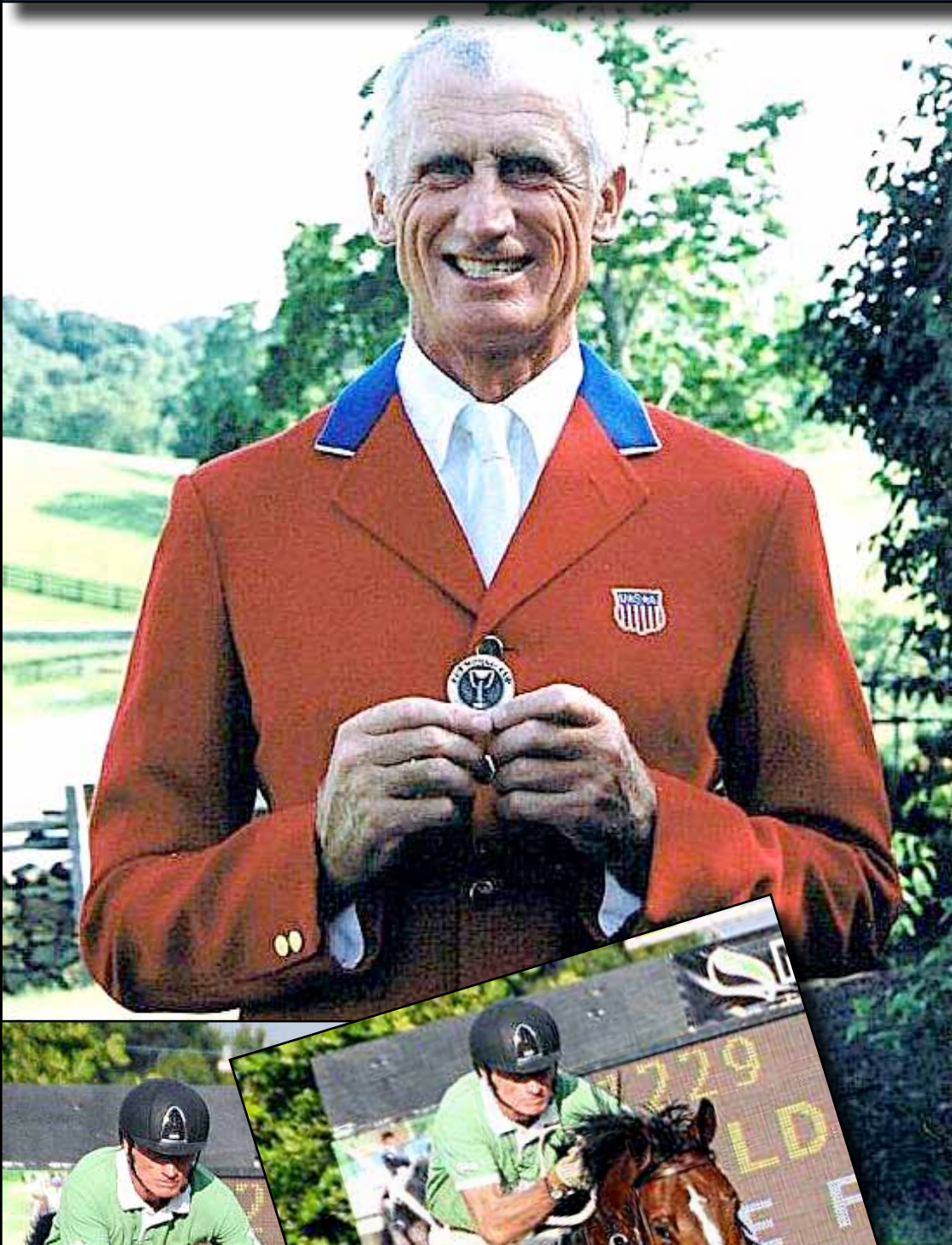




2012 MBPA BUSINESS AWARDS

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KYLE BOARDMAN FINDS HIS VOICE AND HIS FUTURE

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FARGIS RECEIVES USEF HIGHEST HONOR

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) recently announced that Joe Fargis of Middleburg has been selected to receive the year's most coveted lifetime achievement award for his undying support and incredible legacy. Fargis will receive the Jimmy A. Williams Lifetime Achievement Trophy at the Pegasus Awards gala.

Fargis, of Middleburg, Virginia, has been a leading figure in the sport of jumping for more than 40 years and his influence spans the entire scope of the sport in which he has served as a competitor, trainer, administrator and leader.

Fargis has a long list of accomplishments in the competition arena. He made his first of more than 30 FEI Nations Cup appearances in 1970 in Lucerne, Switzerland, beginning his legacy as a stalwart on U.S. teams.

In 1975, Fargis helped the U.S. secure Team Gold at the Pan American Games in Mexico City, Mexico. Nine years later at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Fargis won Team and Individual Gold with Touch of Class. The pair's epic performance set an

Olympic record as they faulted only a single time throughout the competition (they jumped clear over 90 of 91 obstacles).

Fargis furthered his legacy in the 20th century winning Team Silver at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul and representing the U.S. at the FEI World Equestrian Games in Stockholm in 1990.

Additionally, he twice topped the North American East Coast League in qualifying for the FEI World Cup.

Finally, Fargis' legacy, extends to much more than his role as a competitor. His Sandron Farm is a renowned training facility that has helped shape the careers of many of the best horses and riders in the country.

Fargis has also had a lasting effect on the administration of horse sport in the United States as a valued committee member of the American Horse Show Association (the predecessor to the USEF), United States Hunter Jumper Association, and United States Equestrian Team.

Fargis also serves on the Board of Directors of the Upperville Horse Show.

THANKS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

DANIEL MORROW

At its regular monthly meeting on January 10 the Middleburg Town Council passed a formal resolution of appreciation thanking the Christmas in Middleburg Committee, its volunteers, the events sponsors, and town, county, and state staff who gave their time to make this year's event one of the best, and arguably the largest ever. Committee Chairman Jim Herbert formally accepted the Council's thanks.

The economic impact of the parade, which this year brought in an estimated 12,000 visitors, is expected to be reflected sales and use tax data that will become available later this month.

Bond Refinance

Town Administrator Martha Semmes reported that she had been actively engaged in discussion with the Town's financial advisors and bond counsel about refinancing the town's outstanding debt to take advantage of lower interest rates.

After a presentation by Semmes and a representative of Davenport & Co, the town's financial advisor, council appeared to favor the terms offered by SunTrust Bank, over those available from the Commonwealth's Virginia Resources Authority or the Town's current lender, Middleburg Bank.

During its discussion of the alternative proposals Council indicated that, if possible, it would prefer doing business with Middleburg Bank and asked Semmes to see if the locally based institution could not meet or better the terms offered by SunTrust.

A final decision on the refinance is expected before the end of the month

New Seven Loaves President

George Lengauer, long-serving President of the non-profit Seven Loaves organization introduced Council to his successor, Melanie Maloney. Maloney, of Marshall, VA, has served many years as a Seven Loaves supporter, providing food for the needy in Loudoun and surrounding counties. Council expressed its appreciation to Lengauer for his many years of service.

Middleburg Museum

Robert Brown, the attorney for the Middleburg Museum Committee reported to council in December that the committee's formal status as a federal 501.c.3 non profit organization had been approved, and was effective as of the organization's date of incorporation in August 2011. Donations to the museum are now officially tax deductible.

Educator and former Middleburg Town Council member Eura H. Lewis thanked council for its help, with special thanks to Council Vice Chair Darlene Kirk, and Council liaison to the Museum Committee, Cathy Jo Shea for their support and hard work.

Health Fund Donations

Each year the Middleburg Town Council donates to local non-profit or-

Continued Page 14

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PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835



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ANNE MCINTOSH 703-509-4499 \$2,999,000
PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835



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SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$2,600,000
PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835



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SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$699,000
PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835



20596 AIRMONT ROAD – BLUEMONT - CLASSIC FIELDSTONE FARMHOUSE ON 5 OPEN ACRES WITH 7 STALL BARN, FULL SIZE DRESSAGE ARENA, VIEWS AND ADJACENT TO MUCH OPEN SPACE FOR RIDE OUT. BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED GARDENS, PRISTINELY MAINTAINED. HOUSE IS AUTHENTIC AND ORIGINAL WITH 4 STUNNING, PLACES. A TIN ROOF, COMPLETELY RENOVATED OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, WATER AND ELECTRIC TO BARN W/ BOX STALLS, FENCING, PIEDMONT HUNT. LO7928777

SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$589,000
PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835



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.

SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$320,000
PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835



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NEWS OF NOTE

LENGAUER HONORED

Seven Loaves Services has announced the establishment of the George R. Lengauer Volunteer Service Award and the first recipient of the award: its namesake, George Lengauer.

Lengauer has been a long-time volunteer with Seven Loaves, and its president for the last six years.

During that time, Seven Loaves has steadily expanded its operations to meet the increasing needs of those in need of food.

Lengauer retired as president at the end of 2012.

According to Stephanie Maloney, Lengauer's successor, the award recognizes extraordinary dedication, selfless service and long-term commitment to those in need.

"We have many volunteers who exemplify these qualities," said Maloney, "but George Lengauer sets the gold standard.

His unstinting devotion to the needs of the poor and the food insecure inspires all of us.

George has honored us with his service and we are delighted to recognize him."

Seven Loaves is a Middleburg-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing nutritious food, personal supplies and other assistance to those in need.

The organization serves its patrons three days a week from its pantry located in the rear basement of the United Methodist Church located at 15 W. Wash-



ington St. in Middleburg.

In 2012, it served approximately 700 families and provided over 240,000 pounds of food to these families.

Anyone interested in learning more about Seven Loaves, or volunteering to assist in its mission, may contact Stephanie Maloney at (540) 687-3489.

ANNUAL BOOK SALE IN JEOPARDY, 25 YEAR TRADITION AT RISK

Christopher Hill, President of the Loudoun Library Foundation, reports that a fixture on the Loudoun calendar since 1988, the Loudoun Library Foundation's Annual Used Book Sale, is at risk of cancellation due to a lack of space to sort and store the books collected for the sale.

At its January meeting, the nonprofit foundation's Board of Directors agreed that unless a new sorting facility can be secured by the end of January, this year's sale will have to be called off.

Since losing the sorting facility it shared with the Holiday Coalition in 2012, the Foundation has been seeking the donated space it needs to prepare for the annual Book Sale.

Local developer Hobie Mitchell has generously donated storage space for the Foundation's equipment and sale supplies, but an additional 2,500 square feet is still required for the Foundation's book collecting and sorting operations.

The Foundation's space needs are very basic. Unfinished warehouse space with lighting and ideally a loading dock is all that is needed.

The Foundation does not have funds to pay commercial lease rates, but would be able to cover utility costs.

Donations to the Foundation are typically tax-deductible.

The Loudoun Library Foundation Book Sale raises funds each year to help support public libraries across Loudoun County, raising more than \$40,000 in 2012 through the sale of donated books, CDs, and DVDs at the popular three-day sale event in June.

In 2012, the Foundation provided grants to the County library system and the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg. Grants included major sponsorship of the County's Summer Reading Program, support for a public art project at the new Gum Spring Library, and digitization of the WAGE radio tape archive.

Since its inception, the Foundation has raised almost \$650,000 for library programs.

Any offers of donated space or other information about available space can be directed to the Foundation at 703-779-2252 or llfvolunteers@gmail.com.

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Cathy Bernache (540) 424-7066

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Helping people face, navigate, and overcome life's challenges using the therapeutic arts.

What We Believe

Gifts come in many shapes and sizes. In a world that often lacks compassion, understanding and acceptance, APTB provides opportunities for those whose gifts may not be as readily apparent. APTB aims for each individual to discover and understand their own unique contribution and connection to the world to better navigate the future.

SERVICES

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Music Therapy



Life Coaching



School Program

PERFORMANCES & OUTREACH

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SCHOOL PROGRAM

2013-2014

An alternative program incorporating ARTS and SERVICE into a unique transformative educational experience.

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- Is interested in careers in the helping or arts professions
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- Craves a more meaningful social and artistic experience
- Is of high school or college age, (15-22)



WHY THIS PROGRAM?

We have spent the last 15+ years observing how powerful and transformative artistic interactions can be for growth in grades, attitudes and overall outlook on life. The combination of high quality arts along with service to others produces passionate, confident, successful people.

Tom Sweitzer
MT-BC

Kim Tapper
ACC, CPCC

A PLACE TO BE

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www.aplacetobe.org

NEWS OF NOTE

KYLE BOARDMAN FINDS HIS VOICE AND HIS FUTURE AT 'A PLACE TO BE'

High School can be challenging for many students, but most struggle through and surface somehow with help and understanding. Sadly, traditional schooling wasn't working for Kyle Boardman a year and a half ago.

He was uncommunicative and unsuccessful and fearful that things would never get better. Because he did not feel connected to anything bigger than himself he often was unable to express himself the way he wished to.

Today, Kyle's grades are all A's with only one B, he has become an invaluable mentor to children of all ages and is recognized as a brilliant musician with unlimited talent. He works with 10 students weekly, has starred in the community musical, "Little Shop of Horrors" and has volunteered over 200 hours since March of 2012.

How did this transformation take place?

As the result of a Music Therapist who recognized a brilliant talent in him, and loving and committed parents who were willing to help their son find success however non-traditional the process might be.

Many in the Northern Virginia know and applaud Tom Sweitzer's work at "A Place to Be," where, through compassion, understanding and acceptance, children whose gifts are not readily apparent discover and understand their own unique contribution and connection to the world.

In fact, Sweitzer and his staff are used to registering breakthroughs of amazing significance with children who, because they are different, are seldom given a chance to thrive.

But, until Tom invited Kyle Boardman to finish his high school studies at "A Place to Be (APT)," students who, through the complexities of growing up, were frustrated and failing in the traditional education system, were not considered for APTB programs.

"It was as if Kyle was meant to be here to teach us all how much more we could do to help," Sweitzer explained.

"Our mission is to help people face, navigate and overcome life's challenges," he continued. "Sadly, we live in a world that often lacks compassion and understanding. If Kim Tapper and I had not discovered Kyle's incredible musical talent when he auditioned for a role in a high school production where we were consulting directors, we might not have known he was having serious trouble at school. We were already big fans and given the chance, we sincerely hoped we might be able to help."

"We had never invited high school students who were not thriving in a traditional education context to participate in our programs," Tom said. "They were designed for young people who struggled with everything from Cerebral Palsy to Autism."

"For 15 years we have worked with students who have all kinds of disabilities, creating art and music programs for them

that lead to powerful and transformative artistic interactions that, in turn, can lead to growth and an improved outlook on life."

But it is not just power of music and art that have changed Kyle's outlook on life.

"At APTB, Kyle has an opportunity to help our students as well as to complete his high school curriculum in time to graduate. I really believe that an environment filled with high quality arts combined with an opportunity to serve others can produce passionate, confident, successful individuals."

"Kyle is a perfect example of the value of adding arts and service to a young person's life. Our goal now is to find ten other high school students who will work with Kyle and with us to refine and develop this exciting new program."

"It's true," Kyle added. "I just didn't fit in in my high school. I was not doing well and hardly spoke to anyone. When I decided to try out for a role in the Foot-loose production, it was the first time I had ever done anything like that."

"No one was more surprised than I when I was chosen for the lead."

Kyle was chosen for the lead because he is a brilliant musician whose eagerness and natural acting ability were inescapably obvious. It's just that until he tried out for that part, no one really understood how talented he was.

His parents, who were thrilled that his audition had gone well, were in total agreement that, if Tom could make a place for Kyle, APTB might be an amazingly helpful environment for him.

"The regular school system didn't work for me," Kyle continued. "Switching to online classes and spending my days at A Place to Be has taken my grades from C's to A's. When my schoolwork is done, I have a chance to connect with and mentor individuals who are dealing with many kinds of challenges."

"I'm so happy to help them. In fact, I'm happy with my life now. My parents love my being here and I hope to continue my musical theater and/or music therapy studies at a university that is known for its arts department."

Tom, who works closely with the Boardman family, says, "These two individuals are among the most committed, compassionate, and open minded parents I have ever worked with. They care about their son far beyond what society tells them is naturally next in a young person's life."

"A Place to Be fills my days with arts and opportunities to better myself by helping others which, personally, helps me open doors to a much brighter future."

Today, Kyle is helping Tom and the APTB directors shape an alternative learning program that incorporates the arts and service into a unique, transformative edu-



cational experience for students struggling in traditional learning systems.

"Just as I did not expect to find Kyle's deep passion for musical theater, I did not immediately realize what a strong positive connection he would have with our APTB students."

"There is a waiting line now of kids who want Kyle to be their mentor. His talent for helping others is every bit as deep as his musical talent."

Three important elements make up APTB's new program. They include Academics or participation in the Keystone accredited high school program; Arts to build confidence and creativity; and Empathy, learning to understand your own value by helping others.

"We hope to register ten

young people between the ages of 15 and 22 who would like to work with us in this new program," Tom added. "Working with Kyle and watching him develop has been incredibly powerful for me and for our directors."

"Not only has Kyle become an outstanding student academically, he has become an invaluable member of our APTB staff and a highly regarded member of our larger community."

"We simply want to help more students like Kyle," Tom concluded.

For kids who need a highly customized education experience, A Place to Be in Middleburg could be the answer. If you would like more information, please contact tom@apbtmusictherapy.org. Or visit Kyle at <http://kyleapbt.wordpress.com>.

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG LIBRARY CLOSE TO FUND RAISING GOALS

The Middleburg Library Advisory Board reports that the New Year holds the promise of great improvements for the Middleburg Library.

Board President Denis Cotter says, "we are nearing our target on fundraising. Thanks to almost 300 generous private contributors, we have raised over 92% of the \$775,000 project cost in cash and pledges. We have also just secured a substantial line of credit from Middleburg Bank and have signed the fixed price contract with Sully Construction Co."

Next steps in the process are to obtain the final approval of the Loudoun County Public Library Board of Trustees and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to proceed with construction. It is hoped that approvals will be concluded by the latter part of February, with actual construction beginning in March.

"Saint Patrick's Day might be a grand day for a groundbreaking ceremony!", Cotter remarked.

It will be a seven-month construction project, with grand opening sometime in the early Fall. The library will re-

main open during construction, except for a period of about two weeks when systems in the new and the old parts of the building are being integrated.

The project will basically double the size of the much-used, much-loved, but far-too-small library which was built in 1990 on land leased to the County by Middleburg Community Center.

The new library will be 4,540 square feet and will have lots of great new features: much expanded children's space; a separate teen area; more library materials on display; better adult browsing experience; more computer stations; a meeting room for library programs; more places to sit, read, or use the library's free Internet access; more space for the superb staff to continue their excellent work of serving the community.

Much more information about the project is available at www.middleburglibrary.org.

Contributions, which are tax-deductible, are still welcome and can be made via the website or directly to Middleburg Library Advisory Board, PO Box 1823, Middleburg, VA 20118.

MOSBY HERITAGE AREA ASSOC. OPENS 'CONVERSATIONS IN HISTORY' SERIES

The Mosby Heritage Area Association will partner with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to offer the first lecture in the popular 'Conversations in History' series with "The First Rendezvous: Mosby at Mt. Zion," at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 26th at Mt. Zion Church in Aldie, Va.

On January 26, 1863, sixteen gray-clad riders gathered at the small brick church that sat at

the intersection of the Old Carolina Road and Little River Turnpike. It was a very special detail of the 1st Virginia Cavalry under former adjutant John Singleton Mosby, and they were accordingly detached from their unit for "special service."

They were meeting their leader for the First Rendezvous—and their very first mission. It was the beginning of something truly legendary. They were about to

become Mosby's Rangers.

This program takes place on the 150th anniversary of the first rendezvous of Mosby's Rangers. Mosby historian Erik Buckland (Lt. Col., U.S. Army, retired) is the speaker.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Please telephone 540-687-6681 for details or visit info@mosbyheritagearea.org.

NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY AND MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Three candidates have been elected to the NSLM Board of Directors. The NSLM board welcomes new members Claire Reid of Southern Pines, North Carolina; B. Tim Brookshire of Tyler, Texas; and Guy O. Dove of Middleburg, Virginia.

Claire Reid has a long association with the NSLM and has participated in all three coaching events in 2004, 2007 and 2011. She is a member of the World Coaching Club and

competes in driving events. Reid has spent her working career in the technology industry beginning as a programmer and working her way up to CIO.

She joined Bearing Point where she became a partner in their consulting division. She then started a technology firm that was eventually sold to an investment firm. She was recruited into Oracle Corporation where she ran their Public Sector consulting services in North America and concluded

her career at Oracle during the company's very ambitious seven-year period which included the acquisition of Sun Microsystems.

B. Tim Brookshire lives in Texas with his wife Michelle and family. He is an active sportsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, wingshooting and hiking.

Brookshire has had a varied career that began in banking and real estate. He then joined the family business, Brookshire Grocery Company, for 35 years working from the bottom to the top of the company. He still serves on the company's board of directors.

In 2009, he became president of the East Texas Pinnacle Properties, a privately owned real estate development company. While the Brookshire family resides in Texas, they also own a home in Upperville, Virginia.

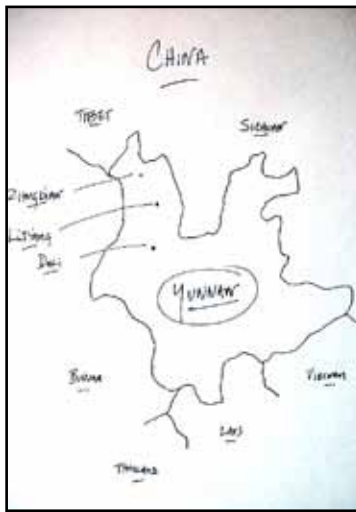
Guy O. Dove lives in Middleburg with his wife Valerie. He has been a loyal member of the Library for years, beginning in 2000 as a member at the Sponsor level.

He later joined the Chairman's Council and in 2011 he became an Ivy Circle member. Dove enjoys participating in partnerships that own racehorses in flat racing and steeplechasing.

Dove has had a long career in financial management in companies such as Drexel Harriman & Ripley, and Equitable Trust in Baltimore. He served as a financial consultant for the Federal Energy Administration, and partner and chief investment officer for The Clarendon Group in London.

Now based in Middleburg, Dove identifies and develops investment opportunities in private companies. Currently, he serves as chairman of Pinnacle Oil Company, the main activity of which is the production of oil and natural gas reserves in the U.S.

EXQUISITE TRAVELS WITH MATT HANNAN



When Ralph Waldo Emerson said "do not follow where the path may lead... go instead where there is no path and leave a trail..." he might also have prescribed a kind, elegant, intelligent guide to help plan and find the way.

Travel, easily the most enjoyable and enlightening of pastimes, can also be a nightmare of details, misunderstood, destinations somehow unexpected and journeys so taxing that home suddenly begins to sound like nirvana without the help of a fabulous guide.

Where does one find such a guide? An individual of discriminating taste, discrete sensibilities and personal relationships of quality and respect in every corner of the world? In Hunt Country, of course.

Matthew Hannan, founder of MH Travel, and a resident of Delaplane, grew up in McLean, Virginia, where he had fallen in love with the Chinese language and the calligraphy of Chinese charters at the age of nine.

Lucy Wang, his teacher at Ascension Academy, encouraged him to pursue his Chinese language and calligraphy studies and, by the time he graduated from William and Mary with a Fine Arts major, Matt had spent a year abroad studying at Tianjin's Nan Kai University, Chou En Lai's alma mater.

"I made many great friends from all over the world who, like me, were studying Chinese during a year abroad," Hannan explained. "We were all young and we were fascinated with China and the changes that were beginning to surface there."

In 1983, Matt boarded the Trans-Siberian Railway crossing through China, Mongolia, the Soviet Union and Europe, igniting his passion for international travel.

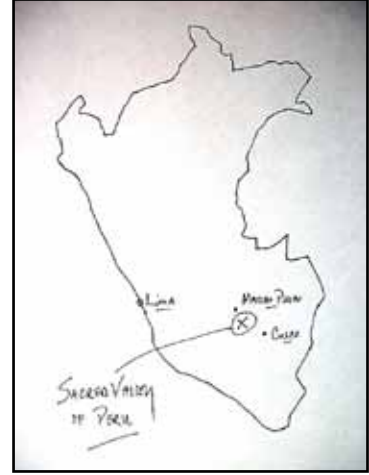
After he graduated from William and Mary, Matt moved to New York to pursue his career as an artist, and when he needed to supplement his income, he found employment in the travel industry.

"Several of us, who were fluent in Chinese and knowledgeable about China, were real assets for the best travel companies. They worked us very hard, but, in return, we learned the business and were able to continue using the language and explaining the culture to travelers from around

the world."

Matt was in Beijing during the Tiananmen Square demonstrations, and he remembers vividly how much of the city was rocked by the demonstrators.

"Watching the demonstrations on television might have given one the impression that they were contained on a few main boulevards," he remembered. "A large part of Beijing was occupied, and there were



parallel demonstrations in many major Chinese cities.

"It was the beginning of a cataclysmic era of change that is still underway in China, and it was the beginning of a two-year slowdown to travel to China."

During those years, Matt designed and led tours from the Hong Kong office of Abercrombie & Kent,

and for Andrew Harper Travel in Chicago.

"It was clear to me that I would never be happy unless I could continue to introduce discriminating travelers to the more rarefied destinations, and that I would not be able to do this at the level of quality I preferred unless I began my own private travel business."

"Today, I offer a wide variety of private travel to China, as well as to many other fascinating, historic places. But helping influential individuals understand and meet their peers in China is, and will remain, one of my truly great pleasures."

By shaping the itineraries he creates to include high cultural components as well as insightful encounters with leaders of policy and commerce, Matt's clients are never surprised when their expectations are far exceeded when they travel with him.

Whether it is the inclusion of a private tour of The Wardrobe of Kings at Versailles; the impeccable connections travelers make on his Equestrian & Culinary Tour of the Loire Valley; or simply the exclusive access to private gardens in Argentina, clients of MH Travel enjoy all the delights and unimaginable access Ralph Waldo Emerson might have demanded.

Would Emerson have enjoyed traveling with Matt to Bhutan? Absolutely. Could he have joined a small MH group in Peru? Without question... And, given Matt's insistence on impeccable service, exem-



plary accommodations, sumptuous cuisine and delightful companionship, Emerson might have declined to travel without him.

In addition to the travels Matt designs and offers to his clients each year, he takes great pleasure in planning truly special, individual trips for them.

"It's a real pleasure to plan individual trips for my clients," he explained. "Whether or not they require that I travel with them is unimportant. I simply want to be sure they enjoy the very best of their destinations."

"My first fifteen years designing private travel for MHT clients has taught me that there is tremendous camaraderie on our travels and that the relationships we help foster during our time together can become truly valuable for all concerned. Our trips may include as few as four travelers, or as many as fourteen, but each group is carefully chosen to create enjoyment for all."

No matter where your heart leads you, or what the context may be for your next flight of fantasy, a conversation with Matt Hannan may be in order.

If so, please contact him at MattHannan@MHTravel.com or telephone 703 927 8271.

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NEWS OF NOTE

MOSBY HERITAGE AREA'S FOX HUNTING DISCUSSION AT NSLM

The Mosby Heritage Area Association has organized a fascinating panel discussion on Fox Hunting entitled *The History and Future of the Sport in the Piedmont*, February 10th from 5-7 p.m. at the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg.

Panelists will offer firsthand perspective and experience on the region's fox hunting and equine sports. A question and answer discussion will follow. Some of the most respected leaders in the fox hunting field will participate in the discussion, including:

Robert Ashcom, originally from Charlottesville, Virginia, is the former joint Master and Huntsman to the Tryon Hounds. Mr. Ashcom and his wife, Susie, hunted with the Bradbury Foxhounds in the Quansett country of then-president of the Master of Foxhounds, William Almay, Jr. He also served as Field Master to the Farmington Hunt, while Susie was Whipper-In. He has authored two books on fox hunting, a novel about growing up in rural Virginia in the 1940s, *Winter Run*, and *Lost Hound* which examines fox hunting with beautiful images by sporting artist Jane Gaston. *Winter Run* was the recipient of the 2002 New Writing Award

from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. Mr. Ashcom is a retired associate professor of English at Lord Fairfax Community College and lives in Warrenton, Virginia. He hunts in Warrenton and Keswick.

Tommy Lee Jones has served as Huntsman of the Casanova Hunt since 1970. Mr. Jones started fox hunting as a child with the Bull Run Hunt. Mr. Jones manages the Upperville Colt and Horse Show, the Warrenton Pony Show, and the Warrenton Horse Show. He is a member of the Virginia Point-to-Point Council, the Virginia Horse Shows Association Management Committee, and serves on the Board of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association. Mr. Jones, along with his mother, runs and manages New Hope Farm in Warrenton, Virginia, which prepares horses for sale, racing, and hunting. He has written articles for *In & Around Horse Country* and *Loudoun Magazine*, among others.

Albert Poe was born in Hume in 1931, one of ten children; one being a fellow leg-end in the fox hunting world, Melvin. At age 23, Mr. Poe became the youngest professional Huntsman in the whole country, when he was hired by Paul Mellon and Mrs. A.C. Randolph of the Piedmont Hunt in 1954. He

has also served as Huntsman for the Fairfax and Middleburg Hunts, and as Whipper-In to the Old Dominion Hounds. Mr. Poe is widely considered the pre-eminent breeder of American Foxhounds of the 20th century. He has trained race horses in Charlestown, West Virginia, and has been celebrated as a steeple-chase rider and trainer. Mr. Poe's hounds have been absorbed into many other packs, including the Bath County Hounds.

Melvin Poe, 11 years the senior to brother Albert, was huntsman for the Old Dominion and Orange County Hunts in Virginia and has been the subject of a book, *Fox hunting With Melvin Poe*, by the late Peter Winants, and a documentary film, "Thoughts on Fox hunting". In 1992, Melvin became huntsman of the Bath County Hounds founded that year by George Ohrstrom in Warm Springs, Virginia, to hunt on his 3,000-acre farm. At 92 years old, he maintains, and rides to the pack to this day on his farm in Hume, Virginia.

Please telephone 540 687 6681 for more information or visit info@mosbyheritagearea.org. Tickets for the panel discussion are \$25 for MHAA members and \$30 for non-members. Please reserve early as space is limited.

SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON HILL SCHOOL'S ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Sydney Bowers, Athletic Director of the Hill School in Middleburg, was recently named the Junior Field Hockey National Coach of the Year by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association

(NFHCA) in Chandler, Arizona.

Sydney, who began her career at Hill in 1976, has long been recognized as an outstanding coach in the Washington DC area. Many of her players have gone on to lead their high school teams, and several have competed at the collegiate level.

One of them, Emma Wallace, is currently the Women's Varsity Lacrosse Coach at American University. A lacrosse standout at Johns Hopkins University, Emma remarked "...as a Hill alumna and former player of Mrs. Bowers, I could not have been prouder of her when I heard the news that she was the recipient of the 2012 NFHCA Junior Field Hockey award."

"I am so happy that the spotlight she always shines on her current and former athletes is now on her. I have known Mrs. Bowers for twenty-two years and can say that her dedication and unwavering passion for athletics have been a constant source of inspiration for my career. I can only hope to be half the coach she is."

Treavor Lord, Hill's Head of School, commented that "Sydney's emphasis on encouraging all of the students to do their 'personal best' is central to our philosophy. She has been and continues to be successful in providing the conditions for our children to become confident and hard-working students and athletes. The school is fortunate to have Sydney leading the athletic program."

Sydney and her husband Jack, co-chair of the math department, have two grown children, John and Lizzie, and look forward to many more years of teaching and coaching at Hill School.

ELECTRIFYING TRIO BRINGS CARNEGIE HALL TO THE PLAINS FOR CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

The Community Music School of Piedmont will present the phenomenal string trio 'Time for Three' at its 6th Annual Candlelight Benefit Concert, Sunday, January 27th in the beautiful ballroom at Barton Oaks in The Plains, VA.

The dynamic trio of classically trained artists defy classification. They perform music from Bach and Brahms to their own arrangements of The Beatles, Katy Perry, Kanye West and Justin Timberlake. A typical concert might include the Bach Double, Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah and a blistering Orange Blossom Special.

According to the Washington Post, "You will be captivated by their stunning virtuosity and their 'high octane performance from the first note to the last.'"

Actor Paul Newman said "To hear these three young guys is to be thankful that music was invented. If I had been able to create a sound like these kids a few years back, I might have thought twice about going into acting!"

They've played Carnegie Hall twice and toured world

WAKEFIELD TEACHER MULLIGAN PART OF NOBEL CELEBRATION

Christine Mulligan, the Arts Department Chair at Wakefield School, recently sang at a celebration of the European Union winning the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize.

The event, hosted at Ambassador of Belgium Jan Matthysen's residence in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 10, was held on the same day the prize was presented to the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament during an official ceremony in Oslo, Norway.

Mulligan, a chorister with the Washington Cathedral Choral Society, sang with the chorus a composition based on the final movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Ode to Joy. The piece is recognized as the anthem of the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The group was asked to sing by the cathedral's music director, who was contacted by the embassy.

"It's not unusual for us to do things around the city, especially at this time of year," Mulligan said. "It was an honor."

Mulligan said the event was very joyful and celebratory, with toasts, speeches, merriment — and a bouche de Noel cake with a section honoring each of the EU members.

"It was amazing to watch the guests faces as we sang. They were standing tall as it was sung," she said. "It's something that just unites them. I was just honored to be able to be there, and hear the diplomacy and solidarity of that evening."

wide. Their anti-bullying YouTube video Stronger has inspired young students around the globe to pursue classical music careers.

As the sole, annual fundraising event for the school, the Candlelight Concert series was established to provide world-class music to the local community, and to raise critically needed scholarship and outreach funds for the Community Music School of the Piedmont.

Tickets for the concert are \$125. To purchase tickets please

go to www.piedmontmusic.org or call the music school at 540.592.3040.

Since 1994, the Community Music School of the Piedmont has been dedicated to providing high quality music instruction and performance opportunities for all members of the community. Headquartered in Upperville, Virginia, the school is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and a member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education.



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NEWS OF NOTE

ACCLAIMED CONSERVATIONIST TO SPEAK AT THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



The National Sporting Library will celebrate Intersection: Field Sports and the Evolution of Conservation, on display in the Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall, by hosting a reception and lecture on Tuesday, March 29, 2013, for Ivy Circle and Chairman's Council members. The speaker,

Thomas E. Lovejoy, is an internationally acclaimed conservationist and scholar.

Lovejoy's talk is titled "Teaming with Life."

For more information, please visit: <http://www.nsl.org/press>

ARF DISTRIBUTES \$90,000 TO LOCAL ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

Animal Rescue Fund (ARF) concluded a highly successful year of fundraising in 2012 by distributing \$90,000 in grants to eleven Virginia organizations that protect and serve animals in need.

The 2012 ARF grants went to The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center; The Middleburg Humane Foundation; The Fauquier SPCA; Cause Fur Paws; The Equine Rescue League; The Gingersnap Girls; Golden Dreams; Save the Tails, Inc; The Virginia German Shepherd Rescue; WAAAG and Senior

Pets.501(c)(3) pending.

ARF's 2012 Animal Night, sponsored by David Roux, Ron Bradley, Howard Wilkins, Manley Johnson and Ken Rietz, raised the largest percentage of funds for distribution with ARF's annual Estate Sale and Dog Fest/Family Barbeque benefits making important contributions to the 2012 Grant Fund.

Established in 2011 by a group of animal loving individuals with years of fundraising experience, ARF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that raises money for groups that serve animals

in need.

Every member of the ARF organization is a volunteer. There is no paid staff and no costly office space with attendant overhead and equipment costs to eat into funds raised.

All proceeds from ARF events are distributed in the year they are raised.

ARF's board of directors includes Patricia E. Bschorr, Colleen M. Hahn, Mary W. Johnson, Danielle Kazmier, Ursula Landsrath, Manisha Saraf Morris, Jennifer Richards and Rhonda Wilkins.

ELLIE GABLE OF BLUE RIDGE IS SENATE PAGE

Eleanor Gloor Gable of Bluemont will serve as a page in the Senate of Virginia during the 2013 session of the General Assembly. Ellie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Gable and attends Blue Ridge Middle School. She was appointed by Senator Ryan T. McDougle of Hanover.

Pages and messengers reported to the State Capitol for orientation Sunday, January 6, and serve until the session adjourns Saturday, February 23. The rigorous, three-day orientation and training program prepares Senate pages and messengers to successfully fulfill workplace responsibilities.

The chief duty of Senate pages and messengers is to assist the Senators during floor sessions and committee meetings. In addition to their chief responsibilities, Senate pages and messengers run errands, answer telephones, work in the bill room, post office, Clerk's Office, assist in the public information office, staff information desks, and speak with visiting school groups.

While in Richmond, all pages and messengers are responsible for obtaining and maintaining their schoolwork and assignments. A mandatory two-hour

study session is administered Monday through Thursday evenings.

Senate pages and messengers must be 13 or 14 years of age at the time of election or appointment. On a rotating basis, Senators choose 11 of the pages while leaders appoint another five, including a page for the lieutenant governor. Senate messengers are appointed by the Clerk of the Senate at the recommendation of Senators who do not make an appointment that year.

As early as 1848, nearly 100 years after the legislature convened in Thomas Jefferson's "Temple on the Hill," the first mention of pages appears in the Senate Journal. The program has evolved into an engaging experience for students interested in history, civics, government and politics.

Recognized for excellence by the Virginia Board of Education, the program prepares young people to be effective leaders and responsible citizens in their community. The National Conference of State Legislatures featured Virginia's page program in its August 2012 issue of State Legislatures magazine.

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NEWS OF NOTE

KATE BLAND'S ACTS OF KINDNESS

Kate Bland recently celebrated her birthday in a very generous and special way. The following note from her Facebook page outlines what she did:

“Today was my birthday and I decided I wanted to gift 26 Random Acts of Kindness in honor of those lives cut short in Newtown.

I created a note that was attached to each gift and tied it on with a ribbon that carries the name of a pet project of mine ‘Wrapped in Kindness.’

A lump grew in my throat as I wrote the name of a lost soul on each note in memoriam - it was at that point it all became real - tactile.

The gifts were simple: 20 bags filled with treats, Starbucks cards and candy - accompanied by a pink or white rose. Another six bags each held a hand knit scarf I made along with a rose. Each carried the name of 1 of the 26.

The first act was at the post office to a man sitting in his car reading a single letter over and over again - I knocked on his window and he was astonished when I handed him a gift.

The next were to two local Loudoun County Sheriffs parked in front of the fire station. At first taken aback they then introduced themselves and gave thanks.

I next left gifts on the windshields of two patients at a local dialysis center. I left before they came out.

Later I left one in the shopping cart I had used at a local grocery store - I sat in my car to see what someone would do - what happened brought me to tears - as folks walked by the cart stand they all stopped, read the note, stood for a moment, some wiping away tears - others grabbing another stranger to show it to them - no one took the gift - another person opened their wallet and seemed to put cash in the bag - I was so astonished I crumbled in my car and had to leave. By then I only had 2 more acts left. I so didn't want this to be over - and it won't.

Acts of Kindness will become a part of my daily routine - to honor humanity and compassion and all the good in the world.

Thank you for allowing me to share this with you.”

WAKEFIELD'S RENSIN EXPERIENCES LIFE AS A SENATE PAGE

Wakefield School eighth grader Libby Rensin of Warrenton will serve as one of only 11 Senate pages in the state of Virginia.

Rensin left for Richmond last weekend to begin her eight-week work assignment at the 2013 Virginia Senate. After an intensive three-day training session, she began her duties immediately.

Her hours are 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays.

According to the Senate and House Page Program website, “Senate pages are engaged in the legislative process through their work assignments, observation and hands-on activities.”

She will be running errands to assist Senators, answering telephones, working in the bill room, post office, and Clerk's Office, assisting in the public information office, staff information desks and speaking with visiting school groups, among other assignments.

Senate pages and messengers live in a hotel in Richmond that is three blocks away from the Capitol. They are required to stay current with

their regular schoolwork with time during the day and night to study. Tutors are available to assist students as needed.

At Wakefield, Rensin is not only a consistently high honors student and member of the National Junior Honor Society, but also a compassionate and caring young lady with determination and confidence.

Dr. Troy Roddy, Head of Wakefield's Middle School, noted in his recommendation letter that, “Libby is a dedicated student with high personal expectations. Her attention to detail and her willingness to put forth a strong effort are qualities that...will translate well into her being an outstanding participant in the program.”

Rensin will be rewarded in many ways for her work as a Senate of Virginia Page. She is receiving a salary and per diem, but more importantly she is learning about civics in real time, leading and participating in a community service project and with bi-weekly newsletters, and becoming a more effective leader and responsible citizen.

Jill Holtzman Vogel, the Virginia State Senator representing the 27th District, said, “I am so proud that Libby will

serve as a Senate page in Richmond for our 2013 Senate session. It is a great honor to be selected for the page program and it reflects on her outstanding personal and academic accomplishments.

Serving as a Senate page is a rare opportunity to participate in the legislative process and to work closely with the men and women who govern our Commonwealth. She will work on the Senate floor, work in committees and have real responsibilities each work day. It is a wonderful educational and personal experience and I congratulate her on being chosen.”

Lia Rensin, Libby's mother, commented, “As a parent I am so thankful to Wakefield for not only accommodating Libby, but actively supporting her while she embarks on this unique opportunity. Everyone has been so great to work with in getting her ready; everyone is so excited for her and it's clear that everyone wants to do what they can to help her succeed while she is in Richmond. It's wonderful to be part of a community that helps my child reach beyond her comfort zone, even when that opportunity is out of their realm.”

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The show will be open February 13-15 from 11-5, and there after by appointment until February 24. Love people, pets, and places? Please join us for a night of portraits on February 16 from 5-8. Contact Lilla Ohrstrom at 540-270-0402 for more information.

In addition, the Nol Putnam Art Show is still up for the month of January by appointment.

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NEWS OF NOTE

LOOKING AT 2013: MIDDLEBURG HOMES SALES AND VALUES

REAL ESTATE REALITY

“Should I take the risk of buying a home in the next six months?” wonders Ms. New Employee. “Will we be able to sell our home before July, without losing our shirts, and downsize?” asks Mr. and Mrs. Empty-Nester.

Having a job in a strong economy gives potential buyers the confidence needed to buy a home. With the national election over, many are still wondering if employment will increase or decrease; will Congress and the President stop short of the Fiscal Cliff or will we see another recession; will we continue the uncertainty that has caused many people to defer home purchases?

Tom Flynn, Director of Loudoun Economic Development, is positive on Loudoun. “Loudoun’s economy is picking up, we expect 3500-4000 net, new jobs in 2013,” he said, “with an unemployment rate of about 4%, better than the State’s, and we aren’t so dependent on Defense jobs. Info technology is the driver, but we have a new goal of increasing small businesses by 5%”.

Growing the Middleburg and western Loudoun economy is the object of the County’s proposed Rural Economic Business Development Strategy. If approved, Flynn and Loudoun Economic Development will work with the Rural Economic Development Council and other stakeholders to enhance the local equine, winery, farm market, and tourism industries, and to link them better with the urban east; all good news for home sellers.

Relative to those housing values, “2012 was much better,” said Jeanette Newton, CEO of the Dulles Area Assoc. of Realtors, “and I expect a very good 2013 if the economy holds. The inventory of homes for sale is 18% lower than Dec. 2011 so list prices will increase.”

Around Middleburg, we have not seen the high sales of 2004-07, certainly due to the economy, but also perhaps because commuting daily into DC, Roslyn, and Reston is increasingly tedious and because many new homes are going up east of us; because second home purchases are much fewer; and perhaps because potential retirees are delaying their decisions or moving away from Northern Virginia. Within five miles of Middleburg, there were 59 detached homes for sale as of Jan. 2, with the average on the market for 249 days and those at the high end, on for 310 days. Ranging from \$249,500 to \$15,500,000, the average list price was \$2,126,785.

Mary Ann McGowan, Sales Director of Thomas and Talbot Real Estate, said, “Our office sold 59 properties in 2012, we have 137 properties for sale, 10 under contract and we have many buyers looking for the right home. I am confident that home sales will continue to increase this year and we hope to see prices continue to rebound.”

So there you have it: Area employment is growing, prices and rates are low, and experts suggest optimism on your part, but a continued impasse in the national government threatens



your home values. Next month: Reviewing George Mason University’s economic and housing forecast and assessing the impacts on you.

Each month, this new column will focus on an item of interest to local home buyers and sellers, beginning with the broad economy, then analyzing the regional economy and its effect on our housing market. Later columns will offer the comments and recommendations of local housing industry leaders for selling and buying, for obtaining mortgages, and for remodeling. Mid and end of the year housing sales and values status reports will be presented. James Atkins is President of Homes For Leaders Real Estate, LLC, a residential real estate firm. Comment to him at jim@homesforleaders.com

GOODSTONE INN & RESTAURANT WINS OPENTABLE DINERS’ CHOICE

Goodstone Inn and Restaurant in Middleburg, Virginia has been named one of the winners of the 2012 OpenTable Diners’ Choice Awards for the Top Overall Restaurants in the USA.

Winners of this prestigious award were selected from over five million reviews by OpenTable diners from more than 15,000 restaurants in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Goodstone Inn & Restaurant is one of only six restaurants in Virginia to be honored with the 2012 Open Table Diners’ Choice Award.

Goodstone also won Open Table Diner’s Choice Awards for Top Best Overall Restaurants in 2011.

Goodstone Country Inn and Restaurant is located in the heart of

Virginia’s wine and hunt country. The luxury 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; and Condé Nast Johansens Most Excellent Inn in North America 2011 and 2012 finalist for Most Excellent Inn in North America.

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

THANKS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ganizations the operating profits earned from the “Health Center,” the rental property owned by the town which, among other tenants, houses the Middleburg Police Department.

At its December 13 meeting Council made the following grants: Seven Loaves - \$7,500; Middleburg Volunteer Fire Department - \$3,000; Windy Hill Tutoring Program - \$1,400; Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund - \$400; Middleburg Public Library Advisory Board - \$1,900; Middleburg FISH - \$2,100; Loudoun Abused Women’s Shelter - \$500; Middleburg Community Center - \$2,700; and A Place to Be - \$500.

Surplus Shotguns

On January 10 Council unanimously approved a request from Police Chief A.J. Panebianco and Town Administrator Semmes to declare three Benelli tactical shotguns as “surplus property” and sold through an advertised public sale.

In a memorandum to Semmes Chief Panebianco noted that the weapons had been purchased by former Police Chief Webber and could be sold for roughly \$800 each. Panebianco would use proceeds for the sale to purchase uniforms and upgrade equipment.

Asked by Council member Mark Snyder who could purchase the weapons, Panebianco noted that the automatic shotguns, with pistol grips and five-round magazines could not be sold directly to civilians unless modified appropriately. The most likely purchasers, he noted would Federally licensed gun dealers who could and would modify the weapons as necessary. He also indicated that he would contact other police agencies.

According to Panebianco, he and his officers were now well-trained and long accustomed to an older model and very effective shotgun and found the Benellis more difficult to use safely in a Middleburg environment.

Rural Economic Development Council

Standing in for the Loudoun County Economic Development Department’s Kellie Boles, Jim Herbert outlined for Council the County’s new Rural Economy Business Development Strategy.

The County’s Rural Econom-

ic Development Council, now in its 13th year, developed the four-part strategy.

In the year ahead the County will focus on:

1. New and improved marketing
2. Research and education
3. Evaluation of new and existing financial tools to support both start-up and expansion of rural businesses.
4. Optimizing public policy support

Traffic Calming

Council has formally requested that the Virginia Department of Transportation install a stop sign at the Marshall/Madison street intersection governing traffic flow headed south on Foxcroft road.

The new stop sign would make the difficult and often dangerous intersection a three-way stop.

Clean Water

Council member Mark Snyder commended the Town’s new Well-head Protection Advisory Committee and announced that its new Source Water Protection brochure would soon be ready for distribution to residents living within zip codes 20117 and 20118 and on the Town’s website.

The brochure offers advice on what citizens can do to enhance the purity of the water that ultimately winds up in the town’s wells, and thus in their daily water supply.

New Flag Fees

Town Planner David Beniamino reminded Council that it still had not developed policies governing the display of promotional flags on Town property.

Each year, he noted, flags are flown along the town’s main street promoting the Spring Races, and now the Fall Races and perhaps others want to do the same thing.

The town can accommodate up to 14 such flags at a time if the promoter furnishes the flags and appropriately sized poles.

Beniamino has suggested that the Town charge a \$100 fee for the privilege of displaying promotional flags, to cover the cost of hiring a subcontractor to put the flags up and take them down.

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FACES & PLACES

SALAMANDER INN & SPA PREVIEW EVENT

PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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KIM HART, VALERIE DOV AND MABEL WALSH



DIANE MURPHY, TODD GRAY, JOANN HAZARD AND CINDY PEARSON



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PREM DEVADAS EXPLAINING LAYOUT



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INOVA LOUDOUN HEALTHCARE GROUP WITH SHEILA JOHNSON AND UNITED STATES SURGEON GENERAL REGINA BENJAMIN, MD

SALAMANDER RESORT & SPA

As Salamander Resort & Spa looks forward to a late August 2013 opening, it rounded out 2012 in style with sneak peek red carpet tours of the resort site, followed by a glamorous holiday party at the farm of owner Sheila Johnson.

About 300 guests, including dignitaries, community leaders, sales clients and members of the media, saw first-hand the progress the resort has made since construction was officially restarted last spring. Most of the exterior work has been completed, while dry walling of the majority of guestrooms is nearly complete.

The hour-long tours took in the Living Room, which opens onto the Grand Lawn; the Wine Bar, which will feature a Virginia Vintner's program; signature restaurant, which offers panoramic views of the Bull Run Mountains; Cooking Studio, which will offer daily classes and guest chef dinners; Grand Ballroom, which is 5,000 square feet and overlooks the culinary garden and 22-stall stable; and Spa and Wellness Center, which has its own outdoor courtyard and pool. All of the resort's restaurants and its spa will be open every day to the public, while the Wine Bar will stay open until late in the evening.

After the tour, guests were taken on a private shuttle to

Johnson's farm in The Plains where they enjoyed cuisine by Salamander Culinary Director Todd Gray and Market Salamander Chef de Cuisine Vaughn Skaggs, as well as a scale model gingerbread house of the resort created by Salamander's Pastry Chef Jason Reaves.

During the past few months, Salamander Hotels & Resorts has hired numerous management and sales executives for the resort who have a successful background in opening luxury hotels and are now working in Middleburg.

Several worked with Company President Prem Devadas previously to open the acclaimed Forbes Five Star and AAA Five Diamond-rated Sanctuary at Kiawah Island in South Carolina, and also played key roles in The Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, VA, and The Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, TN, both attaining the Forbes Five Star and AAA Five Diamond ratings. These executives include Vice President of Operations Vijay Singh, Vice President of Human Resources Theresa Silo, Corporate Director of Food & Beverage Hayato Nogaki and Corporate Director of Public Relations Matt Owen.

These individuals, and several others that have been hired, are committed to delivering memorable guest experiences in a relaxing and comfortable setting, according to Devadas.

Devadas also reports that the sales team, led by Vice President of Sales Peter Rockwood and Resort Director of Sales Brice O'Keeffe, has been busy since the fall, coordinating daily tours with group clients from the corporate and association markets. These clients are visiting from all over the country, and their groups have stayed at some of the finest resorts in the world. There is already group business on the books, including half a dozen weddings for the fall.

The Salamander team is developing programming and special events, which will be announced soon and be open to the community; while, at the beginning of February, the resort will begin accepting individual reservations.

The resort was also recently accepted into the prestigious Preferred Hotels & Resorts program, which is an exclusive collection of independent, iconic hotels and resorts from around the world. Other members include The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, CO, The Cloister in Sea Island, GA, and The Montage in Laguna Beach, CA.

And, in the past few weeks, the resort was named to several 2013 World's Top Hotel Openings lists, including those from Forbes and USA Today.



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Endocrinology



Dr. Nandini Chitwal
Rheumatology



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FACES & PLACES

2012 MBPA BUSINESS AWARDS



MARKETING AND EVENTS PROMOTION/MARKETING CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR
PETER WOOD - MIDDLEBURG ARTS COUNCIL

CUSTOMER SERVICE - OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE BY A PROFESSIONAL/SERVICE BUSINESS
VINCE PERRICONE, MIDDLEBURG PRINTERS

CUSTOMER SERVICE - OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER
SERVICE BY A HOSPITALITY BUSINESS
ERIC BOWERS - THE FRENCH HOUND

CUSTOMER SERVICE - OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE BY A RETAIL BUSINESS
FERN BRATTEN - SALAMANDER TOUCH
ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
DUANE & CYNDI ELLIS - COMMON GROUNDS

SOCIAL & ONLINE MEDIA
CHRISTINA NARAMORE OF UNION FIRST BANK FOR MBPA FACEBOOK CAMPAIGN

EVENT OF THE YEAR
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - CHIEF AJ PANEBIANCO AND THE MIDDLEBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WAS CREATED TO RECOGNIZE A VERY SPECIAL EVENT. THIS EVENT STARTED ALMOST 30 YEARS AGO CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG WAS STARTED BY FOUR PEOPLE-TYLER GORE, CISSY BUNN, PATTY ARWINE AND PUNKIN LEE.

JIM HERBERT TOOK OVER FROM DEE DEE HUBBARD WHO WITH REGGIE DAWSON AND BEFORE THAT BILL BROWN AND A HOST OF VOLUNTEERS, KEPT THINGS GOING WITH GREAT SKILL FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

JIM AND HIS VOLUNTEERS HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB AND WE APPLAUD HIS USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT THIS WONDERFUL DAY. BUT WE MUST ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE ALL STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF THOSE EARLY PIONEERS WHO BELIEVED THAT A CHRISTMAS PARADE IN MIDDLEBURG WOULD BE A GOOD THING. WE THANK THEM ALL, AND ALL THE VOLUNTEERS OVER THE YEARS WHO MADE IT HAPPEN.

CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG IS PRESENTED WITH THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD -TYLER GORE, PUNKIN LEE, DEE DEE HUBBARD, & JIM HERBERT ACCEPT THIS AWARD.



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THE BLACKBURN MURDER

DANIEL MORROW

Christian's Flight

Covered in blood from the knife wound to his throat, Tom Blackburn stood up, looked at the man with whom he had just been wrestling in the mud on Nelson Street, and fell on his face.

Charles Christian ran, stopping, starting, hesitant as if, at first, trying to decide what to do.

Steps away from his downed opponent he stopped to face Jim Massie, paused, said nothing, and ran on.

A few steps later he stopped again, in front of Thomas Taylor, before sprinting on, tossing aside his stick and the Bowie knife he had borrowed from John Winn as he ran.

Passing James Kirkpatrick, he rounded the corner of Nelson and Main, passing Cadet John Howard Sharp, among others, as he made for the shelter of his hotel room.

At McDowell's Hotel he clattered up the stairs and burst into B. D. Chenowith's room.

He had left that room only twenty minutes or so earlier and both Chenowith and Winn, the owner of the fatal Bowie knife, were still there.

"What is the matter?!" Christian's friends shouted in unison as he burst into the room.

His hair, they said, was "very full of blood." There was blood on his face and mud all over the back of his coat, mud on the back of his trousers, and blood all over the front of his shirt and on his shirt sleeves.

Christian tossed his pepperbox and his rifled single-shot pistol, on Chenowith's bed and said, "he had just had a fight with Blackburn."

Chenowith asked if he'd shot him.

No, said Christian. They had struggled, he said, and "Blackburn had him down" and was choking him."

Christian said he had "cut him in the face," and that Blackburn "had bled on him" while he had him down.

Christian then asked Winn and Chenowith to go down to the street to "see if Blackburn was hurt seriously" telling both his friends he hoped not.

Winn demurred. Noting the angry VMI cadets already in the street, he suggested that Christian go to his own room and clean up.

Christian agreed. Winn went with him, and once inside Christian's room, locked the door behind them.

As Christian began to wash away some of the blood and mud, someone knocked at his door.

Winn opened it. Standing in the hall was a VMI Cadet, most likely William Alexander Thompson, from Amherst, Christian's home town.

Christian, "with hands up-lifted" asked Thompson, "How is Blackburn? Please go and see if he is hurt!"

Thompson, without entering Christian's room, turned and ran to see.

Robert Seevers, one of Christian's law school classmates then "burst in."

Christian begged him to go check on Blackburn as well.

With several friends dispatched for news of Blackburn, Christian appeared to regain some of his composure and began to tell his friends what he remembered.

According to John Winn, Christian said that he had simply gone to church and when he arrived "in the vestibule . . . saw Blackburn standing with two Cadets."

Blackburn gave Christian "a scornful look," Winn later testified, then "tapped him on the shoulder and said that he wished to have some private talk with him."

Thus, according to Christian, it was at Blackburn's request that "they went out and proceeded up the cross street

When they got "near the Baptist Church," according to Christian, Blackburn essentially called him out, saying that if he "had anything to say to him he had as well say it there."

Christian's first goal, he said was to find out if Blackburn was "responsible for the slander" against him, or for only advising his cousin upon rumor."

Thus, Christian said, he "asked Blackburn to explain what he meant by his remark at their former interview: that he was responsible for the communication made to his cousin."

When Blackburn told him "he would give no explanation or apology; but that he was responsible for all he had said or done," Christian told him "he was no gentleman."

Blackburn snapped back, "Don't repeat it, sir!"

Christian said he replied, "You know it is true."

At that point, Christian insisted, Blackburn "rushed on him."

Christian "gave back several paces" as Blackburn came on, and then "struck at him with his stick."

Blackburn bulled his way through the assault, "got hold" of Christian and "took his stick from him."

As Winn remembered the story,Christian then said Blackburn "tripped him, fell upon him, and choked him violently."

At that point, Christian "cut him with the knife, attempting to cut him in the face, to make him loose [sic] his grasp."

Winn clearly remembered the blood on Christian's face and clothes, and later swore Christian told the group "his only object was to make Blackburn loose his grasp, not to kill him."

Christian had just finished telling his story to Winn and Chenowith when William Morris and Taliaferro Stribling, two of the law students whose advice Christian had sought the day before, entered the room.

Christian, who still had no idea Blackburn was dead, immediately asked both if they knew anything.

They said no, and Christian repeated his hope that he hadn't hurt Blackburn.

He then repeated for Morris and Stribling the story he'd just told to Winn and Chenowith.



WALTER HERRON TAYLOR (1838-1916) VMI 1857. CLASSMATE OF CHRISTIAN'S FRIEND, WILLIAM EDWARD LANGHORNE, AND THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF ONE OF TOM BLACKBURN'S CLASSMATES, RICHARD CORNELIUS TAYLOR, VMI 1854. COURTESY OF THE VMI ARCHIVES

Morris said that, given Christian's early indecision about standing up for himself, he was frankly "gratified when he first heard of the fight."

Still unaware of Blackburn's condition, Morris then advised Christian to apologize, "to express regrets" not only because he believed Christian was truly remorseful, but because there were Cadets, friends of Blackburn, everywhere and no one could predict what they might do.

At that moment a VMI cadet banged on Christian's door.

Happily it was a friend, Cadet Edward Langhorne, probably the last person to have talked to Christian before he set off for church and his confrontation with Blackburn.

Langhorne had walked a young lady to church, but had not stayed for services.

Instead, he had chatted for a while with some Cadets on the church's front portico, and then headed back to Christian's room at McDowell's Hotel.

When he got back to the hotel, he said, he found it "unusual" to find "several law students on the steps of the passage" upstairs.

When he got to Christian's room, again to his surprise, he "found it locked."

When Winn finally opened the door, Langhorne said he saw Christian standing there with his coat still in his hands.

"There was blood and mud on Christian's coat," he said. "His face was also very bloody, and his shirt, the left sleeve, very bloody."

Langhorne also remembered that Christian "had not pulled

off his vest" but when he did so there was "blood on the bosom, near the collar."

Christian, he said, seemed "greatly excited" and asked immediately about Blackburn.

He received only puzzled silence in reply from the 17-year old Langhorne.

When Christian asked for a second time, "How is Blackburn?" Langhorne told him he didn't know.

Langhorne then asked his blood-covered friend where he was hurt.

To Langhorne's amazement, Christian replied, "Nowhere."

Christian then told Langhorne about the fight, said he had cut Blackburn "in the face," and demonstrated for Langhorne's benefit just how and where.

The blood all over his face and clothes, Christian speculated, "must have come from Blackburn's jaw."

Hearing another knock at the door Christian asked if it were Phillips, presumably Martin Phillips, a friend who would later be a witness at Christian's trial.

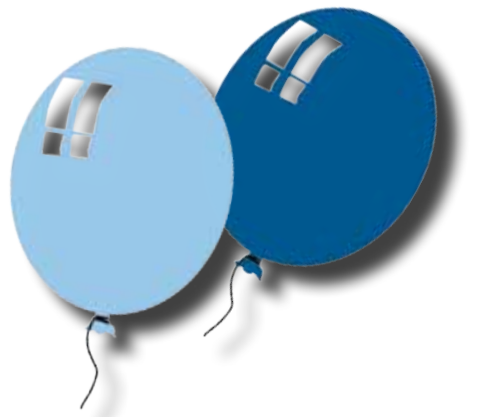
Instead, it was Robert Seevers, one of the scouts sent earlier to check on Blackburn's condition.

Seevers reported that Blackburn was dead, or as Cadet Langhorne remembered it, would die "in a few minutes."

Seevers suggested strongly that Christian should run for his life.

Those words were barely out of Seevers' mouth when Winn, apparently still acting as doorkeeper, heard something in the hall: "the noise of steps coming up the stairs."

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PASTIMES

WHERE DOES THE BUCK STOP?

7TH INNING STRETCH
ALEX CUDABACK

“As head coach of the Washington Redskins, I am responsible not only to our owner, to our general manager, to our fans and to the game itself, I am also responsible to the players, to their legacies and to their families.

Every week, every day, every minute on the field, these men, some of them just barely removed from boyhood, entrust their bodies, their minds and their very lives to my experience, my knowledge and the unwritten belief that I will act not only in the best interest of the team and its supporters but in the best interest of each and every one of them, individually, as well.

For while the game we play.... Let me repeat that.... the game we play... may be a team sport, no team was ever built without individuals, men, women, girls or boys, willing to give of themselves to a greater collective, a larger whole, realizing that many united will often accomplish more than one alone.

In a sport like ours, where grown men are conditioned since earliest memory to sacrifice themselves for the good of the team, to give of themselves for those around them, to lay themselves down in defense of their brothers, where there is no “I” in team, where second place is just another way of saying best loser, where fine lines are drawn between “injured” and “hurt....”

In a sport like ours, the sport I love, the sport I’ve given every-

thing to for nearly forty years, the sport that almost killed me when I was a young man, somebody has to be the grown up.

That somebody is me.

I have to draw the line.

I have to listen to my conscience and I have to make the tough decisions.

I should never have given Robert the opportunity to tell me whether or not he was fit to play.

I should never have allowed Robert to risk himself and the future of this team by bamboozling me into believing his body was capable of withstanding the rigors of what it would be asked when my own eyes clearly told me it was not.

Sure, the medical staff cleared him.

But I’ve been in this game too long not to know when I’m being sold a bill of goods.

I mortgaged a sizeable chunk of our future to draft Robert last year. To risk him so recklessly in his first playoff appearance was wrong, and may well have bordered on negligent. I put him at risk, and I put this team at risk.

Football may well be a sport of risk, but those risks must be better calculated, particularly by the guy in charge, and that guy is me.

I should’ve pulled Robert from that game at halftime at the latest. I should’ve taped him into his locker if he wouldn’t listen.

I was wrong, and I admit it.

The buck stops with me.”

That’s what Mike Shanahan should’ve said.

On the Medical Front....

Famed orthopedist Dr. James Andrews, after clearing Robert Griffin III to play, then saying he didn’t clear him to play, then saying he did clear him to play but only because Griffin was too shift to prevent from returning to the field, repaired Griffin’s damaged knee once more, and was immediately quoted as saying, “We expect a full recovery, and it is everybody’s hope and belief that due to Robert’s high motivation, he will be ready for the 2013 season.”

Huh....

Unsaid, stunningly, is that if Griffin is NOT ready to return for the 2013 season, it’ll be because he wasn’t motivated highly enough.

Frankly, I can’t see why they bothered with the surgery. If Griffin is so highly motivated, why not just put all the responsibility for his recovery and immediate return squarely on Griffin’s shoulders?

Griffin decided he could play, right? Griffin made all the decisions, right? Griffin somehow convinced two grown men, famed-orthopedist-Dr.-James-Andrews and head-coach-Mike-Shanahan, both of whom had been practicing their chosen professions, perfecting their chosen crafts, since long before Griffin was even *born*, to listen to him rather than their own collective, decades-long wisdom and perspective, right?

Maybe the Hippocratic oath doesn’t apply to “famed ortho-

pedists,” particularly when they roam an NFL sideline.

Good luck and god speed, Robert. With these guys watching out for you, you’re going to want to keep your head on a swivel.

Let’s Go Caps!

Thanks to the Capitals for their recent email in which I was invited, “As a valued Caps customer,” to purchase tickets as part of, “an exclusive presale for Caps single-game tickets!”

As a sign of their generosity of spirit, “the Capitals will pay the convenience fees on all tickets purchased through 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 13.”

Well tickle me pink and kiss my britches!

After locking out the players (and the fans!), for the third time in less than 20 years, mind you, the Capitals are going to pay my convenience fees....

REINVENT CHANGE

CINDY BATTINO

The maxim for Transformational Healing is: Finding Joy Through Change.

We have been conditioned to believe that “Change is hard, painful, and overwhelming.” However, brain research tells us that we build new neurological patterns every day. Want to help prevent Alzheimer’s? Do one thing differently daily – this keeps the mind working and growing. We know that the world is constantly shifting and change is inevitable. Doesn’t it make more sense to embrace change rather than tolerate or resist it?

Here’s the problem: We feel safe with familiarity. It soothes us. We feel that we have more control over our lives. We fight change and have to be pushed into it. Whether it’s finding a new job or leaving a marriage, we wait until the pain in staying is worse than our fear of the change. Why? Change takes us to the place where we have no control: The Unknown.

The Unknown

All major life changes take us to this place and bring out our most primal fears: “Will I have or be enough? What do I want and need? Which path do I take?” We know that we can’t go back – but there are no guarantees as to what the future will bring. Whether it’s divorce, disease, empty nest, going to college, moving, etc. we have all experienced this type of change. Likely, more will be coming our way. How do we shift our outlook toward change and our fears about the unknown? One word: Trust.

Trust & The Unknown

Trusting yourself, God, & The Universe are the keys to embracing change. Trust bal-

Our Friends at the NRA....

Kudos to the NRA for showing us all, once again, how tone deaf tone deaf can really be.

After responding to the Newtown massacre with a recommendation that what America really needs is *more* guns, on the one-month anniversary of the cold-blooded murder of 26 innocent individuals at the hands of a mentally disturbed individual armed with *guns*, the NRA released a free “practice range app” in Apple’s app store.

The game, rated 4+, comes complete with simulated versions of a Beretta M-9 handgun, a Colt M-16 assault rifle with 15-round clip and a Mossberg 500 pump-action shotgun.

Players who want access to assault weapons similar to the one used by Adam Lanza to slaughter those 26 innocents in Connecticut will have to pay the NRA 99 cents, per simulated weapon, for the privilege.



ances and calms fear. It doesn’t overpower or eliminate it.

It’s time to own our personal power. To trust our brilliance. To trust that we will use our intelligence to find our way. That we will allow our intuition – our “gut” - to guide us. That we will ask for support if we need it.

Can you trust that God & The Universe have provided for you and only given you what you can handle? Why would they stop now? Can you trust that your vision of what you can do and be is limited? God and the Universe have no such fears or limitations. They see the limitless potential that is waiting for us. Let the hands of God and arms of the Universe hold you while you are in this place called the unknown. Trusting the clarity you want will come.

Courage

“Courage is being scared to death...and saddling up anyway.” ~John Wayne

Trust allows us the courage to step into new places, try new things, and take risks. “What is the worst that can happen? What is the best that can happen?” We can use the answers to these questions to fortify our courage. Consider the possibility that within these new places we will find joy, abundance, passion, creativity, wholeness, and love. In these changes we will experience lessons that enable us to grow, stretch, and become the person our dog thinks we are.

Change the reactions, beliefs, and patterns that limit your life. Trust that life will be better. Use courage to step away from the familiar which isn’t working for you and take that life-changing step into the unknown where your possibilities are limitless. Change can bring more joy to your life. Saddle up and enjoy the ride.



SKUNK CABBAGE

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

There is a patch of skunk cabbage growing on the farm in a little dell that stays moist year round. I love to go and see if it’s blooming yet and even though it’s just January, it was already in flower. Our Eastern skunk cabbage is botanically known as *Symplocarpus foetidus*. The foetidus refers to the odor of flower and foliage. The spadix that rises in January surrounds and protects the spathe, functions like a hood or umbrella, it keeps cold and wet from the internal flowers and holds in the heat. The heat emitted by the spathe can rise 30 degrees above outside temperatures, melting away snow and providing a warm place for visiting pollinators. Even in this day and age there is confusion as to how the pollination actually takes place. Flies and beetles are frequent visitors, but the design of the spathe allows for a wind flow, which may account for some pollination. As irregular as the spathe appears, it seems to be a highly evolved design to help release odor, build heat and allow air flow (referred to as vortical airflow). I have read that is doesn’t matter what orientation the flower takes (north, east or south), most of the plants on the farm face southwest, like they are taking advantage

of the westerly winds.

The roots of skunk cabbage are interesting too, they are referred to as contractile. As they grow, they can pull, essentially pulling the roots deeper into the muck. Apparently it’s not easy to dig up skunk cabbage. Contractile roots are wrinkly and numerous plants have them. Dandelions, lilies and eucomis are just a few. It’s easy to understand why skunk cabbage has this type of root, the wet ground around them heaves up and down with frequent freeze and thaw cycles, this allows the plant to stay put.

Like the flowers (which can be so malodorous), the foliage smells bad too. Yesterday I saw 13 wild turkeys down by the skunk cabbage spring. Turkeys will feed on the plant, which is considered poisonous, bears will too. Some animals eat the seeds, which are relatively scarce when you consider how many flowers they produce. The seeds look like brown balls about the size of a large marble.

In summer the foliage of skunk cabbage is luxuriant and light green. Someone once asked me about the hosta that grows on their farm (?), well it turned out to be skunk cabbage, the next best thing.



gift indeed.
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Tom

THE ARTIST’S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

With taxes being the hot button issue of the new year, it seems as good a time as any to touch on this touchy subject with respect to artists. One area of the tax topic which especially warrants discussion, is that of artists being asked to donate their artwork for charitable causes.

In the coming months, many artists will be asked to donate original artwork to a host of worthy causes. It is an honorable thing to do. Yet, the list of non-profits calling can seem endless and I’m not actually sure how many of them realize how often artists are asked to give their work away. BUT, everyone involved should know, that past materials, such as canvas, paint and a frame for example, artists are not allowed to write off their own artwork.

You got it! Give a painting worth \$3,000. for a donation and your time and talent is not recognized by the IRS. Other than to say that it is basically a “gift in kind”. Meaning - where time and services are donated, IRS Publication 526 states, “You cannot deduct the value of your time”. In other words, your donation simply becomes a gift, out of the kindness of your heart and/or a very expensive promotional item. Far more so than most forms of advertising, which by the way, you can write off 100%.

It is my understanding that it was not always this way. A 1969 change in the tax code put this seemingly unfair practice in place and art advocacy groups

have been fighting to change it ever since. Good luck now.

Interestingly enough, if a person purchases the painting from you and they give it away, they can write off the whole thing and I think even for any appreciated fair market value. I suppose under the premise that they paid for it. But what if they got the painting as a gift or purchased it for less than its actual retail price in a poorly attended auction situation and then donated it for its full value a year later?

The purchaser should know though, that if you purchased art or anything for that matter, at an auction, ONLY the amount you may have paid OVER its actual value would be tax deductible. It is just a purchase, you got something for your money. Your money was not a donation. So, pay \$2,000. for a \$2,000. painting - no write off. Pay \$2,500. for a \$2,000. painting - you get a \$2,000. painting and a \$500. write off.

Now I want to clearly state, that I am not an accountant or a CPA and anyone that has questions pertaining to their own situation on this topic, should as I have, seek the advice of their professional. That said, if there is a CPA reading this that has other information, please share it with me and I will be “very” happy to hear it and share it with others. Ticked pink in fact.

So, where does that leave artists? I must admit, I hear from artists all the time about being asked to “give” artwork, when many are just getting by themselves. It would seem under the tax write off reality, or lack there of, that there could be some mu-

tually beneficial arrangement by sharing some portion of the proceeds, even if small. I truly believe artists want to help their communities as much as anyone. But with no compensation or even a tax write off, everyone should know it can be tough to give your livelihood away.

That said, artists will have to balance these gifts as personal business decisions. For the purpose of this article, I will share that in 2012, I personally gave a very substantial amount of my paintings for what I feel were good causes. I had to justified sound reasons for each and feel good about my decisions and I’m sleeping just fine. Still, I do think many non-profits are unaware of the tax code and dare I say, the livelihood of artists, when they ask artists quite easily for what are almost always, very expensive gifts.

For artists, here are few tips. First, I highly recommend that before the year gets underway, that you speak with your accountant about your personal tax situation. Second, if this type of giving suits your sense of community, just have a plan. This plan should outline organizations that you are passionate about, but they “may” also be those which have high promotional value to you as an artist. Third, in fairness to yourself, understand art is not really a consumable product. Collectors do run out of room and most auctions items are either consumable, as in the use of a vacation home, a discount of such and/or many personally donated items which can be written off. But again, you can’t personally donate your own “created” art

and write it off. You can donate other’s art you purchased. Fifth, also understand there are many ways to support a good cause without giving art. You can advertise in their program, give personal items and volunteer your time.

Finally, as it is said, to give is to receive. So, if it is right for you to do so, do so and know giving your creativity is a wonderful

Elisabeth Von Trapp

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PASTIMES

FRACKING REVISITED

WATERWORLD

RICHARD A. ENGBERG

Fracking is still in the news big time. Recently, Hollywood got into the act with "Promised Land," a movie starring Matt Damon.

The movie takes place in Pennsylvania and Damon stars as an energy company employee attempting to buy mineral rights from landholders, so that the natural gas reserves beneath their property can be recovered. The movie takes an anti-fracking stance.

So let's review what fracking is.

Natural gas is known to exist in large quantities in the U.S. in deep shale deposits often a mile or more below land surface. Previously, the gas was not recoverable by conventional drilling.

More recently, deep drilling techniques have been developed to extract the gas. Wells are drilled vertically to the gas-bearing deposits and then horizontally into them. This alone doesn't recover the gas.

After the well has been drilled, cemented and cased, fracking is used to recover the gas.

Fracking involves the injection of high volumes of fluid and a propping agent into the well under high pressure. The fluid is made up of large volumes of water and often toxic chemical additives. The propping agent usually is sand.

Together these materi-

als fracture and "prop" open the formation releasing natural gas. When the pressure on the well is released, some of the fracking fluid and formation water flow to the surface before natural gas begins to flow.

Horizontal drilling began in the late 1990's. The American Petroleum Institute estimates that since then, hydraulic fracturing has been used in 33 states on more than a million wells (both natural gas and oil). Probably the best-known are the shale deposit is the Marcellus Formation in New York and Pennsylvania.

Major gas deposits underlie areas of Arkansas and Texas. More recently the Bakken Formation in North Dakota and Montana has been in the news.

So if horizontal drilling and fracking are so widespread, why are they so controversial? Done correctly, isn't this a clean and safe method to recover a resource we desperately need? One could easily answer, absolutely, but the key operating words are "done correctly."

Let's review some of the concerns that have been raised about fracking.

I don't have space to describe these concerns other than to list them. They include greenhouse gas emissions; impacts on both surface and groundwater; wastewater disposal; truck traffic; land surface disruption; surface spills; and runoff. Not all the

concerns relate to drilling and the fracking process. But, if it weren't that drilling was occurring, truck traffic and land surface disruption would not be issues.

So, how are horizontal drilling and fracking regulated?

Presently they are regulated by a large number of existing laws mostly at the state level. Some say this is not adequate, that increased federal involvement is necessary. Others say increased federal involvement is unnecessary.

The EPA is studying fracking and in 2012, released a draft of proposed regulations for fracking on public land. The proposed rules include, a) full disclosure of all fracking chemicals; b) guidelines for well casing; and c) water management plans including wastewater. EPA regulations are due out in 2014.

Fracking is not likely to be an issue in Northern Virginia, but still should concern all of us, pro or con.

Before beginning this column, I saw the new movie, "Promised Land." While biased, it does mention some pros for fracking, as well as the cons. I recommend you see the film, before you make up your mind about fracking.



FREE YOUR MIND, WAKE UP YOUR BODY

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

Do you remember when you were a kid and felt like anything was possible? To dream big was ok and our parents encouraged us to reach for the stars. A lot of us did, some higher than others, but all with a determination and passion that literally filled our souls. Our minds did not hold us back; in fact it spurred us on.

For some around middle adulthood something happens to us. Our minds become cluttered with our to do list. Basically we become stuck just trying to get through the day. Our dreams become just that and getting through the day is about all we can handle. Our mind is basically locked down in a since and holding us back from what we desire and truly want to be.

Our mind is very powerful and we cannot separate it from our physical selves. Numerous scientific studies have proved that what we think has a direct impact on our physical selves. Stress which originates in the mind has major implications on us physically. It can cause the body to be in a constant state of inflammation which can lead to many

health issues. If we allow our minds to constantly focus on the negative then that becomes our reality. For instance, if we always tell ourselves that we are fat and disgusting then we see ourselves that way. We become that overweight person we see. It almost blinds us from seeing what is right. What we think is what we are. Now some will argue that this simply is not the case. I would argue back that the depression rate in this country is staggering. Negative self-talk is sabotaging to anything we try to accomplish. It's like a ball and chain that just makes everything harder. Now I'm not proposing that being overweight is healthy. However, I am proposing that weight is one factor of who we are and how we address it is important. From a health perspective maintaining a healthy weight is important. However, the body will not change unless the mind does. The mind and body have to be in sync to make lasting changes. Otherwise, you might get a temporary change with no lasting results. Body image is tied into what we think of ourselves. Individuals that struggle with body image can be overweight or extremely underweight. Their thought patterns keep them locked up inside of a vicious cycle. The more they criticize themselves, their

weight issues become worse.

Negative energy creates more negative energy, while positive energy creates more positive energy. Simple but true. Maybe you have amazing green eyes and a smile that could brighten anyone's day. Or maybe you are a nurse who literally saves lives every day. Maybe you're a teacher that enriches the lives of the children in your class by bringing history to life. The list goes on so fill in the blank of who you are. What do you see when you look in the mirror? Try to see what is right, not your flaws, we all have them. If positivity begins to fill you mind, then you will begin to see yourself differently. The bonus is changes might happen that you thought were impossible. The mind is so powerful, tap into its potential. You won't be disappointed.

It's a new year so today, make your thoughts work for you. Be positive and create a can do attitude. I promise it will change your life. A new year that is full of positive possibilities!

For more information about wellness and fitness please contact: Kay Colgan at Middleburg Pilates and Personal Training, 14 S. Madison Street, Middleburg, Virginia, 540-687-6995.

LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

LWC Board Meeting — The Board normally meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. All LWC members are welcome. Contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org for additional information.

Searching for Birds of Prey — Sunday, January 20, 1:00 p.m. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on a winter raptor search. After meeting at a location to be determined, we will drive the back roads of Loudoun County with frequent stops to find and identify the many hawks, and an owl or two, who winter here. Space is limited so please register early. Registration required: Sign Up Online. Questions: Contact Laura McGranaghan at lmc-granaghan@loudounwildlife.org.

Birding the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, January 26, 8:00 a.m. On the fourth Saturday of each month (except December), Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy leads a bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, a beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. The property includes diverse wildlife habitats, including meadows, streams, and heavily forested slopes. Meet at the Education Center; bring binoculars. BRCES is located just north of Neersville at 11661 Harpers Ferry Road, Rte 671; detailed directions at www.brces.org. Questions: Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

Discovering the Wild in Winter — Saturday, February 2, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on Groundhog Day to explore the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship during winter. While many people stay indoors during the cold months, others enjoy the beauty of a season when the sky is so clear you can see forever and the sun casts the longest shadows. During this free, family-friendly winter hike, watch for the many birds and mammals that over-winter here and examine some of the plants to see how they adapt to temperatures that dip below freezing. BRCES comprises 900 acres on the west side of Harpers Ferry in northwestern Loudoun County. Meet at the Education Center. Registration required: Sign Up Online or contact Phil Daley at 540-338-6528 or pdaley@loudounwildlife.org.

Birding Banshee — Saturday, February 9, 8:00 a.m. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks on the second Saturday of each month for a bird walk at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. Because of its rich and varied habitat, this beautiful preserve is a birding hot spot. Please bring binoculars. Questions: Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

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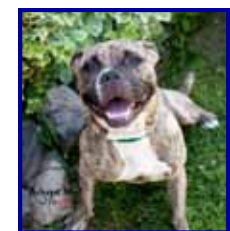


Phoenix came to us with a litter of 7 pups that have all found homes & now she would love one to call her own. Phoenix is a very smart high energy dog. She would be a great companion for any active household. She would benefit from an experienced dog family.



Joker is the sweetest, most special bunny you will ever meet! He is 1 yr old, litter box trained, very social, enjoys attention, likes being held & loves cats! A great companion as an indoor bunny!

Vicky is a beautiful 4 yr. old Airedale Terrier X. She came to us with 7 puppies that have been adopted. She is very sweet, loves people, is extremely playful & loves toys. She can't live with cats & is particular about her dog friends.



Stella is a gorgeous 3 yr. old that is extremely smart. She loves training & can learn anything. She loves to play & enjoys taking car rides. She is fearful of some men & can't live with cats. Stella has a lot of love to give & will be a loyal friend.

Melody is a gorgeous 1 yr. old DMH that was found on the side of the highway in a box with her kittens. She was actually holding them down! Melody is an easy-going, super sweet cat that would fit in anywhere!



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Middleburg Humane Foundation

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www.middleburghumane.com



Margo is a very sweet 2-3 yr old Pug Mix that came in with 2 puppies which have both been adopted & now she is looking for her home. She wants to be a lap dog. She is a little shy & fearful of some men, but will be happy when she finds her person!

Blonde is a pretty palomino Shetland x mare, 11 yrs old & about 12h. Still shy but she is coming along slowly & needs a devoted person to spend time with her and help her trust people again. She is healthy & gets along well with others.



Clover is a beautiful 1 yr. old Redbone Coonhound. She is very sweet & likes people. She has a typical hound personality-very bubbly! We are working with her around other dogs & on leash training. She has a ton of energy & would love to have a job to do. She cannot live with cats.

Lucy is a 1 yr old Shar Pei mix who loves to play fetch. She came to us from a home where she was chained outside so she didn't know much. Lucy is learning that life as a dog can be great & is blossoming into one nice little dog!



Whitney is an adorable Tabby Kitten born around August 9, 2012. On November 19th a car was seen pulling away from the shelter & she had been dropped over the fence & was in our front yard. She is sweet & get along with other cats.



ALBERT'S CORNER

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

ALBERT P. CLARK

Recently, my people were in a Dulles airport parking garage when they heard very loud meowing. They followed the meows to a small grey tabby cat who was timid, but not feral. For more than an hour, my people did what they could to rescue her so that they could help her find a home. Eventually she came within three feet of them, but that seemed to be the limit. It was in the twenties outside, and even my animal-loving people finally had to admit defeat against the plummeting temperatures.

They asked a garage attendant about the cat and found out that she had been there for months. While it was hard for them to leave, they knew they had to, and they vowed to be better prepared in case they found themselves in similar situations in the future.

I decided to write about this not because it's remarkable to find a stray animal. In truth, it's all too common. What isn't common, however, is for people to be prepared if they want to help a stray.

Not everyone is able to help a lost animal, and that's understandable. Taking on a new pet and/or trying to find someone to adopt a homeless pet takes a lot of time and effort. For those people who decide they're able to make that commitment, however, rescues go a lot more smoothly when the rescuer is ready for the unexpected.

First and foremost, always carry a leash in the car. It should be the kind that's a leash and collar in one - a slip lead. It may also be helpful to have a small crate, a simple toy, and a few treats. And you should always have the numbers of local vets and emergency vets in case the animal needs medical attention.

Even if you're taking a stray to your house, you'll still want to get a medical check-up before making any introductions with other pets. When you go to the vet, make sure to scan the animal for a microchip. You can also try to find the owner through social media. My people once found the owner of a lost dog within 15 minutes of posting his picture on Facebook.

Of course, you'll want to use an abundance of common sense. Aggressive animals can be extremely dangerous. Bared teeth, raised hackles, flattened ears, and growling are all signs that you should not come any closer. You should also use caution if an animal appears to be sick or fearful, as normally gentle dogs and cats can become defensive if they are weak or afraid.

And finally, know when to admit defeat. My people were sad to leave without the little tabby, but trying to win her trust was causing her stress and confusion. Since she wasn't in immediate danger, had lived in the garage for months, and appeared to be healthy, they decided a rescue just wasn't in the cards.

So outfit your cars with the proper provisions, be prepared for all eventualities, and keep your eyes open (while remembering to put your safety first). You just never know when you might save a life!

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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EDITOR'S DESK

2013

The year ahead promises to be one of the best in years, and certainly its best since the dark days of the onset of the Great Recession.

Christmas in Middleburg attracted nearly 12,000 visitors and national attention. If retail and restaurant sales lived up to attendance, our business community begins the New Year in great shape, and having made a lot of new friends.

Our town council is experienced, competent, and truly dedicated to serving the best interests of the community.

The same is true of Middleburg's professional staff, its police force and their leadership.

Salamander Inn and Spa will soon be open, bringing with it not only national and worldwide attention, but a steady stream of visitors for whom what's best about our village will be a major factor in the success of the enterprise as a whole.

We have already benefited from the Inn and Spa beyond its critics wildest imagination.

The taxes and fees it has paid already arguably saved this community from either bankruptcy or a serious curtailment of the services that make it the pleasant place it remains for residents and visitors alike.

The new, state-of-the-art water and sewer facilities made possible by the Inn and Spa are infrastructure treasures otherwise impossible for a village our size.

The road construction around Aldie and Upperville is almost complete, and (if such a thing is possible) have made them both better places.

There will be problems in 2013 . . . perhaps even big, difficult, hard-to-solve problems.

But we have the people, the heart, the resources and the will to take them as they come.

THE LENGAUER AWARD

Seven Loaves has just announced that it will henceforth present an annual award for public service named after its President Emeritus, George Lengauer.

We have known George Lengauer for more years than we care to admit. He's probably best known as the heart and soul of Seven Loaves, a foundation stone at Windy Hill, and a pillar of the church.

We have never known him to shirk a duty, avoid a task, or speak ill of anyone.

He leads by example. And he will be embarrased beyond all description to be honored by an award that not only bears his name, but which everyone who knows him agrees should be his own.

That's the way he is. So here's to George and those he inspires.

How lucky we are to have them.

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GUNS AND RIGHTS

DANIEL MORROW

Sometimes giving up a "right" is a good thing: the right to own slaves, for example.

Sometimes we find that what we thought was a "good" amendment to the Constitution really needs to be repealed: the 18th (prohibition) for example.

More often, severely limiting one's rights is a good thing.

We no longer, for example, allow Coca Cola to make things go better with cocaine or allow better things for better living through chemistry to give the New Jersey turnpike that now all but forgotten Delaware distinctive smell.

Some of us would argue that an unlimited personal right to keep and bear arms is about as good for individuals, families and America as slavery, cocaine, and pollution.

Some would argue that the 2nd amendment should suffer the same fate as the 18th.

Most of us (including the vast majority of those who actually keep and bear arms) argue that, at the very least,

some rational limits on our right to keep and bear arms would be good.

Ask a real sportsman, for example, if someone shooting ducks using a shotgun with a spring-wound 15-round combat magazine, should have his rights to do so "limited."

Ask the same folks what they think about hunting without a license or taking more game than the law allows.

Most gun owners readily, even happily, agree to limit their "rights" in such cases: for the sake of the wildlife and the integrity of the sport.

They also, by huge majorities, favor rational limits on gun ownership and sales: for the sake of the safety of their friends and families.

Some of us believe Americans might well be able to learn to live with gun laws (and a level of gun violence) similar to those of Great Britain or Germany or Japan.

Others, indeed most of us, agree we could learn to live with a rational system of national registration; closing gun-show background-check loopholes; banning the sale of assault weapons to civilians;

and limiting the size of magazines.

Controlling the production and distribution of ammunition for civilian use could also be helpful, as would making gun dealers as responsible as bartenders for selling their wares to the wrong people.

Guns empower people. Unfortunately they give inordinate and virtually uncontrollable power not only to those to whom such power can be entrusted . . . but to the young, the careless, the self-destructive and the most evil among us.

Too many of those we have loved have been lost . . . to violence that if not unavoidable, was made all-powerful by modern weaponry.

If we could have lived with a few limits, perhaps a few more of them . . . friends, neighbors, children, teachers, husbands, wives, presidents . . . would still be alive or well or both.

We, as voters, have the power and bear the responsibility to do as much as we can to help.

"Out the shadows their eyes implore us."

RED

LET'S FIRST CLARIFY OUR TERMS

JAMES MORGAN

"Assault rifle" comes from the German "sturmgewehr;" literally "storm rifle." Captured sturmgewehrs were the models for the Soviet "Avtomat Kalashnikova, 1947" or AK47, the best known firearm of its type. The key feature was the capability of fully automatic fire. True assault rifles are automatic weapons; in effect, machine guns. Despite the near universal misuse of the term, there is no such thing as a semi-automatic assault rifle.

Access to all automatic weapons has been rigidly controlled in America since the National Firearms Act of 1934. Legally, no type of automatic weapon is readily available to civilians.

The 1994 "assault weapons ban" did not ban assault weapons. It dishonestly called

semi-automatic hunting rifles like the AR15 Bushmaster "assault rifles" then regulated them based solely on their external resemblance to military firearms. "Assault rifle" sounds more threatening than "hunting rifle" and therefore is more useful as a scare tactic for pushing stringent gun control laws.

Semi-automatic weapons technology dates from the late 1800's. I own a semi-automatic shotgun manufactured in 1906. But were I to attach a military-style pistol grip to that 107 year old firearm, it would become an assault weapon under the deceitful Clinton era law.

Post-Newtown, the usual suspects are demanding another deceitful "assault weapons ban." As Chicago mayor and former Obama aide Rahm Emanuel famously said, "Never let a good crisis go to waste."

The second amendment also is frequently misrepresented. Some say it defines not an individual right but the government's interest in maintaining a "militia." Yet the Bill of Rights exists only because several of the Founders believed that certain individual rights were inadequately protected from governmental infringement in the Constitution itself. For that reason, they wrote ten amendments designed to reinforce those rights. It is preposterous to claim that one of the ten was actually meant as a guarantee of government power.

In any event, the Supreme Court held in District of Columbia, et al vs Heller (2008) that "the Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia."

Critics indignantly ask

why anyone "needs" certain types of firearms. Perhaps they should ask the Korean shop owners whose stores were not burned or looted during the 1992 Los Angeles riots whether they needed the weapons with which they protected their lives and property when the police were nowhere to be found. Besides, it's the Bill of Rights, not the Bill of Needs. No law-abiding citizen should have to explain to anyone why he wishes to exercise his constitutional rights.

The NRA's call for putting policemen into schools incredibly has been met with derision. Yet many schools already have armed guards. The concept is

hardly extraordinary. Whether using policemen or private security guards or school staff members with concealed carry permits, the goal is to lessen the likelihood of some lunatic gunning down more children in yet another "gun free zone."

"Gun free zone?" More like "target rich environment." Who seriously believes that signs prevent criminals from committing crimes? Wayne LaPierre was right: "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun." That is why mass shootings don't happen at gun shows or NRA rallies. Those places most assuredly are not gun free zones

and the bad guys know it.

Also, there is no "gun show loophole." People who buy from gun show dealers go through the same processes as those who buy in gun stores. Yes, certain private transactions are unregulated. I could sell one of my guns to my neighbor without a background check. But that is unrelated to gun shows and, if a loophole at all, it is a very small one indeed.

Law-abiding citizens do not need gun control laws. Criminals simply ignore them. More restrictive gun control does nothing but empower the very people most likely to misuse guns.

HOPES AND FEARS

PURPLE

BRUCE SMART

Perhaps, at Christmas, you sang clergyman Phillips Brooks' 1867 hymn whose first stanza begins "O little town of Bethlehem," and ends with "The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight." Substitute "Washington" for "Bethlehem" and you'll be right up to date on the "hopes and fears" bit.

With the election and holidays behind us and a difficult year ahead, it is time to take stock of where the nation is and where it might go. For Christians it is the season of Epiphany, a time for hope and new beginnings. For others, New Year's resolutions suffice. Purple has recently commented on his fears - the dysfunctional Congress and the challenges the Republican Party faces. Now it is time to look hopefully at the executive branch.

A principal responsibility of any chief executive is to have a vision for his enterprise, to understand its strengths and weaknesses, and the opportunities and threats that confront it. Assessing these realities objectively becomes the foundation for developing a long range plan, and strategies to realize its goals. In the federal government this is the responsibility of the Executive branch, the President supported by a staff competent to flesh out the details. The President cannot expect the Congress - especially this Congress - to do this job for him, while he stays in the background. He must lead in developing, explaining and selling the plan - his plan for America - to the voters and the legislators who must enact implementing laws.

In his first term President Obama proved good at verbalizing issues, and generally sound in the direction he wished the nation to go. He was less effective in driving to successful conclusions in the manner of Lyndon Johnson or Harry Truman. It is now time for him to step up to the plate. The nation cannot afford to dither for four more years while problems of finance, tax policy, climate change, education, immigration, gun violence, infrastructure, reorganization of the military and a plethora of international hot spots fester and become more intractable.

One can sympathize with the post-election resignations of some cabinet officers. Senior jobs in government are exhausting. For Obama these resignations are both a problem and an opportunity to design a supporting cast to help manage difficult matters. Any good leader knows he (or she) must pick people with abilities that shore up the leader's own short suits, and that can work well as part of a team. President Obama has not had a deep background in management, but he now must become a forceful as well as an articulate leader.

Purple's experience in the Reagan administration exposed

him to a talented senior team: Vice President George H.W. Bush, Chief of Staff Howard Baker, Secretary of State George Schultz, Jim Baker at Treasury, Frank Carlucci at defense, Ed Meese as Attorney General, his own boss Mac Baldrige at Commerce, and Clayton Yeutter as US Trade Rep. All brought deep executive and political experience to their jobs. When Reagan became less vigorous towards the end of his second term this team worked so well that few noticed the President's disabilities.

Obama must pick cabinet replacements carefully, and the Congress must not impede confirmation of his choices. The nation cannot afford partisan debate and delay to make political "gotcha" points. The President needs a full team of his choosing to do his difficult job effectively.

As citizens we must hope that the new team, under vigorous Presidential leadership, can revitalize or overcome a dysfunctional Congress and put the country on a path from fear of the future to hope for it. In 1867, at a time of great post-Civil War turmoil, our hymn's author, New Englander Phillips Brooks, gives us this hope in his third Stanza:

"The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, And Christmas comes once more."

Our children are counting on it. And so are we.

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

The recent nomination of John Brennan to head the CIA is cause for much concern. Mr. Brennan withdrew his name for consideration in 2008 for the same post because of agreement and involvement with the enhanced interrogation and rendition programs of the Bush Administration, the only recantation on his part has been the admission that "waterboarding" is torture. Brennan has been a close advisor to President Obama and has been the architect of Obama's illegal drone strike program. To have a person such as Brennan heading an organization that many think should be abolished is very troubling to any of us who feel the long arms of the government are reaching too far in the pursuit of terrorists and terrorism. His nomination brings to mind Obama's refusal to prosecute Bush, Rumsfeld, and Cheney on war crimes, perhaps Brennan would have been one of them brought up on charges, he certainly agreed with all of it.

Terrorism is defined as "The use of violence and threats to intimidate or coerce, especially for political purposes".

The director of the NSA under Ronald Reagan Lt. General William Odom said: "By any measure the US has long used terrorism. In '78-79 the Senate was trying to pass a law against international terrorism - in every version they produced the lawyers said the US would be in violation."

In Obama's drone policy anytime a missile is fired from a drone and kills a Muslim the victim is always described as a "militant" Obama's definition of a militant is any man over the age of 16 who happens to be anywhere near a combat zone. White House officials have been caught numerous times lying about how many civilians have been killed and especially the new nominee John Brennan. Glen Greenwald has done extensive research on the drone strikes and his figures of those killed do not agree with those of U.S. officials.

Newly-declassified documents prove that the federal government treated peaceful protesters as terrorists. The FBI deemed Occupy Wall Street to be a terrorist organization. The documents

state that Occupy is dangerous because they could disrupt normal business and have a detrimental effect on financial institutions. It is very disturbing to me that the FBI would take the side of and try to protect banks and other highly profitable institutions instead of peaceful citizens many of whom have been the victims of those institutions and their nefarious ways of conducting business.

The Occupiers that I met were bright, peaceful people who only wanted to change this country for the better and were in no stretch of the imagination terrorists.

In a radio interview, Wall St. Journal reporter Julia Angwin, made an observation that the US surveillance regime has more data on the average American than the Stasi ever did on East Germans, more than Stalin had on Russians or Hitler on Germans.

In this country today the following could get one designated as a terrorist and has.

Being young and living near a battle zone.

Reporting or doing journalism

Speaking out against government policies

Criticizing the Drone program

Recognizing global warming and being vocal

Paying cash at an internet cafe

Questioning Wall Street shenanigans

Investigating factory farming

Being anti nuclear

Jonathan Turley a very well respected lawyer and a consultant on homeland security and the constitution has concluded that this government feels it can assassinate or indefinitely detain Americans anywhere in the world without due process of law. And it has.

Chris Hedges, Daniel Ellsberg, Naomi Wolf and others recently won a permanent block from a federal judge against the NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) and its provision to allow the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens. The Obama attorneys immediately filed an appeal to overturn, which makes one think that they have already have and are continuing this practice.

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EDITOR'S DESK

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

JANUARY 14, 2013

SENATOR JILL H. VOGEL

The General Assembly 2013 Senate Session convened last Wednesday at the Capital. It has already proved to be an intense session with complex transportation, education, tax, healthcare, environmental and public safety issues to consider. In the months since session concluded last spring, our committees have continued to meet around the state helping to create an ambitious agenda. The full Senate met for a two-day Finance meeting in November. Also, in our Winchester and Warrenton offices, we have met with hundreds of constituents to solve problems and respond to requests.

This is my second session representing an expanded Senate district, including Winchester, Frederick, Clarke, Loudoun, Fauquier, Culpeper and Stafford. I also have greater legislative responsibility, serving in leadership in my Senate Caucus as Whip and serving on the Finance Committee; Courts; General Laws; Privileges and Elections; Rules and General Laws and Technology Committees. I also chair the Rules Subcommittee on Disclosure Review and chair a Privileges and Elections subcommittee. On Wednesday, I was appointed to the Special Subcommittee to Consult on the Plan to Close State Training Centers, a committee whose work is to facilitate a Department of Justice civil rights settlement that requires Virginia to transition our disabled population from state institutions into a community-based setting. It is an emotionally charged subject and will require care to execute.

In the days leading up to session, I joined a 20 member bipartisan group of Aspen Institute Fellows who met to engage in our annual academic

discussion led by Harvard and MIT professors of philosophy, ethics and government. It was a great honor to be chosen from around the nation to represent a new generation of policy makers whose debates of Hobbes, Aristotle, Havel and the like are meant to challenge us. For me, it offered a good grounding prior to jumping headlong into the Senate session.

My work in Richmond started Tuesday in meetings with the Governor and many of my colleagues to discuss the Governor's legislative priorities. He later outlined them in detail in his State of the Commonwealth Address before a joint session of the House and Senate. This is his last full year as Governor and he started with a review of economic progress, noting Virginia has far outperformed other states with the second lowest unemployment rate of any state east of the Mississippi and the lowest in the Southeast. Virginia has over 150,000 net new private sector jobs and an unemployment rate of 5.6%, more than two points below the national average. He also asked for our support for his proposals, beginning with an outline of his five-part program to fund transportation.

The core features of the plan are 1) replacement of the current 17.5 cent per gallon gas tax with a 0.8% sales and use tax increase, with two qualifications—the 17.5 cent tax on diesel remains the same and the sales tax increase excludes food; 2) a \$15 increase in automobile registration fees; 3) a \$100 alternative fuel vehicle fee; 4) collection of revenue generated from a change in federal law which will permit states to collect out of state internet sales and use tax; and 5) divert .25 % of current sales tax revenue from the

General Fund to the Transportation Trust Fund. In the end, the proposal results in \$3.1 billion in additional transportation funding.

The current challenge in funding transportation is that the fixed gas tax yields fewer transportation dollars every year due to no inflation factor, more hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles and increasing CAFE standards. At the same time, maintenance and construction costs have increased dramatically since the current gas tax was implemented in 1986. That 17.5 cents is now worth 8 cents and since 2002, the binder price for asphalt alone has increased 350 percent. Also, beginning October 1, 2013, Virginia must assume all capital, maintenance and operation expense for Amtrak intercity and regional passenger rail. The harsh reality is that within five years, all of our transportation funds will be needed to address highway maintenance and there will be no money for construction. Not surprisingly, the transportation plan received mixed reviews and most expect that the final measure will look very different from the current proposal.

There is no shortage of other controversy this year. One of the most divisive is whether to lift the 31-year moratorium on uranium mining. The moratorium was put in place in 1982, following a 1979 discovery of a large uranium deposit in Pittsylvania County. Geologic surveys have shown that uranium deposits exist throughout the Piedmont of Virginia. A group of Southside businessmen is spearheading an effort to lift the moratorium. The introduced bill is limited to the Pittsylvania County deposit, but as uranium exists elsewhere in the Commonwealth, it will have precedential value

for all of Virginia. I remain very concerned about lifting the moratorium, as do the majority of legislators who represent that region. In addition to uranium, other major controversies include healthcare, teacher pay raises, education reform bills, public safety, the budget and gun control. I will try to cover each in future updates.

In the wake of the Connecticut shooting, I have been asked repeatedly about what legislatures should do to address gun violence. My comments drew attention when I said I would keep an open mind as we consider what measures we can undertake to keep our children safe and to keep guns out of the hands of deranged people. Nevertheless, my views on our Second Amendment rights have not changed and I do not intend to undermine anyone's Second Amendment freedoms or reverse a lifetime of hard work on the subject. I am a gun owner and would exercise my freedoms to defend my family and my property. I have worked in the past with the VCDL, GOA, and have an A plus rating with the NRA. I have also been the sponsor of numerous bills in defense of gun rights. Sadly, I have always believed that our forefathers are spinning over what my generation has proposed to curb individual liberties and personal freedoms. That said, I still believe that we have work to do.

I intend to finalize my remaining bills next week and will provide an update on my legislation in future columns. It is a great honor to serve you and I take your thoughts and opinions seriously. Please contact our office any time that you have questions or concerns. I can be reached during the General Assembly session at 804-698-7527, P.O. Box 397, Richmond, VA 23218 or you can email me at atjillvogel@senate27.com. Also, please visit our website at www.senatorjillvogel.com.

A CREEK RUNS THROUGH US

CHANDLER VAN VOORHIS

While the media and politicians race to talk about gun control in the wake of the CT tragedy, the issue is deeper than an inanimate object. What we are witnessing is a confluence of deteriorating morality coupled with a broken family dealing with a personality disorder while feeding the child a heavy dose of violent video games.

Like a garden, our minds, and that of our kids, will reflect what we feed it. Our job as parents are to be the gardeners --- to pour the water on the seeds of love, hope, respect and truth --- not anger, hatred, violence and despair. But in today's fast paced world, we, far too often, abdicate our parental jobs to TV, movies and video games to find that brief moment of peace while our kids are transfixed on the screen. Every parent deals with this.

In those moments of escape, many of our nation's children are playing disturbing games like Modern Warfare and Black Ops Down. These games desensitize our kids to killing. Moreover, a majority of our kids are growing up with a nature deficit disorder as describe by author Richard Louv. Kids, and their parents, are at biological odds when one's existence is defined by video games, TV, computers, movies, cell phones and shopping malls.

For politicians, it is easier to blame the tragedy on guns. But guns do not kill, people do. The decision to pull a trigger whether at a person or animal should never be taken lightly. But like the video games that train our kids to think there are no consequences to pulling a trigger, supermarkets do the same thing, but in a different

way. As David Peterson, author of A Hunter's Heart, writes, "our forgetfulness is created by the supermarket, where we pluck from the shelves processed bits of plants and animals that are hidden inside of boxes, cans and packages ---- creating an illusion that we can have food without harvest, that life can be maintained without death, that our daily existence is separate from all other organisms." While supermarkets are wonderful organizing agents, society would be better off if people periodically harvested the food it ate.

Passing another gun law does not solve the problem. It masks it and makes everyone feel better--just like the supermarket. But as the author's of Freakonomics accurately determined, each year more kids under the age of 10 die in swimming pools than by guns. So do we need to ban swimming pools? Of course not! We need to look in the mirror as a society and realize that neither government nor laws will solve a crisis brewing inside a society of individuals that tolerates our kids to be fed and desensitized by video games and movies while being disconnected from the natural world. We need greater balance in our own lives and, in return, we will see a better society. That balance starts from within, stands guard at the entrance to our minds and reconnects back to the plentiful landscape awaiting for our re-emergence.

Chandler Van Voorhis is Managing Partner of C2I, LLC in Middleburg and a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and the 2002 Recipient of the ChevronTexaco Conservation Award. He can be reached at chandler@c2invest.net.



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Mountain View The Plains, Virginia • \$1,600,000

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