Middleburg Eccentric™

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Time to Observe
Page 20

Land Trust of Virginia Garden Party
Page 12



Students Impact the Community via Piedmont Community Foundation
Page 4

Talking Trash

Daniel Morrow

Discussions of draft amendments to the town's "Garbage, Rubbish & Refuse" regulations dominated the Thursday, September 9, regular monthly meeting of the Middleburg Town Council.

Bins

A review of the section on "containers and receptacles" prompted an observation by Councilmember Bundles Murdock that only garbage cans seemed to covered by the rules. "What about recycling bins?" she asked. When Town Clerk Rhonda North confirmed that the Town Code did not contain a section on recycling bins, Councilmember Mark Snyder suggested it should.

Murdock also noted that, in view of recurring problems with paper "flying out of the bins," any new rules should include a provision requiring "tight-fitting lids." The town does not currently supply tops for its recycling bins, and according to Murdock, no such lids are available, even for private purchase.

According to the Town Clerk, Front Royal once offered residents the option of purchasing bins with lids. Most residents, she noted, didn't purchase a top and those who did soon discovered that the lids, the most expensive part of the bin, quickly disappeared.

Councilmember Kathy Jo Shea observed that, now, recycling bins were available with built-in lids. Consulting Town Administrator Jerry Schiro confirmed that such bins could be purchased at Home Depot.

Noise

When asked if the new trash regulations were consistent with Middleburg's noise ordinance, Town Planner and Zoning Administrator David Beniamino noted that "town-designated trash companies" were excluded from the provisions of the ordinance, though "private companies" were required to abide by its provision.

At Councilmember Bundles Murdock's request, the Latin term "mutatis mutandis" was replaced by "to the extent applicable".

When asked about an apparent absence of regulations concerning animal wastes, Town Planner Beniamino opined that the matter was covered in the "animal section of the Town Code."

An appropriately revised draft ordinance will be submitted for Council's consideration.

MVFD

Brad Draisey, President of the Middleburg Volunteer Fire Department, prefaced discussion of his department's request for Special Use Permit on Thursday, with a brief explanation of what he termed "a recent investigation" that had led to the resignation of the department's Chief and four other firefighters.

According to Draisey, the investigation was officially set in motion by the Chairman of Loudoun County's Fire & Rescue Commission, who contacted the Middleburg department about "allegations" of misconduct.

While offering no details of the nature of the alleged misconduct, Draisey reported that three firefighters had been immediately placed on administrative leave while the Fire & Rescue Commission, the Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Department and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department conducted formal inquiries.

During the course of that investigation, he reported, five members of the department resigned: two who were already on administrative leave and three others who, according to Draisey, "resigned due to loyalty to the Fire Chief."

Draisey assured Council that "the investigation was now complete; that no criminal charges would be pursued," and that at no time had the residents of Middleburg been at risk.

Loudoun County Fire & Rescue, he noted, will continue to assign career staff to Middleburg until new members could be recruited for the Middleburg volunteer department, which was only eight members strong on September 9.

Draisey assured the Council that the department's "problem children were gone" and that they had "a better system in place to ensure there were no reoccurrences. "

Special Use Permit

The Fire Department has requested a Special Use Permit from the Town in order to improve and enlarge the fire station.

According to Town Planner and Zoning Administrator

Continued Page 6

Editor's Desk: Page 10 · Faces & Places 12 · Friends for Life: Page 28

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Simpson Cir. -Paeonian Springs - Rural Hill 1905 Historic Home w/just under 4 ac., minutes to Leesburg/bike trail. Fenced pasture for horses, beautiful trees/yard. New Front porch and metal roof updated plumbing/electrical. Morning rm addition and kitchen redone, granite, maple cabinets, lovely wood floors all rooms, new copper gutters, huge walk-up attic great to finish off. Beautiful Turn of century home w/lovely setting.
Jim Lemon 703-203-9766 $699,000



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Scott Buzzelli 540-454-1399 $699,000



Raven Rocks Rd. -Bluemont - Historic house on Appalachian Trail. 6+ acres. 6 bedrooms, nanny/in-law suite with separate entrance. Pool, 2-car garage, small barn/shed, lovely landscaping.Lots of charm, wood floors, fireplaces, chestnut paneling. Minutes from the village of Bluemont, Berryville, convenient to Dulles airport.
Anne McIntosh 703-509-4499 $645,000

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News of Note

Cherry Blossom Foundation Walks the Walk for Hundreds of Local Women



Sunday, October 10th marks the third year, Middleburg's Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation has organized public walks to raise funds to help Fauquier and Loudoun women fight breast cancer. Each subsequent event has been more successful and this year the walkers in Leesburg, Middleburg and Warrenton hope to raise $300,000 and attract 2,000 participants.

Establish in 2007 two wonderful women, Nanette White and Cheryl Clayton Atkins, whose nickname was 'Cherry Blossom,' the annual event generates revenue to provide breast cancer grants to Fauquier Hospital, Inova Hospital, Loudoun Community Health Center, Breast Cancer Network of Strength and the Lombardi Cancer Center.

With Cherry Blossom funding and the help of Inova Loudoun Hospital, Loudoun Community Health Center has scheduled more than 430 mammograms for its patients.

Dedicated to directly helping the women of Fauquier and Loudoun, the Foundation has made 80 per cent of its grants in these counties. The other 20 per cent has funded a Georgetown University research study.

The Foundation's leaders decided last year to conduct the three simultaneous events to expand its fundraising across two counties so local citizens could participate and ensure better care of their family and friends. Rather than sending the money out of the area, the Foundation provides local benefits, in contrast to national breast cancer organizations.

"With hundreds of our Leesburg, Middleburg and Warrenton friends and family experiencing the anguish of breast cancer" said Vice Chairman Mary Jo Jackson, "we wanted to significantly increase the detection and treatment capabilities of local breast cancer service providers for our girls and women."

"In the last couple of months," a Cherry Blossom leader said, "we helped three women who called for financial assistance with mammograms; one said she was nineteen with no insurance, one spoke very limited English, and one said she had just lost her job and had no insurance."

In early September, one woman from Sterling wrote to the Foundation, "I live to write this letter because you so generously paid for my mammogram. It is because of you that I now experience a cancer-free life."

In all four situations, the Foundation's relationship with Loudoun Community Health Center and Inova Loudoun Hospital resulted in quick appointments and financial assistance. Expansion of local detection and treatment of breast cancer, education of local women on the need for early and regular screenings, and the funding of regional research are the Foundation's goals.

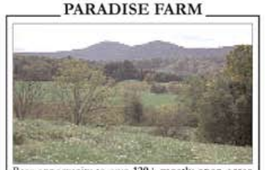
"We post all recipients of our grants on our website, www.cherryblossombreastcancerfoundation.org," said James Atkins, Board Chair, "we publicly announce them, and we conduct meetings of our 45 member Advisory Board twice a year to elicit suggestions and comments. Local input is greatly encouraged and appreciated."

The three October 10th events during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month are family affairs with easy two-mile walks and three-mile runs at Leesburg's Morven Park Equestrian Center; in Middleburg at the parking lot of the Post Office and the Middleburg Bank; and in historic Warrenton at the Warrenton Branch Greenway. All begin at 1 pm.

Please register on the website, by mail to Box 1051, Middleburg, 20118, by calling 540.422.6139, or by visiting local businesses, including Grand Sponsor, Middleburg Bank.

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News of Note

Students Impact the Community via Piedmont Community Foundation

A basketball tournament to promote awareness among teenagers about the dangers of cell phone texting while driving and another project designed to enhance the distribution of food to families in need are the 2010 recipients of two grants totaling $5,000 awarded by Loudoun and Fauquier high school students who are advisors for youth grant-making at the Piedmont Community Foundation.

The Loudoun Do Something Now Club in Purcellville and The Wakefield School Service Club in The Plains were awarded the grants funded by the S. Murray Rust and Mary H.C. Rust Student Philanthropy Project (SPP) administered by the Middleburg-based Piedmont Community Foundation.

The Rust fund was established in 2006 with the purpose of involving area students in philanthropic pursuits in their communities. Over the last four years, a total of $18,800 in grants has been distributed by the SPP. The students put out requests for proposals from youth and then decide which projects they would like to recommend for funding after evaluating applications submitted by individual student service organizations in both counties. Details can be found on the student's website www.ForwardTurn.org

The SPP is now in the process of registering interested students for the current school year who will be involved in awarding grants in 2011. Slots on the student steering committee are open for two students from each public and private high school, with home schooled students allotted four openings in Loudoun County and two in Fauquier.

The Wakefield student grant totals $3,000 and will be used to support the purchase and installation of a "Food Shed" for the Fauquier County Food Distribution Coalition (FCFDC). Every month, the coalition dispenses food at the United Methodist Church of Warrenton, and the new food storage shed will be located at the church.

"They would benefit greatly from a shed/facility to store boxes, carts and goods," read the Wakefield proposal. "Last year, the FCFDC fed about 185 households and 579 individuals every month…The shed will be a permanent contribution to assist the FCFDC in their efforts to help the growing number of needy in individuals and families within the region."

A grant of $2,000 will be used by the Loudoun Do Something Now Club in Purcellville to continue its sponsorship of



a "Big Shots 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament" for teenagers in the spring of 2011, an annual event that began in 2009. The tournament, which also promotes awareness of the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, is held at Purcellville High School and includes appearances by well-known professional athletes and other guest speakers. Last year, the club also received a grant for $2,500 to help fund the 2010 tournament.

"As an organization, we have realized that the numbers of teen accidents from texting while driving will only increase if something does not change," students wrote in their original grant proposal. "We hope to make a difference and help spread awareness for such a pending problem."

Registration forms for the Student Philanthropy Project steering committee are now available at school guidance offices or through the Piedmont Community Foundation at 101 N. Jay St. in Middleburg. The first orientation meeting for the steering committee will be held at the foundation on Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon. For further information, contact PCF executive director Karen Krei at 540-687-5223 or Kkrei@verizon.net. Student meetings at the PCF offices are scheduled on the second Saturday of the month from October through May.

The Piedmont Community Foundation seeks to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Loudoun and Fauquier counties and has awarded nearly $1 million in grants over its ten-year existence.

Land Trust of Virginia's $50,000 Challenge Grant

The Land Trust of Virginia (LTV) recently announced their 2010 Challenge Grant Campaign, with the goal of raising $50,000 to help the land trust preserve open space, farms, forests, and historic places in Virginia.

The Land Trust Board challenges you to help match the $50,000 in donations already pledged—that means every dollar you donate to LTV this fall will be doubled!

The Challenge Grant was announced on September 12, 2010 at the LTV Celebration of Conservation. The event was hosted by Rose Marie Bogley—an accomplished horsewoman and dedicated conservationist—at her 365-acre Bollingbrook estate in Upperville, which she placed in easement with LTV last year.

"With your help, the Land Trust can preserve our countryside and historical properties in perpetuity," says Turner Smith, LTV Chairman. "Conservation easements are the single most important tool that we have to protect our lands from development—forever."

Why is the Challenge Grant So Important? Despite the economic downturn, development continues to eat away at farms and forest land, particularly in the northern Piedmont of Virginia. The Land Trust of Virginia is saving our community's open spaces, mountains, water resources, and historic sites, one parcel at a time, by working with private landowners to place voluntary conservation easements on their lands.

In the last year alone, LTV has preserved more than 1,500 acres, including some of the most spectacular scenic and historic properties in Virginia. LTV now holds 106 easements on nearly 11,000 acres of land, and is poised to take many more.

LTV has proven, time and again, that it is able to use private donations wisely and effectively to preserve our land, water, farms, forests, and historic places.

We need your help to preserve the rural communities and surrounding lands where we all live and raise our families. The need for action is great, and the need for action is now, before the lands are taken for development and our open spaces are lost forever. With your help, LTV will continue its successful efforts to save Virginia's beautiful countryside. We urge you to give all you can.

To make a contribution: Visit www.landtrustva.org or simply mail your check to the Land Trust of Virginia, P.O. Box 14, Middleburg, Va. 20118.

AH&T Insurance Recognized as One of the Largest Brokers

AH&T Insurance has been recognized on Business Insurance magazine's list of the "100 Largest Brokers of U.S. Business." The survey, based on 2009 brokerage revenues, demonstrates the success of AH&T's commitment to delivering high-value risk management expertise, services, and products.

"It is an honor to be named one of the nation's largest insurance brokers. AH&T's ranking reflects our continued growth despite current market conditions," said AH&T President, Alexander Green.

Used by administrative and financial executives, risk managers and employee benefit managers, the annual Business Insurance Agent/Broker Profiles issue is considered the authoritative source of information on commercial insurance brokering. The brokers listed in the top 100 showed an average .21% growth over last year. AH&T enjoyed a 2.20% growth.

US Equestrian Team Veteran Alison Robitaille to Give Clinic at Foxcroft

Foxcroft School is delighted to announce that is hosting a clinic by Alison Firestone Robitaille on the weekend of November 6th and 7th. The clinic will take place at the Jean du Pont McConnell Stables at the Middleburg, VA, school.

Robitaille, who graduated from Foxcroft in 1995, has represented the United States in many international events over the past 15 years, including the Samsung Nations Cup World Series, the World Equestrian Games, and the 2004 Nations Cup. She also was an alternate for the 1998 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

The Foxcroft clinic offers a fabulous chance for riders to fine-tune their jumping and other skills as they prepare for a winter of training and competing. The clinic will consist of 90-minute group sessions with a maximum of five riders per group. Saturday sessions will focus on the flat work critical to successfully negotiating courses, including poles and small jumps. Sunday's clinics will be more formal course work. Levels range from 2'3" to 3'6".

The cost of the clinic is $225 for two days; $125 for one day for non-Foxcroft students and $10 per person for auditors. Each participating rider receives a free auditing spot for a trainer or friend. Preference will be given to riders signing up for both days. For more information, contact Marit Hughes at Marit.Hughes@gmail.com or 703-444-6364.

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News of Note

Talking Trash

Continued From Page 1

David Beniamino, the Town Planning Commission made its approval of the request conditional, insisting:

(1) that the entrance to the station be widened, to the extent practicable, to improve access to Route 50

(2) that vegetation obstructing sightlines from the entrance be removed if possible, and managed in any case.

(3) that a flashing warning sign be installed on Route 50 to warn motorists when emergency vehicles were about to enter the highway

(4) that, in order to disturb as few people as possible, the station's emergency generator operate only from noon until 3:00 p.m. on weekdays

(5) that the Planning Commission be given sixty days notice "prior to the start of construction" for review and comment;

(6) that fuel tanks on station property meet County and State standards; and,

(7) that the department not use, advertise, or market its new and enlarged community meeting room for events not directly related to, or sponsored by the department..

Middleburg Elementary School Centennial

Terri Domanski, a member of the Middleburg Elementary School Centennial Committee updated Council on current plans for the 2011-2012 school year, and asked for both ideas and funding to make the school's one hundredth year a rousing success. The Committee will meet in October complete its plans for the year and budget. Mayor Davis thanked the Committee for its work to date, and suggested that funds might be forthcoming from the Town's Health Center Fund

According to Domanski, Virginia State Senator Jill Vogel has been working with the Committee to build an endowment fund for the school, that Loudoun County School Superintendent Ed Hatrick has approved the establishment of such a fund, and, "has stated that he would recommend to the School Board that the issue of closing the school be taken off the table if such an endowment was developed."

Refinancing Town Debt

Without opposition, Council adopted resolution authorizing Davenport & Associates, financial advisors to both the town and Loudoun County, to begin work necessary to refinance utility bonds issued by the Town in 2007. Davenport's Joe Mason told Council that refinancing through the Virginia Resource Authority (VRA) could well save the Town more than $120,000 over the next three years.

Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Walk

For the fourth year in a row, Council unanimously approved a resolution of support for the Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation. The Foundation's Lori K. McGuinness appeared before Council on September 9, to ask for that support, and to report that, for first time in four years, the Foundations run/walk events will take place in Middleburg, Warrenton and Leesburg on the same day, Sunday, October 10.

McGuinness noted that over eighty percent of the $130,000 raised by the Cherry Blossom events over the past three years has been distributed to local organizations, including the Blue Ridge Hospice, Breast Cancer Network of Strength, Fauquier Hospital Warrenton, Middleburg FISH, Georgetown University Lombardi Comprehensive Center Institute, George Washington University Mobile Digital Mammogram Van, INOVA Loudoun Hospital, Loudoun Community Health Center and Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers

It is hoped that this year's walkers and 5K runners will raise $300 to $500,000.

Speeding on Blue Ridge Avenue

Councilmember Bundles Murdock once again brought to Council's attention what she described as a speeding problem on Blue Ridge Avenue. Noting that residents have reported cars "screaming" by while small children were waiting for the school buses in the mornings, Murdock asked Middleburg Police Chief Steve Webber to increase his departments surveillance and ticketing in the area, and do all in his power to obtain help from the Virginia Department of Transportation, which owns Middleburg's streets.

Request Denied for First Floor Offices

To allow professional offices on first floor – 2 West Washington Street – Middleburg Property Management

Council denied a request from Charles Carroll, owner of the Noble House, to allow professional offices on the first

Continued Page 7



Orange County Hunt Team Event Planned

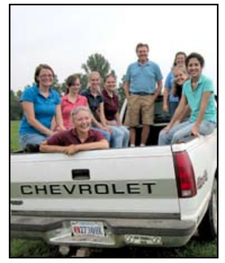
The Orange County Hunt Cross Country Team Event will be held Sunday, October 31st at Old Whitewood Farm near The Plains, with the popular Junior Hunter Championship. In 1987, the OCH Team Event, modeled after the English Team Chase, was created to offer an event with something for every level of foxhunter.

The OCH Team Event features teams of three to four horses or ponies galloping over a rolling course of walls, coops, rails and hay bales in two main divisions: Limit Hunters and Genuine Hunters. Team prizes are awarded for ideal time, best turned out and best hunt team. A Genuine Hunter championship also is awarded.

This year only, there will be a special Halloween Parade where prizes will be awarded to the teams with the best costumes for riders and …ponies and horses as well!

Call 540-253-5356 for prize lists. Entries close Tuesday Oct. 26 by 6:00 p.m.

Virginia Tech MARE Center students visit Hickory Tree Farm



Recently, six undergraduate students studying at Virginia Tech's Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension (MARE) Center visited Hickory House, home of Mr. and Mrs. William Abel Smith in Middleburg, Va. Ms. Barbara duPont and Mr. Bruce Rosenbaum joined Mrs. Abel Smith and the students during this educational visit.

While at Hickory House, students had the opportunity to watch one of Mrs. Mimi Abel Smith's favorite horses, Different Drum, ridden by Carl Rafter, work on the track. "Different Drum has recently made his first start over hurdles," said Mairead Carr, trainer. "These students were excited to see what work goes into preparing a horse for steeplechase racing."

"It was great to see how horses train for steeplechase races. I love all the awesome opportunities that we get in Middleburg," said Brittney Jones of Warrenton, Va. Jones and her five classmates from across the United States came to the MARE Center to study in one of the nation's most unique equine science programs.

Talking Trash

Continued From Page 6

floor of the building at 2 West Washington Street.

According to Town Planner and Zoning Administrator David Beniamino, Middleburg's Planning Commission had recommended denial of the request on the grounds "that a better use of the space would be some form of retail or restaurant use due to the central location of the building in the downtown district."

Beniamino suggestion that a special use permit with a two-to-five-year time limit might be issued, was also rejected.

According to Councilmember Kevin Hazard, the Planning Commission believed that, once office use was allowed, the Town would not get the space back for retail uses. Councilmember Kathy Jo Shea also noted that the Commission had reacted strongly, and that there was actually some debate about whether or not such uses were legal in "first floor" spaces in the Town's central business district.

Noting that "there may be some ambiguity in the zoning ordinance as to what constituted a first floor," Shea argued there was "no ambiguity in the Council's Vision or the Comprehensive Plan recommendation that retail should be on the main street."

Dominion Power

Mayor Davis reported Dominion Power had responded positively to a $1,000 grant request from the Middleburg Community Center, and had also dispatched no less than sixteen people to the Center to help paint and clean the building, do work on the Center's trees and fencing, and spread mulch. The Mayor will issue a formal letter of thanks on behalf of the Town Council

Let's Go Bowling!



Photos by Galen Photography

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Salt-glazed ceramic pot by Rudy Tucker

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News of Note

Four Area Students Among Wakefield's Nine 2010 AP Scholars

Nine students of Wakefield School in The Plains, Virginia, have earned 2010 AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the more than 1.8 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to earn an AP Scholar Award.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

Eight Wakefield students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher (based on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest). The AP Scholars from Wakefield's Class of 2010 are Jack Byers of The Plains, Alexandra Holcomb of Haymarket, Katherine Huang of Amissville, Erin Kennedy of Haymarket, Gracie Morrison of Marshall, and William Sacripanti of Purcellville. Recipients from Wakefield's Class of 2011 are Madeline Sacripanti of Purcellville and Laura Steensma of Marshall.

One Wakefield student, Maximilian Hechl '10 of Middleburg, qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Most four-year colleges in the United States provide credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying exam scores. Research consistently shows that AP students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher college graduation rates than students who do not participate in AP.

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Editor's Desk

Clouds and Linings

We were approached the other day by a pair of well-dressed and personable young ladies, in a grocery store.

They were carrying shopping lists. . . not for themselves . . . but for those who couldn't afford to feed their families.

Giant, it seems, had agreed to put a broad list of basic foodstuffs "on special."

The ladies were asking that we buy some of the items . . . tuna, bread, basics . . . and donate them to a food bank . . . which, for the first time in recent memory, was running out of food in the face of an unprecedented crush of requests from quarters heretofore unserved.

How sad it is that here, in Loudoun County, one of the wealthiest and fastest-growing jurisdictions, in one of the wealthiest and most powerful countries in recorded history, people still go to bed hungry.

Indeed, it is not only sad, it is shameful.

On the other hand, how lucky we are to be blessed not only with a certain degree of insulation from the worst of the ongoing great recession . . . but with friends and neighbors, kin and perfect strangers, who are ready, willing and able to volunteer their time, or money, or skills, or all possible combinations of the three, to help.

Thanks to all who do so much . . . and, especially, to all those who manage not only to endure, but to prevail.

BIOB Won't Trump Voter Anger

From Beyond the Beltway

Ken Rietz

The White House has begun the Fall campaign with the same old tired refrain – Blame It On Bush (BIOB).

After almost two years of the Obama Presidency and four years of Democrat dominance in the House and Senate, BIOB is falling on deaf ears. Voters are angry. They don't like unchecked Federal government spending, the new healthcare law, Cap and Trade or the process of Pelosi/Reid government with its payoffs for votes and Bills that few read.

Last year at about this time, the Tea Party movement was dismissed as a bunch of loud mouth troublemakers. Contributing writers on this page referred to them derogatorily as Tea Baggers, Dopes and even racists.

It turns out the Tea Party activists may have known more about the mood of the voters than most of the political pundits. Tea Partiers predicted the stimulus would not work and it hasn't. They said the new healthcare law would not reduce costs and it hasn't. They warned that government spending was out of control and new figures show that the Federal Deficit has grown under Obama more than all Presidents combined since George Washington.

Now, one year later, the polls show the public is more in agreement with positions taken by the Tea Party than those of Obama.

The President's political guru, David Axelrod, has correctly pointed out that elections are about choices. The problem faced by the White House is that voters have taken a close look at the choices offered by Obama, Reid and Pelosi; and they don't like what they have seen.

That is why not a single Democrat is defending Obamacare in a commercial this Fall despite predictions by Obama and Axelrod that it would become more popular after it passed. Instead more than 60% of voters now want it repealed.

The swing state of Ohio is always a good place to measure the country's mood. Despite Obama's big win there in 2008, a recent poll pitting him against George W. Bush had Bush on top. In addition, 5 of the 10 House seats held by Ohio Democrats are in jeopardy.

It is no wonder that Obama has begun to sound more like a WHINER than a winner.

The only thing BLUE on election night is going to be the mood at the White House.

Hypocrisy

Tom Pratt

"Water water everywhere but not a drop to drink," from the Rime of the Ancient Mariner, is prophetic for almost half of the world's population, potable water at least.

The United Nations General Assembly, recently and finally, after many years of struggle, passed a resolution, spearheaded by Bolivia, declaring clean water a basic human right. This on the surface sounds logical and one could ask, "What is the problem?"

We all know humans, plants and animals cannot survive without water

For years most of the developed countries, mainly in the North, have voted against such a resolution but this time they did not have the guts to vote 'no,' and simply abstained.

Again the question, why?

I am afraid the answer is profit and greed. An unnamed British politician when asked why Britain abstained, answered, "…we do not want to be responsible for flushing Africa's toilets."

Canada and the United States along with several European countries and Australia and New Zealand also abstained. It is not surprising but I think very irresponsible of the press to give this incredibly important issue virtually no coverage. One can only assume that since much of the media is owned by large corporations it is not in their interest to have their readers, viewers and listeners aware of this.

The United States even went so far as to condemn Bolivia for stirring the pot. Why should Bolivia not be at the forefront of the issue? Although they contribute little to global warming, they suffer greatly the consequences thereof. They depend almost entirely on melting glaciers for their water, and the glaciers are melting (and not refreezing) at an alarming rate.

Water will become more valuable than oil as it becomes more scarce. Large corporations have been trying to privatize water the world over for years. Bechtel, the California based energy corporation, lost the battle to privatize water in the Cochabamba water wars ten years ago.

Good on you, Bolivia.

The language of the resolution was very carefully worded so as to not include the words "access to" preceding water. If those words had been used, private water companies could claim that access to water was provided and it was not their problem if people could not afford to pay.

According to Pablo Solon, Bolivia's Ambassador to the United Nations, on the global level one out of every eight people do not have potable drinking water. In just one day, more than 200 million hours of the time used by women is spent collecting and transporting water for their homes, he says.

I hope people of this country and other rich nations really understand how unregulated corporations and run away capitalism affects the less privileged people of the world. Not only are large corporations drooling to privatize water. They are also cornering the global food markets.

The recent devastating drought in Russia forced a decision to curtail wheat exports from that country. So futures traders seized the opportunity and bought up all the wheat futures resulting in wheat prices "going through the roof."

There was not a drastic dearth of wheat available worldwide until traders inflated the prices. Wheat being so vital to many of the world's poorest people, food riots broke out in countries that rely on inexpensive access to wheat.

As natural resources shrink and the earth heats up, more and more of the poorest people on earth will suffer to a much greater degree than those of more affluent nations. Unless we and other wealthy nations do something to alleviate this, the growing disparity will be a much more serious threat to our security than terrorism. The Pentagon realizes this and has issued warnings about it in recent reports.

I will end with what I think to be a stunning example of wasteful and in my opinion nearly criminal activity by a corporation. On a recent trip to Venezuela I was in a barrio high in the hills above Caracas when a water truck delivered semi potable water to the residents. This delivery happens 3 or 4 times per week as there is no running water up there.

The proud people desperately conserve this precious commodity, bathing and washing clothes sparingly, carefully doling it out to themselves and their animals trying to make it last until the next delivery.

When I went back down to the center of Caracas, I noticed a person with a huge high-pressure hose cleaning down the parking lot of a McDonalds restaurant.

The glaring disparity was obvious. As was the hypocrisy of the large, affluent nations who refuse to concede the anger and frustration that is building.

Of Noses and Faces

Blue Notes

Daniel Morrow

The Republican Party's dogged determination to rid the congress and the country of all traces of Barack Obama, his party, his supporters, and anything even vaguely similar to his policies has driven few remaining GOP moderates of a pre-Goldwater stripe to embrace and empower a gaggle of disreputable mini-posses (or in some cases thinly-disguised lynch mobs), led by an odd assortment of self-appointed oracles-for-profit.

Worse, what's left of the GOP's moderate wing obviously believes it has no choice.

The best of the old-school must either cater to the very worst of their new up-in-arms supporters or die . . . or perhaps as Harry Truman's more highly-regarded analog of Obama's General McChrystal put it, "just fade away."

Reduced to the moral equivalent of bit players in Steven Colbert's forthcoming "Keep Hate Alive" rally-on-the-mall they're caught in a tragedy-turned-parody which, in turn, so closely resembles reality that Glen Beck will no doubt sue.

Fury driven by frustration all too often seeks leadership with simple slogans and made-up or non-existent track records.

ANYTHING or ANYONE is better, they say, than you-know-WHO . . . and HE's a you-know-what. (Pick your favorite object of contempt)

Facts be damned . . . or be gone.

Who's a Kenyan, Muslim, atheist, socialist, secret supporter of the goals of the worst of our enemies?

A third to a half of the "new" GOP has some very strange answers to all those questions. And worse, they believe they're true.

Where have we seen this before?

Almost anywhere people are desperate and there's money or power to be derived from exploiting their fears.

Better bread lines and beggars than FDR and a "socialist" New Deal.

Better faith and facism than doubt or socialism.

Better to close schools, libraries, hospitals, blood-banks and bible-schools than integrate them.

Better back-alley abortions than compromise our special insights into the nature of life and the mind of God.

Better tax cuts for the rich than jobs for the rest of us.

Better no health care than "government" health care.

Better gone than gay.

Better no government than big government.

Better Hitler than Blum.

The Election Climate

Purple

Bruce Smart

The campaign for control of Congress is in full swing. Sadly, emotions and ideology are overwhelming logic and facts, and current economic distress obscures great future threats. Unscrupulous politicians and talking heads play on voters' concerns, vilifying opponents to influence votes. Almost no candidate assesses facts dispassionately and prescribes the hard measures needed. An election decided on personalities, innuendo and hate-filled distortions presented by sound bites ensures continued partisan gridlock and threatens national failure.

Let's start with some basic facts. For 45 years politicians of both Parties have encouraged increased personal and government borrowing to finance expenditures voters were unwilling to pay for up front. Easy credit stimulated unsustainable consumer demand, supplied by greatly increased (and also unsustainable) employment. The housing bubble is a good example. Meanwhile, in order to avoid raising taxes (actually, many were cut), investments in infrastructure, education, and basic research were held down, impairing America's future competitiveness. We voters allowed this to happen, even enjoyed it.

That consumption binge came to a screeching halt with the financial crisis of 2008, as addictions to material possessions encountered financial reality. One sad result is unemployment. How so?

When credit is tightened, mortgages foreclosed, paychecks don't grow, consumers turn conservative. For example, the US personal savings rate now approaches 5% of GDP, versus 1-2%in 2008. With smaller paychecks per capita, and more going into savings, paying down credit cards, less money remains to buy goods and services. Businesses react to lessened demand by layoffs. Thirty years ago our company improved productivity by holding employment growth to 3% less than the percent increase in items produced. With zero growth, cut employment 3%. And we learned to make beverage cans with less aluminum, cutting our costs but reducing demand for aluminum, and thus supplier payrolls. As today's companies do similar things, business profits are up, while employment is static or down. Don't blame companies; efficiencies hold down the cost of things we need, and protect American jobs from being lost to more efficient foreign competition.

What should Americans do? Our economy must shift from loose credit and materialistic consumption today toward savings and investment for tomorrow. With global population growing from 1.8 billion in 1910 to 6.8 billion today, 5.0 billion more in just 100 years, and everyone desiring more and more "things," we will lose our planet if we do not discourage unrestrained materialism. We must raise government revenues - including taxes – towards a balanced budget. We must cut expenses; entitlements, subsidies, wars and earmarks are fertile areas to examine. We must help the unemployed, of course, but stimulating consumer spending to re-establish yesterday's economy will only perpetuate today's problems. Instead, government should concentrate on the future – education, basic research, and infrastructure. Sadly, few politicians are advocating a platform of austerity this fall, believing, as Bertrand Russell said, that "mankind would rather commit suicide than learn arithmetic," and that proposing stiff economic medicine is sure to lose votes. Perhaps. But Purple is also fearful that self-righteous groups - Tea Parties, Unions, Farmers and Investment Bankers among them - will rally politicians around self-serving ideologies, splintering America.

As a community of many backgrounds, experiences and beliefs, Americans once listened to and debated each other's ideas, creating bipartisan policies to move America forward. That worked reasonably well when Purple served in the Reagan Administration. Today's voters must move our country away from gridlock. We must tell the national parties and candidates we will vote for whomever engages in civil, rational dialog, and against any who vilify their rivals. America needs to turn down the volume, open its ears and engage its reasoning powers. The alternative is to drown in a sea of hate, a sad end for a nation that grew to greatness with "government of the people, by the people, for the people." That alternative must not be the legacy we leave our children.

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Faces & Places

Land Trust of Virginia Garden Party

Peace & Plenty at /bollingbrook, Upperville, VA - September, 2010
Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard



Rose Marie bogley, Bob Ryan and Elain Burden



Rose Rogers and John Zugchwert



Kitty Bogley



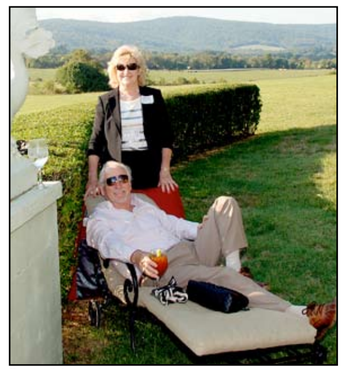
Christine & Pat Palmisani



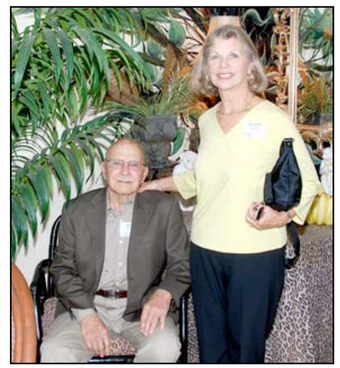
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Missy Janes, Rick Willis and Michell Truffant



David & Joyce Mullins



Jack & Denise Kahn

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Faces & Places

Life in the Country

Pond House

Middleburg VA - September,., 2010

Guests were welcomed to the Pond House past the pre-Civil War stone bank barn through the paddock and over a little intermittent stream to an open lawn area surrounded by fall plants and another small stream that meanders to a lower pond. Cocktails were served in jelly jars as a reminder to all that we refrain from plastics and throw away containers whenever possible. Polly Rowley's jewelry glistened in the late afternoon sun draped over branches of juniper root; Meredith Whiting, Mary Jo Jackson and Patty Callahan managed the sale of over 75 copies of "Life in the Country" for the benefit of the Goose Creek Association and author, Missy Janes, and artist, Cathy Zimmerman, personally signed copies as guests strolled around the naturalistic garden enjoying a perfect fall day in the country.





Missy Janes Signing a book for Wayne Chatfield-Taylor and Rae Stone



Maxine Janes and Emily Baird



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Missy Janes, author; Cathy Zimmerman, illustrator



Polly Rowley and Ann Mari Horkan



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LEESBURG **Rt 15 North at Tutt Lane.**
Cherry Blossom Walk and 5K Run for Breast Cancer registration opens at noon. Runners start at 1 p.m.; walkers start after all runners depart. We are sorry but no pets are allowed.

MIDDLEBURG **111 W. Washington St.**
Cherry Blossom Nanette's Walk and 5K Run for Breast Cancer registration opens at noon. Runners start at 1 p.m.; walkers start after all runners depart. Dogs are welcome.

WARRENTON **Third & Franklin St.**
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Pastimes

Oh, Go Pick An Apple!

Your Personal Chef

Alyson Browett

This is my favorite time of the year. The air is cooler, nights almost cold, and the leaves are beginning to fall from the trees, littering the ground with a rainbow of yellows, reds, and browns. I also love this time of year because it means the end of the growing season, a time to celebrate what the earth puts forth to nourish us. Visiting local farmers' markets, which are full of vegetables and fruits, is a joy in this weather, as is going out into the field and picking food yourself. Fortunately, we live in an area with many community-supported agriculture farms that allow you to do just that, and at this time of year, one of my favorite experiences is apple picking.

We live in the heartland of apple country. During the early 20th century, this area was the world's leading apple producing region, shipping barrels of apples across the Atlantic to supply Europe. Leed Orchard spanned the area from Markham to Upperville, blanketing the countryside in apple trees, many of which still exist in the fields and forests. In fact, there are at least three apple orchards still operating within this area that offer pick-your-own services with many different types of apples.

The old adage "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" may actually have some truth in it. Apples are a good source of vitamin C and dietary fiber, particularly when the skin is eaten. Some studies have shown that eating the equivalent of half a medium-sized apple every day, or three apples a week, may have a protective effect against heart disease, some types of cancer, and asthma. Obviously, as is the case with most fruits and vegetables, eating the skin and flesh conveys the most nutrients; therefore, if you are going to consume apple juice, try to choose a "cloudy" variety that contains some pulp.

Whenever you eat fruit (or veggies), even if they are obtained from a local grower, be sure to wash them well. Although organic apples are available at some of the local grocers, both of the local growers I spoke with said that growing organic apples on the Eastern seaboard is nearly impossible due to the number and types of pests. However, both of them use consultants to ensure they are spraying only what is necessary, and they stop spraying about one month before the fruit ripens. What you can be assured of is that you will not be purchasing fruit that has been covered in wax for shipment.

With nearly 10,000 varieties of apples, which are members of the rose family, there is sure to be a type you will enjoy. Ranging in flavor from sweet and sugary to tart and bright, apples come in all shades of red, yellow and green. The more tart varieties are usually used for cooking and baking (a common favorite among the growers is Macintosh), while the sweeter varieties are usually eaten raw (America's favorites are the Delicious and Granny Smith varieties, but I tend toward Jonathan). In general, prices for pick-your-own apples range from $0.50 to $1.50 a pound, depending on the quantity you purchase. Visit www.virginiaapples.org to search for a pick-your-own orchard (there are three in the Loudoun/Fauquier area: Crooked Run Orchard in Purcellville and Stribling Orchard and Hartland Orchard in Markham).



Autumn Asian Greens Salad

This is a great healthy pot luck dish that includes a few apples. There are a plethora of Asian greens available, such as mizuna, komatsuna, joy choi, tatsoi, and bok choi. Due to their dark green appearance, they are very high in vitamin C, folic acid and other antioxidants. This salad also could be made with the packaged "broccoli slaw" mix available in many grocery stores.

8 cups chopped Asian greens (or broccoli slaw mix; omit carrots if using)

2 medium tart apples, chopped

1 medium carrot, shredded or julienned

½ cup dried cranberries

½ cup salted roasted pumpkin seeds or toasted walnuts

Juice of one lemon

¼ cup extra virgin olive oil

Salt and pepper, to taste

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and toss to coat with dressing. Serves 4-8.

FREDERICKSBURG ! FREDERICKSBURG !

Anyone who has seen Ted Turner's movie adaptation of "The Killer Angels" (or read the book, or visited the battlefield) will remember that Union troops shouted "Fredericksburg" at their Confederate opponents retreating after Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. On October 1, 2, and 3 we'll find out why.

For serious students of conflict, command, and decision-making under fire, the Mosby Heritage Area Associations' annual Conference on Command in the Civil War is arguably one of the most entertaining and valuable events of the year.

This year's event brings together the world's foremost authorities on the critical and bloody Battle of Fredericksburg for presentations, panel discussions, book-signings, fellowship, and by all accounts one of the best battlefield tours anywhere, any time.

Books, Battles, and Banter with the Best

The Conference begins with registration, reception, book-browsing and free-wheeling chats with their authors in the Middleburg Community Center on Friday afternoon, October 1, at 4:00 PM

At 5:00 internationally known scholars Greg Mertz and Frank O'Reilly will kick off the conference with overviews of the decision to engage and the implications of the Union disaster there for the Confederate disaster at Gettysburg.

On Saturday, October 2, participants will be able to see, hear, and engage Clark Hall (on John Pelham), Kim Holden (on Burnside), Robert Krick (on the town), Jeffrey Wert (on Lee and Longstreet), and O'Reilly (on the Union assault against Longstreet's line), and George Rable (on the impact of the defeat on the Union Army)

Joseph Bilby, will discuss the meaning of the conflict writ large and Fredericksburg in particular on Irish immigrants, at the Conference Banquet, served at Middleburg's American Legion Hall

From 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Sunday, October 3, attendees will bus to Fredericksburg and tour the battlefield itself.

Local Students Honored

This year's conference will also recognize five local students, Mina Pirasteh of Highland School, Maddie Travell and Megan Hasse of The Hill School, and Ben Weimer and Sarah Stirrup of Wakefield School. Their outstanding Civil War research and essay projects made them school winners, and finalists for the James Peyton Atkins Memorial "War Between the States" Scholarship.

The Mosby Heritage Area Association now faces the task of selecting the best essay from the five school winners; one from a middle school level student and one from a upper school level student.

The two winners will be awarded a Mosby Heritage Certificate of Achievement and given seats to the 13th Annual Conference on the Art of Command in the Civil War.

Space Limited
Tickets Available

To register for the conference, go to http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org/events.html or call 540.687.6681

Tickets will be available at the door for Conference events in Middleburg. Pre-registration is required for the Sunday bus trip to Fredericksburg.

Registration Fees:

$400 Full Registration for all activities (reception, lunches, snacks, dinner included)

$190 for Friday & Saturday Lectures only (Saturday lunch, not dinner included)

$100 for Angel Level Donation

$500 for Sponsor Level Donation & 1 ticket

$650 for Patron Level Donation & 1 ticket





Pastimes

Time to Observe

The Plant Lady

Karen Rexrode



The summer that everyone wants to forget. Between the continuing drought and hottest months on record - ever! - feelings of despair and finality rule the day for the gardener. Having just finished a consultation with a gardener looking to rearrange her garden, she proclaims "just get rid of it". I suggest that maybe it's the wrong time of year to decide on these things. What about spring?



I have been observant this summer. I have tried really hard to see what survives the high heat and low rain, yet looks good. The new roundabouts on Route 50 have given me some points of observation and choices. I drive through them everyday. No one waters there, the extent of care given to the plants in the circles is the occasional weeding. Surrounded by black top, open to the sun, never a drop of water, and exhaust spewing all day, how much more difficult could survival be?

Some good choices were made in plant selections for our roundabouts. The native plants have succeeded beyond my wildest expectations. We should all take note. The particular shrub I am referring to is Rhus aromatica 'Gro Low'. Related to poison ivy, a member of the sumac family, the worst traits found in the family are not found in this shrub. The stamina they share make it the perfect choice. A low growing shrub with leaves that do resemble poison ivy, it grows from a central core and does not run like sumac. The leaves are not poisonous and turn a glorious red in fall. After watching them from day to day, I have not seen any signs of stress. No leaf curling or dropping. In the past I have observed this woody shrub at Green Spring Gardens as well, planted as an understory shrub. Few plants can tolerate the robbing of nutrients and water from towering trees above, yet this wonderful selection of Rhus aromatica does.

The other native plant that has proven me right again is the native grass Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal'. There are assorted panicum cultivars, I love them all. This particular selection is old, discovered maybe 20 years ago. The grass blades themselves reach about 4 feet and are topped by wispy seed heads that blow ever so gently to 5 feet. Its common name is switch grass and there are other notable varieties. Some that really stand out are Panicum 'Northwind', P. 'Dewey Blue' (discovered at Dewey Beach), and P. 'Shenandoah' (much shorter). In one of the roundabouts there is a single Panicum 'Shenandoah' planted with the taller P. 'Heavy Metal' and it stands a full 12 inches shorter.

In times of stress, it has often been said the gardener can tell the difference between the native plants and non-native. I think that certainly rings true this year. The year that crab grass ruled and gardeners cried 'Uncle'.

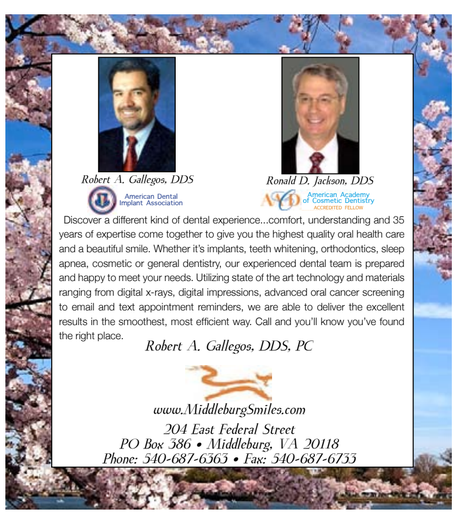




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Pastimes

Keep Your Pants On

7th Inning Stretch

Alex Cudaback

What have we all learned from last week's Ines Sainz affair?

Sainz, as you may or may not have heard, is the reporter at the center of the latest female-journalists-in-the-locker-room controversy. Sainz works for TV Azteca, the second largest television station in Mexico, and has been covering international sports for nearly a decade. She has covered six Super Bowls, the World Cup, multiple Champions League tournaments, four NBA championships and the Olympics.

Oh, Sainz also has a Master's degree in tax law, is married with three children, and is a black belt in taekwondo. She's smart, professional, has been around and knows how to take care of herself.

So when another reporter complained that the atmosphere in the New York Jets locker room constituted a hostile work environment towards Sainz, you can just imagine what happened.

Glenn Beck imagined what happened; he implied that Sainz had created the situation because she wanted the publicity. (I'll wait while you savor the irony….) Baby Beck apparently took no notice of the fact that Sainz wasn't the reporter who'd complained.

But he shared his opinion.

On something he knew nothing about.

For which we're all, as ever, grateful.

Rush Limbaugh even chimed in with his typically clear, succinct and on point commentary. Rush thought hard on the matter and came to the conclusion that, in the end, Sainz was "boobalicious."

Can't make this stuff up.

Even Keith Olbermann, who I think has more brain cells in his in-grown toenail than Limbaugh and Beck combined, decided that the situation earned Sainz recognition as his third Worst Person in the World last Tuesday. Apparently, Olbermann felt Sainz got herself into this mess by dressing provocatively.

The old "she was asking for it" defense. Nice. Really nice.

Oh, and what did Sainz have to say?

"It was definitely a joking tone, very amicable. I wasn't offended."

Huh.

So tempest in a teapot? Or is there really something there, there?

(And yes, Clinton Portis did chime in about how remarkable it actually was that Sainz managed to control herSELF, what with all the sexy studs in various stages of undress wandering around her. Luckily, absolutely nobody takes anything that comes out of Portis's mouth without about 37 grains of salt.)

As long as women want to be journalists, they're going to be afforded the same access their male counterparts get. And as long teams decide that journalists need access to players RIGHT NOW following games and practices, before they can get their heads fully wrapped around what just happened let alone towels wrapped around themselves, well, you're going to find yourself, interviewer and interviewee, in some weird situations.

(Aspiring cub reporter: "So, how did it feel to [fill in the blank?]"

Star athlete: "How would it feel to get that mic out of my face long enough to let me put on my pants?")

But over the years, something amazing has happened. The journalists and the athletes they cover have, for the most part, figured this out. As a matter of fact, I'd be willing to bet that the incidents of hostile workplace complaints in the sports journalism world are pretty slim compared to most others.

So yes, it's a story but it's a story about itself; the primary parties have pretty much resolved the situation on their own, like adults, and moved on.

It's the rest of us who need to get a grip.

Little Bites

Reggie Bush gave up his Heisman trophy. But he's not admitting he's guilty of any wrongdoing. Uh huh….. And the kids who really get slammed because of this mess are the ones at SoCal now and for the next few years. None of whom actually played a down with Reggie Bush or had anything to do with any of this. And all the while, the University gets to keep the millions of dollars they made off of Bush and his achievements. Yup, sounds like the NCAA's right on top of this one.

A Mural of Sacramento Kings' Omri Casspi, who is Jewish and the only Israeli playing in the NBA, was defaced with a swastika in Sacramento twice in little more than a week. The Anti-Defamation League has announced a reward of $1,000 for information leading to an arrest; the team has offered to match the reward. I suggest a tour of, and lessons on, what remain of the camps at Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzec and Chelmno. A little acknowledgement of what exactly that swastika represents might go quite a long way in curing this vandal of his or her ignorance.

What do we know, two weeks into the NFL season? We know the Redskins are going to be interesting to watch. We know the Cowboys will as well, though probably for the wrong reasons. (Think JJ would make both Wade Phillips and Jason Garrett walk the plank mid-season? If any owner has the stones, he does.) We know Brett Favre made a mistake coming back, and now he's stuck. We know the Jets are better than they looked in week one, and the Patriots are worse. We know McNabb still has plenty left in the tank. We know San Francisco isn't the darling people made them out to be. We know the Cardinals are passing around the collection plate to get Kurt Warner back. We know someone finally introduced Carlos Rogers to Stickum.

And we know DeAngelo Hall is still just MeAngelo Hall.

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Pastimes

The Marginalizing of the Individual Investor

Harald Malmgren and Mark Stys

On May 6, 2010, at about 2:30 PM, a "flash crash" in the US stock market sent the Dow plummeting by almost 999 points -- the deepest intra-day plunge ever recorded. The Dow recovered by about 600 points. During the flash crash some individual stocks collapsed to pennies and then rebounded. For the day as a whole, the market closed down 350 points.

This unprecedented shock galvanized the Securities and Exchange Commission into action to identify the cause and devise mechanisms to prevent recurrence. At first, it was thought a "fat finger" error might have sent computerized trading into a tailspin. However, it soon became evident the scale and speed of trading abnormalities could not have been caused by a single misplaced finger.

To its chagrin, the SEC found its antiquated computer capabilities could not capture the volume and speed of transactions in today's markets. Moreover, there was no coherent data center that encompassed the reporting systems of nine separate U.S. exchanges, the "dark pools," and the activities of new ultra-fast, computerized high-frequency trading platforms.

Theoretically, it could take months to rerun that day's records in ultra-slow motion to identify market malfunctions or possible manipulations. The SEC does not have the manpower or technical capability to carry out such a task.

High-frequency trading has truly revolutionized how stock markets function in the United States. High-frequency trading enterprises are not giant corporations or brokerages. They are simply a set of computers functioning according to computer "codes" written by mathematical model builders. The high frequency traders argue they provide substantially increased liquidity to stock market trading and they improve efficiency by driving down buy-sell spreads to tiny fractions of spreads that prevailed a decade ago. Such arguments initially sound appealing. However, high-frequency trading liquidity turns out to be illusory, totally dependent on the willingness of high-frequency trading platforms to remain active during all trading hours.

When several high frequency traders disconnected their computers from the markets on the afternoon of May 6, the result was a temporary implosion of liquidity and a crash in innumerable buy and sell orders. What has been learned from this event is that high-frequency trading platforms not only enhance market liquidity, but they can also threaten massive meltdown, or systemic risk.

Does high-frequency trading (HFT) increase the overall share prices that investors pay over time simply because provision of seemingly limitless liquidity increases transactions demand?

High-frequency trading does have an amplifying effect on market moves, but it would be simplistic to consider HFT's the sole cause of upward bias. We are experiencing weakness in trading of U.S. equities, with thin volumes in comparison to historical performance. Unemployment and slow growth may discourage equity investing, but there have also been more seismic changes in the makeup and activity of market participants.

In past decades the market benefited from economic expansion and an increasing cadre of "natural buyers," including pension plans, endowments, foundations, insurance companies, and individual investors.

With economic expansion, one would expect an ever-increasing number of companies to become publicly traded, but that has not been happening. Instead, there are now only about 5,400 publicly traded companies on the major US stock exchanges, half the number prevailing a decade ago. Less choice and thin trading volume would seem to create a situation where valuation becomes skewed by other factors, such as the illusion of new liquidity generated by computerized trading turbo charged by high-frequency trading.

Shrinkage of "normal buyers" in a context of continuing rallies taking place on thinner and thinner volume suggests that high-frequency trading is hiding more weakness than is recognized. The upward bias from high-frequency trading on rapid buying and selling pushes equity markets higher while providing a false sense of market strength.

For decades, professional investment advisers have continued to teach reliance on "value investing" and "buy-and-hold" as long-term guides to successful investment. Chief economists and market prognosticators for financial institutions continue to urge us to keep focused on "market fundamentals" rather than sell when jostled by disruptive events, expecting "efficient markets" to generate a "fair price" in the whirlwind of market trading.

Technology may now have overridden such investment concepts.

In effect, individual traders are confronted with overwhelming momentum-driven forces that are unrelated to performance of individual businesses. A "fair price" may exist, but high-frequency traders are not seeking fair prices—they are they are seeking transaction volume boosted by momentum they can generate to maximize profits. Unfortunately, high-frequency trader interaction with computerized algorithms of large-cap financial institutions also provides opportunities for high-speed, virtually undetectable market manipulation. Where there is opportunity to "shape" the market for advantage, it is likely that such opportunity will be exploited.

In an environment where the range and speed of price movements is ever-increasing, fundamental valuation of a company becomes increasingly arbitrary without ability to distinguish accelerated price movement from actual value.

In conclusion, continuing advances in computerized trading pose challenges for regulators throughout the world—and leave individual investors marginalized. Regulators need to take into account the ability of high-frequency traders to play global regulatory arbitrage in microseconds. Regulators should not only seek to assure that markets are able to continue to function under stress, but they also need to devise remedial actions that protect individual investors who have fundamentally different objectives from the high-turnover objectives of computerized high-frequency traders.

[An extended article-length version of this column appeared in the Summer 2010 edition of *International Economy* and has been widely circulated in English, Japanese, and German.]

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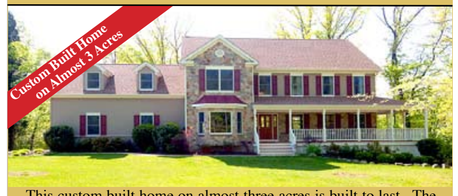
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This beautiful 1911 farm house on 10 plus acres including bank barn is perfect for entertaining with a 16 foot bar and plenty of room for horses. The home is professionally renovated with complete attention to every detail from the gourmet kitchen and the spa bath to the iron gate.



This custom built home on almost three acres is built to last. The gourmet kitchen with professional stainless steal appliances, granite, island, breakfast bar and wine cooler will impress any buyer. The home offers hard wood floors and an elegant curved staircase, arched entryways, stone fireplace, custom tile work and an amazing spa master bathroom. The open floor plan, mature trees and large deck make this the perfect place to live and entertain. Priced to Sell $699,000



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Penelope is a "love of your life" dog who came to us near death due to starvation & neglect. She has a huge personality, is excellent with children & is very snuggly.

We have lots of healthy, fun loving, absolutely adorable **Kittens** of all ages, colors, & personalities.

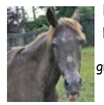




Blue is a Lab?Husky mix born 5/10 who has grown up with tons of kids, cats & other dogs. Blue is super friendly, incredibly smart and full of personality.

Mildred was found running on a busy highway. She is SUPER friendly, and very, very pink and cute. Mildred will grow to be full sized so a pet pig farm home only!





Ripple is a very sweet red roan pony X mare, who is in her early teens, about 13h, has very good ground manners. Ripple is pregnant & will foal by the end of 2010. She and her foal are available.



MHF is in a contest! We REALLY need your help! Please take just a few seconds to VOTE for us to be in the upcoming movie "Smitty"! The organization with the most votes will be in the movie and will win a ton of prizes and cool stuff!

All it takes is three easy steps:

- Go to **www.middleburghumane.com**
- Click on the Smitty poster on our homepage
- Click Vote Now located below Middleburg Humane's description/next to the paw print

PLEASE help us spread the word!

- Ask friends, families, & co-workers to vote.
- As of September 10th we are #2 in the nation!

VOTE NOW PLEASE! Ends Oct. 1st! We are SO close!



Ainsley was found near death on the side of the road. She is now happy & healthy & LOVES everybody and everything. Ainsley is a senior who would be the love of your life kitty.

Pogo is a very special little guy. He is 1 year old and only 35 pounds full grown! Pogo has grown up with tons of children and dogs in his life. He has a heart of gold. A super cutie!





Bunnies We have 7 adorable bunnies available of various ages and personalities that were found on the side of the road.

Beagle X Pups We have 6 Beagle mix puppies that were born mid June 2010. A Little Boy & 5 Little Girls, lots of color, & great big personalities.





Andie is a super adorable young adult Mountain Feist She is quiet, gentle, and sweet but a little timid around new people. She does great with other dogs.

Middleburg Humane Foundation
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For more information on animals available for adoption, upcoming fundraisers, recent rescues, and how you can help, please visit us on the web:
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Albert's Corner

A monthly column for people who share their homes with four-legged friends.

Scratch. Scratch. Scratch. It's not just a chronic habit a lot of dogs and cats have, it's a sign that something is wrong. It's also so common that many pet owners all but give up trying to find the reason that their furry friends itch so often. The truth is, however, that most scratching is directly related to problems that could possibly be solved without expensive medicine or ongoing trips to the vet. While medicine can certainly help, it may not address the source of the problem, so the primary goal is to find out what's making Fido itch.

The first thing to consider is whether a pet may have allergies. Dogs and cats can be allergic to any number of things. Just like people, we can react to environmental conditions like pollen and mold. We can also have trouble dealing with pesticides, like the ones many lawn care companies use on our yards. We can even be allergic to some shampoos and soaps.

If our allergies are not environmental, it's highly likely that they are food-related. Interestingly, we can develop allergies to many common foods even if we've not been sensitive to them in the past. Allergies to chicken, for instance, can develop later in a pet's life because of overexposure. Well-known culprits are wheat and corn, but we can be allergic to any number of proteins, vegetables, fruits or grains. Vets can run allergy panels to determine what's making us uncomfortable. However, if your pet is scratching a lot or chewing his or her paws, you could see a major difference just by switching to a wheat- or corn-free food. If the change does not work, a trip to the vet may be in order. Don't forget to include wheat- and corn-free treats when making the switch!

Dry skin can also cause us to scratch. Adding healthy fats to our diet can be very helpful in combating dryness. Most pet supply stores sell fish oil formulated for cats and dogs. Just a tiny bit in our food can add moisture to our skin.

Of course, if we're chewing one spot in particular, such as a paw, it is important to rule out any foreign objects that may have gotten lodged in our pads. Additionally, if we seem particularly itchy, it's possible that we have parasites like fleas, ticks or mites. Some of these are far too small for people to see, so a trip to the vet is definitely in order if you suspect parasites.

Finally, we may be chronically scratching simply because we're bored. Similar to people who chew their fingernails because of anxiety, we may develop unhealthy habits because we're in need of exercise or attention. While this is not usually the cause of constant scratching, it is an important consideration.

When a dog or cat exhibits frequent scratching, develops hot spots, or shakes his head a lot (a sign of ear infections), it's best to see a vet. That said, I'm a big believer in finding out why we're itching rather than just treating the problem. Many vets will prescribe steroids or antibiotics, and while these may be necessary, staying on them long-term is not a viable solution. Before resorting to a daily medication regimen, it's best to assess all of the factors that might be behind your pet's discomfort.

Who knows, just a simple change in diet could mean the difference between scratch, scratch, scratch or wag, wag, wag … purr, purr, purr!

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Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Trough Hill Farm
Middleburg, Virginia

103 acres and towering white oaks surround this delightful 1800's Virginia farmhouse in a well protected area near Foxcroft School. Ultra charming main house has 9 fireplaces, multiple staircases, original wood floors and 5 bedrooms. Additional guest house and stunning pool house/game room make this a unique compound for entertaining. Gorgeous stone walls, terraces and garden walls wrap around the pool and overlook lovely spring fed pond and barns. $5,200,000.

Ann MacMahon (540) 687-5588
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Hidden Brook Farm
Unison, Virginia

25 acre horse property. Home was completely renovated from top to bottom in 2003. Bright open floor plan with 1st floor bedroom, pine floors, well proportioned rooms, 2 fireplaces and pool. Entire property is fully fenced, 16 stall stable with apartment, feed room, tack room and 2 bay garage. Lighted stone dust arena and great ride out. Manageable property for the amateur or professional. $1,950,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Wildwood
Bluemont, Virginia

"Wildwood", 117.64 acres with spectacular southern views of Upperville/Paris area. In conservation easement and adjacent to and overlooks thousands of acres in conservation easement. House recently renovated, built in 1966, 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, fireplace, garage, large deck, storage building/barn/workshop, level top of mountain house site. Easy access to Routes 50 & 7. Two divisions possible. $1,800,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Lions Lane
Boyce, Virginia

Custom built log home on 109+ acres, top of the mountain with unbelievable western views. Private but easy access to Route 50, hunters' paradise, house has 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, vaulted ceilings, gourmet kitchen, 3-car garage, top of the line finishing throughout. Very energy efficient. $1,490,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Mountville Road
Middleburg, Virginia

Turnkey property in excellent Middleburg location, 11.52 acres, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath Cape Cod, hardwood floors, exposed beams, 3 fireplaces. Improvements include detached 2 car garage with apartment, 3 stall barn, machine shed, run in shed, gazebo overlooking spring fed pond. $1,200,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Westmount
Middleburg, Virginia

Perfect Hunt Box, close to Middleburg yet very private. Cottage built in 1970. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, fireplace, mountain views from rear deck and balcony. Improvements include 4 stall center aisle barn with wash stall and large extremely well done apartment, board fencing, storage building, spring fed pond on 12 very private acres. $950,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Conde Road
Marshall, Virginia

Stunning home perched on 8+ acres near Warrenton. Perfect first floor master overlooking stately pool and plantings. Gourmet kitchen, separate dining room, library, family room. Two private bedroom suites with baths on lower level with large entertainment center, wet bar and sitting room. 4 fireplaces, 3-car garage. Warrenton Hunt. $895,000.

Walter Woodson (703) 499-4961



The Warren House
Upperville, Virginia

Turn of the century gem in heart of Upperville. Classic front porch leads into beautifully restored home, traditional parlor with Bellfire fireplace with original mantle; lovely dining room. First floor master. New kitchen has large island, custom cherry cabinets, farm sink, handmade backsplash, six burner Wolf range. Stunning porch gallery with wetbar; custom paneled doors to terrace. Oak and heart pine floors. $860,000.

Walter Woodson (703) 499-4961



Mrs. Beaver's Cottage
Middleburg, Virginia

Excellent Middleburg location, Cape Cod circa 1944. Fabulous views of Blue Ridge, house sold in "as is" condition. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, living room with fireplace, hardwood floors under carpet. First time ever offered for sale. 7.12 mostly wooded acres. Great rehab potential. $649,000.

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The Corner House
Rectortown, Virginia

Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath well maintained, easy weekend retreat with open, newly remodeled country kitchen complete with soapstone countertops, Viking stove and wine cooler. Price Reduced $495,000.

Alix Coolidge (703) 625-1724



Watson Road
Leesburg, Virginia

2 acres and a 3 bedroom stone home on Watson Rd. Great location, pretty lot with large trees and meandering creek. There are 2 fireplaces and hardwood floors throughout the first level. Large lower level is mostly finished with rec room with stone fireplace and entertainment bar. Additional unfinished space provides storage/work area. Nice plantings, great stone terrace with built-in grill. Huge 3 bay workshop. $350,000.

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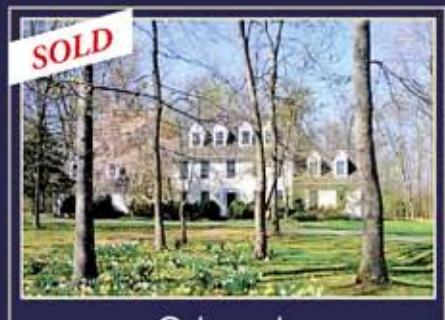
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