Middleburg Eccentric™

Middleburg's Only Locally Owned and Operated Newspaper

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Arrest and Protest

Dan Morrow

The December regular meeting of the Middleburg Town Council opened with Mayor Betsy Davis praising Middleburg Eccentric Editor Dee Dee Hubbard for her leadership role in this year's "Christmas in Middleburg" celebration, and ended with a closed-session discussion of the role of the Middleburg Police Chief, Steve Webber, in her arrest by State Police, her "perp walk", and transport in irons to the County Detention Center in Leesburg.

Hubbard, 67, had been called to a meeting in a local restaurant on November 30 by Police Chief Webber, ostensibly to talk about traffic and security preparations for the December 4 "Christmas in Middleburg" parade which she has co-chaired for the past dozen years or so.

Once at Mello Out, Hubbard was arrested.

At least two photographers with 35mm cameras were on hand to capture the event, as was 40% of the Middleburg Police Department and three Virginia State Police officers.

Pictures of the perp walk appeared above the fold in the next day's edition of the Loudoun Times Mirror, on the paper's web site, and on YouTube.

Hubbard, a grandmother, is a thirty-year resident of Middleburg, a multi-term President of the Middleburg Business Association, the mother of a former Town Council Member, and the perennial recipient of formal commendation by the Town Council, most recently for her work with Project Helping Hand on events for the survivors of the Pacific Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Haiti, her contributions to the work of the Middleburg Humane Foundation, the Cherry Blossom Fund, the Middleburg Community Center, Windy Hill, and the Mosby Heritage Area Association.

Described by one supporter as one of the town's "most prominent and truly beloved" volunteers, her arrest, and particularly the manner in which that arrest was carried out and publicized, shocked the Town.

Supporters of Hubbard wore orange ribbons as symbols of their solidarity during the Christmas in Middleburg weekend.

More than one offer to establish a legal defense fund has been reported.

In response to a combination of public anger, unsubstantiated rumors, and on-line speculation on the eve of Christmas in Middleburg, Council Member Kathy Jo Shea added an amendment to the last item on the Council's regular December meeting agenda. In addition to discussing a routine appointment to a Town committee, the Council would also discuss the actions of the Town's Police Chief on or around November 30.

The Charges

The Hubbard case is rooted in complaints of embezzlement lodged with the Middleburg Police by Jack J. Goehring of McLean, Virginia.

For roughly twenty years Hubbard had managed some 20 to 25 properties, including private homes, offices, and retail stores, for Goehring and a partner John Bennison. Bennison has reportedly dissolved his Middleburg business relationship with Goehring. Hubbard and Goehring formally dissolved their 20-year relationship on May 31, 2010.

Goehring's difficulty with Hubbard took the form of complaints about what he described as missing or misdeposited rent checks, which he suggested Hubbard may have put into her own accounts.

The total amount Goehring believed to be missing, he claimed, amounted to just over $9,000, spread over three years and some 15 checks, an average of roughly $600 per check.

At some point between April and the end of August, 2010, Goering formally complained to the Middleburg Police Department.

Middleburg Police Chief Webber contends that, after looking into the matter himself, he found it necessary to ask for help from the Virginia State Police.

A "joint" investigation headed by State Police Special Agent Robert J. Mrak followed, beginning in late August or early September, some "90 days" before Hubbard's arrest.

Hubbard during the period in question, was in the habit of regularly depositing funds into some eleven different Middleburg bank accounts : six belonging to Goehring and his partner; two belonging to her own businesses; and three belonging to three different members of her family.

Hubbard contends that: the checks in question were properly endorsed; any errors were innocent; not all the errors were hers; and in any case all were corrected as soon as they were brought to her attention.

Sources with knowledge of inquiries into the matter by Middleburg Bank confirm a significant amount of innocent bank error. Checks clearly endorsed to one account were sometimes inadvertently accepted for deposit into an account with a different name, something which should not occur, but sometimes does. Goehring has not indicated that he intends to file charges against Middleburg Bank.

A preliminary hearing on the Hubbard case is set for 1:00 PM, January 12, 2011, in Loudoun County General Circuit Court. That hearing will determine if grounds actually exist for moving forward with the case against Hubbard at all.

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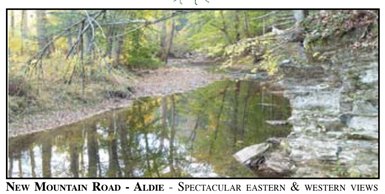
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Scott Buzzelli **540-454-1399** **$1,400,000**



Rokeby Road - Upperville - True Custom Finishes -Reclaimed hardwood flooring throughout w/custom terra cotta/wood, limestone tops, Master Bedroom on main floor , custom-built-ins, custom kitchen w/ granite tops, high-end plumbing & lighting, well landscaped w/pond & stone walls, mahogany garage doors, custom ceilings, easy access to Rte50.

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News of Note

Edward Francis McGushin

Our family announces, with great sadness, that Edward Francis McGushin Senior passed away on the evening of Saturday, November 20th, 2010. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sandra, his two sons, Edward Junior and Brian, and three brothers, John, Robert, and James. He is also survived by his daughter-in-law Serena, and his three cherished grandchildren, Katie, Conor, and August. Edward was born on November 13th, 1938 in Sacramento, California. He graduated from the University of San Francisco in 1960 and earned a master's degree in international relations from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1970. During college he enrolled in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps and was offered a regular commission in the US Army upon graduation. Edward went on to a distinguished and highly decorated twenty year military career. An Airborne Ranger and combat veteran he was stationed at "Checkpoint Charlie" in Berlin in 1961 when the Berlin wall was erected and served two combat tours in Vietnam, first in 1966 and again in 1972. He earned the Silver Star for heroic valor and bravery in combat. Edward's final military assignment was in the office of the Army Chief's General Staff at the Pentagon. After retiring in 1980, at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Edward began a successful and rewarding 18 year career with SRA International, a consulting firm located in Northern Virginia, where he became an expert in emergency response management. Sandra and Edward lived in Virginia for 28 years before moving to Farmington, CT in 2006. Edward was an imaginative and tireless servant of many diverse communities everywhere he went, including, in Virginia, the Fauquier County Fire and Rescue, Notre Dame Academy in Middleburg, and the Middleburg Community Center, and more recently, in Farmington, the Hill-Stead Museum, the Farmington Friends of the Library, the Country Club of Farmington, the 82nd Airborne Association, and the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. Edward lived for his family and his many friends and associates. He was an accomplished chef who loved good food shared with friends and family. He will be dearly missed. We know Edward's spirit will be with us always but especially when we sit down to share good food and every time we serve others. Burial with full military honors will be in Arlington National Cemetery. The date and time for the burial and other services will be announced as soon as possible. Donations may be made to the Fauquier County Fire and Rescue, the Kenneth Colbert Elementary School Playground in Purcellville (contact Brian McGushin for information), or the charity of your choice.



Christmas Shop Enjoys Record-Setting Success

Building on a 61-year tradition, Middleburg's 2010 Christmas Shop offered many new vendors and much appreciated enhancements that made it more popular than ever and helped generate revenues that far exceeded expectations.

The Christmas Shop traditionally takes place the first weekend in November and has a following of repeat holiday shoppers from around the region.

Rector Anne Hallmark, along with new co-chairs, Anne and Phil Marstiller, were very pleased to report a record 68% increase in net profits.

Among the many reasons for the success of this year's Christmas Shop was a 44% increase in sponsorships, also a record. Gross revenue rose to $150,000.

"We are all so grateful to our sponsors and to the community for their enthusiastic support of our mission to contribute to local organizations that provide much needed services and products to the community," said Rector Hallmark.

To keep this year's Christmas Shop current and fresh, 12 new vendors were added to complement those shops that are consistently visited by loyal clients. Creating a balance of new products that attract holiday shoppers while maintaining the always-popular shops, was a challenge this year. But the shop's success underscored how much the additions were appreciated. Shoppers can expect to see even more new shops next year.

From the original artwork by Jean Anne Feneis on posters and invitations to the holiday décor inside the tents and at the entrance created by Barbara Sharp, this year's event was festive and inviting.

The traditional Café was revitalized in a new location with a menu that pleased hungry shoppers who needed of a break and a comfortable place to rest, away from the crowds. The new tent configuration created a relaxed shopping experience that allowed for thoughtful consideration of potential gifts.

The Colonial Town Crier added to the atmosphere and gaiety of this fun-filled seasonal tradition.

Co-chairmen, Anne and Phil, noted their appreciation for the dedicated team that made the event such a success. Team members included: Jean Ann Feneis, Lee Lawrence, Laurie Maggiano, Helen Brettell, Dale Thompson, Kim Smithers, Brabara Sharp, Peggy Hudson and the Reverend Anne Hallmark and her husband Steve.

"We were fortunate in this, our first year of chairing the event, to have had the privilege of working with these accomplished individuals," the co-chairmen said.

"The teamwork experience was the most rewarding aspect of the show for us. We are so thankful to have done well and have benefited the Middlebury community. We look forward to 2011 with great expectations."



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News of Note

Foxcroft's Leipheimer Recognized for Extraordinary Contributions

Foxcroft Head of School Mary Louise Leipheimer became only the third individual to receive the prestigious Ruzicka Compass Premier Leadership Award when Rob Hershey, Board Chair of The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), presented the honor to her at the TABS Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

The Ruzicka Compass recognizes extraordinary contributions to the excellence, advancement and success of boarding schools.

Leipheimer, was nominated by a number of individuals from Foxcroft and from the larger education community. She was selected from among a group of 30 nominees, according to Jeremy LaCasse,

Senior School Head at Shady Side Academy in Pittsburgh and Chair of the Ruzicka Compass Selection Committee.

"The glowing nomination letters made our job easy," explained LaCasse.

Head of Foxcroft since 1989, Leipheimer has been an influential and respected leader in national independent school organizations for some time. She has served as board member or in other lead positions of the National Association of Independent Schools, National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls, National Coalition of Girls' Schools (of which she was a Founding Co-Chair), Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT) Board, and as a founding director of TABS.

In 1998, Leipheimer accepted membership into the prestigious Headmasters Association. The following year she received the coveted William B. Bretnall Award for Leadership from the SSAT Board and in 2009 she earned the Distinguished Alumni Award from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

"Mary Lou has served the cause of boarding schools for four decades always characterized by wisdom, directness, humility, humor and grace," said Hershey, headmaster of Episcopal High School in Alexandria. " In addition to leading Foxcroft to the forefront of girls' boarding education, always with a strong eye towards the future, she has been recognized for her insight and ability to lead by serving on the many national boards and has been a strong voice in virtually every organization and conversation shaping our work and lives in boarding schools."

Looking out at the 700-plus boarding school educators at the presentation, Hershey added, "Very few of us in this room know as much and understand as much about schools as Mary Lou."

In her acceptance speech, Leipheimer honored the late Steven D. Ruzicka, for whom the award is named, recalling the small-town roots and values they shared, the connection to those roots that each found in boarding schools and their "myth-busting" mission to spread the truth about boarding schools.

She thanked friends and colleagues. Then, returning as she so often does to her roots as an English teacher, Leipheimer referred to the 15th-century "Everyman" morality play and accepted the award on behalf every person in the room, for the good work they all do in boarding schools.



"I believe it's true that we are only as strong as what each of us contributes," Leipheimer said. "And so I am pleased to accept this award on behalf of all of you."

Executive Director of TABS from 1995 until his death in 2007, Ruzicka was a trusted leader who charted a course of inspiration, commitment, and integrity for the Association. His family received the inaugural Compass, in 2008, and Tom Wilcox, President and CEO of Baltimore Community Foundation and former headmaster of Concord (MA) Academy was the 2009 recipient.

Middleburg Academy 2011 National Merit Scholarship Awards



The students pictured are: (left to right) Ryan Gregory (Oak Hill); Lili Klainer (Leesburg); Mark Rossi (Leesburg) and Emma Rosecan (Middleburg).

Arnold Klingenberg, Acting Head of School at Middleburg Academy, announced today that four scholastically talented seniors have placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. Ryan Gregory (Oak Hill), Lili Klainer (Leesburg), Emma Rosecan (Middleburg), and Mark Rossi (Leesburg) have each received a Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program.

"Recognition of high-achieving students is essential to advancing educational excellence in our nation," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "As demonstrated by their outstanding performance in our highly competitive program, the young men and women named Commended Students represent some of the most academically talented students in our country. We sincerely hope this recognition will enhance their educational opportunities and encourage them in their pursuit of academic success."

Ryan Gregory has also been selected to participate in the 2011 Special Scholarship Competition.

Secretariat's Son, Innkeeper, to Stand at Virginia Tech's MARE Center

From racing to dressage, eventing to barrel racing, Secretariat, the chestnut legend made an enduring mark on many facets of equestrian sport. Today, his influence continues through the blood of his descendants, one of whom, Innkeeper, will soon have a new home at Virginia Tech's Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension (MARE) Center.

Twenty-seven years after his triple-crown victory thrilled a nation Big Red continues to win hearts. The hero of Disney's long-awaited feature film now galloping strong at the box office, stirs memories in those who knew him and is inspiring a new generation of fans.

By all rights, the 1988 Thoroughbred stallion Innkeeper should have followed in his father's footsteps. His dam, Sue Babe, by Mr. Prospector and out of a Northern Dancer mare, was herself a stakes-winner and mother of the Irish Derby winner and well-known National Hunt sire Sir Harry Lewis.

Purchased for just over $1.15 million as a yearling by D. Wayne Lukas, Innkeeper beat eventual Kentucky Derby winner Strike the Gold early in his two-year-old season. But it seems the great Secretariat cast too long a shadow. Innkeeper won his only start at three, but was then retired to stud.

Innkeeper sired two small crops in Florida, ranking nationally as a freshman sire, before slipping through the cracks. He was rediscovered as a nine-year-old by Ursula Ferrier, who found him in Connecticut performing as a show horse.

"A friend of mine told me about him because he knew I wanted a good Thoroughbred stallion," recalls Ferrier, "I took one look at him and took him home. It was the best snap decision I ever made."

A native of England, Ferrier has been breeding sport horses in the US for two decades.

"Innkeeper is the consummate athlete," says Ferrier. "He's been a racehorse, a show hunter, an eventer and even dabbles in dressage. He's safe enough to put a child on and, on occasion, he is a lesson horse for nervous, beginner riders."

When asked why she decided to donate the 16.2 hand bay stallion to Virginia Tech's MARE Center, Ferrier smiled.

"I hadn't actually considered ever letting go of Innkeeper, but I have known of the Virginia Tech sport horse program for some time and I have been quite impressed. They have worked very hard to establish a working breeding operation with some really nice horses.

" I have seen the students at shows I attend and have loved watching the dedication they have. I hope great things will come from Innkeeper's addition to their stallion line up."

Innkeeper is one of only a handful of Thoroughbred stallions approved for breeding for sport horse registries in the United States.

Rebecca Splan, associate professor of equine science at the MARE Center, is equally excited about Innkeeper's arrival.

"We are looking forward to having him in our breeding program. He is a tremendously versatile sire, and his wonderful character will make him a great teacher for our students."

As part of a semester-long internship and education program, undergraduates from across the country gain hands-on experience working with the MARE Center's breeding herd.

Innkeeper is slated to arrive at the 420-acre teaching, research and outreach facility shortly before the end of the year, and will stand to a limited book of outside mares in 2011.



For more information, please visit the MARE Center's website at www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/middleburg

C. Greg Ellison & Charles M. Ellison Receive Certified Investment Management Analyst Designation

C. Greg Ellison & Charles M. Ellison Receive Certified Investment Management Analyst Designation

Winchester, VA 10/01/2010 – Morgan Stanley Smith Barney announced today that Mr. C. Greg Ellison & Charles M. Ellison, Wealth Advisor and Financial Advisor in the firm's Wealth Management office in Winchester, have earned the Certified Investment Management Analyst, or CIMA professional, designation. Mr. C. Greg Ellison & Charles M. Ellison have worked at Morgan Stanley since 1978 & 2005 respectively.

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From left to right: Dr. Theo Batistas, Dr. Tony Chehade, Dr. Faline Davenport, Dr. Carlos Aponte, Dr. Donald Campbell, Dr. Jason Abel

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News of Note

Everything Old (and Swedish) is New Again

Linda Platt

You might doubt that quaint Middleburg needs another antique store, so what explains the happy buzz of excitement that is surrounding the opening of Svea Antiques & Accessories in town, around the corner from the main street, just down the hill from the traffic light at 17 S. Madison Street?

The answer is Gunhild Mjornell, manager and co-owner of the new shop, known to Middleburgers as the smiling and quietly elegant woman with the gentle Swedish accent who greeted and served customers for many years at Skandina, the Scandinavian home décor store whose closing was genuinely mourned by its many admirers around the area. Mjornell determined to open her own shop and named it after Moder Svea, the female warrior and protector who is the national symbol of Sweden as Lady Liberty is for the U.S.

In her new enterprise, which is located across the street from the former location, the gracious Mjornell has kept the best of the comfortable yet sophisticated "painted and pine" Swedish style that Skandina was known for, and added to it a new warmth and accessibility. Right now the Svea shop is waiting for a full container of personally selected Swedish antiques that are, as Mjornell says, "on the sea somewhere between Goteborg and Norfolk." In the meantime, the new store is offering a selection of home décor items and accessories including lamps, pillows, and topiary, as well as some wonderful Swedish ornaments, cookbooks, and children's books including the irrepressible Pippi Longstocking series and a new reprint of the classic "Per and the Dala Horse".

Mjornell calls attention to the store's signature handcrafted "tomte," traditional Swedish elves which are imported direct from Stockholm and are collector's items created by Swedish artists Kicki and Maija. Unlike other mass-produced versions, these tomte come in various sizes with felted clothing, hand-painted faces, and very individual personalities. Svea also carries tomte storybooks, poseable tomte figures that can serve as napkin rings, and candle-wreathed St. Lucia dolls, all ready now for use during the holidays.

Visit Svea Antiques & Accessories now to have maximum browsing space to appreciate Gunhild Mjornell's selection of smaller specialty items, and then return in a few weeks to a full house after the container of larger antique pieces arrives. Either way, you're sure to find that everything old (and Swedish) is new again.

Middleburg Boy Scout Troop Eagle Scout Court of Honor

With family, friends and dignitaries on hand, Middleburg Boy Scout Troop 2950 held it's first Eagle Scout Court of Honor for John W. Swiatek. This year John completed his 9 year journey to become an Eagle Scout. This honor is given to fewer than 4 percent of all scouts, due to it's rigorous requirements. These requirements include: mastery of leadership skills, service and outdoor know how and exemplary good citizenship and ethical behavior. These young men are the leaders of tomorrow. We congratulate John in this accomplishments and wish to thank his parents, Joseph and Sally Swiatek for their support of Troop 2950.



Need for Elementary School Tutors

The Windy Hill Foundation in partnership with the Middleburg Elementary School Parent Teachers Organization sponsors a one-to-one tutoring program for academically at-risk students at the Middleburg Elementary School. The program, known as the Study Buddy Program, utilizes adults from within the Middleburg, Upperville, and surrounding areas to serve as tutors. The tutors assist students with remedial reading, elementary math, and homework. The program began in 2004 and has been very successful in helping those students in need of assistance.

Tutoring is done on Monday and Thursday of each week from 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. at the school. Tutors may commit to assisting on one or both days. Persons may also offer their time as a substitute tutor as needed.

Anyone interested in becoming a Study Buddy for a Middleburg Elementary School student should contact the program's coordinator: Pat Heimgartner.

Pat can be reached by phone at (540) 363-0323 or by email at patheimgartner@yahoo.com.

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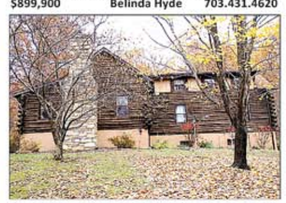
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News of Note

Arrest and Protest

Continued from page 1

Hubbard's attorney, Middleburg's Ed MacMahon, publicly referred to the charges against his client as not only "false" but "absurd," and termed the behavior of the Middleburg Police as "suspicious."

"After Hubbard's acquittal," MacMahon told the press, he would immediately file a civil suit seeking damages for "malicious prosecution."

The Complainant

Jack Goehring is perhaps best known to travelers on Route 50 for his bright red truck and "Jack the Ripper" billboard which mark the western entrance to the town. "Jack the Ripper" refers to his work as a professional arborist, which has been positively profiled in the Eccentric.

Goehring is an amateur historian, and owns a significant portion of the land on which the Civil War Battle of Middleburg was fought.

Several times suggested as a candidate for appointment to the Town's Historic District Review Committee, Goehring designed and built the white-columned monument to "Union Victory" at Middleburg that stands on the south side of Route 50 just east of Mount Defiance. Two "cannon," made from gas canisters mounted on what appear to be hay wagon wheels, complete the monument.

From a flagpole erected on state-owned right of way in the center of the Route 50 median strip near the monument, he also flies a Virginia State Flag and a 13-stripe variant of the "Don't Tread on Me" banner.

Goehring has been criticized for his approach to clearing the woods that once covered the battlefield below Mount Defiance, and for building a still-unfinished cape-cod style one-and-a-half story "clubhouse" dominating the site, ostensibly for an entity defiantly named "The Union League Club."

The "Union League Club" staged one public lecture at the Middleburg Community Center.

Perp Walk

Despite efforts by at least four newspapers to uncover the facts surrounding what has become know as the perp walk of Dee Dee Hubbard, key facts remain elusive.

It would appear that, after three months of "joint investigation," Webber and Special Agent Mrak took it upon themselves to stage Hubbard's arrest before formally bringing it to the attention of Commonwealth's Attorney James Plowman, the Mayor of Middleburg, the Town Administrator, or any member of the Town Council. All have been asked. None have said they were informed. Several have said, on the record, that they knew nothing of the planned arrest until after it happened.

While it is not illegal to stage and arrest in that way, it is somewhat unusual, and to date, no explanation for those decisions have been forthcoming.

When asked by the press, and in closed session about the details of the arrest itself, Chief Webber insists that while the "investigation" was "joint," the "arrest" was a State Police matter and not his fault. Mrak confirms that his officers chose the time and place and carried out the arrest.

It has also been reported, though not confirmed, that the Chief personally regrets what happened to Hubbard.

Both the Middleburg Police and State Police deny informing the press before Hubbard's arrest took place.

Webber's Role

Documents indicate that around 3:30, on the afternoon of November 29, in the midst of ongoing preparations for the annual Christmas in Middleburg Parade, Webber set a train of events in motion by asking for a "meeting" with Hubbard. "I am getting ready to leave for the day. Are you available to meet for a few minutes around 11:30 tomorrow," he wrote. "I can meet you at Mellow – Out." [sic]. The building in which Mello Out is located, ironically, is owned by Jack Goehring.

Given their long history of working together on the Christmas parade, Hubbard says she saw nothing unusual in the request, and assumed it had something to do with the parade, just days away.

Around 5:00 PM she replied to Webber's email. "That will be perfect," she wrote. " will copy Jim Herbert [co-chair of the Christmas event] on this so he can be there too."

Fully aware of what the "meeting" was really about, Webber didn't reply until the next morning. "No need for Jim. Up to you," he wrote at 8:23 on the morning of the arrest. "Is this about Christmas in Middleburg," Hubbard replied.

Webber answered ten minutes later, at 8:33 AM on the day of the arrest, with one word: "Yes."

According to Hubbard, Webber or the State Police could have chosen anywhere in Middleburg to meet, and she would have gone there.

Instead, she says, they apparently chose Mello Out, a restaurant owned by Hubbard's daughter, former Town Council Member Lisa Patterson . . . at lunch time, at an hour almost guaranteed to have as many people as possible in the restaurant.

The basement-level restaurant was crowded when Webber arrived. Among the crowd was the Mayor herself.

At the appointed time, Webber reportedly walked down the stairs into the basement level restaurant, and asked Hubbard if he could "Speak to her for a minute, outside."

Hubbard, followed by Middleburg Mayor Betsy Davis, dutifully started up the stairs. A photographer with a 35mm camera, according to the Mayor, almost knocked her down trying to get upstairs in time to take pictures.

To date no official reason has been offered for perp-walking Hubbard from Mello Out to a waiting police car.

No reason has been given publicly for staging her arrest before, instead of after the Christmas in Middleburg events, set for Saturday December 4.

No one has confirmed or denied any efforts by the Middleburg Police to mitigate the timing or behavior of the State Police in any way.

Once lured outside Mello Out by Webber, State Police officers handcuffed Hubbard, walked her, without a coat or hat in a wind-driven drizzling rain to a waiting police car, and took her, still in irons, to the County Detention Center.

Webber, who commands a total force of four and regularly wears the Marine Corps "Eagle Globe and Anchor" prominently on his police uniform donned a swat-team-style official police baseball cap and heavy-weather traffic-safety- yellow rain gear (clearly marked with silver reflective tape) for the occasion.

All this was fully documented by photographers, one of whom sold her photographs to the Loudoun Times Mirror. Leesburg Today reportedly refused the offer.

Rumors, Misinformation and a Press Release

News of the arrest and Hubbard's perp walk began to circulate even before the Times Mirror posted its first story (and newly acquired photographs) on its web site.

This reporter was telephoned as the events were in progress, told that his editor had just been arrested and that "people were saying the FBI was involved."

A local physician heard that Hubbard had been caught stealing money from Sheila Johnson. Asked how much he thought was involved, he speculated "$200,000 . . .maybe more."

A hour or so after the arrest, and just in time to meet the county weeklies' deadlines, Chief Webber took the unusual step of issuing an abbreviated one-sentence after-action report in the form of an official press release.

No one in Middleburg Town Government, and no member of the Town Council (to whom the Chief reports) knew anything about the press release until they received their own email copy.

"All members of Council received electronic copies, with the exception of David Stewart," according to Town Clerk Rhonda North. Stewart does not have an e-mail address.

North also affirmed that she had not been alerted in advance of the arrest.

Chief Webber's bare bones, one-sentence press release was, according to one newspaper source, "an invitation to speculation and rumor."

Neither Goehring's name, the $9,000 in dispute, nor the specific nature of the "embezzlement" charges for which Hubbard was arrested were outlined . . . only an assertion that she had been arrested, after a joint Middleburg/State Police investigation, and faced 15 "felony" charges for "embezzlement."

It was nowhere indicated that the "15" counts really meant one count per check, for 15 checks, spread over three years.

No one in town government was apparently aware that Webber had issued a statement to the press until after it had been sent..

No one in Town Government had reviewed it for either factual accuracy or appropriateness.





Editor's Desk

Perp Walk

by Dan Morrow, Publisher

Note: Signed editorials are rare in the Middleburg Eccentric. Indeed, this is the first in nearly seven full years of publication. This one appears at my insistence, and over the objections of my Editor in Chief.

Wikipedia's most current definition of "Perp Walk" describes it as a "slang expression" for the "practice of intentionally parading an arrested suspect through a public place so that the media may observe and record the event."

It constitutes, by definition "intentional disregard for the privacy of a suspect."

It is done, the definition continues, for many reasons, among them: "bolstering the image of law enforcement, to humiliate a suspect, both, or neither."

It is , by definition, an act that requires a conscious affirmative decision.

No rule or regulation compels it.

In some cases, indeed, the practice has been deemed a violation of an accused person's constitutional rights. (In this country suspects are, after all, still innocent until proven guilty.)

There is, in my view, no excuse whatsoever for what appears to be the deliberate, gratuitous, mean-spirited, and unnecessary humiliation of my Editor in Chief that occurred on November 30 on the streets of Middleburg.

Her counsel contends, and I firmly believe, that the charges against her will not stand.

But, even if she were guilty (which by definition she is not) what possible excuse was there for arresting her at lunch time at a popular restaurant and parading her through the streets in front of her family, her friends, the Mayor, and the media.

No press were alerted, our local Police Chief contends. "Everyone with a cell phone" is a member of the press these days, one member of Town Council has noted.

Dee Dee Hubbard has, for thirty years, given far more to Middleburg than she ever received, or, in my view, ever expected to receive.

I know of no one with a bigger heart, who works harder, or longer, or for more people, places, or things in need, than Dee Dee Hubbard. Her work on behalf of the town and in support of suffering people and animals all over the world are cited elsewhere in this paper, and repeatedly in the records of the Town Government.

As an editor she is tough and testy and generous to a fault. She has faced down threats to her person as well as to her well being. One of her dogs is a blind orphan for goodness sake.

While one may quibble about what was supposedly "required by regulations" in the arrest and transport of Hubbard, in my view both the State Police and our own Chief were honor bound, and especially honor bound in this case, to exercise the prerogatives of command.

For whatever reason (and none, other than "convenience" and "standard procedure" have been forthcoming) they apparently chose not to exercise those prerogatives or, worse, show any sense of judgment, justice, discretion, grace, or mercy at all.

While I am sure that over time some form of quibbling excuse will be offered in an attempt to "justify" these actions, such quibbling only adds to the disgrace. Was Hubbard dangerous? No. Was she a flight risk? No. Was the "public interest" in any way served by this? No.

Any effort to justify something so clearly wrong, in my view constitutes nothing more than a quibbling effort to save face. In my youth that was considered an honor offense.

Indeed, in my view the events of November 29 and 30 dishonor the State and the Town; dishonor the uniforms and insignia worn by those who truly protect and serve; and fly in the face of any sense of justice.

They are both a disgrace . . . and a sad disappointment.

Happy New Year

Alex Cudaback

It's not often I'm afforded the opportunity to simply spout off, at least not in only 500 words, but Christmas must've come a little bit early this year….

Luke Scott is a wingnut. A jack wagon. Someone who, and maybe this is the real issue, people listen to solely because he can hit a ball that measures between 9 and 9.25 inches in circumference and weighs between 5 and 5.25 ounces really hard and really far. Once every four times. So he fails thrice as often as he succeeds, but somehow his "opinions" get more credence, have more weight, than, oh, I don't know, the President's.

Who is Luke Scott, you might be asking yourself? He's a serviceable left-fielder/first-baseman for a dreadful baseball team just north of here. He had a career year last year, batting .286 with 27 homeruns and 70 RBI's. For his career, Scott has hit a lot closer to .250 than to .300.

So, like I said, he's serviceable.

He's not, mind you, a scholar, an investigator, a political scientist or even much of a reader. But he does have an opinion, one popular with certain lunatic fringe elements in this country, and because he gets paid to hit leather balls with wooden sticks he gets listened to.

News flash, Luke Scott, and all you other jerks: the President of the United States of America is a United States citizen.

Period. End of story.

It's so pointless a debate that I'm boggled we're still having it. I'd say go online and check out the president's birth certificate, but what good would it do? (Here's a good picture of it anyway: http://static.politifact.com.s3.amazonaws.com/graphics/birthCertObama.jpg)

If someone is so set in their beliefs that those beliefs actually become dogma, then all opportunity for intelligent discourse is lost.

And that, sadly, is where we are, ten years into the 21st century.

Who'd've thunk it? We can decode the human genome. We can keep people alive aboard the International Space Station for more than a year at a stretch. We've created Labradoodles and fish that glow in the dark. We can pause and restart live professional football, anywhere in the world, in glorious high-def.

But more and more, we have arguments based primarily on who can hold their breath the longest, on who can shout loudest, on who can most adroitly avoid pesky things like "facts" and "evidence" or, even better, re-couch those facts and evidence as "part of the conspiracy," on who can simply stand up to reason and logic and well-thought discourse and counter with fear and hate and glib, snarky, sneery one-liners.

Proving something no longer means a damn. Not if I simply "believe" otherwise.

Bravo.

It took a while, but the age of reason finally died.

Happy Xmas and best for the New Year; should be a humdinger.

So maybe, just maybe, when you're making your New Year's resolution in a couple weeks, think about things like tolerance, being open to new ideas, looking at the other side of the coin, considering a well-reasoned argument that doesn't go along with what you believe, just for the simple joy of doing it.

Hypocrisy

Tom Pratt

I was fortunate to be on a ship crossing the Atlantic while much of America descended into the irrational so I did not have to bear witness to the election results. I was equally fortunate to still be out of the country when George Bush crawled out from under his rock to promote his book in an attempt to justify all the evils of his eight destructive years at the helm of this country.

This was written from Krakow and after visiting Auschwitz I was acutely aware of what fear and unchecked hate can do when masses of people are controlled by that fear and hate.

The United States seems on the verge of collapse: on one political side we have a corrupt liberal class unable to respond in a meaningful way to the global financial debacle, the destruction of our manufacturing sector and the assault on the ecosystem. On the other side, we have an increasingly bitter mass of people who follow and give credibility to the tea party.

They hang on the words of Sarah Palin, Glen Beck and Rush Limbaugh because they wish to blame problems on those who are different from them. They wish to dismantle the government except in the case of the military and the security state, while leaving corporations intact. They are seemingly unaware of the Fascistic power corporations now enjoy since the Supreme Court allowed them to spend unlimited amounts of secret money on elections to further their iron grip on the world.

The Sarah Palins and Glenn Becks use hatred as a mobilizing passion to call for their own enslavement, as well as to deny uncomfortable truths such as global warming.

Commerce cannot be the only guide for human behavior, a fantasy embraced by the tea party and for most of the liberal elite as well. This idea has disempowered the working class, has allowed unchecked financial institutions to run amuck and has destroyed our manufacturing capacity.

The Spanish in the 16th century pillaged and plundered Latin America for gold and silver in much the way our financial institutions have pillaged and plundered the world's economies with the marketing of sub-prime mortgage paper. The Spaniards soon found out that once the money ran out and they no longer produced anything worth buying, they went up in smoke. If we continue to treat financial institutions as legitimate sources of trade and wealth creation in spite of the global economic collapse, we are likely to suffer the same fate.

The tea party, to placate their anger, is fired up by the Palins, Limbaughs and Becks to blame helpless immigrants, Muslims and homosexuals for the problems of this country. They should direct some of that anger at the war society we have become. Good government regulations are in such short supply that even the robber barons of the 18th and 19th centuries would be shocked.

Much easier to follow the mantra *'let the market decide.' Or, in contemporary terms, 'greed is good.'*

Tax Cuts for the Rich

Blue Notes

Daniel Morrow

At press time Democrats were still opposing their own President (and Bill Clinton as well) by refusing to pass any tax reform legislation that would extend Bush era tax cuts to people who don't need them and, in many cases don't want them: namely, individuals whose taxable income was greater than $250,000 per year.

Both Obama and Clinton argue that the "deal" now on the table (which would not only extend tax cuts to the rich for another two years, but cut inheritance taxes and divert funds from Social Security as well) are the best we can do in a weak economy, in the face of a determined opposition.

While it's truly depressing to hear that from Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, it's even more depressing to realize that it may well be true.

God help us, but the GOP would indeed, happily, put the entire economy at risk again, not to mention leave everyone whose unemployment benefits are expiring twist slowly in the wind . . . "on principle.".

That, I believe, says a lot about both the principles themselves and those who would blindly adhere to them.

As for the Democrats, we voted for a combination of Kennedy and King . . . and appear to have elected, instead, a combination of Jimmy Carter and the late Massachusetts Senator Edward Brooke.

Both Carter and Brooke were good, decent and very smart men, but the times (and this struggle) demand the virtues of Kennedy and King: uncompromising devotion to the task at hand, and the ability to talk about it in a way that not only informed, but inspired.

In Search of Brotherhood

Purple

Bruce Smart

Purple believes hostility between Islam and America must be resolved by finding a mutually beneficial way of living in harmony. His 7th grade Math teacher taught: "One cannot solve a problem without stating it." That surely applies here.

Purple first met Dr. Mohamed Khodr, an American citizen Muslim, at a church forum exploring the similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity. Dr. Khodr, of Winchester, born in Yemen, entered an American school there at six. He later came to America with his diplomat father, a representative to the UN. He earned his MD at The American University in Beirut, with subsequent training at Johns Hopkins. His wife, May, was born in Lebanon to Christian Palestinian parents, exiled from their home in 1948 to make room the West's establishment of Israel.

The Christian Season of Advent seemed an appropriate time for further discussion with the Khodrs. Here is a summary:

Purple: "Why do the Arabs dislike America's Israeli – Palestine policies? Several US Presidents have worked hard for peace there."

Dr. Khodr: "Although Jewish-Americans constitute only 1.7% of US population they are disproportionately represented in Congress (13 Jewish Senators, no African-Americans), in ownership of major media outlets, Hollywood studios, and large financial and banking institutions. Some Jewish-Americans are major donors to political campaigns through the lobbying organization AIPAC, thereby gaining political allegiance to pro-Israeli policies that often run counter to American interests." Mrs. Khodr adds: "The US Religious Right has also taken an anti-Arab stance." They offer supporting quotes. Examples :

"The United States should seek to allay the deep resentment against it that has resulted from the creation of the state of Israel. In the past we had good relations with the Arab peoples … there was mutual confidence to mutual advantage. " Secretary of State Dulles, 1953

"If the American people understood what grip these people (the Israelis) have on our government they would rise up in arms." Admiral Thomas Moorer, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1999

"You can't have an Israel policy other than what AIPAC gives you around here." Sen. Fritz Hollings, D, SC - 2004

These may seem unbalanced to some, but in the Reagan Administration Purple encountered strong pro-Israel bias, particularly in the Defense Department. He was also cautioned against opposing AIPAC. Tea Party members calling President Obama a Muslim underscores Mrs. Khodr's point. Anyhow, the Khodrs are describing the mind-set with which peace-seekers must contend.

As for 9/11, Dr. Khodr explains that the Qur'an forbids suicide and killing civilians. He says Muslim terrorists are Muslims by birth, not faith.

We next discuss Iraq and Afghanistan. While Dr. Khodr understands why we pursued Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, he considers attacking Iraq illegal and unjustified. He believes it was done at Israel's request. Many Americans agree that the war was wrong, but speculate more broadly on the motives for starting it.

Dr. Khodr believes Iran's suspected nuclear program is intended solely as a deterrent to Israel's nuclear arsenal. "Other countries have occupied parts of Iran intermittently for 100 years. The US backed the Shah, who killed thousands of his own people. Now America, Israel's ally, has armies on Iran's east and west borders."

On American culture: "Islam dislikes the violence and sex in American entertainment. Their elders believe it is corrupting and taking away their young (to which Purple mentally adds 'Amen, same here')."

Dr. Khodr believes that solutions to America's difficult problems must rest with "We the People", not with special interests. He proposes public financing of campaigns "to restore integrity to our political system."(Again, "Amen").

Then the Khodrs sum it up: "Islam is inclusive and welcoming. It respects freedom of religion and speech. It honors Moses and Jesus. But politics are divisive and create extremism in both societies. Islam and Christianity accept the same God and moral principles, but ignorance and political agendas prevent peaceful unity."

The problem has been stated. Peacekeepers have work to do. But Isn't Advent all about new beginnings?

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Faces & Places

Christmas in Middleburg

Middleburg, VA, December 4, 2010

Photos by Jay Hubbard





















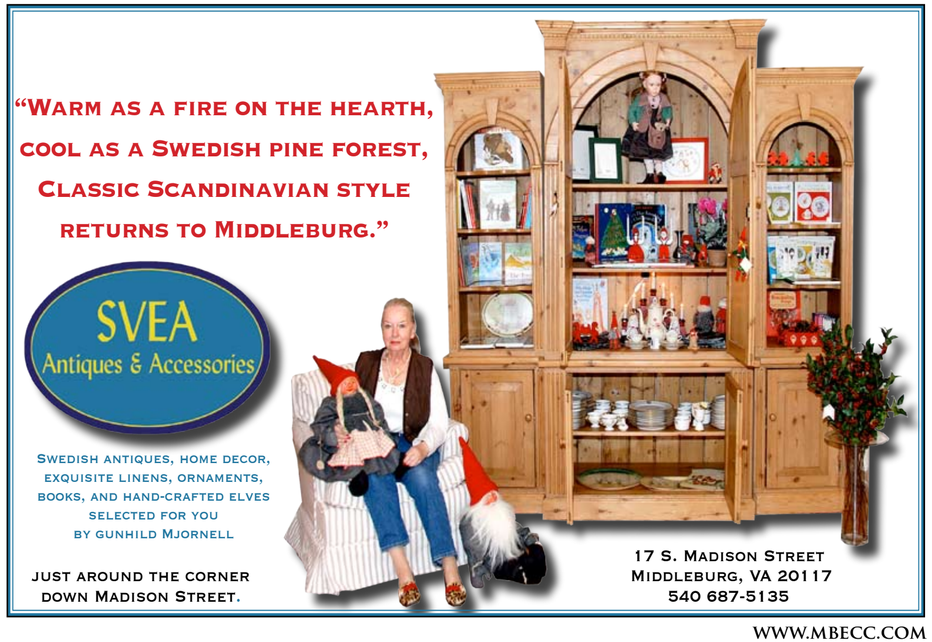












Faces & Places

Christmas in Middleburg

Middleburg, VA, December 4, 2010

Photos by Jay Hubbard, Kim Shelly and Helen Wiley



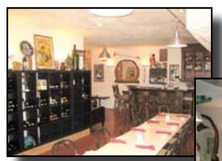




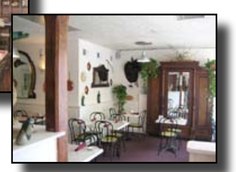


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Faces & Places

Huntland Piedmont Hunt Meet and Breakfast

Middleburg, VA, November 20, 2010
Photos by Janet Hitchen



Susan Lee and Carol Farnam



Dr. Betsee Parker and Turner Reuter



Kate Robins and Keith Folg



Kathy and Tad Zimmerman





Greg Ryan and Margo Young



Michael and Janell Hoffman



Elizabeth and Bill Wolf





Janell Hoffman kissing Peter Foley



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Faces & Places

Virginia Horseshow Association Hall of Fame Awards

The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA - December 4, 2010

Photos by Teresa Ramsay



Jimmy Lee presents Award to Virginia Army National Guard for their service to our great country



Taylor St. Jacques won the Mary Drury Award and was High Point Small Pony on "Embellished"



Gary Baker was presented the Andrew Montgomery Trophy by Jimmy Lee



VHSA 2010 Hall of Fame Inductees-Gary Baker, Carol Miller, Don Snellings, Claiborne Bishop and Ernie Oare



The Barracks Farm Group





Maggie Pollard won th VHSA Medal Finals



Mr. Tony Workman with long time friend and VHSA Hall of Fame Inductee Gary Baker and Betty Oare



Diana Dodge was Presented The Elizabeth Hardin Sportsmanship Award



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Faces & Places

American Legion Christmas Party

Middleburg, VA, December 11, 2010

Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard



Ron Poston and Andy Bergener







Fritz Hutcheson, Ferris Sadak, Franklin Pierce, Nancy Allen for Her Husband Howard Allen and Andy Bergener



Ron Poston and Ferris Sadak



Ron Poston and Franklin Pierce



John Zugsshwert and Andy Bergener



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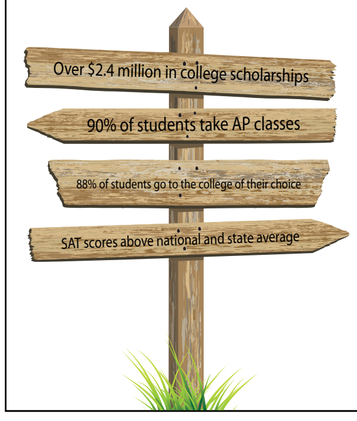
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Faces & Places

Middleburg Community Center Holiday ball

Middleburg, VA, December 11, 2010
Photos by Cindy Pearson



Kate & Chet Fannon



Joey & Christy Snider



Sandi & Jim Atkins



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News of Note

Guinea Fowl

The Plant Lady





Karen Rexrode

I fell in love with guinea fowl 2 years ago and have had my ups and downs with them and wanted to let you know how its been, keeping them in the rural environment and keeping them safe. Like so many people, I first heard how good they were at eating ticks. They eat bugs and weed seeds with great gusto. They are also great guard birds, sounding a loud alarm when different vehicles or people come to the house. That same alarm will sound when a hawk flies overhead or a strange animal is present.

My current home menagerie includes 1 yellow Labrador named Duke, 6 outside guinea hens, 1 inside baby guinea hen, 3 Rhode Island Red hens and 1 large rooster named Roy. Duke the lab came to us 2 years ago followed by our first 11 guineas (October 2008). That first set of guineas was reduced to 1 sole female by fall of the next year. All manner of animals and raptors like to eat them; possums, raccoons, foxes, hawks/owls and the occasional dog(s) left to run free. They are very instinctive birds, never ones to be tamed, they are afraid and confused by virtually everything. A fence can cause hours of consternation, the fact that they can fly over it is lost on them. Not the smartest of birds but very endearing. With only 1 left to fend for herself, it was quite a winter last year, the year of "Snowmageddon". Days would go by without the guinea leaving her tree. Nothing to eat or drink, I was shocked that it survived such periods of dehydration and starvation. As I understood it, this single smart and or lucky survivor could help train young ones in the ways of survival, it was important that she live long enough for us to get some young ones to follow in her footsteps. In summer I bought 6 little keets (baby guineas) and 1 escaped immediately because the pen wire was too large. They were only 1 month old and far smaller than the original 11.

Imprinting them for your home is the first thing that has to be done. Without that they will attempt to go back where they came from. They are kept in a pen for 30 to 60 days and then released. The beauty of the second release was that we had our older female to keep them home and lead the way. Our first 11 wandered far and wide. I honestly think it was because their pen was closed in on one side and they did not know where their boundaries were on that side of the property. That always seemed to be the way they would travel the furthest, even ending up on the next farm. I was herding them back home late one evening through dense brush and lost them suddenly when it came time to roost. Up they went with no chance of coaxing them down and back home until morning.

We have been successful with this second group so far. They pair up and mate for life and it's currently unclear who is with whom, but then it's winter. Our older female made nests all summer and we had to search and retrieve her eggs as they were not fertilized. As ground nester's, they will sit on 20+ eggs for 29 days, which is the most dangerous period of all given how defenseless they are on the ground. In October she built a nest in one of my raised garden beds, in a particularly good place and I let her keep some of her eggs and she seemed to sit on them with more than the usual self discipline. On November 17th, 1 lone chick hatched. A small little fuzz ball of gray at a time of year that was already very cold. My husband and I teamed up to retrieve the baby and put it under a heat lamp inside. We were attacked and screeched at, it was a sad thing we had to do. The little one is fine and will spend the winter in my office, which is kind of crazy. By spring it will be a full fledged adult and will be put outside to imprint on the yard and to meet its kin, if they survive.

If you have never seen a guinea fowl, they are not the most beautiful of birds but seem to consider themselves thus. A mirror will keep them occupied for hours. In fact it's said that you can get them to go anywhere you want with a mirror. They will also admire themselves in reflections of your car. When I wash my black truck, I have to constantly shoo them away as they are eying themselves in the glossy sides. Their habit of prancing is most comical. The under-feathers move like full petticoats, swishing back and forth. Their eyesight is incredible, they can see a hawk when it's barely a speck in the sky. A particular sound will be made warning others of impending (hawk) danger. At least one is always looking skyward.

Duke our yellow lab is particularly fond of them and he will chase them and they will chase or follow him. He alerts us when they sound their alarm, which often gets us on our feet and out the door to see what's going on. The guineas hang out at the front door as they are, once again, admiring themselves in the reflection of the glass. There are no ticks any where around the house, nor grasshoppers or Japanese beetles. I had hoped they would eat the vile stink bugs, but not so. Dang!

Ayrshire Farm Contributes to Thanksgiving for Thousands

Upperville's Ayrshire Farm recently delivered 5,000 lbs of certified organic, certified humane, heritage breed turkeys to D.C. Central Kitchen to help prepare the thousands of meals they cooked and distributed to ensure that those less fortunate enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner.

Ayrshire's turkeys, along with dozens donated by United Praise Youth Choir, McKean Defense Group, Lockheed Martin, AMYX, Federal Schedules and City Year, were the focal point in healthy Thanksgiving meals that were delivered to area shelters, relief agencies and not-for-profits.

Now in its 11th year, D.C. Central Kitchen prepared 9,500 Thanksgiving dinners for distribution.

For dessert this year, volunteers from the Beauvoir School and Georgetown Day School baked 450 pies.

This year marks D.C. Central Kitchen's 21st year of combating hunger and creating opportunity. The Kitchen works 365 days a year to provide low-income individuals and families with nutritious food that helps chronically unemployed men and women achieve self-sufficiency. Their outreach efforts are lifesavers for people living on the streets.

Always expanding, the Kitchen's newest initiative is to recover tens of thousands of pounds of free or low-cost, surplus fresh produce from area farms. These delicious vegetables and fruits enhance the nutrition of more than 4,500 meals prepared at the Kitchen and donated to social service agencies in the Greater Washington area.

In the past year, 81 men and women overcoming homelessness, addiction, and incarceration gained jobs and hope through the Kitchen's empowering Culinary Job Training program.

Nationally, the Kitchen has expanded its network of Campus Kitchens to 26 university, college and high school campuses, replicating its model across America. To learn more about D.C. Kitchen and its initiatives, please visit www.dccentralkitchen.org.

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Lisa , Megan, Timothy, Katie Remy, Mandy
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Kittens We have a wonderful group of healthy, fun loving, absolutely adorable kittens of all ages, colors & sizes.





Clooney is an adorable 6 mo. Chi/Dach mix. He was mishandled as a young dog, but loves everyone & everything. Just like other little kids, he's working on the whole potty training thing.

Chowder is a 2-3 yr. Lab/Hound mix. He is very sweet, energetic, and friendly. He gets along with other dogs but can't live with cats.





Susie is an adorable 1 yr. old Beagle. She is very sweet, gentle & loves people but is a little too eager with her treats, so she'd do best in a home with no small children.

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 summer 2011. She and her foal are available.



A Yelp for Help!

MHF along with most other humane organizations have had a really tough year. The requests for all types of assistance has sky-rocketed and donations have decreased. MHF really needs your help to stay strong and continue to provide the many important services & programs for needy animals & people. Our funds and supplies are very low. Please help us by donating supplies—this will be greatly appreciated by all– both 2 legged and 4 legged! PURRS/ LICKS/ WHINNIES & HUGS!!!

Holiday Animal Wish List:

Large Breed Rawhide Flip Chips ~Plain Clay Kitty Litter (no clumping) ~Dry & Canned Cat Food ~Paper Towels ~Bleach ~Gift Cert. to local feed stores (for Hay!) ~postage stamps ~13 gallon trash bags ~laundry soaps ~dish soap ~gas cards

Please drop off donations at our thrift shop in Middleburg or at our farm shelter in Marshall VA. Thanks again for your support.



Melody is an affectionate young adult kitty. She does not photograph well but is drop dead gorgeous. She would do well in an indoor or indoor-outdoor home.

Charlie is a very personable 4 month old Beagle mix who loves everyone and everything. He has tons of energy and finds everything in life very exciting.





Bunnies We have 5 adorable bunnies available of various ages and personalities that were found on the side of the road.

Pearl is a young adult dilute calico looking for a quiet home or barn. She is spayed , current on vaccines and ready to go to her forever home!





Daphodil & Tulip A Standard Donkey mom & her 2 yr old daughter. Mom has foundered so restricted grass intake. A charming pair!

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Albert's Corner

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

For this month's issue, I would like to share an important letter that I wrote to my people in honor of the holiday season:

Dear People,

I admit that this time of year used to be very confusing for me. When I was younger, it was very difficult to understand all of the strange things that you would do as Christmas approached. Now that I'm older and wiser, however, I realize that you are just a little crazy and I have to accept it. If you want to bring a big tree inside, that's your business. If you want to buy things and cover them up with paper and put them under that big tree, that's also your business.

I'm trying to say that I am a loving dog and I do not judge, even when you begin acting kind of insane. In return for my generous tolerance, I would like to ask you to consider some ground rules this year. It's a short list, but it would mean the world to me if we could just agree on a few simple things.

1) Please accept that I cannot begin to understand why the tree is off limits. It's a tree. I'm a male dog. All my life, I've used trees for one thing. Old habits are hard to break.

2) Please be sensitive to my feelings when dressing me in holiday attire. I will wear fluffy red and white collars and even miniature "Santa Paws" suits, but let's keep it in the family and put the cameras away. It's embarrassing in public and definitely not a look that I want to immortalize in pictures.

3) I will agree not to drink the water in the tree stand if you agree to give me full access to the toilet bowl.

4) If someone sends a wrapped package that contains food of any sort and you put it under the tree, I will eat it. If you do not want me to eat it, do not put it near my nose. I am a dog and there are certain things that I cannot control and for which I will not apologize.

5) If you leave cookies out for Santa, see item #4.

6) If you have a party and put food out for the guests, see item #4.

7) If you get me a gift, you might want to consider food of some sort. See item #4.

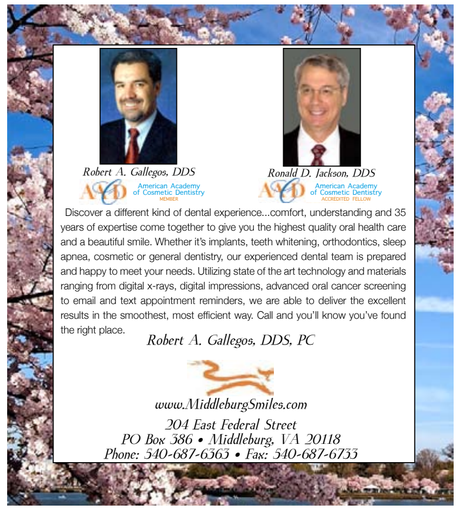
8) I cannot figure out why you want me to alert you loudly and immediately if any strangers ever enter our house but want me to be very quiet when a fat man in a bright red suit drops in through the chimney. It's very hard for me, so please understand if I growl at the nice man again this year.

9) If you give me a bath so that I do not offend your guests, you need to accept that I will most likely roll in something unpleasant in the yard five minutes before they arrive. This is a canine law of nature and I cannot do anything about it.

10) If people come over, please know that I will always target the one visitor who is not a "dog person". I will then jump in his or her lap and lick him or her directly on the face. This is not a canine law of nature. It's just my questionable sense of humor.

Thanks for reading this and Merry Christmas. I love you unconditionally even if I don't always understand the crazy things that people do.

Yours Forever,
Albert P. Clark



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Mosby Heritage Area Events for 2011

The "Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee" Series

Interpretive programs presented in the evening by lantern light in first person by the Gray Ghost Interpretive Group in period Dress. The interpreters take on the persona of people living in the Mosby Heritage Area at the time of the Civil War and tell their stories. Admission to these programs is $5 for adults and $2 for students and reservations are not needed

February 12: Fireside Mosby, at the Rector House, Atoka, VA

Book Launch
"Lafayette: Lessons in Leadership from the Idealist General"
March 20, 2011: 3:00 PM

The Mosby Heritage Area Association will sponsor the Book Launch of Marc Leepson's latest book beginning at 3:00 p.m. at historic Oak Hill, home of President James Monroe near Leesburg, Virginia. The book, a concise biography of the famed Marquis, is a part of the World Generals series by Palgrave/Macmillan. President Monroe — and perhaps, the Marquis de Lafayette—will make an appearance during the afternoon.

The event will begin with a reception, followed by a talk by Marc Leepson, and a signing of his book. Seating is limited

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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. $5,000,000.

Ann MacMahon (540) 687-5588
Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



White Horse Farm

Scottsville, Virginia

Prime Albemarle County location, main house circa 1780 in excellent condition, completely updated. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 10 fireplaces with hardwood floors throughout and high ceilings. Improvements include 6 car garage, 8 stall stable, tenant house and sports barn with basketball court, hitting and pitching areas for baseball, bedroom area, full bath & locker room. 278.80 acres fenced & crossed fenced, ample water and numerous ponds. $4,200,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905
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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. $1,750,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Keepsake Farm

The Plains, Virginia

Classic farm house in Orange County Hunt. Charming log and clapboard well-maintained residence surrounded by pristine protected land. Spacious master bedroom with elegant en suite bath. Beautiful family room/den with exposed beams. Kitchen equipped with updated stainless appliances. Two stall barn with water and electric and run-in shed. Great ride-out. $1,295,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930
Alix Coolidge (703) 625-1724



Beaver Creek

Purcellville, Virginia

Hilltop setting with panoramic views on 11.48 acres. 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath frame Colonial, 2 gas fireplaces, hardwood floors throughout, wraparound front porch, tiered decks off rear of home lead to pool and cabana. Improvements include barn, shop and board fencing. Mature landscaping. $1,095,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Mountville Road

Middleburg, Virginia

Turnkey property in excellent Middleburg location, 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. $995,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Rectortown Road

Rectortown, Virginia

1942 home located in a quaint village setting. Main house has a first floor master suite and 2 additional bedrooms. Large wood paneled living room with a wood burning fireplace and French doors leading to the stone terrace and garden area. Additionally there is a charming guest home and 3 stall barn on approximately 3 acres in 2 tax parcels. Lovely setting. $885,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905
Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



Berrywyck

Marshall, Virginia

"Berrywyck", highly desirable and protected location near the village of Orlean, surrounded by large farms, circa 1929 cottage with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 fireplaces, tons of charm, hardwood floors and large windows. Property includes a pool, 2 stall barn and 2 sheds on 3.49 acres. House is almost renovated, should be finished in 60 days. Perfect for weekend or full time living. $595,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Canongate

Leesburg, Virginia

Circa 1760's stone farm house on 6.45 beautifully fenced acres. Beautiful wood floors, wood burning fireplaces, country kitchen with granite countertops, bathrooms all updated. Fenced paddocks, two stables and a machine shed. $735,000.

Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



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. $595,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Freestate Road

Marshall, Virginia

Charming colonial on 6+ acres, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath with master suite, large living room with wood burning fireplace, kitchen with granite countertops, wood floors, 2 car garage, house well maintained and peaceful setting, minutes from Warrenton. Stream runs through back of property, and large portion of yard on invisible fence pet containment. $459,900.

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Wildcat Mountain, Warrenton, VA
Build your dream home on 257 Spectacular acres with 25 mile views of the mountains and valleys to the north. Land can be a total of three parcels and currently includes a 3 bedroom brick cape cod with spacious rooms on it own 7 acre parcel. Just minutes from the conveniences of Middleburg, Warrenton and the Plains. $2,650,000.
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INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

Loretta, Warrenton, VA
Loretta, a beautiful Colonial Revival Mansion, is a registered Va. Landmark property listed in the National Register of Historic Places. 73+ acres, 2 tenant houses, barn/stable, office/studio. Main house with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Well known landmark owned by a late Master of the Warrenton Hunt. Written up in many books i.e., "Historic Houses of Virginia." $2,300,000.
Gloria Armfield 540-687-2223



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

Fairfax Found, Middleburg, VA
Historic and charming 1729 log and brick home used by Lord Fairfax. 5 minutes to the town of Middleburg, 5,000+ sq. ft. of living space, 4 fireplaces 4 bedrooms 4 baths, full finished walkout basement, mature plantings, pool, modern amenities all on 11+ secluded acres. $1,450,000.
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29 Edgewood, Front Royal, VA
Spacious 3-4 bedroom custom built all brick home. Prime in-town location high on a hill with spectacular views and adjacent to Randolph Macon Academy. Many upgrades and custom features, immaculate condition. $575,000.
Jud & Page Glascock 540-687-2226



Blossom Hill, Middleburg, VA
Lovely comfortable contemporary residence in a terrific Middleburg location with great privacy. It is on just under 2 acres and has a charming living room/ dining room "L" with a fireplace, bookshelves and built in cupboards and drawers. There are 4 bedrooms and an artist's studio with excellent north light. The back yard is fenced and the grounds have mature planting and trees. Blossom Hill offers good cheer, comfort and convenience. $495,000.
Carole Miller 540-687-2233



Frogtown Road, Rectortown, VA
Located near the hamlet of Rectortown in the Orange Co. Hunt. Sited on a 1 ac. parcel, the house overlooks 150 ac. of rolling fields & woodlands in a permanent conservation easement. Built in 1996 the house incorporates a number of energy items. The open dining & living area features a fireplace & has a large kitchen. The MBR suite is in a separate wing on the ground level. A second bedroom & full bath is on the upper level. $495,000.
Carole Miller 540-687-2233



104 Jay Street, Middleburg, VA
Great 3 bedroom turn key townhouse with three finished levels. Attached garage, elevator, generator, gas fireplace, charming deck off living room, cute back yard. Perfect in-town location – walk to everything. $375,000.
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