



FOXCROFT HUNT BREAKFAST

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CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO PROTECT THE LAND YOU LOVE

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HO! HO! HO!

DANIEL MORROW

Economic Development Coordinator Cindy Pearson issued the moral equivalent of the two-minute Christmas warning at Town Council's November session: Mayor Betsy Davis and the entire council were to muster for duty on the Town's wagon float at least a quarter hour before the main parade begins at 2:00 PM on Saturday, December 1. The Hunt Parade begins three hours earlier, at 11:00 AM. If the weather holds Middleburg expects one of the best celebrations in recent memory.

Hurricane Sandy

Mayor Davis personally thanked Middleburg's Town Staff and its Police Department for "the amazing job they did during Hurricane Sandy," noting that, happily, "Middleburg experienced no major problems."

Town Administrator Martha Semmes, she noted, "kept everyone current through emails," our Maintenance Superintendent worked the streets "both before and after the storm," and, Chief Panebianco, Senior Officer Mike Prince and Officer Heather Fadely were on duty, present and accounted for the entire night."

Councilmember Mark Snyder thanked Charlie Triplett, of Loudoun Water, who was also in Middleburg that night.

Councilmember Trowbridge Littleton thanked Chief Panebianco for his hard work and asked him how many hours he had been on duty during the storm. Panebianco admitted he was up for twenty-three hours straight noting "that he was not as young as he used to be."

Councilmember Murdock thanked VDOT and Dominion Power for responding quickly to Hurricane Sandy, and suggested the Town express its appreciation in writing.

After the event, Town Administrator Semmes reported, she met with representatives from FEMA, the County Emergency Operations Department and the Virginia Department of Environmental Management to discuss the costs incurred by the Town because of Sandy.

Expense data from the entire County, she told council, would soon be compiled and sent to the Governor, who would then decide if the County was eligible for financial relief.

Most, if not all the Town's costs, she said, "were related to overtime and generator fuel needed to run the treatment plants."

Halloween

Police Chief Panebianco told Council that his first Halloween in Middleburg seems to have gone well despite Hurricane Sandy. Senior Officer Mike Prince estimated that the number of trick-or-treaters may have been off by as much as 30-40 %.

Trowbridge Littleton estimated that the Community Center's numbers were also down by about one-third.

Election Violence

Councilmember Catherine "Bundles" Murdock speaking, she said, as a private citizen, expressed "outrage" at what she described as "acts of violence" that occurred on Election Day in Middleburg and the days prior to it.

The "violence" took the form of damage that she said at least four residents reported had been done to their Romney-for-President signs.

Murdock, a Republican, told Council "she would be raising this issue no matter which candidate's signs were damaged" noting that "she had never witnessed such bad intentions during a presidential campaign."

Noting that, generally speaking, "the campaign workers for the two parties were very friendly" and had "shared food and drinks throughout Election Day," she expressed her hopes that, in the future, whoever had vandalized the signs would "take a cue from them."

Councilmember Mark Snyder observed that Middleburg residents "have always showed respect for political discourse" and that he "encouraged them to share their opinions, regardless of whether they agreed with him or not."

Councilmember Littleton noted that the same thing happened some twenty years ago during a local election, noting that it was done by someone from outside of the town.

Murdock expressed her hope that the vandalism in this case was, indeed, the work of one individual."

Audit

Jeff Mitchell, of Mitchell & Company appeared before Council at its regular monthly work session in late October to present the results of his firm's audit of the Town's books for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

The Town's money, he noted, is held in three main funds or accounts: a General Fund; a Health Center Fund; and the Water/Sewer Fund.

The General Fund, as of June 30, contained \$1.2 million in cash and \$32,000 in readily collectable receivables (uncollected property taxes, utility taxes, and State sales tax.)

The town's fixed assets, such as buildings owned by the Town and its parking lots, were valued, very conservatively, at \$1.2 million, based as they are on original cost, less depreciation rather than their true market value.

The Health Center Fund showed fixed Assets of \$153,429, which was, again, based on the original cost of the town-owned Health Center building,

Continued Page 15



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PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835





9229 PATRICK STREET – UPPERVILLE - CHARMING COUNTRY COTTAGE ON QUIET STREET IN UPPERVILLE. FENCED BACK YARD WITH LARGE TREES AND FLAGSTONE PATIO. HARDWOOD FLOORS THROUGHOUT, AND AN OUTSTANDING MASTER SUITE. FQ7915615

SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$449,000
PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835



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1530 WESTON LANE – MIDDLEBURG - LOVELY BRICK HOME ON 1.1 ACRES JUST OUTSIDE MIDDLEBURG - SIZABLE FRONT AND BACK YARD - TWO CAR DETACHED GARAGE - FLAGSTONE PATIO - MATURE TREES AND STONE WALL - LARGE REC ROOM IN BASEMENT. MUST SEE.

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NEWS OF NOTE

WELCOME TO LOU SHIELDS BEAUTIFUL NEW SHOP



Painted forever, but this period of my work really pleases me. In planning this move, I wanted to showcase the paintings and the custom furniture among the antiques. The response has been very enthusiastic.

So enthusiastic, in fact, that his paintings now hang in Manhattan, Denver, San Francisco and Florence, Italy. Those were sold in just the three months before he moved.

The proprietor of Middleburg's highly regarded "Hastening Antiques" for thirty years, he was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and studied painting in the U.S. and England, where he lived for ten years.

"While in England, I restored three houses and fell in love with the antiques' business," he recalled. "When I returned to the United States, I was determined to live no farther north and no farther south than Middleburg...so Middleburg it was...and is."

When he moved to the new shop, he changed the name of the business to reflect his broader emphasis on design: "Hastening Design Studio - Art - Antiques - Interiors". The new address, 116 West Washington, across from the Post Office in Middleburg and next door to Common Grounds, has three enormous windows to display his canvases, and is reminiscent of the very best London, New York and Paris galleries.

"I will always offer antiques," Louis said, gesturing to a charming 1670 Louis XIV walnut stool and a pair of perfectly scaled Regency bookcases. "For years I've had the great pleasure of finding and restoring important French and English antiques for my clients. I thoroughly enjoy the search and restoration process, and I will always continue that work. Antiques offer exceptional character to a room. They are endowed with hundreds of years of history and one can feel their presence in a room."

Good design is intelligent use of light, space and color, Louis insists.

"I respect the entire range of design elements from antiques to modern design to art. But, for me, the most interesting interiors are a skillful blend of all these elements. My interior design projects, whether in Palm Beach, DC, or Manhattan, always include a mix of styles and pieces."

It is the exciting combination of Louis' exceptionally beautiful and impeccably restored antiques with his stunning abstract paintings that seduces passers-by into his new space.

"Although for many years, my art was focused on etchings in the Arthur Rackham style, these new abstracts really capture my sensibilities now," he said.

Clearly, his paintings gesture toward the architectural

structure and depth he loves, and his palette originates in a natural range, but when you gaze at the magnificent painting of what must be a flowing red cape, it is impossible not to feel the power and haste of Louis' subject.

"My paintings are intentionally non-referential, but they draw from natural origins."

Lou's favorite creations, bar none, are his talented daughters, Jessica, a highly regarded chef and owner of a food truck; and Lela, an artist who has a studio in Fairfax, California, called Trouve.

"Their English mother, Kate, is an extraordinary gardener and a wonderful horsewoman, so they grew up in a very artistic environment. I simply could not be more proud of them."

Among the careful selection of paintings and antiques at Hastening Design Studio, you will find a Mogol Empire silver engraved vase; an Italian Neo-Classical mirror from 1785; 19th century Sevres plates and many stunning pieces that Louis has designed and produced himself. The small gilded iron, marble-topped tables are exceptionally beautiful and useful. Even so, he never stops searching.

If the 1935 cabinet designed by Andre Arbus or the French Regency hall lantern have gone to new home by the time you visit Hastening Design Studio, think how delightful it would be to have one of Louis' paintings for Christmas.

PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

KENSLEE HILL



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FOALSFIELD



Elegant custom stone and stucco home on 12+ acres in The Plains. Exquisite details, reclaimed heart pine floors, high ceilings, beautiful moulding, 4 marble and stone fireplaces. Large screened porch opening to covered stone terrace. 4 bedrooms, 4 full and 2 half baths with master bedroom on main level. Lovely grounds with perennial gardens, pool, pond, stone walls, board fencing and 2 car garage. \$2,250,000
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NEWS OF NOTE

PEC 40TH ART SHOW AND BOB KUHN EXHIBITION VISIT NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

TOM NEEL

The Piedmont Environmental Council's 40th Anniversary Art Show opened at The National Sporting Library's Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall on November 7th. A supportive crowd enjoyed the Library's reception and warm hospitality, while also enjoying the fine art of eleven Piedmont area artists and their work. Though the represented work seemed to have little to do with the PEC's overall mission, the quality of the paintings and broad range of subject matter

measured up to a valuable artistic experience.

Some 30 works of art were chosen for the exhibit by the show's curator William Woodward, professor emeritus of fine arts at Georgetown University. All were for sale, with partial proceeds benefiting the PEC.

Also at the National Sporting Library's Museum is the must see exhibit - Bob Kuhn: Drawing on Instinct, which runs through February 28, 2013. This means you have time to see it more than once and I highly recommend that you do! Bob Kuhn may be best known as

a wildlife artist, but he was indeed one of those old school illustrators that became a fine art master and this show is quite masterful in its own right in sharing that story. Don't just think incredible wildlife artist, think of talent to the likes of N.C. Wyeth or Norman Rockwell and you'll know what I mean.

Before photography, in the great days of illustration, the east was home to an amazing resource of artists needing close proximity to the publishers of New York City. In time, many would follow, perhaps the greatest of them all N.C. Wyeth, west and in the process,

some would become this country's finest realist painters. Bob Kuhn was certainly among them.

This exhibit not only exposes visitors to the best of wildlife art, but its unexpected jewel is exposing you to a master's process, his original sketches, magazine covers and don't miss the video which was made in 2006, the year before his passing. As if you looked up the word "texture" in the dictionary and found a Bob Kuhn painting, his very skilled ability in paint application is only second to his masterful and often energizing composition. His years of narrative painting as a

top illustrator means your eyes will go exactly where he intended them to and you won't be disappointed.

Kuhn was a dedicated story teller of the world's wild-life of animals and his stories live on through this traveling retrospective organized by The National Museum of Wildlife in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Adam Harris, the exhibition's curator, should be highly commended, as should the the National Sporting Library for bringing us this amazing opportunity.

For more information, visit www.nsl.org

BOOK SIGNING FOR BRUCE SMART'S "LEGACIES"



The National Sporting Library and Museum will host a book signing for Bruce Smart who has just completed 'Legacies,' the third volume in his 'A Community of the Horse' series. The pub-

lic is invited to meet Bruce at a book signing at 6 p.m. on Friday, November 30th.

Bruce Smart is a retired international business and government executive with a life-long interest in the environment and education. Living in Upperville, Virginia, for the past 25 years, he has spent much of his time photographing and writing about its horse community, and defending its rural character from encroaching development.

To attend the event, please call 540-687-6542, ex 10 or email jsheehan@nsl.org.

Hill Holiday Marketplace

Saturday, December 8, 2012

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

At The Hill School, Middleburg, VA



Come one, come all! We hope that you'll grace The Hill School Holiday Marketplace! For holiday shopping just stroll -- don't race! To shop for gifts in our wide-open space.

Need artwork or jewelry, creams for the face? Candles or baked goods? Quilts, felt, or lace? Home-made sock monkeys! Buy one, buy a brace! From Whoopsies to dog collars, this is the place!

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Organized by The Hill School Alumni Association

Hill School Greens Sale

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Christmas In Middleburg



Start the season! A Family Festival Day in Middleburg, Virginia, December 1, 2012
Sponsor, Donor, Parade Entry information at www.ChristmasinMiddleburg.org

Friday, November 30th

- 2:00pm - 5:00pm: Middleburg Garden Club Christmas Greens Sale, Emmanuel Episcopal Parish house. Sale of Christmas greens and flower show.
- 5:00pm: O Holy Night! The Tree Lighting Ceremony and Carols, behind the Pink Box, 12 North Madison St., 5:30pm on Friday.

Join us at the foot of our town Christmas Tree in the Pink Box Garden for a heartfelt evening program that includes the Invocation, singers, caroling, hot chocolate & cider courtesy of the Home Farm Store, and of course the illumination of the tree (drum roll, please)! Joyful Holidays brought to you and to us all by the Middleburg Business and Professional Association!

Saturday, December 1st

- 8:30am: Breakfast With Santa and Silent Auction, Middleburg Elementary School
- 9:00am - 5:00pm: Craft Fair, Middleburg Community Center
- 10:00am - 4:00pm: Middleburg Garden Club Christmas Greens Sale, Emmanuel Episcopal Parish house. Sale of Christmas greens and flower show.
- 11:00am: Middleburg Hunt Review, mounted riders and hounds down the main Washington Street
- 11:30am - 1:50pm: Hayrides! Horse drawn hayrides around town. The Pink Box, 12 North Madison Street
- 10:00am: Middleburg Methodist Church hot chocolate, crafts, bake sale while waiting for the hunt to ride by.
- 11:30am: Middleburg Methodist Church, lunch in the Church fellowship hall, with a concert of Christmas music in the sanctuary before the 2pm parade.
- 2:00pm: Christmas Parade, down the main Washington Street
- 3:00pm - 6:00pm, Wine Crawl, progressive wine tastings all across town.

Saturday Specials for All

- Free Parking !
- Sit-down or grab-and-go food from the restaurants in town.
- Kids and family activities all day long!

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG BAPTIST WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

Middleburg Baptist Church recently welcomed the Rev. Dr. J. Travis Moger its new pastor.

Prior to coming to Middleburg, he served as a Navy chaplain with the rank of Commander and taught history and ethics at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

Still a chaplain in the Navy Reserve, Moger holds a B.A. in religion from Dallas Baptist University in TX, an M.Div. from

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

He was a Fulbright Scholar at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. He also did a combat tour with infantry Marines in Iraq. Previously he has been pastor of churches in North Carolina, Florida, and California.

A native of Ocala, FL, Moger says he's from "the other horse



country" and feels right at home in Middleburg where he now lives with his wife Amelia and their four children: Natalie (20), Nadine (16), Madeline (15), and Mark (12).

NEW GENERAL MANAGER FOR GOODSTONE INN & RESTAURANT

Veteran hotelier Simon Smith is the new General Manager at Goodstone Inn & Restaurant in Middleburg, Virginia.

He will be responsible for daily operations of the award-winning Virginia country inn and five-star French Country restaurant.

Smith joins Goodstone following responsibilities as Director of Food and Beverage and Director of Lodging at Blackberry Farm, a Re-

lais & Chateaux property in Walland, Tennessee. He previously served as Restaurant Manager at Boars Head Inn in Charlottesville, Virginia, and as Restaurant Manager and Sommelier at Meadowood Resort, a Relais & Chateaux property in Napa Valley, California.

A native of England, Smith's history with Goodstone began in 2008 when he first served as General Manager, overseeing the daily hotel operations of the 18-room country inn and estate. He is highly regarded for his hotel expertise and exceptional leadership skills.

"We are thrilled that Simon will be joining Goodstone at this very exciting time," says owner Mark Betts. "With his strong background in hotel operations and food and beverage management, he will be a tremendous asset to Goodstone."

Goodstone Inn & Restaurant is a romantic country inn and restaurant in the heart of Virginia's wine and hunt country. The luxury country inn offers eighteen elegantly decorated guest rooms and suites in six individual residences restored in English and French Country decor.

Drawing inspiration from its location on 265 acres of rolling hills and farmland in Middleburg, The Restaurant at Goodstone provides its guests with an unparalleled fine dining experience.

Goodstone won Wine Enthusiast Magazine's 100 Best Wine Restaurants 2012; Trip Advisor's 2012 Certificate of Excellence; Open Table Diner's Choice Awards for Top Best Overall Restaurants in the USA 2011; and Condé Nast Johansens Most Excellent Inn 2011.

For more information, please telephone Goodstone Inn & Restaurant at (540) 687-3333.

A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS AT MT. ZION CHURCH

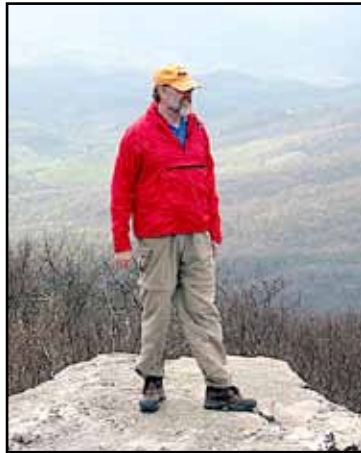
"Tomorrow is Christmas and we are not going to drill. We are going to keep Christmas and we are going to have a little fun..." So wrote a soldier in a letter home to his mother in December of 1861.

What was it like for soldiers, in both blue and gray, far from home and in the midst of war during the holiday season? Find out when you join Confederate troops for a Civil War Christmas on Sunday, December 9th from 4-7 p.m. at Mt. Zion Historic Park, 40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie VA.

Members of the 28th Virginia Regiment will celebrate the holiday with visitors as it was done in wartime during the 1860s. Experience the customs they brought to camp with them from home, help to decorate their Christmas tree, and enjoy refreshments from the time period.

Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. For more information, contact Site Supervisor Tracy J. Gillespie at 703-327-9777 or tgillespie@nrvpa.org. Mt. Zion Historic Park is a property of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. For more information, visit www.nrvpa.org.

LAND TRUST OF VIRGINIA HONORS BOB LEE CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR



Bob Lee, Executive Director of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, was recently honored as "Conservationist of the Year" by the Land Trust of Virginia. In fact, according to LTV President, "this is a lifetime achievement award. Bob is a great conservationist who has contributed to land conservation for many decades."

Don Owen, Executive Director of the Land Trust of Virginia said, "We are delighted to honor Bob, who is one of the nation's foremost authorities on land conservation. He has been at the helm of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation for the past eight years, guiding an organization that has protected more land than any other organization in the history of land conservation in Virginia."

"Bob is a powerful advocate for conservation, who has protected many of Virginia's priceless natural and historic resources."

Prior to joining the Virginia Outdoors Foundation in 2005, Lee was the County Administrator for Fauquier County from 1990 to 2004, and County Administrator for Clarke County from 1978 to 1990.

He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government from the College of William & Mary, and his Masters in Policy Planning and Regional Analysis from Cornell University.

"Bob's inclusive and inspiring approach to conservation is a tremendous benefit for us all," added LTV Chairman Birge Watkins. "Even as the head of one of the largest public land trusts in America, Bob has been an advocate for private land trusts. He has recognized that private land trusts can partner with a state agency like VOF, to accomplish even more."

"In particular, I want to note that Bob has been a very good friend of the Land Trust of Virginia, as well as, many other conservation organizations. For years, LTV and VOF have worked hand-in-hand to secure dozens of important easements."

"So today we honor Bob for his leadership and inspiration in

land conservation... For his love of the land, and for his appreciation of our rural heritage...

For his success in preserving thousands of acres of significant open space throughout Virginia...

For his many years of dedicated service... and for his support of and assistance to the Land Trust of Virginia."

Lee has accepted many appointments throughout his distinguished career, including appointments to the Shenandoah River Basin Committee, the Virginia Commission on Population Growth and Development, the Virginia Municipal Liability Pool Insurance Program, the Farmland Preservation Task Force.

In addition, Lee has served on the Boards of the Foundation of the State Arboretum, the Great Meadow Foundation, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation is Virginia's leading land conservation organization, protecting 650,000 acres in more than 100 counties and independent cities in Virginia, primarily through the use of conservation easements.

TWO NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS FROM MIDDLEBURG



ALEX ROSSI

Middleburg Academy seniors, Caswell Bennett of Sterling, and Alex Rossi of Leesburg, have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program for their exceptional academic promise and achievement.

Caswell Bennett was named a Semifinalist in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program, and Alex Rossi has received word she is a Commended Scholar.

Caswell Bennett is among the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists who represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,300 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

To be considered for the Merit Scholarship award that will be offered in the spring, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of

the competition. About 90% of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the full "Merit Scholar" title.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended students like Alex Rossi place among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Caswell Bennett, son of Kimberley and Michael Bennett of Sterling, was home-schooled before arriving at Middleburg Academy as the recipient of a four-year Merit Scholarship. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council, is a multi-year member of the Science Club, and President of the Robotics and Engineering Club. In addition to his considerable abilities in Science and other academic disciplines -- Caswell earned First Place in Physics at the Shenandoah Regional Science Fair -- he is a strong athlete. Beginning with his freshman year, Bennett has been an important contributor to Middleburg Academy sports, both on the Varsity Golf Team and on the Boys Varsity Basketball Team, for which he plays guard.



CASWELL BENNETT

Alex Rossi is the daughter of Stephanie and Mark Rossi of Leesburg; she attended Loudoun County Day School before arriving at Middleburg Academy as a Head of School's Freshman Scholar. Alex Rossi has gone on to achieve Merit Scholarship Awards in each of her subsequent years at the college preparatory high school. She, too, has contributed abundantly to the life of her school: not just in the academic arena, but in her various leadership roles and as a model student-athlete. Alex was elected President of the Student Council for 2012-13 (and has been a member since freshman year); is a member of the National Honor Society; and Past President of The Green Club. Alex has also been a Varsity Field Hockey and Lacrosse player since her freshman year, including serving as Captain of Varsity Lacrosse her sophomore year.

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NEWS OF NOTE

THE NEW AGRARIANS

CREATE A CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO PROTECT THE LAND YOU LOVE

Many Piedmont landowners would like to ensure that the land they love is protected in perpetuity but do not know how to do it. Fortunately, several experienced and trusted organizations in Hunt Country can help landowners through this stewardship process.

The Land Trust of Virginia (LTV) is one local organization that can help. Although they can create conservation easements anywhere in Virginia, their focus is on Western Loudoun and Fauquier counties, and they are justifiably proud that they have helped create conservation easements on 40% of the land in this area.

"We are proud of that," emphasized Chairman Birge Watkins at the LTV's recent annual meeting, "but it only underscores that 60% of this beautiful area still needs protection."

Now 20 years old, LTV is a thriving, accredited, non-profit land trust dedicated to protecting Virginia's open spaces, natural resources and historic sites.

LTV members work to permanently protect the land and its irreplaceable scenic, natural and historic resources.

"We support and encourage fiscally responsible, private non-profit conservation," added Executive Director Don Owen. "Our members donate their time, energy, expertise and resources to preserve

the land they love."

What is a Conservation Easement

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement that allows a landowner to permanently limit the type and amount of development on their property while retaining private ownership. The property need not be a vast holding, in fact, easements exist on properties of fifteen acres or less.

The process of donating an easement is straightforward. Working together, a private landowner and the LTV identify uses of the property they would like to see continue, such as farming or forestry, and the restrictions they would like to see limit the future development of the property.

An independent, qualified appraisal to formalize the value of the property on the public market is a key step in the conservation process. This value will be reduced when the conservation easement is established because development has been permanently restricted, but the tax benefits associated with conservation easements can offset at least part of the reduction in value.

Tax benefits include a combination of highly significant Federal and State income tax savings as well as Virginia State income tax credits that may be transferred if

the landowner is not able to realize the tax credits full value.

The landowner may continue to live on the property and may, depending on the size of the property, retain rights for limited expansion and development that might include land parcels for children.

Easements limit or prohibit certain activities including industrial, commercial and intensive residential development.

Once finalized, the easement is signed by the landowner who is the easement donor and the Land Trust of Virginia, the organization receiving the easement, and recorded with the County Registrar of Deeds.

"Each easement is flexible and customized to the landowner's needs," Owen explained. "And the financial benefits to the landowner, particularly in Virginia, can be substantial."

The Best Benefit

According to Marcia and Hank Woolman, who placed their land in a conservation easement with LTV in 2005, the best benefit was that it allowed them to protect the land they love.

"Farm land lost is farm land lost forever," Marcia explained.

An active conservationist, Marcia has "very firm" feelings about the future of the Virginia countryside she loves.

"When I arrived in Fauquier County some 20 years ago, I was blessed with a new friend who became my mentor, Eve Fout. She dedicated a great part of her life to bringing awareness to the need for and use of conservation easements. She was tenacious, and many of our 'eased' landowners can trace their decision back to the indomitable Eve Fout."

As Marcia learned more about what could happen to their land if they did not protect them, she and Hank were determined to put their land in easement.

"As Hank and I sat on our porch, most of what we saw was land in easement. If we did not protect our fifteen acres, we knew they could someday spoil the beautiful vista."

"This special place is still here due to the foresight of visionaries like Eve Fout, Bill Backer, Charlie Whitehouse and Alice Mills who knew that the only way to ensure that rural land remain rural forever was to protect it with conservation easements."

It is the stewardship and dedication of leaders like the Woolmans that protects this beautiful rural area, according to Don Owen, who has just concluded another successful year at the Land Trust of Virginia.

"Once landowners understand how much we can help them protect their land, they are sincerely



interested in the process of creating an easement and the benefits that may accrue to them by doing so."

"We just presented our 'Hillsboro Rural Village and Community Study' to 30 residents of that area who wanted to know more about how to conserve their property."

"Our most important job is to make certain that land owners understand the potential conservation easements offer them and their families. When the process is fully understood, and the LTV role is clear, we can strike partnerships that lead to the creation of new conservation easements that protect even more of our beautiful countryside."

LTV isn't the only land trust in the area. There are several good land trusts, including the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and several nonprofit land trusts that, like LTV, have been accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission."

If you would like to consider protecting your land with a conservation easement, please contact either Don Owen or John Magistro at 540 687 8441 or at john@landtrustva.org.

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NEWS OF NOTE

FOXCROFT SCHOOL FIELD HOCKEY & TENNIS MAKE HISTORY WITH RUNS AT STATE TOURNEYS

ATHLETES EARN 5 ALL-STATE AND 10 ALL-DAC MENTIONS

Foxcroft School has been around for almost 100 years, but this was a first: Two athletic teams advanced to the semifinals of the state tournament this fall, with one of making it all the way to the championship game.

The field hockey team, ranked second through most the fall, fell 3-0 to Fredericksburg Academy in the VISAA Division II Title game Saturday (Nov. 10) – just a day after FA eliminated Foxcroft’s tennis team in a semi-final match. The fact that neither Foxcroft squad came away with the championship was academic. The journey was special, especially for a school that has traditionally been better known for its riding program than for its team sports.

Foxcroft’s athletes from both team and equestrian arenas amassed a stunning array of honors, too, this fall as five athletes earned All-State honors, 10 earned All-Delaney Athletic Conference mention and several riders collected prestigious ribbons at SWVHJ shows in Lexington, VA. Four field hockey players and a junior cross-country athlete who had never run competitively before were the All-State stars. Riders captured numerous titles at top shows in Lexington, VA, including the SWVHJA Hunter

Medal Finals.

With 10 seniors on the squad, field hockey was expected to be strong this year but it turned out to be even better than advertised. Coached by athletic director Michelle Woodruff and former Loudoun County Player of the Year Jessi Coil (a Foxcroft alum), the team compiled a 12-5-2 record with four of those losses came against Fredericksburg Academy, including a 1-0 loss in the DAC championship game and the state title game.

Hosting its first state game ever, Foxcroft field hockey rolled past Norfolk Christian, 3-0, at Foxcroft in the first round of the state tournament to earn a trip to Virginia Beach for the semifinals. Determined not to let the long trip or the unfamiliar artificial turf deter them, Foxcroft came from behind on a pair of second-half goals by forward Olivia Jane Johnson to defeat Hampton Roads Academy on Friday, November 9, setting up the showdown with nemesis FA. The Falcons jumped to an early lead and then played the same stifling defense that had shut down Foxcroft’s offense in previous games. It was the third state championship in the past 10 years for Fredericksburg.

Four Foxcroft players – Caroline Fout of Middleburg, John-

son of Rectortown, Alicia Holz of Delaplane and Lilly MacDonald of Bluemont – were named First Team All-State and, along with Carter Ware of Middleburg and Rebecca Mann of Hamilton collected All-DAC honors as well.

While field hockey entered the season with high expectations, no one knew quite what to expect from tennis. The team went only 1-9 last season but with several new faces dotting the lineup the team turned completely around and posted a 10-4 record to earn a number 3 seed in the state. Like field hockey, tennis has fallen three times to Fredericksburg Academy, the third coming in the DAC Championship.

In its first state tournament appearance in years, perhaps ever, Foxcroft coasted to an easy 7-1 victory over Norfolk Christian in the first round to set up a rematch with FA in the semifinals. Once again, the Falcons prevailed, winning 5-4, although they ultimately fell, 5-0, to Hampton Roads Academy in the championship. Junior Amalia Simpson of Newtown Square, Pa., and freshman Annie Mickum of The Plains, who anchored the top two singles positions and combined for the top doubles pair, were named to the All-DAC by the league’s coaches.

The All-State tennis team has

not been announced yet but in cross country, Amy Edgemond, a junior from Reston, earned First Team All-State honors by finishing among the top 20 of 182 competitors in the state meet held at Woodberry Forest on November 9. She finished 18th in the race. A rider who had never run competitively before this year, Edgemond also finished fifth in the DAC championship to earn All-DAC honors.

Also receiving first team All-DAC honors was volleyball player Melanie Monroe, a senior from McLean. Although the young and inexperienced team finished with an 0-14 record, Monroe, its lone senior, was one of the most consistent players in the league with an all-around game that included strong serving and solid play

both at the net and the back row.

On the riding front, senior Caroline Quanbeck of Middleburg and her horse Sambuca won the SWVHJA Hunter Seat Medal Finals in Lexington, VA, on Nov. 10 a day after sophomore Lee Muse of Texas was Hopeful Hunter Champion and Courtney Cunningham of Hamilton was reserve champion in the Open Hunters. Earlier this fall, Tessa Paget-Brown was Childrens/adult jumper champion and Quanbeck, Abby Bauer of Purcellville and Meghann Harmon of Middleburg earned reserve champion honors.

Complete results and more information on Foxcroft athletics, including riding, may be found on the School’s website (www.foxcroft.org).

NEW HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL AT CREIGHTON FARMS

Southworth Development announced today that Scott McArthur has been named Head Golf Professional at Creighton Farms.

Previously Scott, who has worked at Creighton Farms since 2008, was 1st Assistant Golf Pro.

Scott’s vast knowledge of the private club industry and the Virginia region are impressive, and he is a Certified PGA Professional in both Instruction and General Management, a distinction held by less than 2% of PGA Professionals.

Scott began his golf career in 1987 as an Assistant Golf Professional at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, Virginia. From there, he moved on to The Water’s Edge Country Club at Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia as the 1st Assistant prior to accepting a position as the 1st Assistant Golf Professional at the Salisbury CC in Midlothian, Virginia in 1994.

Since that time, Scott has held a number of positions including: Head Golf Professional at Lake Monticello GC in Palmyra, Virginia; Head Golf Professional at Tantallon CC in Ft. Washington, Maryland; 1st Assistant Golf Professional at Old Hickory GC in Woodbridge, Virginia; and most recently 1st Assistant Golf Professional at Creighton Farms.

Scott serves as a member of the PGA President’s Council on Growing the Game. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia where he played lacrosse and earned a degree in Business Administration.

Scott and his wife Felice are residents of Washington D.C. and are expecting their first child in April.

Scott McArthur replaces Michael Vidal, who recently took the Director of Golf position at Willowbend, Mashpee, MA, another Southworth Development property.

“MIDDLEBURG CHRISTMAS” PRESENTED BY MIDDLEBURG GARDEN CLUB

As its contribution to the annual “Christmas in Middleburg” celebration, the Middleburg Garden Club (MGC) will present a two-day floral design competition and horticultural show entitled “A Middleburg Christmas” at the Emmanuel Church Parish Hall.

The show is a tradition spans decades of the Club’s community involvement and offers residents and visitors alike a glimpse into the beauty and magic of floral design and gardening.

Holiday gourmet gifts, greens and wreaths will also be available for purchase.

The flower arrangements and garden cuttings on display at this and previous club’s Greens Shows are nurtured and created primarily by MGC members, but also by area residents and members of other garden clubs in the region.

The designs and exhibits on display are entries in a judged competition in a wide range of design and horticultural categories by a diverse range of garden enthusiasts. The expertise and ingenuity they apply to their creations range from traditional to experimental, and the level of friendly competition, especially in the Inter-Club categories of the show, produces spectacular results.

For 2012, several Middleburg clothing stores are partnering with MGC to present a competition among four area garden clubs to produce the best floral arrangement based on a clothing ensemble.

Four women’s clothing stores -- Betsey, Duchessa, Lou Lou’s, and Three Crowns – are providing an ensemble, and the clubs will design an arrangement that complements the clothing.

Four other garden clubs will compete for awards based on a four-place holiday dinner setting. New this year will be a show division devoted to exhibits illustrating MGC’s community involvement.

At the Club’s Christmas bazaar shoppers will find flower arrangements, kissing balls, home-made baked goods, and other seasonal items. Proceeds go toward MGC’s community projects.

The show and bazaar are free and open to the public. Individuals wishing to compete in the show should contact Gabriele Wickens at 540 687-6206.

For further information, please contact Page Dimos at 540 687-6109

THIRD YEAR OF TURKEY DONATIONS FOR AYRESHIRE FARM

The Thanksgiving holiday is right around the corner and Ayrshire Farm has once again donated certified organic, certified humane turkeys to DC Central Kitchen. The turkey donation has become a highly valued tradition for Ayrshire Farm and for the many families who enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving dinner.



HILL SCHOOL’S VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY SQUAD EARNED THIRD PLACE IN THE BIG HIT INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT



STANDING IN THE BACK ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: VARSITY HEAD COACH CRICKET BEDFORD, ATHLETIC ASSISTANT & CO-ORGANIZER OF THE BIG HIT TOURNAMENT, STEPHEN PRICE, PLAYERS: RACHEL MARSH, OLIVIA SIRIANNI, LOREN SEPULVEDA, ANNA CALLOWAY-JONES, PIA SCHARFENBERG, GOALIE-ELLE BENEFIELD, LELAND BURKE, TEDDY SEGMULLER, CADY ELDRIDGE, HARPER NORTHRUP, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, VARSITY COACH & BIG HIT FOUNDER, SYDNEY BOWERS. KNEELING LEFT TO RIGHT: ASHLEY BOARDMAN, ARIANNA SORESI, LINDSAY WOODS, FINLEY STEWART, ANNIE DUNLAP, SOFIA TATE AND KATHRYN WHITEHEAD. MISSING – GOALIES: NICOLE STETSON & ALLEGRA STURDEVANT, PLAYERS STEFANIE HOERNER, ALISON VAN METRE & PAMELA WHITE.

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NEWS OF NOTE

COMMUNICATE BY DESIGN HONORED WITH AMERICAN GRAPHIC DESIGN AWARDS

Communicate By Design, a professional graphic and web design firm based in Sterling, Virginia, received ten 2012 Awards Certificates of Excellence from The American Graphic Design Awards. Sponsored by Graphic Design USA magazine, The American Graphic Design Awards received more than 9,000 entries. Only 15% were recognized with a coveted Awards Certificate of Excellence.

Known for exceptional design, attention to detail, and outstanding customer service, Communicate By Design has been helping trade associations and businesses design, produce, and distribute their marketing components and collateral for more than 20 years. A woman-owned business active in community charitable programs, Communicate By Design was recognized for the second consecutive year with Awards Certificates of Excellence in:

- Annual reports
- Organization
- Business-to-business
- Corporate websites
- Self-promotion
- Direct mail

- Brochures
- Sales kit
- Event invitation
- Newsletters
- Rebranding

"We are extremely honored to have our work recognized by The American Graphic Design Awards. These Awards Certificates of Excellence mean a tremendous amount to the members of our team. Communicate By Design looks forward to providing innovative and engaging design to our clients for many years to come," said Elyse Galik, president, founder, and CEO of Communicate By Design.

Graphic Design USA magazine, the premier news magazine for graphic design and creative professionals, has sponsored national competitions showcasing the fastest-growing and most valuable areas of design for business and society for almost 50 years. The American Graphic Design Awards is the original flagship competition.

For additional information about Communicate By Design, please contact Richard Galik, chief operating officer, at 571-434-1950 or rgalik@communicatebydesign.com.

FAQS ABOUT STANDBY GENERATORS

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In June of this year, a derecho traveled through our area with high winds leaving many in our area without power for days, and in some cases for a full week. Last month, the area was impacted by hurricane Sandy which resulted in wide scale power outages in our area. Some would say these unusual events, such as the Northeast being impacted by a hurricane in late October, can be attributed to climate change.

How does a modern standby generator work?

The standby generator sits outside and when power is lost powers up and restores power to essential circuits in the home with no human intervention. When Dominion Power or Novec restores power the generator automatically transfers power back to the electric utility and shuts down until it is needed again. Typically, once a week the standby generator will automatically power up for a short period of time for "exercise" to insure that it is operating properly.

How large will the standby or back-up generator be outside my home?

Answer: About the size of your outside air condition or heat pump unit. In many cases the generator is located alongside the outside air condition or heat pump units.

Will the generator operate all the circuits in my home?

You could install a standby generator which could operate all the circuits in your home, but generally the loss of power is a temporary event, and it is only necessary to operate essential circuits. A 20KW standby generator is optimal for all but the largest homes.

What would you consider to be essential circuits?

That can vary from family to family, but for most of us being warm, having running water, the refrigerator and freezer operating, the sump pump functioning, being able to get on the internet, the ability to cook, make coffee, watch TV and having lights is essential. A decently sized generator can handle these duties and others, such as the garage door openers.

How long will the back-up generator be able to operate after losing power?

With a 500 gallon propane tank a generator could operate for up to a full week, 7-days, without refilling. Typically, we lose power for a shorter period. Propane is the ideal fuel for a residential back-up generator as the fuel does not degrade sitting in the tank like others such as gasoline and diesel.

If I have natural gas in my community can it be used as the fuel source for the generator?

If available in your neighborhood, natural gas is similar to propane. Most generators are designed to operate on both natural gas and propane with only minor modification. The same generator operating on propane will produce slightly more power than the same generator operating on natural gas.

What is your preferred brand of



standby generators?

They all do the job. My personal favorite is Kohler for two important reasons: First, is that Kohler units run quieter. Second, Kohler's power quality is better than others which is important for sensitive electronic equipment in today's home.

What does it typically cost to install a residential back-up generator system at my home or farm?

Generally, \$10,000 - \$15,000 depending on the size of the generator and whether the home has an existing source of fuel for the generator, such as propane or natural gas.

About the Author: Dale Schulz is the President of Hunt Country Propane, www.huntcountrypropane.com., located here in Middleburg. Hunt Country Propane is a local, lower priced area propane supplier. They also offer full-service installation of standby generators and propane tanks in our area. You can contact them at 540.687.3608

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COMMUNITY INVITED TO FOXCROFT SCHOOL PAGEANT ON DEC. 2 Live animals, Santa highlight afternoon of fun and tradition



Join Foxcroft School students in celebrating the holiday season Sunday, Dec. 2, with a spectacular Christmas Pageant, followed by a visit from Santa Claus. The performance, which is free, it begins at 2p.m. in the Engelhard Gymnasium



Foxcroft's pageant is a tradition that was started by Charlotte Haxall Noland, the founder of the School, nearly 100 years ago. Each December, Foxcroft's new students and Chorale present the nativity story as a gift to the community. Noland's script includes several characters you won't find in the Bible and provides a musical and visual treat -- complete with live animals. Donkeys, goats, bunnies, and bird have all made appearances in recent years.

Non-stop Christmas music and beautiful costumes that have been part of the show for decades are also featured. Following the Pageant, Santa Claus will give the children in the audience gifts that have been prepared by Foxcroft students. The pageant is the culmination of a weekend devoted to community outreach and holiday activities at the School. The highlight of the weekend, however, is the Pageant and all are invited! Foxcroft is located on Foxcroft Road (Route 626), four miles north of the center of Middleburg. For more information, call 540.687.5555.

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NEWS OF NOTE

HEADMASTER TO LEAVE WAKEFIELD

Peter Quinn, who has been the headmaster at Wakefield School for the past 16 years, will leave Wakefield to take the position of Headmaster at Peddie School in Hightstown, N.J.

Quinn will remain as Headmaster for Wakefield School through the balance of the 2012-2013 school year, beginning his duties at Peddie on July 1, 2013.

“Wakefield School has enjoyed a long and successful tenure with Peter as our Headmaster. In fact, a tenure that spans nearly two decades is rare indeed for independent schools,” said Susan Lewis, Wakefield’s Chair of the Board of Trustees.

“When Peter leaves at the end of this school year, we all wish him much success in his new position.”

“We have begun the first steps of our search process to build on the solid foundation developed with Peter. We remain dedicated to our core principles, mission & philosophy. Our commitment to an outstanding academic program — delivered in a very personalized way by extraordinary faculty and staff — is something that is fundamental to Wakefield School. We remain steadfastly committed to nurturing that foundation. We look forward to the appointment of a new Head for Wakefield School in the near future.”

Quinn will be making a return to Peddie, where he previously spent ten years of his career.

His career began at Wakefield in 1978, when the campus was located in Huntly. After seven years there, he left to join Peddie, filling the roles of teacher, counselor, coach, and eventually director of admissions and financial aid.

In 1996, Wakefield School called Quinn, and he joined the school as headmaster. The school was just opening its campus in The Plains with 245 students. Under the leadership of Peter and his extraordinary team of administrators, faculty & staff the school has grown dramatically.

Sixteen years later, the campus looks quite different with enrollment more than 400 students; four new buildings — an upper school building, a new field house, a science and technology center, and an arts and music center; and new athletic fields.

This summer, Quinn was approached by a consultant helping Peddie to find a new headmaster. He entered the search, and on Nov. 10 was selected to fill the role.

“Peddie is one of three schools I have lived in and loved over my career, and it will be a new and very different opportunity from Wakefield,” Quinn said.

FOUR HERITAGE HEROES RECOGNIZED

The Mosby Heritage Area Association, the Northern Virginia Piedmont preservation and education organization, has selected four individuals to receive the organization’s annual Heritage Heroes Awards. The awards ceremony will take place Wednesday, December 5, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at the National Sporting Library in Middleburg, Virginia.

The 2012 Heritage Heroes Awards recipients include:

Su Webb served on Loudoun’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board for more than twenty years, including terms serving as vice chair and chair. As chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, which owns Balls Bluff battlefield, she also was a moving force behind acquisitions such as White’s Ford. Su Webb has worked with the NVRPA in several roles since the 1960s. She also serves as chair of the Loudoun County Farm Heritage Museum and on the Aldie Heritage Association Board of Directors.

Editor and publisher Walter Nicklin is the author of Pieces of the Piedmont, the Puzzle of One Life: A Personal Geography from Virginia’s Foothills and America’s Historic Heart and is the co-author of 250 Years in Fauquier County: A Virginia Story for the 250th anniversary of Fauquier County. He is the publisher of the Piedmont Virginian magazine, which has consistently and forcefully supports historic preservation efforts in the Mosby Heritage Area.

Bob Sinclair is the president of the Fauquier Heritage and Preservation Foundation, was the co-founder of the John K. Gott Library in Marshall, Virginia, and served as chair of the 250th Anniversary of Fauquier County Committee. He played an integral role in getting the town of Marshall a place on the the National Register as a Historic District.

Lori H. Kimball, the Director of Programming and Education at Oatlands Plantation, also is the president of the Loudoun Preservation Society. She has served on the boards of the Waterford Foundation, the Friends of Thomas Balch Library and on the Preservation Virginia Northern Virginia Regional Branch Board.

“The Heritage Hero Awards recipients are selected by the Board of the Mosby Heritage Area Association to honor those in our community who have given of themselves to further preservation and conservation in our unique and special area of the world,” said MHAA President Childs Durbin.

“All four of this year’s recipients richly deserve this honor. And they measure up to the high standards of previous winners of the Heritage Hero Award, including Senator John Warner, Karen Hughes White, Janet Whitehouse, Hope Porter, Linda Newton, and Robert H. Smith.”

The Heritage Heroes award presentation is open to the public. Please make reservations by telephoning Judy Reynolds at 540 687 6681.

HUNTER’S HEAD TAVERN WINS SNAIL OF APPROVAL AWARD

SLOW FOOD D.C. RECOGNIZES THE TAVERN FOR FOOD QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Hunter’s Head Tavern in Upperville, Va., the first restaurant in America to achieve a certified humane designation, was recently recognized with a Snail of Approval Award from Slow Food D.C.

In an awards ceremony at Policy Restaurant & Lounge, Slow Food D.C., honored the tavern’s continued efforts to contribute to the quality, authenticity and sustainability of the food we eat and the beverages we drink.

The Snail of Approval is Slow Food DC’s method of recognizing the food-related providers who are making significant contributions to the transformation of our food system to one that is good, clean and fair.

Ayrshire Farm and Hunter’s Head Tavern produce and provide certified organic, certified humane meats and produce. They were also recently recognized with a two-star certification from the Green Restaurant Association.

“Making a difference in the way food is grown or raised — and then presented to the public — is the reason we are here,” said Sandy Lerner, owner and founder of Ayrshire Farm.

“Our whole team works hard every day so we can offer the safest, healthiest and most natural food to our customers.”

In order to win a Snail of Approval, restaurants must be nominated. Nominations are examined by: the degree to which the establishment’s activities are congruent with the Slow Food DC mission of promoting and celebrating local, seasonal, and sustainable food sources; how much it is working to preserve the culinary traditions of the region’s ethnically and culturally diverse populations; and how it is supporting the right of all people to enjoy good, clean, fair food.

HO! HO! HO!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

less depreciation, not its fair market value.

The Water/Sewer Fund showed \$370,000 in cash as of June 30th, and receivables totaling \$176,000.

The funds fixed assets, totaling some \$12.5 million, had increased substantially compared to last year due to the Town’s acceptance of land, the new water treatment plant and new wastewater treatment plant from Salamander.

The land alone, Mitchell said, was valued at \$881,000, the water treatment plant at \$2.7 million; and the wastewater treatment plant was valued at \$4.1 million.

The Water/Sewer Fund showed long-term debt of \$3.3 million, most of which had been refinanced in October, 2010.

Mitchell suggested the Town might well refinance again, noting that it was currently paying interest of 4%, 4.5% and 5.5% on various portions the \$3.3 million.

New Appointments and Volunteers

Noting that a small town like Middleburg could never run without the extraordinary help and hard work of volunteers, Council unanimously appointed:

Kathy Ribaud to the Planning Commission for a four-year term;

Howard Armfield and Edward “Snooks” Swain to the Health Center Advisory Board for two-year terms;

Andrew Bergner, Terri Kitchen, Mary Bell Peters, Wendy Duling and Mimi Stein to the Pink Box Advisory Committee for two-year terms;

Marci Nadler to the unexpired term on the Middleburg Arts Council, said term to expire June 14, 2013.

Council also recommend to the Judge of the Loudoun County Circuit Court that Betty Barrett be re-appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term, said term to expire December 31, 2017.

Route Streetscape Project

Council authorized Town staff to appoint a Route 50 Streetscape Project Steering Committee as an integral part of an ongoing project to develop a coherent design for Route 50 streetscape

Middleburg has received a grant from the Metropolitan Washington Council on Local Governments to provide consulting services to develop the streetscape design.

The Committee, as currently configured, will include one member each from Town Council, the Planning Commission, the Historic District Review Committee, the Middleburg Business and Professional Association, the Go Green Committee, the Streetscape Committee and a resident of the Town of Middleburg.

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PHOTOS BY LIZ CALLER



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Foxcroft has an outstanding curriculum that includes an innovative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) initiative that includes computer programming, a project-based, service learning engineering program developed at Purdue University, and math and science curricula designed especially to stimulate and educate girls.

The School broke ground on a new dormitory in July, the first step in an initiative that will update all the residential buildings to enhance the living spaces for both students and faculty families. In excess of 80 percent of the Foxcroft faculty live on campus and day students also have rooms and beds, creating an outstanding sense of community that nurtures and inspires students.

During Foxcroft's Admission Open Houses students and parents will have an opportunity to thoroughly explore the School. They may attend classes, Morning Meeting, and meals with students, and get to ask questions at student and faculty panels. Tours of the campus and admission interviews also are available

For more information, call -
Director of Admission and Financial Aid Gina B. Finn at 540.687.4340.

The Middleburg Business & Professional Association and the Pink Box
invite you to enjoy a town tradition and kick-off to your Christmas in Middleburg weekend

the
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
Friday, November 30th
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Please join us in the
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Enjoy Holiday Music as well as
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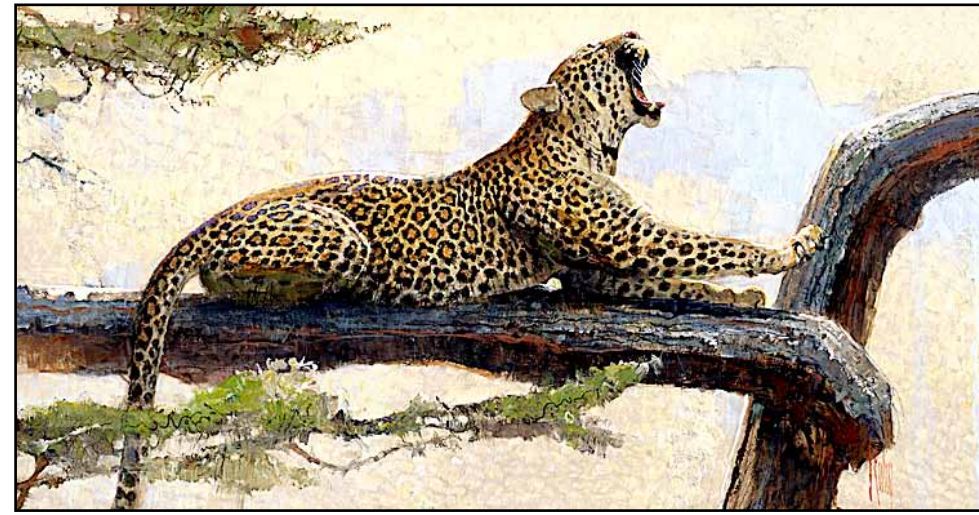
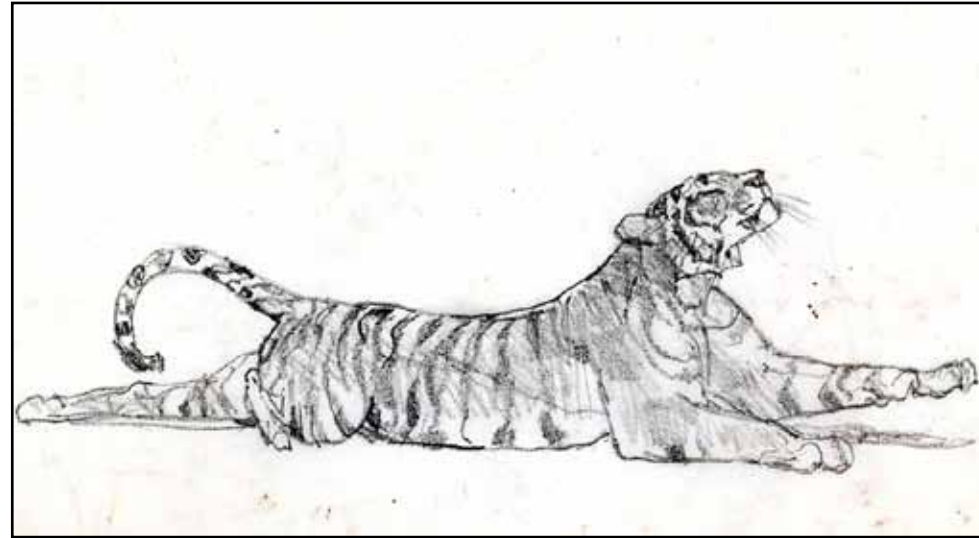
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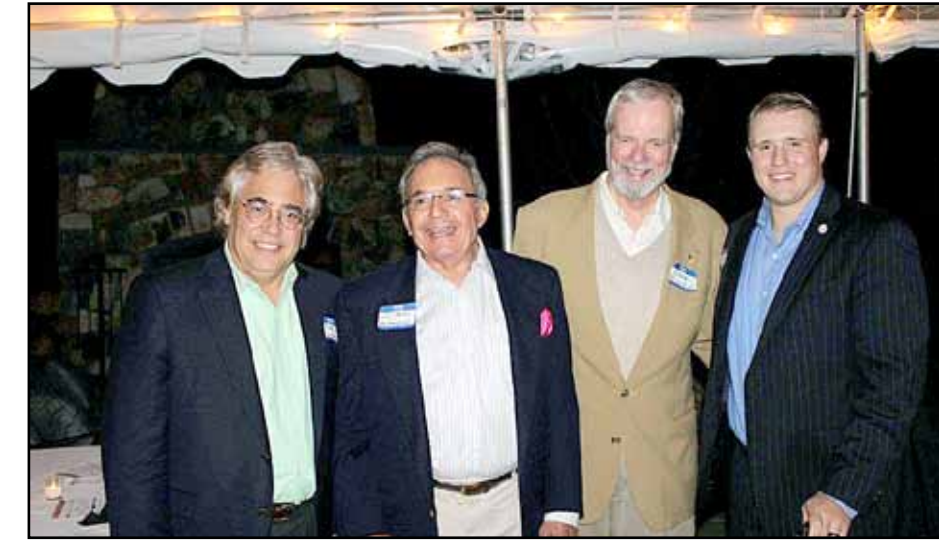
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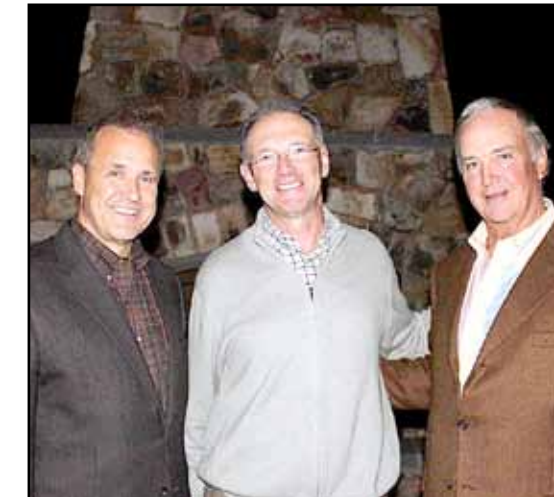
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PASTIMES

TO BOLDLY GO... TO THE BIG 10

7TH INNING STRETCH
ALEX CUDABACK

The sound you're hearing from just over the horizon could be the scraping and squeaking of rats after cheese.

It might be the aftereffects of Adam "Pac-Man" Jones making it rain out in Cincinnati.

But, most likely, it's the University of Maryland, charter member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, its President, its Athletic Director and its Board of Regents all prostrating themselves before Jim Delany, their souls, er, I mean soles, scuffling the floor as they try to squirm closer to the Big 10's dangling teats and the warm, rich, heavy money that comes oozing out of them.

Gross. Oh, but wait! Here comes Maryland's student government executive board, praising the decision for its, wait for it, academic implications!

According to a letter submitted by the executive board in support of the move, "Several academic benefits come with membership in the CIC (the Committee on Institutional Cooperation), ranging from collaboration and cooperation that helps member schools obtain federal grants, to exchanges of member resources and scholars. This would increase the University's stature as a Research I institution, further bolstering our academic reputation nationally and globally."

Wha...?!!? Sorry. I just had to clean up the milk that blew out of my nose after reading that.

Look, the University of Maryland can do, and will do, whatever it wants. And the student government's executive board can get in line and play

good soldier 'til the cows come home. (Speaking of cows, there are many, many, many more of them in the Big 10 than the ACC. So get ready. Lots of cows. Go moo.)

But for the University or any of its apparatchiks to stand up and shrilly proclaim that this was a move based on anything other than a mad grab for cash is lunacy bordering on the insulting.

You want research? Wander on down Tobacco Road and see if a geometric form begins to resolve itself around the three universities clustered within fifteen miles of one another.

I'll give you a hint. Three universities. In a triangle. Loosely, but aptly, referred to as THE RESEARCH TRIANGLE.

Georgia Institute of Technology and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (c'mon, Maryland, that's Georgia Tech and Virginia Tech to you!) are home to two of the preeminent engineering and robotics programs in the country, if not the world.

Maybe Maryland felt that the lousy academic reputations of schools like Boston College, the University of Virginia, Wake Forest and Clemson were keeping 'em down....

Uh huh. So, let's all take a deep, deep breath and admit, in no uncertain terms, that the University of Maryland fled to the Big 10 Conference for an increase of guaranteed revenues of nearly \$8 million per year, bumping direct, athletics-generated revenues from a paltry \$17 million to nearly \$25 million, and that's before the newly swollen Big 10 (12? 14?) gets the opportunity to renegotiate its ransom demands,

er, sorry, media rights, in 2017. What do the students and student-athletes ('cause they're different) get out of this? What about the parents, you ask?

Road trips! Woohoo! There was something sort of exciting about rolling down to Florida in the middle of February for college basketball.

Now? Sunny Minnesota! Who wants to go to Georgia or South Carolina when you've got home and homes scheduled with Nebraska?

Yay! And the real kicker, the thing that's gonna make this travesty even easier to sweep under the rug of "we're looking to the future?"

The exit fee that Maryland is facing is only \$50 million!

Yes! Wait....

So, to weasel out of the conference it helped found, the conference about which University President Wallace Loh said two months ago, "I think the ACC is a fantastic conference. Maryland has been part of this conference from the very beginning, it's a deep and rich tradition, we will continue to be a part of the ACC," it's only going to cost Maryland, a state, taxpayer-supported institution, mind you, more than six times what it will benefit from annually in this hare-brained move?

Brilliant. After this transparent money grab, the University of Maryland is going to need a LOT of help in bolstering its reputation, locally, nationally and globally. Maybe the student government was right....

Alex can be reached at cuda24@yahoo.com



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TRANSFORMATIONAL HEALING

CINDY BATTINO

This economy can have a positive effect on your holiday celebrations. It can motivate you to create new traditions that include peace, serenity, intimacy, abundance and good health.

Holidays and Travel

If you choose to travel over the holidays, can you drive, take a train or bus instead of fly? The cost of gas and flying might not work in your tightened budget. The buses are definitely the way to go in style for distances you might have normally driven. You can also turn tradition on its head by recommending the family come to you – or meet in the middle.

Your travel time can be shortened. Spending four days versus a whole week could cut your expenses in half. Another possibility? Stay home this year and create your own family traditions. If your children are little, there is less opportunity for fights over toys, dogs, and food.

Gifts

There is no getting around the fact that all kids (large and small) like to have lots of presents under the tree. If you do stockings plus gifts, consider not having stockings so that there can be more under the tree. Fill the stockings with items no more than \$1-2 each. Infants and toddlers don't care how many presents they get. Teens and above can grasp the concept of less is more – and the importance of doing for others.

Have a budget. Let the kids give you lists that include lots of

choices. This holiday might be about only getting three instead of 10. Maybe it is about only buying a few presents and making the rest. Art, clay, tie-dye, family pictures, cookies – there are lots of ways to make great presents for the whole family.

What is the true meaning of the holiday to you? If you believe the holidays are about gratitude, love, and joy, why not share something that is important to you with your family? You can give your favorite book or movie. You can donate to a cause, or buy presents for needy children in your family's name. Starbucks has a bracelet for \$5 that creates jobs. Schools have lists of families in need. Homeless shelters always need volunteers, blankets, and coats.

Holidays and Stress

If you invite extended family be part of your holiday season, don't be afraid to rock the boat by doing things differently for the sake of serenity. Make sure you have your own room with a door and real bed for a good night's sleep. If staying with family means sleeping on the floor or in a room without a door, find a cheap hotel and book it NOW.

Pack your sneakers and take a walk in the middle of the day. Walk off the food, anxiety and boredom. You will pat yourself on the back for making your mental, emotional and physical health a priority this holiday season.

We tend to revert to old behavior when we are around our family. Examine your expectations and make sure they are reasonable. Set your intention to stand in the person you are today. One acronym to hold as a mantra: THINK before you speak. Is what you want to say: Truthful, Helpful, Important, Nice, and Kind?

You deserve a happy and healthy holiday season, and it is up to you to make it happen. We hope that these tips will bring more joy to your holiday!

Please contact Cindy at cindy@transform-heal.com to receive a list of resources – websites, books, blogs, health institutes for cancer.



WOOD WORK

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

Now that leaves have fallen from trees and shrubs its time to wander through the garden and access the pruning requirements of our woody plants. Dead branches need removed, something that might not be so obvious, check by

bending the branch to see if it breaks with a snap. Crossed branches are also a good place to prune, removing the worst offenders, essentially leaving an open network of interior branches. A yearly pruning will save you from the future problem of dealing with insects that have entered damaged wood and also help maintain a good

shape on trees and shrubs as they mature. When this is handled regularly there is no need for a chain saw, just a good pair of pruners or a hand saw. Trees like Japanese maples, redbuds, magnolias and dogwoods respond beautifully to yearly maintenance.

When removing a tree limb, it is very important to cut

just beyond the branch collar so that the wound will heal properly. The branch collar is an area of tissue containing protective chemicals that heal over and provide a barrier against boring insects. If you look closely you will usually see a small bump or ridge that circles the base of each branch. Cut at the top of the limb, just beyond the ridge, but don't cut all the way through until you have cut some from the bottom, an inch or so into the limb. This keeps the falling weight of the branch from ripping off bark as it falls.

Shrubs that are routinely sheared will also benefit from periodic thinning. The removal of dense, inner branches in shrubs such as boxwood will promote air circulation and encourage healthy growth. The practice of plucking boxwoods or thinning inner branches can be done anytime in the winter, many professionals time it so that boxwood clippings can be sold for use in holiday decorations.

You can also take advantage of the winter season with an inspection for insects. Boxwoods often suffer from leaf minor and/or mites which become more obvious with the onset of cold weather.

The leaves will look yellow, blotchy with leaf minor problems and speckled from mites. The boxwood leaf miner winters over inside the leaf and resumes its feeding in spring. Insecticidal soap can be sprayed once the feeding begins with warmer temperatures in March and April. The mite will over winter as an adult, a November application of a light horticultural oil is recommended, applied when temperatures are 45 degrees or above.

The deciduous magnolias can get scale which is easily seen once the leaves have dropped. Small, peppercorn size lumps will cover branch or trunk. If you noticed an unusually high incidence of bee activity around your magnolias in summer, chances are you have scale. The bees are drawn to the honeydew secreted by the females in June and July. A dormant oil spray can be used during the winter months, applications can be made in November and again in March.

November brings us shortening days and a lessening of tasks in the garden, but with good timing a few things can be dealt with to halt future problems.



Happy Holidays!

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PASTIMES

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REVISITED

WATERWORLD

RICHARD A. ENGBERG

Last year in this column, the water guy discussed hydraulic fracturing or fracking as it is abbreviated. Regardless of how it sounds, fracking to many is something that will help the United States to long term energy independence, but to others is a dirty word.

First, let's review what fracking is. It is a technique of pumping large amounts of water, sand and chemicals at high pressure into a well drilled first vertically and then horizontally into a shale formation to create and enlarge cracks in the formation to release natural gas or oil.

Last year's column dwelt with fracking fluid, focusing on concerns about toxic chemicals used in the fluid, and on the disposal of the fluid returned to the

surface together with water produced from the formation. These concerns are still valid but mostly can be overcome by proper well construction and proper handling of the waste material. This column, let's focus on the importance of fracking and on its downsides.

The importance is easy to discuss and measure.

An article in the November 12, 2012, Wall Street Journal, speculated that thanks to the development of horizontal drilling and fracking, the United States has the potential for less reliance on foreign oil. The article suggested that as early as 2020, the United States may replace Saudi Arabia as the largest producer of oil.

The International Energy Agency also weighed in, saying that global energy production is being redefined by the resurgence

of oil and gas production in the United States.

Those who support fracking without serious regulation see energy independence as totally necessary even if there are some downsides. They extol the new jobs and economic benefits of this new industry. They believe that federal lands that overlie shale formations should be opened to drilling and fracking.

Those who are either anti-fracking or who only support fracking that is seriously regulated, cite water pollution from fracking chemicals and formation water. They are concerned that fracking can increase greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere accelerating climate change.

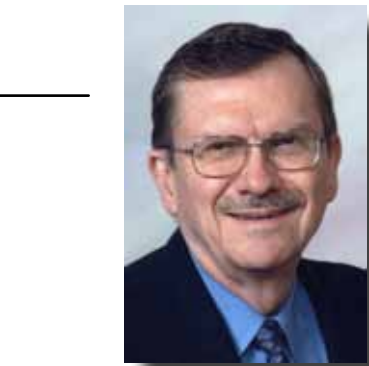
They point out environmental damage caused by installation of new roads and drilling sites. They provide examples of chicanery by

energy companies in their efforts to secure mineral rights. They discuss documented instances of increased crime in small towns as large numbers of oil field workers descend on these communities. They express concern about unlimited drilling on federal lands.

Can you imagine a drill site near Old Faithful in Yellowstone? Near Half Dome in Yosemite? Next to Delicate Arch in Arches National Park? In the middle of Gettysburg battlefield?

The water guy takes no position for or against fracking, at least not now.

He understands the need for more energy production and applauds that American technology and ingenuity have taught us how to release oil and gas from formations heretofore untapped. But he also understands that there are other energy sources - solar, wind,



geothermal, and nuclear - that need to be developed, and that we will not achieve true energy independence until we make better use of these sources.

He wonders if our countries fixation on energy from oil and gas doesn't slow down the development of these other sources? He also doesn't want to see the environment and our natural wonders threatened by indiscriminate drilling.

Only time will tell what the future will bring regarding fracking. Stay tuned.



But like many visionaries, he rolled with the high and low tides of starting any organization and has done much of it all on his own. Seemingly tirelessly, he not only organizes meeting, looks for, notes, sources and promotes any artistic event or opportunity he can find locally - he creates them too. Chaos Theory, opening Thursday, November 29th at Sona Back in Middleburg, is one such event. With more information found at the above mentioned website, Peter has found something else to wrap his arms around.

I'd like to also put a personal spin on Peter's mission, that laced within his goal is that of directly supporting a local economy and jobs. After all, local artists, the products they create and the local business that assist the sales of their creative works, is about as locally good as it can get. Artists aren't often thought of as manufacturing products, but we do and when someone purchases art here and takes it to, oh, lets say Greece of all places, as I've had a painting go to in the last year, it is a true export. Trust me, that was \$3,500. dollars from someplace else, that's now largely finding it's way into the local economy and its charities.

Peter's mission, as all of us in the local business of art, is one digit in a five finger approach to full hand of local health. That hand is out shaking those of would be visitors. The individual thumb and fingers of History, Equestrian, Scenic Recreation, Winery and The Arts, should never be thought of as one bigger or more important than the other, but rather just as important as each other and far more important as one complete hand. Seen palm up within that hand, those seeking to visit our area will find a welcome wealth of opportunity which also then includes great shopping, events, restaurants, inns, museums and much, much more. Amen.

LiveAnArtfulLife.com, Tom

BREATHE, YOU MIGHT JUST LOSE WEIGHT

KAY COLGAN, B.S. HEALTH COACH AND CERTIFIED PILATES APPARATUS AND MAT TRAINER

Today's economy has most of us in a state of flux. The price of everything going up and less coming in is sure to make even the happiest people a little uneasy. Ongoing stress can wreck the best laid plans when it comes to losing and maintaining weight loss. Our bodies produce cortisol which is a hormone that basically likes to hold onto fat, especially around the middle. With no windfall in the near future how can we get healthy, lose weight and deal with the current economy?

First, realize what you can control and what is basically out of your control. If expenses are high and funds are low, eliminating lattes and lunches out will help get you back on track. While this might not solve all your financial woes, being able to take control of one little piece will help to put you back in the driver's seat. Once you feel like you can regain some control, then stress becomes less. Exercises such as Yoga and Pilates help you breathe and calm down. Learning how to use your breath in stressful times will not only help you deal with stress but will help to keep your blood pressure from boiling over. Remember stress is not a bad thing. In fact, it is good

at times to get the adrenaline up and meet a task head on. But ongoing chronic stress of worry will inflame the body and compromise the immune system. Instead of allowing your body to break down, build it up with healthy nutrition. Studies have shown eating the proper nutrients which come from fruits and vegetables and lean protein will help our bodies deal with the stressors of life. Sometimes we reach for comfort foods when we are stressed and it only adds to our inflamed condition. Instead, be conscious of what you eat and drink. Staying hydrated as well as eating a balanced diet will not only make you feel better, but will also calm the body.

Stress is a part of all of our lives. It can eat away at us if we allow it to. Count to 10 as you breathe in and fill your lungs and count to 10 as you exhale. Do this 5 times when stress is getting to you. Constantly taking deep breaths during stressful times has been proven to lower cortisol levels. You don't need to pay for a class to breathe, it's free! Breathe with me and lower your stress today. For more information about health and fitness, please contact:

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THE ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

As many of you who read this column each month will know, I tend to air on the side of artistic philosophy, more so than on individual artists. In the event, and while I've mentioned his name before, you do not know about Peter Wood, please let me introduce you.

Peter lives in the town of Middleburg and like many, he

didn't grow up here, but he has found a dedicated mission in wanting the area's artists and art scene to be recognized and more so, for the area to be legitimized as a true arts destination. Now while this has at least been somewhat tried before and his efforts do overlap the efforts of more than a few other organizations, Peter's approach is proving to be different. He is pushing his pin into the map on the town of Middleburg and some very localized surrounding areas.

It is fair to mention that Peter himself is an artist and his

work is found at www.RustyMetal.com. While Peter's creations would be described as contemporary or modern, here in the pretty traditional setting of Hunt Country, it is non the less relevant. But his approach to both his art and his mission is so open minded and diligent, the importance of it can't be ignored. He just wants the world to know quality artists of all kinds make Hunt Country their home. That there really is a little something for everyone here and he doesn't discriminate in this endeavor.

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Spring is one special dog! She is a Shepherd mix that is about 5 years old. She is smart, playful, and seems to love absolutely everyone!



Kelly is an adorable love-of-your-life kitten that is looking for a home. He has a HUGE personality & is extremely affectionate. Kelly needs to be an only kitty for about 3 more months (we can explain more...) He is about 5 months old, is neutered & very healthy.

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We have 5 adorable puppies born September 24, 2012. They will grow to be medium-large size. They will need homes where they receive lots of socialization. Their mom is an Airedale Terrier X & their dad is a Beagle X.



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Julio is a sweet Beagle X Miniature Pinscher that is about 2 yrs old. He gets along great with other dogs, cats & children. He LOVES to play and would love a family of his own!



Middleburg Humane Foundation's Grooming Salon

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ALBERT'S CORNER

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

ALBERT P. CLARK

It's hard for me to talk about what's going on in my life, but I think it's best to write from the heart. Basically, one of the dogs in my family is sick. Tucker, the Whippet, has a very aggressive form of skin cancer caused by the sun. At this point, he has had serious surgery and chemotherapy. More surgery is next.

We don't know if Tucker will be okay. We just don't know. What we do know is that he's happy to be here. He still wags his tail and plays when he feels like it and gives way too many kisses with his pointy nose. His eyes are still bright - maybe even more so now. For Tucker, every day is still a gift.

Watching him reminds me of why I'm proud to be a dog. Each morning of my life, I wake up 100% ready to greet the day. I'm definitely no spring chicken, but I guess I didn't get the memo, because I still act like a puppy when daylight breaks.

My people are actually kind of annoyed with me about this. When I wake up, I think everybody in the house should be awake, so I make it happen. It's very nice of me, and I can never figure out why everybody grouches about it. I mean, what sane being would want to miss one second of one glorious sunrise on this planet? It makes me wonder if my people understand the gift of a new day the way I do ... the way Tucker does ... the way all dogs do.

Not only do we know how to wake up with gratitude, we also know how to make the most of our days. We're really appreciative of the simple things: a small treat, the chance to play, a gentle pat on our heads. When we're happy, our tails wag our entire body and our eyes literally smile.

I'm bringing this up because the holidays are here, which means it's the perfect time to be thankful. And yet, I think people have a really hard time understanding how to be. They get caught up in their busy schedules and forget to smell the roses. They don't remember that every day with loved ones is a luxury. They forget about gratitude as a way of life.

I'm not talking about being thankful in the typical ways. I'm talking about realizing that there is only one true gift. The gift is in the being here. The gift is in being at all.

When I enthusiastically announce the arrival of morning, I'm not just asking for breakfast or telling everyone that I have to go outside. Yes, I need those things too, but if one listens closely, there's something else in my bark. It's the unmistakable joy of being able to greet the day; to see Tucker's bright eyes; and to know that all of us have more time.

I hope Tucker's going to be here for a long, long time. He's skinny and weird looking and I used to love pestering him to no end when I was a little peanut of a pup. He took it all in stride and tried to show me then what he's trying to show me now: how to live life to the fullest no matter what nips at your heels.

This holiday season, it might be a good idea to give the people and pets in your family a little extra love and attention. Every day is a brand new chance to be with them. What a gift indeed.

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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November and December will either make or break nearly every small retailer . . . including our own.

Let’s make sure our first loyalty as shoppers this year is to the people who make our town the special place that it is.

Shop big. Shop often. Shop Local.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

This month the Eccentric welcomes a new “Red” columnist, James Morgan. Jim works at the State Department, is a Marine, a member of the Board of Directors of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, and a respected historian (the author, by all accounts, of the definitive work on the Battle of

Ball’s Bluff). We also return this month to the approach that launched Red vs Blue. Each month Jim and Dan Morrow will write on the same topic, without either having first seen what the other has written. We hope you will enjoy both the tone and substance of their monthly exchanges.

LETTERS

To The Editor:

We began reading with interest the editorial entitled “Red Sky.” However, by the time we finished, our interest had changed to disgust.

We are the owners of the boat Red Sky and take great exception to the aforementioned editorial. First, the writer based the core argument of his editorial and associated political conversion on a foundationally wrong set of assumptions at our expense. Second, he demonstrated a clear bias focused on judgmental beliefs of what constitutes a “show

of wealth” from the guise of having some sort of position of knowledge or other high-minded self-imposed arrogance of a “better person”. Third, the thrust of his editorial amounted to an assassination of our character.

We have nothing to do with the hedge fund business, nor participate in tax evasion. Instead, we are faithful, proud, and hard working American citizens, who always lawfully pay our fair share of taxes, employ many people, have created wealth for others, and contribute our time and resources generously to many national and international charitable causes.

There is a great deal of beauty and responsibility in having the right to exercise freedom of speech and expression thereof. There is also a down-side to this precious right as is evidenced by the individual who abused it in order to promote his self-serving narrow-minded views. Should the original editorial author have done a little more homework and not lazily run with the input from a lone tradesman on a dock, he might have realized that his information was 100% incorrect.

The Owners of Red Sky

Dear Editor:

As we all know, Thanksgiving is a time to reflect and give thanks to the people and events that have enriched our lives. On an equally important, but smaller scale, my wife, my daughter, and I do this every night at the dinner table. We each discuss our lowest point and highest point of the day, three things we are grateful for, and one thing we are proud of. During the last few months, our nightly talks have had a common theme centered on the biggest shift in our lives this year... our move to Middleburg.

When you transplant a mature tree, one of the main concerns is shock. Much of the tree’s root system - and therefore its ability to thrive and stand on its own - is lost in the move. The tree often requires not only physical support, but careful nurturing until it can adapt to the soil and climate where it is planted. It is not much different when you transplant a family that has established roots in a community.

My wife and I lived in Prince William County for nine years before we moved to Middleburg. We lived for all of those years in the same house - the house where I pro-

posed to her, where we brought our only daughter home from the hospital, where we started a business, and where we suffered hardships and experienced joys with family and friends. But also during that time, we were married in Middleburg, made many day trips to the area, and fell deeply in love with its bucolic pace of life and natural beauty.

Nevertheless, our move was in many ways a leap of faith. The great unknowns were not whether we would be living in a beautiful part of the country - you know before you transplant your tree that it will not be an eyesore, or else you wouldn’t move it. Our main concerns before relocating were of landing here decade. d - when you’ of town at the last minute, for whether, as people with busy professional and social lives, we would need to spend months or years building close friendships; whether our daughter would smoothly adjust to her new school and social environment; and whether we would have anyone to turn to for advice on doctors or babysitters, to let out our dog when we were running late, to help set up chairs and tables for a birthday party, or any of a thousand acts of kindness you receive - or no longer need - when you’ve been in

one place for nearly a decade.

I cannot express how deeply misplaced our concerns were. From the day we arrived, the people of the Middleburg community, and especially The Hill School, opened up their hearts and their homes to us in the most amazing ways. We did not have to slowly earn our way into the community - which, having grown up in a small town, I know can take ages. We were greeted so warmly, we were quickly engaged by people who were truly interested in getting to know us, and we were invited to participate in their community and in their lives with no hesitation or reservations. And for that we are filled with gratitude.

So, during this time of thanks, we wish to thank everyone here for making us feel welcome. Thank you for your generosity, hospitality, and warmth. Thank you for your spirit of friendship and community. And thank you for convincing me and my family that we made the best decision of our lives in moving here.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy Thanksgiving to all.

The Quinn Family

ABORTION

BLUE

DANIEL MORROW

For an old man to write on a topic that is best left (like the right to choose) to women is arguably both unwise and arrogant.

What makes it necessary, however, is that old men, most of them wealthy, old, white lawyers, have been both unwise and arrogant enough to legislate on the matter.

Worse still, they legislated in ways that were so fundamentally misguided, unjust, and dangerous that the courts had to be called on to protect the rights of innocent women against their own representatives.

Sadly, the misguided, unjust and dangerous assault on those rights continues, and until more of us come

to our senses, the courts will remain the last all-too-fragile bulwark of justice.

Ancient rhetoric continues to be used in the right’s ongoing efforts to re-impose old injustices and further restrict women’s inalienable right to make their own decisions about their own bodies.

Our Conservative friends like to say Liberals, male and female, “favor” abortion.

Nothing could be farther from the truth.

The ideal, for most of us, is to do everything in our power to make abortions as rare as possible and as safe as possible.

The only way to do that, of course, is to keep them legal.

If you doubt that ask one of us old enough to remember what happened when abortion was illegal.

Perhaps the most powerful argument trotted out by those who would make abortion once more illegal and unsafe, is the notion that an abortion is the moral equivalent of murder.

The irony there is that many if not all of them clearly don’t believe what they’re arguing.

They swear they believe “life” is sacred, but happily approve of rolling the dice whenever the death penalty is imposed.

“Collateral damage” they will argue, whether in Hiroshima, or Dresden, or Afghanistan, is absolutely “justifiable” on the grounds of “the

greater good.”

Soldier’s sacred lives, they argue, may, with justice, be sacrificed for even less cause, for tactical advantage, in hopeless actions, in unjust wars, at the whim of ticket-punching officers.

Yet, they argue, the notion that some “greater good” may be served by not allowing a pregnancy to reach the point of viability, is criminal or worse.

Rape? Incest? The mother’s life? Deformity? A lifetime of pain

RED

JAMES MORGAN

During his 1858 debates with Abraham Lincoln, Senator Stephen Douglas said, “whoever wants slavery has a right to have it.” Douglas owned no slaves himself and disapproved of the institution: “We have prohibited it in Illinois (and I think we have done wisely.” In other words, Stephen Douglas was pro-choice; personally opposed but didn’t want to impose his views on others. As to the morality of the practice, Douglas said, “you must allow the people to decide for themselves whether it is a good or an evil.”

Sound familiar?

Douglas’s view of “choice” was to the slave as today’s version is to the unborn child. In each case, the individual with the most at stake has the least to say about it. In each case, an entire group of people is classed as sub-human or, in the words of the Dred Scott decision, “a subordinate and inferior class of beings (with) no rights or privileges but such as those who held the power and the Government might choose to grant them.”

Indeed, how else could the actions against slaves or unborn children possibly be justified except by denying their humanity? And, in each case, the “pro-choice” argument uses the language of freedom and constitutional rights. Lincoln rightly called that “a specious and fantastic

arrangement of words by which a man can prove a horse chestnut to be a chestnut horse.”

A woman should be able to do as she sees fit with her own body, but not with someone else’s body. And there’s the rub. There are two distinct human beings involved in an abortion. Unfortunately, the law has declared one of them to be “subordinate and inferior” and having “no rights or privileges.”

In both “Dred Scott v. Sandford” and “Roe v. Wade,” the U.S. government effectively claimed the right to redefine the meaning of “human.” Each time, it virtually erased an entire category of human beings from existence. How can anyone approve of such an outrageous assertion of power?

Abortion supporters like to insist that the beginning of life is a purely religious question, beyond the competence of the state to decide, and therefore out of bounds for the purpose of making public policy. But this is a dodge, an attempt to discredit pro-lifers by portraying them as religious extremists.

So when does life begin? As anyone who has taken high school biology should know, life begins at conception. Insects, starfish, reptiles, birds, cats, humans, name the species. Though there is a religious component to it in discussions of the soul, the beginning of life is explain-

and suffering? Mental and physical agony? Human, social, and economic costs beyond reckoning?

Those things pale into insignificance, our Red friends argue.

We don’t think so, and most women agree.

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

The election is over, thank goodness, and we will no longer have to suffer the bombardment of political ads especially for those of us here in states considered swing or important.

The amount of money spent was frankly disgusting and the only real winners were the paid media outlets who made a fortune. I would love to hear from readers whether or not any of the ads actually made a difference in how you voted.

We must overhaul the election process.

There should be NO private or corporate funding of candidates. Elections should take six weeks not 19 months; all qualified candidates should be given FREE AND EQUAL television time. Elections would be decided on the merits of the candidates and not on how much money you can raise and spend.

If you agree, talk this up and let your representatives know how you feel, maybe we can start a move in that direction.

The biggest losers this time around were Carl Rove and his billionaire PAC fund contributors, the extreme religious right and the Tea Party.

The most unfortunate losers were those moderate and old fashioned Republicans whose party has been stolen from them by the extremists.

I must say I was very, very happy to see Rove and his investors take such a huge hit. I hope it proves that money and advertising (much of it false) will not win out and fool the American people.

Intellect and integrity have returned to the American public following the lapses during the disastrous two Bush elections.

It has been interesting to hear the right wing pundits trying to explain how and why the party lost.

Bill (I call him O’Really!) said that those who voted for Obama where those who needed something and were convinced that Obama would give it to them. He was actually referring to welfare and other social programs, but he was right in that need did play a part in the reelection of Obama and other Democratic and Independent Congressional winners.

We need the freedom to marry the person we love regardless of gender. If you are a woman you need freedom to make your own choices about your body. We need assurance that organizations such as Planned Parenthood and Public Broadcasting will not be federally defunded. Congress needs to be free from men who minimize and try to define rape as something other than a violent event.

We need people such as Elizabeth Warren to take on the corporations who are far too powerful and whose influence is destroying this country. Although not perfect, we need to be free from a president who would make it a priority to repeal the first health care act ever passed in this country.

Now that Obama has been safely reelected we cannot be complacent and let him have his way if we disagree. We must push for a better policy on immigration.

We must strongly object to his drone program where Americans are targeted and killed just because they are suspects, and where hundreds of innocent civilians are killed and injured.

We have to keep pushing for Single Payer Medicare for all, because it is the best and most economical method of ensuring all Americans are covered.

The war on poverty must continue.

I would like to make a point that I have not heard from anyone in the press. I contribute much of the success the Democrats had this time around to the Occupy Movement, they showed that regular Americans could make a difference no matter how small or insignificant we feel.

Remember, it was Occupy who made giants like Bank of America cancel a planned rise in rates, they made us aware that true grassroots organizing can and does make a difference.

The Occupy Movement is not in the press as much as they were at the height of their movement but they are very much alive in smaller communities around the country and around the world.....so kudos to all you occupiers who helped turn this country around and get on a better and more fair track.

his first act would be to seek out a Republican colleague with whom he could build a bridge across the political divide. It does not hurt that Tim is a former Chairman of the Democratic Party and a friend of the President.

So Purple is optimistic, buoyed by Garrison Keillor’s post-election program last weekend. Garrison had his neighbors from Lake Wobegon sing-

ing old time national favorites, bringing tears of hope to my eyes as they sang:

“O beautiful for patriot dream, that sees beyond the years, Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.”

Purple prays the Americans in Congress were listening.

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Eccentric

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THE BLACKBURN MURDER

DANIEL MORROW

Saving Tom Blackburn

When Jim Massie finally the side of the man who had gone down during the “scuffle” he’d witnessed, he found him lying “slightly twisted,” on his left side, with his head resting in a deep rut in the Nelson Street mud.

He was still alive.

“He made no moan or groan,” Massie later testified, “but there was a gurgling, snuffling noise made in his breathing . . . like a man with his mouth and nose full of something.”

The lower half of the downed man’s face was covered in blood, Massie remembered. In the shadows it looked “black, as though he wore whiskers.”

“Hoping to prevent him from strangling in his own blood,” Massie grabbed his right arm and pulled until his head was out of the rut.

Massie then “called to him and asked who he was,” but “he gave no sign of consciousness.”

“I believe some one is killed here!” Massie muttered to whom-ever might be listening, and then began to shout, “Help! Help!”

A “tall gentleman in citizen’s clothes” was the first to reach Massie’s side.

When this unidentified civilian asked what was the matter, Massie said he told him, “Some man is killed here!’ or something to that effect.

Much to Massie’s distress,

the “tall gentleman” at that point made “an exclamation of horror and ran off.”

Massie turned again to what he now saw was a very badly wounded man, and tried to get him to sit up.

Only then, he said, did he notice the victim’s overcoat with its distinctive cloak and brass buttons, and realized at once the man was a Cadet.

Then, as soon as he could see man’s face he “recognized the features of Cadet Blackburn” whom he “knew very well.”

“A tall cadet and another gentleman then came up,” and Massie, said “informed them that I believed some one had killed Cadet Blackburn, and requested them to go for a physician.”

The cadet immediately set off “to fetch, a physician.”

Another “gentleman” wearing the dark blue uniform and cap of a VMI musician was next on the scene.

Though never precisely identified, he was, no doubt, A. V. Bancker, the VMI drummer, or one of his two sons. The three comprised the entire VMI “band” and had been hired some five years earlier to replace “Mike” and “Ruben”, two slaves who had provided martial music for the cadet corps during it’s first decade.

Bancker recognized Blackburn immediately, “and stooping down near him called his name loudly several times.”

“There was no answer,” Massie later testified, though Blackburn was still alive and “the gurgling sound continued.”



WHITE’S CORNER IN 1870. DETAIL FROM A PHOTOGRAPH, BY MICHAEL MILEY, TAKEN DURING THE FUNERAL OF ROBERT E. LEE

Bancker then took Blackburn by the shoulders while Massie hung on to his right arm, and together they dragged him a few yards, then up and onto some hay

scales, by which time, by Massie’s account, “some dozen persons had gathered around.”

No more than two or three minutes had passed since Massie had seen young Blackburn shoved, stagger and fall in the road.

For a short time, some said three to five minutes, the wounded cadet lay bleeding atop the hay scales.

He was there, still alive, when Tom Taylor returned from the church and Kirkpatrick returned with a doctor, 36-year-old Patrick H. Christian. Dr. Christian had been born in Amherst County and, ironically, was a relative, a second cousin, of the man who had just stabbed Tom Blackburn.

Dr. Christian later testified he found Blackburn lying on the scales, breathing “slowly and heavily” with blood “oozing] from mouth and nostrils.”

After what seemed to Massie to be another four or five minutes, Dr. Christian suggested that Blackburn be taken to his office.

Massie, however, didn’t think Blackburn would make it that far and suggested that he be taken, instead, to the “counting room” of White’s store, just steps away, on the corner of Nelson and Main.

With Massie leading the way, Benton Taylor and several others, helped carry Blackburn into a relatively sheltered area behind White’s store, and then toward the counting room door.

Just as they got there Massie stumbled across one of White’s employees, a Mr. Gold, who had apparently been working on a Sunday evening and was caught in the process of locking the counting room door behind him.

Massie convinced Gold to unlock the door for him and stepped inside the counting room.

As soon as he looked around Massie realized the space was much too small for Doctor Chris-

tian’s or Blackburn’s needs.

Thus the laid Tom Blackburn “on the cellar cap by the counting room door, in an area “separated from the street by a high fence, gated, and protected from the elements by a shed roof.”

A unidentified cadet, sent for a lantern, ran to McDowell’s Hotel.

There in the hotel bar/office, he met the ever-present bar-keeper and front-desk clerk, Hugh Laughlin.

Laughlin gave the cadet the lantern that hung at the front door at McDowell’s, and then followed him to White’s store..

As soon as he arrived Laughlin, later testified, he thought Blackburn was dying.

Massie, by this time, was dead certain.

Blackburn lay helpless on the sloping cellar door, “ Massie said, “his mouth and nose full of blood . . . gasping . . . his eyes set.”

The arrival of the lantern settled the matter for Doctor Christian.

When he finally got a good look at Blackburn, he quickly came to the same conclusion as Laughlin and Massie.

“I saw a wound on his neck, on the left side, immediately below the ear, and directly in the course of the carotid artery,” Christian later testified. “I saw that Mr. Blackburn was dying, and believed that his death proceeded from cutting the carotid artery.”

Dr. Christian, nevertheless, went through the motions of trying to save the boy.

He requested that “stimulants be brought, and that another physician and instruments should be sent for.”

He later admitted that he did so, not because he “thought they would be of service” but because he “thought it proper.”



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