



MIDDLEBURG SPRING RACES

PAGE 14



**SHEILA C. JOHNSON DEBUTS
MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL** PAGE 4

WAITING FOR SALAMANDER

DANIEL MORROW

The projected fall opening of Salamander Resort and Spa continues to shape Town Council discussion, projections for maintaining and shaping the future "look and feel" of the Town of Middleburg, taxes and fees, police work, water use, and plans for promoting the Town and managing its economic development.

Council and Town Administrator Martha Semmes continue to work on the Town Budget for FY'14 using careful but very conservative projections of increased tax, fee, water and sewer revenues from the new Resort and Spa operations.

The impact of the opening on traffic, both on the streets and through the town's existing businesses remains a matter of hope, concern and educated guessing, some of it highly sophisticated.

The police department is staffing up. Town staff is moving people and furniture around to optimize the use of both space and staff time.

Working committees are being restructured, revitalized, and better coordinated.

The town will change fundamentally and forever in less than half a year and everyone in town government seems actively engaged in making sure that the experience will be not only positive, but as trouble free as possible

Landlords, Storefronts & New Business Recruitment

At Town Council's March 28 Work Session Councilmember Kevin Hazard reiterated that Middleburg was about to experience "an enormous change that would bring in more money and an influx of people" while noting that, in his opinion they, "have not planned for it."

The Middleburg Business & Professional Association, Hazard said, had met with Middleburg landlords to discuss ideas for filling some of the empty rental space in town.

Town Council, he suggested, should become actively involved in the recruiting process. With the opening of Salamander, he noted, "Middleburg would have money coming in that it could use to help fill the empty spaces."

Hazard further suggested the Council empower Economic Development Coordinator Cindy Pearson to develop a list of businesses the town would like to see open in Middleburg and "go after them."

Mayor Betsy Davis observed that the Town has long planned to conduct "a survey of the residents to determine what they would like to see." Once that survey was done, she noted, the Town could then use the results to approach the owners of empty buildings, say "this is what would work well here" and ask them to bring in a business of that type.

Councilmember Bundles Murdock, noting that "she really cared about the landlords," recommended "they be told that they needed to bring their rental rates down." According to Murdock, "the landlords needed to be sent a message about the empty buildings."

Councilmember Kathy Jo Shea agreed in principle, but observed "that everything could not be put on them." If a landowner had a mortgage, Shea noted, he has no choice but to repay it. Creative ways to bring in businesses "with the cooperation of the landlords," she said, was the way to go.

Town Planner David Beniamino reminded Council that both the Federal Street and the Planning Commission's survey results mentioned rents. In his view, he said, the easiest way to make rents go down was to increase the supply of rentable buildings.

Town Administrator Semmes suggested that Genie Ford, of the MBPA and Chair of Visit Loudoun, brief the Council on what the MBPA was doing. She also noted that an ad-hoc committee was currently putting together information on economic development to support Town Council.

Council Retreat

Council is also hard at work recruiting a facilitator to help manage a June or July weekend "retreat" to shape priorities for Middleburg for the post-Salamander future.

One candidate, Tyler St. Clair of the Weldon Cooper Center, Shea reported, had indicated that her approach would be to conduct individual interviews with the members of Council and discuss the issues they raised during the course of a one-day retreat.

Shea also spoke, she said, with Mike Chandler of PlanVirginia; Chandler's rate for helping with the session would be \$100/hour, she reported, for twenty-five to thirty hours of work.

St. Clair's rate was, according to Shea, "a little lower" and she would be willing to use a survey instrument, rather than face to face interviews, which would reduce her time.

Shea promised to provide Council with a more accurate projection of approaches and costs as soon as possible.

Teaming Up

Town Administrator Semmes has agreed in principle to provide support for Town Planner and Zoning Administrator David Beniamino as work in the Planning and Zoning office expands. Council approved the idea, noting that Semmes deep experience in those areas was both a rare and sometimes invaluable asset, especially in view of an expected increase in demand following the

Continued Page 13



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NEWS OF NOTE

MARY SOUTHWELL HUTCHISON



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS LEES

Mary Southwell Hutchison died suddenly on April 4, 2013 after a bravely fought battle with cancer. She was 65 years old. She was Honorary Secretary for the Orange County Hounds, Treasurer for the Virginia Foxhound Club and an agent for Washington Fine Properties until her death. Mary

South will be greatly missed by the community. She leaves her brother, Richard H. Hutchison 3rd, two first cousins, Lloyd and Joann who live in Maryland and a step-sister, Margaret Littleton. Donations in her memory may be made to the Piedmont Environmental Council. 45 Horner St., Warrenton, VA 20186

MEAD STONE

Mead Stone died at Noble Horizons in Salisbury, CT on April 10, 2013. He was 92. Born and raised in Garden City, New York, he was the son of the late Mead and Lily Stone. He graduated from the Kent School and Cornell University. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army during World War II, was wounded in France and received the Purple Heart. In 1949 he joined the College Division of the McGraw-Hill Book Company, later was named executive assistant to the president, and in 1964 became an executive in the Book Company's International Division, finally assuming the presidency of the International Division, a position he retained until his retirement in 1979. He served on the Board of Recording for the Blind for many years. After retiring from McGraw-Hill, Mead moved to Middleburg, Virginia to pursue his life-long interest in horses. He was a member of the Orange County, Virginia Hunt.



Mead lived in New York City and Millerton, New York, in his final years. He is survived by many life-long friends and by eight nieces and nephews and their families. Funeral services are private. Arrangements are under the direction of the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546 To send an online condolence please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

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NEWS OF NOTE

SHEILA C. JOHNSON DEBUTS MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL

THE BEST INDEPENDENT FILMS, WORLD-RENOWNED FILMMAKERS, ACTORS, AND INDUSTRY EXPERTS TO CONVENE IN HUNT COUNTRY ANNUALLY

Recently, Sheila Johnson announced the debut of her annual film festival to a diverse group of film VIP's who had gathered at Boxwood Winery for a festive press party. The first Middleburg Film Festival is scheduled to run October 25th through the 27th this autumn. The festival will present three days of the best in independent film in the stunning Hunt Country setting, that is only a 30-minute drive from Dulles International Airport and one hour from Washington, D.C.

Middleburg Mayor Betsy Davis thanked Sheila for her continuing commitment of the economic, academic and intellectual development of Loudoun County.

"We are so fortunate that Sheila

loves this area," said the Mayor.

Plans call for a carefully curated selection of narrative and documentary films will screen in an intimate theatre environment, followed by thoughtful and lively conversations with world-renowned filmmakers and actors, film subjects, and opinion leaders. Films will include current festival favorites, premieres, and Academy Award contenders.

Special guests already confirmed include Director Lee Daniels (Precious, The Butler); special correspondent Vanity Fair Maureen Orth; former U.S. Senator and now CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America, Chris Dodd; and Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell.

The weekend will kick off with

a festive "Meet the Artists" dinner where guests will enjoy an evening of casual conversation with distinguished filmmakers and actors. Other events throughout the festival include panel discussions and conversations with filmmakers, artists, and industry representatives. The festival will close with a special "Awards Brunch" - recognizing the audience's favorite films of the festival.

Official festival venues include the soon-to-be-open Salamander Resort & Spa (opening in August 2013), Boxwood Estate Winery, the Hill School, the Middleburg Community Center, the historic Red Fox Inn, and the Middleburg Country Inn.

Festival attendees will also be able to experience the natural beauty

and warm hospitality of Middleburg during morning hikes and horseback rides through the picturesque Piedmont countryside... late afternoon wine tastings at local vineyards... strolls through the historic Village... and relaxing and engaging with other filmgoers.

"As an avid filmgoer, film producer, and member of the Sundance Institute, I have wanted to bring a film

festival to Middleburg for a long time," explained Sheila Johnson. "I am delighted to announce the beginning of this annual event."

MFF Executive Director Susan Koch added, "We hope the Middleburg Film Festival will be distinguished by a carefully selected slate of films, the spectacular setting, and insightful and thoughtful panels and conversations.

ARF'S THIRD ANNUAL DOG FEST AND FAMILY GARDEN PARTY

Building on the success of previous years, The Animal Rescue Fund (ARF) is preparing for a fabulous time for families with children and their four-legged friends.

This year's inspired addition will be a Blessing of the Animals by Pastor Adam Sowder of the Rectortown Methodist Church who has graciously offered his services.

Set in the pastoral countryside of Delaplane, Virginia, the event is scheduled for Sunday, May 19th. As always, guests will enjoy delicious, plentiful food and beverages and music will be provided by Michelle and The Fabulous Exaggerations.

There will be lots of prizes for dog tricks and dog costumes and delightful favors for children.

Vendors with animal oriented goods and a dog walk will be available. Face painting, pony rides for children, raffles and a Bazaar of spring items will add to the fun planned for all.

As in previous years, animal organizations that have benefited from ARF Grants will be present. Many will bring animals ready for adoption. Included are The Middleburg Humane Foundation; the Fauquier SPCA; the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center; the Equine Rescue League; the Gingersnap Girls; Cause Fur Paws; the Virginia German Shepherd Rescue; Golden Dreams; Save the Tails and Webberpack Animal Adoption and Getaway (WAGG).

"The response and help from

residents and local businesses has been quite overwhelming" said ARF President Jennifer Richards. "Joanne Swift from The Shaggy Ram in Middleburg has been a God-send while long-time animal advocate and sponsor Rose-Marie Bogley, regarded as ARF's guardian angel, is this year's Event Advisor. Mary Johnson is once again Event Chair."

Underwriting sponsors include Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars and 'MARS Petcare', US, Inc., who have been incredibly generous in donating 'PEDIGREE' supplies for distribution to local shelters.

Individual sponsors include philanthropists Manley Johnson and Ron Bradley as well as Allen Richards, Ken Rietz and Rhonda & Howard Wilkins. Local wineries including Three Fox Vineyards in Delaplane, Vintage Ridge in Rectortown, and Narmada Winery in Amisville, have generously provided wine.

2013 saw the number of ARF Board Members increase by four. The present Board is very pleased to welcome Catherine Boswell, Dede McClure, Laura Neischel and Angelica Webber. For a complete list of Board Members, please visit the ARF website.

Adult tickets to ARF's 2013 Dog Fest Garden Party are asked for a donation of \$100 while children and dogs on a leash are welcomed at no cost.

For reservations and directions, please call 540-364-9123 or email us at arf@arfrescueva.org.

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BETSEE PARKER RESCUES HISTORIC UNISON STORE

Dr. Betsee Parker, an important local preservationist, has purchased the restored Unison store and donated it to the non-profit Unison Preservation Society to become a community and history center.

Dr. Parker, owner of the historic Huntland Estate, came to the rescue of the store after it had been on the market for two years.

Preservation Society President Harry Bigley said "Dr. Parker's generous gift will guarantee that the store and its half acre of open space will continue to be the center of village and area life and activity, as it has been for more than 140 years."

Settled in the 1730s, one of the first five Quaker settlements in Loudoun, the Unison area is today considered one

of the best preserved places in Virginia.

The store is at the center of the Unison Village Historic District and the new 8,000-acre Unison Battlefield Historic District. Both are on state and national historic registers.

The village is also at the center of Loudoun's Beavercreek Creek Historic Roadways District, the only one of its kind in the nation. More than half of the Unison area is under conservation easement and more than half its roads are still unpaved. Loudoun has more dirt roads than any county in Virginia.

Other Unison neighbors are rallying around Dr. Parker's \$400,000 gift by starting an endowment to help create and maintain the new community/history center and the new village green. To support

the gift of the store, neighbors already have pledged more than \$50,000 to start the endowment.

The store and the half-acre around it are in the center of the village northwest of Middleburg, at the intersection of Unison and Bloomfield Roads (Routes 630 and 626).

Today's quiet country crossroad sees little traffic, except for local commuters, horse trailers and tractors, walkers and bicyclists and many neighbors on horseback, including members of the Piedmont Hunt, the nation's oldest fox-hunting club which has its kennels just outside the village.

The annual Unison Heritage Day Fall Festival is held at the store, which last October commemorated the 150th anniversary of the 1862 Battle

of Unison with a two-day Civil War reenactment.

This is the second time in 12 years that the 19th Century Unison Store has been saved.

In 2001, when the store was in near derelict condition, bankrupt and slated to be sold at public auction within the year, neighbors founded the Unison Preservation Society to help save it.

They did that by creating the village historic district, which made all historic buildings eligible for generous state and federal rehabilitation tax credits. Local builder Coe Eldredge, working with UPS, bought the store on the Leesburg Courthouse steps, outbidding two developers who planned to demolish it. Eldredge restored the store to National Park Service standards, considered the gold

standard of historic preservation, using those state/federal rehabilitation tax credits.

Dr. Parker, a PhD in theology, philanthropist and patron of the arts, bought and restored Huntland and its stables, kennels and buildings and put them under conservation easement to protect them permanently.

She is an avid competitor in hunter jumper shows and last fall she broke the record for the number of horse show championships won by a single owner at Pennsylvania's prestigious Devon Horse Show. Her Huntland team of hunter jumpers then won Junior Hunter championships at both the Pennsylvania National Horse Show and six championships at the Upperville Colt and Horse Show.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION PLAN

The Mosby Heritage Area Association has contracted John Milner Associates, Inc. to develop a preservation plan for the Civil War cavalry battlefields of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville. The preservation plan is being funded by a grant through the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service.

"After an extensive request-for-proposals process, we con-

ducted several interviews, and now the Mosby Heritage Area Association is pleased to begin working with John Milner Associates," said Executive Director, Judy Reynolds. "The Mosby Heritage Area Association is especially pleased that the preservation plan is launching during 2013, which is the 150th commemoration year of these cavalry battles."

Confederate General J.E.B.

Stuart fought delaying actions against probing Union cavalry and infantry units in June 1863 to screen the movement of the Army of Northern Virginia into Pennsylvania prior to the Battle of Gettysburg.

Given the increasing population and development in Aldie, Middleburg, Upperville corridor along route 50, the Mosby Heritage Area Association decided to make these battlefields a top pres-

ervation priority.

Assisted by the Mosby Heritage Area Association, John Milner Associates, will be tasked with community outreach, including public meetings to gather public input for the plan, beginning this summer. Landowners and local government officials will also be consulted.

John Milner Associates produced the historic structures and cultural landscape reports for the

Washington Monument; campus heritage plans for Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University; and archeological data recovery at the National Museum of the American Indian.

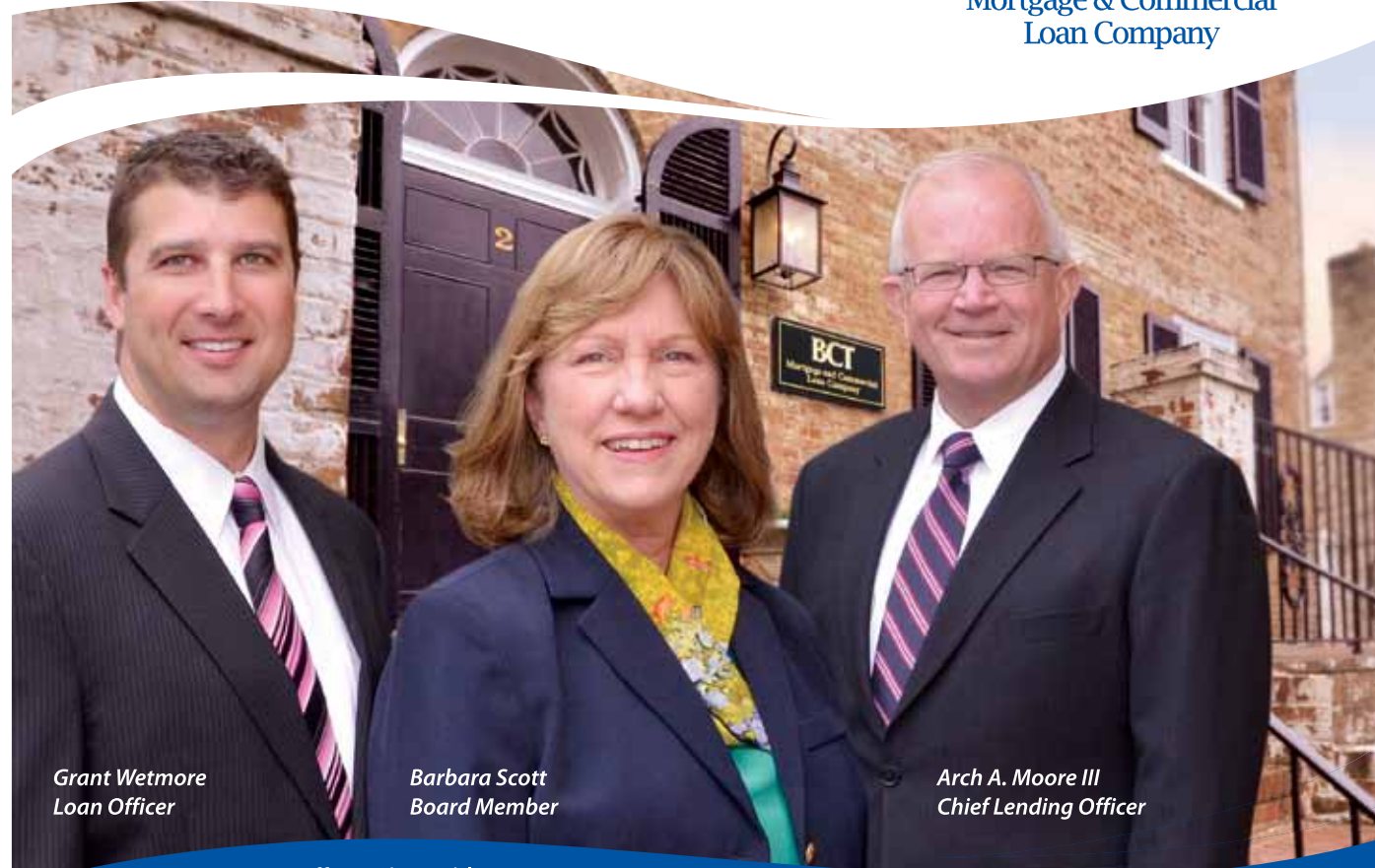
For more see www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp or the Mosby Heritage Area Association at www.mosbyheritagearea.org, 540-687-6681, or info@mosbyheritagearea.org.

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NEWS OF NOTE

GO GREEN & GET A GREAT RETURN!

MIKE APPLETON

Until now geothermal was the only ‘green’ heating and air conditioning option. While an environmentally sound choice—geothermal can be cost prohibitive for smaller residential customers. Geothermal remains an excellent choice for very large residences and for commercial properties but now there is an affordable ‘green’ option for the majority of residential customers.

Through the emergence of leading-edge, high-efficiency Greenspeed™ intelligence heat pump technology—‘green’ heating and air conditioning is now financially feasible for many more households. This new technology means exceptional ongoing energy savings

for customers and expanded long-term system reliability. It is now possible for the majority of homeowners to go ‘green’ and get a great return on their HVAC investment.

The Carrier® Infinity® heat pump with Greenspeed™ intelligence is a breakthrough product featuring the highest heating efficiency of any split-system air source heat pump. It provides heating efficiencies up to an unprecedented 13.0 HSPF (Heating Seasonal Performance Factor)—this is 29% higher than any other system in its class. It delivers SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) ratings as high as 20.5.

The Infinity® heat pump with Greenspeed™ intelligence is designed to more precisely match the home’s load requirement in both

cooling and heating modes. System controls monitor conditions and automatically vary the speed of the unit’s compressor based on the outdoor temperature, indoor humidity, and indoor temperature demands.

The Greenspeed™ intelligence system has many advantages:

It operates fluidly between its minimum and maximum capacity and delivers only the heating and cooling required at the specific time.

It is able to match the load of the home at much lower outdoor temperatures than standard heat pump systems.

The system has more heating capacity at low outdoor temperatures which results in less need for auxiliary heat such as electric strip heat or gas heating.

It can be upsized for more heat-

ing capacity without the summer humidity problems associated with over-sized single-speed units.

The system will match the load in cooling and work to dehumidify the space without the typical problems of short-cycling when the cooling load is low.

It provides increased heat pump run time and less auxiliary heat operation which means more energy savings for homeowners.

It can replace an existing heat pump without any major duct changes and it requires no digging or drilling like geothermal does.

The new Carrier® Infinity® heat pump with Greenspeed™ technology was designed with utility companies, as well as consumers in mind. Utility companies have optional load shedding programs that are in effect only during the cooling season. If a customer chooses to participate in this program, the Utility Saver feature enables the system to interact with a utility relay for load shedding during peak conditions. When the utility company sends the signal—the system reacts by shutting down or running at minimum speed. The system control displays to the customer that utility curtailment is active. Because the customer is informed, there are fewer calls to service technicians when the utility company has shut the system down due to peak demand.

A unique feature of this system compared to others is that it is a soft-starting system. The variable-speed drive gently ramps up the compressor at start up. It does not have the in-rush current of a standard scroll compressor which should minimize light flicker in the home and also be easier on the utility grid.

Greenspeed™ technology eases the strain on the utility infrastructure and is being recognized by utility systems as a positive step in going ‘green.’ Utilities in the northwest are awarding the highest rebates ever to customers who implement this technology.

Puget Sound Energy, a utility company in western Washington, is currently offering a rebate of \$800 to customers who install highly efficient heat pumps with at least a 10.0



HSPF heating efficiency and a 16.0 SEER cooling efficiency as rated by the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) to replace older, less efficient equipment.

Energy expert Dennis Rominger of Puget Sound Energy shared, “This is the highest rebate that Puget Sound Energy has ever offered in the heat pump category. The reason we are offering a rebate of this magnitude is simple—the more energy we can save collectively using energy-efficient products, the less we have to invest in terms of new infrastructure and the energy grid in general.”

It is possible that attractive rebates for high efficiency, utility compatible heat pumps such as the Carrier® Infinity® heat pump with Greenspeed™ intelligence will be put in place by utilities in our region in the future.

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HOLLY HEIDER CHAPPLE GROWS GLOBAL FLORAL DESIGN BUSINESS IN LOUDOUN



It’s a long way from helping her sisters fill 4,000 chrysanthemum pots with soil to being one of the country’s top floral designers, but success looks very good on Holly Heider Chapple.

One of the best-kept secrets in Loudoun County, Holly has been building an influential floral and event design business for 25 years, and it feels as if she’s just getting started.

“It’s a great time to revolutionize the floral and event design business,” Holly says emphatically.

Technology today has made it possible for me to share my ideas and inspirations every day with designers around the world. These are amazingly talented designers... we just need to be connected so we can share our knowledge and help each other.

“My blog, ‘The Full Bouquet,’ allows anyone, anywhere to follow our studios look, whether I’m writing about the most astoundingly beautiful wedding or a magnificent special event we’ve just designed.

“What I didn’t anticipate was the amazing response ‘The Full Bouquet’ generated. Fabulous designers from across the country and around the world contacted me with compliments and requests for help. It was in response to those requests that I organized my first classes, and it was the success of those classes that inspired me to create the ‘Chapel Designers’ network.”

Today, Holly’s trend-setting designs have an impact around the world and her ‘Chapel Designers’ are in almost as much demand as she.

“This morning I answered an email from a Chapel Designer in Michigan who needed the name of a very specific vine we use. She had attended our recent New York classes and was so grateful for my help.

“I thoroughly enjoy helping my Chapel Designers create spectacular work.”

This beautiful young Loudoun County designer, who could easily double for the Swedish actress Liv Ullman, grew up in Lovettsville and later moved to Leesburg where her father, Albert Heider, owned Heiders Nursery.

Although every year, Holly and her sisters dreaded their dad’s annual mum-pot-filling assignment, they filled those pots happily.

“We were all expected to help with the nursery and when I was little, I thoroughly enjoyed ‘designing’ with my dad.

“My dad still runs Heider’s Country Store in Lucketts. Years ago his parents were produce farmers, so he grew up in the business too.”

Among many other clients, Holly’s dad did landscaping for The Folger Library. His work was well known and highly regarded in Wash-

ington, D.C.

Holly’s parents were also responsible for the décor and landscaping at the Washington International Horse Show. When Holly’s dad was asked to do the fresh cut florals for the Horse Show he assigned the task to her. It was to be Holly’s very first design job.

“Daddy took me to Florida Avenue to introduce me to the Wholesale Flower Market. It was my very first experience with cut flowers. I quickly learned what was possible and how much I could really do.

“It was a massive assignment,” Holly remembered. “From hundreds of boutonnieres to Jump décor, party arrangements and more.

“I knew enough to get it all done and the client was very pleased, but the greatest lesson for me was simply learning how to manage the scale of the assignment.

“Today, one of my greatest pleasures is designing major events for demanding and creative clients.”

After years as an influential local floral designer, Holly is now recognized as a major event designer. Her work has been featured in Martha Stewart Weddings, Southern Living, The Knot, Bride’s Magazine, The Editor’s Pick for Washingtonian Magazine and Weddings Unveiled Magazine.

One of her wedding bouquets was featured on the cover of Southern Living.

Today, ‘Chapel Designers’ are taking Holly’s ideas around the world.

“I’ve now trained Chapel Designers from 22 states and many

Balancing Act

How does Holly manage her busy business, balance 175 annual event orders, train hundreds of professionals and raise her seven children without a blinding overload?

“First, I have to thank my Dad. Working with him and growing up in his business taught me about professional responsibility at a very early age. I quickly learned how to scale, source and complete assignments.

“Secondly, I owe my husband, Evan, enormous gratitude for everything from asking me to bring his family my first bouquet to leaving his job as a telecommunications engineer to become the CEO of my company.”

That first bouquet, collected from the fields along Loudoun County country roads, led Holly to create a highly evolved and complex design style that characterizes her intricate and luxurious florals to this day.

Evan is also the keystone of Holly Heider Chapple Flowers production and operations excellence.

“He is a superb manager,” says

Holly. “He’s added a great deal of production to our property and we recently became an official agricultural business. We are documenting everything we cut from Evan’s gardens and how they inspire my designs.

“I love what the land here

produces. It’s heaven to go out to Evan’s gardens and find things that make my work unique.”

In addition to managing the studio, Evan also manages the Lighting & Draping Design Team, a new service.

But Holly and Evan’s life is not only about the business.

“Without Evan’s help and commitment, our fabulous children would not have the support and balance they need. Whether its one of our Original Four: Alex who’s 26, Abigail who’s 20, Hannah who’s 19 and Riley who’s 15, or one of our Bottom Three: Elijah who’s 7, Samuel who’s 6 or Grace who’s 4, Evan has made it possible for us to balance our life and for me to find space for my career.

“I do worry about the little ones because I work so hard. But now we’re always here in our home studio and workshop when they arrive on the school bus, and we participate fully in their school activities.

Holly began her career at the Leesburg Flower and Garden Show assisting her father with his booth and bringing lilacs and spring flowers from her property in Lucketts to make bouquets. It was there that people first began to ask her to create their wedding and special event flowers.

“Those first requests were really the beginning of my wonderfully creative and satisfying career. I owe Loudoun County a great deal for having confidence in me and helping me meet the clients that became the foundation of my business.”

Holly tries to respond, ‘yes,’



Continued Page 17

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HOW DO I FIND MY PERFECT HOME?

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JAMES ATKINS

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So what is the most effective way to find your perfect home? "Create a written strategy for your search," advises realtor Kathryn Sink of Purcellville. "Set your priorities, determine your desired location, define the perfect home for you and your family, set the maximum price, and stick to that plan."

Finding the right house in your location can be a difficult task. You should

search some of the sixty plus internet sites, Zillow, Trulia, Realtor.com, home-database.com, et al. Some 90% of home buyers are now doing this. You can also look in newspapers and magazines but these are proprietary to specific firms and are designed to make you call the company for information. Company websites are better, with more info, but they are also limited to that which the company wants you to see.

Is a realtor needed and will it cost you? You are not required to use a realtor but a good one can be of great assistance, without cost to you, because the seller generally pays your agent. A realtor's experience and wisdom, knowledge of the law and seller behavior, awareness of neighborhoods, and access to homes you may not have found or that may not be on the internet, will help you. A good realtor will guide you through many tough problems and is likely to obtain the best result

for you. If you don't know one, a referral from someone you trust is the best approach. If you are moving to a new area, have a realtor in your present town recommend realtors, or you could ask your new employer to recommend an agent, as do my own client companies.

Remember, the seller, not the buyer, is supposed to pay the commission for a successful contract, but some agents may ask you to pay them if the seller refuses. My advice in most cases; do not agree, but do sign an agreement that commits the two parties to an exclusive relationship so the agent knows you are committed to her or him.

If you drive your target location, you are likely to see for sale signs, and a few may have a brochure, a QR code, or a number to call for recorded or live info. You can also download free smartphone or iPad apps, like HomeSnap, that give you the home's info. For Sale signs direct

you to the seller's realtor who may also like to represent you or to assign you to another realtor in their brokerage. In Virginia, one realtor can legally represent both parties if advice to both parties is not given. But advice is the essence of a realtor's contribution, so don't agree to dual representation, engage your own realtor.

If the home is For Sale By Owner, again, ask your agent to call, but remember, there is no obligation for the owner to pay your agent. If they refuse, you should consider offering your realtor a fixed fee in return for specified services. They won't be pleased with losing a 1-3% of the closing price commission, but your best interests should prevail.

Open houses are also great opportunities to learn the market, but here, again, the agent there usually represents the seller so you would be wise to talk to your own realtor. Always disclose to the open house agent that you are working



with your own realtor, if you have one. It's the same with new home developments; the people in the sales office represent the builder. So look, but use your own realtor to safeguard you from unfortunate situations. Next month: The offer and closing the deal.
James Atkins is President of Homes For Leaders Real Estate. jim@homesforleaders.com

ON THE LIFE OF ANNETTE WRIGHT

RICHARD A. ENGBERG

Annette Wright, my wife Lynne's only sister, died in Reston on March 21. She was 62.

She had suffered for well over fifteen years from what most people, me included, would have considered a crippling, indeed, totally incapacitating stroke.

Annette, however, was having none of it. And neither was Lynne.

Their determination, and courage, and love for each other have been an inspiration, and with your permission I'd like to share a small part of their story.

Annette was a native of northern Virginia. She graduated from Wakefield High School, earned her BA in business administration from Roanoke College, an MBA from The George Washington University, and did post graduate work at Virginia Tech.

She played in tennis tournaments in Annandale, and played field hockey and basketball in college.

She loved music, and played piano, organ, trombone, and guitar.

When personal computers were developed, Annette bought one of the first and began a life-long love of the machines that would change the world.

For most of her working career, including the very day of her stroke, she was an evaluator, a manager, in charge of audits with the Government Accountability Office. As she put it, "I was a workaholic."

Annette suffered her stroke at Thanksgiving, in November 1997. It was bad: a brain stem stroke brought on by an arteriovenous malformation. Annette barely survived.

She was in a coma for several weeks and was left with locked-in syndrome. Her "self," her personality, was completely there but, at first, she was unable to communicate.

Lynne was not accepting this situation...

She worked tirelessly with Annette and, over the years, they developed several means of communication, the most effective of which was a system based on carefully spelling words one letter at a time.

For over 15 years, Annette lived a life perhaps as full as that of any of us.

As a resident in a care center in Reston, she eventually participated in many activities, made day trips, and enjoyed many visitors.

Lynne and Annette went to Walmart once a month. Lynne and I took her to Great Falls Park, to Washington to see the cherry blossoms, to movies, to shop at Tyson's Comer.

Annette loved to go to Reston Town Center to sit by the fountain. Even though she only had movement in one bent wrist, she could play the piano keyboard, write on a whiteboard, and feed

herself pureed food.

Annette attended several church services each week at the nursing home, and made a wonderful friend in a woman from one of the churches who visited weekly to play the guitar and sing for the residents, and sang requests for Annette.

She became active with Brain Injury Services, and during her last year, speaking through Lynne, gave presentations to BIS and other groups.

The most astonishing thing about Annette was her spirit. She never gave up. She had a deep faith; she was not bitter or depressed. Everyone who knew her wanted to know how she did it.

According to Annette, after her stroke she simply changed her expectations - she accepted a new "normal."

"Normal people see the big picture," she spelled to Lynne. "Brain injured people see the details. Normal people see the whole scene; I see the flowers."

"I have been thinking about reducing expectations," she once spelled. "It is difficult and takes a long time."

"The first question is how do I recover? It takes a while to accept the answer. It is not fair to me. I have not done anything to deserve this. But it just happened. There is no one to blame."

"Accept life as it is given you," Annette told us. "You do not have a choice. It will not work for you to get angry. If it would work, I would get angry."

"Qualities that are valued by the normal world are not valued in the brain injury world," she told us. "Efficiency is not the priority for the brain injured person. Patience is extremely valuable."

Speaking of her sister, Annette said, "Your helper is a critical part of the process. She sees small improvements that you do not see. She always greets you with a smile and a positive attitude. I do not think I could have made it alone."

"It is very important that people understand that major improvements may not happen for years."

"If I had any regrets," she signaled, "they would be that I did not celebrate the small things in life; moving my right hand, my right leg, or talking. It is the mundane things in life I miss the most."

"My all time favorite ice cream is mint chocolate chip."

She once said, to everyone's amazement, "The stroke was the best thing that ever happened to me."

Then she explained: "It forced me to quit my job which I mistakenly thought was important. It forced me to give up my hard-charging life style. I valued people more for their intelligence. I learned to value them for the mere fact that they were born."

"Accept what it is and move on," she said. "You cannot see forward until you accept the new path."

I cannot begin to explain Annette's wonderful attitude and spirit, much less explain how she did it.

She reduced her expectations and didn't dwell on the way things used to be. Once she played tennis. After the stroke, she batted a balloon, with equally extraordinary concentration and enthusiasm. She concentrated, she aimed, and she hit it as hard as she could.

She loved football; there was no bigger Redskins fan. She even bet on Super Bowls with me.

Right up to the day she was taken to Reston Hospital, she had fun. She participated in everything that was offered to her. She made decisions; she had favorites; she had opinions; she voted.

She was involved to the fullest in her life and she looked forward to the next good thing. She loved her family. She loved her friends. And she was es-

pecially fortunate to have a caregiver as dedicated as Lynne.

Together they truly moved mountains.

Annette was a remarkable and inspirational person.

During the years of her disability, she grew immeasurably and she positively impacted the lives of every person with whom she interacted.

Annette wanted people to know what a gift life is. She cautioned that we should not decide the severity of an injury beyond which we would not want to live. She said, "Life is valuable."

Annette once spelled for Lynne, "I am enjoying my retirement, thanks to you. I am happy."



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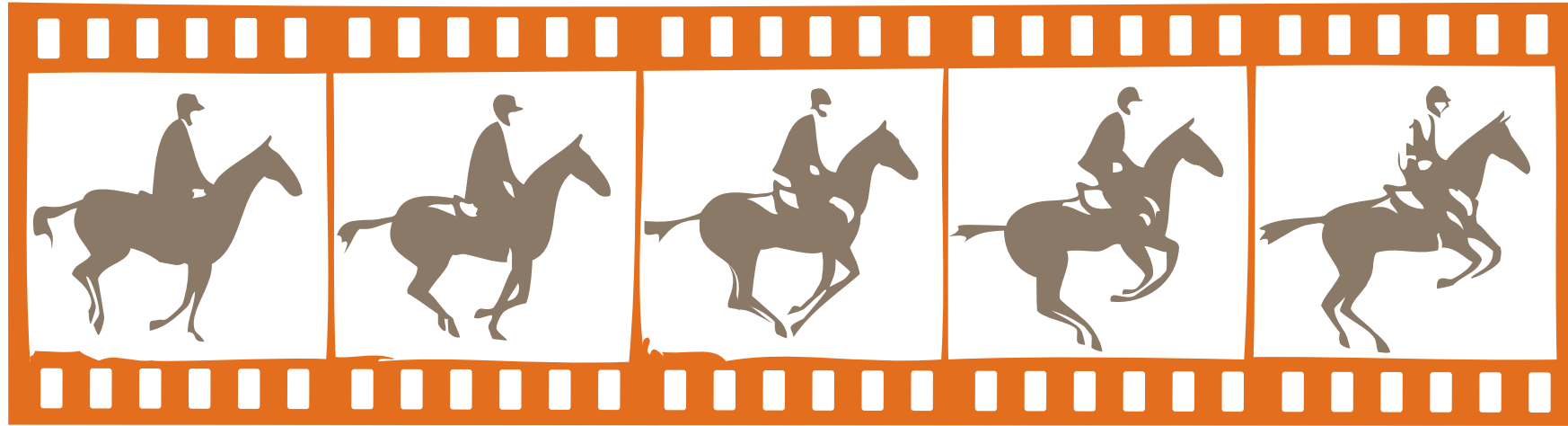
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WAITING FOR SALAMANDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MIDDLEBURG LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

Salamander opening.

Town Planner Beniamino's Planning Department has already been moved to the second floor of the town offices to provide more space, as well as relief from interruptions, caused by the increasing amount of foot traffic passing through the Town's first floor offices.

Draft Utility Budget

Town Administrator Semmes continues to project no increase in water rates for Fiscal Year 2014, though sewer rates would increase by roughly 10% overall.

Water and sewer revenues, however, are conservatively projected to rise to by roughly 27% in FY '14, "in part due to the new user fees and in part due to Salamander's use of the system."

Semmes observed that current projections called for Salamander to use roughly 31,500 gallons of water per day, an estimate based on information provided by Salamander's engineers.

She also noted that the Town would not really know the true level of water and sewer use by the resort and spa until Salamander was actually up and running, and that the Town would not realize the increased water revenues until November, assuming the Town completes a switch to bi-monthly billing in July.

Thus, Semmes noted, it would be "a while before the Town knew how much money it would get from Salamander in the coming year."

Councilmember Littleton noted that the overall water/sewer rate increase was only around 4.5%, not the worst given the quality of the services provided, and that the Town is still having to gradually replace infrastructure that, in some cases, had been in place since the 1940's.

Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk agreed, but noted that, sadly, periodic "brown water" caused by the regular flushing of the town's systems still led some residents in her part of town to bring in bottled water.

Mark Snyder reminded Council the town's brown water problem was not anywhere near as bad as it was ten years ago, and that the water, though discolored, is perfectly safe for drinking.

Mayor Davis reminded Council that utility customers could now pay their bills online and asked the Town Treasurer to be sure that notice of this option appeared on all the town's water and sewer bills.

Town Administrator Semmes reported that the Official Payments system would reduce the online bill paying fee from \$7.95 to \$3.95 once the Town shifted to bi-monthly billing.

Real Estate Taxes

Councilmember Bundles Murdock reminded Council "that the County's real estate assessors just came through town, and opined that

the property owners could expect an increase in their assessments."

Town Administrator Semmes suggested that, if the Salamander opening went well, Council might actually consider reducing the Town's real estate tax rate next year.

Middleburg School

Councilmember Murdock reported that she had been approached by a neighbor who said the Middleburg Elementary School was "at risk again."

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, she noted, "did not approve the School Board's funding request, and was proposing that the School Board close all of the small schools."

Town Administrator Semmes confirmed the School Board had been instructed to cut some \$16 million from its budget for the next fiscal year.

Mayor Davis reminded Council "that money was being raised for an endowment fund so the school could not be closed." The proposed endowment would be structured to cover the difference between available county funding and the cost of continuing to operate the school.

The financial and administrative structures that would be required in that case, she noted, were still the subjects of ongoing discussion.

The Pink Box

Town Administrator Semmes reported that the Economic Development Coordinator was working with Visit Loudoun to get professional help to cover Thursdays through Sundays at the Pink Box.

Economic Development Coordinator Pearson reported that the Pink Box Advisory Committee had not met for years. She advised that she would get them together.

Pay Raises

Discussions continue about whether or not to raise the pay of Middleburg's Mayor and Town Council members.

The amounts currently under consideration are: \$200/month/person for Council and \$6,000 per annum for the Mayor.

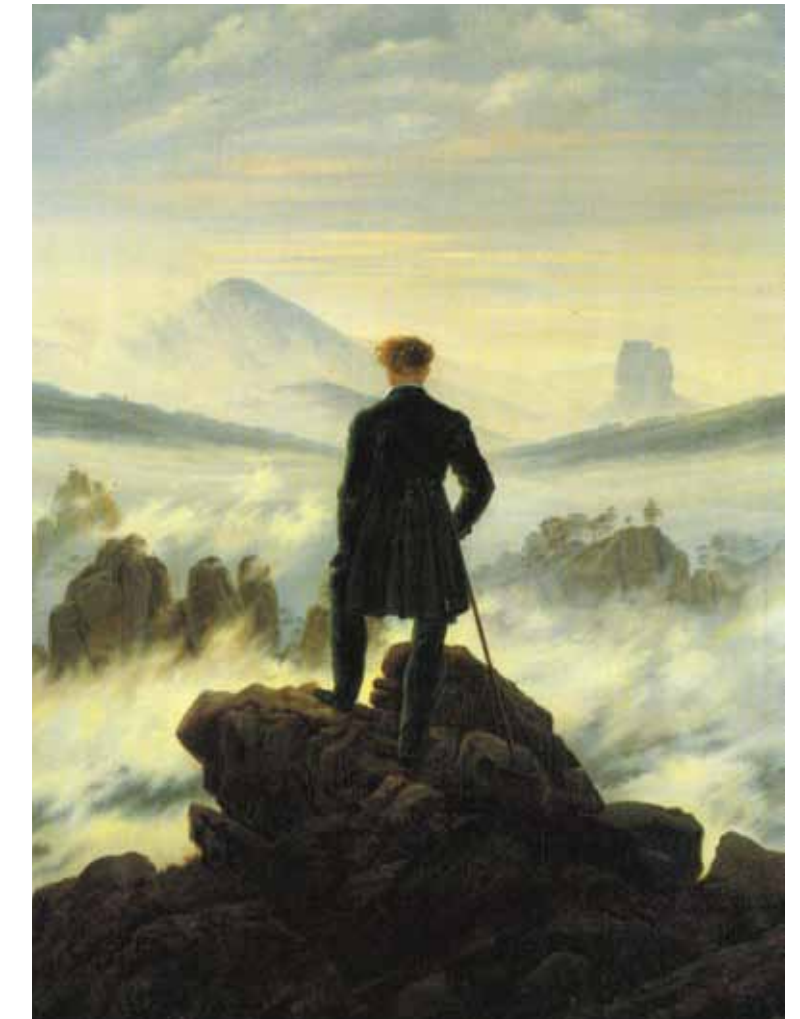
Though no final decision has been made, Council appears to be inclined to appropriate funds to cover the raises, but to wait until mid fiscal year before deciding whether or not to implement them.

Library Expansion

At the March 28 Work Session, Councilmember Snyder moved, seconded by Councilmember Murdock, that the Council approve a request from the Middleburg Library Advisory Board to waive the \$500 site plan amendment fee associated with the expansion project.

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FABULOUS OPENING EVENTS FOR SIR ALFRED J. MUNNINGS EXHIBIT AT NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM



JACQUELINE B. MARS, WILHELMINA COLE HOLLADAY

Sir Alfred James Munnings would have been greatly amused, and immensely pleased by the standing-room-only turnout for the opening night celebrations of the Munnings: Out in the Open exhibit at Middleburg's National Sporting Library & Museum.

"The best Munnings exhibit I've seen anywhere in the world," one knowledgeable patron murmured while gazing at the 1913 portrait, *The Morning Ride: Florence Munnings on Horseback*, 1913. The beautiful painting, one of four he painted of his first wife, is a precursor to the sporting portraits for which he is now so well known and highly admired.

"This exhibit is impeccably staged and hung," remarked another Munnings admirer who was savoring the paintings as she

slowly moved through the stunning galleries."

Without question, the entire NSLM team has done themselves proud with this landmark exhibit, but clearly, Claudia P. Pfeiffer, the NSLM George Ohrstrom Jr. Curator, and F. Turner Reuter, Jr. who chairs the Museum Management, Exhibitions and Collections committee deserve exceptional accolades for the organization and presentation of this wonderful Munnings show. Nineteen generous lenders provided almost seventy open-air paintings for the exhibit, the largest exhibition of his paintings in the U.S. in the last thirty years.

As Chairman Manuel H. Johnson noted, "Alfred Munnings, as one of the most recognized sporting artists of the twentieth century, a published author and vocal proponent of the preservation of the countryside, speaks to the core interests of this institution and its mission to preserve, share and promote the art, literature and culture of equestrian, angling and field sports."

In addition to a private tour of the Munnings exhibit, the 400 guests at the gala opening events enjoyed a delightful Cornish dinner that concluded with a preview of "Summer in February," the soon-to-be-released movie about a time in the life of Munnings and fellow plein-air painters of the Lamorna artist colony on the coast of Cornwall.

Based on Jonathan Smith's novel of the same title, the movie, to be released in London this

June, is a marvelous depiction of Munnings' dark early life on the Cornwall coast where he, his very good friend Gilbert Evans and the beautiful, enigmatic Florence Carter-Wood ambled through a tense and troubled time.

"I wanted to do them justice," Smith said. "Their fates were closely bound whatever their mystery and secrets."

The film's lead producer, Jeremy Cowdrey, had studied with Smith at Tonbridge School in the 1970's, as had Dan Stevens, one of the film's stars, who had been directed by Smith in the 1990's. Dan Stevens may best be known to American audiences as the young lead in the BBC's series, *Downton Abbey*.

Pippa Cross and Janette Day, the film producers, were also in attendance at the Munnings Exhibit opening gala.

"It was a tremendous pleasure to bring "Summer in February" to the screen and to be in Middleburg for this marvelous event," Janette explained.

"We sincerely hope to organize U.S. distribution while we are in the United States," added Pippa "... and we are so grateful the National Sporting Library & Museum for choosing to include our film in these festivities."

"Bringing the film to life, and bringing it to a wide audience has been as unforgettable as finding the story of these staggering events in a Cornish cove in the first place," said Jonathan Smith.

American moviegoers will thoroughly enjoy "Summer in

February" when it opens in the United States.

Meanwhile, museumgoers should not miss the Munnings: Out in the Open exhibit at the National Sporting Library & Museum. It will not travel to any other venue, and it is a stunning

show which will run through September 15, 2013.

For details about the Munnings paintings exhibit, and the display of his unpublished letters and drawings in the Library, please visit www.nsl.org.



GERRY PARSKY, SUSAN AND MICHAEL PILLSBURY



SUSAN KOCH, DANIELLE BRADLEY, SHEILA JOHNSON, GRACE BENDER, MARY LEVKOFF, JEREMY COWDREY ("SUMMER IN FEBRUARY" PRODUCER), GIARDY RITZ

GLOBAL FLORAL DESIGN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

whenever she is asked for help because she is always excited to do 'more.'

"In fact, 'more' is truly characteristic of me," she explains. "My most beautiful creations benefit from my insistence on more flowers, more natural material, more beauty, more creativity."

She also understands the importance of stewardship.

"We try to help everyone we can in Loudoun County. From Interfaith Relief to the Garden Club, we want as many citizens as possible to enjoy beautiful flowers."

Holly is relentless about the promises she makes to her clients.

"When I set my sights on a certain element or blossom, we find them. And the growing network of 'Chapel Designers' allows me to provide the talented, dependable professionals every client needs to have beautiful events and environments. Whether you're in San Francisco, Paris, Middleburg, Manhattan, or the White House, if you're working with a 'Chapel Designer,' you'll be exceptionally pleased."

"The designers who train with me to become Chapel Designers understand my standards, my vocabulary, the quality we demand and the level of service our clients expect. Once they've completed their training, they and our clients benefit enormously from mutual synergies, creativity and access to ideas and to sources."

Without the technology revolution and the ease of communication between clients and professionals, Holly knows she would not have been able to create her growing

global business.

"Today, it's not unusual to receive an early morning email from a new client thousands of miles away who has seen my work on the web and wants my assistance to design an event. They may wish to fly me in for a consultation, but, if I cannot make time, they will always take my recommendation of a Chapel Designer."

"That is radically different from years not so long ago when my clients couldn't see my work easily, and had to meet with me to have the confidence they needed to sign a contract and give me their deposit."

This past weekend, while Holly was once again creating bouquets at the Leesburg Garden Show, Chapel Designers were doing weddings in Barbados and at The Plaza in New York. At the same time, Holly's Luckett's Studio team was delivering two weddings in Loudoun County and one in Washington, D.C.

The studio was filled with thousands of Roses, Peonies, Tulips, Lilies, Larkspur, Stock, Asters, Verbena, Cherry and Apple Branches, Rice Flowers, leafy boughs, Charreuse Carolina Lupin and more, more, more.

"I see the floral business racing to catch up with what technology now offers designers. And I want to help designers everywhere win that race."

Holly's wedding rate requires a minimum commitment of \$5,000. All event design deposits are predicated on custom contracts. For Holly's services and to view her design portfolios, please visit 703.777.8227 www.hollychappleflowers.com



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WASHINGTON FINE PROPERTIES (WFP) PAYS TRIBUTE TO MARY SOUTH HUTCHINSON

July 29, 1947 – April 4, 2013

Mary South Hutchinson, a veteran real estate specialist with Washington Fine Properties (WFP) — formerly Armfield Miller & Ripley Fine Properties, passed away April 4, 2013 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Her esteemed colleagues, clients, members and visitors of the Orange County Hounds and Virginia Foxhound Club will miss Hutchinson's powerful presence in both Virginia hunt country real estate and in the world of Virginia foxhunting.

An accomplished horsewoman in the hunt field, hunter trials and show hunters and jumpers, Hutchinson built a lifestyle and career where her passion for horses was the centerpiece. From her devotion to enriching the Virginia countryside community that she called home for most of her life -- to her intimate dinner parties with the closest of friends -- to her long, successful, and enviable career in real estate -- Hutchinson lived each day to its fullest. And somehow, her avid love for the horses, and her commitment to the Orange County Hounds, were always front and center.

"Mary South's dedication to her 40 year career in real estate was unparalleled," stated Gloria Armfield, Associate Broker of Washington Fine Properties and former Owner of Armfield Miller & Ripley Fine Properties. "Mary South was a fixture of this firm, a pillar of strength in our tight community, and an irreplaceable Member and Honorary Secretary of the Orange County Hounds."

"Mary South leaves us with a legacy of achievements, accomplishments and community contributions, but it's her journey that we must cherish," continued Armfield. "We cherish her warm and effectuous smile, compassion for others, but most importantly, the strong principles by which Mary South lived her life."



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PROGENY

BRYAN WHITE’S RETIREMENT IS GREAT COMMUNITY LOSS

After years 26 years of operation Middleburg Christian School will be closing its doors. Founder and Director, Bryan Wright, will be retiring this year. This vivacious personality has educated and influenced the Middleburg community for many years.

Although the school will be missed, Mrs. Wright will continue to serve others. She has organized Christmas parades, pageants, graduations, and teas that we will keep in our memories forever. Her commitment to serving her community is unprecedented in involvement and time given.

Virginia “Bryan” Wright came to Middleburg in 1970. Her first position out of Greensboro College, North Carolina, was to teach 2nd grade at Hill School where she taught at the Hill School for four years. During this time she met and married Edward T. Wright of Middleburg, Virginia. They have two daughters, Mary Houston and Elizabeth. She now has two grandchildren, Henry and Cate.

The family attended Emmanuel church where Mrs. Wright worked with children as the Director of Religious Education for 20 years. She began a children’s choir, an acolyte

guild, and worked with the church’s youth group.

Mrs. Wright began a Brownie troop in the 1970’s. Under her leadership, Troop 242 in Middleburg grew to be one of the largest in Loudoun County. Mrs. Wright led the Troop for fourteen years.

Together, with her husband, she was a founding member of the Middleburg Regional Library.

In 1987, Mrs. Wright began The Friends of The Parish House School, whose roots stemmed from the directorship of Anna Gulick and Shirley Hutchison. The school moved from the Aldie United Methodist Church to Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

The Friends of The Parish House School became a charitable trust 501-C3 and the school’s rapid expansion led to the school relocating first to The Middleburg Methodist Church and then to The Middleburg Baptist Church.

It was re-named Middleburg Christian School in 2000.

After four years of having two locations, the school was reunited at The Middleburg Baptist Church. Presently, Middleburg Christian School classes are held in The Middleburg United Methodist Church.



PRINCIPAL LYONS IS DELIGHTED TO JOIN MIDDLEBURG AND ALDIE ELEMENTARIES

Wonder is the beginning of wisdom, according to Socrates, and Shawn Lyons, the new principal at Middleburg and Aldie Elementary schools is committed to create a learning environment filled with wonder and fascination for his students.

“I want kids to love to come to school,” Shawn emphasizes. If we do our job well, it will be a long time before they think of learning as work. If they never think of it as work, we’ve done our job.”

The charming and dedicated young man credits his wife, Susan, with recognizing in him the desire and ability to teach.

“She was so right,” he continued. “We were both working at a summer camp in Armonk, New York and I had been encouraged by the Parks and Recreation Department to be creative.” I set up a climbing path and obstacles for the children and, after

watching me for a morning, Susan said, ‘I’ve never seen anyone set up an obstacle course for five-year olds!’

Shawn had just graduated from Hamilton College and thought he might pursue a Ph.D. in sociology to do research.

“No,” Susan said, “You definitely need to work with kids!”

Shortly thereafter, the new principal decided to ask Susan on a date, and, although a few details got in the way, the first date was a definite success, and they were married three years later.

A sports lover, Shawn played football in college.

“Hamilton plays football in the New England Small College Athletic Conference,” he explained. “All the rankings are alphabetical and no one plays to be ‘on top’. It sends a clear message that academics come first.”

The Lyons family, Shawn, Susan and their two sons, Patrick and Thomas, has lived in Loudoun for eight years.

Before accepting the Middleburg and Aldie positions, he was the Assistant Principal at Pinebrook near Aldie.

“We had almost 1,100 students at Pinebrook,” Shawn says. “In Aldie and Middleburg combined, I have almost 200 students. I love the intimacy that exists at these two schools. Everyone knows everyone, and they take good care of each other.”

“Each of these schools has been threatened with closure, so we know what we’re up against, but the staff, the kids and the families are so well connected that the schools are intensely positive places.”

“I wanted to be part of something like this...bringing positive energy and supporting the hands-on critical skills kids respond to so well.”

Karen Roche, the former principal at Aldie and Middleburg Elementaries, accepted the principal’s position at the new Moorefield Station school, creating the opening that Principal Lyons now fills.

“It’s an honor to have this responsibility,” Shawn continued. And, with the new open enrollment policy, it is possible that many Loudoun parents will look seriously at enrollment here. Many parents believe in the public school experience. I certainly do. Now, it will be possible for us to welcome any Loudoun County elementary school student.”

“I’ve taught in both public and private schools,” Shawn taught at New Canaan Country School in Connecticut and The Hackley School in New York prior to coming to Loudoun.

Some people prefer private schools, and others believe in what public schools offer—the public school experience. I certainly do. I think at Aldie and Middleburg we can provide the best of both experiences.”

Both Middleburg and Aldie Elementary Schools are kindergarten through fifth grade.

Although the new principal is more comfortable subscribing to the STEAM rather than simply the STEM best learning practices (in

EXCITING KITE FLYING DAY ON THE MALL



Three local student artists flew championship kites at the recent Blossom Kite Festival on the Mall

in Washington, D.C. Jorge Ibarra’s Animate kite took first place, Guadalupe Sandoval’s Firebird kite took second place and Noah Fell’s Nuclear Design kite flew to third place.

Joan Gardiner once again supervised and supported the young kite artists at Teen Saturday at Hill School.

“This year’s first prize in the adult category was two round-trip Turkish Airline tickets,” said Joan. “I’m confident that it won’t be very long before our kids will be flying even higher!”

FOXCROFT WALKATHON RAISES FUNDS FOR ‘ROOM TO READ’

Foxcroft School’s Junior Class raised more than \$3,500 Friday to build a school library in a developing nation with a walkathon that saw more than 140 students, faculty, family and friends trekking five miles under bright if slightly cool skies. The event’s beneficiary, Room To Read, is a nonprofit dedicated to spreading literacy, education and gender equity in developing countries.

Before the walk, Junior Class President Miranda Gali of Middleburg, her fellow officers and Junior Class advisors Barbara Conner and Deb Hogan thanked those who had helped organize the event, as well as all the enthusiastic participants. Huntington Lyman and Claire Nichols, two local residents, Hill School faculty, and longtime supporters of Room To Read spoke to the group about what the organization before joining in the walk along Foxcroft and Snake Hill roads.

Room to Read, a nonprofit based in San Francisco with offices around the world, works with communities and local governments in developing countries to establish libraries, create local language children’s literature, construct schools, and provide education to girls in areas where it is not common.

Foxcroft’s Junior Class has a goal of raising \$5,000 – enough to create an entire school library – and a deadline of May 1. Individuals who want to support the effort can make tax-deductible contributions of any size. Checks payable to Room to Read may be mailed to: Class of 2014 Walkathon; Foxcroft School; P.O. Box 5555; Middleburg, VA 20118 or given to members of the Class. .

The Foxcroft Walkathon is organized each year by the School’s Junior Class, which researches and chooses a beneficiary, elicits sponsorships from local businesses, families and friends, and educates the Foxcroft community about the organization it has chosen. The culmination of the project is the walk, which, in recent years, has raised thousands of dollars for an AIDS unit in Ghana, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and Less Cancer.

CASWELL BENNETT WINS EXCEPTIONAL GENIUS AWARD

Middleburg Academy Senior Caswell Bennett’s entry in the Shenandoah Regional Science Fair at James Madison University caught the attention of scientists interested in promoting environmental projects and earned him an “Exceptional Genius Award.”

In addition, Bennett received an invitation to participate in an international high school project fair on environment, known as the Genius Olympiad, that takes

place this June in Oswego, New York.

Caswell, a 2013 National Merit Scholarship Finalist, is still, like many of his classmates, weighing his college options.

His project, which he calls “The Free Energy Generator,” was designed to generate a voltage from nothing more than ambient radio waves.

“This could,” Caswell explains, “be a possible way to create ‘free energy’ -- that is energy that has no physical source.”



FLEUR-DE-LIS MONTESSORI OFFERS KINDERGARDEN

Fleur-de-lis Montessori School is offering an opportunity for families from all different backgrounds an affordable, diverse and rich curriculum to meet the needs of children between the ages of 2 to 12 years old.

Fleur-de-lis Montessori School, founded in 2008 in the historic district of Middleburg, VA, is building on its own unique approach to education with the addition of an elementary program starting in the fall of 2013. Our mission is to provide an affordable, economically diverse, safe and loving bilingual Montessori school, offering children a balance of structure and freedom in their academic development while also fostering an understanding of life beyond their native context.

It is becoming increasingly important for children to be prepared to engage with the world. For the children of today, the opportunities that will be available to them as adults will increasingly be influenced by their ability to interact with the world. As such, Fleur-de-lis Montessori School includes language and global studies as part of their core program.

Upon entering the school, you may see a small group of children sitting on the floor, with an adult facilitating a lesson.

Other children will be working in groups or individually on lessons they have already been assigned. There are child-sized shelves full of Montessori materials for hands-on learning. Classical music plays in the background, and the air is full of pleasant chatter in French and English reflective of the cheerful buzz of meaningful and interesting work.

The property that houses all of this, the Emmanuel Parish House, is modest and simple, yet beautiful. Outdoors, there is a spacious playground where children participate in science lessons, physical education and, of course, free play.

The French immersion programming is embedded in their daily activities. But since this is a bilingual school, it is done in such a way that the children’s ability to progress in English is not sacrificed.

Children begin learning French by ear and through lessons designed to build vocabulary and basic verbal expression. Significant periods of each day are devoted to this. In the elementary program they will continue with vocabulary enrichment but progress into more intermediate lessons and exercises involving

reading, writing and basic conversation.

As their skills improve, they will also progress through increasingly advanced lessons covering grammar and basic literature, like Le Petit Prince. The ultimate goal is to give children not only the ability to function in a major world language, but also the mindset to appreciate and more productively engage with all of the different ways of life they will encounter.

It is a private school that is affordable but also provides a culture of balance where the give-and-take is the same for everyone, regardless of background. The financial model proposed here helps to achieve this through financial leveling and the total financial commitment of each family must be modest and based on a proportionate share of their overall financial capacity.

Given this funding model, our school footprint is kept modest. Maintaining a small environment cultivates a greater sense of ownership among teachers and a more authentic connection among students, teachers and parents. Keeping it small means keeping it simple, which in turn means maximum focus on the children’s experience.

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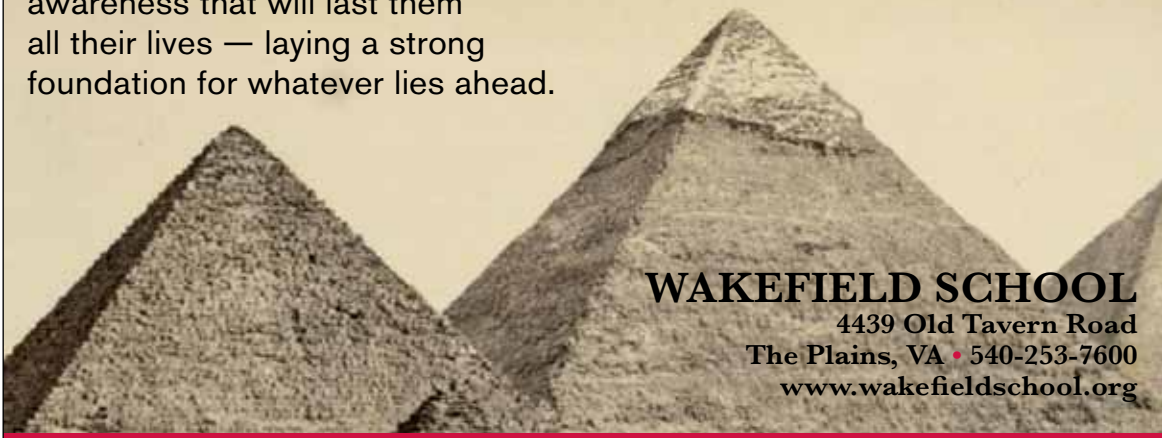


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small weeds, can become big
problems. One particularly
bad boy is hairy bittercress, the short
weed that flings seeds in all directions.
An ephemeral plant, which means it
lives for a very short time, the short life
is more than made up for with abundant

seed. The power to launch seed from the
seed pod is amazing, each tiny gift of life
can fly 16 feet through the air to land far
away from their origins. Of course this
was the plan all along, another demonic
threat that "will take over the world". The
plant itself looks innocent enough, tiny
white, 4 petaled flowers are produced in
succession along a slender stem. A cardi-
mine, specifically Cardamine hirsuta, one
of 200 species of which 49 relatives can

be found in Virginia. Not a native, but
related to dentaria, our native toothwort
of shady places with larger white flowers.
We should consider ourselves lucky, only
1 presents itself as a real weedy invasive.

A few of our weeds not only
spread by seed but by trailing stems. Dead
nettle does just that, covering the fields in
purple as it comes into flower with hairy
leaves that are also purple. The leaves are
edible, if you can get past the smell and
hairy leaf. Super rich in antioxidants, con-
sider a smoothie with crushed dead nettle
leaves, bananas and citrus. This member
of the mint family is called dead nettle
because it doesn't make the stinging
nettles of a close relative (stinging nettle).
Yes, it's an odd way to describe its lack
of painful barbs. If you wander through
your weed patch enough, you might find
another dead nettle species, Lamium am-
plexicaule, meaning lamium with stems
clasping. The difference is in the color of
the flower and the lack of purple in the

leaves. If you could call a weed pretty, it's
this one. And with that I should mention
that lamiums are pretty, hybrid forms are
for sale at your local nursery, you may
have a few in your garden proper. Names
like 'White Nancy' and 'Purple Dragon'
describe the flowers but the leaves are
often silver or patterned with silver. Not
native plants, but certainly happy enough
to thrive.

On a personal level, my worst
weed is Glechoma hederacea or gill-
over-the-ground. The common name ba-
sically means - flirty girl over the ground.
Speaking from experience, she's more
than a flirt! This perennial spreads rapidly
when temperatures are cool. The flowers
are small and purple and the plant is ca-
pable of spreading by seed but rarely pro-
duces viable seed in our climate. A native
of Eurasia, I can't imagine her being any
happier than in my garden. Glechoma
will spread into your peonies and iris like
there's no tomorrow. An interesting snip-



pet of information, the oil in the leaves
was once used to clarify beer, before
hops. Used by the Saxons, or early Ger-
man tribes, you know before the merger
of Anglo-Saxons. I would suggest that
we consider going back to that, gather all
of that flirty girl, er... glechoma you want!



A VIRTUAL REALITY

THE ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

The video game industry is huge.
In terms of US and worldwide
entertainment industry sales, the
video game industry ranks as
high or higher than other forms of enter-
tainment, such as the movie, music and
book industries.

While the older of us lovingly
recall arcade games going from me-
chanical devices to electronic ones, such
as PONG and PacMan. The addictive
premise has never changed, it's only got-
ten more real and I'm starting to believe
that reality now has more people playing
tennis in a virtual world than on a real
court. Of course, also tapping into this
growth includes many other stick and
ball sports and racing.

Make no mistake, this industry,
while an entertaining one, is all about
creativity and artistic vision. Take the
artist out of the equation and the virtual
business of virtual reality is gone, dead,
poof! Partner that artistic vision though,
with creative software programming and
the game of realism has amazing poten-
tial for learning, exploring and I think
eventually even commerce.

Where graphics of only a decade
ago were crude, much like looking at a
block wall. Today the same block wall
would be seamless, stuccoed and paint-
ed. Curved lines were very obviously
a series of short straight lines and today
they are just curved lines. Artists were
always capable, the computer graphic
software needed to catch up and it has.
Today, I am convinced artists can cre-
ate any world they want you to virtually
move through. The entertaining part of
it is really just a product, but one with
demand.

I'm convinced good or bad, the
future will delve us much deeper into this
virtual world, with the use of multi screen
rooms, special headgear or even the use
of holograms. Thus making the experi-
ence a 3-D one where you are enveloped
by that virtual world. Today it is a for-
ward looking world where everything
happens on a screen or screens in front
of you. Virtual artists know the tricks
of perspective and diminished values to
create distance or topographical changes
and their artwork is plenty effective. But
if you could look behind yourself or ro-
tate yourself 360 degrees instead of hav-
ing your field of view rotate as we have
today, the reality would be even greater.
This will be the next step and it is going
to happen.

Recently, as part of a commission
project I am working on with Lockheed
Martin, I was invited to fly the F-35 joint
strike fighter flight simulator. As one
of the most advanced pieces of military
equipment in the world, the simulator of-
fered as real a virtual world as needed to
train pilots to master the flight controls
and feel of the F-35 before actually fly-
ing it.

This simulator uses a three screen
system to create a panoramic view. You
are actually sitting in a well developed
cockpit with all the flight controls at your
disposal. The F-35 quite possibly could
be the last fighter jet we may manufac-
ture that actually carries a pilot on board
and frankly parts of it already operate
like a cross between a video game and

an iPad, making it one of the most user
friendly planes to fly. There's even a
specially designed helmet connected to
downward facing cameras, which allow
the pilot to see under the plane and night
vision capable. It's no wonder the cost is
so high. It is a remarkable piece of equip-
ment.

Simulators such as this and even
far less expensive home game stations
are remarkable though, in that they do
give you a physical connection which
makes the heart rate climb. You are
able to sense risk and react to it, even if
the risk isn't really there. Your brain is
fooled by incredible graphics - artwork.

While some games have a dark
or down side, I still think the future will
offer amazing things. The capability is
already there for a person who might not
be able to afford a trip to Paris or be ca-
pable of walking the cities streets, to visit
virtually, go up in the Eiffel tower and
even visit an art museum. Who knows,
you may also be able to shop while
you're there too!

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A VISIT LOUDOUN DESTINATION RESTAURANT

PASTIMES

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

7TH INNING STRETCH
ALEX CUDABACK

This is exactly the start to the 2013 Major League Baseball season the Nationals did NOT want to see.

Make no mistake, after a little more than one-tenth of a season, a record of 10-9 is no reason to hit the panic button and start looking for trade partners.

Heck, even a record of 3-7 over their last 10 games is no real reason to start jumping at shadows.

What doubt might be starting to creep up on people, though, tickling the backs of their necks and sending clammy little shivers down their spines, centers on the sense that the weight of expectations might be getting to this group of guys everybody considered overachievers just seven or eight months ago.

Just last October, the Nationals finished with baseball's best regular season record. Their 98 wins were a franchise record, blew the cover off baseball's best-kept secret and, most importantly, ratcheted up excitement for the 2013 season.

People who just assumed the team really was named "*Nationals*" suddenly hopped on the bandwagon and began asking when World Series tickets were going on sale.

A certain national sports publication, well known for jinxing athletes and teams for generations, went out of its way to hex not only the Nationals, picking them as their preseason fa-

vorite to win it all this year, but also pointing its bad juju finger at young Stephen Strasburg, one season after his tantalizing, innings-limited 2012 campaign.

Since then, the Nats have gone 8-1 against the Miami Marlins and Chicago White Sox, two last place teams with every expectation to be non-contenders this year. Against the rest of their opponents? This early in the season the math is pretty easy: 2-8.

And only one of those two remaining wins came against a team in their own division, the Mets, nobody's early season pick for much of anything except, maybe, for team most likely to pin its hopes on 2014 and beyond.

(The other win came against the Cincinnati Reds in a 7-6 nail-biter, one night after the Reds had beaten the Nats every way imaginable in a 15-0 rout that brought to mind nothing less than Hannibal and the Battle of Cannae.)

Strasburg, meanwhile, is sitting on a 1-3 record that looks much worse than it is. The big righty again leads the team in strikeouts, has a sub-3.00 ERA and is holding opponents to a .227 batting average.

The problem for Strasburg, and for the Nats as a whole, is, which, while certainly not putrid, is by no means pretty....

Last year's 98-win squad batted .261 for the regular season, good enough for 9th in the majors.

This year's?

.240. Good enough to be tied for 22nd.

Last year's squad also scored

the 10th most runs in baseball.

To date, this year's is ranked 18th.

Now, any Major League manager worth his salt (and Nats' skipper Davey Johnson is worth his salt, my salt, your salt, and anybody else's you want to bring to the party) will tell you they're much more comfortable waiting for bats to wake up than for pitching. You can go a long way with great arms and mediocre bats.

But even with vets like Jayson Werth and Adam LaRoche this is still a young team that could too easily begin to feel the weight of those pre-season assumptions pushing down a bit and begin to tighten up, begin to press.

Nobody's saying that's what's going to happen, and nobody's ready to abandon ship just yet. There's no better manager for this team or in this league than Davey Johnson. He'll do what it takes.

But if this team is still scuffling come June, people may be less concerned with Natitude, and more concerned with Slackitude.

###

Left for dead not so long ago, the Caps have caught fire and are steaming toward another Southeast Division championship. Which is a good thing because, as of now, it doesn't look like any other Southeast Division team is going to even sniff the playoffs. Ovi and co. seem to be playing their best hockey at the right time of the season, for once. Here's

hoping they can keep it up when it counts.

The NBA playoffs are under way, and you shouldn't feel bad if you feel like taking a nap. Watching who comes out of the west should be the most compelling reason to watch for the foreseeable future as LeBron James and the Pips seem poised to walk away again with another Eastern Conference crown. Maybe there'll be a speed-bump or two along the way, but I doubt it.

And to the brothers Tsarnaev

who, for reasons still unknown, took it upon themselves to spread terror and suffering amongst the people of one of America's oldest and strongest cities, you lose. Your actions, misguided and horrifying as they may have been, have served only to bring us all closer together, first in grief, next in anger, and lastly in resolve. You and yours will never win. Never.

Alex can be reached at cuda24@yahoo.com



WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?



BRANDY GREENWELL

Riders up!! Spring in Virginia's horse country is full of many equestrian events including the Virginia steeplechase circuit. Starting in March and going into May, there is a meet every weekend full of riders, spectators, tailgaters and most of them are dressed to be seen. As someone who has dressed many ladies for the occasion and has been to plenty herself, it can be challenging to find the perfect outfit for the terrain, weather and occasion. So here in lies some helpful tips on how to dress for the races.

First, I know this has been said before, but PLEASE, ladies, do not wear heels that can sink into the ground. This causes pulled calf muscles and that mobile hiccup effect where every other step creates a jerking motion to release your heels from the clutches of the soft, spring earth. Even if it is a wedge, ones that are too high to walk in over rough ground are reserved for professionals to accomplish with grace. And perhaps most importantly, your shoes must be comfortable enough for all day on your feet. No one, I repeat, no one likes to see the drunk girl, sling back in hand, stumbling toward the porta-john where she generally enters barefoot. It's just gross. Your foot fashion can make or break the day. Trust me.

Next, hats are often a staple at the races. If you are not confident enough to rock out a hat with pride, leave it at home as you will look like a little girl playing dress up instead of a Kentucky Derby diva. They are meant to accent your eyes and are NOT to be worn on the back of your head like Madonna or Boy George in the 80's. And along the same lines, just to

be proper, I should mention that a ladies brim should never be wider than her shoulders. That is an old rule, but still one to remember in order to get the most flattering style for you. Now, day of: I sincerely advise you to make sure they are secure somehow either by hat-pin or proper fit. And no, elastic bands under your chins do not count and one should be publically flogged for even thinking of it. It is never flattering to see a lovely headpiece blow like tumbleweed from tailgate to tailgate or decorative feathers take flight without their avian owners.

Anyone that has been to Glenwood Park, Woodley or Member's Hill at Great Meadow knows there can certainly be a breeze pass through the day, no matter what the temperature. I spoke of loose hats, but what about loose skirts? Mother Nature can be a prankster in the spring and you will get Punked if you don't dress accordingly. Skirts that are too short and flowy nearly always lead to an obscene moment revealing which style Hanky Panky, or in some cases, Spanx you prefer. And perhaps a finishing school lesson needs to be resurrected, please bend at the knees when picking things up. Full moons should be reserved for werewolves and downward facing dog. I guarantee, even if you think no one sees your blunders, one of the hundreds of guests did and have already put your wardrobe malfunction on YouTube.

So have fun, be safe and dress appropriately this month wherever you are going.

Next month. Semper ubi, sub ubi. But what are the right ones for me? The taboo talk of what goes under what you are wearing.

SWIMMING POOL HEATERS

EVERY HOME NEEDS ONE

DALE SCHULZ

Do I need pool heater?

Answer: If you have a pool you need a pool heater. Pool owners in Florida have pool heaters. You certainly need a pool heater here in Virginia. A pool heater can double the use of your pool. With a pool heater you can comfortably use your pool in May, September, and October. A pool heater is like heated seats in a convertible which allow you to extend the use of your car in the shoulder months. It also allows you to use your pool in the late evening in the Summer after the sun has set or for early morning swims.

What size pool heater do you recommend?

Answer: We typically recommend the largest residential size pool heater available, a 399,000 btu model. It minimizes the time it takes to heat your pool. The only reason to use a smaller size heater is if you don't have a ¾" or 1" gas line to service the heater.

I thought that propane was expensive?

Answer: It was a few years ago, but not today. Hunt Country Propane is delivering to area members for less than \$2.00/gallon and has been throughout the Winter and Spring months. In comparison, the price of gasoline is approximately \$4.00/gallon today.

How much does a quality pool heater cost?

Answer: Typically around \$4,000 which is minimal considering you are doubling the use of your pool.



We install Raypack and Rheem brand pool heaters.

My pool heater is 10-years old and hasn't worked in several years, what do you recommend?

In all but the rarest cases, it makes the most sense to simply replace your old pool with a new, more efficient heater rather than repair your old heater. It will make you pool much more enjoyable from May through October.

I don't currently have propane at my home but want a pool heater. Can you install a propane tank on my property?

Yes, we would install a 500 or 1,000 gallon tank dedicated to the pool heater.

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

Wealth Planning You Can Build On

"Some of us approach wealth planning by leaving it entirely to the 'experts,' often not fully understanding what it is they have recommended we do, while some of us throw up our hands and do nothing. Neither way is very wise."

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

Wealth planning—that is, the integration of lifestyle planning, asset protection and wealth transfer issues—can seem a daunting, almost overwhelming task. And the more assets we have, the more complex the task can seem.

This is why our family business, The CGE Group at Morgan Stanley, encourages families to discuss their specific wealth planning goals with us in a private setting. These conversations along with a comprehensive wealth plan become even more critical when families are faced with a transitional period, such as a significant life event. We can help you plan for these events.

We invite you and your family to contact ours to learn more about how we are helping families grow, protect and transfer wealth.

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PASTIMES

JUST BACK FROM..... GHOBI DESERT

EXQUISITE TRAVELS WITH MATT HANNAN

MATT HANNAN

August 8 was the auspicious date Chinese officials chose for the start of the Beijing Olympics in 2008. On the evening of that particular day I found myself alone in the lounge of the J. W. Marriott's newest luxury property in Beijing's Central Business District. My clients had left early that afternoon on the Yale University shuttle, via special access lane, bound directly for the Ai Wei Wei-designed 'Bird Nest Stadium', to attend the opening ceremony.

I sat watching the magnificent presentation of 4,000 years of Chinese cultural achievements on the wide screen television before me. Not only was I enthralled by the spectacle before my eyes, I was also contemplating what had just passed.

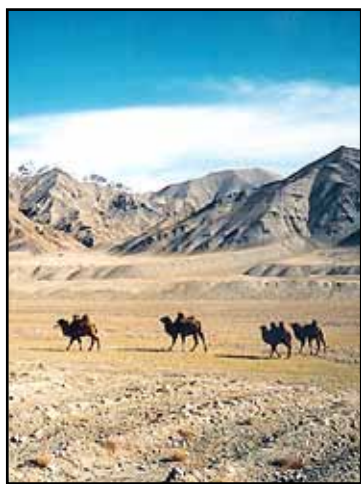
Two weeks prior, our small group of five began a journey through China, visiting Shanghai, Guilin, Xian and Beijing. In the midst of the

program was a fascinating excursion to the small town of Hami, located in Xinjiang province next to Mongolia, and a former stop along the fabled Silk Road.

No longer a feature on modern itineraries, Hami became a central attraction once again due to its proximity to the Gobi Desert. For that year one of the natural worlds most celebrated events was to take place - a total Solar Eclipse.

Not being seasoned eclipse watchers, we found ourselves in the midst of thousands of fans on a rocky gravel plain surrounded by low mountains skirting terrain the Chinese call Ge Bi Sha Mou. Many international astrological organizations had set up viewing positions so, as novices, we saddled up next to one and awaited the highly anticipated event.

Even as the evening approached, the sun was scorching. But just prior to 6 p.m. we noticed something began to change as a dark shadow drift-



ed slowly across the edge of the sun.

The outline of the mountain ridge in the distance became more pronounced, day turned to dusk and Venus and Mars appeared.

As the dark sphere of the moon entered into full eclipse, the sun's corona glowed around its edges and the crowd went wild.

For two minutes we held our breath, dumbfounded at the incongruity of it all and wondering if the world were about to end. But as the sun re-emerged we found ourselves still alive, breathed deeply and with utter exhilaration, celebrated the wonder of the natural world.

A GREAT WAY TO START YOUR DAY

KAY COLGAN, HEALTH COACH
AND CERTIFIED PILATES AND
FITNESS INSTRUCTOR

What is the best way to start your day? It seems how our mornings start really influence the rest of the day. If you awake to an alarm clock, maybe set the alarm to

a soothing sound instead of someone screaming at you to get up. Before arising stretch and breathe. Simply breathing in for a count of 10 and then exhaling for a count of 10 can greatly influence how your day begins. Water, enjoy a glass and bring your hydration levels up. Reaching for the coffee before water can leave you more dehydrated. Dehydration

and caffeine can lead to headaches and general feelings of anxiousness. Can we say road rage! To keep your morning heading in the right direction eat a nutritionally sound breakfast. Our bodies need nutritionally dense food. It is not hard, just need to have plenty of organic fruits and vegetables on hand. Whipping up a smoothie is a simple act that can reap

EARTH DAY WATERWORLD

RICHARD A. ENGBERG

Monday, April 22, was Earth Day. On that day, over one billion people worldwide (except, perhaps in North Korea) took part in the festivities and most did something "green." Since its beginning on April 22, 1970, Earth Day has grown into the largest environmental celebration in the world.

Earth Day began as a protest, a forum for Americans to express their concern about the environment-eroded land, contaminated water, air pollution-all of which worsened during the 1960's.

So why did the founders of Earth Day pick April 22? What was magic about the date? Truthfully, there was nothing magic. It was a Wednesday and the founders felt that "hump day" would be the best day of the week to encourage a large turnout for the countrywide rallies. It was. Some 25 million Americans turned out, almost instantly moving environmentalism from what many considered a fringe cause to a mainstream issue.

Water has been my business for much of my life, and since water is a major part of Earth Day, I'm devoting most of this column to water facts compiled from a variety of sources.

The total volume of water on earth is over 340 cubic miles.

Ninety-seven percent of earth's water is salty. Two percent of the freshwater is frozen in the Antarctic and Greenland ice caps. Of the remaining one percent of freshwater, 99 percent is groundwater and one percent is surface water.

The overall amount of water on earth has remained the same for more than two billion years. The water you drink could contain molecules the dinosaurs drank.

Water moves in a cycle, evaporation, condensation, precipitation, runoff, and infiltration.

Water is the only substance that occurs naturally on earth in three forms, solid, liquid and gas. It is the universal solvent.

Why does ice float? Because an equal volume of ice is about 10 percent lighter than the same volume of water.

Agriculture accounts for 70 percent while municipal and domestic account for only 8 percent of water use worldwide.

It takes about 1,500 gallons of water to produce one keg of beer and over 1,800 gallons of water to refine one barrel of crude oil.

Bottled water can cost over \$10 per gallon. In most location in the U. S., tap water costs less than a penny a gallon. About 25 percent of

big benefits to your health and well-being. Add a brisk 20 minute or longer walk in and you have set yourself up to weather whatever comes your way. Life comes at us fast sometimes, when you take care of yourself then you can handle what comes your way, good or bad.

I firmly believe nutrition and fitness go hand in hand. You really can't have one without the other. To be truly fit, all areas of your life need to be addressed, such as nutrition, exercise, relationships and spirituality. One component is not complete without the other. When you make you a

priority, then others will benefit.

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



all bottled water comes directly from municipal supplies.

Human brains are 75 percent water and human bones 25 percent.

Two-thirds of all water used in a typical American home is used in the bathroom. Less than one percent of all water supplied to homes by public water systems is used for drinking and food preparation.

Americans use over 150 gallons of water per person per day. Ethiopians use 3 gallons per person per day.

Over two billion people worldwide do not have access to safe drinking water.

About every 20 seconds in third world countries, a child under 5 years old dies from a waterborne disease.

There you have it, interesting to appalling. You may draw your own conclusions. If you participated in Earth Day, I hope you gave some thought to our fresh water supplies. They need all the help they can get. Future generations will thank you.

Bring friends together?



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Beignet is an Airedale X Hound born 9/12. She is a sweet girl that loves to learn. She has a lot of energy & would make a good jogging partner. She will need a fenced yard & can't live with cats. Her brother, Buster, is also available!

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



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

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



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Middleburg Humane Foundation's Grooming Salon



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

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Cheyenne is a beautiful 8 yr. old chestnut pony mare about 14.2H built like a quarter horse. She has been through a 30 day training program & has good ground manners but should not be ridden. She would make a terrific babysitter/companion horse.



KITTENS & CATS!!!

We have a really great group of cats, ages 4 months & older, as well as baby kittens that will be available soon (not pictured). They are friendly, healthy, & are waiting to find their forever home. Ask about our buddy program- Help keep friends together!



ALBERT'S CORNER

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

ALBERT P. CLARK

If you've lived with a dog, you know that we dream. It's one of those things that all pet parents realize, but scientists have spent lots of time with sleeping animals monitoring patterns, studying brain activity, and assessing movement. After a tremendous amount of analysis, the scientific community has concluded that, yes, animals dream. No surprise there.

All of that research has uncovered some interesting things about the way dogs dream. For instance, our dreams are longest during REM (rapid eye movement) -- much like the dream patterns people have. However, while people dream about every 90 minutes, canine dreams occur differently depending on our size. Very large breeds dream at longer intervals and for longer durations than smaller breeds. Adult dogs spend about 10 to 12 percent of sleep time in REM, while puppies spend much more time in REM.

It also looks like we dream in much the same way our people do when it comes to the subjects of our dreams. In essence, we often dream about the things we do in our daily lives. Pointers might point; terriers might fetch balls; guard dogs might growl, etc.

Our dreams seem to be pretty innocuous most of the time. We often appear to be running, chasing bunnies, or making happy noises. Sometimes, however, we do have nightmares. We definitely look a little strange going through our dreaming motions, and it can be tempting to wake us up. But experts recommend letting our dreams play out,

good or bad, rather than jolting us out of our sleep. Even the most mild mannered of us can be aggressive if startled out of a dream state. Additionally, deep, uninterrupted sleep is necessary for our health. The old saying about letting sleeping dogs lie is absolutely true!

Dreaming is something we share with people, and people often feel a connection to us when they see us dreaming. Dogs are nearly 95% identical to humans genetically. Our brains are very much alike and our neurochemistry works in the same way. It stands to reason that our memories and reflexes aren't far apart either. Seeing us dream is a reminder of that.

The good news is that scientific research on the dream patterns of animals reveals a potentially rich cognitive life. There is greater and greater clinical evidence that emotion rather than just instinct informs our actions. This is a step in the right direction. It's a progression towards a world that understands what pet parents everywhere have always known: we have feelings and personalities. There's a lot going on in our furry heads. If more people believe in the complexity of the animal mind, there's a chance that more people will treat us with kindness and compassion.

To sleep, perchance to dream of a more humane world -- ay, there's the belly rub!

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

ZUMBATHON

Come dance to help fund-raise for the cure of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis/ 'Lou Gehrig's Disease' at a local Zumbathon honoring recently deceased Loudoun County, VA residents Mike Mallen and Bob Leischer. Saturday, May 4, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Foxcroft School, 22407 Foxcroft Rd, Middleburg, VA;

hosted by Principal Mary Lou Leipheimer whose brother Bob Leischer, courageously battled this disease, for which the cause and cure is still a mystery. Join the popular zumba instructors for an evening of fun! Admission is \$10.00: 100% of all proceeds will go to ALS Association Research Fund. Zumba is an exhilarating cardio dancing set to fun latin music. Let's dance together to support an important cause!



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EVENT CHAIR: MARY JOHNSON

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EDITOR'S DESK

A MESSAGE FROM BOSTON TO THE WORLD:



About a year ago, Martin Richard, then 7, made this poster. Martin was one of three people killed on Monday, April 15, 2013, reportedly just moments after hugging his father. Martin's mother and 6-year-old sister were also badly hurt.

ONWARD FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY BLUE

DANIEL MORROW

If you're devout, roughly half the members of the GOP apparently don't like your religion, or at least the way you and your fellow worshippers interpret, practice and manage it. They would, contrary to all expectations, like to see the government take a hand in deciding how "real" Americans relate to their God, and

worse, which God and which perspectives on religion are truly, "American." It's true. According to a recent poll more than half the members of the GOP, 55%, favored making some form of Christianity the "official" religion of their state. Nearly half, 46%, favored making some form of Christianity the "official" religion of the United States.

SEPARATE CHURCH AND STATE NOT RELIGION AND SOCIETY RED

JAMES MORGAN

Lord John Acton, the British historian best known for saying "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely," more importantly said that "religion is the key of history." Certainly history shows that understanding any culture, including our own, requires a proper understanding of its religion. The first words in the Constitution's First Amendment are, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Pretty straightforward – or would be had we not come to believe that it implies freedom from religion instead of freedom of religion. Note that Jefferson's often misunderstood "wall of separation between church and state" is not mentioned in the Constitution. Indeed, that phrase is just a useful shorthand way of saying that we should not have an "established" church which, according to the Founders, meant only that we would not have an official state religion as the British do with Anglicanism. So we don't. The Supreme Court, however, in a series of "progressive" decisions going back to 1947, has clouded our formerly clear understanding of this. Activities like saying a prayer at the beginning of the public school day and posting the Ten Commandments in courthouses – once understood as acknowledgements of our religious roots – both have been declared to "establish" religion in the United States. Separation

of church and state, alas, has come to mean separation of religion and society, an altogether different thing. The Founders, of course, fully expected that religion and religious people would play an important role in civic affairs. Indeed, their idea of effective self-government depended on it. How strange then that a high school valedictorian may not thank God for, well, anything but the Department of Health and Human Services can force religious institutions to pay for abortions even though that violates their most sacred principles. Of course, no right is absolute. Government long ago banned the Mormon practice of multiple marriage (though the same sex "marriage" debate necessarily opens up that question again). But legislating against extreme practices does not give government a blanket right to legislate on religion in any way it chooses. If church and state truly are separate, then the state may not wantonly interfere in the church's sphere of influence. And without a formally established national religion, the church cannot interfere in the state's sphere of influence, though religious people naturally will still maintain their participatory rights as citizens. An obligation to render unto Caesar does not negate the right to render unto God. When the state presumes to regulate church affairs, it denies the existence of the very barrier it claims to support. That turns governmental neutrality to-

ward specific religions into governmental hostility toward religion in general as illustrated by that viciously intrusive HHS mandate and the forced closing of religious-run adoption services when they refuse to place children with gay couples on the basis of their religious beliefs. That is not what the first amendment was intended to do. Nowadays, we often hear public officials speak of "freedom of worship" rather than "freedom of religion" though the former is a much narrower concept that is not constitutionally warranted. Freedom of religion involves a great deal more than what people do in their church buildings on Sundays. "Freedom of worship" constricts and marginalizes real freedom of religion which, not surprisingly, is why "progressives" like it. Anything that weakens the influence of traditional religion in our civic affairs strengthens the state and increases peoples' dependence on it. That is the "progressive" tendency. The First Amendment recognizes the Judeo-Christian moral foundation of American culture and limits the power of the state to control it. Acknowledging our religious background in public ways neither "establishes" religion nor violates the parallel principle of tolerance for other faiths. It does, however, sensibly recognize that "religion is the key of history." Church and state should be separate. Religion and society should not.

AMAZING MAISIE MIDDLEGROUND

MARK D. KIMBALL

Heroes come in all sizes, shapes, ages and genders. Very few of them wear capes or iron suits. Most are people just like you and me but who have decided not to let time, money, politics or other people wear them down. The next time you feel frustrated or powerless in your community, think about Maisie DeVore of Eskridge, Kansas. You will undoubtedly feel better and you might even be inspired to make a difference. Maisie was not elected to any office. She was not appointed to any commission or advisory board. She was just a nice lady living in the country who saw a substantial need and decided to do something about it. So the next time you think a situation is hopeless, consider sweet Maisie DeVore. I know you will feel better and you may even be inspired to make a difference. *Mark D. Kimball is Headmaster Emeritus of the Winston School in Del Mar, CA. After an innovative career as a leader in education, he is now retired and lives with his wife, Georgann, in Southern Nevada, where they both continue to be very optimistic golfers.*

Though some of the founding fathers clearly favored the idea of an established church most did not. They sent the First Amendment to the states for ratification, most historians now believe, with the firm conviction that both government and religion would benefit from separation. James Madison put it this way: "We are teaching the world the great truth, that Governments do better without kings and nobles than with them. The merit will be doubled by the other lesson: the Religion flourishes in greater purity without, than with the aid of Government." Jefferson not only agreed, but counted his authorship of the Virginia Declaration of Religious Freedom, protecting both the church from the state AND the state from the church, as one of only three things he wanted engraved on his tombstone. (His drafting of the Declaration of Independence and his role in founding the University of Virginia were the other two. His two terms as President didn't make the list.) No one denies that a religious person's religious convictions will inevitably inform their decisions, personal

WHY I CHANGED HORSES

ANTHONY (TONY) WELLS

I am a veteran, have served as an officer in two of the world's great navies, and for most of my life have been a slightly right of center life member of the Republican Party. Yet, I have now voted twice for Barack Obama and if Hilary Clinton runs in 2016, I will continue to vote for the Democrats for the indefinite future. Why? This month and in next month's 'Eccentric', I will outline five key elements in my decision-making process: Wars, Finances, Witch Hunts, Civility and Obama himself.

Wars George W. Bush, Richard Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, and Paul Wolfowitz, and their Neocon friends have led our country into two disastrous wars at the wrong time, in the wrong places and for the wrong reasons. They knowingly and willfully misused intelligence to justify an invasion of Iraq, even though there were no WMDs and never, ever, any al Quai'da in Iraq. The 19 people who committed the 911 atrocities weren't based in Iraq. They were a small cadre of extremists, on a shoestring budget, led and operating

and political. Politically, however, those who serve the state and their fellow citizens should be judged not by what they believe, but by what they do, and what they allow and empower the governments in which they serve to do. Allowing our government to choose religions, and support one religion over another was, is, and we hope forever shall be, constitutionally proscribed. As for Blue Devils, Carolina, heaven help you.

from training centers in Afghanistan and other places, like Kuala Lumpur, where they met from time to time. The appropriate response to 911 was not a global "war on terrorism," but straightforward counter terrorism and criminal investigation, jobs for which our Special Forces and CIA alone could and should have been the sole protagonists, along with the early air strikes from our Navy carriers into the Afghanistan terrorist training centers. The great irony, and indeed tragedy, of the Iraq invasion is that it actually enabled al Quai'da to enter Iraq, and exploit the sectarian violence and social disarray caused by Paul Bremer's incredibly foolish mistake in disbanding the Iraqi army – the one bulwark against both sectarian and al Quai'da penetration. The Bush administration willfully misrepresented the facts in justifying their actions to the world – with Colin Powell presenting totally bogus images to the United Nations of what most of us in the intelligence community knew was false information. If he had been under oath he would have been charged with perjury. Behind him at the UN sat the lackey and eminence grise that George Bush used to manipulate Colin Powell, George Tenet, the CIA Director who muzzled his own people. Colin Powell has seen the error of his ways, and he too has changed horses – unable to live with what he did.

Finances Many of us saw the financial crisis of 2008 coming long before 2005. The Bush team, in the name of "compassionate conservatism" and "houses for all" abandoned all restraint on credit, allowing mortgage brokers and financiers to make hay until the day of reckoning hit us all. At the same time Bush and his team were waging two wars on credit, funding one Supplement after another to the

Defense Budget, and spending enormous sums on "nation building" while our own economy was going down the tubes. **Witch Hunts** Though a Republican, I have always supported certain critical social programs like social security, Medicare, education, roads, bridges, the FAA, and of course national defense and law enforcement. For some in my old party these programs constitute stalking horses for "godless" or worse "European socialism." American Democrats are about as removed from European socialism as Mother Theresa was from Genghis Khan. The socialism we fear is the socialism of total state control of the means of production – nationalization in all its many forms – everything from the railways to the car industry. Providing school, roads, hospitals, and pensions for the old is NOT socialism – they are accepted services performed by any modern state that cares for the basic needs of its people. Health care and national defense are not unrelated in my book. Is the Obama program perfect? Absolutely not, but it is a beginning. The Republicans' now traditional stances toward social security and Medicare are also completely out of phase with the views of the vast majority of the American people. Reversing or even seriously tinkering with the New Deal will garner about as much support for the GOP as taking the vote away from women, and waving goodbye to civil rights after long fought battles. Next month, we conclude with a discussion of "civility" and Obama himself.



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