by Notre Dame Academy art students. Notre Dame Academy art instructors and contemporary visual artists Wayne Paige and Matthew Plumb work with the students to educate them on the process of how artists exhibit their work. This includes a review of the artwork, selection, presentation, determining the price of the work, and promotion: invitations, press releases, openings/receptions, and critiques/reviews.

The Exhibition is a jurored show, as local artist Linda Hughes is lending her talent to the juror process for the seventh year. Hughes, from Middleburg, will be on hand to review the displayed works. Ceramics, drawing, painting, photography, and mixed-medium will be presented with awards and prizes given in each category. Each year, merchants and local businesses applaud the students’ progress by donating prizes to the award recipients. The community’s enthusiastic support of the arts has helped to make the exhibition an annual celebration of young artist.

The Sixth Annual Mrs. Susan Byrne Purchase Prize Award will be awarded to the best work in the show. This award is dedicated to Mrs. Susan Byrne, mother of the gallery owner and lifelong art teacher who did so much in inspiring young artists. Last year’s recipient was Taylor Welsh whose ceramic piece was added to Notre Dame Academy’s permanent collection of award recipients. Previous winners include Missy Cormak/Kelsey Struder (2005), Inslee Haynes (2004), Kelsey Struder (2003), Constance Wilson (2002) and Min uk Jung (2001).

The “10-2-10” exhibit will be on display February 7-11 and is open to the public. A reception and awards presentation will be held on Saturday, February 10 from 2:00 -- 5:30 p.m.. Most of the work is for sale and is affordably priced. Regular Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. For additional information, please call 540.687.6986.



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PASTIMES

MOSBY HERITAGE AREA KICKS OFF WINTER LECTURE SERIES

LECTURES HIGHLIGHT MOSBY HERITAGE AREA HISTORY AS INTEGRAL TO VIRGINIA

Beginning in February, the Mosby Heritage Area Association (MHAA) will sponsor its annual Winter Lecture Series. The series this year honors the 400th birthday of Virginia by highlighting history in the Mosby Heritage Area as an integral part of Virginia's story. Four, distinct lectures will focus on four periods of history: Native American, Revolutionary War, Civil War, and 20th Century.

Lectures are given by prominent Virginia historians, and are presented each Sunday afternoon in February at 3 p.m. at various locations throughout the Mosby Heritage Area. This year a read-

ing list compiled by the speakers serves to enhance their presentations. The reading list, along with lecture dates, topics, speaker bios, and lecture locations, is available on the MHAA website at www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

The first lecture, Wingandekao, a.k.a. Virginia will be given by Donald Tharpe at the Warrenton-Fauquier County Visitor Center on Sunday, February 4. Mr. Tharpe is putting together an exhibit America 1200 a.d. to 1699 a.d.: King Wingina's Wingadekoa to accompany his lecture.

Dr. Warren Hofstra will speak on How Revolutionary Was Revolutionary Virginia? at Powhatan

School in Millwood on Sunday, February 11. Additionally, Dr. John Sawyer, representing a Virginia Revolutionary War Soldier, will talk about the life of Revolutionary War soldiers.

The third lecture will be on Sunday, February 18 at Oak Hill south of Leesburg. David Goetz will speak on The Post-War Relationship of John Singleton Mosby and Ulysses S. Grant. Oak Hill's Civil War history will also be presented. Reservations are needed for this lecture.

The series will end with a lecture at Morven Park by Tracy Gillespie on Sunday, February 25. Her topic is 'Give Us a Farmer

Governor!': Westmorland Davis, Agriculture, and Virginia Politics in the Early 20th Century. The program will also include an interview with Governor Davis.

"Our Winter Lecture Series is the longest running educational program of the association," says Judy Reynolds, Executive Director of the MHAA. "It attracts people of all ages, from history buffs to families who want to learn more about the region and what binds them to it."

The Mosby Heritage Area Association is a non for profit, 501(c)(3) membership organization whose mission is to support and promote the preservation of

the extraordinary historic, cultural and scenic resources of the Mosby Heritage Area. The MHAA provides a myriad of other education and interpretive programs for families, including its popular Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee presentations. In addition, the association strives to support its mission through various public awareness, heritage tourism, and advocacy initiatives.

For more information about the Winter Lecture Series, or other programs and initiatives provided by the association, contact Judy Reynolds, Executive Director at (540) 687-6681 or info@mosbyheritagearea.org.

NORMAL

AN ORIGINAL THEATER PRODUCTION ABOUT TEENS AND BULLYING

This February, the Creative Youth Theater Foundation in collaboration with the Loudoun Youth Initiative will present this fresh, timely and poignant piece of theater. The production is entirely created and developed by 26 teenagers from all over Loudoun County. The cast ranges in age from 12-19 years old.

"Normal" dives into the inner and outer life of teenagers as they work through all the issues surrounding bullying: self esteem, making choices, being authentic,

and being the person you want to be. Directed by Tom Sweitzer, Kim Tapper, and Rick Conway of the Creative Youth Theater Foundation, the show is geared towards teenagers ranging in age from 12-18, their parents and community members.

There will be a half hour question and answer session with the cast members following each production.

Performance schedule is as follows:

Friday, February 9th at 7:30pm at Potomac Falls High School

Saturday, February 10th

at 8:00pm at the Hill School (Middleburg)

Sunday February 11th at 3:00pm at Heritage High School (Leesburg)

Saturday February 17th at 7:30pm at Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center

Sunday February 18th at 3:00pm at Stonebridge (Fairfax)

Admission is free for all shows!

For more information please contact the Loudoun Youth Initiative at 703-737-8335 or Kim Tapper/Tom Sweitzer at 540-687-5897



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The Philmont Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) Ladies Auxiliary is hosting their annual Valentine's Brunch 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Menu includes sausage-gravy with biscuits, scrambled eggs, ham, potatoes, and home-baked goods. Adults - \$7.00, Ages 5-12 - \$4.00 and under 4 are free. Philmont Firehouse 36650 Jeb Stuart Rd. For info 338 – 1207

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- At the conclusion of the sale you will have the opportunity to donate to the Middleburg Fire House (they will pick up from the gym) or you can use our dumpster.

• If you think getting rid of your "beloved junk" is a great idea but don't want the trouble of selling – you can donate your items to The Alumni Association space.
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PARENTS & PROGENY

MIDDLEBURG BROTHERS RAISE \$800 FOR WAR HEROES

Henry and Noah Fell, Middleburg Elementary students, spent their spare time making a big difference during the month of December. The boys were stationed in front of the Middleburg Safeway where they sold hand-painted Christmas ornaments to raise funds for Fisher House, an organization that provides housing for the families of ill or injured soldiers.

The \$800 raised by the Fell brothers will provide a priceless service to the Families of veterans who, without help, would not be able to be at the side of their loved ones when they are ill or suffering from the wounds of war.

When Rick Fowler, WMAL radio host, interviewed the brothers for a segment that aired December 30th they explained that they had lots of help painting the ornaments from their Sunday School friends.

Fisher Houses, located near military hospitals and VA hospitals, provide invaluable help to families whose loved ones must be hospitalized far from home



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY’S JONATHON MALYKE PRESENTS AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Jonathon Malycke, a senior at Notre Dame Academy in Middleburg, was selected as a presenter for the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area Junior Science & Humanities Symposium, which took place Thursday, January 4, 2007. He is one of only five students selected from the entire Washington, D.C. metropolitan area to present to a group of more than 200 students from around the region.

The presentation took place at Georgetown University and was titled, “The Preparation of Model Rocket Nose Cones Using Polyurethane Foam.” Discussed was the development of a nose cone made of polyurethane foam that fits into the body of the model rocket, and is able to withstand the flight of a rocket as well as the impact of hitting the ground. This is critical to the world of not only model rocketry, but also that of atmospheric flight, and beyond into space. Jonathon was mentored by Dr. Ronald

Occhiogrosso, a science teacher at Notre Dame Academy.

By virtue of his selection to present at this Symposium, he will be attending the National Junior Science & Humanities Symposium in Alabama this May. He has been accepted at the Air Force Academy as a member of the class of 2011 and is waiting to hear from other colleges as well.

Jonathon Malycke is the son of Dan and Joy Malycke of Purcellville.

BISHOP OF NORTHERN MALAWI VISITS FOXCROFT EXTENDS ‘DEEPEST APPRECIATION’ FOR STUDENTS’ GENEROSITY

During a daylong visit he hoped would begin to express his deep appreciation, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi Christopher Boyle Wednesday praised Foxcroft School students for changing the lives of hundreds of African children with a donation last spring to help build schools in his country.

“In Malawi, when we want to say thank you, we don’t write a thank-you note or send an e-mail,” Bishop Boyle told students and faculty in an all-school meeting. “When people help us as you have helped us, we go in person and tell them how grateful we are. It’s important to sit face-to-face and talk.”

“When we want to say ‘Thank you,’ we say ‘Zikomo,’” he continued. “But when we want to say ‘Thank you very, very much indeed,’ we say, ‘Zikomo kwamoiri.’ On behalf of the 1.2 million people in Northern Malawi, I say Zikomo kwamoiri to you.”

Led by the Class of 2007, which organized the event, the Foxcroft community raised \$15,343 last April with a Walk-a-thon and t-shirt sale. Ambassador Bernard Sande, Malawi’s envoy to the United States, came out from Washington, D.C., to walk with the students and made them “official ambassadors of Malawi.”

Bishop Boyle’s visit deepened the relationship and understanding between the fortunate students of Foxcroft and the needy people of a tiny, faraway country. During his visit, Bishop Boyle toured the Foxcroft campus, met with the Student Council, ate lunch with a dozen students, and chatted with Head of School Mary Louise Leipheimer. The Foxcrofters learned that virtually every family in the Malawi has been touched by HIV/AIDS; there are only 100 doctors to care for the country’s 12 million people and 80 percent of the students who took high school graduation exams last year failed because of the lack of schools and teacher



A decade after a universal primary education initiative in Malawi, Bishop Boyle said, there is an extreme shortage of secondary schools. Only a small percentage of qualified students can be accommodated and they often have to walk as far as 10 miles to share one textbook with 14 other students and one teacher with 100 or more classmates.

“Your response to our need for schools in Malawi is fabulous,” Boyle said. “You have shown me that there is no xenophobia (fear of foreigners) at Foxcroft and that you are willing to take responsibility to make the world a better place. You have changed the lives of hundreds of students – boys and girls – for years to come.” The Bishop said that when they received word of the generous donation by the Foxcroft community, there was singing and dancing in celebration.

And now, school buildings and faculty accommodations (qualified teachers must often be imported) are being built with the money Foxcroft raised.

NOTRE DAME ANNOUNCES HELENE LOREN WALKER SCHOLARSHIP

In memory of Ms. Helene Loren Walker, Notre Dame Academy, with the permission of the Walker family, has established a memorial scholarship in Helene’s name to honor her strong Catholic educational beliefs. This scholarship will be awarded annually to an incoming Notre Dame Academy student from a Catholic elementary school who best emulates Helene Loren Walker’s characteristics and would otherwise not be able to attend Notre Dame Academy due to financial constraints.

Ms. Walker was the board chair and past president of the Kentland Foundation, which has constantly supported the Catholic and educational community. She worked for the Berryville-based foundation, one of Virginia’s top 50 foundations as measured by the size of its assets, from its formation in 1970 until her death. She was the foundation’s secretary-treasurer from 1970 to 1994, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Kentland Foundation.

For information on how to apply for the Helene Lorne Walker Scholarship, please contact Notre Dame Academy Admission Director, Mrs. Catherine Struder, at 540.687.5581.

COIL NAMED SECOND TEAM ALL-MET BLOCK NAMED ALL-MET HONORABLE MENTION; THREE NAMED ALL-EXTRA

Foxcroft School’s Chelsy Coil of Middleburg, VA, was named Second Team All-Met in field hockey and teammate Laura Block of Leesburg, VA, drew an All-Met honorable mention Wednesday from the Washington Post.

Coil, a junior co-captain who played several key positions for the 9-5-2 squad, was also selected Player of the Year for Loudoun County by the newspaper’s Loudoun Extra staff. Block, a senior goalie and co-captain, and Caitlin McNaughton, a junior attack player from Middleburg, were named to the All-Extra/Loudoun County team.

Block, a standout goalie in field hockey and lacrosse, collected 161 saves and eight shutouts this season while allowing only 16 goals. She and Coil both competed at the National Field Hockey Festival in Indio, CA, Nov. 23-26, playing for a regional all-star high school team. Block will play at Gettysburg College next year.



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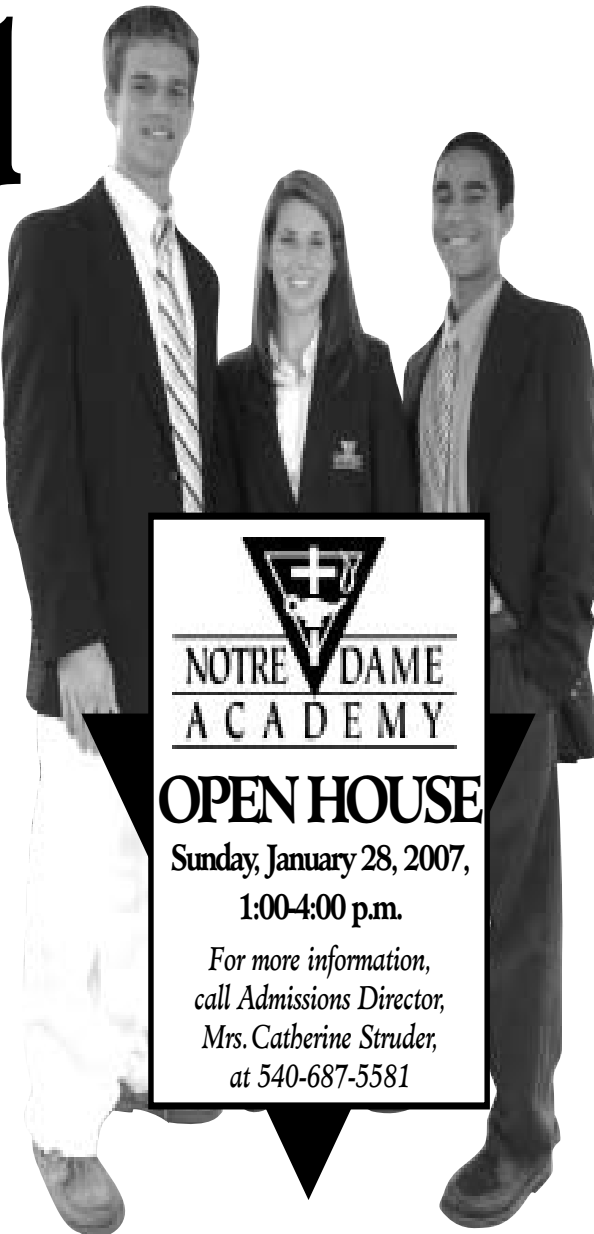
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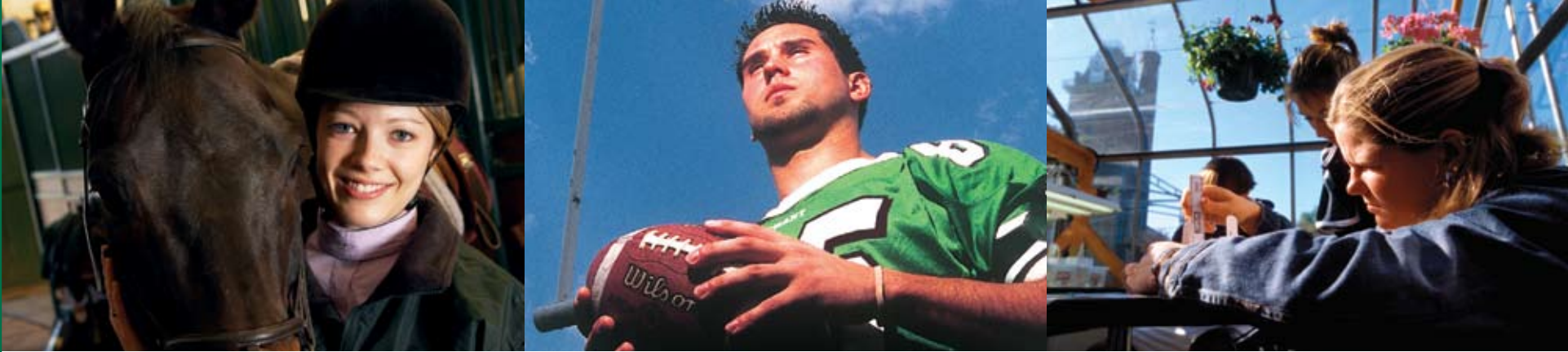


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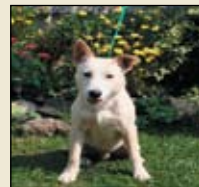


She is looking for a nice person with good legs to rub up against! Please help poor Dudette, she has been in a cage for months.

DUKE— A big handsome purebred Rotweiler who is very affectionate and quite well mannered and gentle. We are still getting to know Duke, we will introduce him to other dog friends soon.



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I've been in love for a couple of years now. Her name is Isabelle and she is my constant sidekick, inspiration and concern. She's a scruffy black and white Jack Russell with uneven front and back legs, a very obvious under bite, and a love of food that rivals my own. She can also be pretty grouchy when she's pushed ... but only when she's pushed. Most of the time, she's just about the sweetest dog I've ever known.

A lot of people question whether dogs can "love" each other. Many scientists discuss pack mentality and instinct. They analyze us from a distance and debate whether or not we are capable of emotion and intelligence. They are amazed when we exhibit behaviors outside of the predicted norm. They publish their findings with great fanfare. (i.e., Science magazine reports that some dogs have a remarkable capacity to understand human speech! There's a Border Collie in Germany who differentiates among hundreds of toys! The ASPCA found that 66% of dogs mourn the loss of a canine companion!) Well, none of this surprises me or anyone who knows and lives with dogs. Yes, we have emotions. And yes, love is one of them.

Now, I don't know how our love feels compared to how human love feels, but my love for Isabelle is pretty strong. We curl up together when we sleep at night and get upset when we're apart for even a little while. I'm overly curious about what she's doing at all times. We're peas in a pod, and I like it that way. I live with two other dogs, but they're just pack-mates. Watching us, it's obvious that while I like them a lot, I'm not as close to them as I am to Isabelle.

I love my people too, by the way. Most dogs love the people with whom they share their lives. We get excited when family members come home and show it in our eyes and body language. We try very hard to be with our people as much as possible. And a lot of us get

pretty protective of our people if we think they are in danger. Again, I don't know what human love feels like, but I know canine affection for humans is very real.

With Valentine's Day coming up, I've been thinking a lot about all of this love stuff. I've been thinking a lot about why I feel the way I do about Isabelle. I don't really know.

She's definitely not perfect. She certainly isn't beautiful according to breed standards. She is sometimes moody and often needy. To make matters worse, she gets jealous and cuts into my time when my people pay attention to me. I love her just the same, though.

I guess I just wanted to shout it from the rooftops. I thought you should know. More

than that, I thought you might want to think about the people and animals you love. I thought it might be good to remind everyone that perfection is a silly pursuit and that all of us, canine and human, are flawed. And all of us deserve to love and be loved. If you don't have an Isabelle in your life, don't forget to give the imperfect prospects a chance. And if there is an Isa-

belle by your side, remember what a gift you have, not just on Valentine's Day but on each and every day of your life.

Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wy-lie Wagg, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, in Middleburg and Fairfax.



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