



FORWARD BY FITS AND STARTS

TWILIGHT POLO AT GREAT MEADOW
PAGE 32

SALAMANDER ZONING NEARS APPROVAL MAYOR ADDRESSES "PINK BOX" ISSUES

DANIEL MORROW

The Middleburg Town Council, meeting regularly in full-council "work sessions" as well as its regularly-scheduled formal monthly meetings, continues to move toward final approval of zoning critical to the construction of the Salamander Inn and Spa.

On July 9 Middleburg's Planning Commission recommended that the Town Council approve all the amendments to the Town's Zoning Ordinance required to allow Salamander to begin breaking ground.

A formal vote on the changes was scheduled for the July 26 Council work session.

Before the Council could officially vote on the changes approved by the Commission, however, those changes had to be formally posted for public review, that is, advertised, in a legally recognized public newspaper, for at least two weeks in a row.

An advertisement listing the changes appeared, as scheduled, week one. For reasons as yet undetermined, however, the second week's ad did not appear. Some sources have blamed Leesburg Today for not fulfilling the Town's insertion order. Others point fingers at the Town staff, or Salamander, for not following up to make sure the critical second ad appeared.

In any case, the Middleburg Town Council must now wait until at least August 9, before voting on the zoning amendments.

Opposition Voices

Despite what appears to be a solid four-vote majority of Council in favor of moving the Salamander project along as quickly as possible (Council members Eura Lewis, Trowbridge Littleton, Lisa Patterson, and Karen Robinson), a vocal minority continues to oppose construction of the Inn and Spa.

Council Member Bundles Murdock has opposed the project consistently. Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk, a proponent of the original "memorandum of understanding" with Salamander, changed her mind after Council was given what she perceived to be a "take-it-or-leave-it" ultimatum, to increase the size of the inn to 168 "lodging units." Mark Snyder, widely perceived as the Council member who cast the deciding positive vote for Salamander's original proposal, now insists that the Town is not being adequately compensated for its concessions to the project.

Citizens have appeared before the Planning Commission and Council, expressing concerns about wording in the zoning amendments that appear to give Salamander a loophole for avoiding its promise that, once given permission to expand to 168 guest rooms, there would be "... no increase to capacities or square footage in any other area of the Resort."

Concerns about late-night noise were raised at the July 12 Council meeting.

A debate about who should bear the cost of changing the awkward and potentially dangerous Foxcroft Road intersection is ongoing.

Continued Page 7

OASIS OF TRANQUILITY AND GRACE MANAGEMENT TEAM EXUDES COMMITMENT, CARE AND COMMUNITY

Camp Programs

Andy Woodworth, who is Meadowkirk's Program Director, will welcome 100 children to summer camp this year.

"We're only 25-minutes from Leesburg, and 40 miles from D.C.," he said. "Parents appreciate our geographic proximity to the D.C. area, and children love our multi-faceted programs."

Cabin Camps, five days in duration include swimming, arts, crafts, nature exploration, Bible study, singing, group games, hiking, stargazing in the new Brinton Observatory and much more for a \$400. Fee.

Meadowkirk also offers Leadership Training Camps; a Music, Art, Drama Camp; Night Owl Camp for children who love to sleep late; Equestrian Camp; High Adventure Camp; Family Camp; Service Camp and C3 Celebration Camp.

Andy, a tall, charming, gentle young man who answers tough questions directly and with ease, plans the programs for each of these camp experiences to ensure that participants receive individual and group dynamic attention with plenty of time planned for meditation, hayrides, campfires and lots of swimming and singing.

The quality of the programs accurately reflects Andy's experience, education and personal goals. After he completed his Bachelor of Arts as a Phi Beta Kappa at Emory College of Emory University in Atlanta, he continued there to complete his Master of Divinity in 2007.

Andy has been actively involved in Christian

Continued Page 38

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INOVA RESPONDS TO
DULLES SOUTH NEEDS

PAGE 4

CHEF'S ON
MOTORCYCLES
RIDE RAISES \$50,000

PAGE 6

NEWS OF NOTE

INOVA RESPONDS TO DULLES SOUTH NEEDS

INOVA Health System honored its commitment to current Dulles South residents and those who will reside along the Route 50 corridor when the INOVA Medical Center for Dulles South opened this month.

Located only 1.5 miles from the Route 50 intersection with Loudoun County Parkway, the new 22,000-square-foot facility offers diagnostic imaging services, urgent care, physical therapy and physicians' offices.

No appointment is necessary for non-emergency illnesses and injuries at the Urgent Care Center or for supplemental care during those times when your physician's office is closed or an immediate appointment is not available.

The Urgent Care Center is located on the first floor of INOVA Medical Center (IMC) at Dulles South.

IMC-Dulles South's Physical Therapy Center specializes in ortho-

pedic orthopedic and sports rehabilitation services for all ages. You may telephone 703.916.2888 for appointments and more information.

INOVA's network of 16 medical centers, five of which are in Loudoun County, makes it the leading provider of rehabilitation therapy in Northern Virginia.

A physician's referral is required, and the center participates in most major health insurance plans including Medicare, Medicaid and Workers' Compensation.

Early morning and evening hour appointments are available at the Physical Therapy Center that is located on the first floor of the new medical center.

INOVA Diagnostic Imaging also requires a physician's referral for appointments for CT, Ultrasound, Digital Mammography, Bone Density and X-rays.

For appointments, please telephone 703.608.4088.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE KERRY SAEEN, BOARD MEMBER, INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL (ILH); BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BARBARA GARDNER, LAMES BOARD OF ILH; PRESIDENT, KIM SINGLETON, PRESIDENT AND CEO, INOVA HEALTH SYSTEM; JANELLE ROEMER, LIFES CHAIR, JIM FLOMAN, COMMUNITY ATTORNEY FOR LOUDOUN COUNTY; SEN. MARK HERRING, DELICATE CHICK, CANTO, MIDDLEBURG; MAYOR BETTY DAVIS; MARK LOWERY, LIFES BOARD CHAIRMAN; BOB WELTZ, COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE, DULLES DISTRICT SUPERVISOR STEVE SNOW; RANDALL KELLEY, CEO, INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL; STERLING DISTRICT SUPERVISOR EUGENE DELGADO; JOHN DEAN, LIFES CHAIRMAN; J. PATRICK WATERS, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, INOVA HEALTH SYSTEM, WEST REGION.

NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY LAUNCHES JOHN H. DANIELS FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCHERS

The National Sporting Library is pleased to announce that it has established a fellowship in the name of the late John H. Daniels (1921-2006), the Library's long-time friend and supporter. The Library is a center for research in horse and field sports, and its collections document the history and sociology of sport and the important bond between humans and animals. The Library is located just 42 miles west of Washington, DC. Its collections cover equestrian

sports, angling, shooting, and other field sports.

Throughout his association with the Library, John Daniels heartily endorsed an annual fellowship program that would attract top scholars to the Library. He and his wife Martha donated a spectacular collection of 5,000 sporting books in 1995, including the Library's earliest book on the sport of dicing – Duello by the Italian writer, Paride del Pozzo, dated 1523. This wealth of sporting books was the impetus behind build-

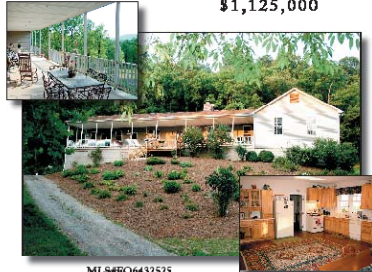
ing the Library's new facility, which opened in 1999. It was Daniels' most fervent wish that scholars use and read both his and the Library's other rare and wonderful books. The John H. Daniels Fellowship will provide financial assistance and housing to recipients. Researchers are asked to submit an application, proposing a research project to be conducted at the Library. Researchers must demonstrate in their proposals what collections and books they will consult. Application materials

and instructions can be found under the fellowship link on the Library's website, www.nsl.org, or by contacting Elizabeth Tobey, Fellowship Coordinator, at etobey@nsl.org or 540.687.6542 x. 25. Tobey is also serving as the first fellow, and is translating into English one of the Library's oldest books, Federico Ciriaco's treatise on horsemanship, Gli Ordini di Cavalcata (The Rules of Riding), first published in Italy in 1550.

The application deadline for 2008 fellowships is September 30, 2007. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of December. The National Sporting Library has free admission and is open to researchers and the general public from Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturdays from 11 to 4 p.m. Currently on view are two exhibitions, Reflections on a Life with Horses, featuring the horse racing paintings of Sir Alfred Munnings, and White House Horses.

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As promised, Inova Loudoun has brought emergency services closer to home with two full-service Emergency Departments to serve you and your family.

Expanded emergency services include:
• New Pediatric ED with 11 specialty beds just for kids
• Certified pediatric physicians & nurse specialists
• 40% increase in Adult ED beds
• Enhanced disaster response capacity

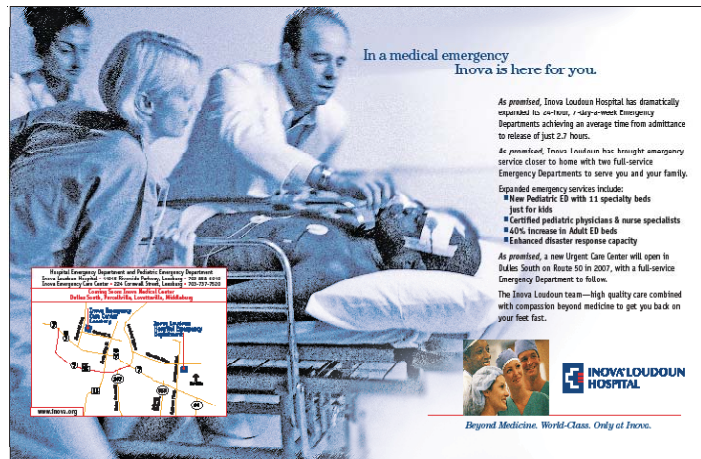
As promised, a new Urgent Care Center will open in Dulles South on Route 50 in 2007, with a full-service Emergency Department to follow.

The Inova Loudoun team—high quality care combined with compassion beyond medicine to get you back on your feet fast.



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Don't feel like cooking after a long day by the pool? Planning a hike, canoe trip or family reunion? Beat the heat and stay off your feet by counting on Market Salamander to provide all of your picnic needs. You can pick up side dishes and throw some meat on the grill, or we can do it all! Stop by and check out our new fine food products, including an ever-expanding beer collection and lower-priced wines. The cool cats (and dogs) know where it's at!

COOKING CLASSES

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AUGUST 14 "THRILL OF THE GRILL: A STUDY IN BBQ"
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Share Our Strength's efforts to end childhood hunger in America. Since 1984, they have led the fight against hunger and poverty by inspiring and organizing individuals and businesses to take the strengths they have raised over \$200 million to end childhood hunger around the globe and invested critical funds in over 1,000 of the most effective hunger-related organizations to help them sustain their efforts and increase their capacity to deliver results. Today, the organization is to end childhood hunger in America ensuring that the more than 12 million children facing hunger have access to the nutritious food they need to learn, grow and thrive.

As a result of the results of this year's ride," said Billy Shore, Founder and Executive Director of Share Our Strength. "If we are to address the challenge of 12 million children facing hunger in America, it is time to get on our bikes. We need Chiefs on Bikes everywhere. We salute

all of the riders, volunteers, and sponsors who participated in this year's event and thank them for their role in raising critical funds and awareness to ensure that kids everywhere have access to nutritious food."

Seven brave chefs also took part in a "Year of the Pig" themed BBQ contest for which they each created a recipe for a 14 pound suckling pig. This year's winner was Mallory Bueford of Black's Bar and Kitchen in Bethesda who took a simple approach with his Carolina Cold Smoke recipe in which he prepared the pig using a special homemade spice rub, then cold smoked it for several hours and finished it off with a mop of vinegar and seasonings. This year's runner-up was Jamie Stachowski of Restaurant Columbia who took a more innovative approach using a "sous

by Scott Hamberger of Fortessa, Inc. and Jean-Paul Krukavick of Owens Corning Fiberglas, Inc., the Washington, DC-based foodservice company.

About Share Our Strength

Since 1984, Share Our Strength has led the fight against hunger and poverty by inspiring individuals and businesses to share their strengths. Today, its priority is to end childhood hunger in America. By raising funds to support the most effective community-based programs that feed hungry children, partnering with organizations that pursue long-term solutions, and helping families help themselves through nutrition education programs, Share Our Strength will ensure that more than 12 million children at risk of hunger have access to the nutritious food they need to learn, grow and thrive. For more information,

Pink Book Moves

Mayor Betty Davis moved to address the raging debate over the future of the "Pink Book" building, the Middleburg's volunteer-staffed senior center, at a public hearing last week.

Members Eira Lewis, Townbridge and Mayor Davis all agreed to select committee to consult with the leadership of the Pink Book volunteers and the Middleburg Town Council.

At an as yet undetermined date, the committee will conduct the cost of maintaining the "Pink Book" building, and its status as the town's "official" information center.

As an economy measure, the Town Council will also consider the future of the Pink Book building from the non-profit Sporting Legacy Foundation, which has been the primary information to visitors elsewhere, and the Middleburg Police Department building on Federal Street which currently houses the town's other things, the Middleburg Police Department.

At this point it would appear that the building has the potential for transfer.

Under the conditions of that transfer, and the future relationship between the town and the Middleburg's utility fund, the information assets of the town will be determined in large part by the results of the town's 2007 town council election.

Town Treasury

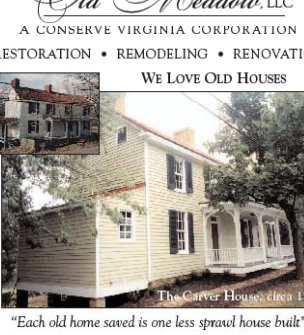
As of the end of 2007, the Town's overpriced its General Fund budget for the year by roughly 5%, or just over \$100,000. The town's 2007 Middleburg's Utility Fund expenditures were \$1,000,000, and the Health Center Fund, at \$750,000 under budget.

The town's revenue side of the ledger, however, was 5% higher than the budget. The town's 2007 revenue collections exceeded budget by more than \$100,000. The town's 2007 revenue was \$175,000 higher than expected.

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

NEW BOARD CHAIR TAKES OVER AT LCVA

The Loudoun Convention & Visitors Association (LCVA) announced today that Bill Gibson, Business Development Manager at the National Conference Center has been elected to the position of Board Chair of the LCVA Board as of July 1, 2007. Bill Gibson takes over the position from Carol Wells, who has led the LCVA Board for the past 2 years.

As Chair of the LCVA's Board of Directors, Bill Gibson will be responsible for the programmatic and fiscal integrity of the corporation, and will lead the 28-member LCVA Board in planning and guidance for the work of the organization, approve its policies, assist in securing the financial resources required to sustain and increase tourism programs; and

share responsibility for effective recruiting and retention programs. As Business Development Manager for The National Conference Center, Bill Gibson is primarily responsible for developing long-term business opportunities through strategic relationships with senior executives at major corporations and federal government agencies. With 20 years of experience, Bill Gibson has a wide range of experience as a senior staff member in the marketing of hospitality services, serving as national sales manager for Hilton International Hotels, Director of Sales for Xerox Document University, and Regional Sales Director for Syntex Corporation, prior to joining The National Conference Center in 2001.



A native of Washington, D.C., Bill has lived in Loudoun County for the past 13 years and presently resides in Purcellville with his wife Beth, and their two children, Adam and Eric.

DR. JACKSON HONORED

Ronald Jackson, D.D.S., of Middleburg, Virginia, was recently honored by the West Virginia University School of Dentistry at its 50 year celebration. Dr. Jackson was bestowed the Distinguished Alumni Award by the President of the Board of Governors of the Dental School Alumni Association.

The award reads: "For his outstanding contributions to dentistry and his numerous accomplishments nationally and internationally which have helped improve the dental profession."

Dr. Jackson founded a comprehensive restorative and con-



sultative practice in Middleburg in 1976. He is now a part time associate for Dr. Robert Gallegos in that practice and spends an equal amount of time lecturing at state, national and international dental conferences.

TRI-COUNTY FEEDS GOES GREEN

Tri-County Feeds, Etc.'s impressive new facility located at 7400 John Marshall Highway in Marshall is going green. The 24,000 square-foot retail and warehouse facility, opening in early September, has been developed in an environmentally responsible way.

"Making choices throughout the facility that protect our environment and limited natural resources wherever feasible was just the right thing to do," said Bill Jackson, President of

Tri-County Feeds. Insulation used throughout the facility is a cellulose of recycled newspaper. This insulation significantly reduces heating and cooling costs, resulting in reduced energy consumption and pollution. An added benefit of using recycled newspaper as insulation is the reduction of landfill waste. Throughout the facility, the new facility, including the board and batten exterior, the stains and paint used are solvent-free, water-based products that are harm-

less to the environment and waterways and do not produce any indoor pollution. This ensures that no toxins are released into the air we breathe. The recycled fiber carpet chosen is a testament to both the attractiveness and value of recycled products. Bamboo and cork flooring, used throughout the building, are environmentally sound, renewable, recyclable, and biodegradable. Both are antimicrobial and improve air quality and reduce noise.

Recovered wood counters and low-voltage lighting add to the warm and welcoming ambience of the new Tri-County Feeds facility while supporting Tri-County's commitment to environmentally responsible construction and furnishing. Future plans to use run-off from the building will conserve water.

Natural pet foods, bedding, household cleaning items, and personal care products will be available at the new Tri-County Feeds. They will provide customers with environmentally conscious product choices. Known for its outstanding customer service, knowledgeable staff, reliability, and unmatched integrity, Tri-County Feeds' new facility will offer an expansive selection of products for the equestrian

and companion animal enthusiast. Tack, riding equipment and attire, home and stable furnishings, gifts, toys, books, the work of local artists, and dog and cat care items will be available. These new products will complement the broad assortment of feeds, bedding, and supplies currently offered. A library/media room-conference center will be available for use and will serve as a valuable resource to the community.

Bill Jackson commented, "Tri-County Feeds is honored to have served our customers for almost 30 years. We believe our new facility and expanded product lines will enable us to meet our customers' needs more completely and effectively and better serve our community."



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Get the Biz Buzz!

The Middleburg Business and Professional Association invites you to host the summer delishious at our *Margarita Mixer* (sponsored and run- spirited)

Tuesday, August 7
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Hosted by *Crème de la Crème*, 88 East Washington Street

We'll have a 15-minute Biz Buzz to bring you up to date

Bring a prospective member!

Reserve by 6/19 to call 857-2500 or email: hazard@middleburgbusinesspro.com by Tuesday, July 10

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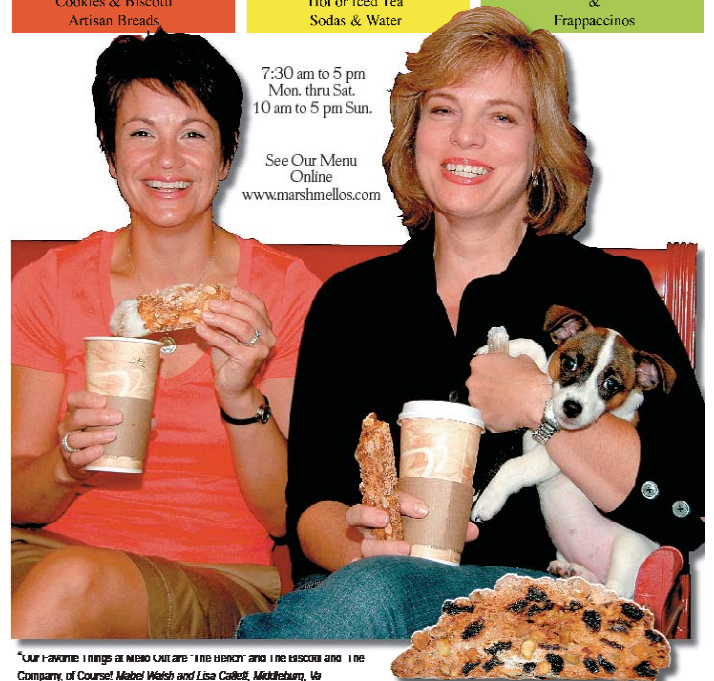
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*Our favorite things at Mello Out are: The Henry and The Isosceles and The Company. Of Course! Mabel Walsh and Lisa Collett, Middleburg, Va

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Elizabeth Davis
Sterling, VA

RIGHT DIRECTION, WRONG DIRECTION

Perhaps by squinting at the text of Delgado's resolution, and thus seeing only the

Heap shame and misery on the best of men and women whose families, traditions and sense of honor demands that they both work and be treated with respect, and be prepared to face the worst.

"Gene" wants to cut housing and health-care services, no bones about it. If folks are "il-

Metinks he protests too much. But he's a great fan of "Gene." But... who knows... I could be wrong.

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PASTIMES

BOOK NEWS: A BIT OF HISTORY, FICTION, GIRL STUFF AND HILARITY

GENIE FORD

We are thrilled once again to provide the books for a signing event for local author Marc Lepton's new book, *Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History*. The event will take place at the Middleburg Library on Monday, July 30, at 7 p.m.

Marc has done his usual thorough research, taking a complicated and complex topic and transforming it into an exciting, interesting and compelling saga. Civil War buffs or anyone who

loves history, especially Virginia history, will want a signed copy of this book.

Another wonderful Civil War era book is *Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters* by Elizabeth Brown Pryor. Through her comprehensive research into Lee's personal correspondence, we get to know the flesh-and-blood man behind the icon.

Are you a naturally curious person, but you just don't have the time to find out about everything that comes to revealing the dark side of our nation's economic compass?

In our fiction section, there are some interesting new books, as well as previous titles now appearing in paperback. Just out is *Secrets of a Fine King* by Kim Edwards, author of *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*. This is a story collection featuring

characters who are just a bit outside the mainstream—thus making them that much more interesting.

The *Rag Merchant* by Meg Mullins gives a new perspective on immigration, in the form of a beautifully written novel about a successful but isolated Iranian in the midst of a devastating loss.

If you found *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* both fascinating and alarming, you'll feel the same way about *The Secret History of the American Empire: Economic Hit Men, Jackals and the Truth About Global Corruption* by John Perkins. As with his previous book, Perkins is unflinching when it comes to revealing the dark side of our nation's economic compass.

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PUT ON A HAPPY FACE

SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

Alan Huber Selig, Jr., a.k.a. Bud Selig, a.k.a., the Commissioner of Major League Baseball, has got to be on cloud nine right about now.

He's got to be giddy as a school girl and happy as a clam, all at once. For Bud, the sky is blue, the grass is green and everything is coming up roses.

Why?

Because for the first time in recent memory, for the first time since steroids and the cream and the clear and Andro and every other eye of newt and toe of frog, wood of bat and tongue of dog started super-inflating his players and the record books, Major League Baseball is the professional sports league here in the land of Grindman and apple pie that has the least onerous of problems.

He who must not be named will break Hank Aaron's magical record of 755 any day now, and all the bright lights that have been relentlessly shining on all the skeletons in Major League Baseball's closet, pointing out all the dothames under Bud's fridge, mercilessly drawing attention to the seamy, seedy underbelly of America's pastime have all found two things much easier upon which to focus their piercing gaze.

In sports betting,

David Stern, the Commissioner of the NBA, has, seemingly single-handedly, largely through the force of his own will and vision, grown his kernel and the NBA into one of the world's most popular sports. David Stern helped spread the word of Michael, Larry and Magic more widely and more diversely than anyone else had any right to expect. He was to his kernel what Paul was to the Gospel. He took a moribund league, a whole league, mind you, not just one team, and translated it into the only simple sport native to the United States that has translated with any real success to entire regions of the rest of the world. He's done such a good job of it, as a matter of fact, that the United States hasn't won Olympic gold since 2000 and hasn't even sniffed at the staff at the FIBA World Championships since 1994.

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home, however, basketball's popularity was waned, with ratings sagging, no one stepping up and filling Mike's empty Air Jordans, and large-market teams either imploding during the playoffs or just missing them entirely.

On top of that has been a growing chorus of complaints from fans, players and, more recently, owners about the quality of the officiating: complaints that certain star players get special treatment, complaints that certain games were so unevenly called as to be beyond simply forehead-smacking and bordering rather more on the statistically inconceivable.

Stern was able to drag off all those complaints as mere sour grapes from disappointed individuals eager to lay blame for their own failures at the feet of others, even when presented with reams of statistical evidence to the contrary, and he was able to do it with impunity because there was never anything he considered "proof," no smoking gun, no airtight, gift-wrapped case that forced him to admit that something was very rotten in the state of Denmark.

Tim Donaghy, the 13-year NBA referee now at the center of a point-shaving, game-fixing scandal changes all that. Law enforcement sources cited by several media outlets have indicated that not only did Donaghy bet on NBA games, not only did he bet on NBA games in which he refereed, but that he used mob bookies to facilitate those bets. The really interesting turning point will be when and if Donaghy decides to turn state's evidence and start pointing fingers and naming names. A fiasco like this, a fiasco that reaches higher than individual players and into the rank and file of those individuals guarded with protecting the very rules and conventions of the game, has the very real potential to do infinitely worse damage to the game of basketball than anything the World Series throwing Chicago Black Sox of 1919 did to Major League Baseball.

Meanwhile, at the NFL, the new sheriff in town, tough-on-softballs Commissioner Roger Goodell, who managed to send Picman Jones, Chris Henry and Tank Johnson to player purgatory for as long as an entire season without so much as a blink from

Continued Page 17

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PASTIMES

YOUR PLANTS ON THE CLOCK

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

My vegetable garden smells like ripening cantaloup. The air is hot, the humidity is high, it's been a sizzling summer. The vegetables have grown well, so well so that I never remember to carry a container large enough to harvest ripe fruit. Between tomatoes, peppers, watermelon, cucumbers and corn, it's been fantastic! The tomato 'Kellogg's Breakfast' was one of the first to produce beautiful, large ripe fruit, a golden orange in color.

This particular tomato takes 80 days from seed to maturity and it's been well over 100, so its perfectly logical to expect fruit. If indeed it would have taken 80 days for me to pick my first 'Kellogg's Breakfast' tomato, I would have plucked it off the vine on June 21st, a great plan but a silly notion. Many things determine when a plant flowers and there are various conditions that drive a plant to that stage of maturity, be it with fruit or flowers. The nursery industry has spent immeasurable amounts of money to determine why a plant flowers

and how to make it flower earlier or set fruit more profusely. Despite the fact that much has been done to perfect the flowering cycle of chrysanthemums and poinsettias, much more needs to be done to understand the vagaries that drive higher oil content in herbs or flowering cycles in new annuals. These studies have become highly evolved and so utterly fascinating! You see a plant must first pass through a number of milestones to reach sexual (flowering) maturity. Between petunias that can mature in a matter of



days to a European Beech that takes thirty to forty years, it is understood that the longer lived a species is, the longer the juvenile phase lasts. The maturity of a plant can totally determine whether it will flower or not and even override any other method of pushing its sexual maturity. The degree of light, the intensity of light can also affect maturity. It's believed that adulthood can be reached faster with better light, a reason why some plants reach their maturation before others. Sounds logical but often overlooked. More true with woody plants? Perhaps, but certainly true with perennials and annuals as well. Furthermore cuttings can be taken from adult stock and resulting rooted cuttings are adults. A perfect example of this is Hedera helix or English ivy. It takes 5 to 10 years for the adult stage, the flowering and fruiting stage. At that point the plant does not produce advantageous roots along the stem and flowers form which are fertile and produce seed. Very often the leaves have evolved into something shaped quite different from the juvenile ones. When propagated from this adult via cuttings, the ivy plant grows like a small tree, not a vine, flowering and fruiting. This is why many of the flowering annuals are vegetatively propagated or grown from cuttings, they are more likely to flower better.

There is also something called day length or photoperiodic response. If you have ever wondered why your moonvine won't flower before September, it's about day length. Many other vines are affected by this, examples include hollyhock bean (Dolichos labata) and firecracker vine (Mimosa lobata). Both of these are annuals, easily grown from seed, but it's not about their maturity, rather the length of each night. These vines require short days to flower and wait for the long days of summer to shorten. Many of the salivars respond to this as well as coleus and plumbed celosia. The bulk of common annuals are actually day neutral, flowering during both short and long day lengths. Examples include impatiens, vinca and begonia.

Heat and cold are yet another driving factor; the industry readily splits them up into hot or cool crops. My tomato preferred the warmest days of spring and early summer. The ideal daytime temperatures for tomatoes are in the

eighties with night temperatures between sixty and seventy degrees. Yes, it can be too hot to set fruit, the flowers won't accept pollen. In fall it quickly becomes too cold for the plants to produce new flowers, especially when nights drop below fifty degrees. And if it had been eighty degrees every day after I set my tomato out, I would have picked that first fruit in June. On the opposite side, spinach and mustard are cool season plants, they are also short day flowering. A sowing of either from seed right now would be a complete failure in our climate, they would leap from seed to flower. Zinnias are an example of an annual that likes it hot and they have been bred to be day neutral, a real boon since the days of short day zinnias or those that would only flower in late summer. We like to think that never is better, that the vast amount of research truly means a longer season of bloom or a larger harvest of vegetables. But sometimes it's hard to fool mother nature.

PUT ON A HAPPY FACE

FROM PAGE 15

the normally recalcitrant players' music, was just done putting himself on the back for a job well done when the Michael Vick, Bad New Kennels, dogfighting swagman got even dirtier, smaller and nastier than previously imagined.

Vick, the Atlanta Falcons star quarterback with jumbotron moves and a million-watt smile, may very well have been involved in not only facilitating dogfights and betting on those fights, but also in the quite horrifying murder of animals that lost fights, had been too badly injured to provide additional revenues or simply had not performed to the levels that were expected. These methods allegedly included, but were not limited to, electrocuting dogs, hanging dogs and slamming them repeatedly to the ground until dead.

Dogfighting, like cockfighting, bearbaiting and any other sport in which two animals attempt to kill each other for the "sport" and waging of human beings, is a despicable undertaking that has no place in civilized society. None. The fact that more than a few of Vick's peers, Clinton Portis and Emmitt Smith among them, have tried to rationalize what happened only further forces us to ask what kind of law and order Roger Goodell is really bringing to the table.

If Vick is found guilty of committing the crimes he has been charged with he faces up to six years in jail and up to \$350,000 in fines. In my humble opinion, his time might be better served in a smaller pen, for a shorter period of time, with only when of his four-legged, trained death-dealers as a cellmate.

We could all place bets on the outcome and see how "small" Mr. Vick thought he had kept it afterwards.

WHAT MAKES ART GOOD OR BAD?

ADRIENNE LEWIS

Art exists in order to express ideas, and it does this through a specific means - in other words, it is different from those used in other forms of expression. This means that "good" art (painting, drawing, sculpture, literature, music, drama) is art which is effective at expressing its ideas.

Art can be subtle, complex, hard to understand, and difficult to explain and art - well "good" art - excites emotions.

Whose emotions? Art critics? Experts? Historians? No, you the buyer, observer or collector.

While art can be emotional it is not incomprehensible. To say so is justification for "experts" to impose their opinions and judgments. In practical terms knowing more about how a painting, novel, movie, or symphony is made (which may constitute a decrease in the amount of "mystery" surrounding it) never diminishes the ability to appreciate it. On the contrary,

the more you know about a work you more you can appreciate it.

So why does some art elicit strong emotional response? Because it's good. (Just kidding!) Part of the initial emotional tug, look at the work and remember that rational analysis and emotion should not come at the expense of each other.

I think you'll find that a "good" painting or drawing has a strong compositional design; intended colors and patterns; subject matter that catches

and holds the attention of the viewer since one can't express anything to someone who is repelled or disinterested. The artist may use a host of techniques to advance its expressive purpose and may manipulate light or make the surface smooth, textured etc... When the expression in a piece of art is weak, confusing, unclear, or prone to misinterpretation then it is not being effective. To me that is "bad" art.



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PARENTS & PROGENY

GIRL SCOUTS MAKING SERVE COMPLEX BEAUTIFUL



HANNAH PRESTON
MARY KATE EICHER

Two local girl scouts, Hannah Preston and Mary Kate Eicher, have decided to landscape the perimeter of the SERVE complex. At the completion of the project they hope to achieve their silver award, the second highest award in girl scouting. At the onset of the project, the girls contacted local business owners for donations of plants, soil and paint. Lowes of Gainesville and Buckland Farms proved to be very generous in their support of the girls. Their endeavors included cutting down decorative grasses, weeding, planting flower boxes near the newly cleaned

entrance signs and repairing and repainting a bench in the garden. The first SERVE group was organized in the homes of concerned citizens. After the original structure was built, it held up to 40 people. The new structure, which was built in June of 2002, can now hold 60 people. The center serves people in Haymarket, Gainesville, north of Woodbridge and western of Prince William County. In order to help SERVE grow they need support from local organizations and they look to the community for help. In the main structure of SERVE, there are classrooms. These classrooms are used for life skills training, transition training, GED training as well as bible studies.

MIDDLEBURG ELEMENTARY HOLDS GRADUATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Congratulations to the recent graduates of Middleburg Elementary School. Gregory Arneson, Vainam Caron, Veronica Cortes Godoy, Kayla Giffain, Caroline Greer, James Jarvis, Chase Keen, Nathan Legebuehn, Aaron Marmila, Martin Rieck, Cole Stuenkel, and Amber Villanueva.

Award Ceremony: D.A.R.E. and D.A.R. Awards

Numerous awards were presented to Middleburg Elementary School students during the annual awards assembly. Fifth grade Martin Rieck was one of the major awards. Deputy Haydens of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department presented her with the D.A.R.E. Easy Contact Award, and D.A.R. Representative, Mrs. Wetmore, presented Martin with the D.A.R. Good Citizenship Award for her conduct at school, and in recognition of the many service projects she has completed for her community.

Academic Awards

Principal Gary Wilson and fifth grade teacher Miss Kivonne Slater presented the President's Outstanding Academic Achievement Award to students who had consistently maintained high grades and test scores throughout their elementary school years. Each student received a certificate and a letter from President George W. Bush. Recipients of the award were Greg Arneson, Kayla Giffain, Caroline Greer, James Jarvis, Chase Keen, Nathan Legebuehn, Aaron Marmila, and Martin Rieck. Veronica Cortes Godoy received the Educational Improvement Award from Miss Slater.

Physical Fitness Award

Fifth Grade National Award Winners were Greg Arneson, Veronica Cortes Godoy, Kayla Giffain, Aaron Marmila, and

Martin Rieck; and fourth grade Phoebe Ryan and Kate Smithberg. The fifth grade second line Presidential Physical Fitness Award was presented by Caroline Greer. Running Club awards for most miles ran for the year went to fifth graders Greg Arneson and Aaron Marmila, and fourth grade Josh Harris Mendez.

Fine Arts Awards

Kayla Giffain was presented the Outstanding Music Student Award, and Caroline Greer received the Outstanding Art Student Award.

Library Awards

Middleburg Elementary Librarian

CREATIVE YOUTH'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT JUSTIN THOMAS A RISING SENIOR AT FAUQUIER HIGH SCHOOL



Justin Thomas, a rising senior at Fauquier High School, was the recipient of the Creative Youth's Scholarship. He is a student who has demonstrated exceptional talent in the fields of music or drama and who consistently demonstrated those talents to school performances.

The French Award, presented to graduating senior Lindsey Morgan of Keeneyville, WV, is given to the student who has obtained excellent grades and demonstrates an exceptional understanding and ability to communicate in French.

The Spanish Award, presented to junior Lisa Hoyer of Delaplane, is given to the student who has obtained excellent grades and demonstrates an exceptional understanding and ability to communicate in Spanish.

The Latin Award, presented to junior Erikia Kirkhoff of Delaplane, is given to a student of Latin who has received high academic grades and is supportive of the study of the classics.

The History Award, presented to graduating senior Daniel Parnock of Manassas, is earned by a student who has spent four years of history with at least one being an Advanced Placement course, and who has exhibited an understanding, enthusiasm, and appreciation for the value of historical study.

The Excellence of Scholarship in Geography Award, presented to graduating senior Alex Frazer of Warrenton and Clifton, from the National Council of Geographic Education is given to an outstanding student in Geography.

The Science Award, presented to junior Ross Ladan of Haymarket, is given to a student who has taken at least four years of science, who demonstrates a genuine curiosity for the natural world, and challenges himself or herself to explore the sciences with the passion and dedication of an aspiring scientist.

The Mathematics Award, presented to graduating senior Ryan Sullivan of Centerville, is given to the student in AP Calculus with the highest final grade point average.

The Creative Writing Award, presented to junior Gillian Douglas of The Plains, is given to a student whose writing reflects consistent improvement, honesty, sensitivity, originality and depth.

The Grammar Award, presented to sophomore Hannah Barlow of Leeburg, is given to a student who has demonstrated the greatest mastery of the Wakefield Grammar Handbook's grammar.

The Academic Excellence Award, presented to junior Danika Kozmowska of Warrenton, is given to the student with the highest previous grade point average.

The Following awards are voted on by Faculty and/or Students:

The Distinguished Book Award, presented to Life Wilkins of Aldie, is given to a junior who exhibits academic excellence and an enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities, and consistently contributes to the life of the school.

The Sequoia Book Award, presented to Chris McKinley of Centerville, is awarded to a junior for excellence in writing and with a grade point average of at least a 3.4. The recipient has demonstrated leadership in the school and community.

The College of William and Mary Leadership Award, presented to Life Wilkins of Aldie, is presented to an outstanding junior who best exemplifies the spirit of Wakefield School: an exceptional leadership, outstanding scholarship, and unwavering loyalty to the school and

Mrs. Charlotte Lane presented the Life-Long Reader Award to Veronica Cortes Godoy and named Amber Villanueva the Library Shogun Contest Winner.

Citizenship Awards for Kindergarten through Fourth Grades

Each teacher awarded good citizenship awards to two students in the kindergarten through the fourth grade. Awards were presented to Kindergarten: Michiell Longbrun and Amanda McGoldy; First Graders: Robin Peterson and Noah Turner; Second Graders: Ryan Baugher and Devin Gilberg; Third Graders: Youana Ardians and Autumn Price; and Fourth Graders: Eric Galloway and Cole Smith.

2007 UPPER SCHOOL AWARDS WAKEFIELD SCHOOL

Perfect Attendance Award: Awarded to junior Daniel Davidson of Warrenton, sophomore Benjamin Eick of Warrenton, freshman Anne Olm of Middleburg, junior Ryan Plummer of Warrenton, and junior Lily Wilkins of Aldie.

The Visual Art Award, presented to graduating senior Brad Robinson of The Plains, is given to an outstanding student whose artistic endeavors are the result of hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm for the creative process.

The Performing Arts Award, presented to graduating senior Julia Faison of Chatham, is given to a student who demonstrates exceptional talent in the fields of music or drama and who consistently demonstrated those talents to school performances.

The French Award, presented to graduating senior Lindsey Morgan of Keeneyville, WV, is given to the student who has obtained excellent grades and demonstrates an exceptional understanding and ability to communicate in French.

The Spanish Award, presented to junior Lisa Hoyer of Delaplane, is given to the student who has obtained excellent grades and demonstrates an exceptional understanding and ability to communicate in Spanish.

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The Academic Excellence Award, presented to junior Danika Kozmowska of Warrenton, is given to the student with the highest previous grade point average.

The Following awards are presented to students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship and a commitment to off-duty and extra-curricular activities. Their personal inquiry and good character provide models for other Wakefield students.

The Barbara Mott Award, presented to graduating senior Jordan Ross of Burdetteville, was named in honor of the school's first librarian whose personal accomplishments and inspirational interest in her students' intellectual, moral, artistic, and athletic development reflect The Golden Mean.

The Arthur J. Zacharias Award, presented to graduating senior Alex Frazer of Warrenton and Clifton, was named in honor of the World War II veteran and Cavalier whose devotion to excellence and tireless service to his country, family, and fellow man inspired the Wakefield faculty and his students.

The Headmaster's Award, presented to graduating senior Julia Parnock of Centerville, is given to a member of the Upper School whose conduct and record at Wakefield are a shining example of the school's philosophy: "Seek the highest, make a difference, be an extraordinary life."

The College of William and Mary Leadership Award, presented to Life Wilkins of Aldie, is presented to an outstanding junior who best exemplifies the spirit of Wakefield School: an exceptional leadership, outstanding scholarship, and unwavering loyalty to the school and

CREATIVE YOUTH GRADUATING



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: HARRIS MENDEL FROM LOUDOUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, GUNNIE PURCELL FROM LOUDOUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, CATY OLIVER FROM LOUDOUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, LOWELL HUTCHINGS FROM HIGHLAND SCHOOL, ROSE TOSTLE FROM NOTRE DAME ACADEMY, AND WILLIAM KREIBICH FROM CLARKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL. NOT PICTURED IS CHARLOTTE HARRIS FROM MADRIDA SCHOOL.

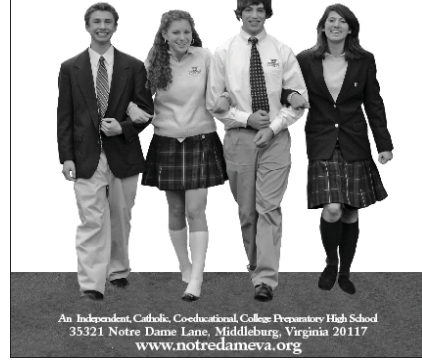
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GREED NOT NEED.

Dominion has continually refused to provide proof that we need this electricity. Every taxpayer will pay the cost for these environmentally damaging towers.

ATTEND THE HEARING NEAR YOU.

Visit www.rejectthetowers.org for more hearing locations, dates and times. Don't miss your opportunity to let the State Corporation Commission know that we won't stand for greedy Dominion defacing our beautiful Piedmont and seizing your land.

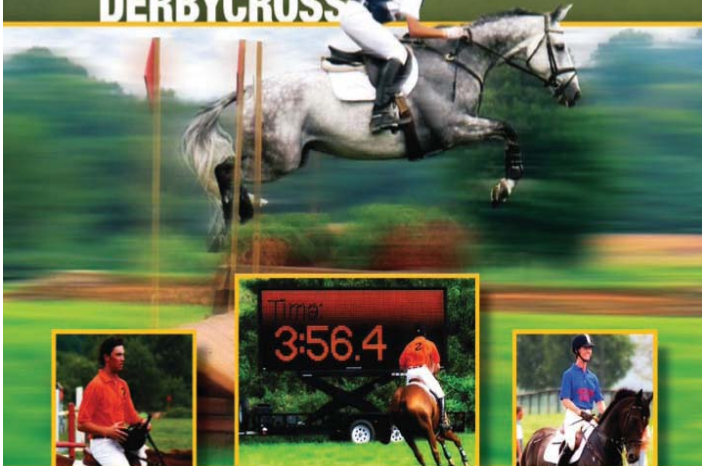
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SALAMANDER HOSPITALITY ADDS HISTORIC GOLF RESORT TO PORTFOLIO

Imbrosco Resort and Golf Club in Palm Harbor, Florida is the most recent Salamander Hospitality acquisition. Purchased from Golf Trust Of America July 16, the club will receive major investments to bring it up to premier status.

"We're going to turn Imbrosco around," said Salamander founder Sheila Johnson on Fox News. "We're going to put back everything we missed the last 30 years in the country, if not the world."

Salamander's plan for Imbrosco includes a complete renovation of the 6,000 square foot of meeting space, major investment in landscaping, the addition of a 10,000 square foot, world class spa and the rehabilitation of all four golf courses.

The \$10 million dollar investment Salamander plans to invest in improvements over the next two years, managers indicate will take the property from a dormant to the enough to a crown jewel in the Salamander portfolio of premier resorts according to local managers.

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AUGUST BRINGS SALES GALORE IN MIDDLEBURG

Middleburg, the quaint little town nestled in the middle of Virginia's horse country, is clearing out its closets and storage areas and moving into the streets on Saturday August 4 for its first annual Middleburg Summer Sidewalk Sale.

In an effort to bring people into town to explore shop and eat, the city owners have decided to create a sort of "shopping event" with a little fun involved. Mayor Betty Davis, owner of the First Store, has had special sidewalk sales in the past with proceeds benefiting the local fire station.

"We thought we would extend an invitation to all the shops to really make it a much bigger effort," said Mayor Davis.

Known for its unique boutique shop offerings, visitors will be able to hunt for some wonderful gifts for themselves or others while experiencing the small town atmosphere as opposed to the big box or

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Golden Gate Farm
Hume, Virginia

340 acres in prime Fauquier County location near Hume. Recorded in 6 lots, beautiful rolling scrags, mountain views, lot of water and some woods. Property is improved by 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage and small barn. \$8,500,000.



19882 Lincoln Road
Purcellville, Virginia

Beautiful farm on 55.24 acres recorded in 5 parcels. Gently rolling land with lovely views in processed area near Lincoln. Contemporary house with 4 bedrooms, 7 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces and 2-car garage. European style stable with 6 stalls, tack room, office, wash stall and apartment. Very private. \$2,495,000.



Stone Ridge
Culpeper, Virginia

Fantastic view from "Stone Ridge" of Longley 6 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces, all brick custom colonial on 17 acres with tennis court, pond, and great colonial, mature landscaping, and large rooms. Gallery room added several years ago. 4-car garage. \$1,495,000.



Lanark Farm
Delaplane, Virginia

Spanning 6,300 square feet, Craftsman style home just built with exceptional detail and solid construction overlooking 10 immaculate acres. Gourmet kitchen with Dacor appliances, Strat Rosewood floors throughout the main and upper levels, and custom millwork. Huge finished basement, workout room, home office, lots of storage, views from every window. Property is bound by a bold creek and large mature trees. \$1,200,000.



Meadow View
Middleburg, Virginia

Minutes to Middleburg, processed location, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 5 fireplaces, screened rear porch. 3-bell barn with tack room, 10 mable acres, 4 paddocks, new fencing, 200 x 150 riding ring. Lovely gardens, private setting. \$1,150,000.



Chinn Lane
Middleburg, Virginia

Elegant colonial in the village of Middleburg. Lovely living room opens to the large dining room and terrace in the private garden area. There is also a charming paneled study with a fireplace. The expanded master bedroom suite is enhanced by a large in-home office area and many closets. Numerous fine finishes, ample storage and a large updated kitchen. 2-car garage. Shows very well. \$1,250,000.



Dover Road
Middleburg, Virginia

Intervig property just 3 years old one mile from town with 4 bedrooms and approximately 5,000 square feet of finished living space. Great open floor plan for entertaining and today's living. Tucked behind a long-established grove of trees, this is an opportunity to own a home with a large lot and a 3-bay workshop. \$995,000.



Commercial Building
Middleburg, Virginia

Commercial or retail opportunity one-half block off the main street in the village of Middleburg. Turn-key space. Would make a fine office or boutique. Now your typical offering. \$695,000.



Melrose Farm Lane
Middleburg, Virginia

Historic 1800's converted bank barn with stone foundation, exposed original beams, copper roof and large wrap around porch overlooking spring-fed pond and a small established orchard. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Property is located just minutes from Middleburg and situated on 10 rolling acres both open and wooded. Great location. \$875,000.

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PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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WILLISVILLE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

WILLISVILLE, VA, JUNE 23, 2007

PHOTOS BY CINDY PEARSON



The Willisville community celebrated the dedication of their new community wastewater system with lunch at the Lee home and an ice cream social at the Willisville Methodist Church. Funding for this community project came from the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, the Housing Trust Fund, Community Action Agency, Trinity Church Upperville and local residents. The Windy Hill Foundation, of Middleburg, was prime contractor.



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PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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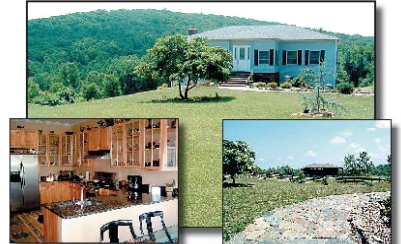
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PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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TWILIGHT POLO AT GREAT MEADOW

THE PLAINS VA, JULY 14, 2007
PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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AT CONSOLIDATED THEATERS, BRAMBLETON, VA, JULY 17, 2007
PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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THINGS TO DO

JULY 28 DERBYCROSS, THE NEXT GREAT HORSE SPORT, RETURNS TO GREAT MEADOW - TOP INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIANS COMPETE IN COMPETITION WITH A TWIST

DerbyCross™ (www.derbycross.com), an innovative new equestrian sport, combines the speed and accuracy of show jumping with the heavy and endurance of cross country jumping. This year's DerbyCross™ event will be held Saturday, July 28, 2007 at Great Meadow, home of the famous Virginia Gold Cup, in The Plains, Virginia at 3:00 p.m. DerbyCross will showcase many of the world's best equestrian talent, in an action packed, high energy, spectator-friendly format.

DerbyCross™ was conceived and developed by advanced level eventing competitors, Rebecca Howard and Sinead Halpin, and Dana Voorhees, an avid amateur competitor and owner of Van Productions (www.vanproductions.tv), a marketing and media company. "Here's how it works..." says Howard, Equestrian Director for The Fork Stables, in Norwood, NC. "The course is a strategically designed combination of cross country 'questions' such as ditches, logs and water, and show jumps. It will ask the horses to be brave over cross country fences and then careful over the show jumps, against the clock." Five teams will vie for the top prize. Riders will incur four penalty points per dropped rail, four per stop at a fence and four per fall. The team with the fastest time and the lowest number of penalty points wins.

U.S. Olympian and U.S. Equestrian Federation president, David O'Connor, who won the gold medal in eventing at the Sydney games, a loyal supporter of DerbyCross, will once again be the course designer for the July event.

And, there's a twist. Each team must include one polo

player. Competing over course of lower height, it will still be a tall order for riders who are used to galloping full speed in pursuit of a white ball, not a cross country fence. "I'm out to defend the 2006 cup!" says Dominic State, the polo player on last year's winning Team Stonehall, which will be back in full again this year (Clark Montgomery, Captain; Donna Smith, New Zealand World Cup team member, and advanced three-star rider, Lauren Kieffer). Says State, "It's not an easy sport. We're taking this pretty seriously."

This year's team Captains make up a very impressive roster of the top equestrian athletes in the world: Jan Byyny (USA), Pan Am and World Cup team member; Darren Chacchia (USA), 2004 Olympic team member and Pan Am Gold Medalist; Leslie Law (UK), 2004 Olympic Gold Medalist; Clark Montgomery (USA), advanced four-star competitor and member of the '06 DerbyCross winning team and NAYRC Gold Medalist; and Sharon White (USA), also a four-star competitor and DerbyCross veteran, one of only two riders who posted a clear round in the '06 event (Donna Smith from Team Stonehall was the other).

The polo players are at the top of their game as well. In addition to Dominic State, this year's players include John Gehin (6 goals), Manager of Great Meadow Polo, Charlie Muldoon (5 goals), Gonzalo Fachi (5 goals), and Jonas Largaia (4 goals).

There will be a select number of tail gate spots available for \$200 to \$350 (with tent), a VIP tent, title, presenting, gold, silver and fence sponsorship opportunities. General admission/car pass up to 6 per car; \$15 and VIP tickets (\$60) will also be sold in advance and at the gate. The DerbyCross competition will begin at 3:00pm, followed by an evening of Polo at Great Meadow, starting at 7:00pm. For more information and ticket sales visit: www.derbycross.com.

SUMMER THUNDER V

The Western Loudoun Community Volunteers are ready, Franklin Park in Parroville is ready, Bob Steele of WAZZ is back and Playboy Automotive editor Ken Gross is ready to go crazy- Car Crazy that is.

That's right, Barry Maguire's famed gear head TV show Car Crazy will be filming this event for a future segment.

Summer Thunder will be filling this event for a future segment. Summer Thunder from over 10 states attended last years show which included live entertainment and a car trailer raffle.

This is our 5th year and the 25th year for C.S. Monroe's Peanut Stuphin" stated Mary Liz McCauley, the events chairperson. "We expect the turnout to break last years record."

About C.S. Monroe technology Center, the premier educational facility in Loudoun County for students who wish to learn trade skills with out the need of attending a four year college.

AUGUST 4 GETTING UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH NATURE'S BEAUTIES



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAMBERT

ANNUAL LOUDOUN COUNTY BUTTERFLY COUNT Saturday, Aug. 4, 9 a.m. This summer marks Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's 11th Butterfly Count. Come out and have fun while contributing to butterfly conservation. All skill levels are welcome. Teams will be led by experienced butterfly identifiers. Visit fields, farms, butterfly gardens and woods that span the county from White's Ferry in the east, to the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Center in the west, and from Point of Rocks south to Lincoln. The count, modeled after Christmas Bird Counts, is sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association. It's a great chance to get outdoors and spot as many as 50 species of butterflies in a day. Spend a few hours in the morning or count all day -- your choice. For more information and to register visit the butterfly count page and sign up online at www.loudounwildlife.org/butterfly. Count him or contact Nicole Hamilton at 540-882-9638 or nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.

AUGUST 10 FAMILY SWIM NIGHT

Come join us and have some fun at the Middleburg Community Center for a night out with your family. Swimming, good food, good conversation and great music with a jazz D.J. Dinner is included. \$5/per person or \$20/a family. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call 540-687-6375 to register.

AUGUST 11 SWEEDENBURG WINERY

Local author Ellen Crosby will be at Sweedenburg Winery signing the 2nd book in a series of wine mysteries. Mrs. Sweedenburg who passed on June 9, was a key contributor to the series bringing accuracy in winery operations and Middleburg history. Ellen, of course, brought her special style into the fiction mystery filled with romance and a murder! Ellen will be signing "The Chardonnay Charade" from 1 to 5 p.m.

AUGUST 2007 SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

Confederates at Mount Bleak Farm from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Get a glimpse into the daily life of a Confederate infantryman at the 8th Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment Encampment. Join the soldiers as they re-enact ceremonies, drills, signals, and weapons use. Enjoy period music and children's games. All ages welcome.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

Confederates at Mount Bleak Farm from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (See August 4)

SUNDAY, JULY 8

Wildflower Walk from 10:00 to 11:30 AM Get better acquainted with local wildflowers and learn about some of their uses. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Meet at the Bridle Trail parking area. (2 miles)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

Astronomy for Everyone from 8:00 to 11:00 PM Find out about U.S. space research, take a sky tour, and look for deep space objects through large telescopes. If the sky is cloudy, a short program will be presented and the park gates will close at 10 p.m. Bring your children -- hour early for a special "Junior Astronomer" activity.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

Look for butterflies with Mary Alexander and Steve Malone of the Washington Area Butterfly Club. Enjoy the brilliance and variety of Sky Meadows' butterflies. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. (2 miles)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Life on the Farm from 1:00 to 4:00 PM Watch as history comes to life and find out what the Settle family might have been doing on their farm in 1860. This month, join our volunteers as they start harvesting the garden and prepare a meal in the log kitchen.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

Celtic Music at "Skye Farm" from 2:00 to 4:00 PM Admire the view and join the Winchester Celtic Circle as they practice 16th and 17th century Scottish, Irish, and Shetland tunes.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

Owls of Virginia from 5:00 to 6:30 PM Join Kent Knowles from the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia for a closer look at some of the raptors found in the area. Fee \$2.00/person, children age 5 and under free (includes Owl Prowl).

Owl Prowl from 6:30 to 8:30 PM Join a park ranger to investigate the diet of owls by dissecting owl pellets. Then, hike up the Piedmont Overlook Trail to search for these nocturnal hunters.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

Gone Fishin' from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. Spent a relaxing morning with Ranger John at the edge of Turner Pond. Equipment can be provided. For all ages, though those 16 and older must have a Virginia fishing license. Meet at the Turner Pond Parking Area.

MOUNT BLEAK HOUSE TOURS

The Mount Bleak house was the home of the Settle family before and during the Civil War. On house tours, you'll get a glimpse into the life of this middle class farm family around 1860. The house will be open for guided tours between 1:00 and 4:00 PM on weekends and holidays.

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"We are so fortunate to be here in the beginning of Meadowlark," he says.

1st Met Church where we were both born and near the site where we view the past and retreat programs as an important part of our ministry."

In addition to the many summer camps and retreats, the church will offer year-round camp opportunities for children and young adults. We hope to create an environmental program that will help children and young adults to protect and support God's Creation. We believe the important impact individuals can have on their surroundings wherever they live.

Real estate is one of our business being returned to school to complete the degree in real estate at the School of Christian Education.

"Sometimes I wondered how I would be able to do this while working in real estate renovation, property management and construction," he says.

"Now it's clear to me that God had a very definite plan."

He is currently the director for the management of the National Capital Presbytery's Glenkirk property in Washington, D.C. He oversees the beds and served up to 600 camps in the summer. When developments

Stargazing

Stargazing is a must at Meadowkirk thanks to the gift of The Brinton Observatory in memory of Henry Cossie Brinton, and the stupendous skyscape that is suspended over the

For more information about Meadowkirk, please visit www.meadowkirk.org or telephone 540.687.5565.

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