



LA BAL DE FUR AT AYRSHIRE FARM

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HELEN OF TROY LANDS IN MIDDLEBURG

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SURPRISE!

110-YEAR-OLD COW HAS 17TH CALF

Ayrshire Farm had a great surprise this week with the birth of this Scottish Highland calf, the 17th born to a 19-year-old cow (the equivalent of 110 in cow years.)

The average dairy cow gives birth to only 1.5 calves in a lifetime.

The average beef cow lives only 9

or 10 years and has an average of 7 or 8 calves.

This extraordinary arrival was apparently the result of a secret rendezvous with a Scottish Highland bull. No one at Ayrshire Farm knew she was pregnant until last week. Both mom and baby are doing well.

POLICE WORK PRAISED

DANIEL MORROW

At a Valentine's Day meeting Town Council expressed unanimous praise for the work of the Middleburg Police Department in the wake of a string of burglaries in western Loudoun and northern Fauquier counties.

By early January of this year law enforcement authorities in Loudoun and Fauquier counties had established what they believed to be clear connections between a string of no less than six burglaries in the area.

The perpetrators appeared to strike unoccupied homes and businesses, focusing their efforts on jewelry and electronic devices. To date no violence has reported in any of the cases.

On January 25 at a home just over the Fauquier County line on Halfway road, police reported that yet another burglary attempt had been interrupted while still in progress.

At least two suspects fled the scene, one in a vehicle which was later found abandoned near town by Middleburg PD Senior Officer Mike Prince.

Officers from the Loudoun and Fauquier County Sheriffs' Departments, and the Middleburg's Police Chief and two officers soon converged on Federal Street in Middleburg, where a suspect, identified as Damian Scott Francis Falero, 29, of Farmville, Virginia, had been spotted.

By 9:00 PM on the 25th it was clear that Falero had managed to escape.

That night a white, 2011, Chrysler van was stolen from a winery in nearby Fauquier.

The van was found and Falero was later arrested at a motel near Richmond.

The investigation and search for the other suspects in the crime spree continues.

Chief Panebianco's Middleburg force, he reports, has been on high alert.

Both the Chief and his officers have been seen counseling concerned residents, doing extra checks of doors and windows after hours, and generally maintaining a high state of vigilance in a community in which unlocked doors had long been the norm.

A security briefing organized by the Chief for concerned citizens at Middleburg's Community center on January 31, featured presentations on security preparedness and question-and-answer sessions with officers familiar with the ongoing investigation.

At that session at least one Clarke County resident noted similar incidents reported there as early as October of last year.

In response to Council's praise Chief Panebianco was quick to credit officers the

work of officers Prince and Fadely.

Panebianco had special praise for Senior Police Officer Mike Prince for his work in the investigation and apprehension of the perpetrator of an unrelated breaking and entering incident at a popular Middleburg flower shop. According to Panebianco, the person arrested by Prince in that case has confessed and, at press time, charges were pending.

Water and Sewer Rates

Council reacted positively to the presentation of a new comprehensive study by Edward Donahue and Eric Callocchia of the Municipal and Financial Services Group designed to help the Town insure that its rates for water and sewer services are "stable" and managed in a way that "fully recovers the costs of providing services" and "appropriately allocates costs to customers."

The fiscal year 2013 budget calls for the Town to spend nearly \$305,000 to provide water and some \$366,000 to provide sewer services.

Major capital investments are recommended for the water system between 2014 and 2018, the bulk of it for replacing 2 and 4 inch water lines in Ridgeview, replacing old cast iron lines in Washington Street. Capital improvements for the sewer system are projected at between \$40,000 and \$45,000 per year.

Large increases in demand for both water and sewer services are anticipated for fiscal year 2014, when the new Salamander Inn and Spa is "projected to come on-line."

The report recommended little or no changes in the average water rates, but a shift in cost to heavier users. The recommended minimum charge for consumers using 3,000 gallons or less per quarter is \$46.76. Nearly two-thirds of use and some 80% of water bill revenue is projected to come from customers who use between 3,000 and 30,000 gallons per quarter, at a rate of \$11.91. A third of water use and almost 5% of revenue is projected to come from heavy users, in excess of 30,000 gallons of purified water per quarter.

Sewer rates, the report suggest, should rise steadily over the next four years, from a \$38.13 minimum charge per quarter in FY 2013 to \$48.55 in FY 2017.

Rates for heavier users inside Middleburg, over 2,000 gallons per quarter, should rise from \$12.45 to \$15.85 over the same period. The rates for sewer

Continued Page 30

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PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835



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SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$750,000
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. , TIN ROOF, COMPLETELY RENOVATED OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, WATER AND ELECTRIC TO BARN W/ BOX STALLS, FENCING, PIEDMONT HUNT. LO7928777

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NEWS OF NOTE

ROBERT LAWRENCE KRANTZ SR.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS ENGINEER



Robert L. Krantz Sr., 91, of Union, Virginia, born April 16, 1921, in New York City, NY, passed away peacefully on January 26, 2013, at the Warren County Hospital in Front Royal, Virginia from a lengthy illness.

He was the only child of Frederick L. Krantz and Marietta Reirden Krantz. He spent his childhood living between New York City and Old Greenwich, CT. He graduated from Greenwich High School with the class of 1939 and later received his BA in Military Science, from the University of Maryland.

He was a member of the General Motors Parade of Progress until WWII began. At that time, at age 20, he enlisted in the Army Air Core and became a pilot.

He married Edna Ann Winters, from Providence, R.I., in Coffeyville, Kansas, while in the second phase of his flight training.

His vast knowledge in defense communication systems allowed him to be a mentor to thousands of others working in the defense industry. He and most of his peers spent much time overseas

in the company of the military, embassy staff, and other more covert arenas. It was for people like him that the nation today is a safer place to live than it was during the Cold War.

He enjoyed his retirement to the full-living on his farm in Union, with his wife of 70 years, Edna Krantz, his herd of Black Angus and keeping his farm equipment operational. He stayed active and involved with the Loudoun County Library Foundation, The Loudoun County Hospital Sale (in charge of electronics), Election Polls, reading, writing his autobiography and spending many hours each day on his computers keeping informed and in touch with his many friends around the world.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Edna Ann Winters Krantz, daughter Joyce W. Westfall of Union, VA., her daughter Andrea Fonash and her three daughters, Amelia Fonash, Penelope Fonash, Isabella Fonash all of Chester Springs, PA., her son Chad Westfall and his wife Morgen Westfall of Pottsville, PA. His son Jeffery H. Krantz and his wife Beverly J. Krantz and their daughter Kara Krantz of Haymarket, VA. The family of his eldest son Robert L. Krantz Jr., who pre-deceased him, his wife Emily K. Krantz of Clifton, VA., son Robert L. Krantz III and his wife Katie Krantz and their three children, Ella Krantz, Cely Krantz, Robert Krantz all of Washington D.C., and step-son Edward Martin and his wife Stacy Martin of Gainesville, VA.

In a letter to engage others in this effort, in early 2005, she wrote:

"If you spend any time at all in Virginia, you don't need to be told that our quality of life and land are being sorely challenged by explosive population growth and, in my opinion, by negligence, carelessness and oversight. Without rigorous change and leadership to save and protect that which makes Virginia's earth so precious, the frightening trend of obliteration will continue and worsen. Something has to be done. The above paragraph may be a tad dramatic, but I feel so strongly about the desecration of my front, back and side yard. And I think Voltaire got it right. Life is all

The family suggests that contributions be made to: Wounded Warriors, www.woundedwarriorproject.org ; The Philmont Fire Department, 36560 Jeb Stuart Rd., Philmont, VA.

CORNELIA "NEIL" FLAGG KELLER



about tending one's own garden. In our case, that would be Virginia. I feel called to do my part, which is why I am writing to you.

Born September 8, 1946 in Alexandria, LA, Neil grew up in Louisiana, Arkansas, New York and Mississippi. She graduated from Kent School, Sweet Briar College and Columbia University.

After teaching at Dalton School in New York City for two years, she married and moved to Richmond, VA where she was an activist for women's health and rights, vitally involved in the formation of the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood.

Her sense of humor, strong family loyalties and deep friendships made Neil unforgettable to those who had the privilege of knowing her.

She was preceded in death by her father, the Rt. Rev. Christoph Keller, Jr.; a sister, Martha Keller; and two sisters who died at birth. She is survived by her mother, Polly Keller Winter of Alexandria, LA; daughter Cynthia Henebry of Richmond, VA; son Christoph Stutts of Carboro, NC; sisters Caroline Theus of Alexandria, LA; Cynthia Davis of Charlottesville, VA; Kathryn Anderson of Alexandria and Elisabeth Keller of Cambridge, MA; brother Chris Keller of Little Rock, AR; grandsons Wendell and River Schoeneman of Richmond and Graham and John Stutts of Carboro and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family encourages memorial donations to the Children's Tumor Foundation, 95 Pine Street, 16th Floor, New York, New York 10005; the Focused Ultrasound Foundation, 1230 cedars Court, Suite F, Charlottesville, VA 22903; or the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, PO Box 77, Waterford, VA 20197.

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NEWS OF NOTE

HELEN OF TROY LANDS IN MIDDLEBURG

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE SAVES VERY SAD, VERY LUCKY PUPPY



Last October, when Linda Taylor and her husband, Donald, disembarked from their Yale Educational Tour of Ancient Cities to visit the remains of the ancient city of Troy, Linda, who had sat down for a cool drink outside a small shop, heard a low whimper and looked down to see a very thin dog with a beautiful face. Turkey is full of well cared for "street dogs", but this one was in terrible shape.

"She was covered with mange," Linda explained. There was no one to help her for the

Troy excavations are very isolated, and I knew she wouldn't last long."

Linda could not forget the dog she met in Troy.

"She made such an impression on me. She was struggling so hard to survive and her fate was so dismal. I can't turn my back on suffering."

Shortly after the Taylors returned to Middleburg from their vacation, Linda was in Asheville, where she grew up, visiting friends. While there, she met a wonderful Turkish businessman, Tunc Togar, who lives in Ashe-

ville but owns a business in Turkey.

"I told him about this extremely sad dog I'd met in Troy, and explained how much I had wanted to help, and he said he would be delighted to assist. I couldn't believe it, but he is very well connected in Turkey and, although he named the search and rescue "Mission Impossible", he went to work immediately to find the dog he called "Helen of Troy."

Soon, Tunc had friends locate the dog and sent photos to Linda to verify her identity.

Linda confirmed that the dog in the photos was Helen and Tunc arranged with a vet tech and team to pick her up and transport her the 180 miles to Istanbul.

"After almost three months of baths and intense care to get her well and ready to travel, Tunc prepared the required paperwork to allow her to leave the country," Linda explained. "He owns an import-export company, so he was very knowledgeable about the regulations we needed to meet."

Soon, Helen was on her way from Istanbul to her new home in Middleburg in a "very posh" little crate with the love and good wishes of all who had cared for her.

"She is uniquely endearing," according to Linda, "but getting a dog out of Turkey is not easy... she had to go to the Ministry of Agriculture for inspection to be certain she was not carrying any disease and many approvals were needed for her to travel to the United States."

"My hat is off to the Turks for caring so deeply for their animals."

Today, Helen of Troy lives in Middleburg in a family of friendly dogs and cats who quickly welcomed her.

The brindle shepherd mix with deep chocolate ears and a spectacular herringbone tail does indeed have a beautiful charcoal face, a soft taupe chest and a truly sweet disposition.

"She would have soon died a terrible death in Troy," Linda said. "I'm so happy she's here and I'm so grateful to Tunc. I just feel this was meant to be and I am eternally grateful to the wonderful Turkish man who worked so hard to make this 'mission impossible' become 'mission accomplished'."



COUZENS & WILEY SPEAK FOR LESS CANCER ON CAPITOL HILL

Bill Couzens, Founder of 'Next Generation Choices Foundation' and the 'Less Cancer Campaign' was recently in the nation's capitol with Erica Wiley to applaud the creation of the 'National Cancer Prevention Day' resolution.

"The resolution here in the Capitol and in individual states is all about reminding and educating lawmakers as well as other community leaders and individuals that when we make choices -when we vote, we do so with "Less Cancer" policies in mind.

"This is really the one day that is NOT attached to big money- this is the one day that does not corporate or cancer marketing and does not involve corporations that either produce risk increasing products or are in the cancer treatment industry."

Couzens spoke movingly at a briefing for the National Cancer Prevention Day Resolution introduced by Congressman Steve Israel with 19 Co-Sponsors in the US Capitol Building.

Since that time the story has gone viral around the globe with raised activity in the social networks including a Tweet from Representative Israel " Proud to partner today with @LessCancer and introduce Resolution for Natl Cancer Prevention Day"

Earlier Israel had said, "There are far too many who have been touched by cancer, both directly or indirectly. Today, on National Cancer Prevention Day, we commit ourselves to prevention and reducing our risks as much as possible through healthy lifestyles and clean environments. Less Cancer has been a true partner in this fight, and I applaud them for that."

Erica Wiley's Speech

"We live in a great nation where the best medical care is available in the world. Unfortunately none of our medical advances could save my beautiful son, Hugh. My family and I used every method at our disposal - the right specialists, the best treatments, state-of-the art research and technology in the United States and in Europe -and it was just not enough.

And, yes, while this is sad, the sad thing is that Hugh is not the only child who our nation has lost to Cancer. Upon returning for round after round of chemotherapy to the always-too-full pediatric oncology units, we would often learn that other children, some of whom were infants, were no longer with us."

"You see... if two-thirds of Cancers result from the environment and children are more susceptible to environmental contaminants than adults, then what is going to occur? As exposures increase, incidences of Cancer in children will increase.

"This unfortunate trend over the past 20 years is reflected in our nation's childhood Cancer statistics. And these childhood statistics understate incidences of Cancer as they omit incidences of cancers after the age of 15, omit tumors classified as 'non-cancerous' and omit adult cancers resulting from childhood exposure."

"I am here today to ask each

of you to "Please, let us choose that different picture of children, the one with Less Cancer...let us make the choices to reduce risk in our food, our water, our air, our environment.

"I am very encouraged to see that we are making choices today to take a critical step toward awareness about reducing risk, supporting healthy choices and encouraging Cancer Prevention.

My heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the honorable Congressman Israel for having the vision and courage to sponsor this resolution for Cancer Prevention Day and to the honorable Congressmen and women who also supported it.

"I am also grateful to Less Cancer and to Bill Couzens for all the work that occurs to raise awareness that Cancer does not have to be the new norm; and that, by making choices to reduce risk and not accept the status quo, there can be Less Cancer.

Bill, I know that this work is hard and, often, hard on your family; but I believe that the work you do will, indeed, result in Less Cancer...so, please, don't ever stop.

Suzi Tobias

Suzi Tobias from Texas also spoke, saying:

"We cannot simply treat cancer. To invest all of our resources in treatment without prevention is a flawed approach—it's defensive and reactive.

"If we want Less cancer, we need an approach that is offensive and proactive.

"According to the National Institute of Health: as many as two-thirds of all cancer cases are linked to environmental causes, and most of these are potentially preventable through lifestyle choices and practicing risk reduction.

"This essentially means that we have the opportunity to reduce or eradicate up to two-thirds of all cancer. Imagine, two-thirds Less Cancer.

"How would we achieve such a goal?

"RAISING AWARENESS of the concept of cancer prevention. We cannot stand by passively and wait for cancer to happen.

"We can EDUCATE and empower people on risk reduction strategies and offer them the tools necessary to make healthy lifestyle choices.

"We can work to ENACT POLICIES that keep human health and cancer risk reduction in the forefront—for example, Congressman Israel's excellent Cleaning Product Right-to-Know act.

"This was a critical piece of legislation that would have required the manufacturers of household chemicals to disclose all ingredients on the label. It would have enabled consumers to make informed decisions about chemical exposure—a vital piece of the prevention puzzle.

"We can work to find a way for business and industry to ally



their products and practices with the needs and health of people without intruding on their ability to succeed. We must find the balance between a healthy economy and our nation's health."

Thank You Middleburg

Recently, Couzens said in a telephone conversation with Editor Dee Dee Hubbard-

"I am so grateful to the many Middleburg friends who were so patient with my emails asking for help...at a time when people did not understand the culture of "Less."

"For me at the time, there was nothing being done in the area of prevention it was all early diagno-

sis -not prevention. "Now, 10 years later, the mission for Less Cancer has far expanded our main street community and the work has been about many not just here locally.

"Today, lots and lots of people make the Less Cancer Mission happen. We see that also in individual States like here in Virginia where Jill Vogel Introduced the resolution for Cancer Prevention Day or in Michigan where State Senator Bert Johnson Introduced the resolution for Cancer Prevention Day and New Hampshire where State Representative, Tom Sherman and State Senator Nancy Stiles worked with Governor Maggie Hassan for Cancer Prevention Day."

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NEWS OF NOTE

ECCENTRIC SUED

Jack and Mary Kirk Goehring have filed civil suits against the Middleburg Eccentric, its editor, and its publisher.

In Case Number 107CL00077028-00, filed in the Civil Division of Loudoun County Circuit Court the Goehrings allege that: an article published in the "November 24-December 15, 2011 print edition" of the Eccentric, covering the trial and acquittal of the newspaper's editor constituted "Defamation from Negligent Publication of Falsity;" and that an article published in the "May 29, 2012, digital edition constituted "Defamation from Negligent Publications of Falsity"; and "Defamation Published

with Constitutional Malice"

The Goehrings requested that the Court award them some \$4,700,000 in the case against the newspaper and its Publisher Dan Morrow, and similar amounts in a similar case filed against the Eccentric and its Editor, Dee Dee Hubbard.

Both Hubbard and Morrow stand by the accuracy of the Eccentric's coverage of Hubbard's trial and acquittal of criminal charges and of the subsequent suit for malicious prosecution and defamation filed against the Goehrings by Hubbard and members of her family.

In a demurrer to the Goehring's complaint, Middleburg

Attorney Edward B. MacMahon, asserted that the Goehrings' 138-paragraph submission "was so long and confusing that it violates the Plaintiff's obligations to file a brief and concise statement of their alleged claims" The Court has ordered a replead of the complaint.

MacMahon's demurrer also noted that in their complaint as originally filed, the plaintiffs "have failed to allege all of the elements of a defamation case.

"Plaintiffs, and each of them individually," MacMahon wrote, "fail to cite a single written word [in the first story] that they contend was published and that 'concerns' them that is false. . . ."

"These defendants," he continued, "cannot be sued for accurately reporting the contents of public filings or for reporting public proceedings."

"The claim related to the second article is patently frivolous," the demurrer continues. "The Court can take judicial notice of the lawsuit referenced in the second article and see that it is accurately reported."

MacMahon has requested that the court combine the cases filed against the Eccentric, Hubbard and Morrow into one.

Eccentric Publisher Dan Morrow noted that suits of this kind can be devastatingly expensive to defend and are often, if not al-

ways, designed to have a chilling effect on reporters, their editors and their organizations.

"The Eccentric," he observed, "has lived through worse threats to our small newspaper and to those who work on it. We believe in freedom of the press, we stand by our work, and will do our best to continue to publish for years to come."

Morrow has requested that supporters of the paper contribute its legal defense fund.

Checks should be clearly marked, "Eccentric Defense Fund" and sent to the offices of the paper's attorney: Edward B. MacMahon, Jr., 107 East Washington Street, Middleburg, VA 20118.

MATHEWES APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NSLM

Following an extensive nationwide search, the Board of Directors of the National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) announced the appointment of Melanie Leigh Mathewes as its new Executive Director. The Virginia native who brings a wealth of art and art management experience to her new position, looks forward to making a valuable contribution to the NSLM.

"I'm here to make sure everyone on our team can be successful," said the lovely and charming Virginian. "I look forward to proceeding with the details of our American Alliance of Mu-

seums accreditation, to expanding and broadening the reach of the Museum to the nation and to ensuring that we become a truly valuable community resource for visitors and patrons of all ages."

Melanie's family roots are in Gloucester County, Virginia, where she continues to spend time each year with her husband, Perry, and daughters, Clare, a 15-year-old ballerina, and Leigh, an engineering student at Virginia Tech who is interning for GE.

Classically trained in ballet, she knew she wanted to "be an archeologist and work in a museum" by age five. Fascinated with sculpture, environmental art and

architecture, she is inspired by the NSLM campus and the history of Vine Hill.

Formerly, Ms. Mathewes served as Executive Director of the Hermitage Museum & Gardens in Norfolk, Virginia, for the last eight years. During her tenure, she oversaw the first strategic plan for the Hermitage, which resulted in numerous improvements in the physical plant, and a dramatic increase in membership and visitation.

Prior to her work at the Hermitage, she was events and exhibition specialist at the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

In addition to leading the

Hermitage, Ms. Mathewes joined the Virginia Association of Museums as council director for the Tidewater and Eastern Shore region in 2011. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Tidewater Community College, teaching courses in art history since 2010.

Her twenty-year career with museums includes work at Agecroft Hall, The Museum of the Southwest, Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum, Craven Arts Council, Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens, and Norfolk Botanical Garden.

She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in

Museum Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University.

In a statement announcing the appointment, Manuel H. Johnson, chairman of the NSLM Board of

Directors, said:

"We are very pleased that someone of Melanie's background and experience will become our Executive Director. Her record in Norfolk is most impressive, and when we interviewed her, we could see why she was so successful there.

"We look forward to working with her to take the National Sporting Library & Museum to an even higher level."

HILL SCHOOL FIRST GRADE VISITS SEVEN LOAVES



Recently, the First Grade class of The Hill School visited the food pantry of Seven Loaves Services, Inc. in Middleburg to donate 194 pounds of food they had purchased with the proceeds of the children's fund-raising efforts.

The 23 children made and sold pumpkin bars before Christmas and used the money obtained to make a field trip to the Middleburg Safeway to purchase canned goods and other non-perishable items for Seven Loaves.

Led by Cate Donohoe and Joan McNaughton, their teachers, the children brought their offering to the pantry where it was

weighed, followed by a restocking of the pantry's shelves by the children.

Afterwards, the children received a tour of the Seven Loaves facility by Melanie Maloney and Jim McLaughlin. Seven Loaves volunteers, and Maloney gave the visitors a brief presentation on hunger and food insecurity, and the efforts of Seven Loaves to provide nutritious food, personal supplies and other assistance to people in Middleburg and the surrounding area.

"We were delighted and honored to have a visit from these energetic youngsters," said Maloney. "They made our day."

FABULOUS HOPLLET FASHION FROM FOXCROFT GIRLS

Forget those expensive Cartier bracelets and order a selection of fabulous Hopelets from two brilliant Foxcroft girls who are making and marketing runway-worthy bracelets to help other girls attend their favorite school.

Convinced that, without their Foxcroft experience, they would have become invisible in a traditional school environment, Campbell Hartly and Emily Longley decided to create a business to raise \$10,000 for the Foxcroft Scholarship Fund.

"Our Foxcroft education changed our sense of ourselves and gave us amazing levels of self confidence," Emily remembered.

"We wanted to make it possible for more girls to enjoy the Foxcroft education experience that we know changed our lives," Campbell added.

At the end of their sophomore year, they began thinking about putting their artistic jewelry-making talents to work in a small charity to raise money for the Foxcroft Scholarship Fund.

"We both enjoy art, design and jewelry making," Campbell explained. "So it was only natural that we decided to use an artistic approach to raise money," Emily continued.

They began to make test bracelet at their kitchen counters on weekends, trying out different materials and designs until, as they said in unison, "... our passion blossomed into

Hopelets."

Campbell and Emily's Hopelet creations, originally concocted from brass chain, leather, silk threads and hex nuts are so good looking that they put Fifth Avenue designers to shame. And the new rhinestone and button collection will be 'tres chic' on the beach this summer.

Early customers included fellow students, alumni, teachers, parents and friends who spread the word by wearing the very cool little bracelets singly or in stacks of ten or more.

Whether you consider yourself a minimalist or a maxed-out fashion maven, you will want a selection of Hopelets. From fresh pastels to sleek sparkly styles, you'll need enough to share with friends who will love them on sight.

Without falling victim to the rising gold standard or the ever-escalating prices of beautiful embellishments, your Hopelets will take you everywhere in style with the confidence that your \$14 investment is being put to extremely good use because every dollar goes into the Foxcroft Scholarship Fund.

These "little bracelets for a bigger purpose" have already added over \$9,000 to the Foxcroft Scholarship Fund and there is the very real potential that the girls' original Hoplet goal of 10k may be left in the dust as demand for the bracelets escalates.

Trying to keep up with orders for Spring, Campbell and Emily



have lots of time to talk about how to build the careers they hope for in art or art management.

"Foxcroft gave us the confidence to pursue what we love," Emily said. "Every girl should have this experience and we hope the success of our Hopelets ensures that more and more girls enjoy a Foxcroft education," Campbell continued.

"We proved to ourselves that a creative venture could be a viable business," Emily noted, "and as our initiative gained ground, we realized that our work had given us an identity and a new voice of our own."

"We learned so much about business by establishing Hopelets," Campbell explained. "We now understand margins, materials, marketing, discipline and web design, and we hope our business will be continued by Foxcroft girls in the future."

"Perhaps we can partner with additional girls schools so they Hopelets reach a bigger audience," Emily said. "That would be so much fun and it would ensure that our little company continues to help additional girls for a long time to come."

Hopelets' Fox Collection, Foxcroft Traditionals and the Hound Collection are all available on the website, www.hoplet.org. They are also available for purchase at Stitch and Common Grounds in Middleburg.

Shout it Out! Foxcroft is turning 100!



Charlotte Haxall Noland
Foxcroft's Founder

The celebration begins in September 2013 and culminates in a weekend of events, April 25-27, 2014.

Watch for more information at www.foxcroft.org/centennial

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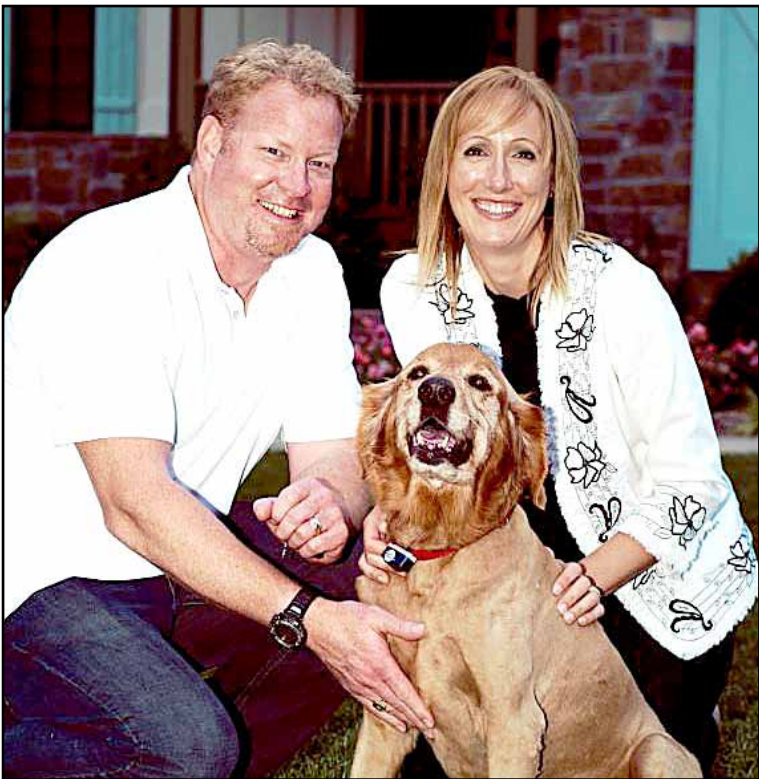
NEWS OF NOTE

TIM BURCH LEAVES TELEVISION STARDOM TO SERVE HUNT COUNTRY CLIENTS

Fortunately for Hunt Country homeowners, Tim Burch tired of the pace of being a television star on "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and returned to Virginia to settle back into a geographic area he loves. Today, as project leader with BOWA, he is thoroughly engaged in the renovation of projects large and small for clients who understand that they have found a partner without peer to help them improve their Arcadia. Whether your ideal residence is an impeccably restored Palladian villa or a 1950's Hunt Box that

simply requires more closets and a few additions, the project leader you choose to work with will be the deciding factor in your success and satisfaction. "It is my great pleasure to help people look for ways to improve their lives at home," Tim emphasizes. He grew up in Oakton and moved to Hunt Country 1995. Tim began working with his father, the owner of T.A. Burch and Sons, when he was still in grade school and learned to love even the smallest job on renovation and construction projects.

"Working outdoors was always a pleasure for me," he says. "Whether my job was picking up nails or measuring, I loved the process of improving a building." When Tim says he loves working outdoors, he's gesturing to the many activities he enjoys in addition to building. He and his brother, Sean, have been active outdoorsmen since they were little. "We were both serious mountain climbers and I skied giant slalom for years during high school and college. I leave the mountaineering to Sean now. He's a professional. But I still get out there and



clear my head." Tim's life has been a series of happy opportunities. Early on he was president and chairman of the National Association of Remodeling Inc. (NARI) in metro D.C., and it was during a speech to NARI members that he was spotted by the Extreme Makeover founders. It's easy to understand why the tall, handsome, young man who might have looked like a Campbell's Soup Kid when younger, would stand out in a crowd. To say he is personable, is the understatement of the decade. Tim is an articulate, passionate professional whose care for his clients comes through loud and clear. Finding a professional who actually understands what you need and hope for, whatever the scale of your project, can be a frustrating process of trial and error that taxes the patience and the pocketbook of the most civilized client. "Your project leader's responsibility is to help you make and execute renovation plans that lead to tremendous satisfaction," Tim explains. "Sadly, many clients do not understand that the planning process is critically important. In fact, it is the most important process in the entire project. If the planning process goes well, the actual engineering and construction processes will be simply smooth steps on the way to success." A graduate of James Madison University and Keller Business School, Tim understands that he received his Ph.D. in construction from "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." "I led 22 projects in the three-year run of the series and, believe me, having seven weeks to plan a renovation before seven days of filming is a real challenge. Building a crew of experts each time, planning delivery of materials and orchestrating the processes so we created a great television show as well as a successful project is a real challenge. I loved every minute of it, but I was definitely ready to come home to my family and the area I love when it came to an end." "I'm still in touch with the families we did tear-downs for on the show... they're wonderful people and it was an honor to be able to help them." Tim is very happy to have more time with his family. He met Melanie, his wife, now a permit supervisor in Fauquier County, in college and he swears that all three of his children share his love of design, construction and renovation. "Chloe, who is 16, is a great interior designer; Stratton, our son, is 13 and is an all-around helper on projects. Helena, who is nine now, is the project manager of all of us! She keeps everything in order and makes sure we don't get distracted!" Being invited to join BOWA was an ideal next step for Tim. Once again, the BOWA leaders met him at a presentation and, after a series of interviews, offered him a position he could only have dreamed about. "Although BOWA is a large, financially stable firm with McLean headquarters, they offered me an opportunity to be based in the Middleburg office and it simply could not have been better for me. After traveling all over the country for years and being home only a few days a week, going to work in this beautiful village near my Warrenton home is almost too good to be true." Already active on many boards and activities, Tim intends to provide help to his community whenever he can. "My best days are when the phone rings and someone says, 'Can you please come over and take a look at my house... I'm just not happy with the way it's working for us, but I don't know why....' From that moment on, I have the opportunity to work with them to make real improvements in their homes and in their lives. That's the biggest pleasure anyone can expect from their profession." To speak with Tim Burch please telephone 540 687 6771 or email him at timb@bowa.com.

VAN PAY JOINS MIDDLEBURG REAL ESTATE & ATOKA PROPERTIES

Billie Van Pay, a licensed Virginia realtor since 2004, is pleased to announce her association with Middleburg Real Estate in Middleburg, Virginia and Atoka Properties in Purcellville, Virginia. Born in Mississippi, Billie Van Pay received her Bachelor of Science in Literature and Composition from the Mississippi University for Women. She also received her Master in Guidance and Family Counseling and her Specialist Degree in Administration from the University of Memphis. With her diverse and extensive education, she has worked in a variety of fields including news reporting, teaching, counseling, educational administration, court reporting/legal advising, sales, freelance writing, and, for the past nine years in real estate. As an active member of the community Billie is involved

in several civic and charity organizations: The Germantown Horse Show Association in Tennessee, Longreen Hunt Club in Tennessee, Christ, United Methodist Church, The Prelude to Gettysburg Committee, Mosby Square Board of Directors and Middleburg Hunt Club. A highly energetic and enthusiastic individual with a passion to assist people, Billie believes "A person's real substance is measured mainly by his/her acts of charity, compassion and graciousness." "It is great to have someone like Billie, who shares our values, join our team," said Daniel Kaseman, managing partner of Middleburg Real Estate. She is an asset to the community and will certainly be a great addition to Middleburg Real Estate. To contact Billie Van Pay please email byprealtor@aol.com or telephone 703 727 4301.

MIDDLEBURG LIBRARY BREAKS GROUND FOR EXPANSION

Formal ground breaking ceremonies for the expansion of Middleburg's library are scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Thursday, February 21st. The Finance and Government Services Operations Committee of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the start of construction on the Middleburg Library Expansion Project at a recent meeting. And the full Board of Supervisors are set to give their final approval at their February 20th meeting. The Library Trustees unanimously approved the start of construction at their mid-January meeting. The formal groundbreaking will be a very short and modest ceremony with the Library Owl in attendance. Citizens will be welcome at the groundbreaking ceremony, but the big event will be the grand opening in about six or seven months time. The goal is to officially open the expansion in either late September or early October.

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— Robert B. Seaberg, PhD, Wealth Planning Managing Director at Morgan Stanley

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NEWS OF NOTE

FOXCROFT TO HOST 2013 CHERRY BLOSSOM WALK



Foxcroft School students presented a big check — worth more than \$8,000 — to the Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation Wednesday morning, but the announcement that the School will host the 2013 Cherry Blossom Nanette's Walk, Fun Run and Pooch Prance as part of its official Centennial celebration kick off may have been even bigger news.

The Walk will take place Sunday, September 29, said Foxcroft Assistant Head of School Sheila McKibbin, and Chairman of the CBBCF Board James Atkins, over scenic paths and cross-country trails on the 500-acre campus. It will be the flagship event of a "Centennial Day of Service" that includes community projects organized by Foxcroft alumna and friends across the country and around the world.

"Since Miss Charlotte started this school, 'giving back' has been one of our core values," said McKibbin. "We believe especially in helping women and supporting the local community — because we are all a part of that community,

whether we come from China or from Middleburg. The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation work does that and so it is very appropriate and extremely exciting that the Walk will be here and that our Centennial celebration begin with service."

"Foxcroft has been a valuable partner in Cherry Blossom's success," said Atkins. "We are honored to accept the invitation to be part of Foxcroft's 100th birthday celebration."

Centennial Community Service chair Karen Lilly and Community Relations co-chair Marcy Harris, who were instrumental in moving the Walk to Foxcroft, shared their excitement and hopes for the day with Foxcroft students and faculty.

"Thirty years after I graduated, the importance of giving back is still ingrained in me, as it will be for you," said Lilly, a Foxcroft alumna, current parent, and president of the Parents' Association. "The Day of Service is really just Foxcroft doing what we do, because that's who we are, but we want to make it global, so whether your friends and family are nearby or far away, encourage them to be part of this special start to the Centennial celebration."

Harris, a past parent and current

trustee who has supported Foxcroft's involvement in the Cherry Blossom from the start, urged the students and faculty to help make September's event the "biggest and best Walk ever."

"Maybe you want to challenge the other high schools in the area to see who can get the most people to participate," she said. "If you live in the area, get your family and friends to come. Let's really get behind it and show Foxcroft off for the wonderful, caring place that it is."

That caring is already evident in the generous check that senior Elsie Spencer, juniors Kate Eagen, Caroline Huckabay, and Andeulazia Hughes-Murdock, and sophomore Jean Kang presented to Atkins and Foundation Board members Mary Jo Black and Lori McGuinness. The check represented \$5,371 raised at January's Think Pink Basketball Tournament, organized by Athletic Director Michelle Woodruff and the Athletic Association, and \$3,000 from last fall's Walk.

"Since our founding seven years ago," he added, "Foxcroft's leaders and girls have been part of each Cherry Blossom Nanette's Walk, and other events. The phenomenal success of the 2013 Think Pink Tournament is another tribute to these dynamic young women and their leaders."

Foxcroft School is the number one single contributor to the CBBCF, Atkins says, and last spring the student body was named one of the first Cherry Blossom "champions" for its enthusiastic and generous support. The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation supports early detection, treatment, and awareness of this insidious disease in Loudoun and Fauquier counties as well as research to find a cure.

"HELL IS BEING A REPUBLICAN IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA"

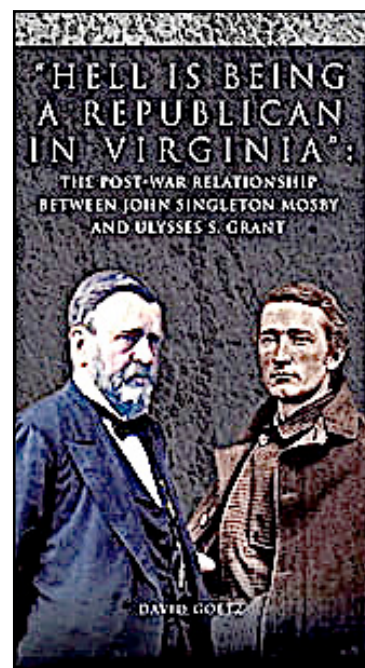
The Mosby Heritage Area Association is hosting a talk by author David Goetz on March 10, 2013 at 2:00pm at the John Barton Payne Building, 2 Courthouse Square, Old Town Warrenton, VA 20186.

Goetz will be discussing his new book, *Hell is Being a Republican in the State of Virginia*, which focuses on the post-Civil War friendship between Col. John Singleton Mosby and Ulysses S. Grant, former enemies.

The famous quote reflects the hardships Mosby faced while residing in post-Civil War Warrenton after befriending, to the horror of his neighbors, his former enemy, General and President, U.S. Grant.

According to Civil War historian Clark "Bud" Hall "David Goetz has written a wonderful scholarly work, and I applaud him for answering many questions that I have had for many years about the Grant/Mosby relationship."

Mr. Goetz owns "Mosby's Confederacy Tours" in Warrenton, Virginia which offers guided tours of historic sites specific to Colonel John Singleton Mosby



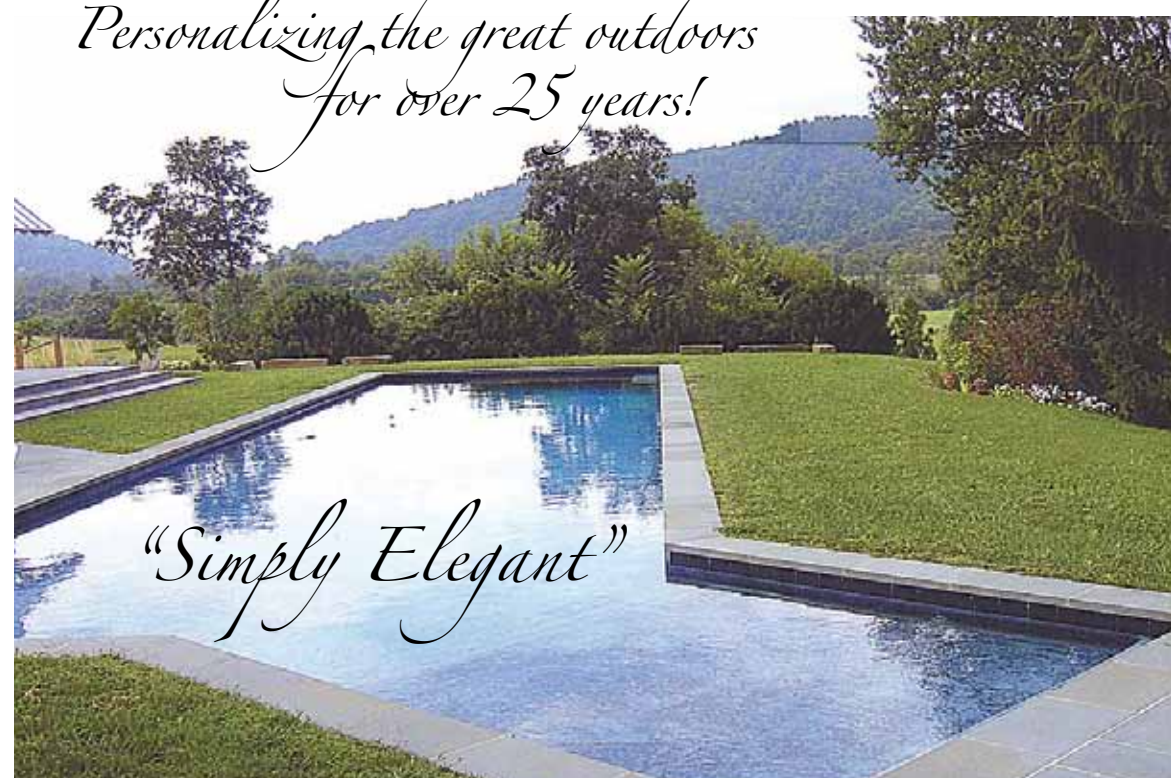
in Fauquier, Loudoun, Warren, Clarke and Fairfax counties in Virginia.

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NEWS OF NOTE

AB INBEV GARNERS 2012 TRASH PRODUCTION AWARD

WILLIAM H. MCCORMICK VMD

2012 was the eleventh consecutive year of volunteer action to control trash on the Foxcroft Road. The author conducts this survey as a single observer. However, there are others who also pick up trash on the Foxcroft Road, such as the Middleburg Hunt and the Foxcroft students themselves. Therefore, if anything, the numbers here noted are understated. At a value of 1089, the year 2012 was a shade above the eleven year average of 1055.

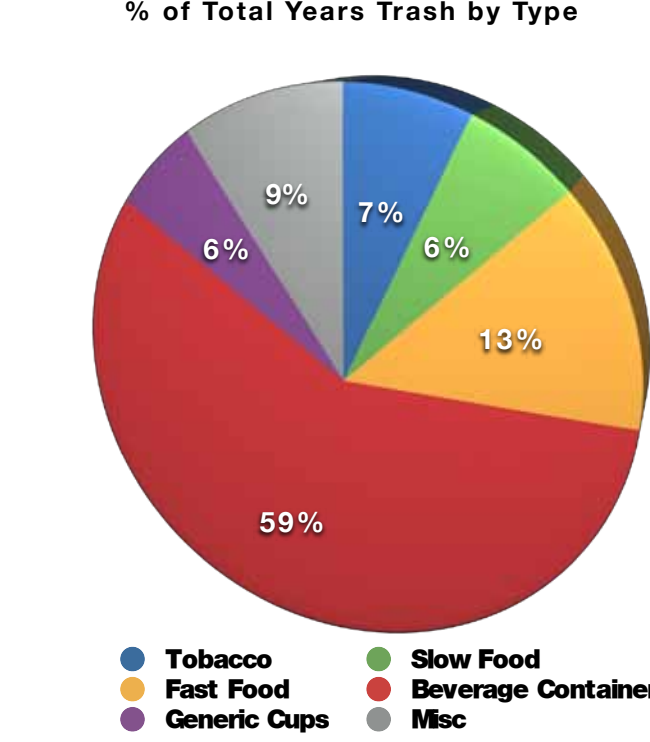
To aid those first time readers and as a reminder to past readers of this column, the course of trash collection is a 4.6 mile route of dirt and hard road that includes portions of the Polecat Hill Rd. (Rt. 696), the Foxcroft Rd. (Rt. 626), the Snake Hill Rd. (Rt. 744), and the Mill-

ville Rd. (Rt. 743).

In the past year, 1089 individual pieces of trash, an average of three per day, were retrieved from the Foxcroft Road, and most of the trash was recycled. The perennial nicotine champion, Marlboro, accounted for 54% of the tobacco total with Camel second at 17%, and Newport third at 15%. The relative numbers of tobacco products increased their percentage from 5% in 2010 to 9% of total trash in 2012, the best percent year in the last eleven. Obviously the efforts of the government to discourage cigarette consumption have met resistance with cigarette packs actually steadily increasing in number. The 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Control Act mandated that 50% of the cover of each cigarette pack bear the image of medical sequels to smoking, i.e. lung

tumors, gangrenous limbs and mouth ulcers. In court the tobacco industry has sought to portray the government regulation as an attempt to coerce the public into healthy behavior, whereas the tobacco industry has merely been exercising its right to commercial speech.¹ According to the CDC, tobacco is the root cause of 30% of all cancers and 80% of lung cancer.

In the New Age- Soft Drink category, there was close competition between, the duopoly, Coca Cola and PepsiCo (53 vs. 50 in absolute numbers or 28% vs. 26% of the New Age-soft drink group). Coke was able to establish a slim lead over its oldest rival, PepsiCo, which has been the winner for six out of the ten last years. Coca Cola is the world's largest bottling company. Coke has aggressively entered the recycling market with a goal of recycling 40% of production.



Summary of Repetitive Trash												
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total		
Tobacco	42	61	100	92	63	73	70	92	96	689		
Slow Food	91	39	64	69	66	62	53	82	88	614		
Fast Food	124	113	127	146	103	163	270	144	127	1317		
Beverage Containers	697	765	776	727	472	663	729	567	534	5930		
Generic Cups	78	86	80	88	40	49	61	35	50	567		
Misc	0	22	73	126	162	89	103	185	194	954		
Total	1032	1086	1220	1248	906	1099	1286	1105	1089			

Tobacco												
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012			
Marlboro	22	33	64	47	43	32	33	54	52			
Parliament	0	5	1	2	5	4	2	0	1			
Camel	6	7	5	6	3	0	5	11	16			
Red Man	1	1	1	4	2	0	1	0	0			
Newport	3	4	13	15	4	8	11	12	14			
Merit	0	0	0	0	4	15	7	0	0			
Benson & Hedges	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	2	0			
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13			

Water												
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012			
Deer Park	2	27	19	26	11	19	26	26	21			
Aquafina(Pepsico)	9	3	10	11	5	6	8	8	5			
Dannan	1	7	8	4	0	1	0	0	3			
Desani(Coca Cola)	4	11	10	17	6	10	7	5	3			
Kirkland	0	0	0	7	4	5	9	4	3			
Nestle's	0	0	0	9	2	8	5	4	11			
Refreche	0	0	0	7	1	11	14	8	3			
My Essentials									10			

Soft Drinks												
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012			
Pepsico	96	92	112	90	70	80	123	76	50			
Coca Cola	87	87	80	98	81	76	73	102	53			
7UP/ Dr. Pepper	13	20	12	10	10	11	13	13	17			
Select (Safeway)	17	22	12	6	6	2	12	9	0			
Arizona	2	4	3	1	3	4	18	7	6			
Red Bull	11	26	19	20	19	40	16	14	15			
Other	40	30	70	73	51	46	57	75	68			

Fast Food												
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012			
McDonald's	64	38	48	62	51	75	128	61	30			
Chick-Fil-A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14			
7-Eleven	34	39	29	32	23	15	36	34	34			
Taco Bell	2	2	0	1	1	5	13	10	6			
Starbucks	6	6	1	11	2	7	7	6	3			
Sheetz	4	4	8	4	4	3	4	2	5			
Wendy's	4	0	4	2	5	25	27	5	3			
Burger King	4	2	8	5	2	2	10	3	1			
Dunkin Donuts					1	5	3	3	2			
KFC				6	0	3	2	3	2			
Popeyes							30	2	2			
Subway									8			
Others	12	23	23	23	13	23	10	15	17			

Beer / Wine / Booze											
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011		
Budweiser	86	78	78	119	68	36	36	42	51		
Bud Lite	84	33	58	41	52	40	40	28	37		
Busch	16	29	33	32	24	17	14	18	8		
Natural Ice	71	50	67	77	29	6	4	4	5		
Natural Dry	8	17	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Natural Light	0	5	2	12	14	2	9	12	1		
Michelob	7	19	8	7	12	10	5	11	6		
Corona/Medelo	23	20	23	26	10	17	20	52	40		
Coor's	18	22	5	32	43	33	120	107	38		
Pabst Blue Ribbon	3	6	19	5	1	1	2	1	1		
Steel Reserve	3	4	16	2	1	2	1	2	5		
Heineken	0	0	0	0	14	13	18	20	7		
Foster's	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	3	0		
Yeungling	0	0	0	0	0	6	9	5	9		
Others	35	62	65	41	38	19	14	23	20		

- 1.In Bev-AB (151), production is up 31% over 2011!
- 2.Coca Cola (53), down 48% from 2011
- 3.Marlboro. (52), down 4% from 2011
- 4.Pepsico (50), down 34% from 2011
- 5.7-Eleven (34), unchanged from 2011
- 6.McDonald's (30), down 51% from 2011

This year's Foxcroft Road Pig Pen grand prize is awarded to AB INBev, which has increased trash production by 31% over 2011 qualifying the corporation as "King of the Road." AB INBev and its predecessor Anheuser-Busch have been the subject of at least two recent books, Bitter Brew: The Rise and Fall of Anheuser-Busch and America's Kings of Beer, November 2012, by William Knoedelseder, and Dethroning the King: The Hostile Takeover of Anheuser-Busch, an American Icon, Nov 2011, by Julie MacIntosh. The titles speak for themselves and they make for interesting reading.

WHM
1.Bayer, R., Gostin, J.D., and Marcus-Toll, D., "Repackaging Cigarettes- Will the Courts Thwart the FDA?" N. Engl. J. Med. 367: 22, November 29,2012, p. 2065-2070.
2.Pearlstein, Steve, "King of Beers or Absolute Monarch," The Washington Post, 3 Feb 2013, Sec G p.15.
3.Friedman, T. and Mandelbaum, M., That Used to be Us, MacMillan Audio, 2011.

SHEILA JOHNSON INTRODUCES "INTERLUDES"

BEAUTIFUL SJ SCARF COLLECTION INSPIRED BY THE IMAGES SHE LOVES



Wherever Sheila Johnson travels, she photographs the beauty and the inestimable power of the scenes she sees. Whether she is just waking up on a winter morning in Hunt Country to see a sugar maple in its fiery splendor, or visiting Haiti after the earthquake to find and photograph a still-standing classically beautiful blue door of grace and strength that could not be bowed by the elements, she sees beauty all around her. Because she cherishes the beautiful things she sees, and because she so wanted to share them to inspire others she

worked with Mirko Iglio, the noted Florentine textile design consultant, to create a new line of truly spectacular scarves that reproduce her photographs on enormous, supple, natural fabric that Mirko says are "... miraculously Bella!"

"Everywhere I go I've taken my camera for the last twenty years," Sheila explained. "Photography is an artform I love because, if you keep your eyes open, you will really see every aspect of what's going on around you."

"I believe Virginia horse country is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Every morning when I am at home, I see something beautiful in the ever-changing landscape."

"It was a dream of mine to be able to share my photographs with others. As Mirko says, 'Florence is the most famous textile city in the world,'... so it was only natural that I ask him to help me create my collection."

Best known as a successful entrepreneur and philanthropist, Sheila's roots have always been in culture and the arts—a lifelong love that her new SJ Scarf Collection fully expresses.

The stunning scarves are large enough to wrap around

the wearer several times. The vibrant colors of her photographs form a gorgeous abstract palette when draped across ones shoulders, and a stunning reproduction of her spectacular photographs when fully extended.

Described by Italian Vogue as "...a mother, artist, sports enthusiast, film producer, designer, philanthropist and social engineer in a petite powerhouse..." Sheila's SJ Collection of luxury scarves that she refers to as "wearable art" are "...destined to become another part of her ever growing empire."

"Each scarf tells an inspir-



ing, uplifting, intimate story," Sheila explains. "Even among the rubble in Haiti, there was real beauty."

Questioned by Yomi Abiola of Italian Vogue about her business acumen, she explained many things about success that women can learn from sports:

"Women need to play the game to get the deals. We learn how to broker deals, how to empower ourselves, not behind the desk, but through real competition."

Johnson is very much on the field and playing at the top of her game. Her stamina for creativity and expansion are inexhaustible. Her mantra is to keep giving back and empower the community.

Today, Sheila is not just giving back through philanthropy and industry, she plans to share her inspirations and her passion with others through her beautiful photographic scarves.

Her ties to the world of art and design run deep. She serves as chair of the Board of Governors of Parsons The New School for Design in NYC, where she funded both an award-winning design center and a scholarship for talented but underserved students. In May 2012, Johnson,



along with designer and friend Donna Karan, was honored by Parsons for her contributions to the field. A fervent advocate of arts and education, she was appointed by President Obama to serve on the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

An accomplished violinist, Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts in music from the University of Illinois. A mother of two, she lives in Middleburg, VA, with her husband, the Honorable William T. Newman, Jr.

For more information, please visit www.sheilajohnsoncollection.com.

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NEWS OF NOTE

LOCAL ECONOMY FORECASTED TO DECLINE IN 2013, BUT BUILDERS ARE BETTING ON NEW HOME DEMAND

REAL ESTATE REALITY

A new report forecasts that Northern Virginia's 2013 economy will decline from last year's tepid 3% growth to 2.8%, as the United States confronts a "New Normal", with growth much slower than recoveries from previous recessions. Developers, however, still see a demand for properly priced, new homes, as seen near Aldie, Lenah Run, Haymarket, and South Riding.

In its January Greater Washington Economic Conference, George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis predicted a smaller and aging Federal workforce, fewer domestic and international migrants to the area, and younger and lower paid workers filling the "New Normal", new jobs. Hundreds of investors, builders, lenders, and realtors including this writer-listened in rapt attention as Dr. Stephen Fuller presented his 21st annual report covering the next five years.

Daily we experience or see the clogged roads that affirm that the health of the Fairfax and Arlington economy affects the housing market as far away as western Loudoun/Round Hill/Middleburg. Significant numbers of Ashburn residents commute to DC, Reston, Fairfax, and Roslyn. Our homes and jobs are separated by hour-long commutes in Northern Virginia so when government agencies and companies near and inside the Beltway encounter economic woes or flat growth, conse-

quences exist.

Unfortunately, Dr. Fuller and other conference speakers did not offer near-term hope. Not until 2014 will the Washington Area economy grow more than 3% and not until 2017, said a FANNIE MAE speaker, will median priced home values across the Nation reach their 2007 values.

Douglas Duncan, FANNIE's Chief Economist, told us that "Housing is on firm footing, headed in the right direction, but not robust". He also said that U.S. home ownership will continue to decline from its 2006 level of 69% to about 65%. Nationally, Duncan forecast GDP growth in 2013 of 2.2% and 2.4% in 2014. Not the best news for his audience, nor for local home buyers and sellers.

However, those who do want to buy homes will have many choices as single family home construction will increase in 2014-17 and the prices of existing homes are likely to undergo price compression due, if nothing else, to the law of supply and demand. Many of these new homes are in the Rt 7 and Rt 50 corridors around Ashburn, South Riding, Purcellville and Round Hill where to-be-built attached new homes are available for \$3-500,000, and single family units for \$5-700,000. Builders are setting price points that the "New Normal" buyers can afford with the current low mortgage rates.

Despite Northern Virginia's very good December sales of

2,289 homes-up 5.39%, higher home selling prices -up 13.3% year over year, and a recent report by the National Association of Realtors that 2012 had the highest existing home sales in five years, the local Metropolitan Regional Information Service recently reported that "...several clues reveal a possible softening of demand in the near-term and new contracts have declined slightly for the 2nd straight month. Additionally, unseasonable declines in sales and median price from November could be an early sign of weakening demand."

Explaining one contributor to the possible slowdown, GMU's Fuller observed that despite the growing number of jobs in Northern Virginia, many will pay less. "It takes two jobs to equal the levels of income of 2007", he said. Education and healthcare, he reported, will have two thirds of the new jobs the next few years, with construction and the Federal workforce, which provided 39.8% of local jobs, declining.

In my own real estate business of helping Northern Virginia companies recruit out-of-area candidates, one major client has curtailed all hiring due to the Sequestration threat and another, one of the largest employers in Northern Virginia, has reduced its six month executive recruiting plans to two positions from more than ten in early 2012.

The GMU forecast indicates that the aging and retiring Federal



workforce, the influx of younger and single workers who rent rather than buy, and the growing number of retiring Baby Boomers who are expected to downsize, will pressure the existing single family home market, especially the larger homes.

Conclusion: Don't expect much price growth the next three years. If you want to sell your home, this year is as good as next year. If you are in the market for your first home, prices and mortgage rates are really good.

Next month: The Government's new rules that significantly alter home mortgage terms and conditions and may reduce the number of mortgages issued.

James Atkins is President of Homes For Leaders Real Estate. jim@homesforleaders.com

WHO KNEW JADE COULD BLOOM



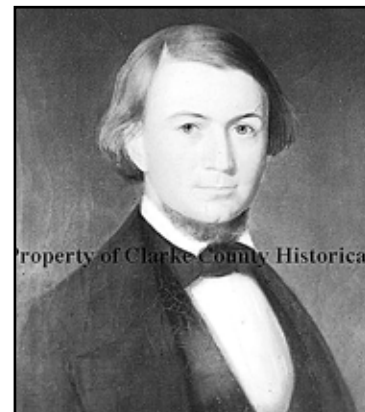
Rose Rogers with her Dad, John Zugschwer's, famous, award winning, 25 year old Jade Plant in an amazing full bloom.

RICHARD ALLEN CLOTHING OPEN



Rick Bechtold's Richard Allen Clothing officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, February 16th. L to R Rich Luttrell, Rick Bechtol, Robin Cavanagh, Middleburg's Police Chief A.J. Panebianco and Town Council member Trobridge Littleton.

WANTED: PORTRAITS OF THE BLACKBURN FAMILY



DANIEL MORROW

Early in its history the Clarke County Historical society commissioned a series of photographs of portraits of outstanding citizens in the history of Clarke County.

Unfortunately the records of who owned the original portraits, if such records ever existed, are no longer available.

Happily, the Society has published most, if not all the photographs on its web site.

This is the only known image of VMI Cadet Thomas Blackburn's father, Richard Scott Blackburn, published on line at <http://clarkecounty.pastperfect-online.com/31579cgi/mweb.exe?request=record&id=F1FE6915-C870-4CA3-A110->

301106056314?type=102

It is describe on the Society's website as follows:

"Portrait of Dr. Richard Scott Blackburn (1809-1867) who was a son of Thomas Blackburn and Elizabeth Sinclair (1776-1840), his wife, who was a daughter of John and Margaret Sinclair, of what is now Jefferson County, West Virginia. Thomas Blackburn was the second son of Lieut. Col. Thomas Blackburn (1740-1807) of "Rippon Lodge," who was commissioned a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Nov. 1, 1799. He had many descendants and died in 1813. His sister, Julia Ann, married Judge Bushrod Washington to whom Gen. Washington devised "Mt. Vernon." Lieut. Thomas Blackburn was the grandson of Col. Richard and Mary Watts Blackburn of "Rippon Lodge," the former being the first of his name and family to emigrate to America from England. Dr. Richard Scott Blackburn married, Nov. 13, 1833, Sarah Anne Ellen Thomas, daughter of Governor Thomas of Maryland."

If you own the original painting of Richard Scott Blackburn, or know where it can be found, please contact this newspaper (dan@mbccc.com) and/or the Clarke County Historical Association.

And please visit the Society's website at <http://clarkecounty.pastperfect-online.com> for more.

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NEWS OF NOTE

FILMMAKER LAVINIA CURRIER SCREENS “OKA!” AT FOXCROFT

Local filmmaker and environmentalist Lavinia Currier will screen and discuss her movie *OKA!* at Foxcroft School on Tuesday, March 12 at 7pm.

The public is invited to attend this latest offering of the Helen Cudahy Niblack '42 Arts Lecture Series in the Athletic/Student Center on the Foxcroft campus.

Currier, a Fauquier, VA, resident, co-wrote and directed *OKA!*, based on the unpublished memoir of ethnomusicologist Larry Sarno.

Set mostly in the stunningly beautiful rainforest of Central Africa, the movies tells the story of Larry Whitman, an American who, despite a failing liver, accompanies the Bayaka pygmies on a dangerous journey into the heart of the forest.

The film, co-produced by Currier and James Bruce, premiered at the 2010 Telluride Film and, in its final cut, at the 2011 Washington DC Environmental Film Festival.

Filmed in English, French, Sango, and Akka, *OKA!* stars Kris Marshall, perhaps best known for his role in *Love Actually*, with Isaach de Bankolé, Will Yun Lee, and a wonderful Bayaka ensemble.

Isaach de Bankolé is a veteran of more than 30 films, including *Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (2007) and *Casino Royale* (2006); Lee appeared in *Total Recall* and *Die An-*

other Day and has been named one of *People Magazine's* “Most Beautiful People.”

Lavinia Currier, studied poetry at Harvard University and acting at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. She has made several feature films, including *Heart of the Garden*, which won a 1985 Gold Eagle Cine Award, and *Passion in the Desert* (1997). She was executive producer of the acclaimed documentary *The Sun Behind the Clouds: Tibet's Struggle for Freedom* (2010), and received the International Campaign for Tibet's Light of Truth Award from the Dalai Lama for her support of Tibetan refugees. Foxcroft's Audrey Bruce Currier Library is named for her mother.

The free, public screening is part of a longer visit to Foxcroft by Currier during which she will share the story of her artistic journey with students and faculty in other more informal and conversational events.

The Helen Cudahy Niblack '42 Arts Lecture Series, established by Austi Brown (Foxcroft Class of 1973) in memory of her mother, has brought a variety of literary, performing, and fine artists to Foxcroft to share their work, stories, and perspective on the nature of the creative process with both students and the larger community since it began in 2007.

SAJEN TAKES THE LEAD

You may have seen him around Middleburg, a black Labrador cross wearing a blue and yellow vest, trotting happily alongside his partner's motorized wheelchair. Sajen, a skilled companion service dog from Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), is 11 now and his muzzle is graying, but he has definitely left his mark on his girl and on this community.

For eight years, Sajen and his best friend, Caroline Elgin, have led an ever-increasing group of CCI graduates, volunteers and puppies-in-training down Main Street in the Middleburg Christmas Parade. This year, the enthusiastic spectator response at our small local parade inspired Caroline's mom, Carina, to apply to march in the somewhat larger Inaugural Parade. Amazingly, CCI was one of 40 groups out of 3,000 that applied to be given the honor.

Caroline and Sajen, tail wagging, led the way, down Pennsylvania Avenue, with 56 CCI dogs and 135 humans. 16 people and 6 dogs were there representing Middleburg-area, in this amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Sajen and Caroline have indeed been amazing ambassadors for CCI in the nine years they have been best friends and partners. Thanks to meeting them, enough volunteer puppy raisers have stepped up to the plate to have a regular, bi-weekly CCI puppy training class at the Middleburg American Legion Hall. In addition to several amazing local individuals and families raising puppies, three area schools have taken the challenge: Middleburg Montessori (Shyla), Middleburg Academy (Rocco), and in early March, the Foxcroft School Freshman dorm will be raising a pup. (Sajen was raised at a boarding school in Vermont and thinks

its great!)

The puppies, Labradors or golden retrievers or crosses between the two, are specifically bred in California for the job by CCI's geneticist. They are then flown to volunteer puppy raisers across the country for the next stage of their lives. For about 15 months, these volunteers love, train and socialize their special charges, and then give them back for thorough evaluation and advanced training. Puppy raisers are amazing people, a key component of the community of kindness that is CCI.

Puppy raiser MegAnn Slater of Upperville will be flying to California this month to hand over Freedom's leash to his new partner. The ticket was provided through the generosity and United mileage of a Middleburg area CCI supporter. Most of the dogs from Virginia graduate from CCI's New York facility, as did Casella Slater's Elizabeth III, several years ago. She stays in touch with his partner, a young man with cerebral palsy. Gail Griffith of Philomont, now on puppy number 5, Carlo, has had three puppies graduate, beating the odds.

Only 40 per cent of the dogs graduate, and puppy raisers are given the opportunity to keep them. Some Middleburg pups have already found their way home. Suzanne Lamb raised Bradley for CCI, only to have skin allergies block his way. Bradley has happily found another career, as husband Steve's hunting dog, and is a happy retriever.

Two Middleburg pups are still in Advanced Training at the CCI North East Regional Center in Medford, NY. Kai, raised by Julie Coles and Andrews, raised by Georgiana Watt, are still busy learning the advanced commands such as opening doors and turning off light switches, and may be matched with their people with dis-



abilities during April or August graduations.

Thanks to Sajen, Middleburg has truly embraced CCI. This dog-loving community has stepped to the plate and made generous donations, to help CCI breed, train and place these amazing dogs for free. Customers at Middleburg's Common Grounds bought enough of Caroline's specially designed mugs for Caroline to be able to donate \$400 to CCI, and her t-shirts on sale at The Fun Shop raised more money for the cause.

Wylie Wagg is extremely supportive of all CCI does, and Sajen loves to stop by for a biscuit. The Studio gave free baths to the Middleburg pups marching in the parade, as captured by a New York Times photographer. Caroline, a graphic and web design major at The Art Institute, donates a portion of every sale from her website, named for her labradorable Sajen to CCI. (www.labradorabledesigns.com)

"I just do everything I can to give back to CCI, for changing my life by giving me Sajen", Caroline added.

Sajen will be retiring soon, and Caroline will be getting a CCI "successor dog". Sajen be able to stay with Caroline, hog the couch, belly flop into the pool and be a happy farm dog. He brought her from a shy fifth grader, hiding behind her bangs, to a confident happy college student. He gave her the courage to find her place in the world, to reach for her own special star. Thank you, Sajen... CCI family and Middleburg CCI supporters.

FACES & PLACES LA BAL DE FUR AT AYRSHIRE FARM

PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



CYNTHIA DAILY, KIM SHELLEY AND STEPHANIE NICOLL.



BRIAN LICHOROWIC, MIMI STEIN AND MICKY GUSTAFSON



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PROGENY

PREVIEW FUN DAYS @ FOXCROFT

Foxcroft's unique day camp that debuted to rave reviews last summer, invites prospective campers and their families to a summer preview Open House at Foxcroft School on Sunday, February 24 from 1:00-3:00 pm.

The Open House, hosted by fun days co-directors Michelle Woodruff and Katie Turner, will be held at the Athletic/Student Center on Foxcroft's 500-acre campus, four miles north of Middleburg, on Foxcroft Road.

Fun days has expanded its program to offer eight one-week sessions and an impressive 22 specialty camps. The program begins June 17 and

ends August 16, with no camp during the week of July 4.

In addition to the core, traditional summer camp program for ages 5-12, a less formal option called Camp Dowachyawanna will be offered several weeks in August. Camp OT offers extended care, starting at 7:00 am and running to 6:00 pm.

Morning specialty camps for various ages -- as young as 5-8 and old as 15 -- range from theater, arts, and riding to science, and sports. New offerings for 2013 include computer programming, culinary arts, dance, outdoor adventures, sewing, softball, and "Little Scientists."

Many of the specialty camps are led by Foxcroft coaches and faculty,

including Director of Riding Kate Worsham, Science Department Chair Dr. Maria Eagen, and varsity coaches Patrick Finn (lacrosse), Kate Barston (tennis), and Woodruff (field hockey) -- whose most recent Foxcroft squads all advanced to the state semifinals or better!

All the camps are offered in one-week sessions, a la carte, so that youngsters can choose exactly what they want to do and families can arrange attendance around vacations and over summer plans. Transportation from convenient locations are available as well.

For more information, please visit our website at www.foxcroft.org or call Foxcroft School at 540.687.4553.

HANK BERG TO CONTINUE LEADERSHIP AT HIGHLAND SCHOOL

Highland School's Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Head of School Hank Berg has agreed to a new contract that ensures he will remain the school's leader through June 2015.

Berg has led Highland since 2005. During that time, he has played a significant role in major initiatives that have touched every Highland student, including the renovation of the Middle School, construction of the Lower School, which earned a prestigious LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, and the opening of the Upper School Humanities wing.

He has also helped assemble a faculty and staff that consistently inspire students to deliver superior academic and athletic achievement.

"The foundation of every school is made up of strong, stable leadership, and that is exactly what Hank has provided Highland School for the last seven years," said Tim Dunn, chairman of Highland's Board of Trustees.

"The positive changes Hank has overseen are simply breathtaking. The expansion of our facilities, the improvement of our academic programs, and the quality of our faculty and staff are all thanks to his leadership, and we are pleased that his commitment has been extended for several more years, at least."

Berg has spent the last 34 years working at area independent schools, holding positions ranging from science teacher to head of school. He's also serving as Vice President / President Elect of the Virginia Association of Independent Schools, and is on track to serve as the organization's president for one year starting in July 2014.

"It has been a great opportunity and privilege to be at Highland at a time when we are building the school program and facilities of the future," Berg said. "The community of faculty, staff, students and parents is just terrific and the quality of life in Warrenton is unbeatable."

MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY NAMES NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL



The Board of Trustees of Middleburg Academy, Loudoun County's only independent, coeducational, college preparatory high school, has completed its long-term leadership succession planning with the hiring of Colley W. Bell III as the next Head of School. Mr. Bell, currently Head of School at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, begins his tenure on July 1 under an initial five-year employment contract.

Middleburg Academy's current Head of School, Dr. Ronald P. Sykes, will remain in his position through June 30, working closely with the incoming Head, the Board of Trustees, and administrative team to ensure a smooth transition in the six-month preparation for new leadership under Bell.

In making the announcement, Michael S. Hoover, Chairman of Middleburg Academy's Board of Trustees, spoke with enthusiasm about Mr. Bell's accomplishments, character, and charisma.

"We are excited to draw upon Mr. Bell's lifelong love of independent schools and his demonstrated leadership qualities. Everyone we've spoken to who has worked with Colley invariably describes him as an engaging and motivating figure, one who succeeds at getting people to accomplish challenging things. Moreover, his strengths in management, finance, and community-building, as well as in the development of 21st century focused curriculum and technology, assured us that Colley is the right person to take Middleburg Academy into the future."

Bell has served since 2008 as Head of School at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, a 750-student PK-12 independent school in Suffolk, Virginia. Prior to that, he was Assistant Headmaster at Tower Hill School in Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. Bell's independent school career, which began in 1984, has also included teaching, coaching, and administrative positions in Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and New York.

He is married to Edwina G. Bell, Director of Development and Communications for the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk. Together with their eleven-year old son, Colley Bell IV, they will make their new home in the Headmaster's Carriage House on the Middleburg Academy campus.

As part of its mission, Middleburg Academy is committed to providing its students with a strong intellectual, spiritual, and moral foundation. "Middleburg Academy's mission and vision are very much in keeping with my own beliefs," said Mr. Bell.

HILL SCHOOL ANNOUNCES JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

The Hill School of Middleburg, Virginia, has announced the creation of a new junior kindergarten program for 4- to 5-year-old students for the 2013-14 school year.

"We are delighted to better serve our current families and the greater community with this new junior kindergarten," Head of School Treavor Lord said. "We have been asked about this for years and are

now pleased to provide families with an option for students not quite ready for our kindergarten."

The junior kindergarten will be a half-day program with an elective afternoon session.

Parents who wish to learn more about Hill School and the junior kindergarten program are encouraged to contact Kelly Johnson (540-687-5897 or kjohnson@thehillsschool.org) and attend an information session at Hill on Wednesday, February 27 (at 9 a.m. or 7 p.m.)

The goal of a Hill School education is to build character, self-confidence, and scholarship through academic and co-curricular excellence, individualized attention, and a strong sense of community.

BEAUTIFUL VIOLIN MUSIC AT MIDDLEBURG ELEMENTARY



Students in grades 2, 3, and 4 at Middleburg Elementary School are participating in an after-school violin program run as a partnership between the Middleburg PTO and the Community Music School of the Piedmont.

The program began in October and will continue until the end of the school year. CMSP faculty member, Cynthia Saucedo, is pleased with the students' progress.

"The students were complete beginners. They are very eager and have learned quite a bit in a short

time," she continued. "We plan to have them perform in our spring recital, which will be a big treat."

Susan McGroddy, of the Middleburg PTO, expressed her enthusiasm for the program. "This makes music instruction accessible and affordable. We are delighted that our Middleburg Elementary students have this opportunity."

For more information about this program or any of the music instruction that the Music School offers, please contact Martha Cotter -- piedmontmusic@aol.com or 540-592-3040.

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PASTIMES

LITTLE BLUESTEM

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

Our local fields are home to a delightful grass which is beautiful this time of year. Russet-red in winter, as the season progresses they darken to a tawny red. Only two feet tall, little bluestem stands out from big bluestem with its darker winter color. A native to most of North America and the official state grass of Nebraska, it is better known as Schizachyrium scoparium. The name is Greek in origins, schizein - to split and achuron - for chaff, referring to the upper lemma. A lemma in simple terms, is the shorter, leafy blade that surrounds the small, feathery plumes. Also

known by an older name, Andropogon, from Greek - man, and pogon - meaning beard which describes the small divided plumes or spikelets. Schizachyrium, pronounced chiss-a-CARE-ee-um, is the proper name and not terribly difficult to say once you get passed the spelling. Farmers view this grass as a sign of poor soil and pasture land that needs lime. Obviously not grazed by deer, the seed is eaten by several species of grouse, here the ruffed grouse. This little known grass has been sold by nurseries for a few years as people recognize the benefits of native plants. There are many common names linked to little bluestem, poverty grass is one

and may have been coined by farmers that resented its presence in unkempt fields. Capable of thriving in moist locations but thoroughly drought tolerant. In summer, the common name makes more sense as the leafy blades are very blue. A selection has been collected by Kurt Bluemel, Maryland's well known grass guru, which he named Schizachyrium 'The Blues'. Selected out of a field row for its wider blades and good blue color. As with many ornamental grasses, we benefit from two seasons of ornament, summer and winter. In the summer garden I like to plant it with the dwarf Russian Sage, oriental lilies and Phlox paniculata 'Junior Bouquet'.

REINVENTING GRIEF BY SAYING GOODBYE

CINDY BATTINO



Everyone handles grief differently. Some close up or weep incessantly. Others get angry. In my years of working with people, I find that most people hold onto grief and stuff it deep inside themselves. Over time this can make them feel heavy, sad, and even lead to depression. How do you handle death? Whether it's death of a pet, friend, or relationship, it's a part of life that we are never prepared for. We weren't taught how to say Goodbye in a healthy and positive way. Some of my most rewarding work is helping people to release grief. They experience an immediate freeing feeling that comes from saying Goodbye.

Giving Back

The first part of releasing grief is giving back what we have been holding for this person. As parents we are imperfect and we pass on to our children the beliefs, concepts and ideas we didn't do well. For example, my friend's parents would argue loudly and consistently about money. Every time I was over and the father looked at the checkbook, there was anger and rage. I would have to excuse myself and go home. Know-

ing this friend many years later, she still struggles with financial responsibility. It is the same with our partners. We take on and take over the issues that they don't do well. What do you hold for your mother, father, children, spouse, and friends? Step #1 - Give it back. How? Journal. Make a list. Use any object to symbolize what you have been holding. If you are using an object - like stones - hold a stone and say: "Frank, I give back to you your anger and rage." And put the stone into the trash. Repeat this process until you can't think of anything else to return to its rightful owner.

Saying Thank You

Each person and animal that has entered your life has given you beautiful gifts. Now is the time to thank them and show your gratitude for the positive affects they have had on you. Step #2 - Say Thank You. How? Journal. Make a list. Use any object to symbolize your gratefulness for each blessing. If you are using an object, such as leaves, hold a leaf and say: "Frank, thank you for all of your jokes and times you made me smile." And throw the leaf into your fireplace, grass, or back into the woods. Repeat this process until you can't think of anything else to be thankful for.

Saying Goodbye

Step #3 - Burn, baby, Burn. If you have chosen to journal or make lists, stand tall in front of your fireplace (or outside in the driveway or by the grill) and read everything you have written out loud. Take a match and burn these pieces of paper and watch them turn to ash and be carried away from you and your life. Step #4 - Goodbye Meditation. Sit with your feet flat on the floor, back nice and tall, and hands by your sides. Close your eyes. In your mind's eye see the person or pet in front of you. Tell them that you love them, that you miss them, and that you know they will always be a part of you. Tell them Goodbye and see yourself walking away. Releasing grief is a powerful healer. It will lighten your spirit. It will give you closure and honor your heart.

THE ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL



I could say in studio lingo, that painting is music to my ears. Studio painting is generally one of solitude and I would assume most artists choose something audible over silence and I choose music. I'm not sure how I would do in a co-op type studio, where chit chat can flourish. Other than while working "en plein air", (outside), I've really only experienced something close to it a few times in my life as an artist. I'm likely as good at chit chat as anyone - duly noted, but one must remember to keep their eye on the ball or the brush, as it were.

I've done a little of the book on tape type thing over the years and it really depends on the story as to whether I'll keep up with it or mindlessly wander into my painting, where it belongs! When I'm painting though, I'm not there to listen to a story. I'm there to create one. Finding myself having to concentrate on a story, then loosing myself in my painting, only to have to go back and pick up on something I've missed in the book's audible delivery, seems a pointless exercise.

Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. It's as simple as that and I admittedly could be guilty of not being able to chew gum and walk at the same time. Multitasking is all fine and good, as long as one of those things isn't really that important. It's like the person texting while walking and walking into a pole or alas, crashing a car. In any event, we all have to find what works for us and if it assists you in a motivational way, perfect. If not, well then, move along.

As it is though, music seems to be my company of choice. I fire up the iPod and Bose combo and have at it. Most songs are only a few minutes long, which is harder to get wrapped up into than a multi chapter story. So I push the button, find a playlist or shuffle it up and let it flow.

As you well know, music comes in all kinds and to be very frank, there's little of it that I don't have some interest in. That said, some of you reading along may have this romantic picture of the artist listening to Mozart, with one brush in his mouth, as if the stem of a rose and another carefully applying a given stroke. Or maybe opera or holly chants of some sort come to mind. I hate to disappoint, as it all has its wonderful place in the grand creative scheme of things. But I've personally found these genres to be a little too melodic, long winded and of slow energy. I have listened to marching hymns though, they're great fun. Maybe too

much so, as I find myself parading around the studio twirling my brush like a baton. It's just not a pretty picture.

Past this account of things, I do really listen to everything else. Rock, country, blues, pop, country rock, show tunes, jazz, reggae, folk, R&B, Motown, new age, instrumental, guitar (I play a bit too), latin, a little hip hop, even some metal. My iPod library looks like ten people of all different ages are sharing it and it covers music from about the 1930s forward, though the last 30 years get the most air time.

Sometimes it's just jazz or even country, but the music really needs to be in sync with me. Best of all, I mostly just throw it all at myself. That is to say, while I do have some playlists which can funnel moods or interests. For the most part I just let it happen and see what comes up. Shuffle me. Ever heard Chet Atkins, Al Green, Zeppelin, John Prine and Diana Krall in a row? How about Bob Marley, John 5, B.B. King, Joan Osborne and then Jack Mack and the Heart Attacks. The silliness goes on and on, but welcome to my world.

In this use, tunes are just programmable energy levels to me. Some are story driven, some more rhythmic focused and others are all about beat. The best part is I find that the music I play never lets my energy go flat. I'm going along creatively doing my thing and just when I mindlessly think I'm at a pace, the pace changes. It's the immediacy of being in a zone and all of a sudden hearing that howl and beat of Michael Jackson's Thriller grabbing you. Who needs caffeine and afterwards, Jackson Brown comes in and brings your heart rate back down, only to have Joe Cocker covering a Beatles' tune, lift it back up again. I love it and so does my painting.

Now with my writing, I have found that music doesn't really assist in this process. Being moderately dyslexic is challenge enough. My typing is like a minefield of typo bombed words that challenge the limits of spellcheck. I get by, but music would only prolong the ending. Heck, maybe I should have just been a musician! Live An Artful Life.com Tom

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PASTIMES

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

7TH INNING STRETCH
ALEX CUDABACK

So. The always simmering debate about the nickname for a certain local sports team has once again bubbled to the surface, bringing with it the typical charges of “liberal elitism” vs. “racism” and other, less polite, name-calling, the irony of which is probably lost on most of the people involved.

According to Bruce Allen, the team's G.M. and, thanks to genetic ties for which he bears absolutely no responsibility, someone who should be more than familiar with the derailing distraction perceived racial insensitivities can create, “[t]here's nothing that we feel is offensive. And we're proud of our history.”

Oh. Allen also said it was “ludicrous” to suggest the organization was trying to upset Native Americans. I'm sure that's 100% correct. I have no doubt that the last thing the team and its ownership would want to do is actively set out to offend anyone, to demean, hurt, distress, injure, affront, wound, vex, gall or piss off any entire segment of the population.

But that's what the team has done. And that's what the team continues to do. I fully understand the tradition and goodwill engendered by Washington's NFL franchise, what it's meant for generations of proud supporters. Sweet Georgia brown, just look at how dramatically bad the team has been under current ownership! For fans to continue to shell out hundreds and thousands of hard-earned dollars, for an inferior product, well, that speaks volumes to the history Allen refers and the loyalty to which he's become accus-

tomed.

And I understand that most people don't see hurt and the pain in the team's current nickname; I'm even aware of the fact that some Native Americans claim the nickname doesn't offend them in the least, that they look upon it with pride and honor.

But what I don't understand, and what I think engenders so much frustration and so much grief amongst those for whom the name really is offensive, really is an incredible affront to a seemingly large number of Native Americans (and others), is the absolutely dogged refusal of our local football team has shown in either a) admitting the name might somehow, remarkably, be offensive to an entire segment of the population, or b) sitting down to proactively discuss the situation and any even theoretical solutions.

The bunker mentality displayed my ownership and management on this issue is just beyond me. And maybe, ironically, the popularity of the team is really to blame. Would the sainted local franchise be so unwilling to admit the possibility of a mistake if their fan-base weren't quite so rabid? Could the thinking be so simple as, “Our fans have put up with an overpriced, overhyped loser for over a decade, so do we really have to worry if our nickname offends some people?”

Is that overly cynical? Or maybe the team feels put upon, scape-goated by the liberal media and leftist, intellectual elite. Maybe the team would be more willing to engage in a discussion if it weren't branded as the bad guy. Maybe ownership and management needs more of a soft-gloved, coddled approach. More carrot, less stick. Maybe people need to scrape and beg

and cajole a bit more, as if we were talking to an obtuse, temper-throwing three-year-old. Maybe. Why doesn't the light of purifying, puritanical indignation shine so brightly on the other professional sports teams that have what some would consider equally offensive and insensitive nicknames, like the NHL team in Chicago, the MLB teams in Atlanta and Cleveland, or the NFL team in Kansas City?

Why is everybody picking on us, in other words. Boo. Hoo.

Maybe it's because none of those other teams, particularly none of the 70 high schools Washington has decided to hide behind, have the visibility that our local NFL team has. You know, in the capitol of the United States of America, the city also home to Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the country to which the rest of the world looks as a bastion of tolerance and decency and basic human dignity.

Maybe it's because all the whiners and complainers and meddlers that just won't leave us the hell alone see in our local football team an opportunity to affect far reaching change and cultural sensitivity that would have an impact far beyond our little, local fiefdom. Maybe, those damn rabble-rousers think, if we can get Washington's NFL franchise to reconsider its long-held position of tone-deaf intransigence, maybe that will serve as the tipping point for all those other teams to reconsider their own pig-headedness.

Maybe, with Washington's star seemingly on the rise, its future brighter than anyone should rightfully expect, maybe now would be a time to showcase a new and renewed enthusiasm for

THE CWA IS 40

WATERWORLD
RICHARD A. ENGBERG

The CWA is 40? So what's the water guy talking about now? The Communication Workers of America? The California Waterfowl Association? No, he's talking about the Clean Water Act (CWA), enacted a little over 40 years ago (October 1972) as a result of the House and Senate overriding the veto of President Richard Nixon. The CWA is important because it was the first major U. S. law to substantially address water pollution.

So why is the water guy dedicating a column to it? Prior to its being enacted, stream pollution was so bad that, for example, in 1969, the Cuyahoga River in northeast Ohio actually caught fire. Water pollution of our nation's rivers and lakes, in fact, water pollution anywhere in the world, occurs primarily from two sources, point and non-point. A point source is a discharge directly into a stream at a single location like a discharge from a sewage treatment plant or an industry. Contaminants that caught fire in the Cuyahoga River were derived from several point sources. A non-point source is more difficult

what new perspectives and opportunities might bring.

Maybe. When Bruce Allen says, “[t]here's nothing we feel is offensive,” one has to wonder just what he can possibly be thinking.

We know *you* don't find it offensive, Bruce.

But other people do. And you'd be best to at least acknowledge that fact than to dig in your heels and hold your breath like a truculent child.

to define, to locate specifically, and to quantify. Examples of non-point sources include runoff from agricultural fields, or from salt treated streets.

The CWA included several provisions. It 1) gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to set wastewater standards for industry, 2) maintained requirements to set water quality standards for contaminants in surface water, 3) made point source discharge unlawful unless permits are obtained, 4) funded construction of sewage treatment plants, and 5) recognized the need to address problems stemming from non-point pollution.

While the legislation was very extensive, it probably can be said that implementing the CWA has, on the whole, met with some success. One goal was to make polluted streams safe for fishing and swimming. It is estimated that in 1972, only 36 percent of the Nation's streams were fishable and swimmable. At present, it is estimated that this total has risen to 66 percent. Obviously this doesn't represent complete success, but it is an excellent accomplishment. Still, it hasn't happened overnight, and the financial outgo by EPA has been large.

The overall improvement in reducing stream contamination has been accomplished by the establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for stream segments. Water quality is monitored in the stream segments and the concentrations of known pollutants are compared to state or national water quality standards. Most of the contaminants are anthropogenic, that is, man-made or generated by man's activities. Anthropogenic contaminants, for example, can be chemical, nitrate or phosphate; biological, fecal coliform bacteria, or physical, sediment or turbidity. Based on comparison to standards, TMDLs are established for contaminants in the stream segment. For the stream segment to be fishable and swimmable, individual contaminant concentrations should not exceed their TMDLs. If point sources exist in the stream segment, discharges are regulated so that contaminant concentrations do not exceed their TMDLs. Non-point source contaminants also can be regulated but this can be very expensive.

Although great progress in stream cleanup has been made, there is still a long way to go. Generally the stream segments that have been cleaned up were the easiest to clean up. For some of the most contaminated streams, it may come down to a decision whether the benefits of cleanup outweigh the outrageous cost of cleanup. Stay tuned. The next 40 years under CWA will be interesting



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Western Loudoun County - Mountain Top location with magnificent valley and mountain views! Excellent value for 4,000 square foot home with 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 2 car garage and barn on 117 private acres. Three wells installed, multiple approved septic sites, four dwellings permitted. In conservation easement. Purchase home on 27 acres for \$660K or 90 acres land only w/2 dwelling rights for \$675K. Easy access to Route 50 and Route 7.
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\$1,049,000 Lilian Jorgenson 703.407.0766



Bluemont - A one of a kind rare opportunity! Commercial AND Residential on 5 ac w/pond! 3BR home with 1,744sf on main level and 2,100sf of retail space on lower level. A 50-year-old family owned business. Gunsmith's machinery, tools, supplies, firing ranges (above & under ground), 2400sf steel building, and MORE! Located near Mount Weather.
\$600,000 Bobby Kirk 703.728.8602



Aldie - Incredible opportunity to own well-built country home on almost 7 rolling ac, located conveniently between Middleburg & Leesburg. 4 BRs and 3.5 BAs, 3 levels w/large walk-out lower level apt, attached 2-car garage, plus a detached 2-car garage w/upper level storage. Peaceful and private setting. Wildlife abounds. Surrounded by large farms. Farmette potential.
\$544,900 Michele Stevens 703.568.0721



Middleburg - Priced to sell quickly. Beautiful 3 BR/3BA brick end unit well maintained townhouse. 4 bright levels, HW floors on 3 levels, gourmet kitchen w/stainless steel Miele appliances, granite, center island. Recessed lighting throughout, finished lower level with 1BR/1BA, gas fireplace. Great quiet location close to village, shops, restaurants.
\$399,999 Kathy Chovnick 703.340.5716



Stone Ridge - Beautifully built three bedroom town home. Three finished levels with bump-outs on all levels for extra family room, master bedroom and lower level living space. Upgraded cabinets, appliances, counters and flooring. Deck off kitchen. Extra workshop or storage space in two-car garage. Bathrooms on every level.
\$399,000 Andy Stevens 703.568.0727



Middleburg - Classic colonial in historic village. 3BR/1.5BA, beautiful restored HW floors, built-in bookshelves, wood burning FP, sun-porch. New kitchen and cabinets w/oak butcher block countertops, ss appliances. Professionally landscaped. Stucco, recently painted. Electrical updated. Wonderful community, close to shops, restaurants, schools, businesses!
\$349,000 Marci Welsh 703.906.5802

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PASTIMES

FAQS ABOUT PROPANE

WHAT’S IN YOUR TANK?

DALE SCHULZ

Where does propane come from?

Propane is a by-product of drilling for oil and natural gas. Propane, along with methane, butane, and others are separated at the well head and furthered processed at a refinery. Virtually all propane currently used in North America is produced in North America. The day is rapidly approaching where the U.S. will be a net exporter of natural gas and propane.

Why do I have propane and not natural gas?

Although propane and natural gas are very similar, propane when placed under slight pressure in a container returns to its liquid form and can easily be transported by rail or truck. Natural gas is best transported via pipelines. If there is not enough density of homes or businesses in an area, the best alternative to natural gas is propane. Most gas appliances can easily be converted from operating on natural gas to propane.

How is the price of propane determined?

Propane is a commodity. Its priced fluctuates on a daily and seasonal basis. Propane is generally cheapest in the warm weather months when the demand is the weakest. It just takes a 5-minute call to see what your price is. We often suggest to Hunt Country Propane members they Pre-Buy their propane needs for a season and lock-in the lowest price.

Why do most back-up residential back-up generators use propane?

Back-up generators go months,

and even years, with only minimal use. Other fuels, such as, gasoline and diesel, tend to degrade over time sitting in a tank. Propane can go years with no change in its character. You need the generator to operate when you lose power – every time. Incidentally, we install Consumer Report’s top-rate brand of stand-by generators, Kohler.

When I purchased my home I was told that my tank was owned by the propane company. I wasn’t happy. How did that happen?

When the builder built your home rather than purchasing a 500 or 1,000 gallon tank they had your propane company provide it without charge with the requirement that you, the homeowner, must purchase propane from only that propane company indefinitely. It is similar to purchasing a new car, for example, a Ford, and being told that for the life of the auto you can only purchase gasoline from one company, for example, Shell. Typically, year after year homeowners who do not own their propane tank pay significantly more for propane than homeowners who own their tank. Company-owned tanks were a good deal for your builder and the propane supplier, but a rotten deal for you, the consumer. In 25-years of building custom homes in the area we never installed a company owned tank. All the custom homes we built in the area the homeowner owned their tank when the home was completed.

Can any propane company fill up my tank if I do not own it? What alternative do I have?

No, only the company who owns your tank can fill it. Your best course of action is to negotiate the purchase of the tank with the com-



WEIGHT LOSS = HEALTH?

KAY COLGAN, HEALTH COACH AND CERTIFIED PILATES AND FITNESS INSTRUCTOR

A new year and the weight loss ads are everywhere. Eat these packaged meals and you will finally have the body you always dreamed of. Just 10 minutes a day of this workout will help you finally shed those pounds. These ads even have before and after pictures of people that tried their program and succeeded. At least that is what they say. But I would challenge to really get healthy and fit one needs to eliminate packaged foods and exercise at least 45 minutes a day. Just losing weight is not a true sign of health; in fact it can be quite the opposite.

If we eliminate certain things from our diets, we will lose weight. High protein or high fiber diets work for a little while, but we all know what happens. As soon as we eat a carbohydrate, the weight seems to return. Sometimes we gain more weight than we lose. Diets are a temporary fix. What we all need is a life style change. A change of getting away from sugar and highly processed foods. A lifestyle of eating what your body craves and needs. If you listen to your body, it will tell you what it needs. Sometimes we are numb or maybe over processed that we really don’t know what our bodies need. Starting with whole foods in there most complete form is a great starting point. Organic locally grown is the best, but if that is not possible then just getting fresh vegetables and fruit in on a daily basis is great. For each person it is different. No one way of eating is right for every individual. However, no one needs processed empty calorie foods. One of the most

controversial ingredients is sugar. Research is being done constantly on the effects of sugar on the body. From insulin resistance to dementia sugar is being looked at as a catalyst to these diseases and a host of many more. Inflammation in the body and the correlation that sugar has on it is being widely studied. Intellectually we all know it, but just giving up sugar is hard. We envision a life without chocolate chip cookies. No ice cream, ugh! In reality it is what you are ingesting on a daily basis that matters. An ice cream cone or a cookie once in a while will not sabotage your nutrition.

Losing weight does not equal health. Diets that are based on chemicals that you cannot pronounce probably are not the best. But a life style of eating whole foods will create a more healthy and youthful body. Energy will soar when adapting this type of life style. It is not rocket science, but foods in there most natural states are the best. Eating lean protein that has not been raised with antibiotics and hormones is better for you. Try it for a month. Fresh vegetables, lean protein and fruits are the beginning of a sound nutritious way of living. Whole grains are fine as long as they are not overly processed. I guarantee your energy will soar and the bonus is you will lose weight. No deprivation, no starvation, but good nutrient dense food. It all equals a win-win situation! Wouldn’t it be nice to get off the weight loss roller coaster and live a healthy life?

For more information about nutrition, health and fitness, please contact Kay Colgan at Middleburg Pilates and Personal training at 14 S. Madison Street or call 540-687-6995.

pany that owns your tank. Typically, your savings will pay for the tank purchase in a 1-2 year period. The sooner you own your own tank, the sooner you can start saving on your fuel bill. You may wish to tell the builder of your home that you were unhappy to learn that you don’t your propane tank.

Is propane clean energy?

Propane, along with natural gas, is one of the cleanest burning fossil-fuels. Electrical generation plants throughout the Country are being converted from burning coal to natural gas. Propane produces 50% harmful emissions as home heating oil. If propane didn’t exist, we would have to invent it. No other substance comes close when it comes to energy density, ease of handling or flexibility.

About the Author: Dale Schulz is the President of Hunt Country Propane, www.huntcountrypropane.com, located in Middleburg. Hunt Country Propane is a local, lower priced area propane supplier. You can contact them at 540.687.3608

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For additional information on Country Coach’s ‘Entertainer Executive Day Coach’ or its Black Sedan Livery Service for up to five passengers, contact Mark Monroe at mark@countrycoach.net or 540.270.6250.

JUST BACK FROM.... RANTHAMBORE TIGER RESERVE

EXQUISITE TRAVELS WITH MATT HANNAN

This past November, I brought clients from Geneva to India for a three-day private tiger safari at Ranthambore National Park. Our visit was part of a longer itinerary that included New Delhi, Agra (to see the Taj Mahal), Ranthambore, Jaipur and then Bhutan for one week.

We set out on the train trip from Agra to Ranthambore on board the Golden Temple Express and arrived after three hours in Sawai Modhopur.

Here we transferred to the luxurious Oberoi Vanyavilas resort, situated within a gorgeous garden setting with lodging in tented accommodations.

For two and a half days, our guide and driver led us through open savannah, across rivers, into deciduous forests and past groves of gnarled banyan trees where we marveled at the many distinct types of landscape, bird life (Indian jays, peacocks and waterfowl) and animal life (Sambarell, Chital deer, marsh crocs).

One client commented that even without seeing a tiger this place was truly remarkable and definitely worth the visit.

Twice we had to travel outside the park until we reached the farthest part of the reserve, zone nine.

It was here that we had our

epiphany. After a full afternoon outing on our last drive and with only two hours left we saw her, a young female Bengal Tiger lying in the grass.

She was resting under a tree overlooking a dry streambed and she faced away from us looking into the distance. She was superbly camouflaged within the autumn-colored grass surrounding her and once our eyes became accustomed, we noticed the tell-tale white spots on the back of her large black ears. Her tail popped up out of the grass, twitched in the air and when she moved her large beautiful head we caught a glimpse of that amazing profile.

For 1 1/2 hours we sat in our jeep transfixed, watching her every move and magnificent markings, long streaks of black stretching from along her spine down her flanks.

She got up every 15 minutes or so to relocate finally moving to a point on the streambed next to a log.

A herd of water buffalo entered and she moved closer assuming the position, head down, feet planted firmly and ready to pounce.

After watching them intently she decided to let them go, turned and positioned herself so that we had a full frontal view.

Out of the handful of jeeps



that had the good fortune to come across this location, we were the last to leave. We savored our few last private moments together with this magnificent creature, feeling her direct gaze upon us as we moved out of range, returning to our lodge with a renewed sense of the wonder of travel.

For private travel planning services please call: Matt at 703.927.8271 or info@matthannantravel.com www.matthannantravel.com

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FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Sable is a 4 year, 15H, TB mare off the track. She stands for the farrier and gets along with other horses. Sable needs an experienced handler and rider.



Lumina is a super adorable Boxer who was imported from Russia. She is 4 yrs. old and has been spayed & is very healthy. She came from a puppy mill. She is housetrained and has been around children and would do best as an only dog.



Vicky is a beautiful 4 yr. old Airedale Terrier X. When she first came to us she had young puppies. She is very sweet, loves people, is extremely playful & loves toys. She can't live with cats & is particular about her dog friends.



Basya is a 3 yr old German Shepherd who was rescued from a puppy mill situation. She had been imported from Russia. Basya is a spayed female with very nice manners, & is now very healthy. Basya is good around children & is housetrained. She would do best as an only dog.



Roxanne is a gorgeous 1-2 yr. old DMH. She would love to have a barn home where she could be your number one mouse patrol officer! She gets along with other cats. Please adopt Roxanne soon-she is bored!



Middleburg Humane Foundation

Middleburg Humane Foundation's Grooming Salon



Liz Washington is grooming full time at Middleburg Humane's Grooming Salon in Marshall. Liz does a terrific job & truly has a special way with all animals. Saturday hours as well as early and late drop-offs are available. The Grooming Salon is a great source of income for the shelter as well. Please support Liz as well as MHF. Please Call for an appointment! (540) 364-GROOM (4766)

Middleburg Humane Foundation

P.O. Box 1238 Middleburg VA 20118
mhfdtn@earthlink.net (540) 364-3272
www.middleburghumane.com

Basil is an incredibly sweet 3-4 yr. old Malamute/Shepherd. Other than seeing a slight amount of light, he is blind. After going to an optometrist it was found that his condition is hereditary & requires no treatment. He loves people & attention, but cannot live with cats. Basil is very affectionate & just wants someone to love.



Athena is a 23 year old 16h TB mare. She is easy-going, has good ground manners, & stands for the farrier. She would make a great companion.



Clover is a beautiful 1 yr. old Redbone Coonhound. She is very affectionate, has excellent house manners, but cannot live with cats. She has a typical hound personality-very bubbly!



Olive Oyl is a 1-2yr. old kitty with a huge personality! She loves attention & gets along with other cats. She would love her own lap to sit in & cuddle.



Melvin is a handsome 8 yr. old Lab X Rottie X Husky with stunning ice-blue eyes. He is very sweet, is housebroken, & is good with kids & other dogs. He is a puppy at heart & would make a wonderful family friend.





ALBERT'S CORNER

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

ALBERT P. CLARK

I don't watch much television. I hear it, but I don't watch it. The one show that I never miss, however, is Downton Abbey. As this season comes to a close, I find myself considering how similar my life is to the lives of the landed gentry on my favorite show. I mean, I'm every bit as fascinating, and, like the idle rich, I have no need for actual work. There are four dogs and one cat in my house, and we all live like royalty. It's obvious why we would love a show about the glamorous lives of aristocrats, but what's not obvious is why our people are fans.

At the very least, they should be a bit uncomfortable with the premise. They are clearly most closely aligned with the staff, yet they don't seem to be relating whatsoever to any of the downstairs denizens at Downton. Perhaps my people are not the brightest sorts. Maybe that's why they are reduced to a life of servitude.

Let me be clear: my people are the finest servants one could hope to find. They take great pride in their work. They prepare my every meal. They bathe me, cut my nails, trim my fur, and brush my teeth. They dress me when it's cold. They clean all of my linens.

Furthermore, I lead my people around on a leash when we walk. I make them pick up unmentionable things. I tear toys into shreds and watch as they clean up every last piece of fuzz. I push slobbery tennis balls into their hands until they throw them for my entertainment.

On top of it all, they pay for everything. In this regard, I'm even more special than the Downton elite. I don't even have to pay people to look after me – they just do it because it's an honor to be around me! They buy all of my food, pay my vet bills, and replace every shredded toy and bed. I would have thought it to be quite tiresome, but they clearly enjoy the privilege.

My people don't do this just for me, mind you. They serve all of the four-legged residents in our house equally. (The cat is more demanding than all of the dogs combined. She is very bossy indeed.) And, while they're scurrying around answering to our every beck and bark, we spend our days lazing about the house, getting in as much naptime as possible.

Now that I think of it, I suppose I do not show enough gratitude for all that my people do. It occurs to me that some sort of gesture of appreciation might be in order. Perhaps I'll throw a party for them. We'll eat delicious food and enjoy lively games on the lawn. Sounds like such fun! I'll have my people get to work planning it immediately. And of course they will have to staff the party. But still ... what a jolly good idea! Well done, Albert. Well done.

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.

Waterford

WHERE THE PAST IS ALWAYS PRESENT
APRIL 22, 2013 10AM-5PM

A walking tour presented by the Leesburg Garden Club, the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club and the Garden Club of Virginia to benefit the restoration of historic Virginia gardens.



The frenetic pace of life drops to an ambling gait in the historic village of Waterford, settled in 1733. The theme of this tour is "Where the Past is Always Present". It features restored homes and gardens from the 18th century. Once a busy hub of commerce centered around the Janney Mill, Waterford was left to decay as the Civil War and subsequent railroad passed it by. Neglect nearly spelled the end for this charming village. By the late 1930s there was renewed interest in Waterford because of its picturesque rural setting and quiet pace. Buildings were renovated and new life emerged. The town is now largely returned to its gracious and genteel past.

ADMISSION

- \$20 for single home admission
- \$30 in advance | \$35 day of tour to all properties
- Ages 6-12 are half price | 5 and younger are free

IN-ADVANCE TICKETS (purchased before April 21, 2013)

Admission tickets to all properties can be purchased by sending a check made payable to the Leesburg Garden Club with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Mrs. Christopher Gerow, 40306 Foxfield Lane, Leesburg, VA 20175

Tickets may also be purchased in advance with a credit card by accessing the Historic Garden Week secure website www.vagardengweek.org. Or through the following purveyors:

The Marshall House 217 Edwards Ferry Rd., Leesburg, VA | 703-777-1880
Loudoun Convention & Visitors Center 112-G South St., SE, Leesburg, VA | 800-752-6118 | 703-771-2170 | www.visitloudoun.org
Leesburg Visitor 29 S. King St., Leesburg, VA | 703-777-3322
Outlands Plantation 20850 Outlands Plantation Ln., Leesburg, VA | 703-777-3174
The Pink Box 12 N. Madison St., Middleburg, VA | 540-687-8888
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Historic Garden Week

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The instructor, **Mark Stevens M.Ed.**, is a 22-year veteran teacher in Loudoun County and has directed countless Middle School plays at Blue Ridge Middle School, such as: "Peter Pan", "Beauty and the Beast", and "The Wizard of Oz", to name a few. He recently starred in "The Little Shop of Horrors" in Middleburg. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Middleburg Players and will be directing the upcoming spring production of "The Wizard of Oz".

EDITOR’S DESK

WE FEEL SAFER ALREADY

Town Council truly spoke for the entire community when it thanked the officers of the Middleburg Police Department for their excellent work during the recent raft of robberies in northern Fauquier, Loudoun, and possibly Clarke counties.

It’s great to see the town’s officers present and accounted for, rattling doorknobs, walking beats, and checking out

dark places we don’t want to go.

What’s even more gratifying is watching them personally counseling and reassuring worried citizens of a village in which locking doors is truly something new.

Kudos to the force; and kudos to the Town Council for their on-going support of Chief Panebianco and his officers.

CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG

Kudos to the Christmas in Middleburg team for both staging a blockbuster event in 2012 AND getting started early on making 2013 even better.

After attracting what appears to have been the largest crowd in the history of the event it would be easy to rest on one’s laurels.

IN DEFENSE OF TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

Defending traditional marriage seems a strange thing to have to do as it is only recently that anyone, anywhere has suggested that marriage could possibly be understood as anything other than a male-female union. It should be instructive that no society in human history, even that of ancient Greece which actually celebrated homoeroticism, has ever understood or allowed marriage on other than male-female lines.

This is eminently sensible and the reason is simple: marriage is not just about two people and their feelings

for each other. Marriage is a comprehensive union utterly unlike any other kind of personal relationship. It has a unique and enormously important, indeed indispensable, societal purpose connected to the procreation and rearing of children and, thus, to the very survival of society. Without a man and a woman, the first part is impossible and the second part is much more problematic, especially for the children.

The state typically has recognized the central importance of the family as the essential building block of a healthy and orderly society. This is why government has

BLUE GAY MARRIAGE

From a secular perspective gay marriage is simply a contract; a contract with emotional overtones; but nevertheless, a contract.

It is legally binding on not only the participants but on the community within which the contract is formalized.

Promises are made; benefits and support are expected in return.

It is no different from any other contract between consenting adults and the society in which they live.

That such contractual rights, benefits, and obligations should be open to all citizens is . . . self-evident.

From a religious perspective, however, marriage can be something else entirely.

From a Christian perspective it is almost universally considered a sacrament: a sacred and transformative rite.

In the Roman Catholic tradition it is one of the most touching and compelling of the sacraments.

Within that tradition, it is a sacrament performed, not by an officiating priest, but by the bride and groom themselves.

Their promises to each other, in the presence of their god, are what counts.

A priest may be present and may bless their union, but the sacrament itself is the hands and the hearts of the people who, quite literally, marry each other.

All else is secondary

The church, of course, may decide whether or not the marriage is “valid” based on its own special insights into the mind of god. But in the end, only the commitments of those who pledge themselves to each other, and their god, really count.

In the secular world an increasing number of citizens, and their legislatures, believe

the state is honor bound to make available the benefits of a “marriage” contract to all its citizens.

If all are created equal in the eyes of the law, all must be treated equally before the law.

Here in the United States, if public opinion polls are to be believed, that point of view, for the first time, prevails.

In the secular world, most of us have long believed all our fellow Americans are (or should be) full citizens, no matter what their sexual orientation.

As for “marriage” in the sacramental sense, that too is changing and will continue to change.

Those in despair about the pace of change might witness the changes in the “Christian” view of women, race, slaves and masters, all of which changed radically, sometimes in less than a single lifetime.

Among Christians the Jesus of the Sermon on the Mount continues to gain ground on the

Jesus of Paul or the opinions of others who never really met the man they claim to know and worship.

Those who still believe women are less than fully human and that slavery stemmed from a curse from god are now not only minorities, but minorities scorned as unjust, cruel, mean-spirited or simply uninformed, misled or willfully ignorant.

In time, the vast majority of the best of those with special

insight into the mind of God will find a reason to change their minds and their views about their gay brothers and sisters.

And if history is any teacher, they and their fellow believers will find a compelling story to explain why true believers never really believed such nonsense in the first place, explaining, at last definitively, what god really meant by what they now think he said.

God does, indeed, work in

mysterious ways.

In the meantime, the law will move inexorably toward protecting the rights (and expecting society’s due) from all its citizens.

And where the law and the better angels of our nature lead, minds, hearts and behavior usually follow.

Contact Daniel at dmorrow@mbecc.com

A SEASON OF HOPE? PURPLE

Approaching spring brings glimpses of better days ahead. For country folk, and for America, it cannot come too soon.

A week ago four wild swans visited our ice-free farm pond, their loud, melodic voices celebrating the coming season. Days later, we walked through a field holding 40 or more cows, twenty with young calves. Jerry Crenshaw, who owns them, cheerfully reports: “the market’s pretty strong now.” As we left the cattle, Bluebirds flitted ahead, their brilliant breeding plumage flashing in the sun. There were no swans on the pond, but a Great Blue Heron flew out of the cattails, while four Canada geese floated along the shore, considering nesting sites. In the garden daffodil stems were pushing up through a blanket of old leaves.

Spring and change are coming, not just in our countryside, but perhaps also in Washington. One hears faint rumblings that the freeze that has iced up politics for so many months may be thawing. The “fiscal cliff” was skirted when Republicans relaxed their anti – tax ideology, and allowed top rates to rise and the partial payroll tax holiday to expire. Credit the President’s stiffening views, and Republican realization that obstruction is bad politics.

A bi-partisan move for immigration reform is afoot, led by Republican Senator Rubio and others who real-

ize their Party cannot succeed by abandoning Hispanics. Our Senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, are reaching across the aisle. Perhaps the President’s State of the Union speech and Republican realism will stimulate legislators to bury partisan hatchets, and cooperate to address national problems, deficit, debt, climate and gun violence among them.

But today’s chilling wind and snow flurries tells us that spring is still tentative in the countryside. The soil remains too cold and muddy for gardening. And in cold and muddy Washington hard feelings still remain – left over from slanderous campaign ads, efforts to gerrymander Congressional districts, and years of mistrust. The faint promise of responsible governance replacing distrust and anger is chilled by the threat to filibuster a cabinet nomination that would be approved if given an up-or-down vote. Our nation cannot succeed if politicians do not trust and work with each other. Neither party has all the good ideas. Unaddressed, our many problems fester.

Purple believes the most threatening global problem is climate disruption. Some deny the science, and many fear the costs of remedies. But there is a flicker of hope here too. As many Middleburg Eccentric readers know, the New Yorker Magazine’s audience is sophisticated and well informed. Smart advertisers appeal to their readers’ beliefs. A recent

issue included:

An MSNBC ad entitled Lean Forward, said: “The America that voted is big, diversified, and generous of heart. It’s time to go to work in a new era of hope.”

A Shell ad, picturing a mother holding an infant’s hand; “Let’s find cleaner sources of energy today, to help protect her tomorrow.”

A Singapore Session article on Building a Sustainable Urban Future, stated: “We can radically improve . . .our infrastructure . . . to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;” and “The earlier you start proper planning, the lower the price you pay in getting it right.”

A BASF ad promoting their coatings of wind turbine blades: “We create chemistry that lets cozy homes love windy days.”

A Ford ad introducing the “C-MAX HYBRID + C-MAX ENERGY plug-in HYBRID five passenger car.”

And finally, a twenty page article titled “Polar Express: A journey through the melting Arctic, with sixty thousand tons of iron ore.”

If companies that advertise in The New Yorker, and its readers, are worried about climate, then concern has expanded from scientists to thought leaders. That important step towards wide public recognition gives Purple a cause for great hope for his descendants. But there is still much to do. Political spring has not yet arrived.

HYPOCRISY

Throughout the history of this country people who stand up for what is right and have enough courage to challenge the political and economic powerful have been vilified, discredited, ruined financially, imprisoned and in some cases assassinated. A few of the most famous are Martin Luther King Jr. Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman, Nelson Mandela and Paul Robeson and his wife Eslanda. These people are now recognized not only as heroes but almost eligible for beatification. They were not thought heroic by those who disagreed in their time because they threatened the status quo which is not acceptable to the establishment. MLK’s historic and prescient Riverside Church speech condemning the Viet Nam war and slamming the corporate and military state brought him the wrath of every news outlet in America, saying he had gone too far, but if you listen to his speech today he was correct on every point he made.

Today we have many who are fighting the courageous and correct fight and are being treated in the same manner as those before them. I am speaking of the Bradley Mannings, the Julian Assanges and many less known fighters such as Diane Wilson, whose unending fight to save the Gulf of Mexico from the destructive drilling and polluting industries. Diane been jailed numerous times for her brave actions.

Daniel Ellsberg was vilified for releasing the Pentagon Papers that ultimately contributed to ending the Vietnam War; he of course now has been vindicated. Mordechai Vanunu who exposed Israel’s covert and never publicly mentioned nuclear program spent 17 years in jail for speaking to the British press, he is still under sanctions and has not been allowed to leave the country and is facing more jail time because he spoke to a foreigner. Jeffrey

Wigand who revealed that the tobacco industry was lying when they refused to admit that levels of nicotine were added to cigarettes making them more addictive; he was fired and discredited. Ambassador Joseph Wilson who revealed that there was no yellow cake uranium in Niger (thereby discrediting the WMD lies), so angered prince of darkness VP Cheney that he ousted Wilson’s wife Valerie as a CIA operative in retaliation. Sibel Edmonds an FBI translator was fired and had death threats made against her for revealing cover-ups and extreme incompetence in the agency. She is now the founder and head of the National Society of the Whistle-blower’s Coalition.

These are just a few brave souls who buck the powerful for no personal gain at great personal risk to bring about needed and necessary change to our country.

The paranoia over the Occupy Movement is another example of how the rich and powerful will not tolerate change. The occupiers have been thwarted, threatened and jailed for their peaceful and important mission.

I urge all readers to start listening to alternative news such as Democracy Now, hosted by Amy Goodman, where you will meet and get to know many of these people who are so dedicated to making the future better for us all. The show airs on Link TV and Free Speech TV both can be found on Dish and Direct TV as well as many cable outlets. On Direct TV the show airs at 8am on Channel 348.

The environmentalists who fight polluting corporations will be thought of as heroes decades from now when their battles to save the planet from global warming caused by fossil fuels are won.

Be ahead of the curve and recognize those people now who are fighting the good fight in order to make the world a better and more equitable place for us all.

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EDITOR’S DESK

LIVE FIRE ON THE RANGE

ON THE FIRING RANGE AT MOUNT WEATHER

JOHN P. FLANNERY

The FEMA facility, Mount Weather in Northern Virginia off Route 601, is where Vice President Cheney sat out 9-11 underground. Above ground, there is a shooting range and I went there to shoot an AK-47 Assault Rifle – now some time ago.

This name, AK47, comes from the second version of an assault weapon designed by Soviet Mikhail Kalashnikov in 1947. When fired in full-automatic mode, this AR fires continuously for every trigger pull. There have of course been design improvements and model changes since its origin. The magazine’s capacity is 30 rounds. It can shoot 100 rounds a minute over an effective range of 400 meters.

You no doubt have seen movie stars showing fully loaded magazines in cinematic fight scenes. But loading the magazine beforehand is something that has to be done carefully. You place a round between the feed lips until it locks inside the magazine, and you repeat this until the magazine is full. Like I said, 30 rounds. At the range, several of us loaded magazines for each other before we shot.

When I was standing at the firing line, the trigger felt sluggish and I didn’t fire. It didn’t feel right. The officer on the range said he didn’t see anything wrong. But, because I was persistent, we pulled out the magazine and one of the cartridges was nudging up against another. The magazine had been loaded wrong. The officer said, if forced by the trigger pull, it could have exploded in hand. But, of course, that didn’t happen. We caught it.

You may know, if you’ve ever fired one of these weapons, that it’s like a fire hose of lead running from your hands through the slight recoil in your shoulder to the target, almost like the target is pushing back – and then your magazine

is spent – and you load another.

We’ve had a lot of pundits talk, with such bravado, about arming themselves, also teachers and janitors with all manner of weapons but they never talk about jammed weapons, much less how different it is to face a stationary paper target as opposed to someone who surprises you in armor and is coming at you carrying an even more powerful weapon than yours.

Perhaps this was best brought home when Navy Seal Chris Kyle, 38, the world’s most renowned sniper, who reportedly scored 150 combat kills, went to a rural Texas Shooting range last week southwest of Fort Worth.

Mr. Kyle was armed but he was shot dead by Eddie Ray Routh, a former Marine corporal, who served in Iraq and who repeatedly shot and killed Kyle and Chad Littlefield, 35, with a semiautomatic hand gun on the firing range.

Afterwards, Mr. Routh said, Kyle and Littlefield “were out shooting target practice and he couldn’t trust them so he killed them before they could kill him.”

This incident underscores how difficult it is for even a trained assassin to defend himself at a firing range. Yet some talk of math teachers and pastors packing heat in schools, churches and homes.

Next up is how this was a disaster waiting to happen. Early reports informed us that the Marine corporal suffered from PTSD. If we hadn’t learned anything else, we would think that inviting a serviceman with PTSD to a firing range was a really bad idea. If you haven’t read it, get a copy of Jonathan Shay’s “Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character.” It’s about this precise question – how to help a returning vet with PTSD – and how the psychological devastation of war has the same effect it has today as when Homer’s Iliad was first created.

Shooting ranges are not recommended for recovery from PTSD.

We have since learned that Mr. Hough was released from a Veterans hospital, from a psychiatric center, over his parents’ objections, just four days before he gunned down Kyle and Littlefield.

I agree there is some right to arms in this nation but it is not a constitutional right separate from the necessity of a militia.

Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story wrote in his 1833 abridged edition of his treatise on the Constitution how he lamented that, while “the importance of a well-regulated militia would seem so undeniable, it cannot be disguised that among the American people there is a growing indifference to any system of militia discipline.”

Columbia Law Professor Richard Uviller wrote more recently that, with the evaporation of state militias all together, and their assumption into the Army, the Second Amendment, as a matter of constitutional interpretation, had become a “vacant and meaningless sequence of words.”

The Supreme Court appears to recognize a right of privacy in the home. That’s what’s left of the Court’s decision in Heller. But not much more. Beyond that, it is a right at common law and circumscribed as any right, particularly given the mischief that weapons can and have caused.

It is time we rolled up our sleeves and defined what we will allow or not as our nation’s code of violence – and not just with regard to arms.

The answer is most certainly not a coterie of gun-slinging teachers and janitors in schools, not when trained assassins can’t even defend themselves at a shooting range.

The answer is the rule of law, not the code of the claw.

HAVE YOU ALSO LEARNED THE SECRET OF THE RIVER?

A CREEK RUNS THROUGH US

CHANDLER VAN VOORHIS

For over 100 years underpinning our understanding of space and time has been the constancy of the speed of light as stated in the mass–energy equivalence equation, E = mc².

“Many physicists believe that all matter is ultimately composed of trapped light. This belief is embodied in Einstein’s famous E = mc² energy/mass equation. The notion here arises from the fact that every particle of matter has a mirror-image particle of antimatter. When a particle of matter interacts with its mirror-image particle, it undergoes a process called matter/ antimatter annihilation, the result of which is the production of light or massless energy. Thus, matter is trapped light,” writes Dr. Fred Alan Wolf, author of Mind into Matter: A New Alchemy of Science and Spirit.

However, a group of physicists at CERN, the world’s largest particle physics laboratory near Geneva, have discovered subatomic particles that move faster than the speed of light. They have confirmed this finding by replicating the test twice. Could it be that Einstein is wrong that E does not equal MC²? These findings are rocking the scientific community and have profound implications on how we understand the world we inhabit.

Einstein’s theory of general relativity basically says that matter cannot exist without space and time. If any one of the three — matter, space, or time — ceases to exist they all do. So if time stops or ceases to exist, matter and space cease to exist.

Time is a funny thing. Most of us believe time is constant and that we either have too much time or not enough of it. But where does time come from?

Time is really man’s attempt to create reference points and distinct boundaries. And for many, the boundaries of time are we occupy our thoughts as

we either live in memory or live in anticipation of the future. Few are those who live fully Present.

The energy we tap into by Being Present or Being Still (stopping of time) enables the artificial lines of separation to melt away as matter ceases to exist. This forces us to realize that distinctions are man’s illusion.

As author Lynne McTaggart captures in her book, The Field, man is not separate from the universe; he is connected to everything through a quantum field. Scientists are coming to understand that the universe is a dynamic web of interconnectedness. Through breakthroughs on the Zero Point Field to Spooky Action at a Distance, scientists are demonstrating that there may be a life force flowing through the universe.

Just as one cannot separate the sunrises from the sun or a drop of water from the ocean, so too man from his source. After all, we are His reflection. Our challenge is to walk in the light of realization that is captured in the first commandment. Personally, this commandment is about the Law of Inseparability. By dropping the ego we allow our life to be re-centered much the same way as the sunrises relate to the sun.

So, if we are all mere reflections of our Creator and God is Love, the second commandment forces us to build equity in one another and our natural resources around us. Equity creates compounded value through the currency of love, which enlarges the heart of mankind.

As Herman Hesse writes in Siddhartha “Have you also learned the secret of the river — that there is no such thing as time?”

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



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POLICE WORK PRAISED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

usage “outside of town” is projected to rise from a minimum of \$50.45 to \$64.24 by FY2017. Rates for heavier users, from \$18.48 to \$23.53 over the same period.

Under this structure the average in-town customers’ total water/sewer bills should rise roughly 3% in FY 2014 for users of 3,000 gallons of water per quarter or less; decrease nearly 6% for users of 12,000 gallons; and increase nearly 28% for users of more than 240,000 gallons per quarter.

Town Council will take the report under advisement and set rates at a later date.

Middleburg Museum

At its January 24 work session, Council member Kathy Jo Shea moved, and Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk second-

ed a unanimously approved motion to authorize the release of \$925 in donations that have been collected for the development of the Middleburg Museum to the new, 501.c.3, Middleburg Museum Foundation.

Refinance

At the same session Council authorized “the issuance and sale of a General Obligation Refunding Bond . . . not to exceed \$1,300,000. Town Administrator Martha Semmes has been working for some time to save money by taking advantage of lower interest rates to refinance Middleburg’s long-term debt.

Christmas in Middleburg

Council Member Kevin Hazard reported that the Christmas in

Middleburg team was “not waiting until September to begin meeting, but rather were planning this year’s event now.” The group is already discussing how to handle the problems encountered by last year’s record crowds, including bathroom availability, parking, meals, and post-event clean-up.

Town Budget

Town Administrator Semmes reported that staff work continues on developing the Town’s FY 2014 Budget. A draft of the General Fund budget is scheduled for presentation to Council in February, and a draft Utility Fund budget in March.

Strategic Goals

Mayor Davis summarized that Council has identified five key goals

upon which to focus in the year ahead: (1) contacting and maintaining communications with Town businesses and residents; (2) improving communications with Town committees; (3) ground water preservation; (4) developing and support new events and (5) developing a list of anticipated opening of the Salamander Inn and Spa on the Town, its citizens and services.

Traffic Calming and Congressman Wolf

Mayor Davis noted that in response to rumors that the Virginia Secretary of Transportation was considering dissolution of the Route 50 Traffic Calming Committee several people wrote letters and Congressman Wolf



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Charming 4 bedroom with excellent construction. Slate roof, hardwoods. 2 car garage, pool, 3 stall stable, open 3 acre parcel. \$675,000 (Can be purchased with additional 3+ acres for \$930,000 total)

Carole Miller

540-729-7896



SHADOW SPRINGS, MARKHAM, VIRGINIA

Views from every window in this well maintained, custom-built home. 6,800+ square feet of open living space on 39 acres in Blue Ridge. Guest cottage. \$999,000

Carol Fochtman
Rick Lowe

540-272-4334
703-509-3962



ATOKA CHASE, MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Great Middleburg home with 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 3 levels, eat-in kitchen, family room, rec room, terraces & deck. 10 acres with fantastic views. \$990,000

Gloria Armfield
Jim Thompson

540-687-2223
540-687-2224



FAIRFIELD, MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Special location with 4+ ac just east of Middleburg. 1st floor MBR w/ en-suite bath, living room, dining room w/ access to porch overlooking pool. 2 car garage. \$650,000

Gloria Armfield
Mary South Hutchison

540-687-2223
540-687-6885



MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

NEW PRICE! Second level office, suite #4. 5 separate offices plus conference room, reception, kitchenette and half bath. 1400+ square feet, high speed internet. 3 parking spaces. \$350,000

Carole Miller

540-729-7896

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