



TATE CHARGES DROPPED

POLITICAL FALLOUT HEAVY

DANIEL MORROW

Special Prosecutor Matthew Britton dropped all charges of election fraud and perjury against former Middleburg Vice-Mayor, Mark Tate, at a Monday, October 15 hearing in Loudoun County Circuit Court.

Britton told Circuit Court Judge Herman A. Whisenant that the "appearance" of impropriety by Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney Jim Plowman played a major role in his decision, noting later that he would "re-submit" the charges to a "new grand jury."

Without objection, Judge Whisenant quickly agreed to grant Britton's motion to drop all charges against Tate.

Tate expressed his pleasure with the decision.

Problems with Britton's Case

Tate's attorney, Ed MacMahon of Middleburg told the Eccentric he believed Britton dropped the charges against Tate for another reason as well: Tate was innocent and Britton had little or no chance of making ill-defined, worse-documented, and clearly politically motivated charges stick in front of jury of Tate's peers.

Had Britton not dropped the charges against Tate, MacMahon said,

he would have fought and won the case for Tate in court.

Asked if Britton might not have been hoping for a plea bargain in the case, MacMahon shot back: "He knew that would never happen; that we would try the case no matter how long it took; and that we would win."

If Britton re-filed the case, MacMahon continued, Tate was still innocent, he would still defend him, and the Commonwealth would still lose.

By all accounts, Special Prosecutor Britton had great difficulty even articulating the specifics of the eleven charges against Tate, and thus, found it difficult to provide Tate's defense with a clear notion of the evidence supporting whatever those charges might have been.

Judge John F. Daffron admitted in open court that he'd tried no less than three times to decipher the Commonwealth's "bill of particulars" outlining the Commonwealth's charges and the evidence supporting the Loudoun County Grand Jury's indictments.

At a hearing on September 21, clearly frustrated, Daffron gave Britton less than a week to produce something intelligible, or, in the judge's words, a "more particular bill of particulars."

No one, in the history of the Commonwealth, MacMahon noted further, had ever been charged with felony fraud and perjury on the basis of even clearly-defined financial reporting errors. In particular, he noted, there was no basis in law for charges of perjury. There are penalties for making mistakes, or filing late

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CHRISTMAS SPIRIT LIVES

IN MIDDLEBURG TRADITION

HORSES AND HOUNDS AND FIRE TRUCKS AND MUSIC AND SANTA AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

Once you begin your holiday season with Christmas in Middleburg, you'll want to return year after year to the traditional festivities in a classic Hunt Country Village that have become an essential part of the spirit of Christmas for small children, world travelers and citizens far and wide.

Festivities begin at 8 a.m., Saturday, December 1st with breakfast with Santa and a silent auction at Middleburg Elementary School.

This year, for the first time, The Loudoun Symphony Brass Ensemble will entertain visitors from the new Christmas tree at the Middleburg Methodist Church.

Between seventy-five and one hundred members of The Middleburg Hunt and dozens of excited hounds make a spectacular ride through the village at 11 a.m., and after hayrides, choir performances, an art show, the Garden Club's Christmas Flower & Greens Show and the Craft Show, the Christmas Parade begins at 3 p.m. The spectacular day draws to a close as Santa takes wishes from children on an old fashioned porch at the corner of West Washington and North Madison Streets.

Santa Claus reigns supreme over the Christmas Parade an accurate reflection a truly beautiful region of the world that reveres its history and whose leading citizens are determined to preserve the feeling of an old fashioned, small town event that delights

children with fire trucks, floats and marching groups.

The Corgi Corps and festive holiday wagons filled with children from schools near and far are highlights of the parade. Children of all ages love to see every kind of animal one can imagine from llamas and miniature horses to dogs who are really having their day.

Equine aficionados are always thrilled to see the stately coaches of impeccable origin, spirited riders and antique autos in pristine and sparkling condition, but they really don't want to miss the formally dressed members of The Middleburg Hunt when they make their way from The Red Fox Inn down Washington Street.

"Christmas in Middleburg is a wonderful tradition," said Parade Co-Chairman and Middleburg Eccentric Founder and Editor Dee Dee Hubbard. "We owe so much to the small group of dedicated Middleburg citizen who originated the event. It's become a hallmark of Virginia tradition, a classic series of events that really build the spirit of the season for all who attend whether they're local or from countries around the world."

Sheila Johnson, who is co-chairman this year, is directly responsible for the addition of the Loudoun Symphony Brass Ensemble for this

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WATER EMERGENCY IN EFFECT

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JOX, ROX AND SOX

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NEWS OF NOTE

WATER EMERGENCY REMAINS IN EFFECT COUNTY TAKES OVER TOWN UTILITIES SALAMANDER OPEN SPACE DEBATED

DANIEL MORROW

A Water Emergency declared during the October 11 regular meeting of the Middleburg Town Council remains in effect until further notice.

Council unanimously declared a "Level B Water Emergency" for the Town, effectively prohibiting nearly all "outside" uses of municipal water.

Restrictions became effective on Tuesday, October 16. Town officials say outside plants, rooted in the ground, may be watered, but only by using a container, such as a watering can.

The Town's wells remain in good shape, according to Town Administrator Jerry Schiro, but the unprecedented length of the current drought required precautionary action.

Once completed, the water system for the Salamander Inn project will put additional water at the town's disposal, when three deep wells on the Salamander property are transferred to Town control. The Inn and Spa are expected to use only a quarter to a third of the flow from those wells.

For further advice on the water emergency, and specific rules for Middleburg, citizens are advised to call the Town Office at 540-687-5152.

Loudoun County Sanitation Authority

Over a single dissenting vote, cast by Council Member Karen Robinson, the Town also approved a one-year trial contract with the Loudoun County Sanitation Authority (LCSA) to run the town's water and sewer system.

According to the contract, approved by the LCSA board on September 13, the County will take over the day-to-day operation and management of Middleburg's Water and Sewer system effective November 1, 2007.

Both Middleburg and the County retain the right to cancel the contract on 30-day's notice. Town Administrator Jerry Schiro has long advised shifting responsibility for Middleburg's utilities to the larger, better-staffed, better-equipped, and more flexible County organization.

The County is much better equipped to handle the sophisticated new top-of-the-line waste water treatment system that will soon come on line as part of the Salamander Inn project, Schiro noted.

The economies of scale provided by the larger system, Schiro noted, will help stabilize water and sewer rates for Middleburg's residents and business community, he continued, as well as put otherwise unaffordable, round-the-clock resources at the Town's disposal.

Salaries for Middleburg's two utility system employees will continue to be paid by the Town during the trial run, and current employees will, in most if not all cases, continue to serve as the Town's first responders in water system emergencies.

The town currently budgets more than \$600,000 per year to run its utilities. During the first year's trial, the town expects to reap the advantages of LCSA oversight, with little or no increase in cost to residential or business users.

Once the new Salamander water and sewer systems are built, Schiro noted, the Town's total annual operating costs will roughly double. The new \$5,000,000 wastewater treatment facility, alone, will cost roughly \$300,000 per year to run.

If the one-year trial works, the contract with LCSA will be renewed, and Middleburg's two utility system employees will become full time employees of LCSA.

Council member Robinson opposed the measure, she said, because she was still uncertain what the arrangement with LCSA would mean, precisely, for long-term future of those employees.

Town Administrator Jerry Schiro noted that Middleburg's current employees would be "assigned" to Middleburg during the one-year trial, and would probably be Middleburg's "first responders" if and when they became LCSA employees.

Salamander Open Space Easement

Council debated at length a motion to alter some of the open-space provisions of the Town's current agreement with Salamander Hospitality.

In an effort to guarantee that open space on the Salamander property would remain "open," no matter who sat on Middleburg's Town Council in the future, open space easements were to be co-held by the Town and the non-profit Potomac Conservancy.

The Conservancy recently indicated that it would prefer NOT to co-own some of the easements, particularly those that would "cultivated" by Salamander, or parcels in the midst of housing or similarly developed areas, including Salamander's flower cutting gardens, or vegetable plots, or median strips.

CINDY PEARSON APPOINTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR



At the October meeting of the Middleburg Town Council, Town Administrator Jerry Schiro formally announced the appointment of Cindy Pearson to the full-time post of Economic Development Coordinator.

Born and raised in Middleburg, Pearson is a graduate of Middleburg Elementary & Loudoun County High School. She worked at the Hill School from 1984 to 2000, with Focus Financial Consultants in 2000 and 2001, with the Middleburg Community Center from 2001 to 2006, and as since mid-October, 2006, as the Town of Middleburg's interim Economic Development Director.

The daughter of former Middleburg's Chief of Police, Charles "Pop" Crain and Middleburg Bank's Olga Robertson, Pearson is married, with three children and two grandchildren.

She is a member of Middleburg United Methodist Church.

in order for Salamander to break ground for the new Inn and Spa, it is particularly important that easement ownership be set for roughly 190 acres on the far northern boundary of its property.

Town Attorney Liz Whiting is working with both Salamander and Potomac Conservancy legal teams to draft a new resolution for Council consideration at its last work session in October.

In recognition of her excellent work as an "interim" appointee, the Town hired Cindy Pearson to fill the Economic Development Coordinator's position formerly held by Claudia Dornin. (See page 4)

Town Planner and Zoning Administrator David Benamino reported several complaints from citizens and the Loudoun County Democratic Committee about political signs placed in the public right of way, in violation of Virginia Department of Transportation regulations. Though detailed regulations vary slightly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, in general such signs may be placed only on private property, only with the owner's consent, and never on VDOT right of way.

With year-end audits already scheduled, the Town reported \$1,548,191 on hand in its cash accounts as of the end of September.

Starlings

The Town's peppy murmuration of Starlings has apparently moved south, much to the relief of residents forbidden to wash their cars, siding and walkways during the current water emergency.

REPUBLICANS BACK SCHULTZ

Marshall, VA--Four high-level appointees to Republican Administrations dating back to Richard Nixon have thrown their support to Karen Schultz, the Democratic nominee in the race for the State Senate in the 27th District. Schultz is running against an Independent, Donald Marro, and Republican Jill Holtzman Vogel.

Citing "qualities we miss in segments of the current Republican Party, such as personal ethics, fairness, a willingness to listen, and consensus building," they are sending a letter asking fellow Republicans in the 27th District to join them as Republicans for Schultz.

The four former officials underscored their great pride in their past service to five Republican Presidents and their on-going commitment to Republican principles but said they had concluded that

Karen Schultz offers the best choice for the 27th District and "for Virginia's future."

The former officials are Walter Kantsteiner of Middleburg, former Assistant Secretary of State in the current administration, Bruce Smart of Upperville, Undersecretary of Commerce in the Reagan Administration, Langhorne Washburn of Middleburg, Assistant Secretary of Commerce in the Nixon Administration, and Gerald L. Warren of The Plains, Deputy Press Secretary to Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. Washburn also was a top official in Dwight Eisenhower's campaign for the presidency.

"This is a departure for us, but we remain committed to the principles of the Republican Party and we believe Karen is the best candidate for the Piedmont," Warren said.

"Karen understands the effects of uncontrolled growth on transportation bottlenecks and higher taxes."

Republicans for Schultz has sponsored a reception for Schultz and plans an active outreach to Republican and Independent voters before the November election, Warren said. "Karen believes in analyzing facts, listening to the ideas of others and working to find consensus in meeting the problems that face this area."

"Karen is a strong opponent of the irresponsible Dominion Power transmission project, and she has outlined a responsible position on illegal immigration," Warren said. "She deserves cross-over support because of her experience and her high ethical standards in campaigning as well as in her family life."

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG CONDUCTS SHOPPING SURVEY

The Mayor and Town Council have announced that the Town of Middleburg is conducting a Shopping Survey of residents located in and surrounding the Town limits. The survey is intended to determine the shopping habits of area residents, as well as any issues that may be preventing residents from shopping in the Town. Once received, the completed surveys will be compiled into a report that can be distributed to area merchants and property owners for their use in making future business decisions, such as the type of merchandise to carry, hours of operation, and the types of businesses that residents

are interested in recruiting to the Town. "I am thrilled that we are finally able to send this survey," said Mayor Betsy Allen Davis. "It has been a long time in the works. I hope our residents and those in the surrounding area will take the time to complete it since it will give us the tools to better serve our residents and businesses." Survey forms will be mailed to those living within the 2018 and 2017 zip codes on October 27, 2007. It is requested that the surveys be completed and returned to the Town Hall no later than December 1, 2007. Copies of the survey form may also be

obtained on the Town's website at www.middleburg.org. Individuals who return the surveys in the return envelope (and include a return address) will be registered for a chance to win a gift basket, donated by the Middleburg Business and Professional Association. "We would very much appreciate your help in determining the shopping needs of our community so that we may work to set economic development goals and to achieve those goals," said Mayor Davis. For more information regarding the survey, please contact the Town Office at (540) 687-5152.

BOY SCOUTS ORGANIZE AREAS LARGEST FOOD DRIVE

Since 1988, the Boy Scouts of America have run "Scouting for Food," by far the largest food collection drive in the Northern Virginia Washington, DC area. Scouting for Food involves tens of thousands of Boy Scouts in this area, including Troop 177, sponsored by the Marshall Ruritan Club. All of the food collected by Troop 177 will go directly to local helping local organizations such as churches and soup kitchens in Northern Fauquier and Southern Loudoun Counties. In particular, a substantial portion of the food collected in the Middleburg area goes to our local Seven Leaves Services, an ecumenical food ministry that operates out of the Middleburg United Methodist Church (UMC). Last year, Scouts throughout the D.C. area collected over 822,709 pounds of food, of which about 630 pounds were donated by Middleburg residents and collected by Troop 177. This is how it works:

- On Saturday, November 3, 2007, Scouts will distribute plastic bags outside of Middleburg residences.
- Each resident is requested to collect any goods (canned goods are preferred) that they are willing to donate, place them in the provided bag and to place the bag(s) outside their front door next week, either late Friday night, November 9th or early Saturday morning November 10th (by 8:30 a.m.). Note that although, canned goods are preferred, the Scouts will take anything that is unsolicited in boxes or glass jars.
- Scouts from Troop 177 will start collecting bags at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, November 10th.
- Our Scouts will be in pairs, in uniform, and accompanied by parents/adult Scout Leaders in automobiles.
- Scouts will not be knocking on resident's doors to solicit contributions.
- If a house is missed, the resident is requested to drop their bag off at Seven Leaves Services at Middleburg UMC, 15 West Washington Street, Middleburg, VA.

FASHIONABLE FRIENDS HELP WINDY HILL FOUNDATION

Lerner of Ayrshire Farm who hosted the fashion show for three previous years. Special thanks went to Tri County Feed for their generous support.

Joy and Mark Smith of Lost Mountain Graphics provided project support. Jim Foster donated photographic coverage. Chris Schen created the Silent Auction, dozens of volunteers gave untold hours of their time to make the event at success and to sincere gratitude was given to Sandy Adams of Focus Wealth Management and Judy Casey of the Finsky Filly for the conception of the idea for the annual Fashion Show that is such a tremendous benefit to the Windy Hill Foundation.

Mary Jo Jackson of the Windy Hill Foundation thanked everyone in attendance for supporting the organization's family development fund. "Your donations today will help us give deserving Middleburg citizens and families a chance to learn how to better run their lives," Jackson said. "Every dollar helps people in our community."

Hosted last year's event and to Sandy

SHELLEY DUKE RECEIVES FIRST EQUINE CENTER SERVICE AWARD

Shelley Duke, owner and manager of Ralphywood Farm in Middleburg, Va., has been named the first recipient of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center's Distinguished Service Award.

The accolade was established to recognize individuals who have generously and tirelessly provided leadership and expertise to help the equine medical center attain a higher level of achievement in service, teaching and research. The award was presented during a Sept. 13 meeting of the center's council in recognition of Duke's extraordinary dedication and exemplary volunteer service.

"Shelley is a friend, advocate, and leader for the equine medical center," said Dr. Nat White, Jean Ellen Shahan Professor and Director. "Her enthusiasm, tremendous efforts and exceptionally high standards have contributed greatly to the hospital's transformation into a premier equine healthcare and teaching facility, and this commendation is richly deserved."

Duke, a member of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, has spent more than 20 years working towards the betterment of equine healthcare and veterinary programs at the university. She has served as chair of the center's council since 1999 and is credited with establishing the hospital's highly successful volunteer program.

"Growth is a dynamic experience when the result is being able to see and feel the fruits of one's efforts," said Duke. "I feel proud to represent the

ALDIE CHURCH DONATES 100% OF HARVEST FESTIVAL PROCEEDS

Aldie's Church of Our Redeemer will once again donate 100% of the proceeds from Aldie's Harvest Festival Day to charities selected by the voters.

"In this way we bond our community and work together to help those less fortunate," said Reverend John Sheehan. "We try to divide this support between local, national, and international organizations. This is a vital part of our mission to reach out to the world."

Citizens from all the townships and villages in Northern Virginia and beyond celebrated Fall with a day in the beautiful countryside of Aldie Saturday October 20 at the Harvest Festival centered around the historic Aldie Mill.

The following charities will again receive the proceeds of Aldie Harvest Festival: Seven Leaves Food Bank, The Aldie Volunteer Fire Department, Life Line CPK, The Loudoun Abuse Women's Shelter, LAWS, La Iglesia de Santa Maria, TAPS (Emergency Assistance Program for Survivors) and Angelical Relief and Development.

It's time to elect a Sheriff who can fill the position.



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Loudoun County is rapidly changing and programs that were acceptable just a few years ago are simply not adequate today. Mike George brings 22 years of experience in law enforcement to the office of Sheriff, 20 of which were spent in Fairfax County when it was facing the same issues that confront us today. That's why law enforcement professionals across the board support Mike George for Sheriff.

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- ✓ Virginia Police Benevolent Association (Representing approximately 200 Loudoun County Deputies.)
- ✓ International Union of Police Associations (I.U.P.A.)
- ✓ Fairfax County Deputy Sheriffs Coalition, RPA Local 5015
- ✓ Fairfax Coalition of Police, LUPA Local 5000
- ✓ Robert Horan, Commonwealth Attorney, Fairfax County (ret.)
- ✓ William Carroll, District Director of Immigration Naturalization Services (ret.)
- ✓ Peter Gruden, Supervisory Agent in Charge, DEA (ret.)

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CHRISTMAS SPIRIT LIVES

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year's events, is delighted to help with the festivities.

"This is a wonderful way to begin the holiday season," she said. "Christmas in Middleburg evokes the holiday spirit for everyone who attends."

Hubbard, who takes the reins of the annual festivities this year from Middleburg Bank Vice President Reggie Dawson, follows a long line of dedicated Middleburg volunteers who have worked since 1979 to create an hallmark event for the benefit of the entire community.

"In 1979, Mayor Loyal McMillin suggested to Cindy Bunn, Patty Arvine, Patsy Lee and Patty Jackson that Middleburg needed a Christmas celebration," said Tyler Gore, a Middleburg resident and merchant.

"We were having a cup of cof-

fee when he made the suggestion and we began to talk right away about how to organize something. It was too late to do much, but we marshaled our friends and created a small Christmas celebration. It was so appreciated that we created a larger event in 1980 and, by 1981, Christmas in Middleburg was beginning to take shape as an important opening to the holiday season."

The first year, legend has it that Cindy and Dudley Bunn contacted the Kena Scottish Temple Bagpipers who played tunes in the street. Today, the number and variety of entries in the parade provide entertainment and amusement for holiday enthusiasts of every age.

The Kena Scottish Temple Bagpipers who have played in the parade every year, will, once again, pipe in the holidays for the



2007 festivities.

For many years, Christmas in Middleburg depended on the hard work and dedication of the original organizers: Cindy Bunn and her husband, Dudley, Tyler Gore, Patsy Lee, Patty Arvine, Kelly Costin, Barbara Griffith, Gary Welke, Tim Demos, Reggie Dawson and many others had and contributed to the local initiative.

Establishing Christmas in Middleburg as the premier, award-winning celebration it has become was no easy matter.

"It took a long time to establish it," Gore explained. "So many towns and villages wanted a Christmas Parade that we really had to work hard to ensure that our bands returned every year. There were really no Christmas celebrations when we started, but as we continued, we'd find that a wonderful parade entry one year would quickly be booked for a Christmas parade as far away as Williamsburg for the next year."

If we wanted to be successful, we had to work very hard on our planning and organization early in the year, every year. It takes devotion and attention to detail to ensure that the events are successful and that everyone who participates is aware of how grateful we are for their help."

With a backdrop Norman Rockwell would thoroughly appreciate, Middleburg, Virginia is a classically beautiful American village that enjoys handsome stone buildings and charming brick and stucco storefronts. Washington Street, also known as Route 50 to wary Washington D.C. commuters, is the perfect setting for a Christmas celebration.

"We owe a tremendous debt of thanks to so many merchants and generous citizens who volunteer their time, talent, facilities and funds," said Hubbard. "Without our sponsors and their generous contributions, we simply could not keep up with increasing demand and obligations."

Middleburg Mayor Betsy Davis, owner of The Fun Shop who describes Christmas in Middleburg as a "much loved tradition," explained why so many visitors come back year after year.

Every year, people look forward to our holiday celebration. They return regularly to enjoy the small town Christmas atmosphere that is really exceptional here. From the members of The Middleburg Hunt riding down Washington Street with their hounds in the morning to the fabulous parade and Santa holding court for wide-eyed children as the sun goes down, everyone who attends leaves with a true holiday spirit in their heart."



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reports, he noted, but nothing even vaguely approximating the sort of inviolable oath required for the state to punish error with the penalties due for perjury.

Lack of both precedent and observers noted, thus complicated Britton's deadline-driven efforts to sort through what MacMahon had characterized as "stacks" of unorganized photocopies and draw up a second bill of particulars.

In several instances, Britton also appeared to be in the embarrassing position of trying to file and document charges against Tate, well beyond the statute of limitations for doing so.

Even if there had been supporting evidence (which Tate and

his attorney have repeatedly asserted was clearly lacking) such charges would have been thrown out of court.

Worse still for Britton, most if not all of the "stuff" in his new bill of particulars was, according to MacMahon, simply, "wrong." Indeed, according to accounts of Tate's defenders, much of Britton's prosecutorial "evidence" clearly supported Tate's innocence.

Copies of checks allegedly written improperly to Tate's personal account, for example, showed up clearly and properly written to his campaign account; copies of "missing" checks appeared within pages of allegations of their non-existence.

The Plovman Problem

Tate and his defenders, in and out of court, have consistently claimed that the former Vice Mayor was the victim of political dirty tricks designed to undercut his 2007 primary campaign against Warrenston Republican, Jill Holtzman Vogel.

Indeed, Britton himself has complained that circumstantial evidence of an intramural Republican "Swift Boating" of Tate has been widely discussed in the media.

Had Tate been tried, preliminary court rulings clearly indicated his attorneys could have subpoenaed emails, and other records from a wide and deep cross section of the State Repub-

lican party and the Holtzman Vogel campaign.

Commonwealth's Attorney Plovman, for example, had publicly endorsed Holtzman Vogel for the Republican 27th District Virginia State Senate nomination.

He launched his investigation on the eve of the primary election, and on the basis of complaints filed by another Holtzman Vogel supporter and campaign volunteer, former Massachusetts religious activist and political organizer, Laurie LaTourneau.

LaTourneau's complaint focused on errors in Tate's financial reporting records, dating back to his near-victory over moderate Republican Russ Potts in the 2003 Republican primary.

Holtzman Vogel's Warrenston-based law firm is nationally known for its expertise in the intricacies of campaign finance.

Although Plovman formally removed himself from the Tate case, citing obvious "conflict of interest," widespread media reports and a sworn statement from a former Leesburg Today reporter, linked him to repeated efforts to promote negative stories about Tate in the press.

Other sources alleged that Plovman leaked information gathered by Grand Jury investigators and spread early news of Tate's pending indictment to senior State Republican Party officials, Holtzman Vogel supporters and the press.

Britton noted in court that even the "appearance" of impropriety justified starting the legal process against Tate all over again with a new grand jury, presumably one "initiated" by association with Plovman and his activities, both alleged and on the record.

Anti-Plovman Reaction

Commonwealth's Attorney Plovman's alleged and documented contributions to the Tate/Holtzman Vogel affair have resulted in calls for his resignation, rumors of calls for disciplinary action by the Virginia State Bar and reports of a last-minute write-in campaign to unseat him on November 6.

All appear to have been initiated by Special Prosecutor Britton's dropping of the charges against Tate.

A blogger at "noconservative.com," noted that Plovman's lack of interest in investigating his fellow party members and the local power brokers "makes him suspect in many eyes. . . . An honest and ethical government simply cannot persist in such an environment."

The same blogger called for Plovman's resignation, and jokingly recommended writing in the name of Jared Fogle, the Subway sandwich chain's spokesperson, on the November 6 Ballot.

More serious are rumors of a campaign to write-in and elect Leesburg lawyer John P. Flannery in Plovman's place.

Bloggers on NoVidArmy.com have noted, "... if Flannery's candidacy will work to bring more information about the state's most corrupt commonwealth attorney, and this infamously abusive of the court system, to light, sources in the Loudoun County legal community have also told the Eccentric that they

are "100% certain" that reports of Plovman's conduct will be referred to the Virginia State Bar Association for review and possible action.

Republicans for Schultz

Perhaps the most striking result of the Tate/Holtzman Vogel Affair has been its role as a catalyst in building or consolidating support among both moderate and conservative Republicans for the Democratic Candidate for the 27th District Senate Seat, Karen Schultz.

Supporters of the 27th's long-time Senator, Russ Potts, had long voiced concern about Holtzman Vogel's close ties to the religious right and the Karl Rove, Dick Cheney, G. W. Bush wing of the GOP.

Locally, Middleburg Town Council member Bundles Murdoch, a self-proclaimed Reagan Republican, was outraged at the charges leveled against Tate.

Citing Holtzman Vogel's apparent violation of Reagan's 11th Commandment, "Thou shalt not speak ill of fellow Republicans" and her long-time friendship and support of Tate, she was handing out pro-Tate fliers on the day his indictment was announced. She now actively supports Democrat Karen Schultz.

"I like her character, her values and her willingness to listen to everyone," she told the Eccentric. "She has a great family. One of the things she said that impressed me so much is that she wants to 'give back' to her community and state. I am all for politicians who want to give rather than GET which is what we have in Loudoun county."

Murdoch also hosted a "meet and greet" event for Schultz, and now finds herself on the Schultz contributors' list alongside Salamander Hospitality's Sheila Johnson, even though Murdoch was one of the Middleburg Town Council's most consistent opponents of the Salamander Inn project.

Republicans of national stature have also endorsed Schultz, among them: Walter Krustein, Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs in the G.W. Bush administration.

Langhorne Washburn, Assistant Secretary of Commerce during the Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford administrations; Jerry Warren, Deputy Press Secretary for Nixon and Ford; and Bruce Smart, Undersecretary of Commerce for Ronald Reagan.

Citing "qualities we miss in segments of the current Republican Party, such as personal ethics, fairness, a willingness to listen, and consensus building" they are sending a letter and running ads asking fellow Republicans in the 27th District to join them as "Republicans for Schultz."

Mark Tate, who found himself just 100 or so votes short of winning the 27th's Senate seat in 2003, greeted a host of well-wishers at the restaurant he and his brother manage in Middleburg shortly after the charges against him were dropped. After months of seeing himself pilloried in the press and by much of the party he served for so long, he had surprisingly little to say. Most often quoted were just three words: "I'm really happy."

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EDITOR'S DESK

SIGNS OF IRRESPONSIBLE TIMES

The campaign signs that now proliferate our landscape often signal a clear lack of either respect or responsibility. It's no wonder that citizens all over Loudoun County are up in arms about candidates posting their signs without any concern for the legality or the propriety of their efforts.

The rules are clear:

In order to post signs on private property, campaigns must have the consent of the property owner. It is absolutely illegal to post campaign signs on property that is considered public right of way, i.e. roadway medians or other public property.

In an election year when signs seem to be larger than ever, and when the arrogance of candidates who choose to ignore the law and the sensibility of the voters is amply in evidence, it seems logical that

campaign signs posted illegally should immediately signal to voters that the law-breaking candidates do not deserve a vote.

Something we can do is telephone VDOT at 703 383 8368 to request that signs posted illegally on public land be removed. Loudoun County has no jurisdiction over signage. Only VDOT is authorized to remove signs.

When contacted to remove dozens of signs posted in median strips the VDOT representative asked only for specific location information and assured us that the signs would be taken down immediately.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

This is the time of the year when we often see candidates placing signs in the VDOT right of way along our highways. The Loudoun County Democratic Committee (LCDC) has actively tried to limit the number of signs along our highways for the last three years with some success. Most voters do not know that VDOT sends every candidate and political party a guide that makes the point that placing political signs in the VDOT right of way is ILLEGAL and asks the candidates and parties NOT TO DO IT. Two years ago the LCDC was able to reach agreement with the LCRC to try and limit our candidates from placing signs where VDOT says NOT TO DO IT. Unfortunately

the current Republican Chair has refused to try and limit signs as "too hard to do" and "pointless". During the last Governor's campaign and the Senate campaign the LCDC was very successful in limiting signs in the VDOT right of way by the Democratic candidates. West of US 15 there were next to none and East of US 15 the Democrats did not put up signs until after the Republicans placed their's in the VDOT right of way. Even then they sought to only match the Republican signs and not blanket the area and unlike the Republicans all Democratic signs were placed by volunteers and not by hired people from out of county.

It has also come to my attention that there are sign vigilantes in Loudoun that HATE ALL SIGNS and take

down every political sign they see in the VDOT right of way. One gentleman with pride and a twinkle in his eye joked with me about our Democratic signs disappearing out west and then he told me with a bit of pride how he "takes them all down". I do not encourage this behavior but certainly do not hold it against him since he is only supporting the VDOT rules.

Sofar this campaign season it appears the Democratic candidates (all 18 of them) are letting the Republican candidates fire the first shot in the "sign wars" in the VDOT right of way. I am surprised that the editor seems to justify breaking the VDOT rules and then gets upset when citizens take down signs that are safety hazards in the VDOT

To the Editor:

V-DOT normally performs roadwork with safety as the first consideration. Unfortunately, in the traffic calming plan for Upperville, according to one V-DOT source, the first concern was to "make it look pretty". That means that Upperville

residents are at risk for life and limb as they walk along the road in certain places where pedestrians are forced to walk within a foot of moving traffic. Stepping out of the driver's side of a parked car at the Upperville post office's greatly reduced parking area can be as thrilling as an amusement park ride as oncoming trucks and horse trailers buffet those waiting to cross the street.

It's apparent that the designers, sitting at their desks, had no concept of the actual life of the village. They concentrated on pretty drawings. Granted that sidewalks are an improvement. Granted the workforce has been excellent both on budget and ahead of schedule. But reduced parking areas at the post office, Tai Kwon Doh studio,

Katie Anders Upperville, Virginia

To the Editor:

On November 6th the Blue Ridge District voters will have the opportunity to elect John Feezel for School Board Representative first. John, a teacher and former Lincoln PTO President, is a firm believer that large Wal-Mart size schools are not a western Loudoun tradition as they only bring on gridlock

and sprawl. Blue Ridge District voters deserve a strong leader - one that is independent of the agendas of the Superintendent and local political parties - who respects the sovereignty and land use plans of the local towns - who believes strongly that consensus and cooperation with communities is the best way to build schools to reduce overcrowded classrooms. As former Mayors of the Town of Purcellville, please join us in supporting John by "doing your homework" and vote November 6th for John Feezel School Board Representative - Blue Ridge District.

Mayor William T. Druhan, Jr. (2002-2006), Mayor John D. Marsh (1994-2002), Mayor Ronald M. Masters (1982-1986 and 1990-1994), Mayor Eric V. Zimmerman (1986-1990) Purcellville, Virginia

To the Editor: Supervisor Lori Waters' clear disdain for one of Loudoun's chief assets, local nonprofits, is shortsighted and troubling. When she demonstrates a careless willingness to disregard important matters of public health and safety, I must respond. When she joins the likes of Eugene Delgaudio and Mr. Staton, arrive at a different answer, the time clearly has arrived for new leadership.

Ms. Waters would deny funding for Health Clinic services to any immigrant, children included, who cannot prove their legal presence. I want protection from the communicable disease that these patients might be carrying.

Ms. Waters would deny teenagers participation in County-operated after school programs if they cannot prove their legal presence. I want these teenagers off the streets, safe from the grasp of gangs like MS-13.

The list of unintended consequences could be endless. We cannot plug the holes in borders hundreds of miles from Loudoun County, but we can keep our communities healthy and safe. I have no problem if a few of my tax dollars go to the charitable nonprofits and government programs that help us achieve these goals.

Ms. Waters must take a harder look at the question: Is riding Loudoun County of a few illegal immigrants worth sacrificing the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of the rest of us?

The answer is, "No."

If Ms. Waters, in league with Mr. Delgaudio and Mr. Staton, arrive at a different answer, the time clearly has arrived for new leadership.

Dan Brigham Leesburg, Virginia

Supervisors, I must object.

RANT & RAVES

RED VS BLUE

YOUR LOCAL VOTE COUNTS NATIONALLY ON NOVEMBER 6

DAN MORROW - (D)

The traditionally low turnout in Virginia's off year state-wide elections will make your vote on November 6 count even more than it does in local elections (where, in Middleburg, a one-vote write-in may sometimes elect a town council member.)

The eyes of the nation will be on Virginia on Tuesday the 6th, and we are duty-bound to speak truth to supporters of the current Bush administration.

All politics are, indeed, local, and every Republican in local, regional, or state office lends support, directly or indirectly to the national

and international agendas of the GOP.

Loudoun County Republicans have already rallied around Democrat Karen Schultz.

If Iraq, Katrina, Abramoff, Iran, forceclosures, \$100 oil, vetoes of medical insurance for children, waterboarding, warrentless snooping around in your personal records, my pet goat, and other fun manifestations of the decider's vision of the powers of the "unitary executive" make you happy, vote Republican.

Otherwise, send a message. Vote for Karen Schultz for Virginia State Senate, 27th District; Bruce Roemmel for the 13th District; David Poisson for the 32nd

District; Marty Martinez for the 33rd District; Chuck Caputo for the 67th District; Jay Donahue for the 86th District.

In the County, vote Mike George for Loudoun County Chairman; Jim Burton for Blue Ridge; Phyllis Randall for Broad Run; Sally Kurtz for Catocin; Stevens Miller for Dulles;

Kelly Burk for Leesburg; Andrea McGimsey for Potomac; Jeanne West for Sterling; and Susan Buckley for Sugarland Run.

CLUES TO HILLARY RULE

KEN RIETZ - (R)

The past few weeks have provided numerous clues to the kind of administration a Hillary Clinton Presidency would bring.

First, there is her appointment to a key advisory role to her campaign of former National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger. He, of course, is the guy caught stuffing sensitive, classified security papers into his SOCKS.

These documents magically disappeared never to be seen again.

Then there is Nancy Pelosi who is rumored to be on the short list for Secretary of State. This lady demonstrated a complete lack of knowledge about diplomacy by calling for the passage of legislation condemning Armenian genocide which occurred almost 100 years ago.

This while our close ally of many years, Turkey, felt so slapped in the face that they recalled their ambassador. It caused more tension in the Middle East where the Turks are threatening retaliation against Kurdish terrorists inside Iraq.

Hillary tipped her hand on FEDERAL SPENDING by proposing a \$5,000.00 gift to every baby born.

Meanwhile she slipped in an earmark to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on a WOODSTOCK MUSEUM. When it comes to Federal Regulations, she promotes freedom of choice on abortion but wants a national ban on smoking.

Then there is HEALTH CARE. Hillary wants to socialize the entire system. She wants it to be like the Canadian system.

Well, healthcare in Canada may sound like it is free

but it is not. People there pay about 50% of their wages in taxes to help fund the system. In fact it is more of a "diagnosis" system than a health "care" system. Canadians can get in to see a doctor but if they need treatment or an operation the wait could be as long as two years.

Many of them simply give up and come to the U.S. for their specialist care.

The clues spell out that with Hillary in the White House we will have more regulation, more federal spending, more taxes, and an insensitive foreign policy. What one Republican candidate for President called "comfortable mediocrity."

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

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PASTIMES

TEN RULES FOR TEMPTING TAILGATING

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The fall entertaining season kicked into first gear on Saturday, with nearly 25,000 spectators attending the 70th running of the International Gold Cup at Great Meadows. With amazing weather – temperatures hovering perfectly in the mid-70s – and the colors of the season beginning to show on the trees, thousands of people enjoyed the races while tailgating with their families and friends. I had the honor of being one of three judges of the tailgating competition, in which attendees wore their guests with delicious food, beautiful decorations and tongue-tickling, alcoholic concoctions. Although we had to pick one winner, everyone who competed had some excellent advice for successful tailgating. These rules don't only apply to horse racing – keep them in mind for football games, NASCAR races, and well, any time you have a group over to enjoy a day of food, friends and fun!

1. Plan ahead. There's a lot to think about when planning a tailgate: how many people will attend (always plan for drop-ins), will you send out formal invitations, what will be on the menu, what rules of the facility must you keep in mind (i.e., can you bring in glass bottles or do they allow grills). The winning tailgate competitors at Gold Cup began their planning two months in advance, while some of the other competitors threw their menus and food together the night before.

Try to choose menu items that you can make in advance, such as pasta salads, soups, or dips for veggies or chips. Most of these you can make up to the day before an event, and some of them taste better with some time in the fridge to mellow flavors.

2. Be practical. Watch the weather or will you have to deal with 30 mile an hour winds that will have napkins flying or will your cheese platter be melting in the 95 degree heat? Make sure you have a plan for trash or recycling receptacles (don't count on the facility to provide them) and for dirty dishes if you're using wine glasses or china. Just don't go over the top – keep things simple (this is one area where I'm a fan of paper or plastic plates) and everyone will enjoy themselves.

3. Keep food safety in mind. The last thing you want to do is sick on your guests! Having an idea of the weather conditions will help, but no matter the temperature, try to keep food covered to discourage insects, place dishes in the shade when possible, and keep hot dishes hot and cold dishes cold. Check with the event facility, but chilling dishes or soup tureen heated with Sterno fuel might be an option for hot dishes, and placing serving dishes on ice in a larger container or in a cooler will help keep them cold. Ideally, hot food should be kept at a temperature of 140° or above and cold food below 41°. At the end of the day, throw out any food that has been unrefrigerated for more than 2 hours.

4. Make it a team effort. Get your family and friends involved in the planning, and especially in the cooking! If you're not too picky about specific menu items, include a food "assignment" in your invitations, asking people to bring a specific type of dish (meat, veggie, pasta, dessert) or have your family help design and prepare the menu. This is a great way to involve the kids; one of the competitor's daughters made her "signature dish" – a spicy chicken pasta salad with corn and black beans.

5. Give your set up a personal touch. Adorn your tables with season-specific décor (many people had pumpkins, gourds, mums, or fall flower arrangements), family photos from prior events, antique photos of jumping horses, or even a mounted and stuffed fox. Donna Cresce, mid-Atlantic manager for St. Supéry vineyards and winery, included her child's hood saddle perched against a pot of colorful mums as her centerpiece. The other option is to choose a theme. Shanna Galzarano of Haymarket and her husband used their antique bright red K5 Blazer and yellow Mercedes convertible as "his and hers" centerpieces, color coordinating their napkins, plates, plastic cups and place card holders. Another group, led by Nancy Novak of Fairfax, had a fabulous "Old Theme, dressed to the nines" period-specific clothing and served food from the era, including corned ham, white bread, Pilsner and moon's meatloaf with beef or tomato gravy.

6. Stick to family favorites. Don't

use your guests as guinea pigs! Even though the recipes you use might be old news to your family, your guests don't know any different. Call mom or grandma (or the cooking men of the family) to get the recipes for their favorite party dishes. You may find that these old family favorites become tailgating traditions that your guests will ask for year after year!

7. Go for variety and color. Besides your décor, consider diversity among your fare. The winners of the Gold Cup tailgating competition, led by Katherine Sandhoff of Fort Washington, Md., served dishes from different cultures, including a traditional Lebanese potato salad and ensalada de choclo, a cold Peruvian corn salad. Pasta salads with red tomatoes, green basil, black olives, antipasti platters of grilled vegetables, meats and cheeses; roasted beef tenderloin with a cranberry-custard and pink center, or a whole poached salmon surrounded by chopped hard-boiled eggs, capers, and red onion add a range of tastes and textures and create a footstool rainbow. Believe me, mouths will water.

8. Don't forget about drinks. While wine and beer are the traditional tailgating libations, consider creating a stocked bar in the back of the SUV or serving a special cocktail. Novak's group created the "Gold Cup" cocktail, a combination of Grand Marnier, Midori and orange juice. They also served a non-alcoholic drink consisting of blended bananas, orange juice and lemonade, which was then frozen and dropped into a punch bowl of ginger ale. Winner Sandhoff's group offered three different specialty drinks: a white sangria of white wine, peach schnapps, triple sec, a splash of bourbon and sliced strawberries, peaches, oranges and lemons; the "Apple Cobbler," a cocktail created by former bartender and Penn State graduate Kathryn Cornelius (see her recipe below); and a "gin bucket" – a Penn State tailgating tradition – consisting of gin, Fresca, lemon and lime, from which you take a shot out of a turkey baster! Whether it's Bloody Marys, G&Ts, Manos, or products from a local microbrewery or winery, everyone will be smiling by the end of the night! (Drink responsibly and make sure everyone has a safe ride home.)

9. Delight them with desserts. Top off the savory dishes with delectable desserts. Place all of the food out at the same time, so some people may have already eaten, or (like me), go for the sweets first. Create height in your display with a three-tiered dessert stand and think bite size. Make your favorite cookies half-sized, bake your cheesecake recipe in muffin or mini-muffin cups instead of a big springform pan, or cut brownies smaller than normal. Some popular desserts at Saturday's event were



mini pumpkin cheesecakes topped with candied nuts, dates stuffed with cream cheese frosting and rolled in sugar, and lemony sweet cornmeal mini-muffins. With the smaller size, guests can try more than one dessert without feeling guilty!

10. HAVE FUN! Relax and enjoy the day. Whether you're entertaining 10 or 50, take a laissez faire attitude and go with the flow. Expect that the usual mishaps will happen (dishes dropped, drinks spilled, something forgotten), and if they don't, the day will have exceeded your expectations and your guests will no doubt have had a memorable time!

Apple Cobbler Punch
Created by Kathryn Cornelius

This is the perfect fall or winter tailgating cocktail. You can also enjoy it during your Thanksgiving or winter holiday meals.

1 container (half gallon) of Trader Joe's Organic Apple Juice
1/2 bottle (one liter) of Trader Joe's Sparkling Apple Cider
3/4 750ml bottle of Maker's Mark
2/3 750ml bottle of Laird's Apple Jack
1 two-liter bottle Canada Dry Diet or Regular Ginger Ale

Pumpkin Bars
Makes 21 bars or 35 squares
1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
2 eggs
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 cup pumpkin puree (not canned pumpkin pie mix)
1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix ingredients in a punch bowl and serve in glasses over ice. Enjoy!

1 1/2 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs and slowly mix in the melted butter (be careful, if the butter's too hot it will cook the eggs). Add the remaining ingredients – except the chocolate chips – one at a time, gently stirring only until the ingredients are mixed. Pour the batter into a greased 9 x 13 pan and spread evenly. Sprinkle the chips over top, and bake for about 25-30 minutes, until light brown around the edges. When cool, cut into bars or small squares.

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PASTIMES

A MASTERFUL ART SHOW IN MIDDLEBURG



ADRIENNE LEWIS

Each since its opening, Trowbridge-Lewis Galleries has brought to Middleburg museum quality original art work by world recognized master artists - available for purchase. The show this year concentrated on French Impressionist painters both deceased and living and the star of this year's show was one of very few available original oil paintings by

Pierre Auguste Renoir "Passage du Cagnes" painted in 1895. Other outstanding highlights were the original works of Jules Cheret who created vivid poster ads for the cabarets, music halls, and theatres such as the Folies Bergères, Theatre de l'Opera, and the Moulin Rouge. As his work became more popular and his large posters displaying modestly free-spirited females found a larger audience, critics began referring to him as



the "Father of the Women's Liberation." Females had previously been depicted as prostitutes or puritans, and the Cheret—as his women were popularly called—were neither. It was freeing for the women of Paris, and lead to a noticeably more open atmosphere in Paris where women were able to engage in formerly taboo activities, such as wearing low-cut bodices and smoking in public.

Other show highlights were an exceptional watercolor by the French artist, Jean-Francois Raffaelli (1850-1924) and two landscapes by Eugene-Galen Laloue (1834-1941).

This year's show also featured the return to Middleburg of Emmanuel and Alexandre Renoir the great grandsons of Pierre Auguste Renoir. Alexandre the first Renoir to paint since his great grandfather displayed his talent through both his original oil paintings on display and those he painted on the sidewalk in front of the gallery all weekend. He and Emmanuel also lectured on the "L'Inchon of the Boating Party" his great grandfather's most famous work and the lithographic hand colored works Alexandre created as homage to his famous ancestor.

The show also featured the works of five members of the Pissarro family including three original paintings by George-Henri Manzana (1871-1961) "Autoportrait" painted in 1958, his beautiful "Femme Nue de Dos" painted in 1925 and a small landscape "L'Annonciade". His brother Paulmile (1884-1972) was represented by four original pastels on paper. In addition we had the work of H. Claude, Paulmile's son; Claude's late wife Katia and his granddaughter Lelia the latest professional artist in the Pissarro family.

We were also able to display original oil paintings by Florence Vesser Orval, H. Claude Pissarro's most famous student and a recognized master "pointillist" painter.

In addition we displayed the work of Jean Vollet, a 72 year young French artist who is considered one of the finest "pointillist" painters alive today.

The work will be on display through October 28 at the gallery.

JOX, ROX AND SOX
SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

Four inches of snow fell in Denver over the weekend. The Rockies are 4-2, although they could have easily coughed up the game this last Sunday to Arizona. Maybe if the Cardinals had an actual quarter-back playing quarterback at the end of the game, maybe if Neil Rackers hadn't pushed his back just a few feet to the left, maybe if Matt Leinert had been starting instead of Kurt "One-armed Warner, maybe the Cardinals would have pulled it out. Maybe, maybe, maybe. Whatever. However you slice it, the "Shins are 4-2, and about to get absolutely sneered by the New England Patriots. Right now, the Bur-gundy and Gold are strapped to the tracks and just don't know it. Nothing can stop the cross-country express that is the Pats right now, not even Washington's much-ballyhooed defense. Sorry.

If you close your eyes, clear your head and turn your ears towards Baltimore, you might be able to actually hear the Ravens getting older and creakier. I've never seen a team creaking a by-week as hungrily as this one. The disaster that is Atlanta Falcons football continues to limp along. Bobby Petrino, the former Louisville coach who was hired away by the prospect of being the guy who turned Michael Vick into an actual NFL quarterback rather than just an unpredictable phenom, looks sicker and sicker every week. This guy thought he was getting the keys to dad's Bentley, instead he got the keys to a beat-up Yugo with water damage. Gross.

What in the heck happened to the Jets? When the fourth quarter started, Gang Green was winning 23-17; by the time dust settled, the hometown Bengals had outscored the boys from New York 21-8 and taken the game. Some people were calling Eric Mangini the Mangenitus after he took the previously 4-12 Jets to the playoffs in his first year as head coach. They're going to need to update that. Manangin-overrated is good. Manfashin-therapy is my personal favorite.

The Cowboys may well be the crime de la crime of the NFC right now, but they hardly looked like world-beaters against the Vikings. Combine that with the combined records of the teams they've beaten to date this season, 12-27, and it doesn't take a crystal ball to see heartbreak in the future for fans of Jerry's kids.

The Boston Red Sox just finished another remarkable comeback, this one against the snake-bitten Cleveland Indians, coming from down three-games-to-one to advance to their second World Series in four seasons. By the time you, dear and loyal reader, read this, I have a sneaky feeling head out there will have picked the Sox to win the Series and

will have force-fed you zillions of reasons why. I have a sneaky feeling they're wrong. Look for the Rockies to take one of the first two games in Boston, then two of three at home in Denver, sending the Series back to Boston for games six and seven. I don't see the Sox winning two must-wins in a row again, though. See, what a lot of us fail to realize is what an amazing feat the Rockies are on right now. If it were the Red Sox, Mets or, God-forbid, Yankees that had won 21 of 22 to close the regular season and tip into the postseason, that East-

coast media market team would have already been anointed the most remarkable thing since sliced-bread. As it is, hardly anyone seems to give the Rockies any credit, probably because they play in a football town in an after-bell-time-zone: all the more pity for the rest of us.

The Rockies bash with the best of 'em, and, after dispatching the Diamondbacks in four, they didn't really look like they cared a thing in the world about who they were going to face in the World Series. Now that they know, they just want to play ball.

A collective groan could be heard from sea to shining sea when the National League Championship Series turned out to be geological oddity, played out in the mountains and the desert between two small market teams, neither one with a lot of flash, neither one with a starting lineup anyone from outside of their respective hometowns could have named. No matter. The brand of baseball the Rockies are playing right now is simple and straightforward; they pitch better than their opponents, they get better and more timely hitting than their opponents, and

they're not afraid to barge all the way through your front door if you leave it open just a crack. As a matter of fact, they're playing a lot like the Red Sox right now. A team, interestingly enough, that they already beat this year. Twice. In three chances. In Boston. By a combined score of 20-5. If you haven't seen a game all season, no matter. Check out the Series. You won't be sorry.

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EXPLORING BOOKS

▲ ethn. Schlingen. In

There are always new books coming out about what we should all do to make our lives better. For example, dog whisperer Cesar Millan gives us *Bethe Pack Leader: Use CESAR'S WAY to Transform Your Dog...and Your Life* (Crown Publishing Group.) He applies his principles of dog psychology to show us how to develop the calm-assertive energy of a successful

If you don't find inspiration in food, you might find it in *Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's* (Crown Publishing Group) by John Elder Robison. The author, older brother to Augusten Burroughs (*Running with Scissors*) writes movingly about growing up with Asperger's, a form of autism—something he didn't even know he had until he was 40 years old. This is the story of his journey from isolated outcast to a new life as husband, father and successful entrepreneur.

Another noted historian and social commentator, Garry Wills, explores Christianity's place in American life, from the Puritans to the presidential administration of George W. Bush. In *Head and Heart: American Christians* (Penguin Group USA), Wills

In the fiction arena, there are some exciting new books just out. In *The Dilemma* (Overlook), Penny Vincenzi explores the complexities of a highly-charged, wealthy English family led by a mogul who makes Donald Trump look like a wimp. In *Eureka* (Random House), Jim Lehrer is as entertaining as ever with his story of an insurance executive in the throes of a midlife crisis who goes on a spending spree, buying everything he ever wanted as a

On a more serious note, we have another opportunity to enjoy the exquisite writing of Irène Némirovsky. This is another posthumous work unearthed by

For young readers, we can celebrate the arrival of the newest Brian Jacques book, #9 in the Redwall series, *Eulalia!* (Penguin Group USA.) The heroes are animals who must protect their homes against evil in medieval England. This time a new Badger Lord must rise to fight against foxes and other enemies who threaten Salamandastron. These books have captivated readers worldwide.

with their mix of fantasy laced with clear distinctions between right and wrong, good and bad. In *Dragonhaven* (Penguin Young Readers Group) Robin McKinley

In *Spud* (Penguin Group USA), John van de Ruit recreates 1990 South Africa, where Apartheid is crumbling, Nelson Mandela is being freed and the world is changing. Into this milieu comes Spud Milton, 13 years old and starting his first year at an elite boys' boarding school.

Sounds heavy, but it's actually a hilarious, charming tale that will engage every reader, at any age. Thankfully, the author's already at work on a sequel.

n *Wiggle* (Candlewick Press) Sarah McMenemy introduces preschool children to Rosie and her new puppy, who needs a name. Charming retro illustrations and engaging writing make this book a delight.

These are just a few of a harvest of new books for every age and taste. Stop by soon to pluck a few for yourself.

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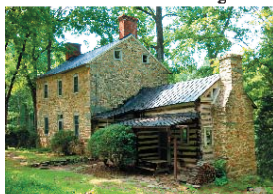
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NOW IT'S THE FEDS WHO WANT TO DESECRATE OUR LAND

The EPA Department of Energy has announced the designation of two National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIEC). These two corridors are the first to be designated under the 2005 Energy Policy Act. One of them cuts right through Middleburg, Virginia, through the Shenandoah Valley, through Loudoun, Shenandoah, and other nearby counties.

WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU:

- Under this new designation, the EPA has announced that the corridor will be subject to a "right-of-way" easement. This means that the corridor will be subject to a "right-of-way" easement. This means that the corridor will be subject to a "right-of-way" easement.
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WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Shenandoah has proposed building a NIEC in the Shenandoah Valley with 11 utility lines in Loudoun, Shenandoah, and other nearby counties. This means that the corridor will be subject to a "right-of-way" easement.
- Under the new NIEC designation, there can be no federal or state action to stop the corridor. This means that the corridor will be subject to a "right-of-way" easement.
- Shenandoah has proposed building a NIEC in the Shenandoah Valley with 11 utility lines in Loudoun, Shenandoah, and other nearby counties. This means that the corridor will be subject to a "right-of-way" easement.

TIME ACTION NOW TO STOP THE INSIDIOUS LAND GRAB
Contact Governor Eiken, the Attorney General, the Board of Supervisors, and your Senators in Congress.
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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.



Melrose Farm Lane
Middleburg, Virginia

Historic 1800's covered 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.



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Upperville, Virginia

A rare offering. This gracious and fully renovated stone manor home in Upperville is surrounded by exceptional views and in impeccable condition. There is a new gourmet kitchen and pantry, a generous first floor master suite and 4 additional bedrooms. The excellent location offers complete privacy surrounded by large protected properties. \$5,800,000.



Old Oaks
Lynchburg, Virginia

Classic restored Virginia home on 8.75 acres, minutes from Lynchburg and Greenway. Home circa 1880 has been completely restored and shows beautifully. Great woodwork and detail. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, lovely formal landscaped gardens and one guest house. Beautiful setting. \$2,300,000.



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Middleburg, Virginia

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

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

JAMES P. ATKINS JOINS NOTRE DAME BOARD

Notre Dame Academy, a college preparatory private school, announced that Middleburg's James P. Atkins has been elected to its Board of Trustees. Mr. Atkins is a former president of two corporations, a retired Marine Corps officer, and currently, a realtor with Armfield, Miller, and Ripley Fine Properties.

"We are pleased that Jim has agreed to bring his business experience and local connections to our board," said Chris Cough, Board Chair. "Notre Dame's objective of

preparing promising high school students for success in life is advanced by the guidance of people like Jim." Atkins, a graduate of West Virginia University, served twenty-one years in the Marine Corps and its Reserve as a fighter pilot, retired from Rockwell Collins, led Spectrum Signal Processing and BBI Environmental Solutions, and was a vestrman of Middleburg's Emmanuel Episcopal Church. He and his wife, Sandra, live in Middleburg.



KIM HURST OF LONG & FOSTER'S MIDDLEBURG SALES TEAM TO VISIT BURUNDI

Kimberly Hurst, of Long & Foster Realtors, Inc., will travel to Burundi in November to visit with community leaders in several towns and villages in that east African country. Working through the international aid organization World Relief, she'll take part in meetings to discuss microfinance, health issues, ethnic reconciliation among Hutu and Tutsi, and other issues that have plagued Burundi, one of the world's poorest nations.

"I'm looking forward to a productive exchange of information," says Kim. "Although the people of Burundi are poor economically, their community leaders have a strength and resolve that astounds outsiders. I'm looking forward to learning from them, even as we discuss ways to help provide resources they lack." Kim and her husband Rich Hurst are veterans of relief and development work overseas.



mainly working through Christian organizations dedicated to such purposes. Rich just returned from two weeks in Rwanda and Congo where he and a small team conducted leadership workshops and visited refugee camps. Kim's prior development work has included work at schools, orphanages and medical clinics throughout Central and South America. She is co-author of the book Vacations With a Purpose which is a guide for what is becoming known as "volunteer vacations."

MIDDLEBURG BANK NAMES RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Middleburg Bank announced that David Stalnaker has joined the company as Vice President and Risk Management Officer. Mr. Stalnaker brings a strong background in compliance and internal audit experience within the financial services industry. He began his banking career with F&M Bancorp in 1982 and remained there through 2003, when F&M was purchased by Mercantile Bankshares. He continued with Mercantile as their Senior Vice President, Chief Compliance and Bank Secrecy Act Officer - Legal Division. Mr. Stalnaker holds a number of professional certifications, including Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager (CRCM), Certified Trust Compliance Professional (CTCP) and

Certified Financial Services Auditor (CFSA). He has been active in a variety of local community organizations such as United Way, Habitat for Humanity and Christmas in April. Mr. Stalnaker serves on the Career & Technology Advisory Council for Frederick County, Maryland public schools and also served as a board member and chairman of the Interagency Internal Audit Authority for Frederick County.

EMPLOYEE-FUNDED EFFORT SETS STAGE FOR EXPANSION

Geoffrey, a design-build contractor that provides ground improvement systems, engineered earth structures and sound walls for transportation and commercial construction projects, has relocated to its newly built headquarters at 413 Browning Court. Located in Purcellville's Browning Industrial Park, the 11,000 square-foot office and 5,500 square-foot workshop is home for the company's 90-person staff consisting of executive management, sales and marketing staff, engineers, project managers and work crews.

"Our new office brings multiple benefits to the company, chief among them being that our growth will not be stymied by a shortage of space," says Mike Cowell, P.E. "It also is centrally located with regard to staff commutes and customer projects, and it is supporting a unique retirement program for employees, so for everyone it is a great investment."

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The Epilepsy Therapy Project, a non-profit organization, is looking for an innovative and experienced team player who is committed to making a difference. As Webmaster, the ideal candidate will oversee our website: www.epilepsy.com and www.epilepsy.com/professionals.

Position overview:

The individual seeking this position should have the skills and ability to create online tools, maintain content, and continue to develop the site. Innovation, teamwork, and commitment are essential for this position. Attention to detail, and site branding is a must.

Interested applicant may request full job description or submit resume via kim@epilepsy.com

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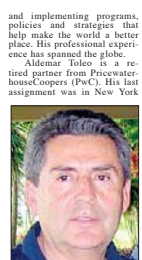
NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR PIEDMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Bradley Davis, President of the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF), recently announced the election of four new directors to the board of directors. Welcomed at the annual meeting in September, the incoming directors bring extensive business, economic, and non-profit experience to the rapidly expanding Foundation. The hallmark of the Foundation since its formation in 1988, has been the active involvement of Loudoun County, Fauquier County, and Northern Virginia business leaders. New directors include:

Merritt Jones, the retired managing partner of Hill Lewis, a Detroit law firm. Merritt



and implementing programs, policies and strategies that help make the world a better place. His professional experience has spanned the globe. Adam Toler is a retired partner from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). His last assignment was in New York



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PRIME ATOKA ROAD ACREAGE SOLD-\$3,137,817

Tirvelda Real Estate is proud to announce the sale of the important 89 acres of rolling fields with mountain view in the Piedmont Hunt. We would like to thank the sellers, the Risk Family for their continued loyalty over the past seven years and th Purchaser, Dencrest, LLC for their efforts in protecting this area with strong conservation in mind. It has been a pleasure to work with them.

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PARENTS & PROGENY

WAKEFIELD STUDENTS TO WELCOME CHEETAH AND CCF

Dr. Laurie Marker, Executive Director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), will visit Wakefield School Thursday, October 25th to introduce the students to an uncaged cheetah and tell them about CCF's efforts to save the endangered world cheetah population. Dr. Marker and her staff will talk about their efforts to manage and support the cheetah population in the wild and on their preserve in Namibia.

CCF (www.cheetah.org) is a charitable organization devoted to "research and education on cheetahs and their ecosystem," and "to working with all stakeholders to achieve best practice in the conservation and management of the world's cheetahs." Wakefield School is the only school visit planned in the United States this year. Wakefield students and teachers are particularly excited to talk with Dr. Marker about opportunities for Upper School students to volunteer at the cheetah preserve in Namibia and to design academic projects around their work with

FOXCROFT SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER WARRIORS



Foxcroft students raised \$500 for The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund and awareness of how important it is to take control of your own body during the Nanette's Walk initiative. The walk is named in honor of Nanette Hevitt White who lost her 10-year battle with breast cancer.

Foxcroft students who participated in the walk made up the largest single group in the event. Patty Jarvis, a walk organizer and Beth Glenn, both breast cancer warriors, spoke to the students encouraging them to feel empowered to understand and beat the disease.

LOCAL SCOUT HELPS CHRISTMAS NETWORK

Adam Hall, a 15-year-old Boy Scout from Troop 711, decided that lunchtime would help people out a lot, said Hall. "That's why I decided that I would open one this year for my Eagle Scout project."

Reaching the Boy Scout's highest rank of Eagle is not an easy task. In addition to earning a number of merit badges and leadership abilities, the Eagle rank requires a minimum of 200 hours in leading the troop in a community service project.

As a relay center coordinator for Operation Christmas Child, Adam will help with the drop-off site and encourage families, churches and various community groups to pack

shoe box gifts to share hope with suffering children. Some of these boxes will go to children who have never received a Christmas present.

Operation Christmas Child collects shoe box gifts to be hand delivered to millions of children suffering from war, terrorism, disease, natural disaster, famine, and poverty in more than 90 countries.

It doesn't have to cost very much to do something so special," said Hall. "A simple box can be like gold to these children."

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY WINS 2ND ANNUAL WAKEFIELD "COLUMBUS CUP"



ND Beat St. Stephens/St. Agnes 2-0. Logan Stephens scored both goals with assists by Lizz Snow and Emily Young. In the championship game against Wakefield, Haley Fitzgerald scored two goals with assists from Logan Stephens and Emily Young. The game ended in another win 2-0.

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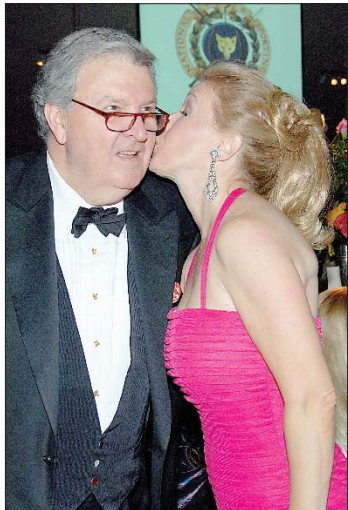
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FACES & PLACES

NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY COACHING GALA

LIANGOLLEN FARM - UPPERVILLE, VA SEPTEMBER 29, 2007
PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA BENITZ AND DEE DEE HUBBARD



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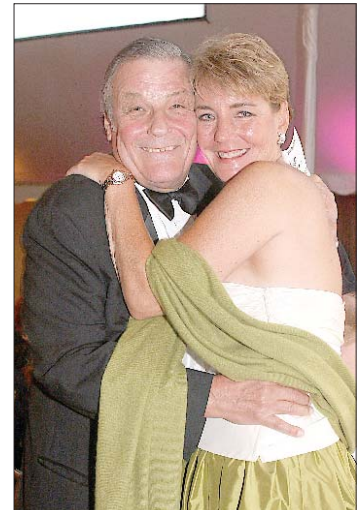
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LIANGOLLEN FARM - UPPERVILLE, VA SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2007
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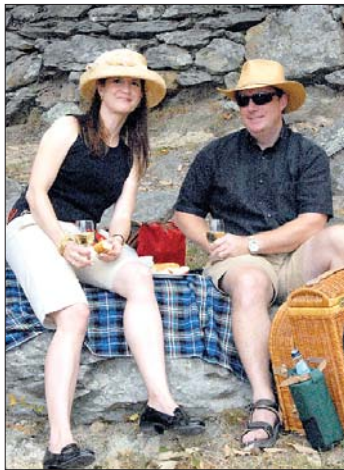
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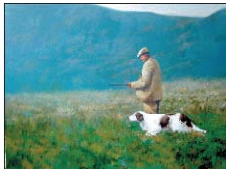
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Continue to visit and shop the Leesburg Farmers' Markets all year long & purchase:

fresh chicken, pork, beef, lamb, ostrich, breads, soups, apples, cheese, fresh salsa and so much more!

The Leesburg Year Round Market is located in the Virginia Village Shopping Center off of Cabin Creek every Saturday from 9-noon.

To sign up for our e-newsletter, send and e-mail to: stickovich@aol.com and put "LEESBURG YEAR ROUND MARKET" in the subject line.

Buy Fresh! Shop Local! See you at the market!

LOCAL CHEFS NEEDED FOR COOKING DEMO

The Leesburg Year Round Farmers' Market is seeking the culinary skills of local chefs to provide a cooking demonstration at the Leesburg Year Round Market.

We are seeking chefs to perform especially on the following dates:

SATURDAY-NOVEMBER 17

Thanksgiving Cooking Ideas

SATURDAY-DECEMBER 15

Holiday Cooking Ideas

SATURDAY-FEBRUARY 9

Valentine's Day Ideas

Many of the ingredients can be used from vendors at the market.

If interested, please contact Sandra Stickovich: 540-771-0225 or stickovich@aol.com

November 1 & 2

OPEN AUDITIONS

Actors, singers and dancers wanted for VSAA's new original musical "The Old Homestead: A Loudoun Valley Tale".

Location: The Arts Center at the Barn in Franklin Park in Purcellville Time: 6 PM

Call Ben Shoenberger at 540-338-7973 to sign up for an audition slot

November 3

VA ART AUCTION

600pm at Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant, 15120 Washington Street, Haymarket, VA Art Auction sponsored by the Haymarket Historical Society to benefit the Haymarket Town Street Scapes and the Battlefield HS Singers, who will perform.

Being held Saturday. Doorframe prizes and complimentary hors d'oeuvres/freshments served. Tickets available in advance or at the door. For ticket information or how to help sponsor this event contact Pam Stutz at (703) 753-2600

November 6

HAYMARKET WOMAN'S CLUB ELECTION DAY

DINNER

The Haymarket Woman's Club will be hosting their annual Election Day Dinner at St. Paul's Parish Hall at 6735 Fayette Street, Haymarket, VA. Doors open for the bazaar at 10:00 AM with the traditional turkey harvest dinner served from 11:00AM to 2:00PM. Dinner is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children age 12 and under.

Items in the bazaar include: crafts, baked goods, and white elephant items. The club will once again be raffling off a beautiful handcrafted quilt for \$1 per ticket. This year's quilt is pink and blue. Tickets will be available at the event and the drawing will be held at the conclusion of the day.

This is the 25th Annual Election Day Dinner for the Haymarket Woman's Club, who celebrated their 75th anniversary in 2006. "This is an event the whole community looks forward to every year." Town of Haymarket Mayor, Pamela Stutz, said, continuing "The Woman's Club does so much for our town". Projects for the Club include: providing Birmingham Green, Hospice of Northern Virginia, Friends Christmas Baskets - Salvation Army, Cancer Society, Operation Smile and Bull Run Mountain Conservancy. Citizenship Awards to Mountain View, Tyler, PACE, Alvey and Buckland Mill Elementary students and providing nursing scholarships.

The Club meets at noon the second Tuesday of each month at St. Paul's Parish Hall at 6735 Fayette Street, Haymarket, VA and is open to all area women who strive to make a difference.

For additional information, please contact club president, Ruth Stierma at juststierma@aol.com

November 8, 9 and 10

EMMANUEL CHURCH CHRISTMAS SHOP CELEBRATES ITS 58TH YEAR

The year was 1949. Harry Truman was the President. All The Kings Men, won the Academy Awards for the best picture of the year; the first seat belts were offered as an option on some cars and the Christmas Shop at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Middleburg, opened its doors.

On November 8, 9 and 10, the shop will celebrate its 58th year, making it one of the longest annual such shops in the nation. From just a handful of dealers, mostly from the local area, this year's shop features 24 dealers from 10 states, selling men's and women's clothing, antiques, gourmet food, jewelry, home and garden accessories, artwork, soups, children's items and toys. There is also a Country Kitchen Cafe.

The shop is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day with admission a \$5 donation, good for all three days.

One of the most popular dealers in recent years, has been Fowler Wildlife Association of New York City. It features African wildlife paintings by Betty Fowler, wife of noted wildlife adventurer, Jim Fowler, for many years the host of television's "Wild Kingdom."

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Molly is a 7-8 year old Border Collie cross. She is a nice dog, easy going and everyone's friend. She would be the perfect companion for anyone!

Choco is a 1.5 year old dachshund/haugie mix who gets along well with other dogs, cats and kids. Great family dog! He will need a fenced yard.

Nikko is a 4-5 year old very affectionate Doberman who gets along well with other dogs!

Kitten & Adult Cat! We have many beautiful, healthy & very friendly baby kittens & adult cats! Lots of colors & fun personalities! Bring a little love into your home!

Mary is a beautiful 18 year old purebred Parsonage who has driven most of her life, but rides well too. She is 100% sound and has a nice temperament.

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Puppy is an adorable 5/6 year old purebred Cocker Spaniel. Sweet as can be, puppy is friends with everyone!

Andy is a sweet 8 mo. old Fox Terrier mix puppy. He is a little shy, but oh so sweet! His siblings have been adopted and he really wants to find his forever family now!

Tyler is the perfect family dog! He adores kids of all ages, and is OK with cats & other dogs. He has completed obedience classes.

Peppermint Patty & Charlie Brown are super cute 2 year old brother & sister St. Bernard Cong? mixes. Patty is good w/ kids, cats & other dogs. Charlie would be better by himself...

Burmese Angora cross. Beautiful. Super healthy and being handled daily here so - super friendly!

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For more information on animals available for adoption, upcoming fundraisers, recent rescues, & how you can help, please visit us on the web at: www.middleburghumane.com

ALBERT'S CORNER

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



I am very excited to report that I, Albert P., now have an international pen-pal! His name is Panzer Kingsley and he is a really cool German Shepherd who used to live here but moved to France a few months ago. His "Dad" is First Secretary at the United States Embassy in Paris. Panzer is very tall, distinguished and handsome (kind of like what I am on the inside even though I'm short and frizzy on the outside).

Panzer wrote a very nice note asking if we could correspond and I jumped at the chance to learn all about life in the City of Lights. So far, I've found out that the French are a lot more sophisticated than Americans when it comes to welcoming dogs in all kinds of establishments. It's easier to take us on public transportation, and lots of cafes and shopping malls love canine visitors! It seems like such a civilized way to live. Puppy parents must clean up after pets in public places or face a hefty fine, but that seems a small price to pay for having our constant companionship.

Panzer did say that it is important to be careful about which airline to choose when flying across the pond with pets. This is particularly critical if you must put a pet in the cargo hold. For instance, you should insist on having climate controlled holding facilities and strict guidelines regarding the time required between connecting flights. Panzer had a wonderful experience with Lufthansa. In his opinion, the foreign airlines are more careful about the care of animals than the US carriers.

Finally, Panzer sug-

gests keeping up the relationship with your US vet while out of the country. If you cannot get prescriptions overseas, the US vet can ship medications to your address abroad.

So thank you, Panzer, for taking the time to enlighten a simple domestic journalist like me. Your life sounds very glamorous! I can barely imagine pets being welcome at the

table inside a restaurant. It's the stuff of dreams.

I also want to thank you for giving me a wonderful idea. I would love to sometimes be able to write about other dogs' experiences. My voice is just one of so many possible voices near and far. So readers, please encourage your pets to write to me. I might include their viewpoints in an article.



I might post their stories or pictures on www.wywiegwagg.com. Together, we could have a lot of fun!

Albert's Paw Pals is the name of my new program dedicated to keeping the bark lines open. Write me at albertspawpals@gmail.com. Your pet can send anecdotes, stories, questions and photos. And, if your dog doesn't quite know how to use a computer just yet, you

can help. (Of course, if you have a cat, using the mouse is second nature.)

Au revoir for now!

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

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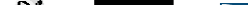
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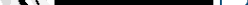
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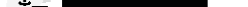


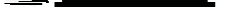


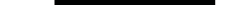
















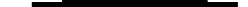


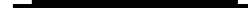


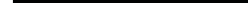














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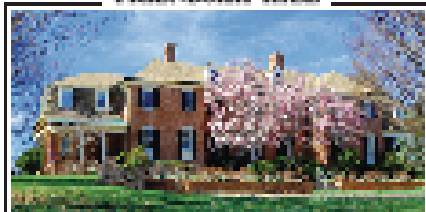
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