



THE MIDDLEBURG HUNT BALL

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MIDDLEBURG SWEEPS TOURISM AWARDS

Fully half of the 2011 Visit Loudoun Tourism Awards went to deserving Middleburg volunteers whose tireless commitment contribute mightily to the quality of life and retail robustness of the Hunt Country village.

In a special commendation, Mayor Betsy Davis said it was an honor to recognize the wonderful volunteers who made it possible for Middleburg to sweep this year's Visit Loudoun Tourism Awards.

Middleburg businesswoman Punkin Lee won the highly prized Judy Patterson Award, the highest honor conferred by Visit Loudoun. Lee, who owns Journeymen Saddlers, thanked the volunteers who work so hard all year, as she accepted the award.

'Christmas in Middleburg' won the Top Tourism Event of the Year award for events with attendance over 3,000 with Jim Herbert being the honoree. The

event brought over 10,000 people to Middleburg during last year's Christmas season

The National Sporting Library's gala last autumn to open their new Museum won Top Tourism Event of the Year for events with attendance under 3,000 with Rick Stoutameyer accepting the award. The spectacular celebration was enjoyed by 2,500 guests from around the world.

Emily Tabachka, of The Goodstone Inn & Restaurant, was the winner of the Tourism Employee of the Year Management Award, and George Tiedeman, won The Tourism Volunteer of the Year award for his consistent and invaluable support of the Mosby Heritage Area Association.

Also nominated for 2011 Tourism Awards were Fern Bratten of Salamander Touch and Rich Gillespie of the Mosby Heritage Area Association.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

DANIEL MORROW

Middleburg's new Town Attorney, Angela Plowman, and the Town's new Police Chief, A.J. Panebianco made their first formal appearances at a regular meeting of the Middleburg Town Council on Thursday, April 12, 2012.

Plowman thanked Council once again for their decision, noted that she had already had the pleasure of working with Town Administrator Martha Semmes in Purcellville, and said she looked forward to working with Council and staff.

Chief Bill Klugh introduced his replacement, Anthony J. ("A.J.") Panebianco. The new Chief, in town for an early start on getting to know his new officers and the town, expressed his thanks for the opportunity and noted how much he and his wife, Amy were looking forward to getting to know Middleburg.

Minutes earlier Mayor Betsy Davis had presented outgoing Town Attorney Liz Whiting with a crystal vase and kind words in appreciation of her many years of service at a party held in her honor in Council Chambers.

Revised General Orders

Attending his last regular Council Meeting, outgoing Chief Bill Klugh, presented for council review his latest draft of revised General Orders for the Middleburg Police Department.

Most noteworthy was the formalization of the department's chain of command and the duties of the department's Senior Police Officer, a new rank now held for the first time by Officer Mike Prince.

Henceforth the Chief of Police will still be hired and fired by Town Council. His immediate superior for day to day operations, however, will be the Town Administrator.

Complaints about the Chief by line officers may be taken directly to the Town Administrator. Complaints about the Town Administrator may be taken by the Chief directly to Town Council.

The Council has, for all practical purposes, eliminated its former committee structure, operating instead in work sessions as a Committee of the Whole. Thus, its former Public Safety Committee, chaired by Bundles Murdock, is no longer part of the official chain of command. Murdock will instead serve as the Council's Public Safety Chair, responsible for serving as the Council's go-to person when acting as a Committee of the whole on police matters or other Public Safety concerns.

Utility Fund Budget

At March 22 work session, Town Administrator Semmes reported that Loudoun Water's charges for its services to the Town of Middleburg total some \$248,000 in the year ahead.

Asked by Councilmember Shea why

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A STORY OF AFRICA IN "THE SOUND OF THE STRING"

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MIDDLEBURG REAL ESTATE

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DRESDEN FARM NOW AVAILABLE— THIS BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED 125 ACRE HORSE FARM INCLUDES A CIRCA 1785 5 BEDROOM MAIN HOUSE, A 12 STALL BELMONT BARN WITH 8 PADDOCKS, HEATED WATERERS, A NEW GENERATOR AND A SEPARATE TACK ROOM. THERE ARE 4 ADDITIONAL DWELLINGS (INCLUDING NEWLY RENOVATED MANAGER'S HOUSE AND GUEST HOUSE), EXTENSIVE GREENHOUSES, GARDENS, A POOL, AND A 5 ACRE POND. PROPERTY WITH POTENTIAL EASEMENT RESTRICTIONS.

PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835 \$5,900,000



WHITE OAKS FARM, - MIDDLEBURG - NOW AVAILABLE. 60 OUTSTANDING ACRES IN THE EXCLUSIVE FOXCROFT AREA JUST 10 MINUTES FROM MIDDLEBURG. TURN-KEY HORSE FARM WITH A BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED 1890's 4 BEDROOM, 2 FULL 2 HALF BATH MANOR HOUSE. ORIGINAL HARDWOOD, WINE CELLAR, 7 STALL COURTYARD STABLE WITH AN IMPRESSIVE PARTY/HUNT BREAKFAST ROOM, 7 PADDOCKS WITH NEW FENCING. 2 ADDITIONAL DWELLINGS.

PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835 \$3,975,000



BUCKMERE — HUME - WELL LOCATED IN BEAUTIFUL HUME LESS THAN 1 HR FROM DC; SPECTACULAR VIEWS. EXPERTLY RENOVATED WITH HIGH-END FINISHES AND CRAFTSMANSHIP. MAIN RESIDENCE, POOL W/ POOLHOUSE, FIELDSTONE HARDSCAPING, GOURMET KITCHEN, CATERING KITCHEN, GREAT FLOW. 2 BR 2 BA GUEST HOUSE, CENTER AISLE 8 STALL HORSE STABLE, RIDING RING, VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED RIDE OUT. 78.58 AC IN 2 PARCELS; ADDL 50.3 AC PARCEL AVAILABLE

GEORGE ROLL 703-606-6358 \$3,445,000



SNAKE HILL Rd — MIDDLEBURG - 1850 GEORGIAN ESTATE. 121 ACRES. TRADITIONAL VIRGINIAN HUNT COUNTRY MANOR. SPACIOUS & PRIVATE 8-BEDROOM HOME. GRACIOUS WINDING STAIRWAY & RESTORED HARDWOOD FLOORS THROUGHOUT. LONG, TREE-LINED DRIVEWAY, LAKE, 3 BARN, 7 & 24-STALL SWIMMING POOL AND EQUINE HEATED EXERCISE POOL, OUTDOOR ARENA. 4-BOARD FENCING, 2 TENANT HSES. 5 MINUTES TO MIDDLEBURG. 1 HR DC. CONSERVATION EASEMENT.

SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$2,900,000



MILLRACE LANE - MARSHALL - PICTURESQUE TURN-KEY EQUESTRIAN PROPERTY ON 20 ACRES WITH IMMACULATE CUSTOM HOME AND MANICURED GROUNDS. MT. VIEWS, ROLLING ACRES, FENCED PASTURES, DOG KENNEL, GUEST HOUSE, 9 STALL BARN CONNECTED TO INDOOR ARENA, 2 RUN-IN/EQUIPMENT BUILDINGS, PADDOCK AND POND ALSO AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL 58 ACRES WITH WORKSHOP AND CREEK FQ7609128. THIS IS A MUST SEE!!!

SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$1,395,000



ROSEDOWN Ct — MIDDLEBURG - ROOM FOR HORSES, BARN & POOL - 4 BOARD FENCING. HUGE KITCHEN WITH WOLF & SUBZERO APPLIANCES, GRANITE & CUSTOM CABINETS. 4 BEDROOMS AND 3 BATHROOMS ON 2ND FLOOR & FINISHED 3RD FLOOR WITH BEDROOM AND BATH - LARGE SITTING ROOM PERFECT FOR GUESTS. REAR PORCH, 3 CAR GARAGE. 5 MILES FROM MIDDLEBURG.

SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$1,300,000



EBENEZER Rd — BLUEMOUNT — SIT ON THE COVERED FRONT PORCH OF THIS CUSTOM BUILT LOG AND STONE HOME AND ENJOY THE VIEW OF THE YOUR POND. DETACHED 3 CAR GARAGE WITH POTENTIAL APARTMENT ABOVE. 11+ WOODED ACRES WITH MORE AVAILABLE. STONE WALLS AND PATIOS. 3 STONE FIREPLACES. VERY PRIVATE. — THIS IS A MUST SEE!

MARCY CANTATORE 540-533-7453 \$825,000



BUCKMERE FARM — HUME - SPECTACULAR ESTATE IS LOCATED ON A QUIET COUNTRY ROAD, SURROUNDED BY FARMS IN CONSERVATION EASEMENT. READY TO BUILD, PROPERTY HAS APPROVED 5 BR PERC, DRIVES, LARGE BARN AND IS COMPLETELY FENCED AND CROSS-FENCED. BREATHTAKING BLUE RIDGE VIEWS; BOLD BUCK RUN FLOWS THROUGH PROPERTY. PERFECT HORSE FARM OR VINEYARD. VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED RIDE OUT. IN VOF EASEMENT, OLD DOMINION HUNT; 1 HR TO DC

GEORGE ROLL 703-606-6358 \$795,000



PYLETOWN Rd — BOYCE - TURNKEY HORSE FARM THAT FEATURES 19 STALLS, 6 FENCED FIELDS, INDOOR RING. BARN HAS 3 SEPARATE APARTMENTS. HOUSE INCLUDES 6 BEDROOMS, 6.5 BATHS, SCREENED PORCH. INN-GROUND POOL. ALL ON 60 PICTURESQUE ACRES.

MARCY CANTATORE 540-533-7453 \$775,000



BEAVERDAM BRIDGE Rd — PURCELLVILLE - OUTSTANDING 20 ACRE GEM WITH ELEVATED, UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS OF THE BLUE RIDGE, BULL RUN AND COBBLER MOUNTAINS, AND SURROUNDED BY OPEN LAND

PETER PEJACEVICH 540-533-7543 \$715,000



JOHN MOSBY HWY — UPPERVILLE - CHARMING 4 BEDROOM HOUSE IN A PRIME UPPERVILLE LOCATION! BUILT IN 1840, AND TASTEFULLY UPDATED WITH NEW HARDWOOD FLOORS THROUGHOUT, GREAT BATHROOMS AND KITCHEN, AND A WORKING FIRE PLACE! EVERYTHING IS FRESHLY PAINTED, BRIGHT AND CLEAN. TURN-KEY! THERE IS A HUGE, PARTLY FINISHED SPACE WITH CONCRETE FLOORS THAT CAN BE USED AS A WORKSHOP, OR FINISHED TO FIT THE

PETER PEJACEVICH 540-533-7543 \$549,000



BRITAIN Rd - LOVETTSTOWN - COUNTRY PROPERTY IN SERENE SETTING WITH MATURE TREES ONLY MINUTES TO LEESBURG, PURCELLVILLE, AND THE MARC TRAIN. LOVELY 4 BEDROOM, 3.5 BATH HOME WITH FRONT PORCH, PATIO, 2 TIERED DECK AND 2 CAR GARAGE. POSSIBLE IN-LAW SUITE. 3 FIREPLACES. 3 STALL CENTER AISLE BARN. FENCED PADDOCKS. ALL ON 3.49 ACRES

MARCY CANTATORE 540-533-7453 \$495,000

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NEWS OF NOTE

PAUL DRAISEY IN MEMORIAM

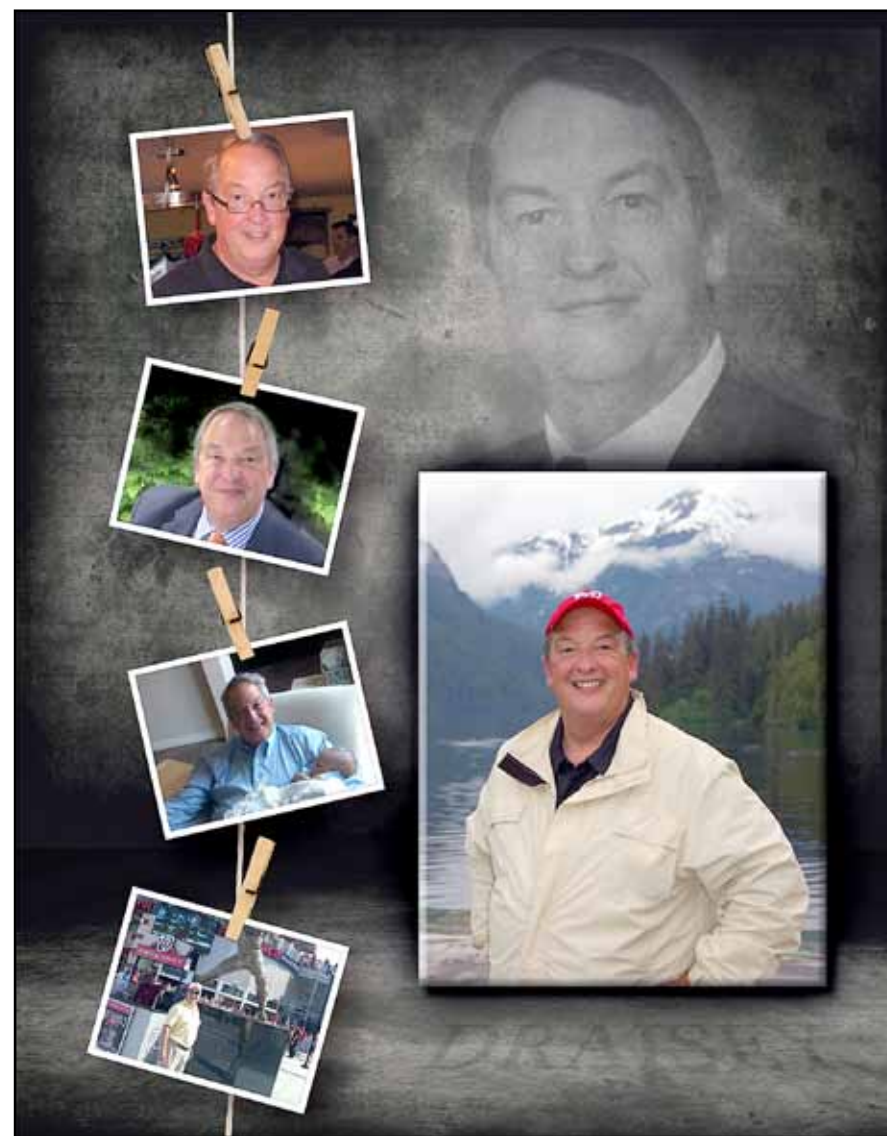


PHOTO BY JOHN J. SCHLETT

Friends and neighbors in Middleburg, and tens of thousands who were touched by his voice, his life, his work and his presence throughout Loudoun County, mourn the passing of Paul Draisey, 55, who died unexpectedly on April 16 at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Many first heard his voice on their AM radios, beginning in 1971, when, as a freshman at Loudoun Valley High, he began his career at WAGE. He read his first weathercast there when he was only 10.

His signature program, "The Drive Home," made him a household name in Loudoun, and as the county grew and traffic stalled, a true companion on many a long ride home. News, sports, weather, HS play by play: the VOICE was always Paul's.

His departure from WAGE, some 36 years later, truly marked the end of an era for both

local radio and the spirit of the County. He was forced out of the station after a takeover and format shift in 2007. The station closed two years later.

Draisey's years of service with the Middleburg Volunteer Fire Department and his devotion to USO were legendary. After leaving WAGE he became an extraordinary public relations consultant and the kind of insurance agent one often sees in TV commercials, but all too rarely encounters in real life.

Middleburg Mayor Betsy Davis described him as "a true friend" not only to her, but to the entire town and community.

"He will be missed so very much by all of us. Our love and prayers go out," she continued, "to Donna and all of her family."

Davis spoke for the entire Town and no doubt for the entire County he loved and served.

PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

PARADISE FARM



120 acres of beautiful farmland in the midst of Virginia hunt country. The mostly open property boasts spectacular mountain and valley views, rolling hay fields and Goose Creek frontage. A classic two story farmhouse and two barns await renovation. Numerous desirable building sites are available. Conservation tax opportunities available. Orange County Hunt. \$3,450,000

Emily Ristau (540) 878-1909

GULICK MILL



Nearly 60 acres of land with app. 1/3 of a mile of Goose Creek frontage! 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath 2 level home with swimming pool, separate 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath guest home with unfinished log wing. Great location just off of Scyolin Road, just minutes from shops and restaurant. Currently under County Conservation Easement. \$2,300,000

Barrington Hall (540)454-6601

EVERMORE



Stunning Brick Colonial on secluded hilltop with 10+ acres above Cromwells Run Creek • Orange County Hunt • 7,000 sq ft home with 6 Bedrooms and 5.5 Baths • 3 Finished levels • Wall-to-wall windows in Sunroom, Decorative Columns, Exquisite Mouldings, Hardwood Floors, 3 Fireplaces, Gourmet Kitchen, Master Suite and Finished Basement • Rear Patio with Excellent Views! \$1,450,000

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

CEDAR MOUNTAIN



110 acres in VOF Easement • 9 foot ceilings, crown moldings and carved archways give this house such elegance • Three working fireplaces have been refined and are ready for another hundred years • 2010 Renovation of Kitchen, Bath and Paint • Center aisle stable created out of dairy barn with wash stall, tackroom, lounge and loft. \$1,295,000

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MAGNOLIA HILL



c. 1880, delightful stucco Virginia Farmhouse on 14+ acre in historic Rectortown • 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths • Formal Dining Room • Living Room with Fireplace • Paneled Den with Fireplace • Large Kitchen • Front Porch and Terrace • Sweeping lawns, stone walls, and small stream • Ideal country living. Great Country location. \$665,000

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

EXNING COTTAGE



Charming stone & frame cottage with 3 Bedrooms, 1 bath on 4.57 open acres just East of Middleburg on a quiet gravel road. Cottage was originally part of neighboring estate "Exning". Redesigned by local architect. Lovely hardwood floors, 2 stone fireplaces, screened & flagstone porches. Updated kitchen. Old stone walls. Fruit trees. Small field with run-in shed. Separate storage shed. \$575,000

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

ASPEN HILL COTTAGE



Just 2 1/2 miles west of the village of Middleburg, and on a quiet lane in the Aspen Hill neighborhood • Lovely 3 Bedroom 2 Full Bath, 2 1/2 Bath home on just over 2 acres • Master Bedroom on main level • Hardwood, tile and carpeted floors • Brick Fireplace • Crown Molding • Vaulted ceilings • Tray ceiling • Extensive Landscaping • Storage Shed • Private Deck • Attached 2 Car Garage • Full Basement \$505,800

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NEWS OF NOTE

CLAUDIA PFEIFFER APPOINTED

NSLM'S GEORGE L. OHRSTROM, JR. CURATOR

Claudia Pfeiffer recently joined the National Sporting Library and Museum as its George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Curator, a newly created position generously underwritten for the next five years by the George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Foundation.

Pfeiffer, who has an almost twenty-year background in fine art and brings with her a strong knowledge of American animal and sporting art, has a keen interest in furthering research in the field.

From 1994 to 1998, she directed Hardcastle Gallery in historic Centreville, DE, near Wilmington, where she mounted over sixty exhibits and installations, most featuring contemporary artists following the Brandywine Tradition.

In 1998 she moved to Virginia and began working at Red Fox Fine Art, the Middleburg

gallery owned by F. Turner Reuter, Jr. that specializes in animal, sporting, and American paintings and sculpture.

During her thirteen year tenure, Pfeiffer became the gallery's assistant director and was then appointed director in 2005. Claudia also had the opportunity to be involved in many of Reuter's projects. She helped research, compile, edit, and design his 800-page reference work *Animal and Sporting Artists in America*, first published by the National Sporting Library and Museum in 2008 and its 2011 Second Edition.

She also supervised the publication of the *National Sporting Library and Museum's Afield in America: 400 Years of Animal and Sporting Art* exhibition catalogue and contributed as a photographer, editor, and writer.

Additionally, she helped mount the *Afield in America* exhibit and then assisted in re-

searching, writing materials for, and mounting the museum's second show, *The Wildlife Paintings of Bruno Liljefors*.

On the advice of Reuter, Pfeiffer applied for the Museum's position in January and was among twelve candidates who were considered.

"It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have a position in this field open up at such a prestigious institution, literally in my backyard, and I would have been a fool not to try for it," she said.

"I look forward to bringing my enthusiasm for this genre to the museum's audience and to mounting new and exciting material in the future."

Her first official roll as Curator was to mount *Scraps: British Sporting Drawings from the Paul Mellon Collection*, which opened on April 6th and will be on view through June 30th.

CELEBRATION MARKS SANDY LERNER'S RESCUE OF JUBILATION FARM

A recent celebration marked Sandy Lerner's decision to preserve Jubilation Farm, a 300-acre Purcellville property located on Shelburne Glebe Road that will now become an extension of Ayrshire Farm.

The historic Loudoun County farm was slated for development with 54 housing lots.

As an extension of Lerner's Ayrshire Farm, Jubilation Farm will be a certified organic and certified humane farming operation.

Ayrshire Farm, located in Upperville, Virginia, was the first Virginia farm to be certified both organic and humane. The farm produces a variety of meats and organic produce supplied to top regional restaurants, including its own Hunter's Head Tavern, Home Farm Store, and Ayrshire Farm Catering Company.

Hunter's Head and Home Farm were the first restaurant and store in the country to achieve a certified organic/certified humane designation.



Ayrshire Farm's mission is to farm sustainably and profitably, promoting the benefits of locally produced, humanely raised meats and organic produce to the local consumer community through education, outreach and example.

For more information visit www.ayrshirefarm.com

LOCAL GROOMER LIZ WASHINGTON LOVES HER WORK

Although it sometimes requires a lot of work and patience, local groomer Liz Washington loves every minute of her work grooming dogs and cats of all persuasions at Middleburg Animal Hospital.

Well and widely known for her patience and ability to establish a truly special relationship with unruly animals, Liz grew up in Middleburg's Windy Hill.

"My grandfather cooked at The Greek's, the restaurant that was owned by Mr. Dimos before it became The Coach Stop," she explained. "Five generations of my family lived in our Windy Hill house."

Liz's very loving and patient mother always allowed her children to bring home stray or hurt animals for tender, loving care and, according to Liz, pets were always a part of their family.

A 1973 graduate of Loudoun County High School, Liz thought she wanted to be an executive assistant until she realized the required dress code for such a position was not what she wanted to do.

"That was it," she said emphatically, "I knew then I wanted to do something else."

Although a lucky happenstance ensured that another career would be possible, and that all her business classes did not go to waste. For 25 years, Liz has assisted Pastor Herman Nelson at the Shiloh Baptist Church as Church Clerk.

"I use all my skills there," she said.

One day, Liz took a dog that had been shot to the vet. At that time, Dr. John Holland owned Middleburg Animal Hospital and when he observed how well Liz calmed the hurt dog, he asked if she would like to help him as a kennel assistant part time.

"I was excited to help him," Liz emphasized. "I had always loved animals, but I never imagined I could have a profession with animals."

Liz took such good care of the boarding animals that Dr. Holland asked her to work for him full time and taught her skills to assist him as a vet/tech assistant.

"He taught me so much and so well," Liz remembered.

When Dr. Donaldson purchased the business, Liz simply transitioned to assist her. She had learned a bit about how to do baths and cuts from Callie Norton, who was one of the groomers who had worked there, and when Dr.'s Love and McKim took over the business, they asked her if she would like to do all the grooming.

"I said I'd like to try," Liz answered. "I had watched the groomers closely and Callie Norton had taught me a lot. It went well and here I am, many, many years later, grooming as a professional."

"There are challenges with certain animals," Liz explained, but I have a lot of experience with different personalities."

Although cats can require extra special attention, Liz insists she loves every animal who visits her. Whether they are Cockers or Springers, toys



or standards, they leave looking like they are ready for the show ring.

A Mastiff was a memorable client, not only because he weighed 180 pounds, but because Liz decided the easiest way to groom him was in the indoor run, where she would have hot and cold running water and he would have the room to relax and stop worrying. Even though it meant she would have to remove her shoes, socks, and then cover herself so she wouldn't be soaked during the bath.

Special care is a hallmark of Liz's work, whether it is hand drying for a pet who doesn't like to be caged, or simply a calm, quiet hand for an animal that may have had a bad previous experience.

"Although I've groomed many pets over the years, I never tire of helping a dog or cat look and feel their very best. I love what I do."

To schedule a grooming appointment with Liz at Middleburg Animal Hospital, please telephone 540.687.6144.

BRAD ISHAM TELLS A STORY OF AFRICA IN "THE SOUND OF THE STRING"

In his new novel "The Sound of the String" Brad Isham creates a spiritual connection to the land, people and wildlife of Africa. His experiences in South Africa are the inspiration for his novel that shares the challenges of a remote bush camp, and the treachery of life in the bushveld.

With a duffle bag and a hand-made longbow Gordon Bradford travels to Africa with an open mind and heart. His first safari leads to more as his spiritual connection with the land, people, and wildlife evolves. He discovers ethereal connections with the animals he pursues and learns from their perspectives the balance of the bushveld, for predator and prey.

Gordon is mentored by the sage wisdom of Moses, an elderly black man whose early years were spent in racially torn South Africa. He shares in the lives of the people in a remote bush camp and

helps as they defend themselves from baboons, poachers, and an angry mob from a neighboring village that attacks the camp.

His friendship builds with his guide and Professional Hunter, Lucas, while finding he is falling in love with Lucas' wife, Lise. Sabotage and subterfuge between Gordon and Lucas is hidden behind their professional and personal relationships as they attempt their most dangerous hunt together for Cape buffalo.

During the hunt, there is a touching story of Dagga Boy, an old Cape buffalo, as he is cast from his herd. He travels only with his guardian, Askari, and passes his life's lessons to the young bull as they navigate the dangers of the bushveld to find water and stay alive.

The buffalo and hunters find themselves at the same water hole for a thrilling end which leaves one of them

dead, one desperately alone, and the others spinning in clouds of their own conspiracy.

As lies are exposed, lives are left in tatters.

"The Sound of the String" captures the setting and appeals to the senses. It summons the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and touch of Africa. It brings its readers into the bushveld and leaves them immersed.

"The book presents Africa truthfully, in its beauty and tragedies" says Isham. It "offers insight into the lives of the people in an African bush country camp and the value of every member."

Signed copies of "The Sound of the String: An African Bush Country Novel" are available at Second Chapter Books, Middleburg, VA, and Rhodes Fly Shop, Warrenton, VA, and online at Amazon.com and www.thesoundofthestring.com.

FOXCROFT STUDENTS & ASHBURN LEADER RECOGNIZED FOR BREAST CANCER WORK

The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation of Middleburg has announced that the students of Foxcroft School, a girls college prep in Middleburg, and Susan T. Carroll of Ashburn have been named Cherry Blossom Champions for 2011 for their achievements in the local fight against breast cancer.

Ms. Carroll was recognized for her creation of the Bosom Buddies Program at Inova Loudoun Hospital and for working with the Cherry Blossom Foundation to install a new biopsy technology in Loudoun County.

After discovering the surprisingly low percentage of hospital women monitoring their breast health, Ms. Carroll also created Bosom Buddies to pair women to remind each of due dates and needed checks.

Ms. Carroll, who was at the time the hospital's chief operating officer, was also the stimulus and the leader for the acquisition by the Lansdowne hospital of its first Stereo-Tactic Breast Bi-

opsy System, a device that increases the effectiveness of biopsies while reducing its collateral impacts.

She is currently the vice president of the Comprehensive Cancer and Research Institute for the entire Inova Health System of Northern Virginia.

The 156 girls of Foxcroft School were selected as 2012 Cherry Blossom Champions for their five years of fundraising for, and their local participation in, the Cherry Blossom Foundation's efforts for local detection, treatment, education, and elimination of breast cancer.

The high school women, with the strong support of Foxcroft's leadership, raised \$10,000 between this past October and February for the Foundation's work, by a large turn-out for the Middleburg Cherry Blossom Nanette's Walk and 5K Run for Breast Cancer, by soliciting funds from the college prep school's friends and parents, and from the third annual Think Pink Tournament, a 12-team high school and middle school basketball tournament.

Foxcroft student leaders Maeve Couzens, Alexis Hall, Mary Motion and Sam Nelson, accompanied by Head of School Mary Lou Leipheimer, Assistant Head of School Sheila McKibbin, Athletic Director Michelle Woodruff, and Athletic Assistant Jessi Coil will accept the award on Sunday, April 29th.

The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation, a 501(C)3 Public Charity, began its work in 2007 and concentrates about 90% its granted monies to help local women with breast cancer detection and treatment and with education on the need for early and regular breast screenings; approximately 10% of granted funds have gone to regional research on the disease. With no full-time staff or facilities, the Middleburg-based group has helped an estimated 500 women since 2007 receive mammograms and treatment. For more information, please visit www.cherryblossombreastcancerfoundation.org.

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We would like to welcome Allie to our family, and the surrounding communities! Please call to book your new do' for the new year!

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NEWS OF NOTE

KITTY SAYLOR'S SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP BEGAN EARLY

LOUDOUN COUNTY & MONTANA STATE TO BENEFIT

As Kitty Saylor leaves her CEO position at one of Loudoun County's largest employers, REHAU North America, to become Chief Executive in residence of Montana State University's Alumni Foundation and Chairman of The Loudoun Laurels, it would be hard to find a local community leader who is not aware of her history of good deeds.

From Teachers in Industry to the Boy Scouts, from help for the underprivileged to the Center for the Arts, Kitty has made generous and gracious commitments to Loudoun County. Her work on the CEO Cabinet, on the George Washington University Science & Technology Campus Advisory Board and on Montana's new ecoHouse exemplify her broad sense of responsibility.

But none reflects more intensely her level of commitment than being asked to take the helm of The Loudoun Laurels, a landmark program that underscores her belief that stewardship is the keystone of every community's success.

"A wonderful community absolutely depends on citizens seeing what needs to be done and taking responsibility to make certain the things that need to be done are done," she emphasized.

"I grew up understanding that we are all responsible for the quality of our communities; my mother taught me that. Without the proactive commitment of individuals whose work often goes unrecognized, we would lose that quality of life we can too easily take for granted."

"It has been my honor to lead REHAU North America, and it will be my even greater pleasure to help Montana State's president advance the university's academic and research efforts."

"I must admit, however, that chairing The Loudoun Laurels, ensuring that truly important community leaders are recognized and helping young people understand the importance of stewardship, is tre-

mendously exciting and something I look forward to with enormous gratification."

As CEO of REHAU North America since 2006, Kitty has let her actions speak for her commitment to her community, but she understands clearly how important it is to teach young people about stewardship. To ensure that Loudoun County's young citizens learn the importance of stewardship, she has created a new Loudoun Laurels initiative called The Loudoun Laurels Stewardship Trust.

"I have always believed that The Loudoun Laurels should find a way to introduce the exemplary citizens we recognize every year to young people who need to understand the importance and pleasure of true community stewardship," she continued.

"With the enormous help and support of my Leadership Committee, we have established The Loudoun Laurels Stewardship Trust to recognize, mentor and provide scholarships to worthy Loudoun County students."

Beginning this year, we plan to recognize students at our annual gala. Our hope is that each student will receive a scholarship and have an opportunity to personally meet and work closely with the Loudoun Laureates.

"We believe this program will inspire and motivate young citizens to take greater responsibility for their community, and will help them meet and understand how and why true leaders pursue what is sometimes a difficult and unappreciated community role."

The Leadership Committee Kitty created to help her lead The Loudoun Laurels initiative includes: Joe Boling, Pat Daly, Ed Hatrick, Marc Leeson and James Rohrbaugh.

It would be easy to assume that the beautiful, Lauren Bacall-like who has achieved such impressive success was raised and educated

to land on her feet in the male-oriented world of global executive prowess. If growing up in the beautiful Montana world of cattle ranching, cold, hard winters and wide-open spaces provides that background, then Kitty was well prepared.

Growing up the youngest of three, Kitty was raised by a single mother who set high standards and worked as hard for her community as she did for her family.

"Marjorie, my mother, fought as hard to keep our local library open as she did to provide my brothers and me with the very best ideals," she explained. "She is an extraordinarily articulate and dedicated individual and it is going to be wonderful to be closer to her now that I have a professional role at the university. She is as involved today as she has been for all these years."

When Kitty's 21-year-old brother, Dan, died of epilepsy in 1976, his death took a devastating toll on the family.

"He had been ill for so long, and we all helped each other take care of him, but losing him is something we will never forget. It only underscores how important it is to do everything you can while your help can make a difference."

Kitty and her two older brothers are very attached to the land.

"We are all drawn back to Montana," she said gazing at the beautiful photos of the state that grace her office walls.

Growing up in a modern split-level home that her mother designed, Kitty understands the challenges of being successful as a young student.

"From the outside, my family looked terribly successful," she remembers. "No one understood how hard my mother had to work to keep us healthy, and my mother was too proud to complain or let anyone know."

Being terribly tall and weighing about 60 pounds, according to Kitty, did not contribute to her sense of herself, and when she made the

big decision to play sports and stop taking the piano lessons she'd been taking since she was four, her mother quickly helped her rationalize away the desire to play basketball in favor of continuing her musical education.

"She never had to spank me, she just gave me what we called 'The Jane Wyman' look..." Kitty recalls.

Kitty began her college experience studying music at Concordia College in Minnesota but, after one year, transferred to Montana State in Bozeman as a communications major.

It was there that Kitty added three advisors to her mentor list: Ray Weisenborn, her advisor at MSU; Dr. Jim McCrosky, the department chair at West Virginia University where she completed her Masters; and Dr. Ray Falcione, who was her PhD advisor at the University of Maryland.

"They all pushed me, just as my mother had, to achieve greater things and to always give back and take care of my community."

FRANKLIN PAYNE HONORED FOR 60 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE MIDDLEBURG AMERICAN LEGION POST



FERRIS SADAK, RON POSTON, ?BILL MOLIERE, FRANKLIN PAYNE, BILL BROWN, FRITZ HUTCHISON, RON EMBREY



As Kitty Saylor turns the page and opens the next era in her career, both Loudoun County and Montana State University will benefit enormously from her beliefs that "... leadership has its own rewards."

"You might not think you have enough time or enough money to really make a difference," she insisted, "but you do. And the return on your investment of care and commitment will rank with the best returns you'll ever receive on any investment you make."

Happy Mother's Day from our Family to Yours!

Mom by Kim Horner

If I took a little minute to write a poem for you
It would turn into a lifetime for all the things you do...
So I'll try and keep it simple
There's some things I wish to say
And what better day to say them on
Today on Mother's Day.

In all my life you guided me
And showed me right from wrong
You are my inspiration, Mom
You're the music in my song.

You were there for me when times were hard
You're always close at hand
You guided me to happiness
You're the best Mom in the land.

I never could repay you
You're worth your weight in gold
If ever I would need you, Mom
Your hand is there to hold.

Your advice is always listened to
But you always have to say
"It's your decision," Sweetheart
You'll make it come what may.

So thank you Mom for making me
The person I've become
And through your loving guidance
I'm a clone of you "My Mom."



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NEWS OF NOTE

STUDENT GRANT-MAKERS ASSIST PIEDMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MEGAN CATHERWOOD

Junior year has been a busy time for Middleburg Academy's Katie Hill and Matt Nickles. The two have been fully immersed not only in their studies and sports (both play varsity tennis; Matt is also a swimmer), but in their roles as student grant-makers for the S. Murray Rust and Mary H.C. Rust Student Philanthropy Project.

Known as "Forward Turn," the Project is a community outreach program of the Piedmont Community Foundation. It was created six years ago to fund and encourage youth-driven projects, and to teach philanthropy to area high school students.

Matt and Katie are part of a twenty four-member Steering Committee that represents high schools throughout Loudoun and Fauquier counties. Working both in teams and as a whole, the group reviews, discusses, scores and, ultimately, proposes which grants their committee wishes to see funded. Typically, they devote two Saturdays a month (over a five-month period) to their work.

Determining which grants to fund and exactly how much money to give (award amounts range from \$500 to \$2,500) has proven more challenging than either Middleburg Academy representative expected.

"The pace and speed of how things move was surprising. I thought it would be easy," says Matt. "It brings the reality of a business environment . . . and how fast you need to move to get things done."

Katie explains, "There are



PHOTO BY MONA ROTWICK

many things we look for when scoring grants: how will it benefit the community, will it have a lasting effect, does it seem practical and able to be accomplished, and are we truly interested in seeing the project move forward." Once the group reached agreement on the projects to be funded, deciding how much money to give to each was "a huge discussion and everyone had a different opinion, leading to a very lively debate. In the end," she reports, "we were all able to agree on the amount and feel confident in our decision."

On a broader level, student grant-makers also help assess the needs of the greater community, as seen from a youth's perspective, and serve as spokespersons for Forward Turn. To help get the word out, they developed a catchy slogan and logo, YouTube videos, Facebook interactions, and their own website (www.forwardturn.com).

Every spring, they provide an

overview presentation of their work, including their funding recommendations, to the Board of Directors of the Piedmont Community Foundation.

PCF Executive Director Karen Krei described the presentation as, "My favorite day in the Student Philanthropy Project is when we see the students give a professional and impassioned accounting of their work and a grant recommendation."

"It is impressive to witness their enthusiasm and collective knowledge; a proud testament that our youth can be a powerhouse, up to the task of thoughtful leadership for our communities and country."

The endowment seed that Mr. and Mrs. Rust first planted is now a deeply rooted perennial. And just as they had hoped, it has blossomed into the self-perpetuating project they envisioned, empowering and encouraging area youth to act as civic-minded citizens and good stewards of our community's resources.

PHILOMONT GIRL'S DEATH INSPIRES GIFT OF SMILES

On August 9, 2011, five-year-old Sadie Grace Ablard died from a head injury sustained at a birthday party. Her mother, Sara Ablard of Philomont, is turning tragedy into something positive by supporting a cause important to Sadie. Below is Sara's letter to our community.

Sara said, "Since my daughter Sadie's death eight months ago, I've found some comfort for my heartbreak by channeling my energy into something positive that will help others: fundraising for SmileTrain."

She continues, "As often happens, it all starts with a smile. I clearly remember Sadie's first smile. Not just a reflex smile but her first real smile. She showed me that first gummy grin when she was eight weeks old and she never lived a day without beaming several times during the day. Even on grumpy days, she would find things to look delighted about. . . a funny passage in a book, the crazy antics of goats on our property, finally getting through that difficult violin piece, finding colorful yarn for her next knitting project, watching a butterfly land on a flower. . . Sadie found joy in so many areas of life."

Sadie wanted to give others the chance to smile too. Not just a partial smile but a wide-open grin. She was troubled that some people are born with cleft lip and cleft palate and that ninety-five percent of children born with a cleft in developing countries never receive surgeries. Not only can they not smile, but they have trouble eating or speaking properly. They often aren't allowed to attend school, marry, or hold a job. They face difficult lives because they are too poor to afford a simple surgery. Sadie wanted to provide them a chance to smile.

Sadie first learned about SmileTrain while walking through Dulles Town Center. She saw banners promoting the cause

with often-seen photos of children with cleft palate. She asked, "What's wrong with that boy?" Sara explained as best she could then went home to learn more online. Sadie showed great compassion for these children, and she wanted to help. That Christmas, she asked for donations instead of gifts, and raised \$500 which funded two "smiles" for children.

With Sadie's death, Sara is continuing her cause. "It's my goal to raise enough money in my lifetime to fund a child's smile surgery for every day that Sadie lived. That's \$250 per smile for 1,913 days for a total of \$478,250. It's a bold goal, but then Sadie lived with a bold heart and with much compassion for others," says Sara. "With each smile we fund, we help improve the life of a child, and we're doing so in memory of my joyful Sadie who blessed us with her beaming, contagious smile. She would be delighted to be contributing to sharing more smiles with others." So far, more than \$50,000.00 has been donated to Sadie's tribute fund with SmileTrain (<http://support.smiletrain.org/goto/Sadie>) and SadieSmileFoundation.org to fund the race.

Since one of Sadie's other passions was running, Sara has organized a 5K and Kid's Fun Run on what would have been Sadie's sixth birthday, Saturday, May 12, 2012 in Purcellville, with all proceeds going to SmileTrain.

Please join us for the first annual Sadie's Run. There are wonderful activities for the kids and fantastic race prizes thanks to generous support from the community. Registration is open on Active.com.

To learn more about the 5K and Fun Run or for details on how to participate, volunteer or become an event sponsor, contact Sara Ablard at sablard@gmail.com or visit www.sadiesmilefoundation.org.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

those costs seemed to be rising, Semmes noted that the bill was determined in large part by number of hours Loudoun Water's operators were required to be in Middleburg to provide service. New facilities, she noted, required among other things additional testing. Semmes also noted that the operators must also back wash the new facilities.

Asked by Council Member Mark Snyder when the Town was scheduled to renew the Loudoun Water contract. Town Clerk North confirmed the contract expired in 2014. Snyder suggested that any new contract include performance incentives.

Open Government

At the same work session, Councilmember Kathy Jo Shea noted that the Town did not have minutes on record for committees that did not report directly to the Council. Among them were the Town's Go Green Committee, the Museum Committee and the Pink Box Advisory Board.

Noting that the lack of reliable records "could cause problems," Shea suggested that Council ask the committees to regularly provide meeting notes or minutes to the Town.

Town Clerk North observed that the resolutions establishing the committees already required that they take notes of their meetings, though they were not required to take formal minutes.

Town Council Election

On May 1, 2012, four members of the Middleburg Town Council will stand for re-election. With no one else in the running, all will be re-elected. Nevertheless, the Eccentric asked all the candidates the following six questions:

1. Given the demands of the job (and the low pay) why are you running again?
2. Why do you think no one else is running?
3. What was the best thing to happen to Middleburg during your last term?
4. What was the worst?
5. What are you most looking forward to seeing happen in Middleburg in your next term?
6. What's your greatest concern for the next term?

Here, in their entirety, are their replies:

Mayor Betsy Davis

Running for office for Middleburg Town Council is indeed a labor of love. My love for the town and it's people continue to keep me motivated.

I did a lot of "soul searching" to make my decision to run for Mayor again. I realized there are still some items I would like to see completed.

First and foremost, I would like to have the opportunity to see the completion of Salamander Resort before I "retire". I have been on Council since it's "infancy" and would very much like to see it to completion!

The Marshall and Madison Street project is still "in the works" and needs to be finished and I am also trying very hard to have lovely brick (or brick-looking) crosswalks in our town.

The Middleburg Museum is finally coming to fruition, by the steady and determined guidance of Eura Lewis and her great committee, and I would really like to help them find a "home" so they can continue to grow.

I am very proud of my accomplishments since I have been on Council. I think my biggest accomplishment is helping to add an Economic Development Department to our town and budget. Our businesses are a large portion of our tax base and they deserve to have a strong representation.

We now have a new Wastewater Treatment Plant and a new Water Treatment Plant that have been paid for by Sal-

amander Resort. The town would have had to build a new Wastewater Treatment Plant whether the Resort was here or not and this would have cost a large amount of money for our citizens. It has saved our citizens a lot of money.

Our budget is back on track and both General Fund and Utility Fund are now both able to support themselves. I know raising utility rates has not been a popular nor easy decision for Council, but one that was for the "good of the town".

We have overcome some very rough waters with our budget and the economy, but thanks to an excellent staff and a determined and focused Council we are maintaining a balanced budget. I feel that the economy is slowly moving forward and our budget will continue to get stronger. We will continue to monitor our finances closely and hope to be

able to increase monies to our Capital Improvement Program to make many needed upgrades to our town and our utilities infrastructure.

I hope the citizens of Middleburg will allow me the opportunity to finish these tasks. It is indeed an honor to represent all of my friends and neighbors and to be Mayor of our wonderful town!

Kathy Jo Shea

My decision to run for re-election this year was a difficult one. Being a co-owner and operator of two businesses in Middleburg does not leave a great deal of extra time. In the end it was a deep commitment to serve the community that has supported me both in those businesses and personally, that finally won out. This will be my final term, however, I thought the knowledge gained in the first term should be put to good use for the Town.

The most difficult and the best

of being on the Council happen at every meeting. Most meetings I must balance my own beliefs about what is best for the Town, my personal ideas about the "future" Middleburg, my individual response to the issue, the "facts" of the issue before us, and whatever limitations we have legally. Most difficult of all are those issues which directly impact the quality of life for the citizen of the community, especially financially. Knowing that this process happens in "public", makes the job no easier.

I believe that Middleburg is facing some critical decisions, with the urban sprawl, increasing population and the infrastructure demands that will accompany it; with legislative changes which add financial requirements; and locally, with the construction of additional housing and the opening of the Salamander Inn.

Bundles Murdock

After 8 years on the Middleburg Town Council, I am running again because I love Middleburg. It is as simple as that. I will work hard to keep the charming, small town feeling while keeping an eye on little improvements that need to be made. I am a 4th generation town resident and I treasure what we have and all the wonderful volunteers that make it the greatest place to live, work, shop and dine.

Trowbridge Littleton

I have been a native resident all my life and appreciate where we have been, where we are now and how we should plan for our future. I live and work in Middleburg and value this special life we have! I thank you in advance for your support for the May council election.

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PASTIMES

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7TH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell spent time last week convincing the Minnesota legislature of the error of its ways, strong-arming a state Senate committee into reviving a plan for a brand new, fixed-roof stadium for the Vikings in downtown Minneapolis.

Cost of said stadium? Before a single shovel hits the ground, \$975 million.

Cost to the Vikings? \$427 million, up front.

Cost to the citizens of Minnesota? All the rest, or at least \$548 million.

No wonder it's being called "The People's Stadium...."

The next time the Commissioner is thinking about firing up the NFL's jet, he might consider heading in a slightly more southerly direction and seeing just what the heck is going on in New Orleans.

The last couple months have seen Goodell suspend Saints head coach Sean Payton for the entirety of the 2012 season, General Manager Mickey Loomis for the first eight games of the season, and onetime defensive coordinator Gregg Williams indefinitely, all for their roles in the purported "Bountygate" program that encouraged Saints' defensive players to end opposing players' careers for a few thousand dollars a pop.

While no current or former Saints' players have yet been suspended because of involvement in the pay-for-pain program, it's

widely assumed several will be.

Now, allegations have arisen that from 2002-2004 Loomis had access to and used eavesdropping equipment that allowed him to listen in on real-time, game-day discussions taking place amongst members of opposing coaching staffs in New Orleans.

Forget for a minute that New Orleans was 12-12 at home during those three seasons (compared to 13-11 on the road.) Also forget for a moment that the supposed electronic setup most likely violated state and federal laws.

Focus instead on what happened to New England Patriots for their involvement in what came to be known as the "Spygate" controversy in 2007. Armed with what he was convinced was enough compelling and irrefutable evidence that the Patriots were indeed involved in electronically stealing signals from the New York Jets' defensive coaching staff, Goodell dropped the hammer on the Patriots, fining coach Bill Belichick \$500,000, the Patriots \$250,000, and docking the team their 2008 first round draft pick.

Now, if the commissioner was willing to do that to the Patriots, with an owner as powerful and influential as Bob Kraft, at the height of their dominance, one has to wonder what Goodell will be willing to do to the Saints, should enough damning evidence come forward.

Yes, the Saints won a Super Bowl, the team's first, just two years ago. Yes, the role the Saints played in the resurrection of New

Orleans post Hurricane Katrina has reached near-mythic status. And yes, the Saints have one of the premier skill position players in the league in quarterback Drew Brees.

But what may or may not be going on in New Orleans, as more and more allegations continue to surface, begins to look more and more like a franchise that believes too much of itself and not enough in its role as part of the larger organism, i.e., the National Football League.

The NFL has not risen to mega-league status by promoting the outlier. Just ask Al Davis and the Oakland Raiders.

No, today's NFL survives and thrives on companies (teams) and workers (players) toeing the company line and not rocking the boat. Wild and crazy characters are fine, as long as they remember they're characters; get too caught up in ones own antics and the League has plenty of ways to reign in individuals and organizations that forget their place in the larger picture.

In the NCAA, the New Orleans Saints would be fast approaching the definition of a program that has "lost institutional control," and was fast approaching the very real possibility of a death penalty sentence. Nothing like that has ever happened to an NFL team, and the last time it happened to a college program was to the Mustangs of SMU in 1987.

Say what you will about him, Roger Goodell is not stupid. He fully understands the ramifications of bringing that kind of pain down

on the Saints. But he must also understand, as must the Saints and their owner, Tom Benson, understand, that what is going on in New Orleans, what is alleged to have happened in New Orleans, can do the league no good, now or in the long run.

It is time to air all the dirty laundry in New Orleans, to get all the skeletons out of the closet. Mr. Benson, rather than spending time adding to his professional

sports team portfolio, should be focusing on getting his Saints back to something approaching respectability.

From league feel-good story to league pariah in two short years may be something of a record.

Maybe it's not such a head-scratcher why Drew Brees still hasn't re-signed with his Aints...

Alex can be reached at cuda24@yahoo.com

TRACY GILLESPIE IS NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Tracy Gillespie, Historic Site Supervisor at Aldie Mill, Mt. Zion and Gilbert's Corner Historic Parks, properties of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, has been named Virginia Association of Museums new council President.

Gillespie has been in her current position with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority since September of 2010. Prior to that, she was Director of Historical Operations at Morven Park in Leesburg.

In addition to her role as VAM president, Tracy chairs the Loudoun Heritage Consortium and is a member the Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Steering Committee. She has served on VAM's governing council since 2004.

"We are extremely proud of Tracy's achievements," said Paul

Gilbert, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Executive Director.

"She is a big part of our ongoing efforts to bring history to life within Northern Virginia. From our rich Colonial history that can be experienced at the Carlyle House in Alexandria, to Ball's Bluff Battlefield Park outside of Leesburg, to the new Civil War winter quarters at Bull Run Regional Park, to the great parks of Aldie Mill and Mt. Zion that Tracy manages, our mission is to preserve the region's history, and engage the public with interesting programs."

The Virginia Association of Museums is a non-profit, professional membership organization for museums and individuals associated with museums, primarily in Virginia and Washington D.C., serving all museum disciplines.



DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN APRIL

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE



As of the middle of April, Virginia is abnormally dry with drought conditions persisting and no prolonged periods of rain predicted. Some areas of Maryland and the Eastern Shore are already in a severe drought. Where are our spring rains?

Working in the garden has been very frustrating. Weeds have enjoyed the mild winter so there are more than usual, plus it's so dry, they are hard to pull. New plants have to be watered every day and established plants are wilting. At this time we are 4 to 5 inches below our average rainfall amounts, and temperatures have been mild to even hot. So how does the gardener get excited about gardening?! Well, it's not the first time we have been faced with spring drought, in 2001 we had an abnormally dry April and May, eventually it did rain and the rest of the year was fine. We are no strangers to summer drought, a hardened gardener expects it. Plant choices make a big difference and I say it's time to highlight our better choices. In many cases a plant will display common characteristics that indicate drought tolerance. The sun gardener will find that an important sign is tomentose foliage or leaves that are covered in hair. Lavender is one such example, as well as achillea or yarrow and the many artemisias. Narrow



leafed plants are also designed to lose less moisture, less water lost through evaporation. Coreopsis verticillata, baccharis or the groundsel shrub and the many ornamental grasses (which include many natives) have narrow leaves. I have been very successful with small leafed salvias which offer great choices in flower color and variable heights. The bulk of these salvias are indigenous to the southwest and Mexico where annual rainfall may only be 7 inches. Salvia greggii, S. coccinea and their many hybrids are just a drop in the bucket to this world of fabulous plants. Plus the hummingbirds find salvia flowers irresistible.

The shade gardener also has drought tolerant choices, one needs to simply look around and find native plants. Life in the company of tree roots and a leafy canopy (like an umbrella to rain), make it difficult, but native plants have evolved and adapted. A drive west on interstate 66 will reveal Christmas fern or Polystichum acrostichoides growing directly out of rock. A few short lived perennials offer drought tolerant answers as they produce abundant seed and disperse it around and near the parent plant. Aquilegia canadensis or our native columbine seeds in abundance. Phlox divaricata and Viola striata give a riotous show in spring. Look for the same narrowness of leaf, such as the many native carex grasses for woodland plantings. There are numerous ferns, native and not, that are drought tolerant. Epimedium, commonly known as barrenwort translates to a plant of barren places. Not a native, but certainly up to the challenge. Solomon's Seal or polygonatum is outstanding, the leaves rimmed in white variegation. Many relatives of polygonatum offer the same toughness, look for smilacina and disporum.

So as much as I hate to talk about drought in April, there are choices, even a few to get excited about.

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PASTIMES

THE ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

Like those that venture into space or those that sift through old bones. I myself have recently taken both directions of artistic exploration in a balanced pursuit of where we are today and where we might be tomorrow. My findings are that of a solid creative future.

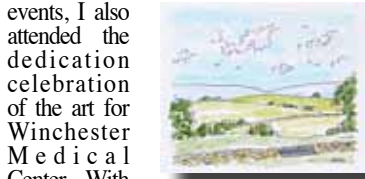
A few months ago I was asked to join the advisory board of the Loudoun Education Foundation, whose mission is to provide resources to foster and promote programs to strengthen the Loudoun County school system. Along with programs and grants, LEF has created a \$500 art achievement award, given to a student in conjunction with an annual student art show held in March at The Art Institute of Washington-Dulles. This was also my second year as lead judge and keynote speaker.

This year's show of over 100 works of art, surpassed the 2011 show by a fair amount and the creativeness, execution and accomplishment exhibited an abundance of raw talent. But it was not only these factors that made my glimpse at the future bright, it was the broad creative applications I found in the student work. Certainly there were those whose direction would be fine art, but others exemplified more commercial applications such as advertising, illustration, animation and even fabric design, with enthusiastic ability.

It seemed no sooner than this dose of student creative expression was over, I was plunged head first into my decade's worth of judging The Congressional Art Competition, which is also done annually - though optionally, in each Congressional district throughout the United States. The Best In Show hangs in the US Capital for one year. I judge for the district of Congressman Frank Wolf and this year's 270 plus entrants, far surpassed last year's event by nearly 100 pieces. This show is more categorized in terms of awards than that of the LEF show, though both cover painting, drawing, mix media, computer generated, collage, prints and photography. But the CAC show honors 1st, 2nd & 3rd for each category and some honorable mention awards as well. Whew!

Again, talent was abundant, but I should also mention a realization of brilliant signs of maturity in that which was presented at both shows. Yes, there are those who happily and justifiably act their age, but there are also a growing number that seem to truthfully feel that which they create, can be narrative and important. This is all relevant to our society and how we think, act and react as a people. That which is on the mind of our youth, determines our future and becomes evident in present day. It's a bit like looking at the health of a rain forest to determine the health of the planet. I will say this though, there are several pieces of art I have seen through this experience that really make me feel great about art and our future.

After these two high school



events, I also attended the dedication celebration of the art for Winchester Medical Center. With over 500 pieces of art placed in the hospital's newly completed expansion, including six by your's truly, there was a significant donation by Project Hope of mostly pre-teen children's art from China. I was delighted to see bright, colorful and especially joyful paintings which were not all that reminiscent of my earlier days representing classically trained Beijing artists while at Greenwich Workshop. Those paintings - examples of massive talent, were mostly dark and felt suppressed. Those artists told me once, there are two ways to paint a revolution. You can paint a war or paint the way you would like the world to be. I saw both back then, but thankfully only joy in the innocent, present day paintings by these youthful artists.

In another peek at the past - my archeological dig so to speak, I was recently invited to The National Sporting Library & Museum's new exhibit "Scraps: British Sporting Drawings from the Paul Mellon collection. The evening, which featured remarks by a youthful, yet quite knowledgeable, Corey Piper - Curatorial Associate for the Mellon Collections, offered two floors of anything but what I would call scraps. "Gems" more fitting, the series of Henry Alken drawings offers a lot to many - be it your love of sporting art, the Mellon's vast contribution to the world of art, the narrative, the humorous and plenty more. But to the art enthusiast, especially the student of art, it delivers potent examples of the simplicity of telling a good story.

This enchanting show guides you through wonderful examples of the essentialness of the line. Whereas every even quarter inch of line is completely useful. This minimalist approach, by the way, is not rationing, where the artist and the viewer must do without. Instead, it puts exactly the amount on your plate which you can comfortably digest. There is a huge difference and all artists can learn from it. Where efficiency - speaks in an economic tongue, essential - speaks of specific abundance and that is what this show delivers.

One of my favorites - there are many, is "Four Hounds Resting" - the 1878 pastel and sketch by Scottish artist Archibald Thorburn. Obviously beginning with pencil, Thorburn's masterful composition holds the eye even with the use of a waking hound's tongue. Go see for yourself.

This past and present look through hundreds of works of art in only a month's time, shows inspiring promise for an artistically blessed future. One which I'm happy to be part of.

Live An Artful Life, Tom

WATERFORD CONCERT SERIES PLAYS ON IN NEW AUDITORIUM

The Waterford Concert Series will begin again Sunday, April 29th when The Afiara String Quartet performs at 4 p.m. in the new Waterford Old School auditorium. Completely rebuilt following a devastating fire, the first performance in the new space will be followed by reception for the audience and artists to celebrate the continuation of the concert series and the grand opening of the new building.

Winners of many competition prizes and awards, the Afiara has drawn rave reviews for performances in major concert halls here and abroad, including the Kennedy Center and the Library of Congress. The quartet just completed a two-year residency at The Juilliard

School in New York.

The Afiara balances a passionate interest in new music with deep insight into core classical repertoire. The program for Waterford begins with Beethoven's String Quartet in F minor, Opus 95 (Serioso), a tumultuous piece, and Carl Neilson's String Quartet No. 4 in F major, which ends on a lyrical, light-hearted note. The program concludes with Sibelius's haunting String Quartet Op. 56, Voces Intimae (1909).

The Waterford Old School is located at 40222 Fairfax Street in Waterford, Virginia. For tickets and further information, please visit www.waterford-foundation.org.

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THE BLACKBURN MURDER

DANIEL MORROW

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Part 10: The "Interview"

Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood.
Disguise fair nature with hard-favored rage
-- *Henry IV, III, i, 1*

After searching Lexington in vain for Charles Christian on the morning of January 14, 1854, VMI Cadets Blackburn, Horner and Humes decided to return to Christian's hotel and just wait for him.

They got "within a few paces of the front door leading to the bar-room" at McDowell's when Horner spotted Christian, standing in the doorway with another VMI Cadet, 17-year old Edward Alexander Langhorne of Cloverdale, Virginia.

Christian later claimed to have been at McDowell's the entire time, telling his friend and fellow law student William Robert Winn he had been upstairs, presumably in his room, when the "servant" sent up to find him, told him "some Cadets" were looking for him. When he went downstairs to see who was calling, Christian insisted Blackburn and his two friends had disappeared.

Christian's first instinct was to look for them in the bar, which also served as the hotel "office." There he spotted Langhorne and another Cadet, Joseph Peter Gilliam of Dinwiddie Court House.

Langhorne and Gilliam had checked out the fare at the VMI mess hall, had seen Blackburn's friends. Humes and Horner eating there, and had opted for town, for a place called George's. After dinner they headed for McDowell's bar where they had a drink, talked, and watched the street for passing girls. Both claimed, Christian was there when they arrived.

Whatever the case Christian, Langhorne and Gilliam were soon sitting together, talking and drinking.

Christian knew Langhorne fairly well. Neither of them had been in Lexington very long, and they had met in Langhorne's room "on occasion" so that each might "... see some of his countrymen."

As they talked, Langhorne noticed that Christian was carrying a heavy, black, silver-headed walking stick. He asked to see it, and Christian handed it over without a second thought. Impressed, Langhorne passed the heavy cane to Gilliam; and Gilliam, equally impressed, swore he gave it back to Christian.

Christian, on the other hand, claimed his cane somehow disappeared during the conversation. He never saw it again, he said, and later swore that he believed the conversation in the bar-room had been a set-up, cleverly contrived by the two VMI Cadets to disarm him.

Whatever the case, the timing was perfect. Just as Blackburn, Horner and Humes showed up at McDowell's after their futile search for Christian at Moore's Hotel, Langhorne went to the window.

Casing the street, Langhorne noticed two "young ladies" outside, and called Christian to the window to see if he knew who they were.

By the time Christian reached the window, the girls had "disappeared." Langhorne said they had stepped into John Blair Lyle's "automatic bookstore," an emporium so named for proprietor's habit of leaving a slate and a note on his counter "to the effect that if anyone wanted anything in the store, he could take it, provided he would make the proper entry on the slate."

While Langhorne and Christian waited at the window for the young ladies to reappear, Blackburn, Humes and Horner walked up.

Blackburn's friend, Horner, later said he didn't remember seeing any "young ladies" but clearly remembered seeing Langhorne and Christian standing together at the door of McDowell's bar.

"There is Christian," he said to Blackburn.

Blackburn removed his hand from the breast of his furlough coat, walked straight up to Christian, and, according to Horner, said "in a respectful tone" that he wished to see him, "or something to that effect."

Christian, he said, made some remark in reply that no one seemed to remember, then walked down the steps of the hotel, and followed Blackburn into a "passage" next to the entrance.

Blackburn buttoned his blue furlough coat tight around him as he and Christian walked down the passageway. Some witnesses said they thought Christian was carrying his silver-headed cane.

Hugh Laughlin, the bartender at McDowell's, said he knew there was going to be trouble, despite Blackburn's "respectful tone." Both boys "seemed excited" as they approached each other, Laughlin said, and he just didn't like it.

As Blackburn and Christian disappeared from view, Laughlin said he too made it a point to disappear, "up the alley towards the stable" to avoid, as one Richmond newspaper reporter put it, "being a witness."

Blackburn's friend, Humes, on the other hand, relaxed. As soon as he saw Christian was alone, he said, he knew there would be no fight.

As Blackburn and Christian stepped into the passageway they left the door to the hotel open behind them. Horner and Humes stood guard: Humes standing close to the open door and Horner about six feet away.

After what everyone remembered as a very short conversation, Blackburn turned to leave the passageway. Just as he reached the door Horner thought he heard Christian say, "Sir, I honor you for your noble principles."

Blackburn, he thought, said only "Good evening, sir," or "Good evening, Mr. Christian" before emerging from the passageway with a big smile on his face.

When Horner asked what had happened, Blackburn spoke to him "... in an ordinary tone of voice."

"Just as I expected," he said, "he has not enough courage to strike a child."

Pressed for details, Blackburn then told his friends what had happened in the passageway.

He told Christian to his face, he said, that he was the "traducer or calumniator" that Christian had denounced in his note to Blackburn's cousin; and that it was he who had advised Mary Evelyn not to accompany Christian to church on the appointed evening.

He also told Christian that he was responsible for both his cousin's conduct and his own;



UNIDENTIFIED VMI CADETS, CA 1854, VMI ARCHIVES, LEXINGTON, VA

and if Christian wished to know why he advised his cousin to reject his company for church on Sunday, he would be happy to tell him.

When Christian said he would, indeed, like to know, Blackburn was blunt, telling Christian he understood that he had "not a very good reputation in Lexington", and that he "did not wish to see his cousin with any such man."

Blackburn also confirmed what Horner had thought he had overheard Christian say as they left the passageway, namely that he "honored" Blackburn's "noble principles."

With the Christian "interview" now over and done Blackburn and Humes set off to "call on some ladies" while Horner returned to the VMI barracks.

Humes later claimed that little or nothing more was said of the matter that day, though while he and Blackburn were waiting for "ladies" at McDowell's, Blackburn told him he was "satisfied."

Humes later remembered that on that evening (or maybe the next day) Blackburn told him that "... if he were challenged by anyone he would fight him from a revolver down to a pop gun."

As for Cadet Horner, he said he felt only contempt for Christian after he failed to respond with either a blow or a challenge to Blackburn's insults. "Mr. Christian's conduct dishonored him in my estimation, and in the estimation of every honorable man," Horner later testified. "I did not think Christian a coward previous to that time but thought his character blasted and gone forever by his conduct at that time."

As for Christian, after leaving Blackburn, Humes and Horner, he returned to the bar, met Cadets Langhorne and Gilliam, and asked both to go up to his room with him. Christian's friend, Langhorne did so. Gilliam, on the other hand, stayed downstairs in the bar.

Once he and Christian were upstairs alone Langhorne asked his friend "... what was the matter between him and Blackburn?"

Christian replied, he said, that it was "something he could not speak of" then asked Cadet Langhorne "... what sort of a fellow Blackburn was." Langhorne told him that he'd only been at the Institute a short time and frankly "... did not know much about him." With that, the conversation ended.

But as Langhorne left Christian's room, headed back to the bar, he thought he heard Christian say "... that the affair was not done with yet."

VILLAGE GREEN

WWF6 AND AWRA

WATERWORLD

RICHARD A. ENGBERG

Well, this time he's gone over the edge. The water guy has gotta be writing about professional wrestling or cage fighting. Isn't that what those acronyms stand for? Don't you just love acronyms? In my career in water resources, I've been exposed to literally hundreds of acronyms.

Most of the time I know what they stand for but when a colleague uses one that I'm not familiar with, I nod knowingly like it's something I've known all my life. Then I throw one back. The colleague, with a blank stare, also nods knowingly. Has life become nothing more than dueling acronyms?

Anyway, let's start with AWRA.

The acronym stands for the American Water Resources Association and its national headquarters is located in Middleburg, VA.

Why Middleburg? It's a long story better saved for another time.

AWRA is a non-profit, non-government membership organization. Its mission is advancing water resources management, research and education through publication of a refereed journal (yes, technical publications have referees, too), a magazine, and by convening three or four water resources conferences a year.

What distinguishes AWRA from other water organizations is that it is multidisciplinary. In other words, its members, rather than all civil engineers or hydrologists, span a spectrum of professions in-

cluding, law, economics, forestry, biology, ecology, anyone whose primary interest is water.

I've been employed by AWRA for the last thirteen years as Technical Director. What is a Technical Director? If you happen to be in Middleburg and see a bunch of technicals running around, you'll see me directing them. Oh, never mind, after that last sentence, I may be unemployed.

So what about WWF6?

It's got to be professional wrestling, right? Wrong.

It stands for the 6th World Water Forum held in Marseille, France, March 12-17, 2012. I was one of six AWRA delegates to the forum that drew 25,000 attendees worldwide. The forums are convened by the World Water Council (WWC) also headquartered in France.

Ken Reid of Middleburg, AWRA's Executive Vice President, is one of only three Americans on the WWC Board of Governors, a real feather in AWRA's collective hat.

Daily concurrent forum sessions covered a wide range of water resources topics. A few were: water as a basic human right; international water law; global groundwater governance; corporate water governance; water security; water and agriculture; and the water-energy nexus.

AWRA was specifically tasked to prepare and manage sessions on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). An abridged definition of IWRM is: A comprehensive, participatory tool



for managing and developing water resources while balancing sustainable social and economic needs with ecosystem needs.

I know, that's a mouthful. AWRA directly ran or managed 10 highly successful sessions on IWRM over five days. I served as recorder for four IWRM sessions.

Probably even more valuable than the sessions were the networking opportunities to share ideas with other water professionals. I made new contacts with water professionals from such diverse countries as Jordan, Brazil, and Moldova to name a few.

I came away from the Forum with an enhanced understanding of the multiple problems/issues facing water resources professionals worldwide, from the most simple - basic water and sanitation needs for people in developing countries - to more sophisticated issues such as IWRM that become more useful after basic needs are met.

With 25,000 dedicated professionals willing to come together to share problems and provide solutions, I can't help but believe that many of the enduring water resources problems worldwide will be solved during the 21st century.

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Contact: 540-687-6681 or info@mosbyheritagearea.org

Andrea Wulf, author and historian returns to Oak Hill to talk about her latest book, *Chasing Venus, The Race to Measure the Heavens* which tells the extraordinary story of the first global scientific collaboration, set amid warring armies, hurricanes, scientific endeavor and personal tragedy to measure the Transit of Venus. The Transit of Venus occurs when the planet Venus aligns between the earth and sun appearing as a small black dot on the surface of the sun. This last happened in 2004 and will happen on June 5 or 6, 2012 depending on your location. Then it will not happen again until 2117. The Transit of Venus is listed as one of the 'Top Ten' astrological events of 2012.

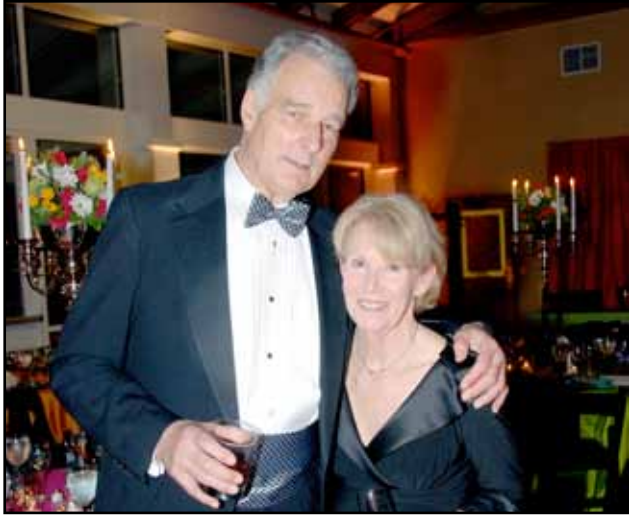
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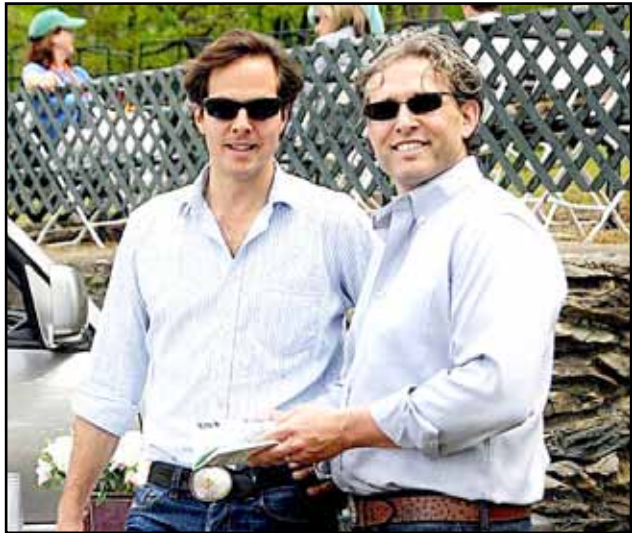
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\$3,400,000 Marci Welsh 703.906.5802



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◆ Employment Picture	⇒ Improving
◆ Consumer Confidence	⇒ Increasing
◆ Mortgage Rates	⇒ Low
◆ Home Prices	⇒ Stabilized
◆ Housing Affordability	⇒ All-time Highs
◆ Cash Transactions	⇒ Elevated (signals investment opportunity)
◆ Buy vs. Rent	⇒ Improving Economics



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\$825,000 Shellie Womelsdorf 703.862.1799

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\$576,800 Michele Stevens 703.568.0721



Middleburg - Beautiful bright four level Georgian end unit townhouse with wonderful floor plan. Three bedrooms, two and one half bathrooms, new stainless steel appliances, sunken living room, hardwood floors, marble fireplace, lovely intricate crown moldings, plantation shutters. Gardens, brick walk way, stone wall and beautiful private brick patio.
\$509,000 Kathleen Chovnick 703.340.5716



Purcellville - Make an offer on this marvelous custom stone and stucco contemporary home! Incredible views of the Potomac River and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Backs up to Harpers Ferry Historic Park. Three finished levels, great room w/stone fireplace, beautiful wood floors, family room w/vaulted ceilings and built-in bookcases. Very private setting.
\$529,000 Amy Adams 703.851.2051



Philomont - A beautiful classic Sears farmhouse on ten ac conveniently situated between Middleburg and Purcellville. Four bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms, wood floors. Gracious wrap-around porch. Horse facilities incl large paddocks, stable with three 12' x 12' stalls and heated tack room. A genuine Loudoun County treasure, and a truly rare find at this price.
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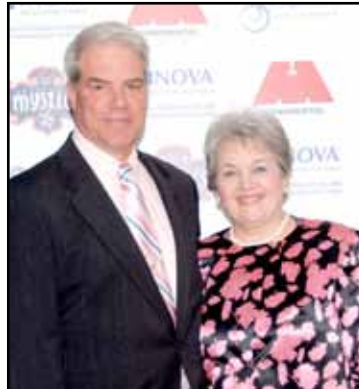
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KITTENS!!!

Kitten season has begun!
We took in our first litter of kittens for the year. They will be available soon. If you are interested please submit an application now! Ask about our buddy program.

Etta is a super friendly Collie mix that was born October 2011. She gets along well with other dogs & loves people. She would benefit from Canine Training classes.



Hero is a cute Chow mix born 12/11. He is very sweet, gets along with other dogs, cats, & kids. He would benefit from K-9 Classes & receiving lots of socialization while he is young. He needs a home with experienced dog owners.

Ripple is a sweet 14 yr. old, 13h Appaloosa x Pony mare who was rescued from a neglectful & dangerous situation. Ripple had a healthy foal in April '11. She stands for the farrier & vet & gets along with everybody.



Mumford is a neutered male 6 mo. old Tamworth Yorkshire that weighs about 100#, but will grow to be much larger! Mumford is people friendly & he walks nicely on a harness. He must be adopted as a pet only & will need a farm home with plenty of space & love.



The Middleburg Humane Foundation is pleased to announce that The Jessica Beath Foundation has committed to making a match on donations (50%) it receives for donations of \$100 or more to a total of \$5,000, through June 30, 2012. Jessica Beath created The Beath Foundation in 1991 with two missions in mind.

The first was to honor the memory of her husband, parents and sisters. Its second mission was to provide financial support for organizations with certain charitable purposes, first and foremost among them being the general welfare and protection of animals. Jessica pursued both of these missions relentlessly throughout her life and with a bequest to the Jessica Beath Foundation at her death. Sadly, Jessica Passed away in June 2010.

Now, it is incumbent upon Middleburg Humane Foundation to continue and expand her legacy of animal rescue and protection with the generous financial support her foundation has offered to provide us. We are truly appreciative of this support! This grant will help us provide a second chance to many deserving animals.

Please send your donation today-it will go twice as far!

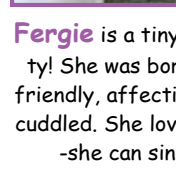
Middleburg Humane Foundation
mhfdtn@earthlink.net
(540) 364-3272
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Larry & Belle were living in a culvert along I-95 for 5 months & were rescued on Christmas Eve. Larry is a sweet little dog & will need a secure fenced in yard. Belle is a wonderful dog who is very kind, calm, & nice mannered. They would both love to live with another dog.



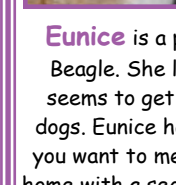
Georgia is a gorgeous Husky X Shepherd born 8/11. She's very friendly, sweet, has tons of energy, & does well with other high energy dogs but cannot live with cats. She loves her toys & needs a very active home.



Fergie is a tiny girl with a huge personality! She was born November 2011, is very friendly, affectionate, & loves to be held & cuddled. She loves attention & likes to talk -she can sing you the Top 20 Hits!



Tom Tom is a very sweet boy. He gets along with other laid back cats. He's a big mush & won't defend himself so a pushy kitty friend might take advantage. He loves chin scratches & ear rubs; if you're looking for a nice lap cat he's your guy!



Eunice is a precious 2 yr. old Beagle. She loves attention & seems to get along with other dogs. Eunice has eyes that make you want to melt! She will need a home with a secure fenced in yard.



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ALBERT P. CLARK

I don't shop a lot, I'm a dog. In fact, I don't own a credit card, debit card, or even a wallet. I think this is because my people have correctly figured out that I would spend every last dime on food if I had access to money. I can't help it. Again, I'm a dog.

Just because I don't shop, however, doesn't mean I don't love the concept. Hunting and gathering would be really tough work without stores! It could take all day just to find something to eat. There would be no time for fun stuff like sleeping, playing, and identifying the most expensive shoe to destroy.

Let me be completely clear on this: I'm biased. My family owns a small business. This means I understand the trials and tribulations of retail more than the average Fido. I see the rewards and challenges on a daily basis. I also hear about the trends.

The trend right now is shopping big. Just about everyone seems to be looking for big stores owned by big corporations operating in big centers. There's a perceived value in the "bigger is better" approach. I get that. The problem is that perception isn't always reality. Sometimes those big stores are more expensive than the little stores. And let's face it; the big corporations don't care about the individual customer as much as they care about the bottom line.

Middleburg is home to a fantastic assortment of independent businesses. In recent years, however, too many of them have shuttered. Not all of them closed because of the recession, but a lot of them did. It happened slowly, as many customers headed to big chains, expecting better prices than they thought they would find locally. They thought their support wouldn't be missed. They were wrong. Every dollar counts. Every customer is

critical.

Caring, conscientious people run the vast majority of Middleburg's shops, restaurants, and service businesses. Most of the owners sincerely appreciate their clients and go above and beyond to make them happy. There's an unmistakable civility about choosing the little guy over the top dog. It feels good to support individuals instead of shareholders. It feels good to matter.

My family and I are incredibly grateful that our business continues to be healthy, and we look forward to being in Middleburg for years to come. But we miss the businesses that were our neighbors. We miss the way the town used to feel. And we hope the new businesses coming in can bring fresh energy and optimism to our streets.

The only way that will happen, however, is if more people give Middleburg businesses a chance. For many Eccentric readers, running errands locally can mean saving time, gas, and money. It can mean being able to take the dog along. It can mean seeing friends and neighbors. It can mean lots of things - none of which have anything to do with long checkout lines, dismal customer service, or wasted minutes in traffic. It can mean bringing renewed life to a fabulous town.

For those of you who already shop in Middleburg, thank you. For those of you who do not, please consider that if you live here, you're one of the people the town counts on to thrive. Please support our local economy. It's just the right thing to do. Even I know that. And I'm just a dog without a wallet.

Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wagg, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, in Middleburg, Fairfax, Falls Church and Arlington.

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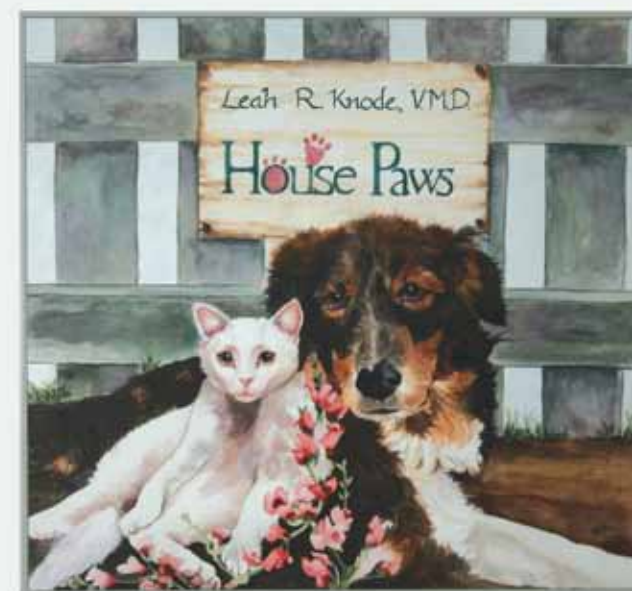
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EDITOR’S DESK

QUESTIONS AS WE BEGIN YEAR NINE

As one of the most local of Loudoun’s local newspapers, it is both fitting and appropriate that we begin our ninth year of publication with coverage of new elections for Middleburg’s Town Council.

In preparation for those elections we asked the candidates (all of whom are running unopposed) six questions.

Since all replied, we thought it only fair to do our best to answer the same questions from our perspective as well.

Given the demands of the job (and the low pay) why are you running again?

As we have often said, and still believe, serving on the Town Council is long, hard, demanding and difficult work. As cliched as it may seem for candidates to say they’re running because they love the town, we think they’re all telling the absolute truth. In some cases such devotion to the town is part of a long family tradition. In other cases it emerges from a refined sense of civic responsibility. For better or worse, these candidates have not only talked the talk, they have walked the walk, and are willing to do so again. Hats off.

Why do you think no one else is running?

See above. Sad though it may be, for all the affluence of what we think of as “Middleburg-writ-large” the Town itself is not very large. There are not even 700 of us, total. Nearly one in five of us simply can’t afford to take the time to serve, or are physically incapable of doing so. Many of the rest of us work at some distance from home, or have other responsibilities that make public service difficult, if not impossible. Would that it were different. Things may change as the town grows.

What was the best thing to happen to Middleburg during your last term?

FORGIVENESS – A FORGOTTEN VIRTUE

PURPLE

Our good friend Paul Dietrich has produced a couple of moving video programs on the process and merit of forgiving various types of offences, and how doing so empowers and restores both the forgiver and the forgiven, allowing life for both to proceed on a happier and more positive plane. While we saw excerpts of these films in our church prior to Easter, they were reshowen in their entirety on several PBS stations during the Easter week. They are religious only in that they speak to the “better angels” of all humanity.

Purple finds their message compelling, not only personally but politically. Now that the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates seem to have been determined, it is the moment to look to the coming campaign to decide who will lead our nation through the troubling times ahead. As we the voters do so it is enlightening to remember that each person, each one of us, including the candidates, is an imperfect human being with opinions, fears, ambitions, likes and dislikes formed by his or her personal experiences since birth. So it seems obvious that each of us will react differently to some extent from others when faced with any particular choice, problem, or, for that matter, opportunity.

In the recent past, political campaign messages have concentrated on emphasizing those differences, attempting to arouse the emotions of voters of one general persuasion or evil, and so excite voters to respond favorably to the sender’s message. In these efforts the truth is stretched, science ignored, history distorted, and personal histories and personalities misrepresented or misunderstood in order to win elections. Anger replaces civility, shouting at replaces listening to, and grudges take permanent root. Hate wins, but the nation – all of us – loses.

Let’s pause for a minute. Why do we have elections? Obviously, to elect people to govern. But what does it take to govern effectively? Purple would answer that question from his own experience, admittedly individual and incomplete:

Effective governance requires seeing all sides of an issue, and both the short and long term effects of proposed policy options to address it. Listening to the views of others is required; no one has all the answers. Civility, even friendship, should replace ideology, zealotry and anger. Communicating honestly and objectively to the citizens is essential. Placing the nation’s interests ahead of one’s own is an ethical mandate.

Clearly the negative tone of the recent primaries, and the partisan shots across party lines are antithetical to good governance. The dilemmas our nation faces will not be changed by the results of any election. They can be tamed only by constructive, collegial policy development and implementation by those elected to govern, and by the informed understanding and support of the citizenry.

Here is where the virtue of forgiveness resonates. The first step towards collegiality is to apologize for past offenses. Both parties and many candidates have reason to do so. If

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“There is only one class in the community that thinks more about money than the rich, and that is the poor. The poor can think of nothing else.”

~ Oscar Wilde

Hilary Rosen certainly created quite the talking point this week when she brazenly claimed that the wife of the presumed Republican committee Mitt Romney, Ann Romney, had “never worked a day in her life”. Her tweet set off a firestorm of rhetoric from the right, accusing the Democratic machine of targeting mothers who stay at home with their children as somehow being lazy, degrading their position by implying raising children was a coy way of not having to work for a living. But it seems like the old political game of taking words out of context to create a false flag issue has once again reared its ugly head.

Let’s first look at the entire quote from Ms. Rosen: “What you have is Mitt Romney running around the country, saying, ‘Well, you know, my wife tells me that what women really care about are economic issues, and when I listen to my wife, that’s what I’m hearing.’ Guess what? His wife has actually never worked a day in her life. She’s never really dealt with the kinds of economic issues that a majority of the women in this country are facing, in terms of how do we feed our kids, how do we send them to school, and why do we worry about their future.”

I am going to go out on a limb here and guess that the average reader of this column can look between the lines and see the intent of Ms. Rosen’s comments, however poorly she worded them. What she was attempting to say is that Ms. Romney, a woman of exceptional means, has never faced the challenges that many of today’s mothers face, whether they are true stay-at-home moms, women who have chosen to have both a family and a career, or, one of those millions of women who do not have the luxury of making a choice in the matter.

As soon as Ms. Rosen’s tweet went viral, Ann Romney shot back with her first ever tweet, “I made a choice to stay home and

raise five boys. Believe me, it was hard work.”

Does Ms. Romney really believe Ms. Rosen’s intent was to somehow debate the job she did raising five sons? In my opinion, nothing could be further from the truth. Ms. Rosen is herself a parent to twin girls, so the assumption that she does not know the sacrifices associated with raising children is a bit far fetched.

But both Ms. Rosen, former president of the Recording Industry Association of America and Ms. Romney are the exception to the rule these days. They are women who have the ability to choose professional careers versus caring for their children on a full time basis. They both have access to healthcare for both themselves and their children, with the only difference being that Ms. Romney does not support universal access to healthcare, a position that would allow parents to make better choices for both themselves and their children and ensure they remain a active parent for years to come.

Both Rosen and Romney are the 1% of women in this country who have a choice in the matter, and they should both be smart enough to recognize that. But while Rosen supports many positions that could help more women in this country make choices that are best for them and their families, Romney does not.

This author is not bashing Romney for making the choice to stay at home and raise her children with a loving parent at their side. In fact, he finds it commendable. To give up one’s own personal hopes, desires and aspirations to ensure your children have a solid family foundation is extremely noble.

The difference, in this author’s opinion, is that Romney supports a slew of ideas that would effectively prohibit working parents of either gender from making a similar choice. In a speech on January 4, 2012, for example, Ms. Romney husband asserted that, when he was president, struggling mothers would be required to work outside of the home in order to receive government assistance. “Even if you have a child two years of age, you need to go to work,” he said. “And people said, ‘Well that’s heartless,’ and I said ‘No, no, I’m willing to spend more

lock over the issues, and our nation will drift rudderless on increasingly turbulent seas.”

Our children, and our founding ancestors, deserve better. A positive –and forgiving –America is still “the last, best hope of Earth.”

giving daycare to allow those parents to go back to work. It’ll cost the state more providing that daycare, but I want the individuals to have the dignity of work.”

It’s clear that both Romneys believe that there is an intrinsic value in being a stay-at-home mom or dad and raising your children in a way that is all too uncommon these days. But for two people of such exceptional means to tout their choice, while advocating taking away the same choice for others of lesser means reeks of both aloof elitism and even scarier, unapologetic narcissism.

In this day and age, with so many people struggling in a economy where just having one job is a far too uncommon occurrence, the Romneys should realize just how many of us don’t have the choices in life that they, and their children, have.

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

There has been so much interest in the March Hypocrisy column, this month the column will be dedicated to responding.

Whether you agree or not discourse is healthy.

Many have missed the point of the article thinking I intended to impugn the entire military if so; I apologize and need to clarify. My intention is to try to find explanations for what would drive American soldiers to commit atrocities, not to blame all soldiers. Is it a product of our society, or repeated deployments asking too much of our military. Is there a racial element? I am seeking answers to a problem that undeniably exists in the war zones of Afghanistan and Iraq. News reports that come from media outlets owned by large conglomerates also in the arms production industry give a biased view of what is actually happening in the war zones.

I am of the Viet Nam era and was drafted; I did not go to Canada and reported. Medical records revealed I had an ulcer, the military rejected me. Many of my classmates were killed in the senseless war. A defining moment for me was the Mei Lei Massacres. I could not believe that any of my friends could possibly have been involved in such an atrocity. And yet generations later it still goes on.

Using Oliver North as an example of unbiased reporting as one letter suggests is laughable. Has one forgot Iran Contra? If that was not enough, he was also considered persona non grata in Costa Rica because of suspicions that he was involved with drug traffickers.

All humans should be of equal value, a poor farmer in a remote village in the mountains of Afghanistan is just as human as someone living in Upperville. Can you imagine the horror of going to bed each night in fear of someone breaking down your door to interrogate you, yet much of the population of Afghanistan lives in that constant fear. Would that be acceptable in Upperville? Even after this latest tragedy the U.S. military announced that in spite of objections from the Afghan government the night raids would continue.

I take exception to a statement which seems to be a common thread through the letters in opposition: the military is fighting these wars to keep me safe. I would never wish for anyone to be killed or suffer any horrors of war in a foreign land to keep me safe. That premise has been used to justify wars since WW2. How is the Taliban, who by the way had nothing to do with 9/11, going to threaten me or my way of life? Do you actually think the North Vietnamese were going to come marching down Rt. 50 and take over the country? These wars are initiated for political and economic reasons: why else would Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld lie to justify that horrible mistaken war in Iraq. Did Saddam Hussein personally threaten you? Did Viet Nam not teach us anything! President Bush was taped in an interview with the Argentine president saying that war was good for the American economy. !

The communist threat of the 50’s has been replaced by the Islamist threat of today.

In another letter a mother of a soldier deployed to Afghanistan tells that her son brought home the hat of an

SECRECY AND THE FREE PRESS

BLUE NOTES

DANIEL MORROW

Which is better: to be a truly good person even though everyone believes you’re bad; or to be a truly bad person, while everyone thinks you’re good.

Socrates, in Plato’s Republic, famously argued for the former. Virtue is its own reward.

Plato’s brother, Glaucon, disagreed, challenging Socrates to prove to him that goodness itself, rather than an irrefutable reputation or goodness, leads to happiness.

Comes now Jon Haidt, late of the University of Virginia, with his new book, The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Religion and Politics (New York: Pantheon, 2012).

Haidt praises Glaucon not only as “the guy who got it right” but “the guy who realized that the most important principle for designing an ethical society is to make sure that everyone’s reputation is on the line all the time, so that bad behavior will always bring bad consequences.”

In experiment after experiment, when confronted with an ethical decision people trim their sails to please others, Haidt notes, and then go to often extreme lengths to justify those decisions to themselves.

Honor, to paraphrase the novelist Tom Clancy, is indeed a debt: behavior you think you owe to the depth of your being, to people who expect it of you.

In experiment after experiment, the less transparency, the more dishonesty, in decisions (and behaviors) large and small.

Hence the value of a free press, the Freedom of Information Act, and transparency in general.

Governments large and small should convene and make decisions in “secret sessions” only in the most

urgent of circumstances. “Closed” sessions should be EXTREMELY rare and closely monitored by a disinterested party to make sure they are only as secret as they need to be.

And on no occasion should they serve as a screen to protect mere process, or public servants engaged in those processes, from legitimate public scrutiny.

The Middleburg Town Council recently decided that minutes should be kept of the minutes of Town advisory boards and committees.

That’s an excellent start.

The Silver Line

Here in the west and south west many us don’t much care what happens in the ever-more-crowded lands of East-Fifteenia. We should.

Having lived for many years in the West and South of DC, in Georgetown, we have seen the folly

of bad decisions about Metro.

Some of those decisions were simply mean-spirited and short-sighted.

Georgetowners feared that Metro would allow people they didn’t like access to places they didn’t want to go in the first place.

They forgot that things and people change; that trains run in two directions; and that waiting twenty or forty years to do something that could have been done easily early on, become nightmarishly difficult, expensive, and even unavoidable over time.

Twenty-first century Loudoun is what it is because it is a suburb of the capital of the most powerful country in human history. Not to be able to get there from here on fast, clean, safe and efficient public transportation is silly, short-sighted and sad . . . and not very good for our children.

countries) have financial institutions that sell toxic mortgages the world over and help cause global recessions, have hegemonic and imperialistic policies that benefit large corporations at the expense of citizens of less developed countries, start preemptive wars, kill untold innocents in drone attacks and think of humans as “collateral damage”. I could go on but will reserve for future columns that I hope will cause as much discussion.

It is not surprising the most vociferous in criticism have come from retired military. The antiquated thinking of many current and past military that all these wars since WW2 are keeping us safe here at home and providing freedom in America is simply not true, in fact it is the opposite, they are making us less safe. Invading Viet Nam, Iraq, Grenada, Panama, Afghanistan and killing innocents in Pakistan is not making us safer here but instead is a recruiting tool for those who plot against the U.S. My freedoms come from the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, fought for in a justified war of independence, and many of those freedoms are being eroded because of the paranoid “war on terror”.

It took us a long time to enter WW1 and WW2, now we jump at the chance and do it preemptively. Perhaps the Department of Defense should be renamed the Department of Offence. Wars now are started to keep the huge defense industry and U.S. business interests profitable. We spend trillions of dollars on wars and slash services to our citizens saying we cannot afford them. Why is war always affordable? It simply makes no sense.

What is presented by high rank-

ing military has nothing to do with the truth on the ground in Afghanistan at the present. If you don’t agree I urge you to go to www.democracyp.org and listen/watch/read the interview with Lt. Col. Danny Davis on April 11, 2012. He is the most prominent active-duty service member to question the U.S. war in Afghanistan. In his damaging report following his return from his second year-long deployment in Afghanistan Davis draws on about 250 interviews with U.S. soldiers as well as Afghans across the country to conclude: “Senior ranking U.S. military leaders have so distorted the truth when communicating with U.S. congress and American people in regards to conditions on the ground in Afghanistan that the truth has become unrecognizable” Davis asks how many more must die in support of a mission that’s not succeeding. “When you’re given a mission that cannot --- cannot --- succeed militarily, then what is the purpose of the mission?”

In a recent poll reported in the April 12 edition of the Washington Post 43% of Americans think the recent attack on Afghan civilians is not an isolated event but indicates broader problems of the way the military monitors the mental health of service members. In that same poll 69% of those polled think the war is not worth fighting and that includes for the first time a majority of republicans.

I hope you continue to read The Eccentric and especially of course “Hypocrisy” and that these lively and stimulating exchanges continue.

Sincerely,
Thomas A Pratt

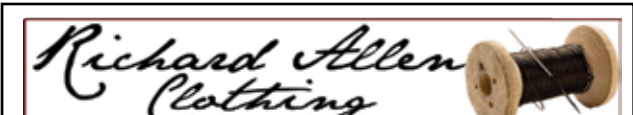


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EDITOR'S DESK LETTERS

Kudos to Middleburg Eccentric for providing a forum within which one may speak freely! All too often, these days, one is accused of being "un-American" when raising issues such as those expressed in Tom Pratt's recent article (Hypocrisy, March 29 MbgEcc). His sources, both The Christian Science Monitor and Stars and Stripes, are respectable, and his points were well made.

As a citizen of this country, I am dismayed to see the way in which we are increasingly viewed as a hostile presence in so many parts of the world. It is a concern shared by others, including groups like "Iraq Veterans against the War".

Our soldiers are placed in untenable situations, serving 3 and 4 tours of duty, returning even when severely disabled to serve again and again. They are stretched way beyond any human being's capacity to endure. It needs to end.

It seems one is free to question tax policies, health care issues, women's rights to decide what goes on within their own bodies, the existence of carbon-driven climate change... but our foreign policy is off limits. Why is it that Dan Morrow's friends, and so many of us, feel compelled to speak our mind "off the record"? (Courage, March 29 Mbg Ecc)

As a nation, we used to be admired for our willingness to challenge authority and our tolerance of different points of view, as well as our respect for truth and justice. We need to be reminded.

These questions are too important to be relegated to some form of partisan sound-bite; they deserve open debate and transparency. You have probably opened up a can of worms, and I thank you for doing so. Keep up the good work!

Nina Sommerfelt-Eekels

An Insult Unworthy of an American: A Letter to the Author of "Hypocrisy" of March 29, 2012

Mr. Pratt, we, the undersigned US military veterans or parents of those in present or past military service, protest with great vigor the aspersions you cast upon the men and women of our Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and the citizens of the United States. To impugn the integrity and honor of our Nation, as you did, by asking "What other civil nation has soldiers who urinate on dead bodies, burn holy books, go on killing patrols, and bring back human remains as trophies(sic) What other nation has soldiers who massacre entire families?", is an egregious, insulting, and dishonorable assertion by a citizen of our country. It is certainly not US policy, nor the standard of the military, to commit these actions; such aberrant behavior is prosecuted.

You then demean the best qualified and most highly dedicated military servants in US history by implying that they are only in service because "it is the only way they will ever gain financial security and perhaps educational opportunities." That opinion can only be attributed to your absolute ignorance of reality and lack of association with our current military volunteers, some of whom are children of Middleburg and Warrenton parents you know. These young men and women have the greatest high school and college graduation rates in the history of a country that has always valued the sacrifices of its citizens.

To assert, as you incredibly do, that "I think that it almost makes killing these people ("people whose religion or beliefs are different from ours") OK in the mind of a person who has grown up hearing that kind of rhetoric and has been trained by the military to kill" is astonishing and grossly insulting to the citizens of our nation.

Then in the final paragraphs of your diatribe against the military and the US, you attempt to condone the actions of the Army's Bradley Manning, as yet not put on trial, as "the whistle-blowing hero", and you close your article by encouraging others to violate US law, as Manning is charged.

Your political position is under-

stood and you have the right and the freedom to assert it because of the sacrifices of those in the military who you have defiled, but you should be ashamed to publicly make such ridiculous claims. Those of us below who have served our nation and those who have sons and daughters or who know honorable young people in military service, are greatly offended at your biased and egregious allegations, which certainly can be interpreted as racism in that you attribute the sins of individuals to those of groups.

Howard Allen, James Atkins, Melchior Baltazar, Andrew Bergner, Geri and Peter Chittick, David Condon, Kevin Daly, Reggie Dawson, George Devorshak, Dan Haney, Jack Helmly, Ron Jackson, Ron Lang, Anne Lackman, George Lengauer, Steve Lewis, Arthur "Bunny" Nash, David Nazarian, Franklin Payne, Tom Patterson, Linda and Alan Platt, Curtis Prins, Don Stanton, Ken and Rebecca Tomlinson, Maria and Max Tufts, Lisa and Joe Weber, Stuart Weinstein-Bacal, Don Woodruff

To the Editors:

We have learned that Jim Atkins has instigated a petition against Tom Pratt's HYPOCRISY column in the March-April copy of THE ECCENTRIC. We have not seen the petition, but in advance of doing so, we do wish to wholeheartedly support THE ECCENTRIC in including Tom Pratt's HYPOCRISY column in its publication.

We don't have to fly flags to be good Americans. We do have to listen and to learn. That means listening to opposing views to our own...to try to understand...to find merit in these opposing view...to express our own views...to allow ourselves to have doubts about our own views...to constantly listen and educate ourselves...That is democracy...that is the only way that it will work.

We thank you for providing this forum, and hope that your readers will continue to contribute their views to it.

*Sincerely,
Elisa Rosenthal
Kit Hemion*

Response to Thomas Pratt's Letter regarding serving members in our military

I'm not as level-headed as my sons so my instinctive reaction upon reading Tom Pratt's venomous diatribe as recently published in your paper was somewhat akin to a volcanic eruption. A little time has passed and I'd like to direct this specifically to Mr. Pratt and anyone who may have been persuaded by his words.

Middleburg, Virginia was very good to my Marine son when he deployed to Afghanistan. Collections of needed items for his infantry unit were phenomenal and the angels at the Post Office met me each Friday to process 50 care packages to these men fighting for us and fighting for Mr. Pratt to hold and express his opinion. The men of 2/8 Marines Golf Company grew to know "Middleburg" as more than a place on the map. Middleburg represented the people they fought for and so many of them told me how much it meant to them to know they were remembered and their fight was known. Hundreds and hundreds of packages went to these men and for many of them it was their only lifeline. I hope and pray that none of those men ever read the letter Mr. Pratt composed.

Mr. Pratt's vision of these men is like looking through a fun-house mirror at reality, only seeing exaggerations of some parts and witnessing other parts disappear. The distortion is so profound that it doesn't resemble reality. Mr. Pratt quotes a combat correspondent's article to justify his position. I actually read that article and thought it was very well written. It told about a unit filled with men filled with strengths and weaknesses, weary from war, led by a jaded NCO, who had acquired a lack of respect for their Afghan counterparts. In essence, some of these men were actually human

and were reacting to their own real and personal experiences. For this, Mr. Pratt would label ALL of our men and women fighting for us as misguided, amoral fools. For a seemingly well spoken man, it's rare to read so much drivel in such a small space but he most certainly accomplished that.

I'll tell you the story of two men... two local men, who joined the service to serve their country. My youngest served two combat tours in Afghanistan and got to see one of his two best friends in pieces, killed by an IED that the locals absolutely would have known was there. He would have turned 22 this Sunday. That young man had a full academic scholarship to a college in Louisiana but wanted to serve his country first. No, Mr. Pratt, he didn't sign up to get a free education that he couldn't have gotten otherwise. He signed up because you didn't and somebody needed to. My son's barracks roommate is now at Bethesda without both legs, having been blown up on Easter Sunday 2011. He is still not able to sit up more than a couple hours a day because his wounds have not completely healed. He celebrated his 21st birthday yesterday. Blown up in April of 2011 and his wounds have not completely healed. He was fortunate in that he lived. Another Marine in his platoon was over to the house the other day, sporting a new bionic leg. His Marine career, his life, and his marriage has been destroyed in this process of fighting for his country but if you asked him today if he'd do it again, his answer would be "Yes".

This first man, my youngest son, has seen more in his short lifetime than anyone should ever see. He's seen many friends die or be maimed and he keeps on pushing forward thinking it had to have been for something. His first Christmas home in 2009 he gave a green velvet hat to a brother as a gift. It was clearly a child's hat. I asked him where he got it and he responded that he took it from a Taliban kid. I was taken aback...my son, the Pied Piper...had taken a hat from a child? What had happened to my sweet son in that horrible place? I gently asked him and stated that it wasn't the child's fault that his father was Taliban. My son quietly turned that tiny hat over and displayed yards upon yards of copper wire woven into the interior of the hat. My son, with the eyes of a very old man said "This is what they used to blow up my friends. Yes, I took his damn hat." I've thought of that exchange so many times since that first deployment and would ask that you consider that these men have been placed in areas where everyone is a combatant.

It's a rare thing to see an Afghan child without limbs, even in an area that is littered with IED's. Why is that? Because they plant them or know where they are planted. Even with that, last week a soldier lost his life shoving a child out of a roadway just in time to save her life from an oncoming armored vehicle. She had stopped to pick up shell casings and now his children will grow up without a father. That soldier gave up his life for a child he never knew, simply because it was the right thing to do and it is done each and every day across that country. What words would you use to attack that soldier, Mr. Pratt? His selfless bravery doesn't quite fit into the twisted template you've created now does it? The only reason we've heard about this is because the soldier is dead. This kind of thing happens every day and our heroes know their fellow citizens will likely never know what they've done, and many will not care. They continue to do the right thing in the face of horrific pain, simply because they made a promise to you and to me that they would.

That youngest son is on the way out the door as I type. He's meeting with friend's tomorrow morning on the grounds of Arlington to visit some brothers they've lost over these past two deployments. He'll be headed to college and he earned every credit. His body is so battered that he will require spine sur-

gery to repair it...two crushed discs. TBI from close proximity to friends being blown up, and a shoulder that still isn't right. He's so very young and is living with an old man's body but he still pushes on. He wants to be a teacher, just like he always has.

My other son, an Army Cavalry Scout, just got back from his first Afghanistan deployment. He was sent in as a combat replacement because so many men in his new unit had been hurt or killed. He was just a few credits shy of his bachelor's degree but felt this was something that needed to be done. What is his major? Conflict Resolution...go figure. At the age of 24, this young man has independently built and funded a school in Sierra Leone for war orphans. Evil? No other options you ask Mr. Pratt? You should be ashamed of yourself. When he came back he indicated that every child he came in contact with facilitated the destruction of his friends, and the ANA they partnered with were typically corrupt and almost always stoned. My son saw the face of evil and it was not on the faces of the men he fought with but on the faces of the men who were trying so hard to kill him Mr. Pratt. Both of my sons are very aware of the indifference of their fellow citizens to the war that they've fought. Both of my sons would likely be more pained by that indifference than they would by your words because your words have no meaning...they are the chattering of someone who fills in the empty spaces in the paint-by-number picture without even realizing what the big picture is...someone who regurgitates sound-bites rather than takes the time to learn.

Ron Lang, US Navy Retired

Mr. Pratt: Whereas I respect your right - a right I volunteered to protect during four plus years of active duty and another dozen in the reserve - I take issue with your diatribe attack upon the men and women who serve in the defense of our, yes even your, freedoms. To categorize them all as crass, free ride seeking persons is indeed an act displaying your total lack of knowledge of the military as well as it's imperative part in our history. To group them all together due to the acts of the highly publicized misdeeds of a few is a travesty. If you had ever served your country as other than a gadfly you might, realize as I do, that there are pressures on these men and women that you could never conceive of nor understand. To see a comrade in arms with his or her limbs blown off by a civilian they were trying to help, as so many of us did during the Vietnam conflict, might help you to understand a welling up of anger and frustration that might well lead to an act such you categorize. You might read Sebastian Yinger's works on war and realize some of the good that our men and women have done. As Marc Antony says "The evil men do long lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones."

Do you know WAR? Obviously not! If you did you might understand the pressures that true reporters such as Oliver North, who spent months imbedded with our troops in the Middle East not sitting in a media tent as your reporter did, have tried to help us realize. You might see the sharing of essentials of life with civilians. You might recognize the schools and hospitals that have been founded by those who risk their lives in defense of our rights. You might even understand Stephen Decatur's admonition, "My country right or wrong, but by GOD my country," as he faced those trying to imprison Americans in Tripoli.

No! You do not understand because you have sat in your ivory tower pontificating on subjects about which you obviously know very little. It is a shame that in an issue celebrating REAL Americans such as Olivia Jane Johnson and Reggie Dawson you have sullied the pages with your malicious attack on those who defend your freedoms. They make mistakes and they pay for them by the Uniform Code of Military Justice, but they do not deserve the blanket approbation which you heap upon them. I have found a wonderful and most appropriate use for your underheaded drivel: I have a few copies and have used your BS to help clean up the excrement dropped by wildlife and unruly pets on the trails and streets of Middleburg.

With the hope that the editors of The Middleburg Eccentric understand that there are many, many more in our town who respect the military then endorse your misguided, malevolent position I add my name to those who have already written,

J. Donald Woodruff, Jr.

(retired military)



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Mistral

Upperville, Virginia • \$1,950,000

28 acres • First floor living includes master suite with office • Large formal living room • Mature gardens • Pond • 3 additional bedrooms • Great views • Tree lined driveway

Helen MacMahon

(540) 454-1930



Beaver Creek

Purcellville, Virginia • \$890,000

Extensive recent improvements - cedar shake roof on house, barn, gazebo • Hilltop setting with views on 11.48 acres • 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA Colonial, 2 gas FR, hardwood floors, wraparound front porch, tiered decks • Pool, cabana • Barn, shop, board fencing • Mature landscaping

Paul MacMahon

(703) 609-1905



Commercial

Middleburg, Virginia • \$650,000

3 tiered levels • Exceptional natural light • Accommodates 5 offices • Large production areas • Full kitchen • Ample parking • Great views

Helen MacMahon

(540) 454-1930



110 East Washington Street

P.O. Box 1380

Middleburg, Virginia 20118

(540) 687-5588

In the Virginia Countryside

Armfield, Miller & Ripley

FINE PROPERTIES, LLC

In the Capital Region



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

BURR RIDGE, LEESBURG, VA

Stately, elegant home, formal gardens, views of 3 states from private hilltop. Just outside of Leesburg. Convenient to Dulles Greenway & Dulles Airport. 50 acres, tenant house, pool, pool house. \$2,700,000.

Kevin Keane
Babette Scully

540-687-2221
540-687-2220



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

THE BELL FARM, MARSHALL, VA

Atoka Road location! Just south of Middleburg. Style. Elegance. Apprx 6000 SF, 5BR, 4FP, great room with 11' ceilings. Extensive stone terraces. Beautiful gardens, pool & cabana. Professionally landscaped. Pond with dock. Barn. All in mint condition. 39.4 ac. Priced below appraisal. \$2,395,000.

Ruth Ripley
Carole Miller

540-687-2222
540-687-2233



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

HIDDEN VALLEY FARM, ETLAN, VA

Amazing value on this beautiful country manor home! Original sections dates to 1860's and completely renovated and expanded in 1990's with 5,600 sf. 158 ac. with outstanding valley views, fenced pastures, woodlands, ponds, and outbuildings. Perfect setting for a vineyard, cattle, or horses. 4 BR, 4.5 BA, 6 FP. \$2,200,000.

Anita Sisney
Alan Zuschlag

703-973-1987
540-270-8150



THE WOODS, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Located on prestigious Zulla Road near Middleburg. The perfect country retreat. 5.2 acres. Delightful house. Large LR has one wall of glass looking into well groomed woods and large pond. First floor master BR, stone terraces. 3 additional BRs. Gallery connects house to 3 car garage with lovely office and guest quarters above. Pool, landscaping. Everything in mint condition. Priced to sell. \$1,200,000.

Ruth Ripley
Carole Miller

540-687-2222
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WINDSONG, WARRENTON, VA

Beautiful setting. 5 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath well maintained farmhouse (circa 1987) on 26 acres with 10+ acre pond and mountain views. 2 Master bedrooms. New kitchen & baths. 6 stall barn. Between Warrenton & The Plains. Good commuting location. \$799,000.

Kathryn Harrell
Lynn Wiley

540-687-2215
540-454-1527



HIDDEN CREEK FARM, ORLEAN, VA

Custom built 5 bedroom 4.5 bath on 10 partially wooded acres. Home offers first floor master, hardwood floors, country kitchen, 2 car garage, finished lower level with walkout access. In addition there is a 2 bedroom guest house with Living room kitchen, bath, all appliances, and separate entrance. \$624,000.

Kathryn Harrell
Lynn Wiley

540-687-2215
540-454-1527



WEST PROPERTY, UPPERVILLE, VA

Located in a quaint charming village, this lovely historic house (c. 1833) is in a superb setting with a large back lawn and garden with pretty plantings. The house offers 2 kitchens, solarium/ sunroom with brick floor. There is a separate second house. Needs TLC, priced below assessed value. To be sold "AS IS." \$455,000.

Ruth Ripley

540-687-2222



MEETING HOUSE, PARIS, VA

This property offers a real sense of history with all the modern day amenities. The Meeting House, circa 1790 in the hamlet of Paris, VA is situated with a view of the Crooked Run Valley. The Original brick structure has been renovated to include an open kitchen with generous sitting room, large bedroom and well appointed bath all with old wood floors. Terraces are framed in mature landscaping. \$435,000.

Lynn Wiley

540-454-1527



FEDERAL STREET, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Middleburg Office - Unit #4 107 A Federal Court Second Level. Five separate offices + conference, reception area, kitchenette, work area and half bath. Total of 1400+ square feet. High speed internet access available. 3 parking spaces. \$425,000.

Carole Miller

540-687-2233



WELLESLEY, PURCELLVILLE, VA

11+ acres of farmette with charming 1880's 2 bedroom farm house. Excellent kennels and outbuildings with old log cabin. New 4 stall center aisle stable with large tack room. 2 large paddocks with new board fencing. \$419,900.

Carole Miller

540-687-2233



WEST WASHINGTON STREET, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Charming brick Cape Cod on 1/4+ acre in town of Middleburg. Spacious open floor plan with county kitchen, living room with FP and new family room opening to deck and large fenced yard. Wood floors throughout. Two upper level BRs. Basement and garage/storage space. Also Available As Short Term Rental. \$349,000.

Kathryn Harrell
Linda Norris

540-687-2215
540-270-7560

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