



A MURMURATION OF STARLINGS

AND A FLOCK OF CASH

DANIEL MORROW

Starlings, and a discussion of reports of surprising and noisy measures taken to move large flocks of them south, dominated discussion during the regular monthly meeting of the

Middleburg Town Council on Thursday, September 13.

Almost lost in the flutter was a soft-spoken, extraordinary report from Town Administrator Jerry Schiro, noting Salamander Hospitality's delivery of checks to the Middleburg treasury totaling more than a million dollars covering fees and bonding requirements linked to the ongoing development of its property on the northern edge of the Town.

Schiro also announced that, as part of his ongoing efforts to cut costs and rationalize the Town's administrative structure, the County had agreed to a one-year trial take-over of the administration of the Town's water and sewer services.

"Hysterical Behavior?"

Sally Bolton of The Corner Garden opened the "public comments" segment of the monthly meeting by expressing her "very deep concern" about "flocks of birds" that some members of our community "find so disturbing."

In fact, her concerns were less related to the birds than to the measures she feared were being taken, officially and non-officially, to move them away from residential areas. (See "letters to the editor")

Bolton first became alarmed, she said, when she noticed neighbors "hastily removing" leaves and crowns from three or four century-old maple trees during one of the worst droughts in

Continued Page 35

NANETTE AND CHERYL LIVE ON IN THE BATTLE AGAINST BREAST CANCER

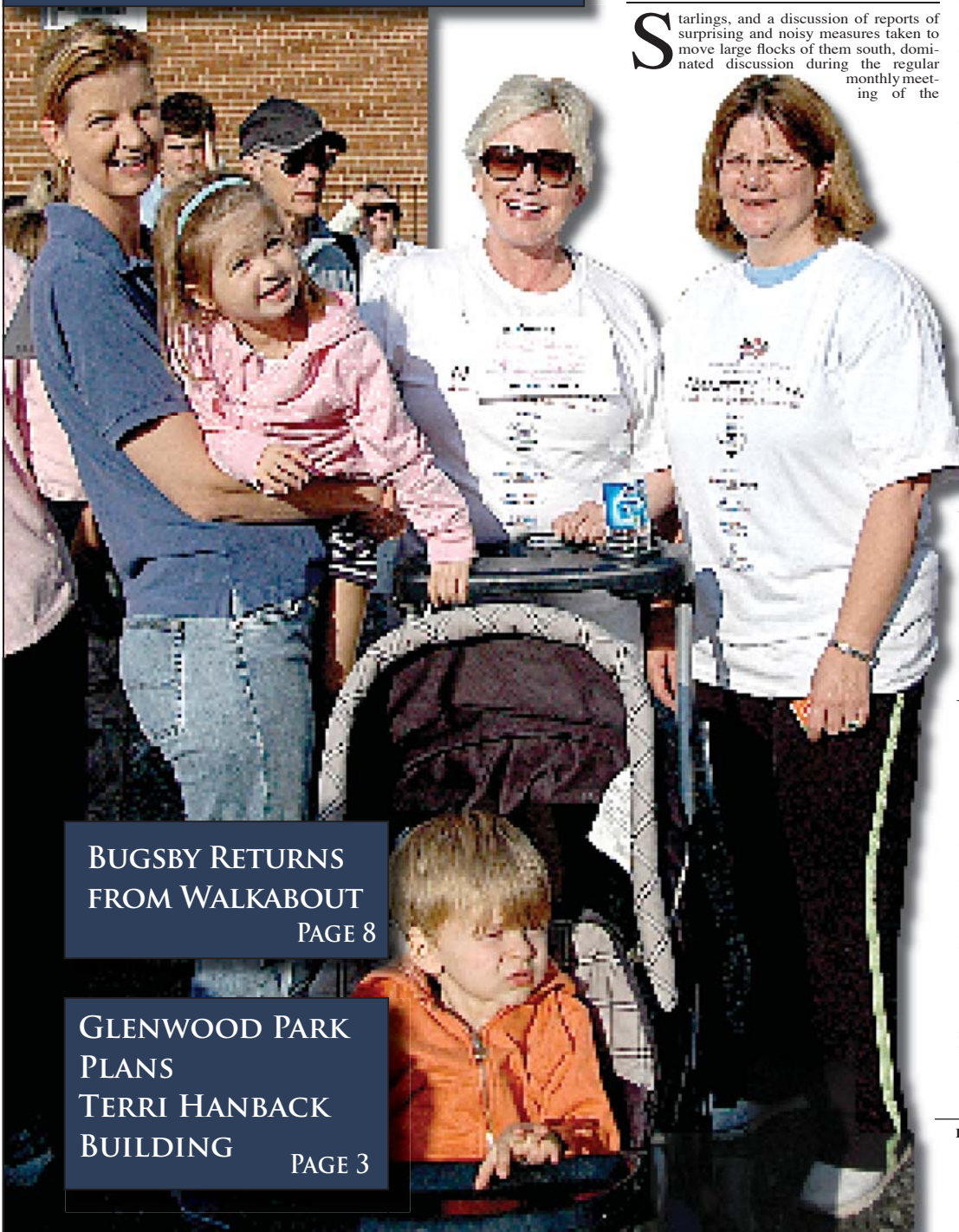
Over three hundred people literally walked the walk and talked the talk about breast cancer in the first Nanette's Memorial Walk on a beautiful September morning in Middleburg, Virginia. The walk honors Nanette Hewett White who fought breast cancer for ten years before losing the battle, and it is organized by the Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund created to honor Cheryl Atkins.

When Jim and Sandi Atkins decided to create a fund to benefit breast cancer research to honor Jim's late wife, Cheryl, whose nickname was "Cherry Blossom," they really had no idea how quickly enthusiasm would build to support the local initiative.

With the help of Karen Krei, executive director of the Piedmont Community Foundation, they set up The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund. When Nanette's daughter, Lizanne Driskill, and Mary Jo Jackson, who has fought breast cancer for nine years were asked to help them with fund-raising activities, Lizanne suggested they organize an annual walk to raise money to support the initiative.

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CHECK OUT OUR NEW HORSE SECTION
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BUGSBY RETURNS
FROM WALKABOUT
PAGE 8

GLENWOOD PARK
PLANS
TERRI HANBACK
BUILDING
PAGE 3



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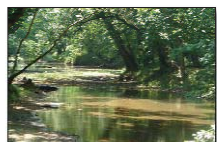
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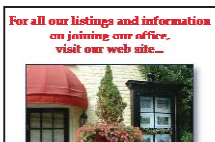
Kyle Elmer 703.923.9651



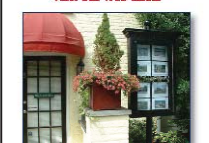
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by Dee Dee Hubbard

Editor in Chief
Dee Dee Hubbard

Design & Production Director
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Publisher
Dee Dee Hubbard

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NEWS OF NOTE

GLENWOOD PARK PLANS TERRI HANBACK BUILDING

PATRICIA BARRAZA-VON

Most of us who attend events at Glenwood Park are blissfully unaware of all it takes to keep the venue as pristine as it is and ensure that its events run smoothly. It's enough for us to plan our holidays and enjoy the spectacular and horse trails on an autumn blue sky.

But we know this doesn't happen without the effort of good and competent people. Glenwood Park work falls into the hands of the park's Board of Trustees, race officials and event staff.

These behind-the-scenes folk all need to work together and their good working relationship ensures the magic of well-run events.

So it was that the Trustees of Glenwood Park got to know, respect and truly cherish Terri Hanback who for many years was the Race Secretary of the Middleburg Fall Races. In light of that affectionate remembrance, a group of race committee members and park trustees have banded together to help raise funds to erect a new building at the park and name it in her honor.

Terri Hanback was a beloved figure of the Virginia horse world and when she died last spring, her loss was felt throughout the close-knit community. Among the many last she wrote over the years (executive secretary of the Virginia Gold Cup, active member of the Virginia Steeplechase Association, first female starter of a seasoned steeplechase race) Terri Hanback was most recently elected to be secretary of the Virginia Fall Races.

For months, each autumn Terri worked away in what is surely known as the "Beer Parlor" at Glenwood Park. No beer, or any other beverage for that matter, has been sold at this particular facility in decades, but it once was and the name stuck. The structure, which as it is, now barely serves its purpose as an "office" but it was here in the slightly dilapidated, plywood-sided, in-roofed, barely windowed structure, that Terri, by all accounts, happily fulfilled her duties as race secretary.

Victor DiDont had just joined the board of trustees last year when he went to Glenwood to see about what lay ahead for him. While there he met someone who was at the office and went in to introduce himself. According to DiDont, "It was Terri and she was so nice and so pleasant that from then on, I've loved to Glenwood and now her car there I'd stop in and visit. She was just a wonderful person."

That is absolutely the consensus view on Terri Hanback.

Now, retired, longtime Glenwood Park Trustee Chuck Howler, who knew Terri from when she was a teenage, not about to disagree. He is more likely

to expand upon her many virtues "She was so honest, so sincere, so polite, so up-beat - you never left Terri Hanback with a frown." And it was he who somewhat jokingly first suggested, to Hanback herself, that the Trustees should replace the old Beer Parlor with a safer, better located structure and name it after her.

As Howler recalls, one day Hanback came to work and discovered that her laptop had been stolen (stealing the Beer Parlor was one of many challenges that began to crop up when she was hired to replace the Beer Parlor).

Professional plans have now been drawn up and the site decided upon. The age is to start construction after the Fall Races and complete the project before the Spring Races.

Everything is in good order short of actual brick. The anonymous benefactor has already made a generous donation but approximately \$40,000 more are needed to meet the goal. Howler, DiDont and DiDont all point to the many improvements and upgrades (insulation, ventilation, security and storage, plus a safer location) that the new building will provide in use. As Howler points out, the Trustees are always working to make the Park as user-friendly as possible, and the Terri Hanback Building will go far in that regard.

Donations may be made to the Glenwood Park Trust with a notation made that it is for the Terri Hanback Building fund. P.O. Box 467, Middleburg, VA 20118.

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN AT HILL SCHOOL

GO GREEN MIDDLEBURG

HUNT LYMAN
JOHNSON-MEAD

In 1991 and 1992, Stephen C. Clark, Jr. and Jane Forbes Clark gave The Hill School more than 130 acres of land, providing the school with a wealth of new opportunities to use the campus as an educational resource. Many on the faculty, particularly in the Science Department, began to tap this potential through activities and lessons in water quality monitoring, tree planting and identification, outdoor writing, and the study of amphibians and stream ecology.

In the fall of 2005, the Board of Trustees recognized that stewardship and environmental education were closely related aspects of the school's central mission, and consequently invited Professor Steven Kellert of Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies to engage in a comprehensive study. Over the next year, Professor Kellert made several visits to the Hill campus and interviewed many Hill School teachers and administrators. Professor Kellert wrote in his report that:

"The Hill School has a historic opportunity to exercise environmental leadership consistent with its fundamental principles and mission. The school has consistently emphasized education of the whole child: physically, emotionally, intellectually, and morally, through promoting a strong sense of community, building character, self-confidence, optimism, a sense of caring and responsibility for others, while promoting experiential place-based education. Hill School's mission will be enhanced and enriched by expanding its aim to include a deliberate emphasis on environmental stewardship, incorporated into the curriculum, facilities, property, and ideally the mutual relation of all three... In serving its students and community, the Hill School can become an inspirational model for other institutions."

Professor Kellert's vision is shared by Richard Low, author of Last Child in the Woods, which has gained attention over the past year, where in the creation of the Children and Nature Network and the planning of a national forum on the topic presently chaired by governors of four states, Hill School Academy Dean Hunt Lyman participates on the Education Panel, which is in the process of reviewing educational projects to recommend funding from a \$20 million endowment.

At Hill, teachers also worked innovatively on the curriculum this summer. Hill received a \$50,000 foundation grant for the purpose of infusing place-based education into the curriculum across all disciplines and grade levels. This summer, science teachers from other Washington area schools worked with Hill science teachers to develop curriculum design and school operations. A variety of projects were created with topics such as conservation, studying birds in their habitats, recycling, invasive and indigenous plants, and learning about local agricultural practices.

Students also caught wind of the new possibilities on campus and moved forward in their own ways to improve their surroundings and discuss current environmental topics.

Last spring, a new student group, The Free Huggers, emerged out of a tree forum focused on alternative energy use and conservation. Inspired by a brainstorming session held that evening, students began to reflect on ways to make a difference in the community. Upper school students met weekly, and lively debates about various topics became quite common. Meeting topics ranged from energy consumption at Hill and at home, to compost hotspots at Hill and at home, to compost hotspots at Hill and at home.

New recycling bins have been spritzed all over campus. The current recycling collection program, which has been in existence for over thirty years at Hill, will now include having students and teachers take the recycling to a local center in Middleburg. This fall, with the help of the Trees Company in Winchester, which uses recycled plastic to make decks, benches, and fences, the entire school will participate in a plastic bags recycling program, with the overall goal being to reduce the amount of bags that end up in landfills. In an effort to reduce the amount of trash generated at Hill on a daily basis, students have been encouraged to pack trashless lunches.

Waste conservation and recycling are hot topics at Hill these days. New recycling bins have been spritzed all over campus. The current recycling collection program, which has been in existence for over thirty years at Hill, will now include having students and teachers take the recycling to a local center in Middleburg. This fall, with the help of the Trees Company in Winchester, which uses recycled plastic to make decks, benches, and fences, the entire school will participate in a plastic bags recycling program, with the overall goal being to reduce the amount of bags that end up in landfills. In an effort to reduce the amount of trash generated at Hill on a daily basis, students have been encouraged to pack trashless lunches.

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NEWS OF NOTE

LETTER FROM BEIJING

DR. MARGARET NEW

Beijing is under construction for the 2008 Olympic games. One cannot help but notice the frenzy of projects, bamboo scaffolding, and highly cranes dotting the skyline.

The impression is persistent this city has a mission, a purpose and they are going to meet their deadline. The Chinese government has pledged to spend the equivalent of 20 billion USD to build sports complexes as well as refurbishing the city's infrastructure.

With round-the-clock construction workers (an estimated three million pair of hands brought in from the countryside) officials are planning to renovate this 3,000-year-old city to reflect the theme, "New Beijing, Great Olympics."

Leaving the airport, my National Guide, Qi, points out the subway construction, an extension to the airport and new 20-foot willow and poplar trees that have been planted to grace the Boulevard gateway into the city.

With great pride he points out that Beijing is a city of cranes - the yellow steel structures that rise and looking out the car window in the late afternoon haze, can see cranes at work in every direction. Reportedly 50% of the world's cranes are in China and

are just too poetic to look at each

Continued Page 12

OATLANDS EXHIBIT HONORS EDITH EUSTIS AS HOSPITAL LADIES BOARD CELEBRATES 95TH

The Loudoun Hospital Ladies Board is celebrating its 95th anniversary this year and, as part of the celebration, the Ladies Board has created an exhibit honoring Edith Eustis, who was the first president of the first Ladies Board. She was also largely instrumental in the preservation of Oatlands. The exhibit will be on display in Oatlands' Carriage House from September 10 through November 2.

Eustis' support continued throughout the years and included financial support. Her daughters, Margaret Eustis Finley and Anne

Easton Emmet, followed in her footsteps by serving on the Ladies Board.

The first Ladies Board began with a "donation day," inviting all community residents to come and take a look at the new hospital. They were encouraged to bring a contribution—a needed item, groceries or financial donations.

Edith Eustis is also credited with bringing life back to Oatlands. In 1903, Mr. and Mrs. William Concoran Eustis purchased Oatlands as their country home. Edith noticed that the gar-

den was in major disrepair and she worked for many years restoring it. Many of her plantings, including the boxwood lined parterres are still prominent and beautiful focal points of the Oatlands garden.

The couple also modernized the house where they hosted many of Washington's elite. One of their many prestigious and frequent guests was their friend, Franklin Roosevelt.

After Edith's death in 1964, her children gave the house,

its furnishings and 261 acres to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Loudoun Hospital Ladies Board continues to look after the well-being of patients and to help supply needed equipment and comfort items through the sale of donations from the community to the "Twice as Nice Thrift Store" and the "Annual Rummage Sale" for more information, visit www.ladiesboard.org.

MIDDLEBURG PLAYERS MAKE DONATION IN TRIBUTE TO FRED SPENCER

The Middleburg Players recently surprised the directors of the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) with a \$1,000 donation to be added to the Frederick L. Spencer, Jr. Memorial Fund, an endowment fund established in June.

This latest donation to the Fund was the result of a successful theatrical production of "It Was Mostly Fun" based on the life and times of local legend Doc Saffer, and how he and his pals grew up in Middleburg.

Saffer said, "Fred had a lot to do with the play. He wrote the lyrics" at the request of Jean Gold who was the moving force behind getting the Saffer story into print and play format.

Bunny Slack, representing

the local performance group, sent along a note with the donation. "Middleburg Players are thrilled that 'It Was Mostly Fun' did so well we can contribute to PCF in Fred's name. Hope to have the opportunity again."

Mr. Slack said that Molly Spencer, Fred's widow, knew about the gift and was so pleased that Fred would be honored in this manner by the performance group which was near and dear to his heart. Fred was an active member of the Middleburg Players before his life was taken in an automobile accident in April.

The fund will make annual grants available to nonprofit groups representing the arts, music and drama. First grant applications will be accepted in the fourth quarter of 2008. Those wishing to make

their own remembrance for Fred through the community foundation may send their memorial gift to PCF, P.O. Box 402, Middleburg, VA 20118.

Construction should take about one year. Occupancy is expected some time during the summer of 2008. The Windy Hill property management company has begun accepting names for the waiting list.

Those who wish to apply should call 540-857-3402. As with all locally-supported Windy Hill Foundation properties, priority on the waiting list will be given to those who already live or work within 10 miles of Middleburg or Upperville. Long-time residents of the area who are currently living away but might wish to return home are given the same consideration.

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NEWS OF NOTE

BUGSBY RETURNS FROM WALKABOUT TO PURRFECT WELCOME AT STONELEIGH FARM

When Mary Schwab's much-loved cat Buggsy was found in Upperville, a cheer went up, lost posters came down and a \$1,000 reward was sent to needy children courtesy of a fine, upstanding Wakefield first grader.

Although it took weeks and many heart-breaking search parties before the 25-pound kitty was safely at home, his return was the perfect conclusion to the welcome Stoneleigh Farm had given three championship riders.

"The day before we found Buggsy, Tracy We in berg had won the High Amateur Classic, Joe Fergus had won the Grand Prix and Juan Carlos Guardino won a 2007 Mercedes in the rife Beacon Hill. We all agreed that if we could only find Buggsy, it would have been a perfect day," remembered Mary Schwab.

The lesson learned from the frightening experience is simple. "People were so kind to us, I now realize how truly caring people are," Mary said. "We posted reward flyers all over two counties, and my trainer even asked his pizza shop to

put them in the pizza boxes. The response was amazing. People called me from everywhere to say how sorry they were that they were on the lookout for Buggsy and how much they empathized with us."



PHOTO BY JANET HEICHEN

The kitty in question, a white short hair with elegant gray patches and distinguished black stripes, was rescued from Middleburg Humane when he was about seven months old. A substantial fellow in many ways, he had become a highly valued member of the family and the search for him was a true community effort.

"He had already had a difficult life," explained Mary. "He had probably been thrown from a car as a kitten because he had just recuperated from a broken pelvis when I brought him home. Today, he's happy and bright, but he does have a very bad habit of getting in cars."

Although one may never be certain, that may be how Buggsy traveled to Upperville, where he was found.

What is absolutely known, is that the young man who found and cared for him until his parents realized there was a county-wide search underway, refused the \$1,000 reward asking only that the money go to help needy children.

"When I told his parents there was a reward, they said they were teaching him that one doesn't expect rewards for doing the right thing. I wrote and sent the check right away," Mary concluded. Successful parenting is, as everyone knows, its own reward. Today, two new signs have been posted at Stoneleigh Farm. As you enter, you pass a sign that says: "Cats Will Show Away in Vehicles." As you depart, another sign gently reminds, "Did You Check for Cats?"



PHOTO BY JANET HEICHEN

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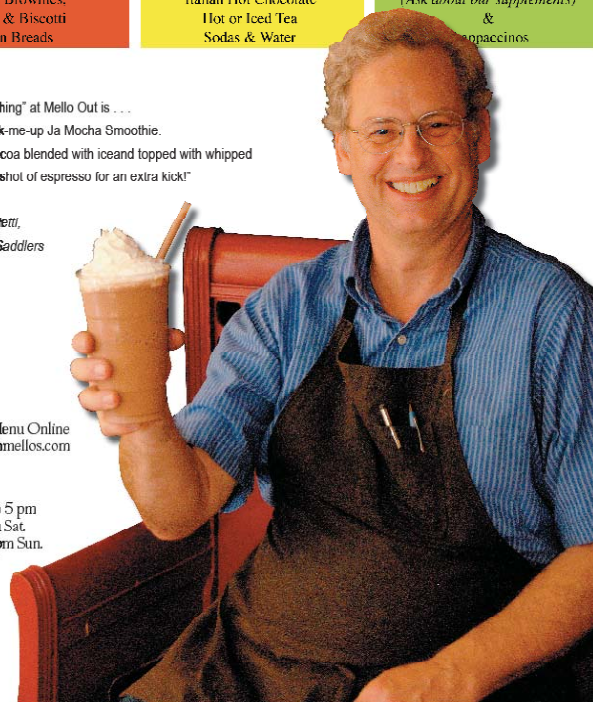
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NEWS OF NOTE

HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES RUN EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY UNDERGROUND IN EUROPE

Representatives for Virginia for Sensible Energy Policies (VSEEP) attended a meeting with Virginia Delegate A.C. T. May (R-33rd District) to learn more on May's findings about underground high voltage transmission lines in Europe. This past July, May toured regions of France and Denmark where he met with electrical engineers to learn about technology that makes undergrounding high voltage electric lines efficient and cost effective.

May was joined on the tour by two Dominion Power representatives including the chief engineer.

"It was really incredible," May stated. "In Denmark, they just dig the trenches and lay the high voltage cable.

There are no concrete encasings." In Virginia, Dominion Power has stated that they could not consider placing power lines underground due to the expense and logistics of having to use large, concrete encasements. In Europe, the trenches were approximately five feet deep and the cable was simply dropped in.

Photographs show horses in Denmark quickly grazing in pastures where

underground high voltage transmission lines run underground. With underground transmission lines, the lines are protected from the elements limiting the costly repairs required from ice and

windstorms. Also, with underground lines, alternate lines can be laid side-by-side and can be switched over if a

line fails or has a disruption.

May explained that the cost of the 400kv lines is approximately \$4 million per mile. "This is a reasonable cost when you take into account the property damage that above ground lines incur," May said referring to the often uncompensated decline in property values for properties in the path of the lines as well as those near to the lines.

"Many people fail to take into account the significant impact that high voltage above ground lines have on property values and the local economy," explains Matt Sheehy, president of VSEEP. "Small businesses, tourism,

agriculture, residential and commercial property owners are all impacted by over head lines. Those numbers can

equally add up to hundreds of millions of dollars."

In Fauquier, Rappahannock, Clarke and Prince William counties, Dominion is threatening to build a 68-mile, 15-story, 500kv transmission line. The regional transmission organization, PJM Interconnection, initially reported that the line was not needed in Virginia. It remains, however, a lucrative measure for Dominion. They can

capitalize on power lines that transport electricity from coal-fired plants in the Midwest to the East Coast as they are financially incentivized to build lines no matter what the need or consequences.

"How can a major corporation threaten to permanently scar land and take private property and not have to

fully account to anyone in the impacted areas?" Sheehy questions. Dominion executive John Smarick recently dismissed the proposed power line alignment by stating, "The areas are already damaged beyond."

"If they have to put this through, they should at least consider the options and look at the consequences," states Sheehy. "Dominion has been nothing short of resistant to all alternatives and suggestions, including conservation practices and undergrounding."

Delegate May serves as chairman of the House of Delegates' Science & Technology Committee. He is an engineer by profession, and holds 18 patents. He is the recipient of the 2001 Greater Washington Area "Engineer of the Year" award. May has extensive knowledge about how high voltage power lines are effectively and cost-efficiently undergrounded in various countries around the world. He has just returned from France and Denmark where he has learned about additional technologies that make undergrounding cost effective. May's interest in undergrounding is the result of Dominion Power's recent plans to run high voltage power lines through Leesburg as well as plans to run massive lines through some of Virginia's most historic land in Fauquier, Prince William, Rappahannock and Clarke counties.

Virginia for Sensible Energy Policies (VSEEP) is a coalition of local groups, electric customers, families, farmers, workers and citizens of all ages. VSEEP 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 or call 540-364-2627.



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November 6, 2007 General and Special Election.

Hours: 5:00 AM-3:30 PM or whenever election equipment packed and numbers called in to Electoral Board.

Pay: Full Day \$100 per day + \$20 additional pay for attending training.

Training will be provided at various locations: Sterling, Ashburn, Hamilton and Leesburg. Please call or email: 703-777-0548. daniela.pricer@loudoun.gov

Five New Polling Places

The following precincts will have new polling places for the upcoming elections:

207 River Bend precinct will be split to create 213 Countryside precinct.

401 Lovettsville will be split and renamed 401 West Lovettsville (Lovettsville Community Cen-

LEESBURG'S THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY CONSIDERED FOR HERITAGE TRUST PROJECT GRANT

A project to digitize the Balch Library's Window Williams Collection is being considered for a grant from the EMC Heritage Trust Project.

Williams, a Loudoun County photographer, built a collection comprising nearly 10,000 precious photographic negatives, documenting the life and faces of the county in the mid-twentieth century.

The recently announced EMC Heritage Trust Grants are designed to recognize and support digital stewardship of the world's information heritage in local communities. Using the same criteria for excellence that guide the EMC Information Heritage Initiative, EMC seeks individuals and projects that practice and inspire local stewardship.

Local libraries, museums, or historical society collections are of specific interest to the EMC Heritage Trust. Any are significant private collections of music, letters or art.

Any local organization or institution, public or private, or any individual engaged in stewardship of the world's information heritage may apply to be nominated for one of the grants.

Political, internal or discriminatory organizations will not be considered for nomination.

Applications as of 4 nominations will be reviewed by a distinguished committee chaired by Daniel S. Moore, chief historian emeritus and founding executive director of the Computerworld Smithsonian Awards and the Computerworld Honors Program.

Moore is also a member of the Board of Visitors of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The deadline for nominations is November 30, 2007. Awardees will be notified by February 14, 2008.

(New voter registration cards will be sent in September or October.)

405 Greenway (Leesburg Baptist Church) will be split to create 412 Heritage (Heritage High School).

607 Lowes Island (Lowes Island Elementary) will be split to create 609 South Bank (Potomac Baptist Church).

585 Cool Spring (Cool Spring Elementary) will be split to create 506 Brandon Park (Loudoun County High School).

212 Claude Moore Park has moved from the Loudoun Heritage museum to Claude Moore Recreation Center (across from the Museum).

If you have questions regarding your voter registration call or email Judy Brown the Registrar at 703-777-0548. judy.brown@loudoun.gov

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NEWS OF NOTE

LANGDON GIBSON II HONORED BY HIS BROTHER, CHARLES

BRANDON THOMAS

On May 29, 2006, when Charles Gibson started the new phase of his life as anchor of "World News with Charles Gibson" for ABC News, he didn't forget his time in the Middleburg area or his love for his brother Langdon.

Gibson can also claim another title: philanthropist. He recently established the Langdon Gibson II Music Scholarship Fund at Shenandoah University to honor his brother.

Lang Gibson II, who was 12 years older than Charles, was in the construction business most of his life, and he was also passionate about music.

"Lang and his wife Carol wanted to get out of Washington in the 1980s," said Charles Gibson in a recent phone interview. "He wanted to start his own construction business and refurbish a barn they found in Clarke County."

"He loved music, all kinds of music, jazz and classical, and he enjoyed the claret," said Gibson. "He was so delighted that there was a school with a music conservatory when he moved to the area."

When the barn was completely renovated the beautiful home became the perfect setting for intimate concerts.

"Lang invited a [Shenandoah



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Conservatory) faculty quartet to perform a dress rehearsal at his home prior to a performance at the Kennedy Center," said Gibson. "Eventually, these concerts became known as the Windy Meadow Concert Series."

"Lang started inviting his neighbors, and the concerts grew. The concerts were attended by everyone from bank presidents and mainmen to construction workers. Everyone would come to hear the music and bring a dish to share for a potluck meal afterwards," said Gibson.

Lang Gibson died on Jan. 16, 2006, of an intestinal aneurysm.

LETTER FROM BEIJING

FROM PAGE 4

other. It was pleasantly very quiet other than motor noise along the streets.

Another notable aspect of Beijing that cannot be minimized is the air quality. Only one day of the five during my visit could I see anything beyond the immediate 2-3 blocks of buildings.

One morning it was clear and I was so excited to see the distant side of the city and ring of hills from my hotel view. What a great sight on a clear and sunny day. However, for the most part, it was hazy, overcast and hot. Smog was never discussed. It was not rated and people were not warned to be physically quiet as newscasters warn people in the USA — it just was not discussed. However as an ex-Los Angeles I have to say it was worse air quality and smog than any day I can remember trading up the hill to my dormitory at UCLA.

The temperature merits its own discussion. It was hot, very hot during my entire visit, with July temperatures in the mid-minutes. No one mentioned the heat index or dew point but I could surmise that it was almost as high as the recorded temperature.

It was just plain uncomfortable to be outdoors for any length of time. I could see the high-rise apartment buildings along the avenues with window air conditioning units hanging out the win-

dows and when I visited shops, offices and the local hospital. It is the quality of air conditioning we remember from the 1950's or perhaps electric fans moving warm air.

Speaking of fans, remember those decorative fans used in plays by Victorian women to be coy — those fold out fans are not for play in Beijing. The fan is a necessary for survival. It may be the only way to move the air to create some coolness on your sweaty brow to survive a tedious meeting. There is air conditioning in the Western hotels and fine restaurants and that is a source of refuge when you think you just cannot take the heat any longer.

A visit to any of the impressive tourist sites, the Lama Temple, The Forbidden City or The Summer Palace and raises one's awareness of new paint and spruced up grounds. Graffiti is gone, waste paper is swept up by hired street sweepers, and vagabonds are escorted from view.

The city is getting ready for the big show in August 2008. No beggars cluttered the entrances to public places nor did I notice street vendors or musicians. Little parks of green grass, flowers and trees are seen everywhere as a green relief in a jungle of tall buildings. Looking good is a national value whether it is a building or crowd behavior watching a soccer game.

Continued Page 12

HCA BUILDS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ON ROUTE 50 AS FIRST PHASE OF STONE SPRING MEDICAL CAMPUS

HCA Virginia plans to build a freestanding Emergency Department (ED) as the first step in the development of its Route 50 medical campus in Loudoun County.

The company also said it will ask county officials for a special exception application to permit the construction of a hospital and outpatient facility as part of a second phase of campus development.

"Our phased approach to Route 50 is designed to be responsive to Loudoun County's healthcare needs now and in the future," said Margaret Lewis, President of HCA's Reston-based Capital Division. "Phase one is a freestanding ED that will have a positive and immediate impact on thousands of families by providing them with access to emergency services. A hospital and an outpatient facility are planned for a second phase, which is focused on meeting long-term community needs."

HCA Virginia will name the site — the Stone Spring Medical Campus. The name is a composite of two nearby landmarks — the Stone Ridge residential development immediately across Route 50, and Gum Spring Road on the eastern part of the property.

The StoneSpring Emergency Department will be a 12,000-square-foot facility with eight treatment bays. The fully equipped facility will be staffed 24-hours a day by physicians, nurses and support personnel. Barring unexpected delays, the ED could open in early 2009.

Nationwide, HCA has significant experience operating freestanding EDs, with more than a dozen either in service or in development. The Stone Spring ED will be HCA's first in Virginia.

This model is very successful in meeting community needs, said Lewis. "Patients with relatively minor injuries can usually be treated more quickly at a freestanding ED than at a hospital. Those with serious problems can be stabilized and then transferred to the nearest appropriate hospital, such as Reston Hospital or Broadlands Regional Medical Center once it is built."



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EDITOR'S DESK

VIRTUE IS OUR NECESSITY

If Confucius was right, it takes gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness and kindness to constitute perfect virtue. If that is, indeed, the magic combination, we are all fortunate to live in such a virtuous place as Middleburg and the hunt county region of Virginia.

From the Piedmont Community Foundation to the Windy Hill Foundation, from Nantux's Walk to Foxcroft School's blood drive and Hill School's environmental initiatives, one need only read this issue of The Eccentric to realize how tightly the fabric of our community is woven to protect, support and help each other.

Whether it is the Ladies Board of Inova Loudoun Hospital helping to provide medical services and ensuring that women with a generous spirit like Edith Easta are remembered; or the entire community coming to the rapid rescue of the flooded residents of Livelyville Village; or the selfless volunteers of Loudoun Interfaith Relief who, with the help of leading county businesses, ensure that 180 local families eat well each month, there is absolutely no question that the spirits of gravity, generosity, sincerity, earnestness and kindness are alive and well in Loudoun.

It takes a brave and heroic individual to turn terrible personal loss into a tremendous gain for others, but those characteristics describe so many citizens in our area who are challenged by fate to make a difference and who recycle their grief and sadness into energy to improve the world for others.

We take our hats off to Middleburg Humane, the organizers of Nantux's Walk and the many, many individuals, businesses and organizations who take time to work on and invest in the many initiatives in our area that strive to do good and make a difference for those in need.

Your heroic actions set the tone for our community and set the standards by which we all hope to live.

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 letters via email: editor@mbec.com or P.O. Box 1768, Middleburg VA 20118

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to express my very deep concern regarding a recent so-called "problem" within the town limits: flocks of birds that members of our community find so disturbing.

My first awareness came about 5 weeks ago when I noticed my neighbors hastily removing a majority of the leaves and crowns from 2-4 Maple trees measuring 4 feet in diameter and over 100 years old. I was shocked because to do such a thing in a period of terrible drought (our worst in years) could certainly cause the demise of the trees, if not their death within several years. Apparently no thought was given to our tree ordinance that allows for protection of any tree 2 ft. in diameter or more.

The very important aspect of tree mass, especially in a warming global trend, does not appear to be well known or respected. In fact, scientifically, it is fact that trees are giant air conditioners and air cleaners, necessary to say, all trees increase the air quality in towns and consequently support the health of the community.

When I inquired about the logic of the tree pruning

I was informed that it was done to eliminate flocks "of starlings that were roosting in them". I am still trying to find these flocks that have caused such hysterical approaches to landscaping. While contemplating all of this I decided to walk around Ridgeway looking for birds and large amounts of bird dung. (Neither was found). Instead I found myself in the middle of a shoot-out or as it turned out, an unannounced attempt to shoot rocks in the air to frighten off the flocks of birds.

At this point in time it started to occur to me that some sort of community hysterical behavior was developing and an explanation was required and expected.

I would never be so foolish as to expect all of the community members to be as awed by nature as I am, however there are a great deal of people in this town that do feel as I do and at the very least attempt to live in harmony with the natural world.

With some research I was able to determine the following: for consideration by all town members and the Town Council:

1. In the fall, migrating birds flock and move about in what is understood as "of breeding behavior". The activity kills the weak and old birds and reduces the flocks often as much as 50%.
2. It is an accepted fact that the beginning of the winter season, and usually ceases by winter's end.
3. It is known and published fact that noise, percussion devices and the like, do nothing to stop such behavior.
4. Histoplasmosis is caused by contact with bird dung in a mild form of pulmonary discomfort that once exposed creates immunity. According to the CDC 80% of the adult population in this country have antibodies protecting them (indicating a previous exposure). Further medical intervention is rarely needed should infection occur. Those people with a compromised immune system are at most risk for a problem with exposure. It is generally understood that one is 20 times more likely to be infected with a tick in Loudoun County than here in Birds eat ticks and ticks are one of the few predators of ticks.
5. Starlings and other birds eat Japanese beetles, grubs,

ticks, fleas and mosquitoes. All of which are a problem in the area and a far greater threat to our collective health than birds.

5. It is an accepted fact that the beginning of the winter season, and usually ceases by winter's end.

In conclusion, I would request that if the town has presented itself as a bird sanctuary and tree town that the council use its wisdom to protect that status or at least proceed with caution when assessing problems regarding wild life, trees and the natural world within the town limits. Please be advised that I am not a biologist or a bird expert, but I am a concerned citizen.

I have forwarded your query to our construction department to make sure I have accurate information. The green school aspects of our current school models is being investigated by the Re-hab company and we do not have the results as yet from that.

My Randy Vlad will be replying directly to you or I will get back to you.

Thanks, Priscilla Godfrey

No reply has arrived from the Superintendent's office. Frankly, none is expected.

in the Blue Ridge District. The Blue Ridge District is a unique place and deserves a strong, independent advocate. John realizes that the School Board's mission is to lead, not follow the administration. His thoughtful ideas about "green" design of schools, performance electronic learning, athletics with academic content, minority access, and total involvement (school personnel, parents and students) in academic progress are several of things on which both sides of the aisle can agree -- and far surpasses anything the present Board has put forward.

John's campaign motto is "Do Your Homework" is an honest call to all of us to intelligently compare candidates and opt for a better choice. I especially urge my fellow Democrats to be bold and vote for John Feezel - Blue Ridge School Board Representative.

Terry Sharer, Ph.D. Waterford, VA

To the Editor:

Food me once shame on you. Twice? Shame on all of us. Like many others who are disappointed in the endless delays of the new high

school construction as well as the elementary school in Hamilton, the Blue Ridge school board representation is not good. I truly appreciate the concerns of many in terms of quality of life issues, language acquisition, and integration of recent immigrants. During the recent debate on undocumented immigrants and the services that Loudoun County can legally do to verify their legal presence in order to receive services.

This is not a time for name calling and baseless attacks. This is a time for serious discussion and careful consideration. Community based organizations, such as La Voz play an important role in this process, helping to ensure that every one's voice and opinions are heard. La Voz encourages all Loudoun residents to pay close attention to the developments around this issue, to be well informed, and to become part of a respectful community dialogue in an attempt to find the best possible solutions to these very complex problems.

Laun Velle La Voz of Loudoun www.lavozloudoun.org

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CLINTON SKEAK

KEN RIETZ - (R)

It didn't take long for Hillary Clinton to revert to the favorite theme she exposed as First Lady. She once again attacked what she calls the "vast right wing conspiracy."

We all remember where she laid the blame, for everything from her husband, President Clinton's impeachment, to the disappearance of her law firm's billing records, followed by her physician's appearance in the White House. According to her it was all part of the "vast right wing conspiracy."

So, on the campaign trail it came as no surprise for her to once again bring back her favorite theme when she told an audience that she was the best candidate to deal with the right wing conspiracy.

Her recent comments have also indicated that she will use the same kind of mysterious, sweeping language as her husband President Clinton, who when questioned said, "it depends on what the definition of 'it' is."

Then there is what she did not say. When the despicable MoveOn.org ran in the New York Times attacking General Petraeus, she was silent.

She has not been silent however, on the subject of Health Care, offering a proposal to Socialize our system. The very system that has failed in Europe and has Europeans coming to this country for the latest and best treatment in a timely manner.

When her proposal was criticized for requiring proof of health care in order to apply for a job, where most people expect to receive health care, she said that was a "DETAIL" he worked out by Congress. Of course, it was in Congress where she failed the first time she had a health care proposal.

We can expect more of this kind of rhetoric from Hillary during the campaign. The voters need to pay careful attention to what she says, doesn't say and may actually mean.

Ken Rietz, a resident of Delaplane, is a former Deputy Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

CLINTON SKEAK

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SCOTT YORK AND THE "GANG OF FIVE"

DAN MORROW - (D)

For those of you who've missed it, "The Gang of Five" is the none too affectionate nickname applied by the Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, Scott York, to five winning right-wing Republicans who began their disgraceful, discredited, mega-growth excuse for stewardship of the County following the last election, by stripping Scott York of his powers as Chairman.

York, it should be noted, is the only Supervisor elected "at large," by every voter in the County.

So far the "Gang" has managed to both embarrass themselves and their constituents.

Several are under investigation for corrupt practices. And to make matters worse, their sublime combination of incompetence and complacency, is made manifest in the national and international press, serving the fastest growing suburb, of the most powerful national capital, in all of human history.

York, a truly conservative Independent with whom we disagree on many issues, has fought a sometimes lonely rear-guard action against the "Gang." Jim Clem of Loudoun, Steve Snow of Dulles; Bruce Tulloch of Potomac; Mick Stanton of Sugarland Run; and my personal candidate for most embar-

rassing Supervisor, Eugene Delagadio of Sterling (and, some say, Fairfax).

All of them are now whining about York's "unfair" characterization.

Soon they'll be whining about the voters who tossed them out of office.

Immigration

Kudos to Orton Libarkin, for "Two Cents Worth" op-ed in Leesburg Today, Vol. 19, No.42 Headlined "Premature Posturing."

Libarkin takes the Board of Supervisors to task for being led on a high board by Eugene Delagadio, and "poised to execute a dive... into a pool that has no water."

Supervisor Jim Burton, Democratic candidate for Supervisor, Kelly Bark, and Democratic candidate-for-sheriff, Mike George have all spoken out bravely and sensibly against Delagadio's fear and hate-mongering tactics.

Frankly, isn't it, that crime and unemployment are DOWN, in the County as a whole, and in Delagadio's Sterling in particular, despite large increases in population. Spanish speaking and otherwise.

Petraeus

And finally, a word about the occupation and the much-debated Petraeus "Report."

General Petraeus is not only a soldier and a graduate of West Point, he is a student of history, with a Ph.D., and an abiding interest in the theory and practice of his profession.

One of his favorite philosophies of the "Art of War" is Karl von Clausewitz, best known for his dictum that war is politics.

All generals are politicians. Four-star generals, by definition, must be very good at it.

David Petraeus assumed command of a force too small for the duties assigned it, caught up in a fight that can only be won by politicians... Iraqi politicians.

Like Longstreet at Gettysburg, or the newly appointed sales manager for a shoddy product that really shouldn't be sold, he failed, made a plan, moved into the field, and now does his best to keep his boss happy and his troops alive and motivated.

If he didn't think he could do the job, he wouldn't have taken it. And he's never failed before. And his bosses knew it all too well.

Like Colin Powell before him, he made a difficult, some would say impossible choice among the West Point triumvirate of values. Duty. Honor. Country.

It was, I fear, Petraeus who

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NEWS OF NOTE

YOUNG LEADERS LEARN ON THE JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND

Cate McKinnis Wyatt dedicated herself to the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Initiative when she realized the 175-mile region from Monticello to Gettysburg represented more American history than any other region in the country. When she hired Angela Stokes to be director of education programs, Cate began to build the foundation for a legacy of appreciation that only exists when generations of young people understand, are thoroughly engaged and feel responsible for an endeavor.

Stokes, a 13-year veteran of the Albemarle County Public School System where she was featured in a *Gifted Resource Teacher*, had been working with at-risk students and had been remarkably successful when she introduced them to authentic learning situations they could influence.

"We were worried that we were not doing enough for truly gifted students," Angela said. "We wanted to create a program for gifted students that encouraged civic responsibility and was based in the humanities."

"When I saw an article about the Journey Through Hallowed Ground, I explained Cate to see if they would partner with us. She was very enthusiastic about creating a program, and now, at the conclusion of our second summer program, I have the exciting opportunity to help students understand, take ownership and act on the history that surrounds us on the Journey."

Angela's goal meshed perfectly with the mission of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground.

"We want to partner with entrepreneurs, organizations and individuals who can derive economic or educational benefit from an association with us," Wyatt explained. "There are tremendous opportunities to work together in ways that support both preservation and economic development."

"By investing in our cultural heritage, we'll create attractive destinations that support the economies of every county in the four JTHG states that are our partners. By working together, we can elevate this amazing region to the world stage as a truly gifted discovery."

Formed ten years ago as a partnership of national, regional and grassroots organizations working collaboratively, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground partnership is focused on establishing this area as a land of leadership, a land of conflict and reformation and a place of national beauty and rural character.

Today, the initiative includes more than 150 national, regional and local partners and, from its offices above the post office in Waterford, Virginia, or Chesapeake Research, Awareness, Destination marketing and education outreach programs like the summer sessions directed by Angela Stokes.

"By being associated with JTHG, we were offered the opportunity to really customize and expand our program," Angela said. "For instance, we had amazing flexibility when we wanted to focus on characteristics of leadership. We worked closely with researchers who so accurately impersonate presidents, citizens and slaves that our students are totally captivated by the challenges faced by our founders who lived in this amazing historic heritage area."

Stokes believes that connecting students with authentic people whose lives reflect the difficulty and challenges of historic times helps them understand how to use their education to be better citizens in the 21st century.

Angela's determination to teach young people that they have ownership of and responsibility for this historic area as a powerful asset in the Journey's portfolio. And Cate understands precisely how important this is for the future of the organization.

"What Angela is creating with our education program is invaluable, and she's a tremendous visionary," Cate said proudly.

Stokes was at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics where Direc-



tack Hayden Ferry. Would you proceed without him if you were John Brown?"

Or... "I have limited time and supplies and cannot test everyone on this battlefield." What would you do if you were Clara Barton?

Once the challenges of leadership have been posed in a historic context, the students are expected to consider and propose how these situations and decision demands translate in the contemporary world.

"We expect them to create original videos and podcasts using photographs, videos and sound recordings captured on site with the iPods, video and digital cameras JTHG provides," Stokes explained.

"They use GarageBand software for special effects and original music, and the videos they create are truly spectacular."

The videos may be viewed at www.hallowedground.org.

Several student videos featured a quote from Clara Barton that they heard as they walked across the corn field at Antietam.

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Scott York is a proven, trustworthy leader who has vigorously defended Loudoun County's unique character, excellent schools and family-friendly neighborhoods. Since he became Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in 2000, Scott has skillfully balanced the need for economic development with the mandate to manage growth. He has helped bring jobs and commercial investment to Loudoun County and has consistently worked to limit the residential growth that clogs our roads, crowds our schools and burdens county services.

Scott has:

- ✓ Eliminated more than 80,000 planned residential units (1987 York Initiative)
- ✓ Fought against Developer CPAMs that added over 37,000 new houses
- ✓ Fought to require developers to pay more for new schools and roads
- ✓ Fought to bring Metro Rail to Loudoun
- ✓ Worked with Fairfax County and the local business community to bring the interchange improvements to I-66/28
- ✓ Continued to fight for a greater share of Virginia's transportation dollars to be spent in Loudoun County
- ✓ Worked for strong fiscal and land use policy that has earned Loudoun County a AAA bond rating
- ✓ Flourished new businesses including the flagship Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- ✓ Developed partnerships abroad to bring international businesses to Loudoun
- ✓ Defended Loudoun's public schools against budget cuts that would lower educational standards
- ✓ Honored the office of Chairman with integrity and accountability



Vote to save Loudoun on November 6th

"I'm proud of the progress we've made but there's still work to be done. We have supervisors on the Board who routinely take campaign contributions from residential developers and then vote favorably on their re-zoning applications. It's time to put a stop to unethical behavior and throw those scandals out. Sand Stedon, Delgaudio, Tullock, Clam and Snow packing. And replace them with dedicated, capable candidates who have earned your vote: Susan Buckley, Joanne West, Andrea McGinnis, Kelly Burk and Stevens Miller. Together, we can save Loudoun County for our families and our future. Please help us on November 6th. Vote to save Loudoun!"

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PASTIMES

GOING GREEN FOR GOOD HEALTH YOUR PERSONAL CHEF

ALYSON BROWETT

By now, we're all used to hearing about the things we can do to lessen our impact on the Earth and slow down global warming, but going green can be good for us as individuals as well.

With the days getting shorter and the nights getting cooler, we're heading into the fall harvest season, which means leafy greens — such as kale, collards, beet, and mustard — will be filling the shelves of the grocers and farmers' markets. The cooler the weather, the higher the sugar content in the leaves, and the plants are usually first resistant, meaning that the sweetest, most delectable kale and collard leaves are yet to come.

Don't cringe and turn your nose up just yet! Those of you who have only been exposed to frozen spinach or cooked too-long greens will be pleasantly surprised at the flavors of kale and collards. Adding to their unique earthy flavor is their unmatched nutritional value. The greens are high in calcium, B vitamins, vitamin C (although cooking may lessen the amount) and beta-carotene. In addition, they are perfect for those of us trying to lose or maintain weight, as they are very low in calories, fat and carbohydrates and contain high amounts of protein and dietary fiber.

Kale and collard greens differ little, with kale having curlier leaves and tougher stems. Both are near primitive forms of cabbage that humans have been devouring for more than 2,000 years. More recently developed relatives include the "decorative" cabbages we find on walkways with (and that are perfectly edible), head cabbages, Brussels sprouts, broccolis, and

cauliflower. All of these cabbages are versatile, able to be boiled, steamed, sautéed and sometimes roasted. Try some of these recipes on unsuspecting family members or guests — they (and you!) will want to go green more often!

Savory Kale and Roasted Garlic Cheesecake Serves 10-12 as an appetizer

This is a great recipe, in its base form, which can be very versatile. You can make it as is, in a large cheesecake pan, or in smaller or individual spring form pans, if available. You can also easily halve the recipe. If you have left over kale, you can freeze it in freezer bags — just ensure it's cool before you seal the bag. One tip: make sure you double or triple wash the kale. I usually have it in a sink full of water twice, then rinse it again, rubbing the leaves well, and spin it in the salad spinner before cooking.

Ingredients

1 cup ricotta cheese (8 ounces) — can substitute part skim ricotta
1 cup cream cheese (8 ounces) — can substitute Neufchâtel cream cheese (1/3 less fat)
12 cup goat cheese (4 ounces)
2 eggs

1 head roasted garlic (see recipe below)
12 teaspoon kosher salt
12 teaspoon fresh cracked pepper

1 bunch kale, washed and de-stemmed
Preheat the oven to 350°.

To blanch the kale, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. While boiling, place the kale in the water and push it down into the water so it's covered. Simmer the kale for about 6 minutes, until crisp tender ("al dente"). Remove the kale from the water and drain (a salad spinner works very well). When the kale is mostly drained, spread it out on a baking sheet covered in paper towels and place in the refrigerator to cool.

Meanwhile, wrap the outside of an 8" round spring form pan with two layers of heavily oiled aluminum foil. Put the spring form pan in a roasting pan.

Place the ricotta, cream cheese, and goat cheese in a food processor and pulse until evenly combined. Add the eggs, roasted garlic, salt and pepper and pulse again until the eggs are combined.

Remove the kale from the fridge. In several bunches, finely chop the kale. Measure out 12 cups of chopped kale. Place the measured kale in an approximately 12" x 12" piece of cheese cloth or a clean (but old) dish cloth, and ring it out over the sink in order to drain as much of the remaining water from the kale as possible. Place the drained kale in the processor and pulse just until mixed. Pour the mixture into the spring form pan.

Next, pour enough hot water into the roasting pan (being careful not to get any in the cheesecake mixture) to go halfway up the side of the spring form pan. Carefully place the roasting pan in the oven and bake the cheesecake until it is golden around the edges and moves slightly in the center when

spatula, or about 45 minutes. Remove the roasting pan from the oven, and move the spring form pan to a cooling rack for at least one hour. Refrigerate the cheesecake for at least 3 hours or up to 2 days. Garnish with parsley leaves and cherry tomato halves; serve with crackers (try the Star Ridge brand, available at Mello Out), sliced baguette or pita chips.

Roasted Garlic
1 head garlic
Fresh rosemary, thyme, sage, basil or parsley (whatever is on hand — not necessary)
14 teaspoons kosher salt
Fresh cracked pepper
112 tablespoons olive oil

Preheat the oven to 350°. To roast the garlic, place two approximately 8" x 8" sheets of heavily oiled aluminum foil on the counter, shiny side up. Drizzle some of the olive oil on the top sheet, place the garlic head on the oil and drizzle more of the oil over it. Sprinkle the head with salt and pepper. Place the whole herbs on top of the garlic. Carefully wrap the garlic and herbs in the first sheet of foil, seal the seams tightly and being careful not to poke any holes in the edges. Wrap that package in the second sheet of foil, again sealing the seams tightly. Place the foil packet on a baking sheet and bake for about 45 minutes. Let the garlic cool for at least 15 minutes before unwrapping it. Be careful not to burn yourself on the steam! Gently squeeze the cooked garlic cloves from their coverings. (This is also delicious spread on toasted bread or stirred into soups.)

Spanish Tapas-Style Collard Greens with Toasted Almonds
Serves 4-6 as a side dish

This is my version of a spinach dish that is traditionally served in Spain. You can omit either the garlic or the hot pepper, if desired. The dish is wonderful served with pork and a yummy starch side, such as creamy polenta or mashed potatoes. This dish turned my cooked-green-hating husband on to collards.

Over-Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Warm Bacon Vinaigrette and Breadcrumbs
Serves 4-6 as a side dish

This is a wonderful Fall accompaniment to grilled or roasted meats, such as beef, pork, venison or lamb. Get those people who think they hate



2 bunches collard greens, washed and de-stemmed
1 clove garlic, finely minced
12 cup olive or grapeseed oil
12 cup sliced almonds or pine nuts, lightly toasted
Salt and pepper to taste

Put a large pot of heavily salted water on the stove to boil. In a separate glass or plastic container, place the garlic and red pepper in the oil and let it sit while you're preparing the collards.

Take the cleaned collards and julienne the leaves, or cut them into strips. The easiest way to do this is to stack several leaves on top of one another, roll them up lengthwise and start cutting about 1/2 inch strips across the leaves, moving from one end to the other. When the water has come to a boil, place all the collards in the water, pushing down so they are all submerged. Cook the collards for about 8-10 minutes, or until the bitterness is lessened and the leaves are more tender. (Cooking time will depend on the age of your leaves — the younger and smaller leaves will not need as much time as the older, larger leaves). Drain the leaves and run them under cold water to stop the cooking. If available, spin the collards in a salad spinner in several batches. This step can be done ahead of time and the collards refrigerated at this point.

To finish, heat the garlic chili oil in a pan over medium high heat. Add the collards and sauté for 2-3 minutes, just until heated through. Add the nuts and salt and pepper to taste.

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Continued Page 24

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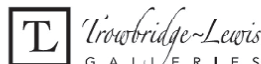
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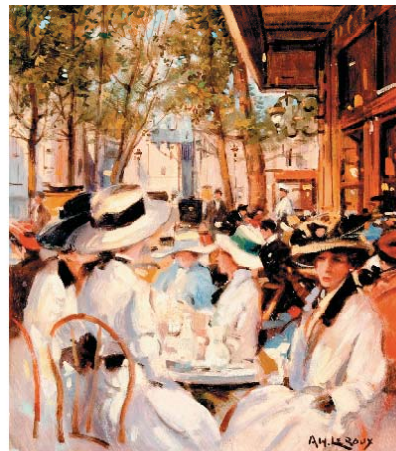
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PASTIMES

TIME TO WORK THE IRIS

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

The time to work with various iris is upon us and there is no better time. Bearded iris require division every 4 to 5 years and are greatly enhanced once split into healthy roots or fans. Both Siberian and Japanese iris seem to prefer spring division but can also be dealt with now. Siberian iris form dense colonies of rhizomes which are very woody, requiring a lot more digging and cutting as well as sharper tools. For this reason experienced gardeners

have chosen spring to conquer and divide Siberian iris. Winter's freeze and thaw cycles usually soften the roots. When working with iris early in the year, do so before the foliage reaches 6 inches in height. The Japanese iris or iris ensata are very obliging and easily divided, their roots are softer, more fleshy. They can be divided spring or fall just remember to follow the same rules with foliage height.

As for bearded iris, now is the time. If your clumps have produced fewer flowers and have been left undivided for 5 years or more, there

is no reason to wait. Tools for the job include a shovel, good clippers and a large bucket filled with 90% water to a 10% Clorox solution. I prefer to lift the clumps in large pieces and inspect the roots for soft rot and iris borer. I pry and prod the rhizomes, sometimes using a small twig to open up soft spots and allow the cavities to dry out. Borer are common in bearded iris and are remarkably large. Many of you have devised methods of dealing with slugs. I say proceed there with your borer, no need to share the juicy details. The best sections



of the iris are the newer roots, after digging a few clumps you will notice that many have a network of very woody older rhizomes. The task at hand is to separate the young, more pliable rhizomes from the derelict older roots and replant just those. The top of the rhizome prefers to rest at or just below the soil surface and you do not want to match over the top of the rhizome. Bearded iris prefer to grow south (as do others) and it helps to face the fan towards the south with the rhizome behind. Every piece must have an active growing tip with some foliage at the end of the rhizome. Before you reset your new roots, break up the soil in the bed, add amendments (like compost) and soak your fresh divisions in your water/Clorox solution. This will clear up any remaining soft rot. Tamp your soil down around your newly placed roots which can be placed 1 to 2 feet apart. The foliage can be cut back at this point, new leaves will arrive on new growth tips shortly. To avoid borers in the future, always cut back the foliage of bearded iris in fall and compost them or put them in your trash. The moths then grow into the larvae lay their eggs on the leaves in fall. Gardeners are frequently left with far too many roots to put back in the same spot. For a brief (or not so brief) moment you may consider getting into the iris business. Go for it, I say!

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PASTIMES

ART - AN INVESTMENT?

ADRIENNE LEWIS

Customers often ask me if the art they are buying will go up in value. Any honest dealer will tell you that appreciation is not guaranteed, and just because prices have risen in the past doesn't mean your purchase will be worth a fortune later. This should sound like a familiar warning to any investor. "Past performance is no guarantee of future returns."

Although some people collect art solely for investment purposes, most experts agree that the best way to invest is to buy something you love. That way, whether it appreciates in value or not is immaterial; the pleasure of its company will be enough.

In general, there isn't much

specific information available on the valuation of contemporary art. In the absence of specific resale data, estimating the price of such artwork requires knowledge of the principal dealers or galleries representing the artist as well as an understanding of the general price structure of works by artists of a similar standing.

In contemporary art, the value of a piece is the amount of money someone is willing to spend to acquire it. It's based on a market value of the work of that artist and higher contemporary there is no test of time.

So if you are buying for investment, artists with a proven resale track record are like blue chip stocks and you need to build a collection just like you'd build a portfolio.

However, not too many people can

afford the level of diversity in artwork that you'd want in a stock portfolio, not to mention issues like insurance, maintenance and exhibit space.

But, you can always start an art collection, just for the fun of it. Whether you're collecting art for investment or fun, there are some things you want to keep in mind.

1. Visit local galleries, museums, auction houses and art schools. Find out what's out there and notice what catches your eye. Take classes to develop your eye. Select an area, a medium or a subject and focus on it.

2. "Knowledge is power" and it

collections are put together by art collectors with a true passion for their subjects.

4. Get to know the "artist next door." Work by regional artists may be in high demand.

5. Look for "diamonds in the rough." Check out work by artists studying with the finest teachers who haven't been discovered yet. Drawings and studies may be undervalued before an artist becomes famous, so you might get a real deal.

6. Look for the highest quality of art in the medium that interests you and buy the best you can afford. Beware of "bargains," and pay special attention to the condition of a piece. A worn or torn piece is not a bargain, regardless of price.

7. Do some trend spotting: an

artist or style that is not hot right now

just could be the next big thing. To identify an up and coming trend, pay attention to what second and third tier art museums are acquiring. Smaller museums with higher budgets may hit on a trend before others.

Art collections should be fluid, reflecting your changing tastes over time. This advice applies across all budget levels. And don't ignore young artists. Collecting the work of an unknown or emerging artist could lead you to the next superstar in the art world - or a lovely work that will simply grace your home for years to come.

Do other coaches cheer? Most likely, yes. Little kids encouraged, from the youngest of ages, that winning is the best medicine, that second place is just the first loser, that a foul isn't a foul unless you get caught? Way too often, Has cheating become so integral a part of sports that we actually encourage "good" cheating? You bet. None of that changes that what Belichick was caught orchestrating a few weeks ago against the Jets casts a pall over every Super Bowl the Patriots have won.

San Diego has a problem. De-

pending on which way the wind is blowing and how bad the stink in San Diego may well have a BIG problem. LaDainian Tomlinson, the Chargers' all-world back, has 130 rushing yards on the season. That's a below-average GAME for LT. To be stuck there over THREE games is hard to believe.

Now he and Philip Rivers are sniping at each other on the sidelines during the game, and the runnings in San Diego have nothing to do with tectonic shifts. Marty ball may have been over too soon every year once the playoffs started, but people in SoCal are starting to wonder whether or not New "Why is head-coaching so much harder than coordinating?" Turner is really the guy to get the Bolts over the hump. Anything less than a spot in the AFC Championship game will be considered the thinnest of failures for San Diego.

The Steelers look good. Really good. Day a little deeper, though, and you'll notice the records of the teams they've beaten so far add up to a somewhat less stellar 3-4. And two of those opponents' wins belong to the others who had the luxury of playing St. Louis and Arizona over the first couple of weeks, two teams who've proven they're not quite ready for prime time just yet. Regardless, I like the swagger Mike Tomlin has brought back to the Steel City. Roethlisberger looks like he's put last year behind him and might be throwing the ball better than ever. It'll be interesting to see what happens when their schedule stiffens up a bit.

I'm hoping that New Orleans gets well against the Titans. The only thing sadder than a perpetual doormat is watching a team convince themselves they really ARE a perpetual doormat. They're a better team than they're showing so far this year, but a

LETTER FROM BEIJING FROM PAGE 12

If you are among the lucky people to have a ticket to attend the Beijing games allow me to share with you some tips.

• Plan plenty of time to travel between venues due to the overwhelming number of cars and people.

• Try the food but not the water. Buy bottled water and stay hydrated in the very hot weather.

• Butter in the markets as the initial price will be high, set for the foreign tourist.

• Enjoy family style meals if you eat Chinese.

• Forego your craving for chocolate desserts, diet soda and fine wine.

• Air conditioning (as we know it) is only in the western offices/hotels, so dress accordingly.

• Purchase a fan, not just for coyness, you'll need it to move the stifling air.

• Have cash, RMB or yuan. Credit cards are only for hotels & tourist restaurants.

• Follow the rules carefully, rules are enforced and the locals are not risk takers.

• If you're a smoker, you're in luck, sharing a cigarette is seen as a sign of friendship.

• Read China Daily or watch CNN for world news to keep in touch with the outside world.

Beijing is a changing city. One has the impression Beijing wants to be on the world stage, that they want to attract tourists and are delighted to see their businesses grow. The Chinese are proud of their ancient heritage and loyal to their growing economy and government. They are impressed with power, position and size. And they understand the value of patience, service to others and living modestly.

The next time I'm in Beijing, I feel I will surely see a changed city that is no longer under construction.

Dr. Margaret New recently spent six days in Beijing as a delegate to the People's Republic of China and Mongolia. She is founder of The Middleburg Group offering coaching for leadership, career development and relationship building.



SHOOTING FROM THE LIP SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUTABACK

What were the Philadelphia Eagles wearing on Sunday? Holy My God, as a deer, old friend used to say. It looked like the Easter Bunny sicked in the equipment room! The best part? Given the absolute beat down the "Iggles" laid on the Lions this past Sunday, we just might get to see those costumes, wretched excuses for regalia in every respect, a couple more times this year...

Bill Belichick is a dirty, rotten scoundrel. Period, end of discussion. Do other coaches cheer? Most likely,

yes. Little kids encouraged, from the youngest of ages, that winning is the best medicine, that second place is just the first loser, that a foul isn't a foul unless you get caught? Way too often, Has cheating become so integral a part of sports that we actually encourage "good" cheating? You bet. None of that changes that what Belichick was caught orchestrating a few weeks ago against the Jets casts a pall over every Super Bowl the Patriots have won.

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I'm hoping that New Orleans gets well against the Titans. The only thing sadder than a perpetual doormat is watching a team convince themselves they really ARE a perpetual doormat. They're a better team than they're showing so far this year, but a

few more losses and I worry about the temptation to drink the Kool-Aid and pack it in. Letting Joe Horn, the visible heart and soul of the team, go to the Falcons in the off-season probably wasn't the best of moves.

The Texans are 2-1. Holy shankeys! I know, they only beat Kansas City and Carolina, but the played the Colts tight, and a non-stop schedule could see these outcasts improve to an impressive 4-2, or even more incredible 5-1, in a few weeks. Amazing what happens when your quarterback spends more time on his feet than on his rear end.

Nice to see Green Bay winning again. There's no quarterback more fun to watch run around the field like a Kinnin-deprived seven-year-old than Brett Favre after he throws a touch-down.

Lovie Smith has done a good, honorable job of standing beside his quarterback. It may be time to think about giving Rex a little bit of a sit-down, however. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on... Shame on... Shame on somebody else!

The Redskins are a mystery. I still think they should have lost to Philly,

but it looks like they caught 'em at the right time. The loss to New York was really a stinker, though. Three and outs to start the second half, a defense that finally broke instead of bent, your star running back sitting on the sideline at the most crucial period of the game, and a game ending series (1st and goal from the one!) that produced what all must add up to a particularly nasty taste in the mouths of "Skinn fans. At least they'll have an extra week to brush their teeth.

And last but not least, THIS is the guy Notre Dame chose to lead them out of the desert?!! If I were Tyrone

Willingham, I don't know if I'd be laughing to spit my shorts or crying myself to sleep. Charlie Weiss, a Belichick disciple, rode Willingham's recruits to a 10-year, \$40-million deal. Without those kids, check out the stinker he's laid in South Bend so far this season: worst record ever, and the team isn't even competitive. Yuck. If Weiss won't give back the money, he should at least write Willingham a thank you. Maybe send him a ham or something...

cud24@yahoo.com



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LUNGE LINE

NEW EQUINE MEDICAL CENTER FACULTY MEMBER TO FOCUS ON MOLECULAR RESEARCH



Dr. Jennifer G. Bartlett has joined Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center as an assistant professor of equine surgery. In this tenure track appointment, Bartlett will be utilizing the center's newly constructed molecular research lab and conducting investigations into tendon and ligament healing and repair.

She will also serve as a practicing surgeon at the hospital and as an instructor for the center's veterinary and graduate students.

"Dr. Bartlett is an expert in the area of tissue regeneration — specifically involving tendons, ligaments and cartilage — and will be contributing research in this area," said Dr. Nor White, Jim Ellis Student Professor and Director of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center. "We are pleased with the experience and enthusiasm that she brings to this new initiative and look forward to the discoveries that we can bring back to the hospital for direct application to these problems."

Prior to joining the equine medical center, Bartlett, who earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Cornell University and a PhD in molecular biology from Yale University, conducted a research in equine surgery at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She held a postdoctoral research position at the University of Wisconsin's Comparative Orthopedic Research Laboratory in Madison and completed a residency in equine medicine and surgery at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Ky.

Bartlett was honored in 2006 with both the American Association of Equine Practitioners Research Fellow Scholarship and the American College of Veterinary Surgeons' Research Presentation Award. Her work has been published in various peer-reviewed scientific publications including the Journal of Orthopaedic Research, the Journal of Internal Medicine and the Journal of Cell Biology, and she has lectured at several conferences including the University of Illinois and Yale University.

It is an exciting about this position because it gives me an opportunity to perform research and practice in an area where there is a high population of performance horses. It is a life-changing job right to the point, said Bartlett. "I will be using what is currently known in molecular biology to help equine tissue engineering techniques to help treat problems that are important to both horses and people, including tendon injuries and osteoarthritis."

Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center is a premier full-service equine hospital located in Lexington, Va., that offers advanced specialty care. One of the center's primary goals is to provide services for all ages and breeds of horses. One of the center's primary goals is to provide services for all ages and breeds of horses. One of the center's primary goals is to provide services for all ages and breeds of horses.

After completing an internship at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, the center's vision of equine specialists is committed to providing exceptional treatment to patients, superior service to clients and cutting-edge research to the equine industry.

TIMOTHY C. HANLEY FOX CHASE HORSE SHOW AWARDS \$12,000 CASH PRIZES

Fox Chase Farm, an event center in Middleburg, Va., announced the winners of the second annual Timothy C. Hanley Fox Chase Horse Show Series. The Hanley Memorial Horse Show Series is the first of its kind in Northern Virginia to award large cash prizes for low-level horse show competition.

Exhibitors and their horses competed in four out of the nine shows between January and September, 2007. Prize money was awarded to the overall highest point riders from first to sixth place, and to the top three trainers. Winners for the top rider awards were: 1st place overall rider Alvin Vainio from Century Manor Farm winning \$3,000, Piper Strassel from Sunnys Corner Farm was 2nd place this year winning \$2,000, and 3rd place was Jordan Hutchison from Misty Blue Farm winning \$1,000.

Fourth place went to Sunnys Corner Farm's Chelsea Beckner winning \$500. 5th place was Merry Point Farm's Mary Elizabeth Corliss winning \$200, and in 6th place was Sunnys Corner Farm's Carlee Snyder winning \$100.

What a great day for all the exhibitors and families," says Maryanne Hanley, Director of Fox Chase Farm. "We are thrilled to be in our second season with such a popular horse show series." Congratulations to all the winners for their countless hours of hard work and dedication to their sport and their horses!"

NAT WHITE SELECTED AS AAEP VICE PRESIDENT

Nat White, DVM, of Leesburg, Va., has been selected as the AAEP Vice President of the American Association of Equine Practitioners' next vice president. Dr. White will succeed to the AAEP presidency in 2010.

A board-certified surgeon and a renowned researcher, Dr. White is the Jim Ellis Student Professor and Director of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. He received his doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM) at Cornell University in 1971. After completing an internship and residency in surgery at the University of California-Davis, he spent a year in practice before graduating with a master of science in pathology at Kansas State University in 1976.

Dr. White has served on the AAEP and the profession in 2004 when he received the AAEP Distinguished Service Award.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners, headquartered in Lexington, Ky., was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. Currently, the AAEP reaches more than 5 million horse owners through its nearly 900 members worldwide and is actively involved in ethics issues, practice management, research and continuing education in the equine veterinary profession and horse industry.

JUNIOR FIELD MASTER CHASE ENTRIES

Once again, the International Gold Cup will feature the Junior Field Master Chase. Trophies will be presented to riders in divisions for small and large ponies and junior horses.

A long-standing Virginia tradition, the Junior Field Master Chase gives young riders a chance to demonstrate their riding skills before large crowds, an experience especially important to riders who may be planning to make a career of the sport. The chase, which is one time was strictly a flat race, has been modified to include 3' obstacles.

The Chase is open to junior riders on ponies or horses that are five-years-old and older and that have fairly limited

of with any lurching or bungle pack or pony club. Riders are to follow the Field Master at a hunting pace over a flagged course not to exceed two miles and to no less than one mile and one half with obstacles no more than three feet in height.

At a designated place, the Field Master will release the field to race for the finish. Riders must wear racing silks or appropriate hunting attire and a hard hat with chinstrap. The races are run at catch weights and riders cannot have reached their 18th birthday as of Jan. 1, 2007.

Participants must have the written consent of their parents to compete. There will be a \$500 award for the winning Hunt Club, Beagle Club or Pony Club.

HIDDEN HOLLOW HUNTERS TAKE CHARGE AT LEXINGTON

On Friday, September 28, Greg Ryan and Linden Wiseman will host a talk about the race with current and prospective junior field master chase participants at their home. The talk will begin at 6:30 pm and will take place at 2250 Pollock Hill Road, Middleburg, Va. Refreshments will be provided.

Participants should contact Mari on Champs to RSVP by emailing mchamps@aol.com or calling (540) 253-3521.

Entries will be accepted until Monday, October 15 by the Central Entry Office. For more information, call the Central Entry Office at 703-777-2575 or contact Jim Lawrence, race day coordinator, at 540-364-2420.



FALL EVENTS AT MIDDLEBURG'S MARE CENTER

Annual Thoroughbred Yearling Auction
The 16th Annual Thoroughbred Yearling Auction will take place Sunday, October 14, 2007 at Middleburg's MARE Center.

The MARE Center raises yearlings as a vital part of its research efforts to better understand the relationship between nutrition and healthy development in the growing horse, expected expectations in the mare, and optimal performance in the adult horse.

Sale day expectations start at 10:00 am, auction starts at 2:00 pm.

Interested parties should contact the Yearling Auction information, 5577 Sullivan's Mill Rd., Middleburg, Va. 20117. Phone: (540) 667-3521 ext 22. Email: dmcc@marecenter.com

Art and Equine Nutrition and Health Seminar
Horse owners and equine enthusiasts are invited to attend a practical and interactive seminar on Managing Healthy Growth and Development in Young Horses on Friday, October 19, 2007 at the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Middleburg, Va. MARE property has earned over \$2 million on the

stock. These animals have proven their versatility, whether by selection for speed or for versatility.

This year the MARE Center yearlings are being yielded with under the guidance of renowned horse trainer, Bud Keeler. Basic handling and groundwork will be covered in the yearlings should be well prepared for the best of their training.

For more information, contact the Yearling Auction information, 5577 Sullivan's Mill Rd., Middleburg, Va. 20117. Phone: (540) 667-3521 ext 22. Email: dmcc@marecenter.com

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Clearing the Air on Dominion Power

Dominion Power is the
20th largest polluter in the S&P 500.
If it were a country, Dominion would
rank ahead of the Czech Republic
in terms of pollution.

Dominion Power's proposed interstate line would transfer dirty, coal-fired electricity from Ohio, through Virginia, to Northeastern states. Some private property will be seized. Other property will be devalued without compensation. Every ratepayer will pay the cost for these environmentally damaging towers with increased electricity rates.

Dominion has continually refused to provide proof that we even need the electricity. According to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, power capacity in Virginia is "not a reliability concern at this time." In fact, Virginia will receive zero long-term benefits from the proposed line.

The power towers will bring more pollution to Virginia with electricity from the dirtiest, oldest plants in the nation. In 2005, Dominion's Chesterfield plant was named the biggest polluter in Virginia and two Dominion coal-fired facilities emitted the most toxic chemicals in the state of Massachusetts.

All of Virginia's future energy needs can be met through a comprehensive state energy plan that promotes the use of modern technology and energy efficiency.

Virginia doesn't need, doesn't want and can't afford these power towers.

1 MBEC 2007 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, page 41.
2 VA General Assembly (JAGC Report).
3 WVA Preliminary Environmental Cost Allocation Study/Update Presentation.
4 GWJ, 7/12/07.

**Tell Dominion
NO Power Towers**
www.EnergyPolicies.org

Virginians for Sensible Energy Policies Visit www.EnergyPolicies.org to learn more.

WWW.MBEC.COM



Longfield
Middleburg, Virginia

Built in 1986, stone house with slate and metal roof, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces, hardwood floors, and near Aqueducte services, new basement pool and cabana, and 5-car garage. 96.73 grossly rolling, mostly open acres with mountain views. \$3,900,000.



Old Oaks
Leesburg, Virginia

Classic restored Virginia home on 6.75 acres, minutes from Leesburg and Greenway. Home circa 1850 has been completely restored and shows beautifully. Close woodwork and detail. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, lovely formal hardwood gardens and care guest house. Beautiful setting. \$2,300,000.



Lanark Farm
Dalepark, 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, Strati Rosewood floors throughout the main and upper levels, and custom millwork. Huge finished basement, workout room, home office, lot of storage, views from every window. Property is bound by a bold creek and large mature trees. \$1,200,000.



Atoka Chase
Middleburg, Virginia

Impressive stone and frame home with a pond and 10 acres in Atoka Chase. Large first floor master suite, open contemporary design, great natural light, vaulted ceilings and a central stone fireplace. Extra rooms include an office, an enormous finished walkout basement with recreation room and fireplace, game room, exercise room and storage area. Great location, extensive plantings and a private setting. \$1,595,000.



Maefield
Middleburg, Virginia

16+ acres in Middleburg Elevated and rolling land with fabulous western views. Entire property is open and useable acreage. Quiet and private. Home with 4 fully finished levels, bright and open design further enhanced by new separate farm cottages. \$1,250,000.



Meadow View
Middleburg, Virginia

Minutes to Middleburg, protected location, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 5 fireplaces, screened rear porch. 3-trail barn with rack room, 10 usable acres, 4 paddocks, new fencing, 200x150 riding ring. Lovely gardens, private setting. \$1,150,000.



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 ponds 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. \$825,000.



Jeb Stuart Road
Philomont, Virginia

4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Colonial on 5.3 acres in Philomont. 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors on main level. Large room size, large basement, room for horses. \$595,000.



Lilly House
Middleburg, Virginia

Designer renovation just completed. Solid brick home features fine finishes such as the new metal roof, new windows, and HVAC, walk-out basement, extensive tile work throughout, crown and box wood molding, wood burning fireplace, kitchen floor, granite counters and stainless appliances. Two first floor bedrooms and spacious master suite on the second level with large walk-in closet. One acre lot is double fenced for pets and backs to farmland. \$549,000.



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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

THE TASTING ROOM OPENS TO RAVE REVIEWS IN MIDDLEBURG

Whether you wish a sip, a sample or a leisurely glass of the newest, rarest, most delicious wines, you can imagine, you'll want to stop by The Tasting Room, Middleburg's newest asset in the area's rapidly evolving reputation as a wine destination.

Managed by Sean Martin, the elegantly seductive space features an enomatic wine butter that protects each vintage and serves precisely the amount of tasty beverage the customer desires.

Rachel Martin, executive vice president of Boxwood Winery who helped design The Tasting Room is certain the Middleburg clientele will appreciate the new shop and the very modern service.

"Whether we're serving a Montrachet, a Marpaux or one of our Boxwood vintages, each glass served by the enomatic will be perfectly conditioned. We look forward to serving our local customers and wine aficionados from around the world."

The Tasting Room is open Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

POPULAR VIRGINIA YARN SHOP MOVES TO LARGER SPACE IN A SMALLER TOWN, THE PLAINS

Popular knitting yarn and needlework shop Hunt Country Yarns, a longtime favorite of stitchers in the region who want a wide product selection and knowledgeable sales assistance, has moved from Middleburg to a larger space in the nearby Fauquier County town of The Plains.

According to shop owner Bob Kelly, the well-known and distinctive "6 ft tall yarn guy" who has operated the business since 1997, "Our customers had been asking us to find a larger space for some time, and I'm glad to have found it in The Plains, which is such an attractive location for a store like ours."

"Our new space is light and bright, has lots of display area, a dedicated classroom, and a shady front porch so customers can sit and stitch and watch the town's small world go by."

"Tourists know The Plains is a great place to stop for lunch or dinner and a stroll. My existing customers, who come from Alexandria, Winchester, and Fairfax as well as the local hunt country, are thrilled to have on-street parking with no parking meters."

Hunt Country Yarns now has prime street-front space in a centrally located building in the heart of The Plains, at the intersection of Main Street (Route 55) and Old Tavern Road (Route 245).

Kelly jokes that if his customers didn't stop at the shop sign,



"they'd be on the front porch."

Hunt Country Yarns was founded in 1997 after store owner Kelly, who was taught to knit as a child by a maternal uncle, moved from California's San Francisco Bay area to the Virginia horse country.

"At that time," says Kelly, "there were no local yarn shops in the rural area, and we opened in a small space to see if local stitchers would respond."

Hunt Country Yarns has been buzzing with activity ever since. "People are sometimes surprised at first to see a man behind the counter in a yarn shop," Kelly adds, "but being able to offer quality stitching products and helpful knowledge is what really matters to them. Our store's goal is to share our enthusiasm and to support our

customers' creativity, whether it's in knitting, needlework, or spinning. The yarn is the medium, and the fun is the message."

By carrying both basic and designer yarns at a variety of price points, as well as needlepoint canvases and threads, and by being willing to special order from its vendors, Hunt Country Yarns has gained a reputation for being "the place to find what you're looking for" in the knitting community.

"Good wool never goes out of style, and the store offers that and more," Kelly promises. He says the shop will include even more special surprises from some of his favorite suppliers in the coming months.

"As soon as fall is in the air," according to Kelly, "a knitter's fingers start to twitch. We have what they're looking for."

JAMES R. TREPTOW ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Middleburg Financial Corporation announced that James R. Treptow has been elected to its board of directors and to the board of its subsidiary, Middleburg Bank. Mr. Treptow is Chairman and CEO of Magellan Resources Group, a Chantilly, Virginia company engaged in the development, ownership and operation of alternative energy projects.

"We are excited to have Jim Treptow join our Board," said Joe Boling, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Middleburg Financial Corporation. "Jim is a highly successful executive with a long track record of creating and running profitable companies. His business acumen and leadership skills will be a valuable addition to our board."

Treptow and his family have resided in Fauquier County since 1983. He has served on the boards of The Hill School and Wakefield



School, The Upperville Horse Show and The Goose Creek Association. He received a BBA degree in industrial management from the University of Texas at Austin.

CINDY POLK JOINS LONG & FOSTER MIDDLEBURG

Michele Stevens, Branch Manager for the Long & Foster Middleburg Office, is proud to announce that Cindy Polk has been named Top Producer for July 2007 with over \$4 million in sales.

Cindy Polk is a long time resident of Middleburg, having attended Hill School, Potomac School and The University of Virginia. Cindy specializes in horse properties and country homes. Her high ethical standards and hard work have made Cindy a top producing Realtor with the majority of her business based on repeat clients and referrals.



SCOTT BUZZELLI NAMED TOP PRODUCER

Michele Stevens, Branch Manager for the Long & Foster Middleburg Office, is proud to announce that Scott Buzzelli has been named Top Producer for August 2007 with nearly \$2 million in sales.

Scott Buzzelli has been active in real estate in Northern Virginia for the past 12 years - beginning his real estate career as a land investor and small-scale developer. Mr. Buzzelli's real estate expertise extends to property development issues, financing strategies, and zoning and conservation policy - all subjects of interest to clients seeking homes and land in rural Western Loudoun County.

CORRECTION

Cap. Gerald Coffee (ret.) served in the United States Navy, not the United States Air Force as was reported in the September issue.

WEDDING BELLS ARE RINGING AT OATLANDS BRIDAL GOWNS ON DISPLAY & MANSION OPEN FOR HOLIDAY WEDDINGS

Oatlands has long been known as an exquisite site for weddings. From the lovely gardens to the historic Oatlands mansion to the Carriage House, brides and wedding parties have discovered that Oatlands is the perfect setting for breathtaking wedding photos and the exchanging of vows. Now, from November 16 to December 30, Oatlands is offering a rare opportunity for small wedding parties of 40, or fewer, guests to hold their wedding and/or reception inside the

Oatlands mansion. "This is a gorgeous venue for a small wedding party and will make a truly unique wedding," states Katherine Farley, Oatlands events manager. "The house will be spectacularly decorated for the holidays."

In addition, Oatlands has just opened a display of wedding gowns in the northeast bedroom of the mansion. Four of the gowns were recently donated to Oatlands and include a satin and beaded gown from the 1930s; a high-

necked organza gown from the late 1960s; a lacy Priscilla of Boston gown from the early 1970s; the fifth gown on display belonged to Margaret Eustis Finley, one of the two women who donated Oatlands to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This exhibit offers a great glimpse into the ever changing wedding styles," states Elizabeth Simon, manager of Oatlands collections.

The gowns are on display through November 16.

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LAUTEN CONSTRUCTION GOING GREEN

Robert Lauten, President of Lauten Construction Co., in Purcellville, attended a 2-day Green Building for Building Professionals Seminar sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders on August 18 and 19th, 2007. The course covered the NAHB's Model Green Home Building Guidelines, recently adopted by NVBIA as the industry's formal green building program.

The class focused on how green homes provide buyers lower maintenance, better indoor air quality and better long-term value. Techniques also discussed were competitively differentiating your home products with increased indoor environmental quality as well as energy and resource efficiency.

For more information contact us at 540-338-5341 or www.lautenconstruction.com.

NANETTE AND CHERYL FROM PAGE 1

"We were so pleased when they decided to name the breast walk after my mom," Lizanne said. "She was a great lady, everyone who knew her loved her, and she fought her breast cancer so valiantly."

With the help of Karen and Patricia Jarvis who chair the fund, the organization put a remarkable tribute to Nanette and Cheryl by raising over \$50,000 during their first annual walk.

Some of the funds were used to bring digital mammogram equipment to Middleburg to schedule these high-resolution mammograms to 20 women from the area at absolutely no cost. These mammograms are essential for women who have what are called "dense breasts" and cannot be effectively screened for breast cancer using traditional mammogram equipment.

"Giving these digital screenings was a perfect kick-off to our 'Don't Be Dense' campaign to educate women in

our area about the importance of understanding how many ways there are to find tumors," said Jarvis. "We're determined that women in our area will be well educated, confident and well-informed about their risks and their status."

Well known and widely respected as a civic leader, Nanette would have been proud and intensely grateful to everyone who participated in the walk that honors her according to her daughter.

"The last time I talked to Nanette," said the John Cook, her friend and doctor, she was comforting me. "It was a good fight, she said."

If she had questions about the value of her valiant fight with breast cancer, one could wonder now. With the untimely success of the first Nanette & Cheryl Blossom Breast Cancer Fund as well as its way to achieving the long-term goal of raising \$200,000 to help local families in their struggle with the complex disease and to contribute to

MURMURATION FROM PAGE 1

Middleburg in many years.

Fearing for the lives of the trees, and noting that large trees enjoy legal protection in Middleburg, Bolton said she was disappointed that it was being done to eliminate "flocks of Starlings that were roosting in them."

While searching in vain for the Starling masses, or masses, Bolton said she found herself "in the middle" of what she thought was a "shoot-out." Instead, she continued, it turned out to be "an unannounced attempt to shoot rockets in the air to frighten off the flocks of birds."

Gundorf?

Middleburg's Sue Lyman told council she had encountered a similar episode while she and her son were walking her dogs. Mother, son, and dogs, she said, were startled by what she first believed were the explosion of old fireworks, left over from the 4th of July. Later, she said, "she learned that the sound more likely resulted from the shootings of starlings on the rooftops of buildings."

"I became even more concerned," she reported, "when she was told that the shooting was 'done by the police under instructions from the Town Council.'"

Chief Webber

By the time Middleburg's Police Chief, Steve Webber, rose to speak to the issue, citizens and Council Members had spoken at some length about the evolution—any roots of the annual flocking roosts, the dangers and inconvenience of starling droppings, the need for warning citizens before setting off explosions, the town's tree-protection ordinances, gun laws, avian flu, the insect-eat-

ing capacity of Starlings, and the town's legal responsibilities, or lack of them, as a "bird sanctuary."

(One of the session's high points for the history-minded was Council Member Townwide Liddell's story of the bird-savvy declaration, enacted, he thought, some time after World War II, in an effort to discourage avid dove hunters from double-barreled hot pursuit of their prey from nearby cornfields into streets of the town.)

Chief Webber, it appears, is not only a veteran Marine and law enforcement officer, but a veteran of the Leesburg Police Department's decades-long, ongoing, and internationally reported effort to drive off annoying flocks of ravens from their favorite roosting places in the County Seat.

Because of his experience with the Leesburg ravine problem, Webber said he was well aware of legal restrictions, federal and state guidelines, and the practical impact of any number of approaches to getting flocks of annoying birds to "move along."

"Search and Annoy"

Webber quietly assured all those attending the meeting that no Middleburg Police officer had ever fired on Starlings, or had ever been ordered to fire on Starlings, by the Town Staff, by any member of the Town Council, or by him.

All his officers, Webber said, had been alerted to be on watch for annoyingly large flocks of Starlings, or other birds roosting in their trunks of their police cars, motorcycles, similar to truck, meter-starter pistols, meeting all

Federal standards for the humane displacement of the glossy-winged creatures.

Mayor Betty Davis brought the lengthy, good-natured, but serious discussion to a close by ordering the Town staff to study the matter, and submit recommendations for review and approval by Council as soon as possible.

Many, if not all the civilians in attendance appeared to agree that by the time the studies were complete, the bulk of the town's Starlings may well have taken their business to a beach somewhere well south of Middleburg.

Council as part of its financial reform package. Meals-tax receipts through August were up nearly 51% compared to fiscal year 2006/2007. New revenue from cigarette taxes, roughly \$8,000 in just two months, also helped drive the Town's combined on-hand cash balances, as of the end of August, to nearly \$700,000.

The August cash balance, coupled with Salamander's prepayment of its water and sewer hook-up fees, put the Town in a strong enough cash position for Schiro to be able, for the first time in his tenure as Town Administrator, to confidently recommend the displacement of a part of the Town's on-hand, bill-and-salary-paying cash reserves "to higher interest bearing accounts."

The news brought smiles, and even a smattering of applause to the Council Chamber.

County Takeover of Town and Sewer System

As part of the response to the financial crisis that greeted his first months as Town Administrator, Jerry Schiro had recommended, and the Council approved, a study of the feasibility of having Loudoun County take over the day-to-day operations and administration of Middleburg's water and sewer department.

On Thursday, Schiro formally announced that the County had agreed to a one-year trial of the arrangement.

If the trial is successful, all current members of the Middleburg's water and sewer administration team will become County employees, the Town of Middleburg will save money, and water-and-sewer system

WATER MAIN BREAK FROM PAGE 6

With an ongoing drainage in hand by hand, the Snyder plumbers had the domestic water line temporarily repaired by early Monday afternoon.

By early afternoon, Patriot Development Company had the building footings exposed so they could be inspected. No damage to the foundation walls or footings was found. A simultaneous electrical inspection found no damage to the building electrical system.

All of the above information was presented to the Fire Marshal late Monday afternoon. He determined that, so long as there was no smoking in the building and a fire watch was continued until the building fire suppression system was repaired and tested, the building could be re-occupied.

At 5 PM Monday, 57 hours after the disaster (and only two nights away from home), all students re-occupied their homes.

Special Thanks and Commendations go to: FM Associates (Valeria Blakes, Vicky Collins, Dave Knudsen, and Lester Severn); Middleburg Volunteer Fire Department; Middleburg Water Department (Gary Gentry); Middleburg Police Department (Chief Steve Webber); Patriot Development Company; Geo Design (Mohammed Alsaikhan); Buy Partners (Dennis Mallon); Loudoun County Fire Marshal (Roger Wright); Loudoun County Building and Development Office (Vicki Tipling—Fire Protection Plan Review); Joe Boling, President of the Windy Hill Foundation said, "It is both reassuring and humbling to see how well things can still work in America when we all pull together as neighbors."

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ever join the school's Board of Directors. Charles joins a dedicated, community board to assist and support the PCCC since that, since 1984, has provided a diverse, consistent and safe learning environment that nurtures and enhances the unique development of nearly 80 children.

Alice Duggan, Director of PCCC, and Missy Ross, the "Blue Room" Teacher, have been at PCCC since the school's doors first opened and were there to welcome "little" Charles when he first enrolled.

"It's such a pleasure to come back to Piedmont to assist as a Board member," says Charles. "Piedmont's location has changed and the school has grown, but the same people, Alice and Missy, along with a bigger staff, continue to foster Piedmont's unique values and beliefs. Piedmont is truly a special place for the simple reason that its teachers firmly believe that every moment in the development of the child is a teachable moment. I am excited about helping the school continue to pursue its mission."

For further information, please visit www.piedmontchildcare.org.

Recently, Piedmont Child Care Center announced with great pleasure that Charles Ellison of Millwood, a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley, has become the first such "graduate" to

FOXCROFT STAR TO PLAY BIG 10 FIELD HOCKEY

Foxcroft School senior standout Chelsey Coil of Middleburg, VA, has made a verbal commitment to accept an athletic scholarship to play field hockey next year at Michigan State University, director of College Counseling Paul Horgan Wednesday.

Coil, who is co-captain and a four-year veteran member of Foxcroft's very successful field hockey team, was named Loudoun Extra Field Hockey Player of the Year and Second Team All-Met last fall by the Washington Post. She also earned All-Independent School League honors from the coaches of that prestigious Washington, D.C.-area conference after she scored nine of Foxcroft's 22 goals and added four assists to help the team to a 9-5-2 record.

A three-sport athlete, Coil is a quick, versatile player and was recruited by a number of Division I universities, including Kent State University where her older sister, Jessi (Foxcroft Key of 2006), has been a key player for the past two falls. The girls are the daughters of Bruce and Nan Coil of Middleburg.

Michigan State has one of the top field hockey programs in the country. The signal was ranked fourth nationally after getting off to a 6-0 record to start this year.

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FOXCROFT HOSTS DAY FESTIVALS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

What is a typical day at Foxcroft School really like? Prospective students also get an opportunity to ask questions at a no-adults-allowed student panel. Parents attend Morning Meeting, a panel with Foxcroft administrators and teachers. Tours of the campus and interviews are held for both student and parents. A stable visit is available for those interested in Foxcroft's outstanding riding program.

In addition to Oct. 10, festivals will be held Friday, Nov. 2; Friday, Dec. 7; and Monday, Jan. 14. Interested families are urged to visit www.foxcroft.org to make a reservation. Space is limited and is only available to students planning to apply for the 2007-08 academic year. For those who cannot attend any of these festivals, individual visits may be arranged.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY SOCCER TEAM REACHES SEMI-FINALS

Notre Dame's Academy Soccer reached the semi-finals at the Virginia Episcopal 7th annual 7 Hills Tournament.

The Dragons bested Carlisle

2-0 to reach the semi-final round before they lost a tough match to a determined North Cross Academy 9-1.

Two Notre Dame Academy Players were honored: Seniors Joe

Peluso and Bung Ju Lee were selected to the All-Tournament Team for their outstanding play. During the tournament, Peluso notched his 6th goal of the season, while Lee connected on his second.

NEW 4-H PROGRAM IN HILLSBORO

The Thomas and Evelyn Orme Learning Center (TEOLC) located at 14001 Harpers Ferry Road (Route 671) on Grandale Farm is sponsoring the formation of a 4-H Community Club in the Hillsboro-Norfolk-Loudoun Heights area. The club will be called the Hillsboro Community Club. Thomas Orme will serve as one of the adult leaders and a second adult leader is

being sought. The club will meet monthly in the Assembly Hall of Grandale Farm Restaurant with dues set at \$60/year. An organizational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27 at 7:30 pm. The first meeting of the club will take place on Tuesday, October 23 at 7:30 pm. The club will support all project areas offered to individual members using 4-H materials provided by the County Extension Service. Three project areas will be promoted as specialties of TEOLC. They include County Cooking for Kids, Marine Biology and Photography.

If you are interested in joining the Hillsboro 4-H Club please plan to attend the organizational meeting on September 27 or send an email describing your interest to tom@grandalefarm.com.

FOXCROFT DAY STUDENTS' BLOOD DRIVE

Every two seconds someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion. One day, it could very easily be you or someone you know! That's one of the many reasons Foxcroft School's Day Students sponsor three blood drives each school year. The first will

take place Monday, October 15. Day Student leaders Gailie Dumont and Lauren Finckler invite you to participate. One day, it could very easily be you or someone you know! That's one of the many reasons Foxcroft School's Day Students sponsor three blood drives each school year. The first will

welcome them to Foxcroft's Schoolhouse from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on October 15. Giving Blood takes less than an hour, especially when you make an appointment -- by calling 540-687-4322 or emailing Diamond@foxcroft.org.



ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, MR. ED HOFFMAN, PRINCIPAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANNOUNCED THE WINNER OF THE PTO SPONSORED ART COMPETITION. THE WINNERS OF THE ART COMPETITION WILL HAVE THEIR DRAWINGS PUBLISHED IN THE PTO SPONSORED STUDENT DIRECTORY. THE COMPETITION INCLUDED TWO GROUPS (ARTIST'S CHOICE AND 3RD GRADE - 5TH GRADE). EACH GROUP HAD A WINNER AND A RUNNER-UP. THE 3RD-5TH GRADE WINNER AND RUNNER-UP EACH WON A COLLECTION OF 5 STATEROID SQUARES AND A PIGGY BANK FROM THE FAUXHIER BANK. THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNER AND RUNNER-UP EACH WON A GIFT CERTIFICATE TO OUR LOCAL COASTLINE CREAMERY AND JERRY'S SUBS & PIZZA. RESPECTIVELY, THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNER IS EMMA WIRING AND THE RUNNER-UP IS MADISON TWYER. THE 3RD-5TH GRADE WINNER IS KATY TORRETT AND THE RUNNER-UP IS SYDNEY BAKER. ALSO IN THE PICTURE ARE PRINCIPAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MR. ED HOFFMAN AND PRESIDENT OF THE PTO, CAMERON GARCIA.



MRS. CAMERON GALLAGHER, THE 1ST GRADE TEACHER AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON RECEIVED THE ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST AWARD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH DURING THE FIRST PRINCIPALS RECEPTION OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. MR. ED HOFFMAN, PRINCIPAL OF ST. JOHN, PRESENTED THE AWARD TO MRS. GALLAGHER, IN RECOGNITION OF HER 32 YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE STUDENTS OF ST. JOHN, IN FRONT OF MANY OF THE SCHOOL'S FACULTY, STAFF, PTO AND PARENTS.

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PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD AND KIM SHELLEY



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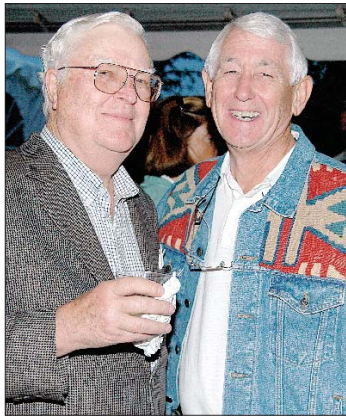
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MIDDLEBURG VA, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007
PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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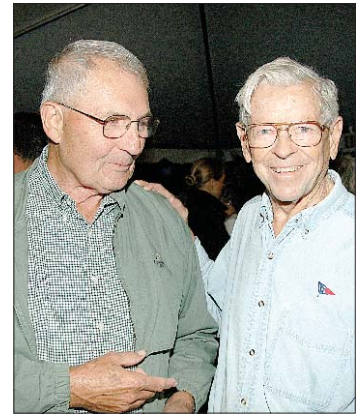
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VICTOR DUPONT AND LANG WASHBURN



SANDY ATKINS, DICK STOKES, ELLEN WATERMAN, JIM ATKINS, BARBARA AUGENBLICK AND JIM WILSON



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THING TO DO

SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK

Saturday, October 6
 Civilians in the Civil War between 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Watch and talk with history interpreters of the Frederick Ladies' Relief Society as they portray rural civilian life during the Civil War.

Sunday, October 7
 Civilians in the Civil War between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. (See October 6)

Saturday, October 13
 Music on the Porch from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Join guitar and fiddle duo, Kitchen Gnomes, as they perform North American and European folk tunes on the porch of the log kitchen. Antennae for Everyone from 6:30 to 10:00 PM. If the sky is cloudy, the gates will close at 9:00 PM. (See September 8)

Saturday, October 20
 Fall Color Hike from 9:00 AM to noon. See beautiful vistas from one of the park's overlooks and learn why trees turn color. Bring water and wear hiking boots and windproof jacket for this moderate-to-difficult hike. (Approx. 3 miles)

Saturday, October 27
 Music in the Parlor from 10:00 to 1:00 PM. Join Madeline MacNeil as she sings and performs Early American and Celtic tunes on hammered and mountain dulcimers.

Life on the Farm from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Watch as history comes to life and join our volunteers as they make candles and continue to restore our antique horse tack.

Sunday, October 28
 Full Moon Walk from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Join Ranger Warren to hike up to the Piedmont Overlook as the moon rises. Listen for evening wildlife and hear some "ghost stories" from the Civil War era. Wear sturdy shoes and a wind-proof jacket.

Mount Black Horse Tours
 The Mount Black Horse was the home of the Settle family before and during the Civil War. On 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.

GRACE CHURCH CONCERT SERIES HOSTS WINNING SEASON

The 2007-2008 concert season at Grace Church in The Plains looks like a real winner. Now in its second year as a subscription series, the popular venue has scheduled a lineup of world-class artists. All events are ticketed; after subscriptions have been filled, tickets for single concerts will go on sale after September 28 as available. Concertgoers are encouraged to make reservations early as seating is limited and these dates will likely sell out quickly with performances from The Cattle Trio, The King's Singers, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and a wonderful family concert.

Off to an early start on Sunday, October 21 at 5 PM, the series welcomes The Cattle Trio, the Smithsonian Institution's trio-in-residence. Since 1984 the ensemble has pleased audiences internationally with a repertoire that ranges from Haydn to Beethoven, historically appropriate instruments and performance practices. The Trio's capacity concerts are recorded for NPR and the BBC. In their critically acclaimed discography are the complete trios of Beethoven and works by Schubert, Dvorak, and Smetana. Violinist Marilyn McDonald, cellist Kenneth Slowik, and Grammy Award-winning pianist Lambert Ogden (playing a fortepiano by Thomas and Barbara Wolff) will present a program that includes Beethoven's "Ghost" and "Archduke" trios.

The second Family Concert of the series occurs Sunday, January 13 at 5 PM, when Humpert's Hamlet and Gretel will be performed by Bel Cantanti Opera. The English language version of this classic treatment of the Brothers Grimm story is a perfect chance for both children and adults to enjoy opera together. Accomplished young soloists, costumes and a staged production enhance the appealing music. Following soon after, on Saturday, February 9 at 5 PM, The King's Singers make an appearance in The Plains. For more than 35 years the group of six male vocalists has delighted listeners with incomparable musicmaking, charm and wit. Founded by six Choral Scholars from King's College, Cambridge, their engagements and recordings are in demand around the world. The Times

of London lauds them as "unmatched for their sheer musicality and ability to entertain." Please note the Saturday date made necessary by their touring schedule.

Spring brings the series to a close on Sunday, April 20 at 5 PM with an outdoor performance in a big tent on the church lawn by the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. They are a musical elite, keeping alive the authentic sounds and spirit of New Orleans jazz. Called "the best jazz band in the land" by the San Francisco Examiner, their high-energy, crowd-pleasing style is sure to make this a joyous event. All concerts are followed by sociable receptions allowing the audience to mingle with the artists.

Subscriptions for all four events are \$80; single tickets range from \$25-\$35, so the subscription offers a 30% savings. With each subscription, one free ticket for a child 12 or under will be available for the Family Concert. To receive a brochure or order tickets, contact Grace Church at P.O. Box 32, The Plains, VA 20158; call 540-253-5177 or visit the website at www.gracechurch.net. The series helps to support the music program at Grace Church, and is funded in part by Mrs. Jacqueline Marx in memory of her mother.

3RD ANNUAL TURKEY TROT IN PURCELLVILLE

In its third year, the Turkey Trot 5K and Fun Run has become a family tradition in the historic community of Purcellville, VA. Enjoy an autumn morning of trotting along the WACOD Trail and the quaint streets and rolling hills of town.

The special event with over 200 participants last year will be held on Saturday November 10 at 8:30 am to benefit the Loudoun Valley Community Center Advisory Board's efforts to provide local families the opportunity to send their children to preschool, camps as well as other education and recreation programs.

With the 5K race and the shorter fun run/walk afterwards, the whole family can participate in a fun, healthy activity to kick off the holiday season. Open to competitive runners and runners of all abilities, the race offers long-sleeved T-shirts to all registrants, overall and age group awards in the 5K, post-race refreshments, and random drawings for awesome prizes (overnight stay at Red Fox Inn, one-month membership to Stoneligh Golf & Country Club, gift certificates to local restaurants and so many more!)

The Turkey Trot 5K race route is a well-established, certified course with USAF (courtesy of the Purcellville Preservation Association). The course starts on 21st Street in Purcellville at Nichols Hardware Store with runners heading north. Runners then turn right onto First Road and make their way to the WACOD Trail via Maple Avenue. The finish line is at the Train Station on 21st Street. The race is well timed by Reston Runners for those in training and times will be posted on site after the race. Final results will also be posted on www.washingtonpost.com and at www.restonrunners.org.

The Fun Run is a shorter distance for kids and their families and will begin immediately following the 5K (around 9:30 am). There is no cost for this race but registration is recommended so that we can include the Fun Runners in our raffle drawings. Fun Runners will get an "official" runners bib, a discount on tee shirts and a special ribbon. Everyone's a winner in this race!

Registration for the 5K is \$25 (to avoid a late fee of \$5, register by October 31, 2007). You can also register online at www.sajmssports.com (Online registration closes at 4pm on Friday 11/9/07). Registration brochures are also available in Purcellville at the Town Hall, Magnolia's, Nichol's Hardware, Executive Cleaners, Purcellville Marketplace, Blackberry's Coffee Shop, Post Thyme Antique Store, Really Great Finds, Purcellville Grille, Reflections Hair Salon, Olympus Fitness Center, Trails End, the WACOD Trail and the library.

In Round Hill, brochures are available at the Town Hall, Stoneligh Golf & Country Club, Hill High Country Store, Wochert Realty, Savone Fine and at temporary location of Loudoun Valley Community Center.

In Leesburg, you can pick up at Moe's Mexican Restaurant, Tuscora Mill, Ida Lee, Cold Stone Creamery and at Silk Road Afghan Restaurant and in Middleburg, at Red Fox Inn.

The race will be held rain or shine. For more information, contact us directly at pvturkeytrot@hotmail.com.

Saturday, September 29

"DIRTY WORK" ON VIEW AT ROUND HILL ARTS CENTER

For those who love to play with mud, being a clay artist is the ultimate job. Nine Loudoun artists who have pursued their passion for clay are exhibiting their work now through October 27th at Round Hill Arts Center in "Dirty Work: The Loudoun Ceramics Show". An artists reception will be held Saturday, September 29th from 4-6pm.

The artists' work represents a broad spectrum of styles and techniques, but all created by Loudoun County artists who work primarily with some form of clay. Lovettsville sculptor Jeff Hall portrays the human figure with both form



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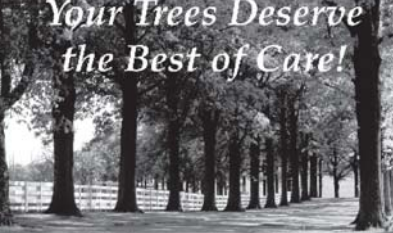
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Casino Night



The Middleburg Community Center INVITES YOU TO OUR 9th ANNUAL Casino Night, **Saturday, October 20**

10:20

TIME: 7:00-10:00 p.m.
 PLACE: Middleburg Community Center
 COST: \$50.00 per person
 SERVING: Light Fare, Beer & Wine
 PLAY: Black Jack, Craps, Texas Hold'em, Home Racing, Casino War
 WIN: Chinese Raffle Prizes
 1st - 4th: Panasonic HD Plasma TV
 2nd - Sony Handycam, DUALVIEW 108
 3rd - Olympus SP1000 Digital Camera

MAIL CHECKS TO: The Middleburg Community Center P.O. Box 245 Middleburg, VA 20118 or Call 540-687-4373 to reserve your tickets.

LIMITED TO 200 GUESTS. RESERVE THE MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER

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THINGS TO DO

(Rt 709) Turn right onto Rock Hill Rd (Rt 702). Willoughby Farm will be on your left. After leaving Middleburg there will be signs directing you to the show.

From the South take Rt 17 toward Marshall; continue straight through Marshall and take a left onto Rt 701 (Frogston Road), and the show will be on your right after 2 miles. There will be signs from Marshall directing you. For further information contact Doug Campbell at (540) 428-2099 or the Club's web site at www.mgcneelclub.com.

Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27

Halloween 2007. Discover the REAL Nightlife of Leesburg! The Loudoun Museum's 17th annual Halloween walking tours of historic, haunted buildings in downtown Leesburg will be Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27. This year's tours feature several new sites, with spooky interpretations of new ghost stories. Hear tales of Leesburg's "Ladies of the Night," learn about one family's series of mysterious deaths, and shiver as you listen in the dark to the stories these ghostly events inspire.

The Halloween 2007 tours start at 6pm, and have every 15 minutes from the Leesburg Town Hall; the final tour begins at 10pm. Ticket prices are \$15 for museum members, \$15 in advance for non-members and \$20 at the door. Come early - stay late! The Museum will have special hours so you'll have time to visit all our fabulous exhibits.

Tickets can be purchased by mail, phone, or walk-in. Advance ticket purchase is highly recommended. For more information about ticket sales or the event please call the museum at 703-777-7427 or email info@loudounmuseum.org. The Loudoun Museum is located at 16 Loudoun Street SW in downtown Leesburg. Museum hours are 10am-5pm Monday and Wednesday through Saturday and 1pm-5pm on Sunday.

Friday, October 26

PUMPKINS IN THE PARK

Middleburg Community Center, 300 W. Washington Street in Middleburg. Bring your creativity and join the pumpkin carving contest or make a scarecrow for your porch. Please bring clothes and pants/shorts for the scarecrows. The *scarecrows*, is provided. Call 540-687-6575. Fee: \$5.00. 5:00PM - 7:00PM

Saturday, October 27

HAY RIDE

(All ages) Location: Philmont Community Center, 36592 Job Stuart Road in Philmont. Join the only annual Halloween trick-or-treat hayride in Loudoun County. Refreshments will be served. Register early! Call 540-338-5882. Fee: \$10.00/person. 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Wednesday, October 31

HOT DOG IT'S HALLOWEEN

(All ages) Location: Middleburg Community Center, 300 W. Washington Street in Middleburg. This is a safe, family friendly way to spend Halloween with a costume parade, hayride, games and a hot dog dinner for adults and children. Call 540-687-6575 to register. Fee: \$4.00. 5:30PM - 8:00PM

Saturday, November 3

RIVERBOAT CASINO NIGHT AT OATLANDS

Oatlands is hosting a Riverboat Casino Night on Saturday, November 3 from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$100 per person, with proceeds going to benefit Oatlands' historic house and gardens. Scrumptious food will be served by Secret Servants Catering & Event Planning and the music for the evening will be provided by The Dixie Power Trio, famously known for their New Orleans jazz, Zydeco and Dixieland.

Raffle prizes will be part of the activities. Register online at www.oatlands.org or call 703-777-3174. Space is limited.

LOUDOUN MUSEUM SEEKING DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

The Loudoun Museum is seeking a number of dedicated volunteers to make this year's 16th annual Halloween event a success. Each year, costumed guides lead visitors through downtown Leesburg's historic, and reportedly haunted, sites. This year's walking tours will be on Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27 from 6pm-10pm. The museum needs volunteers in all areas of the event. Examples of volunteer opportunities include ticket sales, tour guides, site interpreters/storytellers and museum visitor services help. All talents are welcome!

If you are interested in volunteering for Halloween 2007, please call Beth Friedman, Museum Administrator, at 703-777-7427 or email bethfriedman@loudounmuseum.org.

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Friday, Oct. 26, 6-10 pm.
Saturday, Oct. 27, 6-10 pm.
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For Tickets and More Information
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Recipe Contest

Do you think you have it in winning recipe?

Contest is sponsored by the Loudoun County Extension Office. Prizes include cash and a trip to the Leesburg Festival. Contest ends on October 24, 2007. For more information, call 540-687-3122 or visit www.loudouncountygov.org.

Until October 24th, 2007 we are going to be accepting a contest for the best recipe. We are accepting recipes in three categories: Appetizers, Salads/Soups, Desserts. There will be one winner in each category. Winners will be awarded at the November Dinner on November 1st, 2007. Good Luck!

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Pearl is a poodle mix, she was near death from starvation when she arrived as well as gave birth to three babies too. One little girl did survive - by being hand raised. Pearl is now very healthy & an absolute doll. She is US trained & very dear.



Wally is a sweet and fun-loving 2 yr. old terrier mix. He is great with other dogs but doesn't do well w/cats. He has been with us for almost a year and he would love to go home, soon.



Kittens & Adult Cat We have many beautiful, healthy & very friendly baby kittens and adult cats! Lots of colors & fun personalities! It says little love into your home!



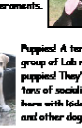
Daisy was abandoned by her owners. She is an 8 year old poodle mix who is good with cats and small children. She is house trained.



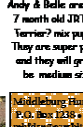
Peggy is a sweet 1 yr. old JRT/Chi mix who had been badly mistreated by a young child. He is a great little dog who is quite forgiving and seems to adore kids! He is great with all other dogs.



Tommy is very kind & gentle 7-8 mo. old shepherd mix who will make a wonderful family friend. He's a little shy but adores affection!



Tortie & Willes are brother/sister 7 mo. old cats. Great pups. Absolutely gorgeous dogs w/ lovely temperaments.



Peggy & Randy are a 7 month old JRT mix. They are super playful and they will grow to be medium sized.



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ALBERT'S CORNER

A MONTHLY COLUMN FOR PEOPLE WHO SHARE THEIR HOMES WITH FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS.



William was a pug. And what a pug he was! A constant source of strength, comfort, love and amusement for my person's dear friends Peggy and Randy, he lived life to the fullest. Adored, respected and pampered, he returned the affection tenfold. A few days ago, the unthinkable happened. William left this world. The loss of William is difficult beyond words for his family and their grief is palpable. I'm writing this column in honor of William. He was an intrepid little soul, and I want his life to inspire others. If even one reader is more prepared for a pet's illness or senior years because of this column, I'll achieve my goal.

From the beginning, William displayed tremendous fortitude. Never was that more evident than when he faced the end of his life. He had numerous seizures that brought him to the brink only to fight to live just a little more. Again and again, William proved he was a survivor. Of course, he couldn't have come so far without constant care and supervision. When he finally departed, he did so peacefully and on his own terms, without putting Peggy and Randy through the agony of choosing the time. Many people would have advised letting William go long before now. Fortunately for William, Peggy and Randy had other things in mind.

I am not here to judge anyone's decision to put a pet to sleep. That is a very individual choice and each case is different. In many instances, that difficult decision is the kindest one that can be made. I will say, however, that knowing about Peggy and Randy has made me consider the fact that too many people are utterly unprepared to manage the long-term care of geriatric and/or sick pets. Coping with William's seizures required a lot of time and money, not to mention physical and emotional energy. For Peggy and Randy, however, those things were a simple fact of their beloved dog's life. They were ready, willing, and able to step up to the plate when the time came.

Just like people, pets age. Just like people, pets can get sick. These events in a pet's life, however, often take people completely off guard. Maybe pet bills are piling up. Maybe multiple daily shots are too complicated. Perhaps the day, have a plan ready for someone to check on your pet

the house isn't "working" for a busy household. Whatever the justification, too many pets leave this world much earlier than they should.

On William's behalf, I urge all of you to be prepared for the inevitable time in your pet's lives when things become harder and possibly more expensive. Create a savings account specifically for future pet care. Invest in pet health insurance. If you work during the day, have a plan ready for someone to check on your pet

or administer medicine when you are not home. Be an avid advocate for your pet's health as he or she ages, and hold on to your time together for as long as that time is enjoyable for your pet. First and foremost, realize that bringing an animal companion into your home is an intense commitment. You are promising to watch over a life from beginning to end. Prepare early for what is to come.

William, you will be missed. Perhaps, however,

your story will inspire people to manage their pet's challenges like Peggy and Randy managed yours. Maybe there is a furry soul out there today who will live a longer and better life because of you. A dog can only hope.

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

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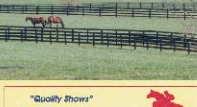
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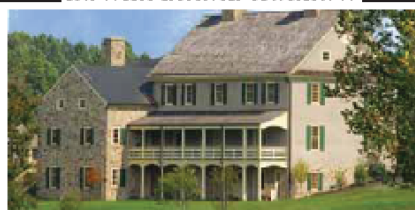


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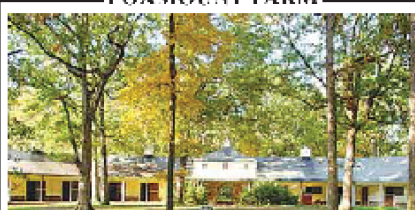
Properties In Hunt Country

LOWER BROAD HOLLOW



Orange County Hunt Near Middleburg • **234 acres** • 4 bedroom • Large kitchen • Lovely woodwork • 10 ft. ceilings • Walnut floors • 8 fireplaces • 3 car garage • 18 stall center aisle barn • 2 bedroom apartment • 6 paddocks • 2 fields • Machine shed **\$8,500,000**

FOXMOUNT FARM



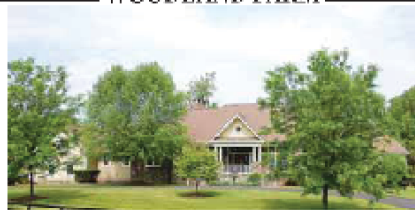
Extraordinary equestrian property • **186 +/- acres** • Gorgeous setting • Contemporary residence • Fabulous 12 stall stable • 3 tenant houses beautifully updated • 2 charming stone cottages • Schooling and riding rings • Polo field **New price \$8,000,000**

WHIRLWIND FARM



Stunning country French manor • **25+ acres** of manicured lawns, lush woodlands, open meadows • Exquisitely landscaped • Flagstone terraces, gorgeous pool • Brilliant gardens • Elegant décor, detailed moldings • Charming apt in 3 bay carriage house • Beautifully designed & impeccably maintained **\$4,750,000**

WOODLAND FARM



Exquisite custom built 4 BR res. on **15.7 magnificent acres** • 5 stall stable • Riding ring • Lush pastures • Extraordinary quality & design • Stone FP's • Media rm • Resmed 14' ceilings • Cmnt. kit. • Fr. dr. to fieldstone remore • Pool • Gardens • Grace house w/2 apcs. **\$2,595,000**

WATERFORD AREA



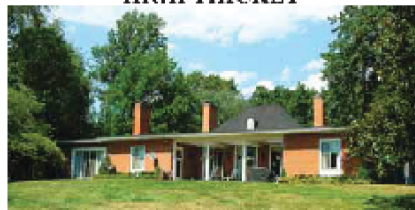
Stunning 5BR, 6+BA Colonial on **18+ acres** • South of Waterford • 5 levels (11,000 sq ft) of spectacular living space • high ceilings, extraordinary detail & every amenity • Pristine condition • Incredible views • New stable ready for horses/ studio/storage area **\$2,595,000**

LA JOLIE



Exquisite custom built French manor on **8 private acres** in Middleburg Hunt Territory • Features over 7,000 sq ft of living space • Marble floors • 3 FP's • Chef's Kitchen • Extraordinary quality and décor • Pool • Magnificent gardens • All in pristine condition **\$2,350,000**

HIGH THICKET



Thorn on Hill Hounds Hunt Territory in Rappahannock County • **113 acres** in easement • Elegant brick Manor Home • Indoor heated swimming pool • Guest Apartment • 5 stall barn w/tack room • Laced with Trails • Dramatic views of Old Rag Mountain **\$2,200,000**

RICH BOTTOM FARM



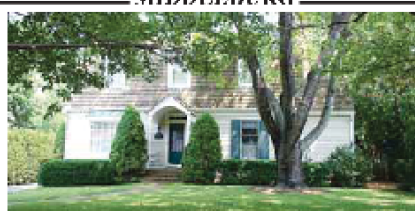
Exquisite stone federal residence, circa 1780 • New 3 BR Guest House/In Law • A barn, smoke house and spring house on **10 park like acres** • Listed in V.A./Nat.Registers • Flagstone terrace • Spa • Picturesque pond and open meadows on an idyllic setting **\$2,100,000**

MIDDLEBURG



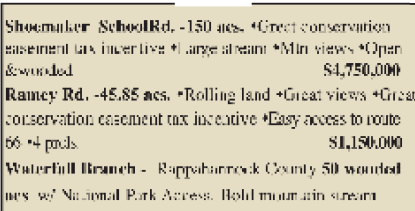
Beautiful Stone and Hardplank home on **4.29+/- acres** w/over 8,000 sq. ft. • 3 levels plus basement • Gourmet kitchen w/granite countertops and mahogany cabinets • Stone terrace • Outdoor grill and fireplace • Koi pond w/waterfall • Attached 3 car garage **\$1,695,000**

MIDDLEBURG



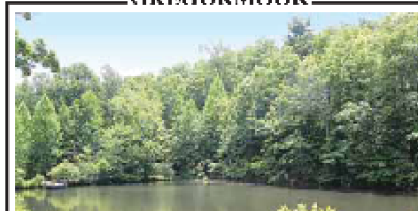
New Listing • Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath home right in town • Very well done with many special touches • Sunroom, mudroom, wonderful studio off the detached garage with high ceilings and beams • Private fenced in back yard, well landscaped and much more **\$1,150,000**

LAND



Shoemaker School Rd. - **150 acres** • Great conservation easement tax incentive • Large stream • Min views • Open & wooded **\$4,750,000**
Ramey Rd. - **45.85 acres** • Rolling land • Great views • Great conservation easement tax incentive • Easy access to route 66 • 4 pads **\$1,150,000**
Waterfall Branch - Rappahannock County 50 wooded acres w/ National Park Access. Bold mountain stream. Spectacular elevated building site. Quiet and secluded yet convenient to Rt. 66. **\$580,000**
Middleburg Land - **5 acres** • Last vacant commercial lot in Middleburg on Jay St. and Federal St. **\$1,400,000**

GREGG MOOR



Charming 1 BR log cabin for expansion • Unique, tranquil setting overlooking 2 ponds & gardens • 4 separate wooded parcels each w/4BR perc. site totaling 41 acres • Perfect weekend property, investment, or build, minutes to historic Aldie and Rt. 50 corridor **\$1,799,000**

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