



HOLIDAY GIFT FROM THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT

CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG

PAGE 26

A SMALLER LUMP OF COAL?

DANIEL MORROW

On December 4 the United States Department of Energy announced that it will "reconsider" its October, 2007, decision to designate 7 cities and 15 counties in northern Virginia, part of the mid-Atlantic-area "National Electric Transmission Corridor."

In theory the NETC designation simply allowed the Secretary of Energy to expedite construction of the electric grid in areas where "transmission congestion or constraint adversely affects consumers . . ."

In practice the decision provided Dominion Virginia Power with what some critics called an "easy out" if their plans to build a 240-mile, above-ground, high-voltage transmission line across some of the most scenic and historically significant areas of northern Virginia, ran into trouble at the state or local level.

Indeed, in the words of the Energy Department, if Dominion Virginia did "not receive approval from a State to site a proposed new transmission facility within a National Corridor," it could simply "apply to FERC [the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission] for a permit and authorization to construct the facility."

Opposition to the usurpation of State and local authority inherent in an NETC designation united Democrats and Republicans, county and local officials, developers and environmentalists, throughout the affected areas of northern Virginia.

Governor Tim Kaine, a Democrat, and Republican Attorney General Robert McDonnell stood together, contending that the designation, in Virginia's case, was both "unnecessary" and, in essence, "illegal."

Both applauded the Energy Department's "reconsideration" and its promise to give renewed requests for exclusion "full consideration" and the time necessary to "thoroughly evaluate" their rationale.

For opponents of the Dominion Virginia Power line, however, the Energy Department's decision, while helpful,

Continued Page 4



PLOWMAN'S TALE

PAGE 4

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NEW FLAVORS

PAGE 12

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NEWS OF NOTE

2007 SOLAR DECATHLON GO GREEN MIDDLEBURG

JACK A. HOLZ, JR.

With the recent designation of a large portion of Pendleton Virginia as a National Historic Landmark, the National Center for Energy Efficiency (NCEE) by the federal government, Dominion Power now has federal confirmation authority to take private property, even property under easements, for its own corporate requirements. For instance, a 50000 watt power line. Dominion's argument is that homes in Northern Virginia are using increasing amounts of energy, requiring the need for new sources of electricity. Fortunately, there are now many options available to reduce household energy consumption.

If you were able to catch the 2007 Solar Decathlon on the National Mall in Washington from October 12-20th, you were able to witness firsthand the advances that have been made recently in creating energy self-sufficient homes. Twenty top-notch teams from the United States (including Puerto Rico) and Europe competed to design and construct homes that were 100% solar powered. Representing our local area was the University of Maryland, which placed second overall in the competition. This was particularly compelling because the state of Maryland has been very proactive in promoting alternative energy. Maryland has accepted the fact that the incentives the state is providing its residents to offset the cost of installing energy saving devices as a means to supplement energy demand from utilities.

The intent of the Solar Decathlon was to design homes that would satisfy all of the energy requirements of the typical American home. There were ten categories in the competition. Decathlon (that each home should meet. Included in these were: heating and air conditioning should keep the homes at comfortable temperatures and humidity year round; the homes should provide ample energy to power lights, televisions, computers, refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers, ovens and above and most importantly, the homes should be pleasing to look at, provide comfortable living spaces and be reasonably affordable.

The homes were constructed on the campus of each school, and visitors then taken quiet, transported. Even constructed on the Mall in the layout of a "solar village" with a Main Street running between rows of ten homes. Each home had to rely on its own resources for power for the entire week. Visitors were allowed to walk through each home, knock whatever they wanted and speak to the student/faculty school that were available to answer any questions about the technology, design and theory for each energy system. The modern design and appearance of each home made them seem like something out of the future, however, all of the technology used for construction, to power each home and provide hot water off of the self materials, systems and components that are available today. The reason you don't see these materials and components in the majority of homes is because

that most of the current architectural design firms and home builders in suburban subdivisions are behind the curve when it comes to green design. Also, designing an energy efficient "green home" can add significantly to the cost, and, let's be honest, most home owners are more concerned with making two story houses than energy efficiency when it comes to designing their home.

The majority of people will not want to be the extent of the self-sufficient homes in the solar village on the Mall when it comes to saving energy in their own home, but that is not to say they cannot incorporate some of the available technologies from these solar homes into theirs. For instance, more aesthetically pleasing solar panels that look similar to roof shingles or roof tiles are now on the market. Other solar panels can come with dark surfaces and frames that can mount flush with most roofs for a look that blends in well with the appearance of the home. High efficiency solar water heaters can provide for most, if not all of a typical home's hot water needs. These solar water heaters can supply not only hot water for washing and bathing, but also provide hot water for radiant heating tubes installed under floors to heat the entire home. Electric chromatic windows can automatically darken or lighten the glass in the frames to allow less heat to enter a house in the summer and more heat in the winter, and other windows use transparent films that reflect heat back from the window into the room or into the atmosphere. Better insulation, such as foam panels, can provide superior heat and cool retention than existing fiberglass. Even certain building materials can be used on the exterior of the house that absorb heat and transfer it into the home or reflect heat, keeping the home cooler.

The purpose of the Solar Decathlon was not just to show what some engineering and architectural students could build in laboratory environment. The idea was to let everyone look at the existing technology (use up) and questions, and imagine how it would look and work in your own home. The student explained to me that you don't have to build a solar house like them to benefit from energy efficiencies. Even older homes can be retrofitted with the latest energy saving technologies if you are willing to do some research and come up with a viable plan.

One day we may all be living in self-sufficient solar homes, but we don't have to wait for the future to take advantage of technology that is available today. Even saving 2-10% of your energy consumption can have a dramatic effect on the resources we use today, which will hopefully slow down or stop utility companies' need to install more power lines and build additional power plants.

LOCAL CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS JOIN FEDEX TO DELIVER HOLIDAY SPIRIT TO TROOPS & THEIR FAMILIES



Christmas tree growers across the country are donating freshly cut trees to a Federal Express holiday initiative that will deliver 11,000 donated trees to military personnel stationed overseas. Growers are asked to donate any trees they can spare. Donated trees are brought to specific tree farms to be collected by FedEx trucks that take them all over the U.S. This year, the target is 15,000 to 17,000 trees," said Rick and Karen Lowe of Loveland Farm who are participating in the program. "Commercial nurseries can also donate, as can individual customers who may buy a tree for themselves and provide one to be sent via FedEx's Trees for Troops initiative."

Lowe's Flower Farm, Catonsville, Md., is a member of the National Nursery-Bellflower Tree Farm, Oakland Orchard Farm and Treeness Farm will donate trees this year. Tom O'Halloran delivered 100 trees from himself and other growers in central Virginia are also participating. Three hundred trees have already been shipped to Kuwait for distribution to U.S. troops in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Iraq, Qatar and Baghdad. One hundred trees departed on November 28th for the Navy's Fifth Fleet aboard ships in South West Asia.

Free Holiday Parking In Middleburg

The Town of Middleburg is offering "Free Holiday Parking" in their municipal lots from December 10-31. The Town's municipal lots are located behind the United Methodist Church on South Pendleton Street and on South Liberty Street. We encourage you to join the Town of Middleburg for your shopping holiday needs. The Town of Middleburg and the Middleburg Business & Professional Association wish you Happy Holidays.

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NEWS OF NOTE

PLOWMAN'S TALE: COMPLAINTS LODGED WITH BAR AGAINST PLOWMAN AND BRITTON

On the eve of the Thanksgiving holiday, Timothy Powers, a well-known conservative political strategist, Washington lobbyist, and Lovettsville resident, FedEx'd a package to the Virginia State Bar.

It contained a 17-page formal complaint, requesting that the Bar, an agency of the Virginia State Supreme Court, investigate a series of charges against Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney James Plowman and, almost as an afterthought, against King George County Commonwealth's Attorney, Matthew Britton.

Writing on behalf of a group of concerned citizens, Powers asserts in his

November 20, 2007, letter that Plowman "knowingly and willfully committed numerous violations of the State's Rules for Professional Conduct" and "engaged in general malfeasance and misfeasance in the conduct of his official duties as Commonwealth's Attorney."

"Using 'violations' which 'include but are not limited to' some seven broad categories of misconduct, Powers further requested the Bar to '... employ its own expertise and resources to include other possible violations unknown to us, or that might exceed our ability to determine.'"

An "Addendum" to the complaint against Plowman noted that the group

also had "reason to believe there exists a pattern and possible conspiracy of selective and malicious prosecution by Commonwealth's Attorney Matthew Britton in concert with others, of which Mr. Plowman is but one example."

Laymen AND lawyers? Powers, and apparently those joining in his November 20 complaint, are not lawyers. "As laymen," he wrote, "we beg the patience of the Bar regarding citations and interpretations of law."

Their "complaint," however, was supported by an indexed three-ring binder of documents, and called on the Bar itself to "take any and all appropriate actions to refer these violations to

the proper law enforcement officers." Nor did the complainants mince words, accusing Plowman "in possible concert with other officers of the court of engaging in 'a pattern of corrupt, illegal and unethical behavior resulting in not only the unequal application of justice, but the misuse of his office as a means of promoting the political agenda of one citizen or local official over another.'"

At press time, at least two other complaints are said to have been filed against Plowman, both by active members of the Virginia State Bar.

Specific Complaints Against Plowman

Citing news stories, emails, and other sources, the Powers group focused heavily on Plowman's role in an alleged conspiracy on behalf of the Jill Holliman Vogel campaign to indict and discredit her opponent for the Republican nomination for the 27th District Seat in the Virginia State Senate. Mark Tate, the later-reversed co-sitting of another political opponent, Susan Van Wagner from the Route 50 Traffic Calming Task Force, and a series of allegations of misconduct, misconduct, or neglect by Plowman related to charges of corruption among County officials now under investigation by the FBI. Specifically, Powers asked the Bar to investigate Plowman for what he termed:

"Selective and/or malicious investigations and/or prosecutions" either for his own benefit or those of his political allies (in one case with the specific purpose of manipulating the public's perception in local primary elections)

2. "Application of different and unequal standards of recitals in investigations and prosecutions."

3. "Application of different and unequal standards of procedures and of the law in the execution of his official duties."

4. "Violations of the rules regarding the conduct and responsibilities of Mr. Plowman and his office before the Grand Jury and corruption of same (including the illegal leaking of Grand Jury evidence and deliberations to reporters)."

5. "Violation of the civil rights of citizens of the Commonwealth and their right to fair and open elections as provided under the Virginia State Constitution."

6. Violation of "his duties as an officer of the Court and member of the Bar."

7. Conspiracy "with others to engage in and/or attempt, unethical and/or illegal activities, including, but not limited to, the destruction of communications and documents related to previous and/or pending cases."

The Bar at Work

Initial Confidential Review

The fate of the Powers complaint now rests in the hands of the Bar's disciplinary system, headed by Bar Counsel George Chabalewski.

Chabalewski is familiar with both prosecutors and Loudoun County. Earlier in his career, he served in the Virginia Attorney General's office, as a litigator and was part of the team that prosecuted followers of then Loudoun

Continued Page 38



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LOCAL ARTIST DEBBIE BANKERT EXHIBITS IN CORCORAN SHOW

Sheri Jacob's Ladder by local artist Debbie Bankert has been chosen for a new Corcoran Gallery of Art Juried Exhibition showcasing work from artists in the Corcoran College of Art & Design.

Only 27 of the 100 artists were chosen to exhibit their work in the show that continues until January 6th.

Debbie, who has a degree in Art from West Virginia University and a certificate in Botanical Art & Illustration from the Corcoran College of Art, lives in Orleans with her husband Tom, their Vizsla puppy, Moses, and a "dominant" cat named Manny. She paints from a studio overlooking a grand panorama of the Blue Ridge that she describes as "...a most inspiring place."

After leaving a career in real estate, she returned to the art field and in recent years, has actively pursued a professional art career. She works in watercolor, graphic, colored pencil, oil and egg tempera as she creates



often works that convey her deepest beliefs.

"I strive to share color and line that are both rhythmic and gentle to the eye," she explained. "God has breathed life into our surroundings and my purpose is to emulate a small window of that beauty."

She has exhibited throughout the DC metropolitan area in juried competitions, and her work has been displayed at the US Botanic Garden, the USDA National Library and at the 2006 "Botanical Treasures of Lewis and Clark" Corcoran show.

In the spring of 2008, Debbie plans to travel to the ProVivo Reserves in Columbia, South America to study and paint rare and endangered plants.

"I plan to focus primarily on bromeliads and orchids," she said. Limited edition Giclee reproductions, prints and note cards are available for Christmas presents by contacting Debbie at: DebbieBankert@earthlink.net

HOLIDAY GIFT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was little more than a small and all-too-lucky temporary victory. The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) planned "Information Briefings" in Marshall on December 6, and in Jefferson on November 11, outlining the on-going threat posed by Dominion Virginia's plans.

Virginia's Renewable Energy Policies (VSEP) continues to make the case that the pro-

posed new transmission lines have little or nothing to do with Virginia's power needs. Indeed, VSEP contends, they are essentially designed to transport electricity produced by inefficient, coal-burning plants to our west, through Virginia, to feed the energy needs of major cities on the east coast, at tremendous profit. (See page 11)

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG CITIZEN REPORTS ON TRIP TO IRAN CITES BENEFITS OF "PEOPLE TO PEOPLE" DIPLOMACY

More individuals took their citizenship responsibilities as seriously as Jim Pratt of Middleburg, the public-spirited and self-proclaimed humanitarian, who has traveled to many parts of the world to observe international situations first hand.

Pratt, who has traveled to many parts of the world to observe international situations first hand, recently joined a "citizens diplomacy" delegation to Iran where he gained first hand insight into the lives and perspectives of ordinary Iranians who struggle daily under the escalating tensions between their country and the United States.

"The relationship between the U.S. and Iran is, as we all know, deeply strained. We've had no diplomatic relations for 28 years, and the U.S. accusation that Iran is attempting to build nuclear weapons, and that they are supplying weapons to insurgents in Iraq has only heightened the tensions. I wanted to know Iran and see the situation for myself," he explained. "My goal is simple. I want to be better informed and able to share the knowledge I gain with friends and colleagues so we all have a more balanced and independent point of view about what's really happening."

Iran traveled to Iran with 25 "citizens diplomats" who had the opportunity to visit Iran with the human rights organizations, Global Exchange. The objective of these trips is to establish introductory relationships between U.S. and Iranian citizens.

"I not only gained a much better understanding of Iranian history and culture," Pratt said, "but the background of the current conflict became much clearer as I met with university professors and students, members of the Christian, Jewish and Zoroastrian communities, and Iranian religious leaders and theologians including a Grand Ayatollah."

"Iran is not nearly as restrictive as we think. Tehran is a very cosmopolitan and sophisticated city and Islam is absolutely fascinating. The most important thing to understand is that Iranians are not terrorists, and they are very aware that we think they are. Their culture and government is indeed, very different from ours. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is not the most popular politician in his country and he has less power than we think. He promised Iranian citizens the economic moon and has delivered little. They are frustrated with him as we are."

According to Pratt, many young Iranian women are beginning to wear a more modern version of the manton (a sort of trench coat worn over pants) in beautiful colors. Although this clothing still conforms to tradition, it shows more individuality and personal preference. Behind the doors of their homes, they dress casually and comfortably.

Other aspects of Iranian life that might surprise Americans included seeing restaurants, couples holding hands and embracing in public, something not seen just a few years ago.

"There are parks everywhere, and people will picnic at a moments notice, even on grass median strips."

South Tehran was a slum during the time of the Shah and after the Revolution of 1979 the area was bulldozed, to be replaced by parks, free sports complexes and affordable housing. Land was given to cooperatives and low interest loans were made available so that the coops could sell apartments and houses to their members, eliminating the slums and improving conditions for thousands of working class Iranians.

Incidentally, remains of the tents from the epidemic over the top and last international party given by the Shah still stand today outside Perspolis. Pratt saw a reminder of his incredible extravaganzas.

According to Pratt, Iran is not as restrictive as we think. During one month of each year the government cracks down and enforces laws governing dress for women and things such as public dancing. For the rest of the year, he says, things are much more "relaxed." Smoking water pipes (called habibi habibi) was recently forbidden by the president because tobacco causes cancer, but was rescinded because of public outcry.

"Capital punishment for murder is very much alive in Iran, but if the victim's family forgives the perpetrator the sentence is commuted and in some cases he or she is set free, according to the law."

After traveling all over Iran, Pratt came to the conclusion that President Bush and Vice President Cheney should receive "failing grades in diplomacy."

"Iran is a complex society, democratic on one level, autocratic and deeply religious on the other with restrictions that most Americans could not live under. But it is not for us to judge how ordinary Iranians live, that is up to them. We also should be aware that all Iranians did not support the Embassy hostage taking during President Carter's administration. It was a group of student radicals who remembered the US backed coup that led to the overthrow of President Mossadegh in the 50's and saw the Shah as a mechanism of US involvement in their country. They did not represent the citizens as a whole and many Iranians were so unhappy about it as we were."

Given what he's learned first hand, Pratt believes that having a peaceful Middle





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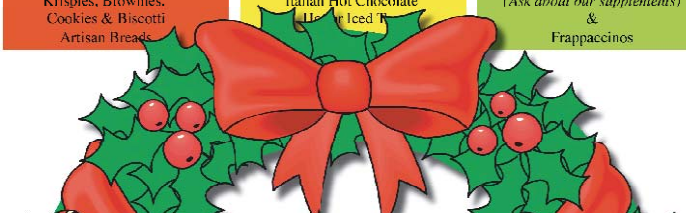
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**MIDDLEBURG BALLOON POP
A HUGE SUCCESS**



The Middleburg Business and Professional Association sponsored a new event this year to encourage Christmas in Middleburg visitors to shop in the stores before and after the parade. Festive red and green balloons were available for sale and were stuffed with \$50 gift certificates from member businesses in town. Visitors were asked to pay a nominal fee of \$5 which was later donated to the Middleburg Humane Foundation. The balloons were such a hit, that planning has started to increase the presence for next year's parade.

NEWS OF NOTE

PASSIONATE HORSEWOMAN, ARTIST AND CONSERVATIONIST EVE FOUT DIES



Suddenly last week, Eve Fout, 78, of The Plains, a prominent citizen and much admired defender of Virginia countryside, died following surgery at the University of Virginia Hospital. Her death is a great loss to her family, friends and equestrian enthusiasts who, only in October, applauded her win of the North American Field Hunter Championship with Morning Pleasure.

Her commitment to the preservation of Fauquier County and the surrounding environs was legendary. She and her late husband, Paul, were a partnership to be reckoned

ELISABETH TROYE PLASKITT'S FABULOUS MIDDLEBURG SHOP

Just Country shoe aficionados are lurching to Middleburg's newest shop, Nobel Nielsen on Madison Street, and they won't be disappointed when they step inside. Beautiful, sumptuous, classically styled shoes greet on wall-to-wall perches in an amazing range of Italian inspired colors that will tempt every shopper.

Luxurious fit and amazing comfort don't really do justice to the impeccably constructed Franchetti Bond design. And the color palette designer Baronessa Franchetti uses would drive Sarah Jessica Parker absolutely mad with desire.

Troye, a stunning native Virginian who is half Norwegian, purchased



her first pair of emerald green "moccasin" in 2002 and when everyone asked her where she got her shoes, she sent them to Franchetti Bond in London's Burlington Arcade.

After wearing Franchetti Bond shoes for several years, Troye was devoted to find a dedication to both style and comfort.

"Now," she says smiling, "they can only be purchased in Middleburg and London."

These shoes are seamlessly lined with beautiful, soft kid skin leather to ensure that the wearer has absolutely no discomfort. The craftsmanship is truly glorious. "Sumptuous suede and soft calf leather, casual, court shoes and boots are on display in opulent Tuscan tones. Papal rilly red, sunlit chocolate brown, Mediterranean black, creamy caramel, olive and evergreen, and Botticelli pink."

The impeccable fit and delightful styles would be enough for most, but, until you've visited the Nobel Nielsen shop to see the color palette for yourself, one really cannot imagine the possibilities.

Should you wish a color closer to your heart, swatches of dozens of beautiful shades from swimming pool blue to indigo, dove gray to puce and everything in between are available for special order.

The only problem is trying to leave the store without three pairs or more.

It's no surprise that Troye came back to an area of the world she loves, and even less of a surprise that she brought the finest in fashion with her.

After her Hill School graduation, a gap year in Norway and degrees in English Literature and Theatre from UVA, she went to New York to model. Soon, she was working for Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren as a merchandise coordinator. But she always came home to Middleburg.

In 2002 when she bought her first pair of Franchetti Bond shoes, she was living in Knockavilla, Ireland, an area well known for a Conemaugh gelding named "Dundrum."

"I'm so happy to be in Middleburg now," she emphasized. "It is a pleasure to bring such beautiful shoes to discriminating Piedmont shoppers. They love them as much as I do. They recognize style and quality just as quickly as I do."

When you visit Nobel Nielsen, be sure to see the shoes in glitter leather. Precisely what you need for fancy dress parties.

Franchetti Bond shoes and boots range from \$200 to \$500 at Nobel Nielsen, 15 South Madison Street, Middleburg, Virginia.

Opening hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and appointments may be made by telephoning 540-687-8206.

SALAMANDER TOUCH PREVIEWS STYLE AND ELEGANCE TO COME

With a hustle and bustle, Kasta would envy Middleburg's new Salamander Touch retail shop opened to serve a crowd of customers on December 1st during the Christmas in Middleburg celebration.

"We were here until all hours of the morning, working hard and enthusiastically to be sure every thing was finished and ready," said Executive Assistant to the President Megan Carr. "All our craftsmen and the entire support team were dedicated to meeting the opening deadline. We're so grateful to them all for their commitment."

All the hard work was definitely worth the endeavor. Salamander Touch is filled with truly inspired items for discriminating individuals of a multitude of persuasions.

In keeping with the unique and luxurious qualities Salamander Resort & Spa will embody when it opens in late 2009, the pretty shop offers a wide selection of stylish gifts, accessories, clothing and jewelry that compete successfully with the finest luxury products in every way except price. Fern Bratton, who manages the shop and has 25 years of retail and luxury item experience, is confident that customers will be delighted with the quality of the selections.



"We're so happy to bring these elegant and useful items to our customers," she said. "We're confident that the quality, creativity and uniqueness of our merchandise will be greatly appreciated, and I know they will love the prices."

One need only look closely at the specially designed, sheer Italian wool throw to understand how much quality you're receiving in signature Salamander items. Light weight, in cream with gray, pale green and pale terracotta, they are the ideal wrap to snuggle up in at the game or in front of the fire. At Hermes, the price would approach \$600 or more for an item of this quality. At Salamander Touch.

Continued Page 38

LOCAL GROUPS FUNDED TO BATTLE BREAST CANCER

Since now-judges serving thousands of women for breast cancer detection and treatment in a Middleburg breast cancer group.

The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund will distribute greater than 100% of its funds raised in 2007 to local non-profit organizations for detection and treatment of breast cancer and to a regional cancer research fund for eradication of the disease.

In its first year, the Fund's donations and their events generated approximately \$56,000, almost twice the goal set last January. The 2008 goal is \$125,000.

The Fund, part of the Piedmont Community Foundation, will grant the following: Leeburg Community Health Center, Leeburg: \$2000 to pay for the fees charged by breast cancer specialists for women unable to pay.

FSH, Middleburg: \$1000 to pay for the breast cancer drugs needed by local women.

Leeburg, Voluntary Carriers, Leeburg: \$1500 for outreach to senior citizens on the need for breast cancer exams and mammograms.

Blue Ridge Hospice: \$2000 for hospice care of breast cancer patients.

Digital mammograms by a mobile unit, owned by George Washington University: \$3600 for a visit to provide mammograms scheduled by the Leeburg Community Health Center. This grant follows one in September in which 17 women were given free digital mammograms in Middleburg.

Fauquier Hospital, Warrenton: \$30,000 toward the \$500,000 price of the Hospital's first digital mammography system. The Fund's leaders have committed to reach out to the community for another \$225,000 to pay on the unit over the next four years. The Hospital will fund the remainder itself and procure the system in mid-2008, the Hospital staff stated. Digital

systems are the most advanced capability in mammography and detect 28% more cancers than film-based systems.

Research to eradicate breast cancer: \$11,000 to either Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center or George Washington University's Cancer Institute. A down-select will be made by mid-December.

Given Middleburg's location at the Leeburg and Fauquier county lines, we wanted to help the women of both communities. Fund Advice for example, a community non-profit, conducting film-based mammograms on more than 6,500 women this year, could not purchase the digital system in 2007," she said. "Our total pledge will allow these dedicated people to increase their ability to catch the disease early."

Fund founder, James Adams, added, "The Leeburg/Fauquier community very generously, and beyond our expectations, trusted us to make a difference in the lives of our mothers, daughters, wives, sisters and friends."

"We committed to expand their mission wisely and expeditiously," he said, "to save as many lives as soon as possible. We believe we have met that pledge so we hope that our wonderful friends will help us make a greater difference the next few years."

In 2008 the Fund will conduct a breast cancer awareness seminar in April at the Middleburg Community Center and its second annual National Walk in the Fall. These events and direct donations are expected to raise at least \$125,000 for distribution in December 2008.

Donations may be mailed to the Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund, c/o the Piedmont Community Foundation, Box 462, Middleburg, 20115. For information contact James Adams at 703-447-2302 or jadam@pbccf.com.

We Deck More Than Just The Halls
for the holidays.

Relax beside a roaring fire, under a canopy of twinkling lights and fresh greens as our gracious staff serves you warm mulled cider and chocolate trifles. Whether you come to Goodstone for dinner or an overnight getaway, your holiday visit will have you feeling warm all winter.

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EDITOR'S DESK

GOOD WILL TO ALL

Gratitude, generosity and a peaceful countenance will be welcomed gifts by all as we celebrate Christmas and conclude a year that has been tumultuous at best. Signs of concern are as evident as traditional decorations this season.

Worried parents who long for their children to return from a war zone, harried home owners who were sold a bill of goods by greedy lenders, retailers who have a sinking feeling that gas prices may consume every dollar in their customers' pockets and youngsters who hope for long, cozy hours in front of the tree with their families all know their wishes may not come true, but they can't stop themselves from wishing.

We hope for improved perspectives for everyone this year and next. For strong, selfless leaders who put their constituents

before themselves; for the courage and confidence to invest in the future of struggling families and children who simply won't make it to a productive adulthood without help; for wise, courageous individuals who take action to address desperation when they encounter it.

It's a lot to hope for, but without the will to make it happen, we'll lose the humanity we all need to make our way in the world.

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@mbec.com or P.O. Box 1768, Middleburg VA 20118

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

As temperatures drop, mice, rats, and other animals are scurrying inside homes and offices for warmth. An encounter with a wayward rodent at my office three years ago forever changed how I see these animals.

I arrived early one morning to find a tiny mouse stuck to a glue trap, shrieking in pain and fear. I gently worked him free, but the cruel trap had already claimed his left eye and some of his fur.

I took the terrified little guy home. After nearly a year, he trusted me enough to take an almond from my hand. Before long, he was climbing onto my hand, running up my arm, and nibbling my ear. He would race to the top of his home when I returned from work, kept me company on my desk while I paid bills, and slept in a flower pot while I watched TV.

Money has since passed away, but I know that each one of the countless other mice and rats who suffer and die on glue traps and other killing devices is just as special and deserving of life as Mousey was. Please, choose humane live traps and give other mice like Mousey the chance to live.

Tyler Marion
McLean, VA

To the Editor:

This is in response to John Shilling's "Rant and Rave." (Middleburg Eccentric, November 2007) We are spending over one trillion dollars on the Iraq War. The war is about oil. It might be cheaper just to buy the oil.

We have hurt or killed a lot of people, both military personnel and civilians. We have not achieved our objectives. We have not found the weapons of mass destruction. We have not provided Iraq with

a proper government. We have not even reduced the price of oil.

I think that it would have been cheaper just to buy the oil, even if it means buying it from the Iraqis who control it, rather than going to all the expense, bother and military injuries of fighting a war. We are not saving any money by spending more on the war than it would cost us to purchase the oil in the first place.

The Pentagon has too big an influence on our country's actions. It wants to use its abilities, which it has been trained to do, even when it is not in our best interests to use all that military training. Like a child who has just graduated from a course, the Defense Department is eager to show us how it has the ability to invade a foreign country and use all its expensive equipment. In this case, a military invasion was not the best way to handle the situation. It was just a way for the Pentagon to show off its abilities.

Part of the problem is that Americans use more oil than necessary. We drive SUV's when small, efficient cars would do. We build huge houses that require too much home heating fuel. We subsidize highways 90% while not building mass transit and bike trails.

We think bus service will reduce property values, turning neighborhoods into slums. One bus can take 40 cars off the road, reducing traffic congestion, air pollution and oil consumption.

We prohibit earning money at home, which would reduce commuting drastically. We do not enable telecommuting (using a computer to communicate from home to the office or the school), which many people could do if it were possible.

We do not make mass transit convenient, nor do we subsidize it. We do not even have adequate sidewalks. People have to drive whether they want to or not. Non-drivers are confined to the house, with no income, even in low-income families

where the non-driver income is sorely needed. (I have been in such a family for 25 years, deprived of an income because I have no transportation. My eyes are too bad to drive. The head of the family makes \$11.25 an hour in a job he has held for 27 years. We have two kids.)

We even import our vegetables from California or Mexico, delivering them in petroleum-burning vehicles, instead of eating locally grown food. We need to eat local food!

We would not have to import our oil from countries that do not like us if we would cut down our consumption, but the SUV's, oversized houses, new roads, and 3000-mile-away vegetables are selling like hot cakes. We even wear clothes that are made in foreign countries and transported here in oil-burning ships.

It is time for Americans to stop using so much oil and stop grabbing all the oil on the planet. We are using several times as much petroleum as we really need. Nobody needs a house over 2,000 square feet, a large vehicle when a sub-compact would do, clothing and food imported from hundreds of thousands of miles away, going to the office five days a week when much of the work could be done at home, or the vast subsidies given to VDOT for new roads when bus service, bike trails, sidewalks, and light rail could move people from place to place more efficiently.

Covering the entire surface of the earth with concrete [and] taking away people's yards to make new highways is not a good thing to do.

Freight should be moved by railroad, not by truck. Think about it, please.

Elin Larson
Purcellville

RANT & RAVES

DOE AGREES TO REHEAR THE NIETC DESIGNATION THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS DON'T GIVE UP THE FIGHT

MATT SHEDDEN

The Good News, The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) finally got the message. Thanks to the efforts of political leaders throughout the region, including Governor Kaine, Attorney General McDonnell, Congressman Davis and Wolf, dozens of local and national organizations and, most importantly, the outcry from the public, the DOE has decided to rehear this outrageous handout to the coal and utility industries. Hopefully, the rehearing will be the first step toward eliminating this anti-market, government intervention which subsidizes the dirtiest coal fired plants in the nation, undermines technological innovation, abuses property owners, tramples on states rights, damages local economies and is generally an unethical use of public money.

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RED VS. BLUE

BUSH IS NO CHURCHILL

DAN MORROW - (D)

As people and party fly off the sinking ship of state, as casualties and costs mount abroad, as crime, corruption and cover-up generate a noxious rainbow on a growing cloak of incompetence, with ever increasing irony the President invites us to embrace him as a 21st century Winston Churchill.

With Saddam Hussein in Hitler, and the war in Iraq as the most equivalent of World War II.

Mr. Bush, his Vice President, and their well-meaning enablers would have us believe, that they, and they alone, see the world as it is. That they alone see God's own truth, and that they alone can protect our country and the world against evil, oppressors and whatever they're calling the enemy this week.

Forget the obvious irony: that our President would be hard pressed to read one of Mr. Churchill's speeches about much less write one, or that Iraq lay dictator ruled a thoroughly run-down, disunited country with a population some 8 million smaller than metropolitan Tokyo.

Forget the 20 million soldiers and 40 million civilians killed in World War II. Forget the First War, and those lost in the global influenza pandemic that followed it, and the human and financial devastation of the Great Depression.

Remember instead that the Second War was a consequence of the First... and that the First War's bungled peace triggered a cascade of consequences that shaped, among

other things, the Second World War and Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam, and all the troubles that have plagued the Middle East since the fall of the Turkish Empire.

What Bush faces is not the Battle of Britain, but the aftermath of Versailles - and, irony of irony he emulates the French.

After the Great War, despite victory, France and her leading politicians lived in fear and anger, and governed accordingly.

Unlike Mr. Bush, however, they had good reason to do so. French losses in the first war were so great that its leaders refused to repeat casually figures publicly for near a decade. They filled their armies with troops from abroad. They paid mothers to have children. They built a wall along their border.

Ironically, the French faced a shattered enemy. That fear, understandable though it was, helped destroy Wilson's dream of a just peace, produced an occupation that France's own best hope for a peaceful future, the fragile new German Weimar Democracy.

By 1933, the German economy had been destroyed not once, but twice. France's two most important allies had all but abandoned her; and Germany's new Chancellor, playing upon his own people's humiliation, anger, and fear, had launched a domestic war on "Jewry."

The Nazis defied their enemies early, and in turn French policy helped define

the new "enemies" were: all those who could be associated, rightly or wrongly, with the lost war, the "French" occupation, a destroyed economy, and a failed government. They were communists, liberal democrats, the Catholic "center" and, eventually, even the conservative parties of the traditional German right.

Ironically, our President's words and actions in the Islamic world are less echoes of Churchill in 1940 than Poincaré in 1919 and 1923. He empowers the enemies the fears most, and sows the seeds of authoritarianism.

Iraqis, most of them now under 25 years old, will tell stories of the American occupation to their children's children. They will speak of its toll on lives and resources; remember its granting incompetence and the hapless Iraqi government it produced; and perhaps most important, they will denounce the generation the internationalism it represented to them, to Iraq and to Islam.

Proponents of an Iraqi secular democracy will be denounced as collaboration and enemies of the state. If the territorial integrity of the country can be preserved at all, only a new strong man will be able to unite Kurds, Sunnis, and Shia under a new Iraqi flag.

Guess which enemies that strong man will denounce, at home and abroad. Guess which allies he will attract.

The war in Iraq is not the Battle of Britain, it's Versailles, re-repetition, and the Ruhr. And Bush is no Churchill, at best he's a dim shadow of the well-meaning, misguided Raymond Poincaré.

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PASTIMES

OLD TRADITIONS, NEW FLAVORS YOUR PERSONAL CHIEF

ANNON BROWNT

This time of year always evokes childhood memories of tree decorating, big smokes in migration and of people overflowing from stockings on Christmas morning, and of course, leaving cookies and milk for Santa. While I've always enjoyed these holiday family traditions, I have never been a strict follower of them. I stopped a long-held family tradition of eating spaghetti and meatballs on Christmas Eve because I didn't like spaghetti and meatballs. What child doesn't like spaghetti and meatballs? Therefore, I've decided to re-imagine some of my family's cookie recipes and start some of my own holiday baking traditions.

Christmas cookies originated in the Middle Ages, with the traditional German lebkuchen (gingerbread) and the English sugar cookie cut with Dutch and German cutters becoming popular early (The Food Timeline, <http://www.foodtimeline.org/foodtimeline.html>, accessed Nov. 25, 2007). Spices and dried fruits from the Indian and Mediterranean subcontinents were rare and expensive, so only used on special occasions, such as weddings and holidays. Traditions arose and grew and were passed down through families over the centuries. My great-grandmother passed down several recipes that are classics. I can remember baking numerous sugar cookies, cut with old cutters in the shapes of Santa with his bag of toys, candy canes, or Christmas trees, and topped with sprinkles of white, pink, blue, yellow, orange and red. But I also remember the special treat of mince tarts and chocolate wafers. We only made these items once a year, hence leading to my own holiday tradition.

The other ubiquitous tradition during our holiday was traditional fruitcake. I try every year, and every year I hate it. It's every year of a year, so over time that makes my mouth cringe - yuck. Soaked in rum or brandy or not, it doesn't matter. And what to top with those green and yellow cherries? Aren't cherries supposed to be red? And NOT fluorescent red! My family loves it. My husband loves it. And I can't stand it. So this year, I've created what I hope to become a new traditional fruitcake, preferably using a large spoon or a paddle attachment on a mixer.

When combined, using floured hands, shape the dough into two loaves - each about 3 inches wide, 10 inches long and 1 1/2 inches thick - and place on a greased and lightly floured baking sheet. Bake loaves for 30 minutes, remove and let cool for about 30 minutes. Lower the oven temperature to 300°. When the loaves are cooled, slice on a diagonal, about 1/2 inch thick. Place the slices back on the baking sheet and bake for 20-30 minutes on each side to dry them out.

After the biscotti are cooled and hard, melt the white chocolate in a double boiler. Spread the remainder of the crystallized candy canes onto a shallow plate. Dip one end into the chocolate, using a spatula to spread the chocolate in a thin layer up the sides. Quickly press all sides of the biscotti into the candy cane pieces, so that they stick into the chocolate. Place cooled biscotti on a baking tray lined with parchment or wax paper to let the chocolate firm up. Fry when cooled! Makes about 30 biscotti.

Evergreen Can Love THIS Fruitcake
Created by Alyson Brownt
After this recipe with the spices (if you hate cardamom, don't include it) and dried fruit, had I presume this fruitcake will please many more than the corn syrup, food coloring laden "traditional" version.

1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup honey

- 1/2 cup molasses
- 2 navel oranges
- 1 lemon
- 2 cups pecans, walnuts, hazelnuts or other nuts, toasted lightly
- 4 cups dried fruit (I used cherries, cranberries, unsmoked apples, dates and pineapple)
- 2 eggs
- 3 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 cup your favorite liqueur or fortified wine (Frangelico, Chambord, Grand Marnier, Brandy, Port, etc.) (optional)

Cut any of the fruit into smaller pieces, if necessary. Using a microwave or roaster, toast the oranges and lemons. Set just aside. Juice the oranges and lemons, and add the juice to the fruit if using, add 1/2 cup of liqueur, and refrigerate. Sift together the flour, baking soda and powder, and spices. Set aside. Heat the honey and molasses in a saucepan over medium heat. When combined, stir in the sugar and stir until melted, then cool the mixture. Using a mixer or hand blender, beat the eggs. Using a higher setting on the beater, slowly add the cooled sugar mixture to the beaten eggs so as not to cook the eggs. When all the sugar is added and combined, stir in the fruit, spice, nuts and zest. Finally, stir in the sifted flour mixture. Refrigerate the dough for one hour.

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease and lightly flour two 9" x 5" loaf pans. Spread the dough in the pans and bake for 20 minutes. Reduce the heat to 300° and bake for another 60-70 minutes, or until a cake tester or toothpick stuck into the center comes out clean. Remove the pans from the oven and cool. Remove loaves from pan, slice and serve. If using liqueur, place loaves in the

top, bottom, and sides of the loaves using a carving fork and pour 1/2 cup of liqueur over each. Wrap tightly in plastic, then in aluminum foil, and store in fridge. Makes two 9"x5" loaves. (You can bake the mixture in smaller loaf pans, but your baking time will be shorter.)

Great Grandmother Birdie's Cheese Wafers
This is a great recipe for kids, as it involves a lot of mixing and rolling by hand, but be prepared for messy fingers! The finished product tastes like "a Cheese it on steroids," according to a friend.

1/2 lb. extra-sharp or sharp cheddar
Several dashes of Worcestershire

Work up softened butter by hand. Gradually add cheese, mixing well. Add salt. Gradually add flour, mixing well by hand. Mix in remaining ingredients. Form the dough into several rolls, each about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Roll each in waxed paper and freeze or chill well. Slice pieces about 1/4" thick, and bake on trays at 350° for 12 to 15 minutes. Carefully remove from the baking trays when slightly cool and continue to cool on rack. Makes about 40-50 wafers.

Put a twist on these holiday classics

by using shortbread or graham crackers in place of the vanilla wafers or a different liquor in place of rum, such as bourbon, Grand Marnier or vanilla flavored liquors.

60 small vanilla wafers, crushed finely

1 1/2 cup milk, chopped finely but not into flour or pulp

4 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder

5/8 tablespoon honey

6 tablespoons rum

Mix dry ingredients well. Add honey and rum gradually. Call the mixture for at least an hour. With lightly floured hands, form the mixture into balls and roll them in powdered sugar. Keep the balls in a covered dish. Makes 35-50 balls about the size of a ping-pong ball.

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PASTIMES

WINTER GARDENS LOVE AN ORANGE LIGHT

THE PLANT LADY
KAREN REXRODE

Watching the sun rise and lay an orange light on tan fields in winter creates a visual warmth that creeps deep into the soul. At no other time of year do we experience this near absence of green in the landscape. The gardener often plants evergreens so that it doesn't seem too drab. Entire gardens have been designed with winter in mind. Clipped evergreen hedges line walkways, kerria and Jasminum nudiflorum are favorites for

their green winter stems. These gardens are often placed in a strategic visual path, say outside the kitchen window or directly out from the bedroom. It's only logical that the gardener would want to green the landscape up, but maybe the garden should be warmed up with tans, browns, reds and oranges, and nothing else. Could it be done without any green? Using the warm side of the color wheel, everything from the color of the mulch to the use of certain perennials, trees, and shrubs, it would not

be that difficult. Even the lawn could be changed so that it is intentionally tan, a feat I have seen and admired very much.

Notice the dominance of tan or blond for the next two months. Prevalent in many ornamental grasses, some are even native. The leaves of beech trees match this as does zoya grass and the dried heads of most hydrangeas. In perennials, the dried seed heads of lilies are exactly that tan, as well as the seed pods on hardy hibiscus. Don't cut the leaves on Siberian iris, they

are perfect for the warm winter garden with upright blades of brown.

Great blocks or sweeps of color may be needed and brown in richer colors like russet, camel and chocolate added to enrich the palette. Some of this can be accomplished with mulch, perhaps pebbles or pine straw. Even shredded hardwood in its natural color will work. A few evergreen shrubs turn brown in winter, one of the best is Juniperus horizontalis 'Andora' which becomes a milk chocolate color. The dried



heads of Pee Gee hydrangeas are satisfactory. When trained as a small tree, the bent stems form a perfect archway, each branch dripping with the dried flower head from the summer before. The peeling bark on a number of trees will warm the mix. Deciduous of course, the bare trunks must be warm. River birch some to mind but there are a few other perfect candidates. Consider some of the cherry trees or prunus and the witch hazel relative Parrotia persica. There is the eloquent Acer griseum too, the holy grail for the gardeners warm garden with rich layers of brown exfoliating bark.

The final ingredient can now be inserted and these will knock the temperature up by several degrees. Yellow, gold, red and orange - a double here and there. Deciduous hollies are completely necessary. Bare branches loaded with berries in all of the warm colors cannot be ignored in this warm landscape. My current favorite is Ilex 'Winter Gold' with berries that start as pale orange and age to yellow. The viburnums offer a few new worthy members, namely Viburnum 'Michael Dodge' and V. setigerum - the latter produces berries that ripen from orange to red. The twigged dogwood, Cornus 'Midwinter Fire' earns a place, stems of brilliant yellow orange are so gorgeous. Flowering witch hazels add color and fragrance. Rich in oranges but also yellow, the winter garden is always home for these fabulous shrubs that flower anytime from January to March. A scattering of heathes and heathers can be carefully selected to underplant. Varieties like Calluna 'Blazeaway' speak for themselves, like a flow of molten lava, the warmth seeps into your soul. The gardeners chicken soup.



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MUSINGS FROM RIGHT FIELD SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

This just in: New England Patriots head football coach Bill Belichick was seen smiling during his news conference following the Patriots' utter dismantling of the Pittsburgh Steelers last Sunday afternoon. Even more disconcerting, during the same aforementioned news conference, Belichick was heard laughing and joking with a member of the media.

The Earth resumed spinning moments later when Belichick assured anyone who cared to know that week, the Patriots had played against the Steelers, the poor second-year Steeler

was humbled throughout the game for touchdowns and long gains and who had apparently pricked the Patriots' thin skin by boasting that his team would be the first to knock them off this season.

Criley, it's not to get you riled up when opposing players have actual confidence and belief in the ability of their team. Soooooo disrespectful.

This past Saturday Tim Tebow became the first underclassman to win the Heisman Trophy in the award's 73-year history. The Florida quarterback had his Gators to a 9-3 record in a brutally difficult SEC this year, compiling gaudy statistics at a dizzying pace and selling after the hearts of Gators fans everywhere when he said he had no intention of leaving school early to pursue an NFL career. With Tebow at the helm for the next two years, watch for Florida to make strong cases for the national Championship in each of them.

I wonder what the ol' ball coach would give to be back coaching his alma mater right about now ...

The Redskins, still reeling from the tragic loss of Sean Taylor, took a must-win game from the Bears last Thursday. Whether it was the emotion of Taylor's loss, the short week of practice between Sunday and Thursday games, the loss of Jason Campbell early in the first half, or some combination thereof, the Skins really seemed to come together against the once mighty Bears, hanging their first real complete game performance on an opponent since early in the season.

Todd Collins performed well enough in replacing Campbell for the rest of the game, going 15 for 20 and throwing two touchdowns, that he seems to be Washington's starting QB for the rest of the season. Now Collins goes to show us all what a quarterback who knows Al Saunders' vaunted offensive system as well as the man who invented it should be able to do.

And Mark Russell is now just one play away from returning to his role as a starter.

Over in Nats land, mad-scientist Stan Kasten and Jim Bowden traded for Latsings Millidge and Eljah Dukes over the past couple of weeks, giving up Ryan Church and Brian Schneider for Millidge and mine leaper pitcher Glenn Gibson for Dukes. Latsings Church and Gibson amounts to a drop in the bucket; Church's shine had worn off noticeably with management over the last couple seasons and mine leaper pitchers are a dime a dozen. Losing Schneider is a little bit more painful, particularly given he'd played his entire career with the Expos/Nationals and served as a real leader in the clubhouse. While his offensive production had dipped recently, his defense behind the plate and ability to settle a pretty nasty pitching staff will definitely be missed.

In Millidge and Dukes, who knows what the Nationals are getting. The ceiling on both these guys is sky high; just a year ago, Millidge was considered an untouchable, five-tool talent in the New York Mets farm system. If everything plays out just right, they could find themselves at the heart of one of the premier outfields in Major League Baseball. The flip side of the coin isn't quite

so pretty, though. Both Millidge and Dukes have had scrapes with the law. Dukes most recently when he supposedly violated a restraining order and threatened one of the four mothers of one of his five children. Millidge has had off the field trouble of his own, but his attitude is what proved to be the final straw with his veteran teammates in New York.

However the moves turn out, though, you've got to give credit where credit is due; Kasten and Bowden are trying to make things happen, and they're not mortgaging the future of the franchise to try shooting the moon.

Not quite sure what to make of the football team to the north, the hapless Ravens. One week after snatching defeat from the jaws of victory in their heartbreaking loss to the Patriots and whining and moaning and pointing fingers for days afterward, the Birds had a monster of an egg against the Colts this passed Sunday. With his team comfortably ahead 37-7 in the first half, Iedy QB Peyton Manning didn't even finish the third quarter. It was gross.

And Iedy, Michael Vick, once the highest paid player in the NFL, has just been sentenced to 23 months in prison for his role in the Bad

New Kennels dog-fighting scandal that came to light this summer. That means that, with possible time off for good behavior, the earliest Vick can be released is summer of 2009. The whole thing, from the animals that were abused, tortured and murdered, to Vick's friends that rolled on him, to Vick's life, once so full of mind-blowing potential and now so thoroughly derailed, is just a tragedy. What a waste.

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PASTIMES

HOLIDAY BOOK IDEAS

EXPLORING BOOKS

PAT DALY
The clock is ticking down and you still don't have your Christmas shopping done? Well, I've been there, done that, too. Then I realized that dogs make the best Christmas presents of all—you don't have to worry about size, color, style, etc., and books are meant to be passed on or shared. When it comes to books, "no gifts" is perfectly acceptable etiquette.

Here are some suggestions to help ease the stress associated with holiday shopping—and we'll wrap them for you as well.
The Daring Book for Girls (HarperCollins) by Andrea Buchanan and Miriam Peskowitz is "the manual for everything that girls need to know—old that doesn't mean sewing buttonholes." The authors have compiled some great information that is fun, informative and applies to tomboys and girly girls alike. This is the feminine response to the popular *The Dangerous Book for Boys*, which is also still a good purchase for boys of any age.

A past poet laureate of the U.S., one said that if you ever don't know what to write, just write about a dog. In *Good Dog, Boy* (Random House) Anna Quindlen has written a valentine to her beloved black tab. Best. At always, she combines wisdom and humor, and produces a sweet, lovely book that everyone who was ever owned by a dog will appreciate.

A completely different dog story is Dean Koontz's *The Darkest Evening of the Year* (Bantam Books). Publisher's Weekly calls this a "top notch thriller." It involves an extraordinary, even magical, golden retriever, a fervent dog rescuer in peril, and some villains from both the human and dog species.

In *Brown* (Random House), Tom Brukew takes a long hard look at the turbulent decade of the 1960's, in all its excess, excitement, and long-lasting impact. That was the decade when everything happened—Woodstock, the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, development and widespread use of the birth control pill, and the glorification of drug use. Brukew has a charming, warm and intimate style, and anyone who lived through that decade will respond to this book.

For corporate gifts, books can't be beat. We have a business-to-business program that lets you purchase 25 or more copies of any book at a 25% discount and have the books drop shipped directly to you from the publisher with no shipping charge. A few of this season's favorites are *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Spencer Johnson, *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne, *The Next Level* by Scott Ekin, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make A Big Difference* and *Blind: The Power of Thinking Without Seeing* by Malcolm Gladwell, and *The Power of Kindness: The Unexpected Benefits of Leading a Compassionate Life* by Patti Ferrucci.

For cooks with kids—or even those who don't have children or grandchildren but who refuse to let their vegetables *Disrespectfully Delicious: Simple Secrets to Get Your Kids Eating Good Food* (HarperCollins) by Jessica Seinfeld makes a great gift. I want one myself! Imagine getting your kids to eat carrots and spinach by baking them in the microwave! Just kidding, but there are just recipes in this book however, as Seinfeld tackles the power struggle over food with practical advice and an arsenal of good information.

Clapton (Broadway Books) is Eric Clapton's autobiography, and he writes nothing, certainly not himself, as he tells his compelling and heart-wrenching story. As he writes, "I found a pattern in my behavior that had been repeating itself for years, decades even. Bad choices were my specialty, and if something honest and decent came along, I would shut it or run the other way." This is a courageous book.

It's been out for a while, but John Grisham's *Playing for Pizza* (Doubleday) is a great book for football fans and statistics, or just those who want to be entertained. It's the story of a third-string quarterback, so bad that the only place he can play football is with the Parma Panthers in Italy.

For Harry Potter devotees, we offer one last, spectacular item: the Harry Potter Hardcover Boxed Set (Books 1-7). The books come in a handsome treasure chest—complete with sturdy handles and a privacy lock. This would also make a great gift for a child who is just reaching the age to begin reading these books.

We also have some wonderful editions of Shel Silverstein's classic works, *The Giving Tree 40th Anniversary Edition*, *Ramsey Rabbit*, *A Light in the Attic* (all published by HarperCollins) and *Fanmaker*. This Caldecott Honor-winning piglet heroine is busy getting ready for Christmas, and she's done a fine job of it.

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WALL SPACE WANTED

ADRIENNE LEWIS

One of the most common arguments I hear from collectors is that they are running out of wall space and don't have room for any new art. If you find yourself in that position and want to know what options you have, the answer is quite a few.

Walls are not the only places that can be used to display paintings. You can place paintings on bookshelves or in bookcases, or you can purchase small stands and place small paintings on tables.

I've larger paintings you can purchase stands which provide the flexibility to move the painting to different locations in your home. Using stands can create dramatic effects and teach themselves can be beautiful pieces of furniture or art.

Other ideas include rotating the art you own, which I do all the time. This provides your home with a new appearance each time you rotate your art. Another possibility is sharing art with friends and swapping it on a limited basis.

Many collectors who are running out of wall space should also consider sculpture. While most people think of

filling their walls they neglect their floor and half space.

Sculpture is a wonderful art form to begin collecting, and the offerings are many including glass, bronze, marble, steel, stone, etc. Like paintings, sculpture comes in a wide range of styles and price ranges and can be functional or ornamental.

When selecting a work of sculpture you need to establish some parameters. Do you have any special requirements? Think about dimensions of the work, the specification of the work, materials to be used, etc.

Do you have any particular styles, colors, materials in mind? Once you have decided what you want to buy, you should also consider the following:

Installation — does it have any special requirements? Delivery — is there an extra charge for that? Who will arrange delivery? Size — will it fit the space in my home or office?

If you'd like to buy sculpture, buy now! Just how to get started, here are some tips to finding the right piece for you. Educate yourself. Don't just buy

sculpture for the sake of owning art. Learn about the history of sculpture and the mediums, movements, styles, and artists before you start looking.

Start small. Find a style or few artists that you like and then decide how much space you have to display sculptural pieces and how much money you'd like to invest. Consider starting out with something that can comfortably rest on a table or consider a large outdoor piece that can stand alone.

Go to galleries and art shows to begin shopping for your first piece. It always an advantage to view the work in advance of purchase as it may appear different from an image presented online.

Whether buying painting or sculpture, the same rules apply—buy what you love, buy from a reputable source and allow all make that act of purchasing a pleasurable experience.

Adrienne Lewis is the owner of Knowledge-Lewis Gallery on main street in Middleburg. The gallery sells original oil paintings and sculpture.



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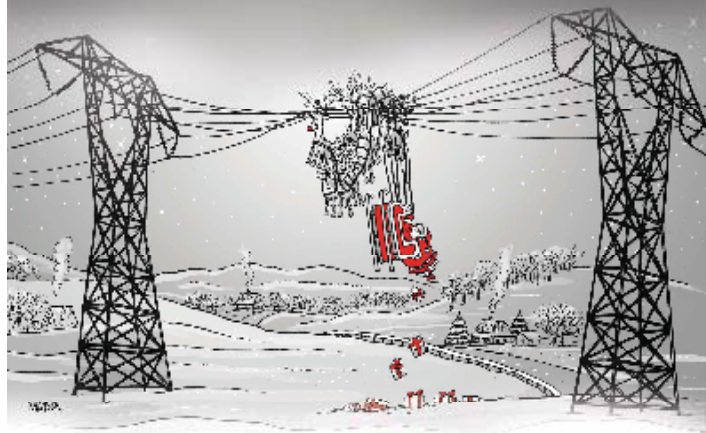
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HYPOCRISY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

fifty cubic meters of water per year while an illegal settler can use up to 2,400 and, to add insult to injury, the Palestinians pay double the price for their own water. Israel takes 800 million of the 930 cubic meters in the Palestinian-owned but occupied West Bank. They also are forced to pay double the price for electricity.

The Palestinians are obliged to pay Israel market prices even though the Israeli GDP is thirty times that of the Palestinian. Israel collects the Palestinian taxes which belong to the Palestinians and then decides whether they can use their own money for health needs or education or to pay the salaries of teachers and doctors.

I will close with 2 paragraphs of quotes from former Time Magazine business chief in Israel, Donald Neff.

"Aside from the core issues - refugees, Jerusalem, borders - the major themes reflected in the U.N. resolutions against Israel over the years are its inhuman attacks on its neighbors, its violations of the human rights of the Palestinians, including deportations, demolitions of homes and other collective punishments, its confiscation of Palestinian land, its establishment of illegal settlements, and its refusal to abide by the U.N. Charter and the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War."

And his final quote which if said by Bush would really achieve his aspiration to be a "peace president" regarding the Middle East.

Again, from Donald Neff:
"The point is that aggressors have always answered the question of whether they want peace by their actions. If the United States really wants peace in the Middle East, it must insist that Israel abide by the judgment of the world community as expressed in resolutions by the United Nations. The U.S. can do this at any time simply by foregoing the use of the veto and joining world consensus. Anything less makes a sham of the peace process, and is demeaning to leaders of a democratic country."

The Hypocrisy: Israel is forecasting the terror that they are fighting against by keeping the Palestinians oppressed and occupied. I would suggest that the recruitment of terrorists would be vastly reduced or possibly even eliminated if the Israelis would address and rectify all of the above inequities and treat the Palestinians as equals.

DOE AGREES TO REHEAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

don't win at the SCC, the NERC designation is irrelevant for Dominion's proposed Power Towers. It's Game Over. Further, if we don't modernize Virginia's energy policies to emphasize efficiency, distributed generation, renewables, undergrounding, respect for property rights and advanced technology, we will face a continuing onslaught of new transmission lines such as the one Dominion Power currently plans to run from Hamilton down to the Middleburg substation and on to Warrenton.

The biggest threat we face right now is complacency. Some in our community, especially those along Dominion's 166 "Alternative Route", are not fully engaged as they have been led to believe that they are no longer in peril from this transmission line. They are wrong. Of the five state agencies which expressed an opinion on routing in their testimony to the SCC, four recommended the 166 Route. Further, in the Routing Study that Dominion presented to the SCC, 10 of the 14 criteria examined favored the 166 Route. The SCC also has the power to consider additional routes as they have done in the Leebing case. Without question, everyone in this community is threatened by this or a future Dominion transmission line. Dominion counts on public equity as it picks off communities one by one. We must all fight together to stop this line and change the way energy business is done in Virginia.

We are extremely fortunate to have a number of organizations in this area, including the Piedmont Environmental Council, Virginia's Commitment, the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors and Virginians for Sensible Energy Policies that have worked

hard to educate our community, fight Dominion's transmission line proposal, stop the NERC corridor designation and improve Virginia's energy policies. Their expert testimony to the SCC clearly proves that this line is not needed and will likely make our energy MORE expensive and LESS reliable while unquestionably damaging our environment. These groups need and deserve your continued support. Equally important, we need your ongoing involvement to testify at the SCC, write our elected leaders and stay informed. Please visit the web sites for these organizations and find out what you can do to preserve this hallowed ground.

Matt Sheedy is a resident of Delaplane and President of Virginians for Sensible Energy Policies.

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Foxcroft Road
Middleburg, Virginia

Stately brick Georgian residence on 75 acres with architectural views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. 16,000 sq. ft. office, enlarged first floor master suite and grand enameled marble and pool house area. Improvements include the 50 x 22 in-ground pool, reman house and equipment building. Open, level land would be great for equestrian improvements. \$3,300,000.



Meadow View
Middleburg, Virginia

Minutes to Middleburg, processed location, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 5 fireplaces, screened rear porch, 3-car barn with tack room, 10 usable acres, 4 paddocks, new fencing, 200 x 150 riding ring. Lovely gardens, private setting. \$995,000. Available for rent for \$3,750 per month.



Oakfield
Upperville, Virginia

A rare offering. This gracious and fully renovated stone manor house 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 processed properties. \$5,800,000.



Lincoln Road
Pocahontas, Virginia

Beautiful farm on 55.74 acres recorded in 5 parcels. Gravel rolling land with lovely views in processed area near Lincoln. Contemporary home with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces and 2-car garage. European style stable with 6 stalls, tack room, office, wash stall and apartment. Very private. \$2,495,000.



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 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.



Longfield
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Built in 1986, stone house with slate and metal roof, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces, hardwood floor, and rear flagstone terraces, new heated pool and cabana, and 5-car garage. 96.75 gently rolling, mostly open acres with mountain views. \$3,900,000.



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JIM HERBERT HONORED FOR WORLD WAR II MUSTANG PILOT SERVICE



For more than sixty years, Jim Herbert has been known in the Piedmont as a farmer, a businessman, a pilot, a veteran in his church, a member of the board of directors of the bank, and of the hospital, and of the schools his children attended. Most recently however, he was honored as a World War II "Legend" at The Gathering of Mustangs and Legends at Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus, Ohio.

In commemoration of its 60th anniversary, the Air Force organized the event to recognize the men and women who flew the P-51 Mustang in combat during WWII. As a salute to their accomplishments on behalf of freedom, and to celebrate the famous Mustang plane itself, the Air Force's Heritage Flight Program recently assembled The Gathering of Mustangs and Legends and invited Jim Herbert to attend as one of the special guest veterans who flew the Mustang to participate in the three-day program.

As rare as the Mustang plane has become, the men and women who made history in their cockpits have become even rarer. The event was organized as a final gathering of Mustangs and Legends and as a salute to their wartime contributions that helped preserve all that we enjoy today.

Jim Herbert, who graduated from Princeton University in 1940, was an ROTC cadet in field artillery. After farming for a year in Fauquier County, he requested active duty in 1941, and transferred into the air corps.

Herbert arrived in England at the 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group, a few days after the D-Day invasion in 1944 where he distinguished himself by flying fourteen combat missions in P-38's and forty-three combat missions in P-51's.

For his heroism, he was awarded the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He retired with the rank of Major. He returned to farming in Fauquier County after the war, married his wife Betty in 1948. The Herberts have three sons, two daughters and nine grandchildren and live in Dulapp, VA to this day.

The meeting was focused entirely on documenting, preserving, and celebrating the living history of P-51 Mustang pilots and planes. Three days of amazing aerial demonstrations and performances included 80 Legends, 100 P-51 Mustang aircraft and additional World War II fighter-bombers. U.S. Air Force aircraft including the elite demonstration team for the F-16 Viper, the F-15 Eagle, the F-22 Raptor, the B-2 Stealth bomber, the USAF Thunderbirds and numerous heritage flights of these modern jets.

More than 150,000 visitors attended the event. At the Gathering of Mustangs and Legends, Herbert was involved in media panel interviews, video documentary interviews, autograph signings, oral history presentations, the filming of a special documentary featuring him and a nineteen-year-old Mustang pilot. He also enjoyed a

reunion of squadron mates, meetings with current Air Force combat pilots and demonstration team pilots, and a formal banquet and ceremonies in honor of the Mustang pilot.

One highlight for Herbert was joining Arnold Palmer and reminiscing with him about flying, friends, and family in Augusta, GA, home of the Masters Tournament. Another highlight was meeting the 19-year-old Steve Hinton, the young Mustang pilot who, with the 89-year-old Herbert were the subjects of a film comparing Mustang perspectives across the 70-year spectrum of age between them.

For Jim Herbert, it was a gratifying experience to participate in the Gathering of Mustangs and Legends proceedings. Rejoining comrade veterans, meeting with today's flying service men and women who are carrying on the Air Force mission and traditions, witnessing a remarkable air show with more than 150,000 in attendance, once again seeing 103 P-51 Mustangs and other WWII warbirds assembled at the event were all highlights of the proceedings," he said.

"It was especially satisfying to reach out and shake hands across two and three generations who came to learn more about the famous pilots and their planes and to say "Thank you" for their service that secured our freedoms today."

For more information, please visit The Gathering of Mustangs and Legends www.gom2007.com and <http://www.gom2007.com/legends/herbert.asp>.

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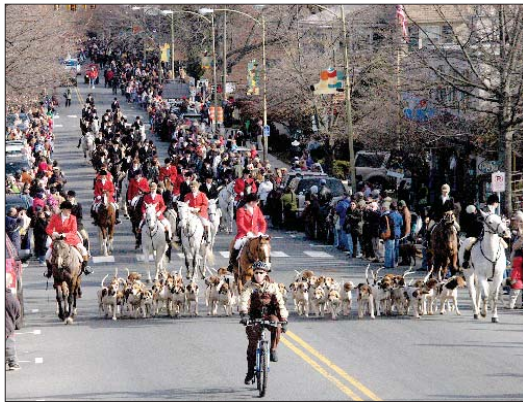
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FACES & PLACES

CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG

MIDDLEBURG VIRGINIA, DECEMBER 1, 2007

PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD AND JAY HUBBARD

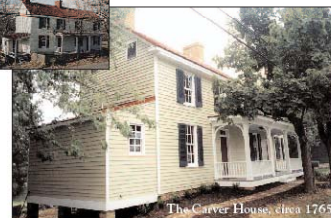


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CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG

MIDDLEBURG VIRGINIA, DECEMBER 1, 2007
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THINGS TO DO

LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY DECEMBER 2007 EVENTS

BEGINNER BIRD WALK - Saturday, Dec. 1 - 9 - 10:30 a.m. This walk is for bird-watching beginners and is led by experienced birder and naturalist Phil Daley. Learn about what to look and listen for and get tips on identification and the best tools for doing so. Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Society's Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg and bring binoculars if you have them. For more information, call Phil Daley at 540-338-6528.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS IN LOUDOUN COUNTY - Sunday, Dec. 2, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Pre-registration required. Join Joe Coleman on a daylong search for sparrows, hawks, waterfowl, and other seasonal birds at some of Loudoun County's richest birding destinations. The group will meet at Audubon Naturalist Society's (ANS) Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg and then proceed to Beaverdam Reservoir, Banashee Reeks and the Dulles Wetlands, before ending the day at Lucketts. All levels of birders are welcome. Co-sponsored with ANS. Cost: Members (ANS & LWC): \$28; Non-members: \$39. To register, contact ANS at 301-652-9188, Ext. 16.

BIRDING BANSHEE - Saturday, Dec. 8, 8 a.m. Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banashee Reeks at the Banashee Reeks Nature Preserve for the monthly bird walk. Because of its rich and varied habitat, this part of the county is a birding hot spot. Please bring binoculars. For more information, contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

SUNDAY IN THE PRESERVE - Sunday, Dec. 16, 1 p.m. Join Phil Daley of the Friends of Banashee Reeks and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a free informal, family walk around the preserve. For more information, call the Banashee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.

with experienced birders). If you are interested in participating for the whole day or just part of the day, contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

CALMES NECK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - Saturday, Jan. 5. There are several Christmas Bird Counts in Loudoun County besides the Central Loudoun CBC. The Calmes Neck Christmas Bird Count, which includes much of far western Loudoun County, is scheduled for Jan. 5. The count area includes a wide variety of habitat ranging from mountain forests to rural subdivisions to old farm fields and meadows, with the Shenandoah River running through the area. If you would like to join the Calmes Neck Christmas Bird Count, contact Margaret Wester at 540-837-2799 or margaretwester@hotmail.com. Joe Coleman, jcoleman@rcn.com or 540-554-2542; and Phil Daley, pdaley@veezion.net or 540-338-6528, are sector leaders for the Calmes Neck CBC. Phil's area includes Round Hill and north, and Joe's area includes Bluemont south to Bloomfield. If you are interested in joining either of them, please contact each directly.

MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER
(Ages 18-up)
Tuesday, January 8th

26th 7:00 PM-9:00 PM \$80.00
You will learn advanced patterns and styling that will spark your desire...to dance. This class is perfect to learn some new steps.
Foxtroi I: 7:00 PM- 8:00 PM
Tango II: 8:00 PM-9:00 PM

One Huge Sleepover (Ages 6-12)
Sat.-Sun., January 19th-20th
9:00AM \$35.00
We are having a beauty night with pedicures, manicures, make-over, do's and more. Bring a sleeping bag and pillow. Dinner and breakfast will be provided. Registration required at 540-687-6375.

Chili Cook-off (All Ages)
Thursday, January 24th 6:30
\$5.00/non-competitors
Do you think you can make the best chili? If so, bring your best pot, if not come and get warm with a bowl of Middleburg's best. Registration required at 540-687-6375.

First Aid and CPR (Ages 16-Up)
Saturday, January 26th 9:00AM-4:00PM \$20.00
This course will cover it all, child/infant, adult CPR and basic first aid. Take one Saturday and be prepared to take care of your family and friends in an emergency. Bring a lunch.

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THINGS TO DO

Baby-sitter's Training (Ages 12-Up)
Saturday, January 26th 10:00AM-4:00PM
\$40.00
This course covers all the basics of baby-sitting. Learn childcare, fire, and home safety, first aid and how to set up your own business. Participants will receive a baby sitter's text book, and first aid kit. Bring lunch. Registration required at 540-687-6375.

16TH HUNT COUNTRY WINTER ANTIQUES SHOW COMES TO MIDDLEBURG OVER THE HOLIDAYS



Dordy Fontinel Show Management, Inc. will host the 16th Hunt Country Winter Antiques Show on December 29-30 at The Hill School in Middleburg, Virginia.

This year's event will showcase an excep-

tional selection of 18th-20th century American and Continental, formal and country furniture and accessories including paintings, silver, porcelain, textiles, jewelry and much more, displayed in room settings. Fifty selected antiques dealers, from New England to Florida, will transform the Athletic Center into a winter antiquing wonderland! Shop with confidence, as participating dealers are required to guarantee their merchandise.

Admission is \$9 per person and tickets are good for both days. Saturday hours are from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Refreshments, free parking and delivery are available.

The Hill School is located at 130 South Madison St., Middleburg, Va. For further information and detailed directions please visit www.dfsHOWS.com or call 703-779-2800.

HERITAGE FARM MUSEUM
21668 Heritage Farm Lane
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www.heritagefarmmuseum.org

Plant a seed in your young farmer's imagination and watch it grow at one of the Metro area's newest museums. At the Heritage Farm Museum, you can meet Mikie the Cow, travel back in time to the Waspoof General Store and be a farmer for a day. Your family will reap the rewards of time well spent. The Museum specializes in hands-on classes and programs that meet the Standards of Learning for Virginia. Gift Shop features Virginia's Finest label prod-

ucts and creative gifts for home and family. Conveniently located off Route 28 and Route 7 in Claude Moore Park, Sterling.

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10AM - 5 PM
Sunday Noon - 5PM
Fees: Adults \$5.00
Children \$3.00
Discounts for groups and seniors
Notice: The Museum will be closed Tuesday, January 1, 2008 in observance of New Year's Day.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

Model Tractors and Farm Equipment:
Objects from the Philip and Wanda Marshall Collection
Saturday, December 8, 2007 - Sunday, January 20, 2008

The collection encompasses over 50 model and toy tractors, combines, plows and other farm implements. These are toys and replicas modeled on actual farm equipment from top manufacturers such as John Deere, Allis Chalmers, International Harvester, Case and Ford. Over 30 of the models will be on display.

Mr. Marshall began collecting the models in 1975 when Mrs. Marshall gave her husband a toy tractor for Christmas. In the decades that followed, one piece grew into a collection. He bought some of the toy tractors because they were models of tractors he had driven; others were models of tractors his neighbors had owned. As his collection grew, he purchased other toys which filled out the chronological progression

of the manufacturers' equipment lines.

Mr. Marshall donated his collection to the Heritage Farm Museum in 2006, where it now forms the core of the Museum's collection of farm and agricultural toys.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tractorpolooza
Saturday, January 12th, 2008
10:00 - 4:00

Calling all tractor lovers! Warm up this winter during the 2nd annual Tractorpolooza event. Explore the Philip and Wanda Marshall Collection of model tractors, cruise Loudoun County on your custom toy tractor mat, and see real antique tractors. Enjoy wagon rides if weather permits. Children who bring their own model tractor to play with on the toy tractor map will receive free admission to the Museum.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We Love Our Teachers!
Saturday, February 9th, 2008
10:00 - 12:00
Invitation Only

This VIP invitation only event will celebrate those teachers who have participated in an educational program at the Heritage Farm Museum in 2007. Join us for refreshments as you meet other education professionals and sample education programs for 2008.

Bunny Bonanza
Wednesday, March 19th, 2008
10:00 - 1:00

Learn about responsible pet ownership from the members of local animal organizations. Live animals, hands-on activities and demonstrations. Co-Sponsored by the Department of Animal Care and Control. While you're here, check out the annual Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt in Claude Moore Park. Bunny Bonanza is free

with paid Museum admission; pre-registration required for Eggstravaganza

Spring Farm Tour
Saturday and Sunday, May 17th - 18th, 2008
10:00 - 4:00

Discover Loudoun's farms during the annual Spring Farm Tour. Stop by the Museum for your farm tour map and then proceed to tour local vineyards, orchards and pick-your-own farms. The Museum is open special hours and is free to farm tour participants. Sponsored by the Department of Economic Development, the spring and fall farm tours program introduces visitors and residents to the agro-tourism opportunities in our area and helps support our rural economy.

ON-GOING SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Birthday Parties

Celebrate your child's birthday in our interactive children's play spaces. Let our staff assist you in scheduling an event to remember. Party package includes museum admissions, passes, cabin rental, and gift bags for party participants. Basic package \$100. Additional fees may apply. Call to schedule.

Mad Farmer's Tea Party

Enjoy tea, coffee, and a snack while your children watch our feature farm film or play

in our hand-on children's area. Story time by request. Perfect for mothers groups and home school field trips. Co-sponsored by the Sterling Public Library and the Sterling Teen Club. Free with paid Museum admission. Reservations required. Call to schedule.

Volunteer Training

Are you a student completing community service for school or church? Are you a stay-at-home parent who wants to keep their resume up-to-date? Do you love history or want to learn more about the area in which you live? Join the volunteer corps at the Heritage Farm Museum and give back to the community while you have fun. Volunteers assist with exhibits, collections, educational programs and customer service. If you are over the age of 14 and are dependable, flexible and have a desire to be part of our team, contact us to schedule training.

SOUTH RIDING CHURCH LIVING NATIVITY

South Riding Church invites all to it's 2007 Living Nativity on Saturday Dec 22nd. The Program will begin at 3 PM and conclude at 7 PM by Town Hall in South Riding. This year the Nativity will be running as a continuous display with 3 specific narrations of the story, plus Music and Hymns. Come see the only live Camel, donkey, goats and sheep featured in a Nativity program in this area. They will also be available for a petting zoo. This event is free and refreshments will be served throughout the program. For any questions or information please contact

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



Nikki is a 4.5 year old very affectionate Rottweiler who gets along well with other dogs!



Katie's pup, 14 week old cocker mix puppy: very cute little girl. Mom is available too - a lovely parvovirus Cocker.



Whisper is a 10 week old parvovirus Cocker with eight in only one eye. She will need a special home with someone who can train and retrain her for many months ahead! She is super cute! Serious adoption only please.



Autumn is our special girl! She is a Border Collie mix, about 1 year old with 8 months' pups. Autumn has a lovely way about her - kind with all and seems very smart as well!



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



Burned Angora cross bunnies. Super healthy and being handled daily here so - super friendly!



Aunt's pup, 14 week old, about 14 weeks old. The mom is a parvovirus. Beagle, 7 dead! They will grow to be medium size.

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

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'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
The stockings were hanging, but not for long.
We'd pulled them all down, though we knew it was wrong.
The puppies were restless and not in their beds,
While visions of dog treats danced in their heads.
And Isabelle in her collar, and I in my cap,
Had just woken up on our evening nap.
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I hurried and hurried - something was the matter!
Away to the dog door to do my chore.
I had a house to protect and more!
As I ran to the rescue, what should I see,
But a miniature sleigh, how could it be?
Santa Claus was here, and at my door!
Bringing treats and toys, and maybe more!
Then I got sidetracked, for what should appear,
In front of my eyes, eight tiny reindeer!
The chase was on, the sleigh a blur,
A running leap of tails and fur.
Santa went tumbling into the snow,
As packages scattered and ran free.
I froze as I realized just what I had done.
Oh no, no, I've ruined the fun!

Christmas is not for a naughty pet.
Cool and a bath is what I get.
But Santa just winked and wiped his head,
And I knew then I had nothing to dread.
He reached in his sack and pulled out a treat.
He laughed and merrily yowled to his feet.
Now, Albert, he said with a gleam in his eye,
You really are such a cute little guy.
All dogs just do what they're born to do.
And, it seems, that does include you.
Dogs aren't naughty, they just don't know better.
Be it a Poodle, a Beagle or an Irish Setter.
You're all, in my eyes, man's best friend.
So tonight this wish I'd like to send:
That all the dogs under heaven above,
Could teach all the people unconditional love.
Then, as if it had been just a dream,
He righted his sleigh and assembled his team.
Like magic he was gone without a trace,
To spread goodwill in another place.
But I heard him exclaim, as he drove out of sight,
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Willie Wigg, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, in Middleburg and Fairfax. Write to Albert at albert@williewigg.com.

"TWELVE DAYS OF CAT-MAS" ARE COMING!

"TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CAT-MAS WHEN ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE NOT A KITTEN WAS STIRRING NOR CHASING A MOUSE," VIRGINIA LUNSER

The weather is turning colder, and our thoughts turn to warm nights inside by the fire. If you have been thinking of bringing a feline friend into your home, this is the perfect time! There are many cats and kittens at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter hoping to find warm, cozy homes with families to love them. To help make it even easier to make a cat part of your family, the Loudoun County Animal Shelter is introducing the "12 Days of Cat-mas" December 10th through the 22nd. The Animal Shelter will waive the spay/neuter cost for any cat or kitten adopted during these 12 days. That means that cats/kittens will have an adoption fee of only \$10. Members of the Gray Whisker Club (cats age 7 or older) will be discounted to only \$5. Plus, all cat adopters will be eligible to win a new cat tree with multiple levels and hiding places! Cats outrank dogs as America's #1 pet, and it is easy to see why. They may have the reputation for being aloof, but that's often far from true. Cats are affectionate, playful, and loyal. They make wonderful pets, and their natural independence often means they are easier to care for and adapt to our busy schedules.

Cats never require a SAM walk for a "potty break," and are most content indoors enjoying nice long naps. They don't need to be housebroken, and instinctively know to use a litter box. Cats can also be left alone for longer periods of time (as long as the food, water, and litter box are well attended). They are happy to entertain themselves, though they

often enjoy having a kitty companion to pal around with. They also love to spend time with their favorite humans, whether curled up in your lap or purring at your ankles. If you haven't discovered the joy of having a cat in your life, or are looking for a companion for your favorite kitty, then come to the Loudoun County Animal Shelter during the "12 Days of Cat-mas," December 10-22. Or visit www.loudoun.gov/animals to view cats available for adoption online. Your purr-fect pet is waiting! The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is located at 39020 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Shelter information & directions can be found at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

Middleburg Eccentric

Jan. 10th Deadline
for Jan. 24th Issue

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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 *Wet bar *8 fireplaces *3 car garage *1.8 stall center aisle barn *2 bedroom apartment *6 paddocks *2 fields *Machine shed **\$2,500,000**

AUTUMN VALLEY



177 gorgeous riding acres w/ several barns/stables, 4 stall stable, 150 x 150 foot riding ring and newly graded polo field *5BR 4BA guest house *Deluxe main store & back-plank residence w/5BR and 4.5 BA *4th floor to ceiling windows *HW floors, bright airy rooms *65 appliances *Gorgeous views **\$2,900,000**

LITTLE COBBLER FARM



Little Cobbler Farm near Delphos with views and more views from every direction from this beautiful contemporary home on 100 gorgeous acres of rolling land on Little Cobbler Mountain *6000 sq ft, detached garage, hidden pool, barn, fencing and more *Secluded and private **\$2,500,000**

HIGH THICKET

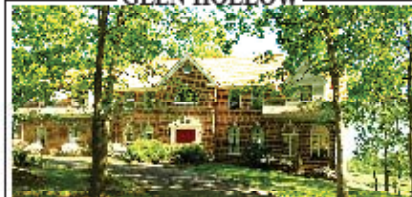


Thorn Hill Hawks Hunt Territory in Rappahannock County *113 acres in easement *Elegant brick Manor Home *Indoor heated swimming pool *Guest Apartment *5 stall barn w/bark room *Laced with Trails *Dramatic views of Old Rag Mountain **\$2,200,000**



*Wishing Everyone a Joyous
Holiday Season*

GLEN HOLLOW



Manageable horse property in Middleburg area *4BR, 2.5BA brick Colonial *Great Room w/stone FP and soaring ceilings *Fabulous 6 stall stable w/owner apartment above *9.73 acres (in 2 parcels) *Pool *Mountain views *NEW PGOL **\$1,825,000**

BLUEMONT



Beautiful Stone and Hardplank home on 4.29+- acs w/over 8,000 sq. ft. *Hevels plus basement *Gourmet kitchen w/granite countertops and mahogany cabinets *Stone terrace *Outdoor grill and fireplace *Koi pond w/waterfall *Attached 3 car garage **\$1,605,000**

THE ROOST



VA Paraphrase *Lovely horse farm on 36 subdividable acs. w/ Wrentham *Great investment opportunity with easement potential *4 BR *Living Room *Dining Room *Family Rm *Large deck *6 stall stable *Paddock *1.5 ac. pond *Pastoral views *Close to Old Town **\$1,600,000**

MIDDLEBURG



Quality new construction *Brick & hardplank siding *Convenient location close to village *4.12 acres *4BR, 3.5BA *Gourmet kit *Great on w/FP *HW floors *Finished room over garage *Premium finishes & designer touches *Reduced to **\$1,195,000**

MOORHEAD



Elegant stone & stucco colonial, c. 1912, beautifully updated and meticulously maintained in the heart of Old Town *Oak and pine floors, 10 fireplaces, new kitchen *Golf filled *Spacious rooms, make it ideal for entertaining *Landscape & privacy with in massive neighborhood (Reserve at Moorhead) **\$2,495,000**

LAND

Shoemaker School Rd. -150 acs. *Great conservation easement tax incentive *Large stream *Mm views *Open & wooded **\$4,750,000**
Ramey Rd. -45.85 acs. *Rolling land *Great views *Great conservation easement tax incentive *Easy access to route 66 *4 prcls. **\$1,150,000**
Cobbler Mountain 28.03 beautiful acres with great views *Small stream *Mostly open *Covenants **\$650,000**
Majestic View Farm Parcels are 6-12.6 acres Each with an approved 4 bedroom drainfield site with certification letter. **\$399,000 to \$469,000**

IRON HORSE FARM



New Listing Aldie *Completely updated 2 level brick home on 7+ acres in ideal commuter location *Features 3BR 3BA, spacious rms, new windows & appliances *Ideal "Hunt Box" w/4 stall stable, lighted riding ring and new barrel fenced paddocks **\$729,000**

Offer subject to terms, conditions change of price or withdrawal without notice. Information contained herein is deemed reliable, but is not a warranted or to be otherwise guaranteed.

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