



## PIEDMONT RACES

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## SIR ALFRED J. MUNNINGS IN FOCUS

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## BUDGET TALKS

DANIEL MORROW

The long-awaited fall opening of the Salamander Inn and Spa dominated ongoing Town Council discussions of Middleburg's budget for fiscal year 2014.

Town Administrator Martha Semmes told council in late February that Salamander would, conservatively, drive a nine hundred percent increase in the Town's occupancy tax revenues for the year, even if revenues from currently existing lodging establishments remained flat.

Turning to meals-tax revenues, Semmes reported she was budgeting, conservatively, a seventy-two point eight percent increase.

Still operating without a firm handle on real estate assessments, Semmes was still reluctant to submit a projected property tax rate.

In any case, she said, the Town would see, at the very least, a twenty-five percent increase in its General Fund revenues, and that actual revenues might well exceed those projections.

Prem Devadas of Salamander Hospitality observed that if the new resort and spa generated revenues only at the levels projected in the Town Administrator's preliminary estimates, "it would be in big trouble."

Salamander's opening, he said confidently, would produce a "big upside" for the Town financially and in many other ways.

### Tourism and Marketing

Semmes suggested allocating \$100,000 for tourism/marketing in the new budget.

Salamander's Devadas noted that his organization, with its "robust corporate sales and marketing team," had also offered to assist the Town with technical guidance and support, photography, and the development of brochures and other marketing materials.

Salamander, he said, would spend "a couple of million dollars on sales and marketing for the resort over the next couple of years."

When asked by Council member Murdock about plans for a Salamander Film Festival in October, Devadas replied that the Festival was the brainchild of Sheila Johnson, who has produced films. Her vision, he said, was for a "Middleburg Film Festival" eventually on a par with Sundance, on whose Board of Directors Ms. Johnson currently serves.

Current plans call for showing five films a day for three days during the last weekend of October, with showings at Salamander itself, The Hill School, the Middleburg Community Center and the National Sporting Library.

Devadas also noted that the festival would touch all of the lodging establishments and restaurants in town.

During its first year, he believed, the Festival would draw most of its audience from the Washington metro area. By the second year, if all goes well, it would begin to draw people from New York.

### Police Force Expansion

Police Chief A. J. Panebianco's noted that when he first arrived in Middleburg he found several plans designed to address future growth of the department, several of which revolved around the timeline for the Salamander opening.

Given current needs and recent events, Panebianco insisted his first priority is getting his department staffed to the point of being able to provide 24-hour-a-day protection prior to the opening of the inn and spa.

The department could provide around the clock service with its current staff, he noted. Indeed, in and under emergency conditions, it has already done so.

Doing so, however, meant that neither he nor his officers could take any time off.

The addition of a new police officer, he said, would make 24-hour service not only possible, but practical.

Middleburg's officers typically work (and prefer to work) twelve hour days Panebianco noted. With six officers, the department would still maintain twelve hour shifts, but officers could then be given every other weekend off.

Council member Mark Snyder agreed with the need to expand the force and provide 24 hour service. Council had long ago promised to increase the size of the Police Department once Salamander opened, Snyder observed, and "Now was not the time to renege on that promise."

Council member Kathy Jo Shea suggested that adding an office assistant to Panebianco's staff might well have a force multiplier effect, improving the flow of office work and freeing up trained law-enforcement officers for the street.

Chief Panebianco agreed.

The Chief also suggested a money-saving improvement in firearms procurement.

In Middleburg, as in most towns and cities, Panebianco noted, a pistol was the main police service weapon. As a rule, such side arms have an eight or nine year service lifetime, given twice-a-year qualifying requirements and the range time necessary to maintain proficiency.

Rather than replace all his department's .40 caliber Glocks at once, Panebianco recommended replacing two each year, providing each officer with a pistol and a spare weapon in case something went wrong.

He also noted that the Town should be able to trade in or sell the pistols that were being rotated out of service, further saving money.

Panebianco also requested new bullet proof vests. Those currently in use, he noted, were all "at or past the Department of Justice's recommendation for safe use." They would still

Continued Page 8

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## NEWS OF NOTE

### MIDDLEBURG BANK WAS NAMED THE LOUDOUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LARGE CORPORATE LEADER

Middleburg Bank was named the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce Large Corporate Leader earlier this year. As part of that honor, Piedmont Community Foundation pledged a \$1,000 grant to the Bank's charity of choice. Middleburg Bank selected one of Middleburg's cornerstone charities: Windy Hill Foundation, a well recognized charity known for its effective affordable housing programs in the region.

"It's been gratifying to see all four of Chamber honorees spread their mantle of leadership through their grant selections," said Amy Owen, executive director of the Piedmont Community Foundation.

Additional honorees were Loudoun Insurance Group based in Leesburg, named Small Corporate Leader, selecting Loudoun Youth as its grant recipient. Brian Chavis of Sterling's

ARGroup was named Executive Leader and dedicated his grant to Loudoun Cares in Leesburg. Jamie Pearson of the Purcellville Middleburg Bank branch was named Young Professional Leader. Pearson selected the Middleburg Community Center as grant recipient.

The Piedmont Community Foundation, headquartered in Middleburg with satellite offices in Leesburg, is a grant-making charity working with local donors to build permanent community endowment. It has granted out more than \$1.3 million into the community since inception in 1999. Its mission is to connect people who care with causes that matter in Loudoun and northern Fauquier Counties and surrounding areas. Donor vision and its stewardship build permanent investment resources to benefit our community, for good, forever. More information is available at piedmontcf.org.



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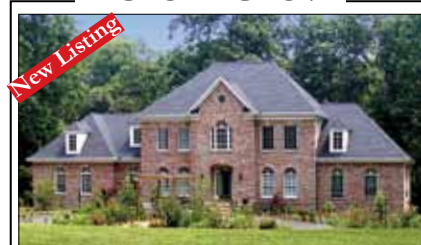


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# NEWS OF NOTE

## MALONEY APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF SEVEN LOAVES

“It is a tough act to follow” confessed Melanie C. Maloney, the new president of Seven Loaves Services, Inc. the food pantry housed in the Middleburg United Methodist Church. “George Lengauer, our president for the last six years, led us through some difficult conditions and brought us to a period of stability and growth, growth unfortunately needed in still difficult economic times” said Maloney. Lengauer retired in December 2012.

Maloney comes to the helm of Seven Loaves after years of quiet support and a year of hands-on effort. She practiced law with the Washington, D.C. firm of Dickstein Shapiro LLP for 30 years, before retiring in 2011.

She began to volunteer as a driver and pantry helper in early 2012 and quickly found a niche. “I was taken aback that we infrequently had fresh produce to offer our patrons. We seek to provide nutritious food, but so often it is hardly that,” said Maloney.

“Some of what we have to offer is high in fat, or sodium or sugar – or all three,” she

conceded. So she sought out local farmers and succeeded in getting many to donate fresh surplus food. “We were just amazed at the outpouring of generosity that occurred just by asking,” Maloney reported.

“We made a step forward last year,” she said, “but have much more to do.” Maloney said her priority as president is to continue efforts to ensure that Seven Loaves’ patrons truly receive nutritious food when in need.

“I’ve learned a few important things so far. First and foremost, our greatest strengths are our people. We have so many outstanding volunteers, who give so generously,” Maloney said. She also highlighted the outpouring of support from the Middleburg community. “The community supports us in ways large and small, and we are energized and humbled by all who contribute to help us feed those who need a little assistance,” she concluded.

In 2012, Seven Loaves served 700 families with more than 440,000 pounds of food. The families made more than 5,300 visits, and came from 17 counties in Virginia.

## RACE FOR SADIE AGAIN THIS YEAR



Sadie Smile Foundation is holding its second annual 5K run, walk and kids fun run at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 11, in Purcellville, VA.

This event is in memory of Sadie Grace Ablard who lost her life at the age of five to a head injury in August of 2011. Sadie had a contagious, joyful smile and loved to help others.

Registration is open on [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) with an early registration discount available until April 10th.

This fun, family-oriented

event includes goodie bags, technical T-shirts, a water stop, and snacks for all participants.

Bring your children to enjoy the Kid’s Fun Run, a petting zoo, face painting, and a balloon twister!

Last year, over 500 people participated in Sadie’s Race, and helped raise \$20,000.00 for Smile Train, a charity that repairs cleft lips and palates for children for as little as \$250 per surgery.

Joe Boyle, a seasoned marathoner from Oak Hill, VA stated: “Fun race; family oriented; well

organized; a very special cause; worth coming out for!!!! For a first time event it was flawless!”

For more information and to donate, visit [www.sadiesmilefoundation.org](http://www.sadiesmilefoundation.org). Contact Sadie’s mom, Sara Ablard to learn more about the event, to volunteer or become a sponsor: [sablard@gmail.com](mailto:sablard@gmail.com)

Sign up today to support this wonderful cause and to enjoy a fun morning with your family and community!



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## MOSBY HERITAGE AREA ASSOCIATION TOUR OF HISTORIC WAVELAND APRIL 13TH

JENNIFER MOORE

The Mosby Heritage Area Association is pleased to be able offer a rare tour of historic Waveland, outside of Marshall, Virginia. Waveland was the home of John Augustine Washington, III, the great-great nephew of George Washington, who sold Mt. Vernon to the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association. Now on the National Register of Historic Places, Waveland remains essentially unchanged since the days of Washington.

In 1727, Lord Fairfax provided a large grant to Scottish Reverend Alexander Scott. Scott’s grandson built a charming two story brick home he called Waveland. John Augustine Washington III, purchased Waveland in 1859, shortly

after he sold Mt. Vernon.

Among the many interesting points in the house is an original indoor bathroom, plumbed by the same firm that installed indoor plumbing in the White House. There is also a very large walk-in double-iron vault brought by John Augustine Washington from Alexandria, as well as built-in bookshelves installed to protect Washington family papers. From John Augustine Washington, Waveland inherited down to Lawrence Washington. Lawrence sold Waveland in 1895 to Bedford Glascock, and 118 years later, Waveland is still in the family of Mr. Glascock.

On April 13th, the Mosby Heritage Area Association will offer a program, in addition to the house tour. Karen Hughes White of the Afro-American Historical Association

of Fauquier County will present her new research on the African American community at Waveland. The history of the immediate area, the large estate, and the home will be discussed and docents will be stationed throughout the home to point out the many attractions and anecdotes.

Waveland is one of those places that once you visit, you can understand the term, “the power of place,” that is often used in regard to battlefields or the sites of important moments in history. You do come away with a sense of awe and of stepping back in time, even for the afternoon. This is not only attributed to the gorgeous view and the wave-like hills, but also because it is a bit like looking at the grainy 19th-century photograph and then having the color high-res-



olution version overlaid. Waveland and its grounds feel old, as soon as you drive up.

The program is at 2:00pm and is open to the public. Admission is \$30 Members / \$35 Nonmembers. For more information, you may

call the Mosby Heritage Area at 540-687-6681 or visit the calendar page at [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org). You may purchase tickets online. Waveland is located at 5061 Carters Run Road, Marshall, Virginia 20115.

## WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR IN WARRENTON

On Saturday, April 6th Michelle Kelley, licensed counselor and owner of Girls Stand Strong, will conduct an empowerment seminar exclusively for women.

This five-hour seminar will teach women how to change toxic relationships that can be found in families, at work, in romantic relationships, and in friendships. This interactive seminar, entitled ‘How to Find & Claim Your Voice—Your Key to a Happier, Empowered Future,’ will take place at the Airlie Conference Center in Warrenton, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

A well-known authority on women’s relationships, Michelle Kelley has more than 20 years of counseling experience. She has dedicated her practice to inspiring, educating, and empowering women and girls of all ages through counseling, seminars, workshops, and articles.

Seminar attendees will learn how to:

- Identify and deal with toxic relationships
- Create powerful changes in themselves and their relationships
- Reclaim their authority and create a powerful, new identity
- Use empowerment as a tool to create opportunities such as promotions and validation from peers
- Develop a personalized roadmap for positive change
- The seminar fee is \$195 per person and includes lunch.
- Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

Contact Michelle Kelley at [michelle@girlsstandstrong.com](mailto:michelle@girlsstandstrong.com) or 703.505.2413 or register at [www.GirlsStandStrong.com](http://www.GirlsStandStrong.com) to make reservations.

Michelle Kelley stated, “The importance of women finding and claiming their voice and being empowered in the workplace is gaining critical acclaim. Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook, has recently releasing her new book, *Lean In*, to guide women through a collective self-awareness exercise and provide how-to insight on breaking the glass ceiling.”

Kelley continued, “Ann Curry interviewed Ivanka Trump of the Trump Organization and psychologist Jennifer Hartstein on the Today Show on February 23rd about why women are particularly susceptible to clammung up in group settings and how that translates to a significant career disadvantage.”

On the personal side, Kelley shared, “Women who do not claim their voice and are not empowered

stay in toxic relationships longer than men. These relationships can be as bad for your health as junk food and toxic environments. They can have lasting emotional, psychological, and physical effects. My goal is to teach women how to change a troubled relationship and be empowered so they can enjoy healthy, fulfilling personal and professional relationships.”



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# NEWS OF NOTE

## THE AFFLUENT ARE "QUALIFIED" FOR HOME MORTGAGES, BUT MORE SINGLE WOMEN AND MEN ARE NOT

JAMES ATKINS

For two income families and the wealthy, home mortgage approvals are increasing, as evident by higher home sales the past few months. Qualifying for these 3.3-

3.7%, 30 year loans is not difficult for those with credit scores above 700 and the ability to put 20% down.

Home ownership by single women and men, however, has declined since 2010 to 16% from 20% for single women, and to

9% from 12% for single men, according to RISMedia, a real estate news service. Dual income homeowners have increased their share to 65% from 58%. Tighter lending standards mandated by the government are primarily the reason.

The 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation overhaul, considered necessary by Congress to fix the housing crisis, changed lending rules to make banks legally responsible for determining that a borrower is able to repay a mortgage. The law established the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to implement the new rules. The upshot is that banks are narrowing their loan offerings and relying more on 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages, which require government guar-

antees. "Lenders still can make loans that aren't considered qualified mortgages, but most say they won't do so given the liability", said Nick Timiraos in the Wall Street Journal on Jan. 10. "The rules could slow or block the return of the exotic mortgages that enabled hundreds of thousands of Americans to take on more debt. Borrowers can't qualify for adjustable-rate loans based on low "teaser" rates and instead must qualify based on the highest payment that will apply in the first five years of the loan." This last change in lending regulations has eliminated many potential home buyers, single men and women among them, who previously were able to plan on higher salaries in their careers from promotions or new jobs when they could afford the larger payments

required in adjustable rate loans.

Many first home buyers, who can qualify, use Federal Housing Administration guaranteed mortgages because of their low, 3.5% down payment requirement. Even these loans, however, are becoming more difficult to qualify for and afford, said James Ferrick, a loan officer at Colonial Savings. "On a 30 year, \$400,000 loan, with a monthly payment of \$1828/month," he said, "the FHA mortgage insurance now adds \$420 to that payment, so qualifying is harder." Ferrick added that the new CFPB requirements that a bank must retain more capital or equity to back their loans will likely cause lenders to further tighten their lending criteria, thus reducing the number of mortgages they originate.

To maximize the chances of obtaining a mortgage, a buyer must anticipate these new, tougher requirements and prepare for the required documentation.

"Before placing an offer on a home," advises Holly Hoopes, a loan officer at Sun Trust Mortgage in Purcellville, "a buyer should complete the application process with a good, trusted lender to have a pre-qualification or, better yet, a pre-approval Letter for the maximum priced home they can qualify for. If possible, they should know their credit score and understand that all of their monthly payments - proposed mortgage payment, monthly installment and revolving debt, etc. can't exceed, in most loan programs, 43% to 45% of their gross monthly income. This is called debt to income ratios. Having all required paperwork available is crucial as well. If a Lender asks for an explanation of a large counter deposit into a bank account, be ready to explain it and provide documentation about the source of the deposit."

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

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## PUZZLE PIECE

TOM SWEITZER'S NEW  
INSPIRATIONAL MUSICAL  
ABOUT AUTISM



"Puzzle Piece," Tom Sweitzer's new play about Autism, offers theatre goers fifty uninterrupted minutes filled with authentic storytelling, education value and dramatic music. Its run includes performances Sunday, April 7th at 3 p.m. at the Tally Ho in Leesburg, Virginia and Sunday, April 14th at 2 p.m. at the Franklin Performing Arts Center in Purcellville. All tickets are \$20.

Puzzle Piece is for anyone who loves someone who has Autism, or anyone who loves great theater and has a heart.

Produced by 'A Place To Be' Music Therapy out of Middleburg, Virginia, and partnering with Autism Speaks (Light it up blue), 'Puzzle Piece' was created by music therapist and writer Tom Sweitzer. Tom has been sharing in the lives of hundreds of parents whose children have Autism and he was inspired by their powerful, dramatic, and sometimes humorous stories.

'Puzzle Piece' takes us into the life of Paul and Marie Tate and their son Erik who has Autism. We learn about the patience, understanding and love that it takes to raise a child with Autism. They share their altered hopes and dreams with the humor and uncertainty every day brings when living with someone with Autism.

The show runs 50 minutes with no intermission. Filled with authentic storytelling, educational value and dramatic music, Puzzle Piece is for anyone who loves someone who has Autism, or anyone who loves great theater and has a heart.

Please visit [www.aptbmusictherapy.org](http://www.aptbmusictherapy.org) to learn more about 'Puzzle Piece.'

For tickets, please telephone 540-687-6740.

Performances are Sunday, April 7th at 3:00 - Tally Ho in Leesburg, Virginia; and Sunday, April 14th at 2:00 - Franklin Performing Arts Center. All tickets \$20.00

## ART IN THE BURG

MIDDLEBURG'S TOWN-WIDE ARTS CELEBRATION  
SPONSORED BY THE MIDDLEBURG ARTS COUNCIL AND THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBURG

On Saturday, April 27, the Middleburg Arts Council and the Town of Middleburg will join with the Middleburg Business and Professional Association to host the first town-wide arts celebration, Art in the Burg. Artwork from over 30 local artists of different styles, forms and subject matter will be on display throughout the town during this special event.

Celebrating Middleburg as an arts destination, Art in the

Burg, will also feature an art walk, wine tastings, artist lectures and additional events hosted by local businesses. This celebration of local artwork will be visible throughout the town. During the event, visitors will have the opportunity to purchase artwork, talk with the artists and enjoy the many venues that will have art on display. The historic Town of Middleburg also offers a variety of shopping and dining options.

We are fortunate to live in a place that attracts visual artists

of all types," said Art in the Burg Organizer Peter Wood. "The history and the beautiful landscape in which we live naturally invite creative talent. I believe it will benefit us all to support this talent and weave it into the fabric of our community."

Munnings: Out in the Open exhibition, will be on display at the National Sporting Library & Museum during the Art in the Burg event. This exhibition features over 50 plain air paintings by the renowned English artist Sir

Alfred Munnings (1878 - 1959). The Museum will offer extended hours on Saturday, staying open until 7 p.m. A curator led tour of the Munnings exhibition will be offered at 4 p.m. Admission is free. Visit <http://www.nsl.org> for additional details.

For additional information about Art in the Burg visit [www.middleburgarts.org](http://www.middleburgarts.org). Business hours for participating shops may vary, please check with individual shops for specific times.

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# NEWS OF NOTE

## A BEAUTIFUL LAW OF NATURE ABBOTT HANDERSON THAYER OPENING

Works by the early American naturalist painter Abbott Handerson Thayer (1849-1921) highlight the artist's observations of nature and his correlating discovery of early camouflage concepts, which were implemented by the Allied countries during World War I. The exhibit opening attracted a sophisticated group of individuals who admire Thayer's art and his immensely valuable breakthrough work creating camouflage.

The fascinating exhibit includes landscapes, animal studies, and early camouflage designs for military uniforms and navy vessels. Selected from the artist's family archives, most of these paintings and drawings have never been exhibited.

A catalog accompanies the show, edited by Ari Post with essays by renowned scholars William Kloss, Martin Stevens and Roy Behrens. This exhibit was organized by Gold Leaf Studios in Washington, D.C., and is sponsored by Blair Inc. and the Family and Estate of Abbott Handerson Thayer.



## BUDGET TALKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

slow or stop a bullet, he noted, but the manufacturer would not back the vest after, typically, a life span of five years or so. At least half the cost of the new vests, including shipping, he thought, could be covered by grants.

When Council member Bundles Murdock questioned the Chief's proposal to purchase a Rosetta Stone Spanish language training program, Panebianco reported that he had checked with several other departments about the effectiveness of the program before recommending its purchase.

Middleburg, he noted, now had a large Spanish speaking population and, in his view, its Police Department "owed it to them to try to communicate."

The Middleburg Department currently calls the Loudoun County Sheriff when in need of translation help. While he did not anticipate his officers becoming

fluent Spanish speakers, he said, with a little work they would be at least "be able to communicate the essentials to the residents".

### Go Green Business Challenge

Rebecca Poston and Jilann Brunett, Co-Chairs of the Go Green Committee, appeared before Council to present plans for a "Business Challenge" program, designed "to raise awareness and get the business' employees excited about recycling and saving energy and water."

Under the year-long program, businesses would vie for conservation "points" with the winner of the "challenge" receiving not only recognition, but all the benefits of best conservation practices.

Council reacted positively to Poston's request for the Town's assistance in producing a brochure for the "Challenge."

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# NEWS OF NOTE

## SIR ALFRED J. MUNNINGS IN FOCUS AT THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM



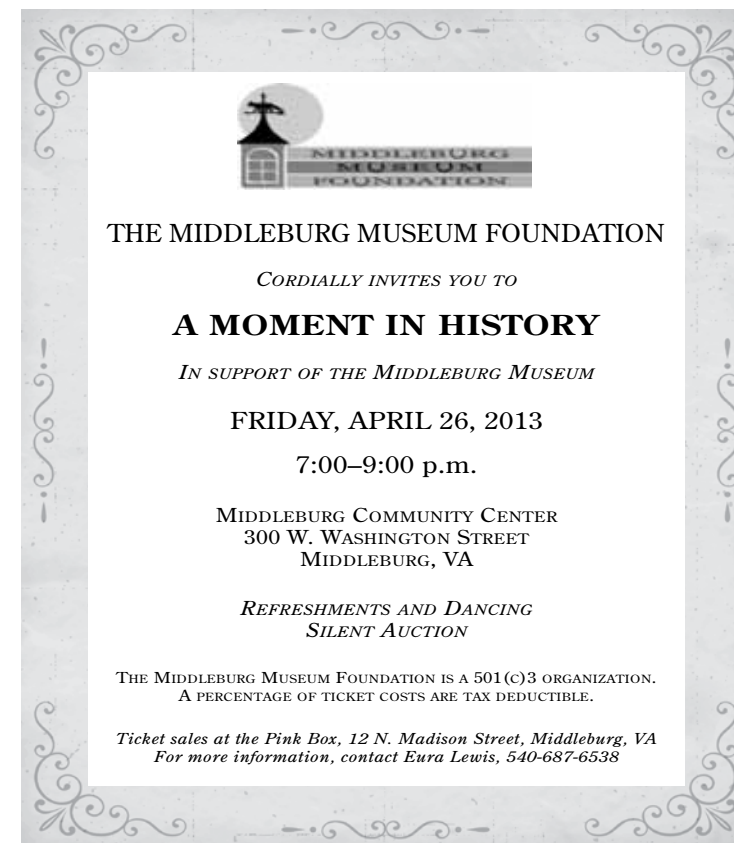
British artist Sir Alfred J. Munnings, P.R.A., will be in close focus at the National Sporting Library & Museum in April 2013 with the opening of *Munnings: Out in the Open*, an exhibition of over fifty paintings assembled by the Museum. A second exhibition in the Library called *Sir Alfred Munnings in Print* and a private screening of *Summer in February* a film produced in the U.K. that revolves around an artists' colony on the coast

of Cornwall where Munnings lived before the First World War will enlarge the focus on Munnings' life and work. *Summer in February* starring Dominic Cooper, Dan Stevens and Emily Browning will be shown April 21st. Based on Jonathan Smith's 1996 novel of the same title, the film explores the period in the mid-1910s when Munnings spent time among fellow plein air painters in the Lamorna artist colony on the Cornish Coast. Among the guests at the screening will be

film producer Jeremy Cowdrey and author Jonathan Smith. Also present will be H. E. The Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Sir Peter John Westmacott, Honorary Chairman and Mrs. Robert H. Smith, Event Chairman. The

evening is an NSLM fundraiser.

For more information about the event, please contact: Holly@webstergroupinc.com, 202.741.1294.



## Going With The Grain

Saturday, April 20

Artist Reception 5—8 PM

Carving demo by Sarah Angle 6 PM!



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**Thursday, March 28—Maundy Thursday**

6:30 pm Agapé Supper

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

**Friday, March 29—Good Friday**

12:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy

7:30p "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Haydn

**Sunday, March 31—Easter Day**

6:30 am Community Sunrise Service

(Outdoor Chapel at Trinity Church)

8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist

12:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt

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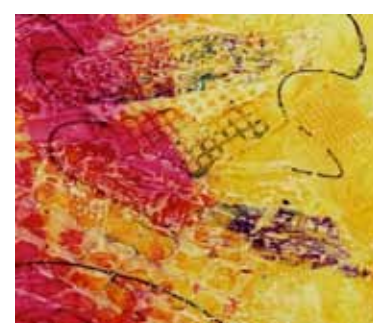
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Middleburg Arts Council, the Middleburg Business & Professional Association & the Town of Middleburg present

# Art in the Burg

Middleburg's First Annual Arts Celebration

**Saturday, April 27th, 2013**



Linda Neel



Mike Elgin



Peter Wood

**Art Walk Middleburg, all day event at participating shops**

Wine Tastings, 5-7 pm  
Meet the Artists, 5-7 pm

**Art in the House Art Show and Sale, 11 am-7 pm**  
Middleburg Arts Project at Emmanuel Episcopal Church's Parish House  
105 W. Washington St

**A Place To Be Open House, 1-4 pm**  
Live music, Davinci Art Studio Artist Show and Sale  
15 S. Madison St

**Plein Air Middleburg, 3-7 pm**  
Loudoun Sketch Club, local artists throughout Town

**Middleburg Library Artist Talk, 2-3 pm**  
Artist Gail Guirrerri-Maslyk, 101 Reed St

**National Sporting Library & Museum, "Munnings: Out in the Open"**  
10 am -7 pm; Curator's Tour 4 pm, 102 The Plains Road

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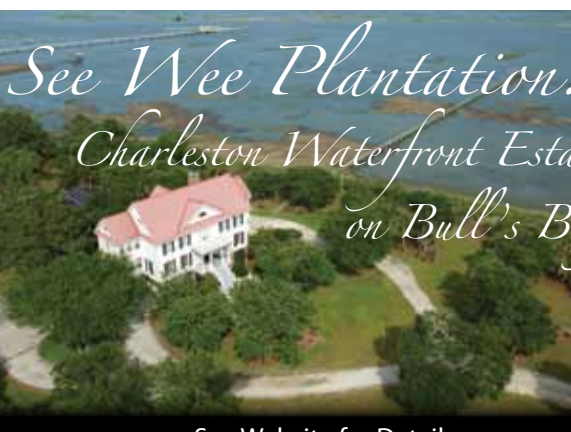
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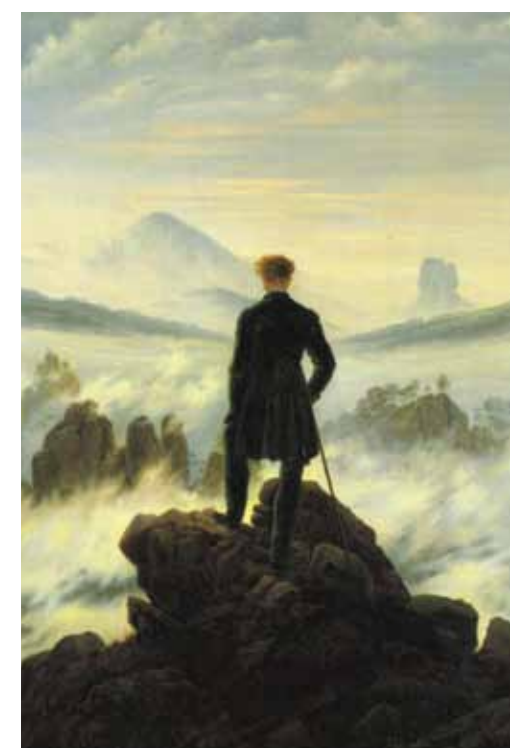


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# FACES & PLACES

## CASINO NIGHT, THE MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER

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**Pre-K through Grade 12 Open House on Sunday, April 21 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

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**Date:** Sunday, April 21, 2013

**Time:** 1:00pm - 2:30pm

**Where:** Highland School — Center for the Arts

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# PROGENY

## POWHATAN SCHOOL TO TURN “CROCKER CONSERVANCY” INTO OUTDOOR LABORATORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Powhatan School has embarked on a project to convert a former cattle field into an outdoor laboratory for budding scientists. The school received a donation of nearly 50 acres adjacent to the current school grounds in 2011. The so-called Crocker Conservancy (named for donors, Agnes Crocker Brengle, Constance B. Crocker and Isabelle Crocker Osborne) was placed into conservation easement with Clarke County.

Both Spout Run and Roseville Run, headwaters to the Shenandoah River, flow through the property. Powhatan hired a wildlife biologist to survey the land and provide recommendations on how to manage and convert the Crocker Conservancy into an outdoor laboratory. “We were very excited to learn that the Crocker Conservancy contains one of the rarest types of wetlands in Virginia and is known to occur in only

a few places in the world. This makes the Crocker Conservancy an even greater treasure for the school and to the local community. We are committed to preserving it and using the Crocker Conservancy to teach children how to be good stewards of our environment,” says Susan Scarborough, Powhatan’s Head of School. Other plans for the Crocker Conservancy include: Cultivating a meadow with wildlife flowers;

Maintaining a trail around the perimeter; Protecting and restoring the Spout Run stream corridor; Creating an agricultural experimental area; Building a nature trail which will visit all the habitats on the property. Land clearing and trail cutting have begun. The streams have been measured and marked off into 22 sites for further study. The Virginia Department of Conservation

and Restoration is interested in assisting with a fish survey and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has agreed to help conduct a baseline analysis of the fish and aquatic insects. “We have a lot of work to do and are looking for ways to fund the many projects on the property, but we feel confident that this will be a wonderful and valuable community resource long into the future,” says Scarborough.

## TWO FOXCROFT HOOPS PLAYERS NAMED ALL-DAC



DEBBIE CADENAS

Debbie Cadenas and Caroline Huckabay, the two leading scorers on Foxcroft School’s team, have been named to the All-Delany Athletic Conference Division II basketball team, Athletic Director Michelle Woodruff announced Wednesday. The selection by the league’s coaches marks the second year in a row that Cadenas, a senior from Middleburg, VA, was named to the first team. The speedy guard finished second on the team in scoring with a 7.8 points per game average. She also led the team in steals (3.5 spg) and assists (12).



CAROLINE HUCKABAY

Huckabay’s selection completed a remarkable comeback effort by the junior guard. After starting for much of her freshman year, she missed all of last season after a riding accident. The Paris, KY, resident, who is as passionate about horses as she is about hoops, broke her arm in the fall and later had surgery because it did not heal correctly. Despite the injury, Huckabay was awarded the Coaches’ Award for attending practices and games and supporting her teammates through the season. After rebuilding the strength in her arm through therapy, Huckabay was able to return to



the court, although the arm bothered her at times this season. It didn’t stop her, however, from leading Foxcroft in scoring (8.5 ppg), 3-point field goals (11), and blocked shots (12). She also finished second in rebounding (5.5 rpg) and steals (3.0 spg), and was named the team’s Most Valuable Player by Coaches Patrick Finn and Fred McMane.

Foxcroft went 7-11 on the season and reached the semifinals of the DAC postseason tournament.



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## FOXCROFT’S CATHERINE REYNOLDS HONORED BY LESS CANCER

Catherine Reynolds, a senior at Foxcroft School and a Round Hill, VA, resident, became the youngest person ever to receive an Annie Award from the Less Cancer Campaign recently when she was honored during a National Cancer Prevention Day ceremony on Capitol Hill.

Less Cancer is a program of Next Generation Choices Foundation, founded by Bill Couzens in 2004. The award is named in memory of Couzens’ sister, Anne, and awarded to individuals who advance the awareness of and activities to help prevent cancer.

In presenting the Annie, Couzens noted that the 17-year-old was instrumental in the success of last spring’s Junior Class Walkathon at Foxcroft School. Reynolds rallied her class and community to raise funds and awareness for the Less Cancer Campaign. “Catherine’s ability to move her



classmates to get behind the cause not only raised funds but also awareness among a critical demographic about lifestyle choices and increased cancer risk,” said Couzens. “Catherine’s understanding of the need for prevention is both impressive and beyond her years.”

The daughter of Charles “Ken” and Stephanie Reynolds, Catherine is an outstanding scholar who was recently elected to the Foxcroft Chapter of the Cum Laude Society. She is also a multi-sport athlete who helped the School’s field hockey team reach the finals of the VISAA Division II Tournament last fall.

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# PROGENY

## POWHATAN SCHOOL BEGINS BUS SERVICE FOR MIDDLEBURG AND UPPERVILLE STUDENTS

Middleburg and Upperville students who attend Powhatan School now can take a bus to and from school, thanks to requests for bus service from parents whose children attend Powhatan.

"Powhatan is a wonderful day school over in Boyce, VA. My son is thriving there, and now we are so happy that he can take a bus to and from school each day. It's very convenient for us," says Megan Witt, Middleburg resident and Powhatan parent.

Middleburg students can catch the bus at the Middleburg Tennis Club; in Upperville the bus stops at the south parking lot at Trinity Episcopal Church.

"We are dedicated to making sure our families feel a part of the Powhatan community, so we are happy to do what we can to help ease their transition to our school," says Susan Scarborough, Head of School.

Established in 1948, Powhatan School is an independent K-8 Day School located in Boyce, VA – just 21 miles from Middleburg.

The school is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools and is a member of both the National Association of Independent Schools and Independent Education.

With an enrollment of 240, Powhatan serves families in Clarke County, Frederick County, Western Loudoun County, Fauquier County, Warren County, Winchester City and the panhandle of West Virginia.

For more information about the school, please visit [www.powhatanschool.org](http://www.powhatanschool.org)



## AARON MAMULA RECEIVES RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT



Earlier this year, Aaron Mamula, from Boy Scout Troop 2950 in Middleburg, received the rank of Eagle Scout. This honor is given to fewer than 4 percent of all scouts due to the rigorous requirements. The last of these requirements states that a scout must "Plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to your community." Aaron chose to help the Middleburg Community Center. So he designed, purchased and installed an Outdoor Community Message Board. Aaron achieved the rank of Eagle in just four years. He is a junior at Loudoun County High School, a member of the crew team and a third degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Troop 2950 is very proud of our newest Eagle Scout and thank his parents Ned Mamula and Teri Domanski for their support of Troop 2950.

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## WAKEFIELD SCHOOL STUDENTS PLACE IN HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

Three Wakefield School students earned recognition at the 2013 History Day regional District 5 competition, that took place March 2 at Mount Vernon High School.

This year's History Day theme was Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events.

Freshmen Maddie Dale and Evy Edens, both of Middleburg, earned second place in the category Senior Group Exhibit for their project, The Day of 911. By earning second place, Dale and Edens will move on to the state competition, hosted by Colonial Williamsburg on April 20.

Sophomore Leilani Wolf of Herndon earned third place in the Senior Individual Website category for her project Latitude 38° N: The Korean War, the DMZ, and North Korea.

District 5 included students from the following counties and cities: Arlington, Loudoun, Fairfax, Prince William, Fauquier, Westmoreland, Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, Caroline, Northumberland, Richmond (County), Lancaster, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park.



LEILANI WOLF



MADDIE DALE



EVY EDENS

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Powhatan's 2011-12 MathCounts team finished a school record 3rd Place at the State Competition in Richmond.

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For the second straight year, Powhatan School earned 1st place in the 2012 VAIS Go Green Independent Schools Challenge.

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# PASTIMES

## PARANOIA'S UNDERRATED

7TH INNING STRETCH  
ALEX CUDABACK

This has to be the last year. Gotta be. But like every other inveterate, incorrigible, irresponsible, soulless gambler out there, I'll be back again next year. I'll pony up my matchsticks or pistachios or seashells or whatever else I'm using that year instead of real money (because I'd never, ever, use real money), I'll make my annual transformation, like some eleven-times delayed Lon Chaney, from mere mortal to superhuman prognosticator, and emerge, swollen with confidence, howling in rage at the foolish mortals around me, bursting at the seams with pure animal ferocity, baring my teeth and welcoming the challenge of anyone foolish enough to doubt my inevitable, unavoidable, inexorable victory. And then the Georgetown game will start. I honestly just don't know what I'm thinking any longer. My ties to Georgetown University are minimal. I spent a sliver (really, hardly any cumulative time at all) of my childhood in a classic Georgetown townhouse on Dent Place. I had a Georgetown University basketball jacket when I was nine or ten that was about the coolest thing ever. It had snaps and looked like it was made of pure silk. It was polyester. A good friend from high school actually went to Georgetown as an undergrad and let my girlfriend and I crash on his floor when we went to Bill Clinton's first inauguration. It was a seminal moment, in more ways than one. Later that same year, May or June, that same friend hosted me and another buddy from high school. We were 18, almost 19. It was Georgetown in the early '90's. We all got blind drunk and wandered the nearby environs for hours. I'm sure we were horrifying. We finished the evening at the top of the stairs made

famous by William Friedkin's *The Exorcist*, looking down, swaying, wondering which of us would tumble down and break our necks first. There's a small archway that stretches across the very bottom of the stairs, between a building on one side and what, if memory serves, is some sort of garden on the other. It's not a particularly wide archway, no wider than the staircase it floats above, obviously, and neither is it particularly broad, maybe a foot and a half. But it's high up, twenty or more feet above a remarkably steep, remarkably hard, undoubtedly bone (and neck) breaking flight of stone steps made famous by a movie centered on the notion of demonic possession. In fact, that staircase's sole purpose in Friedkin's film is to wait, patiently, almost confidently, knowing that a higher purpose awaits it in the movies final, climactic scenes.

That tiny archway is where our evening technically ended, drunk on cheap beer and testosterone the levels of which none of us has probably ever reached since, swaying in a cool breeze on an otherwise muggy night, giggling, each of us undoubtedly thinking if it'd be funny to pretend to push one of the others off. Ha ha. Two for flinching. Stupid. Where was I? Oh right, Georgetown.

I knew Georgetown, and I knew the basketball team, but indirectly. If I'm honest with myself I was probably a fan more to rankle my step-dad, a true-blue, dyed-in-the-wool, North Carolina fan who considered John Thompson and his Hoya Paranoia more closely akin to sumo than true, pure ACC basketball, the way God intended it. (You know how you can tell God's a Carolina fan, right? The sky is blue and white.) (And before you get smart, at least Carolina flames out against teams we've all heard of before.)

The terrible irony, though, and what I've probably been trying to atone for subconsciously ever since, is that I turned my back on Georgetown at the pinnacle of their dominance, in the 1984 NCAA championship game between the Patrick Ewing led Hoyas and the brothers of the University of Houston's Phi Slamma Jamma. My step-dad, like I said, a basketball fan, was over the moon excited for the game; I, a petulant putz still smarting at the notion of actually having a step-dad, wanted to see *Police Academy*. He acquiesced, we saw *Police Academy*, and Georgetown basketball has never been the same. And I've had to live with the fact that I traded Ewing, Graham, Jackson, Brown and Smith for Steve Guttenberg, Kim Cattrall, Bubba Smith, Michael Winslow and G. W. Bailey ever since. Oh. Also under the bed.... The Wizards are 21-16 since John Wall came back from his bum knee. Not too shabby. Maybe there really is light at the end of the tunnel. Junior is atop the points chase for this year's Sprint Cup. His average finish in the first five races of the season: 4. Not bad for a guy too many always bust on for driving coattails better than he does cars. This past Saturday, March 23, Matt Poursoltani set a new Texas state record in the bench press. Matt is 18 years old. He weighs 270 pounds. He put up 700 pounds. For perspective, the NFL record was set by former Cowboys star Larry Allen. He put up 705 pounds. And last, congrats to the U.S. men's national soccer team on its scintillating draw against Mexico in Estadio Azteca. Never has a 0-0 draw been so exciting. Alex can be reached at [cuda24@yahoo.com](mailto:cuda24@yahoo.com)



## SLEEPY GARDENS ARE WAKING UP

THE PLANT LADY  
KAREN REXRODE

The garden looks so innocent in March. The gardener thinks to themselves, well this is so easy. Pull a little weed here, an old leaf there, easy peasy, I can handle this. The garden will unfold, hesitantly at first and then intensify at an alarming rate. It may be the middle of April before you realize that it's getting away from you. Between now and then we have this wonderful honeymoon period, before the poison ivy sprouts, the gnats fly and the heat gets to our peony blossoms. You must take advantage of every day. The first peepers, the first primrose, all of that stuff is now and it's glorious. I get giddy from the helleborus and honeybees, even the pruning is like a call to action, our first chance to flex our muscles. The feeling of accomplishment on a brisk cold day will put you on top of the world. So while we putter and work in the early spring garden, it's nice to add a few things that make an early appearance. Just a few delightful little things that keep us company. The best part, there are a lot of plants that do, spunky fellas that can take freezing nights. Helleborus are on top of the list and Helleborus foetidus has been flowering for months. The green sepals that make up the appearance of a cluster of flowers may be tinged in red. The foliage is split and dark green which makes for a nice backdrop to the flowers. Commonly known as the stinking hellebore, if the leaves are crushed, you get a stinky odor. It is also known as the bearclaw hellebore, from the way the leaves are divided. When found in the wild, which is in Europe and England, it is most commonly found on shale and limestone. Hint, give it a little lime. A tough plant by any standard, you can grow this species in sun or shade. Drought tolerant and deer resistant, hello!, we have a winner. I have a few primrose starting to flower. I just can't get over how cold hardy the flowers are. What will join them



soon are many of the spring ephemerals or spring flowering bulbs. Blue scillas and grape hyacinths can be electric in spring. And did you know that a grape hyacinth smells like grapes? They are named that for the cluster of flowers, like a bunch of grapes, but really, give it a whiff. The flowers persist for a very long time, flowering with daffodils and tulips. If you grow bleeding hearts, you know how wonderful they are. Well you can start the spring earlier with Corydalis 'George P. Baker'. The flowers are a dusky pink, the foliage is a blue-green and lobed and it's closely related to bleeding hearts. Generally blooming by the end of March, it's just another tough corydalis that thrives in Virginia. A little thing, ideal with primrose and grape hyacinths. As the daffodils start and the helleborus carry on, I have the earliest flowering spirea in my partial sun garden. Spirea thunbergii 'Fujino Pink' is in flower by the end of March and the delight of any flower arrangers garden. The wispy stems carry these tiny clusters of pink flowers and it's just the most perfect thing to cheer you up on a windy March day. When the garden is well behaved. a bonus.. Steel cut oats are okay as well as quinoa. Eggs are a good complete source of protein too. Oh, no alcohol for two weeks. It is a great feeling to take charge and you my friend can do it. I have seen the effects that this lifestyle has on individuals. They have more energy, lose body fat and appear to be in better spirits. Isn't that what we want? It's up to you, are you ready for the challenge? Let me know how it works for you. I believe each of us has the ability to move past what is holding us back from being who we were meant to be. For more information about health and fitness, please contact: Kay Colgan, at Middleburg Pilates and Personal Training at 14 S. Madison Street, Middleburg, Va. Or call 540-687-6995.



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KAY COLGAN, HEALTH COACH  
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What really causes us to gain excess weight? Is it calories? Could it be the high fructose corn syrup that is in so many products? Maybe an allergy to gluten or dairy could be the culprit? Are we to blame because we cannot fit an hour of exercise in every day? Does our only hope rely in some processed diet regime that we see advertised? It works for the people that do it, or does it? Maybe it's just a part of getting older and we just have to accept it, or do we? My personal belief is that we all carry the tools that we

need to really make a change. It's called eating. Yes the very thing that got us in trouble in the first place is really what we need to think about and embrace. Give real food a chance and you just might see the change you have been looking for. Processed foods wreck our metabolism. Yes, I said it and it is true. It sends an abundance of chemicals that our bodies do not recognize which bombard our livers and basically put us in a very toxic state. All the while lowering our immune system and putting us in harm's way. We may have congestion and headaches or worse yet be heading for prediabetes. It's true; we have been in a state of denial for decades about our health. We were told that low fat, no fat was a good thing. So we ate it and guess what our bodies did not know what to do with it.

Is fat in the diet really the culprit? Good fats such as organic coconut oils and organic olive oils are really quite good for us. We need to stay clear of hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated anything. Soybean oil is not good for us. Yet it is cheap oil that is put in virtually everything that is processed. Who knew? Remember when everyone was eating soy. Yes, I too jumped on that band wagon. Soy in and of itself is not bad, it is when it is processed that it becomes something we don't want to ingest. Fermented soy is okay as long as it is organic. Dairy for some is an allergen. We might not even know that it is what is holding us back from losing weight. Gluten is another suspect when it comes to allergens. This could be another factor in our ability to lose weight. Wheat is over grown in this country and the way it is processed virtually is unrecognizable to our bodies.

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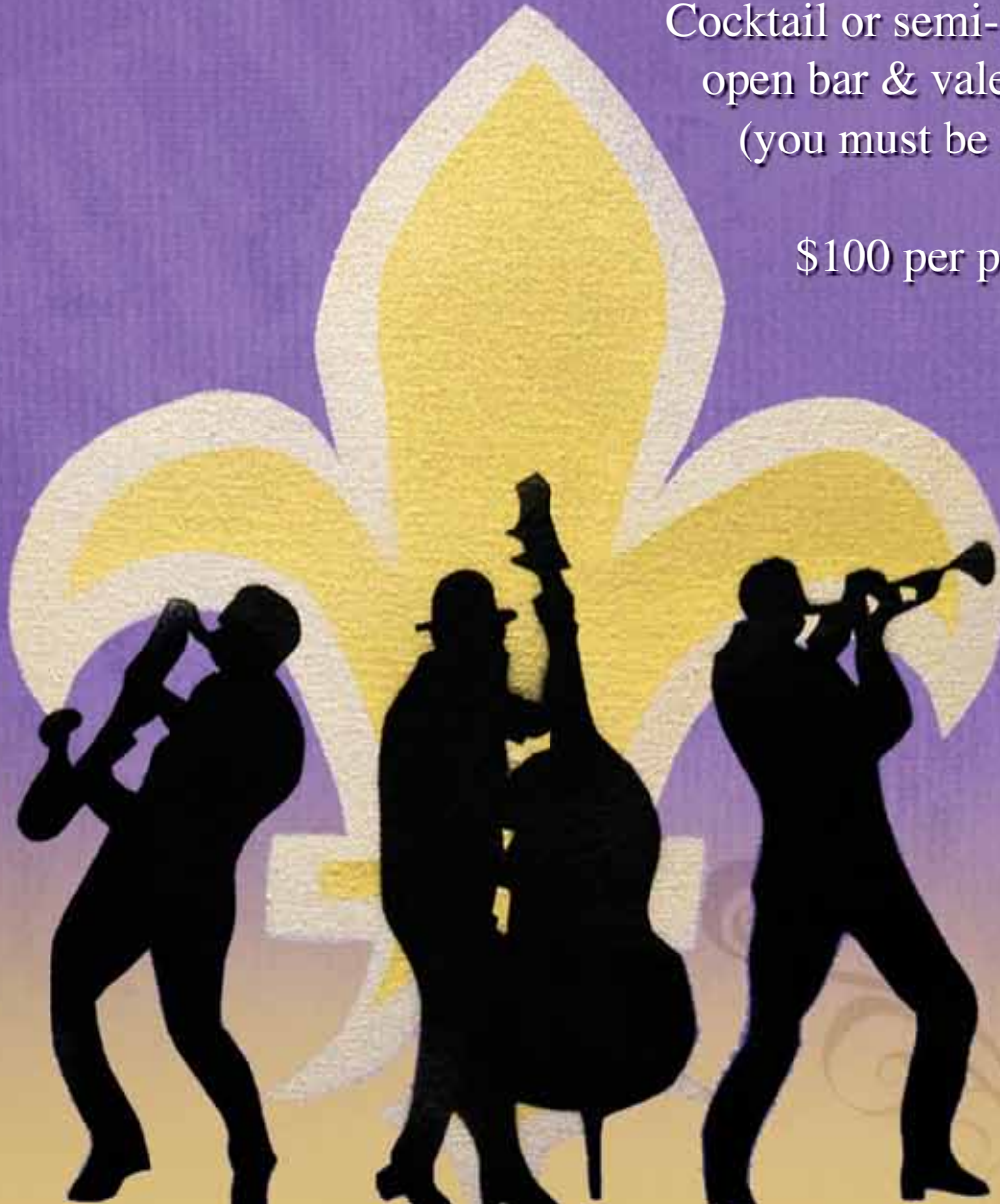
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# PASTIMES

## WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?

BRANDY GREENWELL

My best style advice for March comes in the essence of spring-cleaning. Let's take a moment to reflect, purge, recycle and shop. Say it out loud. **REFLECT, PURGE, RECYCLE AND SHOP.** This can be painful. Call the Wine Cellar; you might need liquid support for this one.

First Reflect. When changing your closets for the season, really evaluate your wardrobe and put aside what you didn't wear last spring and summer. The general rule is that if you haven't worn it in two years, it is time to let it go. Also really take inventory on what you keep and what you are pulling aside. This is like a mirror into your personal style. This will help you build a more efficient collection in the future.

Now, Purge. This is the hard part. It is very basic, but I want you to make three piles: keep, recycle, and toss. In the keep pile are your favorite jeans, your staples, things

in good condition that you love, etc. The recycle pile holds everything that you haven't worn in two years or things in good condition that you have worn to death. It's ok, let them go, their feelings won't be hurt. Toss. The white tee shirt with the pit stains that is so soft and broken in, the dress with the oil stain that you keep accessorizing to hide, and the jeans that no matter what, won't keep their shape and were too short to begin with. They lived good lives, but their time has come. RIP.

Recycle. There are many different ways to accomplish this.

1.The Swap method. This is where you gather at your home and each person brings a like piece to swap for something of yours. This is particularly successful with hats and formals.

2.A "Closet Sale" is where you invite your contacts to your house to buy your gently used clothes. Make it fun and profitable!!

3.Take your gently used clothes to a consignment store. Only take things that can be worn in the upcoming season in now.

4.Donate. Research a charity close to your heart and see what they need.

Shop. Let's have some fun. Go back to the first step and think about the items that you wore out and those that you didn't. I guarantee you there is a theme. If you tend to gravitate towards neutrals, you are likely not going to be the type to rock out something bright red. If you want to amend your personal style, start with baby steps and instead of something red, go for a rosy pink or coral to make the bridge. Even updating a few simple pieces a season can change your whole attitude and outlook. Go on, you deserve it.

I welcome any questions on this topic or any others that pertain to you personally. My inbox is always open. You can also find me on Facebook at Where are you going? What are you wearing? I look forward to hearing from you.

Next month: It is Virginia race season, fortheloveofgod women, don't wear heels that can sink and dresses that can catch a breeze.



## SIMPLICITY REINVENTING

CINDY BATTINO

Is your life filled with turmoil? Are you the repair-person for other people's problems? Is your life consumed with money worries, drama, too many chores, and anxiety? The concept for Reinventing Simplicity means that there is greater value in a) tranquility than drama; b) peace than chaos; and c) harmony than anxiety. If you choose to simplify your life, it will require making some large changes.

### Start with a KISS.

The easiest way to create simplicity, is to remove your ego from the equation and use the KISS method (Keep It Simple Sweetie). Examine your life in detail. Where have you made life more complicated than it needs to be? Where have you taken on more than you are comfortable with because you can't say "no"?

You can't control your teenager's angst and emotional rollercoaster, but you can control how many pets you have. You can control whether you have friends who are empowering or suck the life out of you. You can control (and use KISS on):

How many activities your children are involved in

Whether you have family din-

ners How many tasks and responsibilities you take on outside of work and home

How many hours you work Whether you make time to exercise and eat healthy

If you take on other people's problems

How many time & money drains impact your life

When you say NO

### Remove the Drama

Creating healthy boundaries is essential for a simple life. If you have become the go-to person who fixes all of your family and friends' problems, this will be difficult and take time. Giving up the Superman cape can be sad, but allows you to empower your friends and family rather than taking care of them. You must trust that they have the wisdom to make their own decisions and mistakes. They will be OK. They are adults. Do not add their drama to your own. Take care of yourself.

### Pick One Time & Money Pit

A large house or farm is a time and money pit. Expensive cars are time and money pits. If you have unlimited income, you can afford less simplicity.

## STANDBY GENERATORS FAQs

EVERY HOME NEEDS ONE

DALE SCHULZ

Why does it seem that we are losing power more often these days?

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

How does a modern standby generator work?

The standby generator sits out-

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

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

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

Will the generator operate all

the circuits in my home?

You could install a standby generator which could operate all the circuits in your home, but generally the loss of power is an infrequent event, and it is only necessary to operate essential circuits. A 20KW standby generator is optimal for all but the largest homes and is only marginally more expensive than a 14kw or 15 kw generator. Frankly, it makes little sense to a 14kW or 15kW standby generator.

What would you consider to be essential circuits?

That can vary from family to family, but for most of us being warm, having running water, the refrigerator and freezer operating, the sump pump functioning, being able to get on the internet, the ability to

## NO TO THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE WATERWORLD

RICHARD A. ENGBERG

I'm opposed to the Keystone Pipeline. So there! Got my viewpoint front and center, right?

The Keystone Pipeline (more rightly known as the Keystone XL Pipeline) is regularly in the news. On March 13, it came up for discussion during a meeting between President Obama and Republican leaders. It is a proposed pipeline extension that would move crude oil from Alberta, Canada to refineries in the United States. So far, President Obama has refused to permit its construction.

You might ask, "How can you be opposed to something that, in 2010, the CEO of TransCanada, the company that plans to build it, said it will create 20,000 American jobs and 'pump' 7 billion dollars into the American economy?" Others have more recently questioned these numbers.

Also, you might comment, "This will reduce our energy dependence on oil from unstable areas notably the Middle East and Nigeria."

This all well may be true. Could there possibly be a downside?

Yes. Opponents point to the possibility of pipeline ruptures in sensitive terrain. They also rightly indicate that oil derived from tar sands contains higher concentrations of methane leading to greater releases of carbon to the atmosphere.

So you see there are numerous pros and cons, the obvious economic, environmental, political and other issues. Given these issues, you might expect me to be on the fence. I would be except for still another issue, the emotional issue. Sure, I know emotional issues are probably the least defensible, but I'm going to try anyway.

cook, make coffee, watch TV and having select lights is essential. A decently sized generator can handle these duties and others, such as the garage door openers.

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

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

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

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

What is your preferred brand of standby generators?

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



## JUST BACK FROM..... SAN ANTONIO DE ARECO

EXQUISITE TRAVELS WITH MATT HANNAN

MATT HANNAN

Last March I brought a small group of five clients from Charlottesville to Argentina. We began our ten day visit in the capital Buenos Aires then continued on to the charming town of San Antonio de Areco followed by two nights at Iguazu Falls and three in Mendoza Wine Country.

For San Antonio I had booked our accommodations at the historic 'Estancia La Bamba' - a 19th century estate with an ochre-colored lodge and stable, polo fields and eleven simple well-appointed rooms in the heart of the Argentine Pampas.

We set out by private coach for the hour and half drive from B.A. eventually passing farms and fields bordered with eucalyptus trees and tall, wispy clumps of native pampas grass. To our amazement, upon arrival at the lodge we found the general manager and staff outside on the lawn, lined up in a row waiting for us. 'Wow, just like Downton Abbey!' exclaimed one guest.

Following a relaxed check-in with welcome drinks and an introduction to the facilities, we continued on to the town of San Antonio for a walking tour of its historic core and a stroll through its lovely central square. And after viewing its beautiful cathedral and 19th century courtyard houses we purchased a few pieces of silver from its famous workshops, before eagerly returning back.

For awaiting us was a highly anticipated Argentine Asado - an al fresco BBQ set in a lovely pavilion with grilled meats, salads, Malbec and Torrontes wines and topped off with delicious dulce de leche dessert crepes.

Satiated with the mouth-watering



meal, we moved to the edge of the polo field for another highlight of our brief visit - a private display of Argentine horsemanship. Here we sat in cream-colored canvas director chairs facing the field while from the Pulperia (a gaucho style bar) an accordion and a guitar player emerged drifting into place next to us. Liting Argentine tunes played in the background as gauchos on ponies arrived with light blue and white flags, wearing black berets and soft rawhide boots.

For over an hour we delighted in displays of racing, jousting and typical gaucho sports. And, at the end of the festivities, ring presentations, applause and cheers we boarded horse drawn carriages for a late afternoon sunset tour of the property.

It wasn't until that evening when

## THE ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

Many of you may have recently seen or heard the stories circulating about government or administration commissioned portraits racking up hundreds of thousands of US tax payer dollars. Numbers I've read are in the \$400,000 range annually, with portraits of administration officials ranging from \$20 to \$40K. So the question would be from this artist's perspective; is it a waist of your money?

This is a close call and as both an artist and a tax payer, you may be surprised on which side I fall towards with this tradition. I would like to first make clear, that while I am an artist, I am not a portrait artist in the traditional sense. That is to say, I am not commissioned to paint people. Additionally, in my 25 years of selling fine art, I cannot recall ever being hired by a branch of state or federal government with the use of tax payer dollars.

Portraits of prominent people, leaders and yes, politicians, have been a part of the world's long history and now considered tradition. The bulls eye on this issue though begins here. At its beginning, like all painting through history, portraits were a form of record keeping. Possibly a somewhat elitist form, but we must remember, when this practice began, photography had not yet been invented. In other words, if we didn't have a portrait of George Washington, we wouldn't know how he looked. Our forefathers and their portraits are very

we sat down for dinner with our hostess and fellow guests that we had time to reflect.

And at that moment as we dined, enveloped in camaraderie and conversation, we settled into the moment... content with the joy derived from a day

meaningful records of our history and one need not look much further than a dollar bill for proof in the pudding.

The second point I would make, is that government was much smaller than it is today and frankly more contained. I don't think anyone would have a problem with tax payer dollars going to an artist for a portrait of a US President and or Vice President. But how about a cabinet secretary or EPA Administrator to the tune of \$30K each? How about the USDA or on down the line. Remember folks, these are public servants, not history makers and this is tax payer dollars or more likely at this point, borrowed money.

Now here's the other kicker. Many of these portraits or dare I say most, are not even in truly public places. They are not where you are even allowed to see them. Often they are in private rooms or line hallways and frankly having been in some of these types of hallways, no one even seems to stop to look at them. Everyone is working, eyes on their phone, going places. It's not as though people are there pondering the greatness of their rolls in government. I'm not trying to be disrespectful either, I'm just being realistic in the grand sense of financial responsibility.

Which brings me to my main point. If this country's revenue, our tax dollar, was enough to cover all of our expenses, this all might be different, but it is not. Far from it. At this point we are borrowing money for these expenses and often at a cost where something else may have to be cut. In other words, is it worth going in further debt over?

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\$400,000 may not appear to be much in the grand scheme of things, but that's the problem today. We look at huge amounts of money as trivial compared to the mountain of expenditures.

As an interesting little side example; in many forms of racing, where weight reduction is key, they cut ounces here and there with the ultimate goal of saving a few pounds and surprise! The results add up. They don't just concentrate on big parts, they redesign the efficiency of all parts and in the process, realize small amounts add up to an overall weight reduction.

All I'm saying is that there should be balance here. I would never think a President or Governor should not be recognized in this honorable tradition. I do think though, that there are many levels of government where this practice is overboard. Where these portraits use to require a person to sit to have their portraits done. In our modern world they are usually photographed and the painting is done from the photo. So, perhaps the photo is enough. I have no problem with the private sector engaging in this tradition either. I applaud it and I certainly as an artist, understand there's a livelihood at stake here as well. But unfortunately, government financial responsibility at this point, must be scrutinized.

ThomasNeel.com



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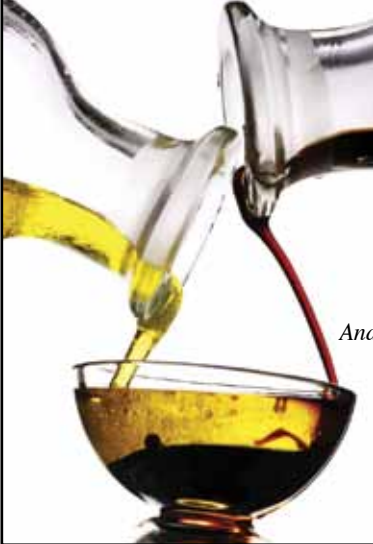


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**Melody** is a gorgeous 1 yr old medium hair dilute calico that was found on the side of the highway in a box with her kittens. Melody is very sweet & would prefer not to share your affection with any other pets.



**Cheyenne** is an 8 yr old 14.2h beautiful chestnut pony mare. She has been started under saddle but hasn't been in consistent work & needs an experienced person with whom she can trust & reveal her full potential.



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



**Glenora** is a beautiful Kitty born June 2012. She is affectionate, active, & loves to play. She gets along with other cats & will be a great addition to any home.

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# EDITOR'S DESK

## PURPLE PROSE

This month's issue of the Eccentric marks the last, for at least a while, for one of our most popular and most commented upon columnists, Bruce Smart, former CEO of the Continental Group and a US Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade.

A self described "long-time Republican and a Reagan appointee" Smart began writing his column, "Purple," from his farm near Upperville soon after the paper's first "Red" columnist, Mark Tate, fell victim to vicious political infighting,

including what were later proved to be false accusations of criminal behavior.

Smart wrote at the time: "I grieve at writing this piece, but the indictment of Mark Tate impels me to do so. Some time ago I concluded that Republican leaders have become ethically - and sometimes legally - tone deaf, a condition they must correct to regain the nation's confidence. Laws and free elections form the bedrock of a democracy. Laws are enacted by an elected legislature,

administered by an elected executive, and enforced by the courts. Our laws are freedom's shield. When they are abused, all Americans lose."

Bruce went on to outrage both left and right; liberal and conservative; Republican and Democrat; Red and Blue in a column that was truly "purple" in every best sense of the word.

We wish him the best as he sharpens his pen for the readers of northern Virginia's Times Papers.

## AND SPEAKING OF SMART

Kudos to the Middleburg Town Council for its ongoing and all too often totally unnoticed efforts to preserve, protect and defend the town's critical water supply . . . and to the volunteers who are working with the town to make those goals a reality.

Council member Mark Snyder has long been the Town's designated driver for things H2O, be it raw water from the town's wells, to purification, to distribution, to waste water treatment.

He has been reinforced by an outstanding (and, sadly, equally little noted) "Wellhead Protection Committee" which includes former town council member Lisa Patterson as Chair; Jilann Brunett as Vice Chair; Charlie Triplett; Michael Haynes; and American Water Resources Association senior exec (and Eccentric columnist), Dick Engberg, all supported by Town Clerk Rhonda North.

Late last year the committee released an outstanding new brochure, with

critical advice about how to protect the town's water sources . . . at their source.

Every customer of the town's water system should have received one with their water bill.

Everyone else who cares about their own water supply should read it.

Copies are available at the Town offices or on line at [http://townofmiddleburg.org/uploads/Source\\_Water\\_Protection\\_Brochure\\_No-venember\\_Meeting\\_Version\\_.pdf](http://townofmiddleburg.org/uploads/Source_Water_Protection_Brochure_No-venember_Meeting_Version_.pdf)

## AND NOT SO SMART

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors is actually considering reducing the staff of the county libraries, despite huge increases in use of the facilities and flat budgets (or worse) over the past several years.

The friends of the libraries can and do help as much as they can (our own Middleburg group is a classic example).

The County, however, should do its fair share . . . especially when it comes to

staffing facilities that serve not only as libraries, but as community centers, internet hubs, and much, much more.

Phone calls and emails to your Supervisor are in order.

### RED

## WOMEN IN COMBAT – NO!

JAMES MORGAN

Back in the days of "wooden ships and iron men," sailors believed that having women aboard was unlucky. Not the most sophisticated analysis, perhaps, but put a few dozen women with several hundred or several thousand men in the isolated world of a ship at sea and you needn't look far to find the problems. Pregnancy, for one; some U.S.

Navy ships have reported as many as 25% of the female sailors becoming pregnant during the tours of sea duty. Add the predictable sexual tensions, rivalries among the men for the attentions of the women, questions of sexual harassment, the need for separate quarters, and the lowering of physical standards for the female sailors and "unlucky" seems a fairly accurate description.

These problems are known and

### BLUE

## WOMEN IN COMBAT

DANIEL MORROW

Should women be "allowed" to serve in combat? The very question is both absurd and insulting.

It's absurd, of course, to exclude the majority of one's citizens from contributing to our defense. Every social institution, the military not least among them, has inevitably benefited from the presence and contributions of women.

The question is insulting because of what it implies. Service to their country, in combat or any other capacity, isn't some "favor" to be granted to women by those who see themselves as the anointed masters of their fate.

Choosing to serve is a right. As citizens, women have a right to serve this country in any way they can, the combat arms not least among the choices.

Some would argue, of course, that women simply "can't" serve in some combat units because they can't meet the physical requirements necessary to carry their share of the load.

They are correct. Some women can't. Some men can't meet those requirements either.

Those who can, male or female, should be able to serve; those who can't should be able to serve where they can; and those who set the requirements for service should be realistic about them.

All other arguments against women's service in combat units

have been disproved by ancient history and contemporary experience. All the arguments about women's courage, smarts; leadership ability; mastery of the weaponry; unit cohesion; pregnancy; toilet facilities; fraternization; and monthly periods of irrational behavior have all been shown to be absurd.

Women have served within and sometimes despite the rules, in every American war, sometimes resorting to disguise to do so.

They have been killed, wounded, and worse.

They have been awarded every medal for valor

Denying them their right to serve is simply wrong.

That said, there is, however, one theatre of action and one particularly vicious enemy against which no American woman in uniform should be fighting.

In that theatre they are being killed and wounded at twice the rate of loss (or more) than their male counterparts.

Those inflicting the casualties are their own officers and fellow soldiers.

The weapon of choice: sexual assault.

The damage: physical and mental harm to the victims; dishonor to the institutions and officers that allow and empower it.

The solution: zero tolerance for perpetrators and those who empower them.

have been documented ever since the Navy decided it was a good idea to send women to sea. That they reduce a ship's combat efficiency is clear though this means nothing to "progressive" policy makers. It's "fair" and that's all that counts.

Now, the most anti-military president in our history has decided, without any study or consultation or "national conversation" of the sort that liberals usually love, that women should be sent into ground combat roles as well. A more boneheaded decision is hard to imagine.

Yes, the Red Army included women in WWII. But the Red Army had one tactic – direct frontal assault (and casualties be damned). Women were as useful as men for cannon fodder. And yes, the Israeli army includes women in combat roles, though not nearly as much as is usually claimed and little Israel probably has no choice anyway considering the odds.

When women were admitted to the service academies we were told that physical standards would not be lowered. They were. We're now being told that standards won't be lowered for women in combat but the women's standards in Army

and Marine boot camps already are lower than men's. Why? Because – surprise, surprise – women just don't have the physical strength or stamina of men.

The evidence of our senses aside, Marine Corps studies have shown that women, on average, have "40% less muscle strength, 47% percent less lifting strength, and 26% slower marching speed" than men. That's biology, not sexism.

That a few women are stronger than a few men is irrelevant. Women simply are not built for, and cannot be conditioned for, carrying heavy packs and weapons over long distances in awful terrain and conditions, then fighting hand-to-hand if necessary against male enemy soldiers. Moreover, women who actually are in the military seem to know this. An article by Marine Captain Katie Petronio which appeared last year in the Marine Corps Gazette is instructive. Titled "Get Over It! We Are Not All Created Equal," this article can be found at <http://www.mca-marines.org/gazette/article/get-over-it-we-are-not-all-created-equal>.

The first two women admitted to the Marine Corps' grueling Infantry Officer Course last October

## A MESSAGE FROM PURPLE

BRUCE SMART

Dear Readers of the Eccentric:

For the past three and a half years I have been privileged to write on many subjects of public interest as a columnist for the Middleburg Eccentric. This has given me a chance to think through many of the problems our society faces, and to suggest approaches to them consistent with my belief in moderate and consensus political action. Recent partisan political trends, concentrating on assigning blame instead of seeking solutions, in my opinion emphasize the widespread need for what Purple has tried to do.

I have now been asked by

northern Virginia's Times Papers to join them in a capacity similar to that which I have enjoyed with the Eccentric. The wider geography covered by the several Times Papers, the Loudoun Times Mirror and the Fauquier Times Democrat among them, and their weekly rather than monthly schedules, lets them reach a far greater audience more often, and so offers an opportunity to carry the message of political moderation to many more people. Believing as I do that these matters are important to the future of our children, our region and our nation, I have agreed to accept the Times Papers' offer.

Sadly, their policy, like that of many news organizations, requires

flunked out; one of them didn't get through the first day. Now, the Corps is having trouble finding women officers who will even volunteer for the course.

Psychologically, women aren't built for combat either. They do not naturally possess the kind of warrior spirit that is essential for ground combat troops. And, at another level, do we really want to have to deal with the obvious consequences of having American women as POWs in the hands of barbarians?

"Progressives" will dismiss all of this as Neanderthal thinking but facts are still facts. That some women "can do the job" is not the point. "Gender equity" doesn't win battles. Combat efficiency, not some goofy, gender-neutral, politically correct bit of social engineering should determine the policy. And this is so obvious that one might reasonably ask whether Mr. Obama is deliberately trying to weaken the American military.

Deliberately putting women into direct ground combat is what one military writer has rightly called "felony stupid."

I write columns exclusively for them. Thus I must say goodbye editorially to the Eccentric – you, its readers, and its management – who have been wonderful to work with. Thankfully, the Eccentric's Editor and Publisher understand the reasons for my decision, and we move forward as friends. For my part, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity The Eccentric has given me to stay connected with our community and our political world by embarking, those three and a half years ago, on yet another career, this one as a journalist.

Sincerely, and with fond memories, Bruce Smart

## HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

The tenth anniversary of the Iraq war is upon us. Ten years of incredible suffering caused by a group of war criminals, George Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz and others, who were the architects of the illegal and immoral war.

To think they are free and heroes such as Bradley Manning and John Kiriaku (CIA whistle blower) are in jail for following their conscience to expose war crimes committed by the U.S. military and NATO forces is completely wrong.

By revealing the hidden realities of the Iraq War, Pfc. Bradley Manning achieved his noble goal of sparking domestic debate, and he helped begin the end of an aggressive, violent, and counter-productive war.

When President Obama said he did not want to look back but forward and refused to carry out the prosecution of Bush and Co. he made an enormous mistake. How can you go forward if you don't confront past crimes.

I believe it shows a total lack of respect for the law.

In Guatemala, past President Efraim Rios Montt is being tried for genocide and crimes against humanity when over 170,000 people were murdered under his reign. Guatemalans are finally feeling they can move forward and the rule of law may return to their country.

The Iraq war has cost over 2 TRILLION DOLLARS and rising Over 200,000 killed including 123,000 civilians, 1 million displaced. Depleted uranium used by the U.S. military even though it is illegal according to the Geneva Convention, has increased the cancer rates in Iraq from 40 per 100,000 in 1991 to 1,600 per 100,000 in 2005 and rising.

In Fallujah the congenital malformations of new born babies surpasses even those found in the wake of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I have seen unbelievable photos of babies born with a Cyclops eye, huge malformed heads, intestines formed outside their bodies, to name just a few grotesque abnormalities.

Pediatrician Dr. Samira Alani has been documenting these birth defects on her own with no assistance from Baghdad, which would rather ignore these facts. She feels the occurrences are far larger than she sees because many give birth at home and probably dispose of the babies.

According to journalist Dahr Jaimail, who reported extensively on the Iraq war, and has just come back from there,

the situation in Iraq is totally out of control.

The Maliki government has 3,000 people on death row and there are between 12 and 20 executions every day. Parents who send their children to school are fearful and almost used to the fact that they may not return home.

Before Bush the Lesser rushed into Iraq, life was not a piece of cake but there was a thriving society with education, health care, electricity and sanitation. Now, none of that exists.

Corruption in Iraq is rampant: Haliburton, Cheney's company, made over 39 BILLION DOLLARS on the war. A conflict of interest if there ever was one!

Before the invasion, Sunni and Shia intermarried and got along, there was a funny term they called themselves they were "Sushis". Now however there is enormous sectarian divide all thanks to Bush the Lesser.

When I hear President Obama, and Bush before him, make statements about rogue nations and "...nothing is off the table" when addressing Iran and North Korea, I shudder to think Obama might just be stupid enough to entertain another disastrous war.

Why are Iran, Venezuela, Cuba and any other country that will not roll over to the demands of the U.S. considered "rogue."

How many countries have they invaded and destroyed in the last 50 years compared to the United States. I think we rather than they qualify for the name "rogue."

The only reason President Chavez has been so vilified by the U.S. government and the corporate press is because he offered Latin America an alternative to U.S. hegemony and the IMF.

So when you hear politicians start ranting about dictators and worrying about human rights, women's rights and gay rights in other countries, be very wary and look underneath the language. Those statements are usually followed by talk of war.

DON'T allow another disaster such as Iraq. Demand that we TALK instead of fight. Do not let Netanyahu and Obama lead us into war with Iran.

If you want even more proof of the atrocities the US committed in Iraq, search out a film released on March 21 in Europe, produced by the Guardian "James Steele, American's Mystery Man in Iraq." It is being shown all over Europe and the Middle East and except for Democracy Now has sparked little interest by the corporate-owned media in this country.

I wonder why.

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# EDITOR'S DESK

## THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE

### NEWS ANALYSIS

DANIEL MORROW

In February the Virginia Shooting Sports Association, which describes itself as “The Official NRA State Association,” reported on comments from citizens of Western Loudoun County at a Board of Supervisors public hearing about permitting skeet shooting in the eastern part of the county.

According to the VSSA, the session “quickly turned into a gripe session from people residing in the western portion of the county where residents not only can hunt, but can also shoot on their private property if they are not within 100 yards of an occupied building, within 50 yards of a highway and 100 yards of a park or school.”

Citing a story from Leesburg Today, the account quoted Purcell-vill area resident Kathleen O’Neil. “I would like less shooting in Loudoun County not more. We residents of western Loudoun routinely listen to the discharging of firearms on Sunday. It’s morning, noon and night. It is time we change our laws to limit discharge of firearms in Loudoun.”

The VSSA then noted that “Comments like these are what we have been hearing in more rural counties as former urban and suburban residents move to the country to either retire or to get away from the noise and traffic the city. It’s almost as if these people had no idea that people in rural areas like to shoot on their private property.”

The organization called for residents of the rural west to “let your supervisors know you do not want additional restrictions on your right to target shoot on your private property.”

On March 6 Supervisor Suzanne Volpe of the Algonkian District introduced, and the Loudoun County Supervisors passed unanimously, a measure to liberalize the regulations governing shooting clay pigeons in the east.

The measure, according to Supervisor Janet Clarke of the Blue Ridge District, would have no effect whatsoever on shooting or zoning restrictions in the western part of the County.

#### Incidents in Western Loudoun

Complaints about gunfire are not new in Western Loudoun.

A member of the Mosby Heritage Area Association’s Board told the Eccentric that he and several of his neighbors had banded together to protest what had become for all practical purposes a shooting range near his home near Middleburg some twenty years ago. The shooting, he remembered, went on for what seemed like hours at a time and included heavy weapons.

A resident of Leesburg, and a columnist for the Eccentric, reported that he had recently complained to the Leesburg Police Department several times about what he called “ongoing gunfire” near his neighborhood on Route 15, just south of the city. As the father of a four-year-old, he was concerned both about the safety of his child and those of his neighbors. Leesburg Police, he said, could not help because the firing was being done on County land, just outside the Leesburg City Limits. The Country Sheriff’s office could not help, he said, because the firing, though noisy, appeared to be completely legal.

Two years ago, just north of Waterford, the Publisher of the Eccentric heard what was clearly recognizable as machine gun fire coming from a house in a neighborhood just north of his home on Milltown Road. He soon observed two young men, taking turns, firing a fully automatic AK-style assault rifle at something float-

ing on a pond overlooked by several houses. They had fired at least two full magazines by the time he notified the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Department, and waited.

As he waited, the target (apparently a propane canister) exploded, sending a plume of smoke high into the air, causing at least one nearby horse to throw its rider, and bringing residents from nearby homes out into their yards to see what was going on.

Volunteer firemen from Lovettsville arrived, sirens screaming, in minutes, and were soon joined by a county deputy sheriff.

The deputy approached the house where the two young men were last seen; knocked on the door; and waited. No one appeared.

Later, according to the Loudoun County Sheriff’s department, it was found the automatic weapon was properly licensed.

No one was apparently charged with any other offense.

Two weeks ago, the Eccentric’s Publisher heard rifle fire loud enough to be heard over the firefight in “Saving Private Ryan.” From his deck he observed two hunters approaching, in pursuit of what appeared to be two deer, one still dying, lying in his back yard.

They did not have permission to hunt there.

He called the County Sheriff. The hunters fled, leaving the deer behind.

Later, a third deer carcass was found.

In Middleburg, residents have complained in the past about hunters working dangerously close to the Town Limits.

Police Chief A.J. Panebianco told the Eccentric just before press time, however, that, since he’s been Chief, he has had no similar complaints about gunfire.

#### Northern Fauquier

Just south of Marshall, Virginia the Fauquier County Sheriff’s department responded on several occasions to complaints from a resident about what was described as an informal shooting range and weekend shooting “parties.” According to the complaints the shooting would go on for hours, sounded like it included rapid-fire weaponry, and was potentially quite dangerous.

Inspection of the site revealed that weapons were not only being fired nearby, but that bullets were being fired across a hiking path and into his property.

The Sheriff’s deputies sent to the scene initially appeared to believe what was going on was legal, and advised the property owner not to walk on threatened parts of his own property while the firing was in progress.

Follow up by a Fauquier Supervisor produced different conclusions about the legality of what was going on as well as its propriety.

#### Gun Owners

All of the people noted above who complained about either excessive noise or dangerous behavior were and are gun-owners themselves.

All appeared to be firm believers in the right to bear arms.

But all were concerned about when, where and how some gun owners chose to exercise those rights.

Given the effective range of modern weapons, the “legal” distances governing target shooting or hunting (50 yards from a road; 100 yards from an occupied building or school) seem clearly inadequate.

The Publisher of the Eccentric calls upon the Supervisors to reconsider the laws governing acceptable weaponry, noise and ranges in the west.

## JUST A KID!

JOHN P. FLANNERY

I’m just a kid, 16 ½ years old. The half year matters. I’m getting older. I play b-ball and F-ball at Park View High School and can palm a ball. I like rap, rhyme and rhythm. I hang with great kids, no h8ers, and I’m blessed that they seem to like me. My Mom and Dad are fine. My Dad’s white and my Mom’s black. So I’m like President Barack although I’m Caleb and my parents are race-reversed. Like a verse I’d rehearse. The other homes on Pullman Court are like ours - all nice - very much the same.

My friends joke I’m “black Irish” – so we’re going out tonight – to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. It’s quiet in my house so I’m going to sneak out now, and go out with my friends. Huck Finn did this kind of thing. Right?

We are going to a party, and got some beers to drink. I’m feeling like what must be kind of drunk, having a swimming, spinning, swooning feeling like my head or my consciousness is pulling away and then coming back again.

We’re going home now – after 2 in the AM.

We’re trying to figure out in the dark which is my house from the rear yards. We found a window unlocked. In a few minutes, I’ll be tucked in, dead to the world. My hands are free to steady myself.

There’s some guy in the hallway on the way to the stair well between me and my room. He’s acting all upset. Who is this guy? Why is he up and no one else is?

What was that noise? A gun? I’ll just run past him and get to my room, get to bed, and sleep. I’ll be safe then. If I’m in my room, then maybe no one will realize I was out at all.

What is that loud thundering sound? God, I’m being pushed so hard and fast on my left shoulder. It’s breaking me, knocking me down, like no pain I’ve ever felt. It’s coming through my shoulder, through my heart! I can’t breathe. I feel faint, cool in the face, and this warm wetness washing over my chest. What has he done to me? He’s behind me. I can’t turn to see. So fast this is happening, and yet seems so slowly happening like to someone else. I want to stay awake, not to sleep. There’s this unimaginable mind-numbing suffocating pain.

Now there is nothing, the absence of sound and feeling.

This must be a dream. I’m in the mid-distance between the window I entered and the sun door I’m entering.

Like through a mist, I feel my parents holding each other and crying. Men are coming, reassuring them, to no good effect.

I hear words spoken of warning shots and .40 caliber bullets.

They say I was in someone else’s home; that was my home.

I’m having a waking nightmare. I see my body on a shiny metal table torn apart, the left side a grizzly blood-stained mass, things not in their right place, and sense my parents want to see me – what was me – my body – what’s left - but no one will let them.

If only someone would speak for me, say what happened tonight – so everyone could know.

No worry. Soon I’ll wake up. It’s what we all talked about at school, how those 20 elementary school students were killed in Connecticut, that’s what has me dreaming this, that and the drink. Such a thing could never happen in Loudoun!

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