



MIDDLEBURG HALLOWEEN

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ANDREW BERGNER AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR

PAGE 4

SIGNS OF EM SHARP'S CHRISTMAS LEGACY

TIMELESS EXPRESSIONS OF CHRISTMAS & COMMUNITY SPIRIT

LAUREN R. GIANNINI

It's beginning to look a lot like *Christmas in Middleburg* – especially with the annual display of holiday signs along Washington and Federal Streets. These wooden signs pay tribute to the memory and legacy of the late Emily Sharp who shared her whimsical visions of a gift-filled sleigh, trumpeting angel, cook with plum pudding, Tiny Tim, Pooh Bear, toy engine, and Santa's list of merchants, to name only a few.

Over the years, Sharp's Yuletide signs, which she designed specifically for the charming, old-fashioned theme of *Christmas In Middleburg*, have become inextricably woven into the unique tapestry of the local community's history and traditions. The wooden signs first graced Middleburg in 1982 and grew rapidly from 20 originals to 26 all told.

Today, they look as good as new, thanks to The Hill School's Alumni Association whose board decided unanimously last January to refurbish and restore the holiday signs designed by their former art teacher.



FIRE AND WATER

DANIEL MORROW

At the regular November meeting of Middleburg's Town Council, Town Administrator Martha Semmes reported further progress on getting Middleburg's troubled Well 4 Treatment Plant back on line and spoke to recently expressed concerns about what appeared to be "dirty water" flowing once more through pipes in the Middleburg system.

It wasn't "dirty" water at all, she explained, it was just "discolored as the result of iron and manganese deposits that are in the Town's water lines."

The discoloration she noted, could be directly linked to heavy use of water by the local fire departments fighting "the large fire that occurred just outside of town"

According to Semmes, "because Well 4 has not been in operation since January, the Town had to bring Well 3 on line." The water from that well, she noted, contains high concentrations of iron and manganese. While there were expensive treatment plants at Well 4 and at the well at Stonewall Avenue designed to address that problem, she continued, there was not one at Well 3. Once Well 4 is back in production, Semmes said, the Town would reduce its use of Well 3.

Semmes also noted that whenever the Town experienced a major event requiring heavy water use, such as a fire, the deposits already in the pipes were also stirred and ended up in homes.

Well 4 is expected to be back in operation soon.

Sewer

Kent Bean, 406 E. Washington Street, appeared before Council to report that, on Octo-

ber 21st his house suffered an overflow of what he estimated was "between two and three hundred gallons of raw sewage due a root blockage in the seams in the pipes."

Bean requested the Town reimburse him out-of-pocket expenses related to the incident not covered by his insurance, totaling roughly \$1,000.

Mayor Betsy Davis assured Bean that the Town "would take care of this and apologized for the back-up."

Noise

Amanda Scheps of 801 Stonewall Avenue appeared before Council to complain about the noise generated by a tented event held on Salamander Resort property.

In a letter to Town staff describing the event Scheps noted that "her front door faced the Salamander property; and, even though she was located a third of a mile away, it was extremely loud."

Scheps had "reviewed the Town's noise ordinance, as well as Loudoun County's," she said, and "had noticed there was a difference in the limits allowed by the County versus the Town."

She requested that Council "consider these sorts of issues before they became a pattern."

Police Chief Panebianco later reported that he had been working with Salamander to address such concerns and was highly pleased with their responsiveness.

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\$1,299,000



5932 LAKE SUNSET LN, HUME, VA - Private island on Lake Sunset. Beautiful setting, views. Hardwood floors, country kitchen w/granite counters, front porch & rear deck. Fully finished guest/au pair suite (2BR/2BA) w/separate entrance. Superb horse facilities w/ center aisle stable, board fencing, paddocks. Virtually unlimited ride out. 1 hr to DC.

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5667 VARZARA RD, MARSHALL, VA - Cobble View: Spectacular private setting with views that take your breath away. Cedar and stone with soaring windows frame valley and mountain views. Stone terracing, lush perennial gardens, ornamental trees -- all designed perfectly with natural roll of the land. Quality finishes throughout home: Spanish & African tile, HW floors, granite counters, Viking range. Se porch, decks. TruPlace tour.

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6326 JOHN S MOSBY HWY, MIDDLEBURG, VA - Maplestone is a wondrous blend of old country warmth and modern industrial architectural details. A traditional stone and stucco Manor, surrounded by authentic stone walls, and gardens, featuring expansive patios, walkways and stone work, this house lacks no attention to creative detail or high end finish. A must see with a true Middleburg address.

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FQ8034727 • \$750,000
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23223 DOVER RD, MIDDLEBURG, VA - Live within 2 miles of Middleburg! Comfortable 4 Bedroom house, with main level Master and 2nd floor Master, Family Rm with wood stove overlooks Pool, separate Dining Rm, 1 car attached garage could be made into 2. House sits on a rise with towering Oak trees on private 5.5 acres in Middleburg Downs. (Adjoining 4.5 acre wooded lot for sale for \$260,000).

MARY OWEN CHATFIELD TAYLOR
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L08159916
REDUCED! \$645,000



110 FEDERAL E, MIDDLEBURG, VA - Charming 3-4 Bedrm House with many recent upgrades. Both levels have 2 Bedrooms and 1 Bath. Stone fireplace; granite in Kitchen; Sun porch; Dining Rm. 1 block from shopping & Restaurants. Some amenities: Stone Terraces, Fish Pool; Fenced Gardens; Storage Building. House sits on 2 Lots & is Bigger than it looks!

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\$475,000



180 HUGHES ST, HAMILTON, VA - Its the PERFECT Brick Rambler in the PERFECT Location. Private, HUGE fenced backyard with mature trees. New &/or updated since 2011--Roof, HVAC, Kitchen, Appliances & Baths. Tile floors in Kitchen & Bath. Hardwood Floors on the rest. Woodstove in the Family Room. Walkout Basement. This is a really great find!!

MARCY CANTATORE



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NEWS OF NOTE CHRIS OHRSTROM'S CAR OF THE YEAR



On November 14th, The International Historic Motoring Awards, chose our own Chris Ohrstrom's 1934 Bugatti Aerolithe, as Car of the Year! World-wide nominations are received from a variety of disciplines, celebrating the very best of the best of this vast international industry, which includes museums, clubs, restorers and specialists.

Owner Chris Ohrstrom and David Grainger of the Guild of Automotive Restorers, collaborated on this most labor intensive recreation project. Recently featured on the show Jay Leno's Garage, the Aerolithe (greek for meteor), features a one of a kind body made entirely from magnesium, which required well over 7,000 hours of workmanship. This combined with its 3.3, non supercharged, inline 8 cylinder engine, produced 135hp_ top speeds nearing 100mph, made the original car the most advanced of its time.

Still one of the great automotive mysteries, as to what happened to the one and only original Aerolithe. Ohrstrom's passion for authenticity and Grainger's reputation for detail, was authentically built on chassis 57104, the oldest known type 57, making it considered a real Bugatti and it has now been awarded the high honor of Car of the Year. Congratulations Chris!

PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

CHILTON'S GATE



103 acres above the Rappahannock River with 1,000 ft. of river frontage. There is also a wildflower/habitat walk and a lake. A lovely in-law cottage, built for an earlier Chilton, serves today as a comfortable home that could be used as a " pied a terre " while building a larger residence. The farm is currently in Land Use. It sits a mile down river from the Fauquier Springs golf course and 12 minutes to Warrenton. \$1,300,000
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Beautiful all brick custom built home just North of Middleburg in unparalleled setting. 12 private acres. Main level Master with fireplace, Luxury Bath, Formal Living Room & Dining Room, Great Room, Library, 2nd Master Suite & 2 Guest Bedrooms, full basement with room for In-Law Suite, Game Room & Workout Room. 1200 sq ft back terrace overlooks stunning pool. Mature landscaping & attached 3 car garage. \$999,999
Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

PARKER STREET



Ca. 1919 re-modeled & renovated cottage in Upperville. This 3 BR, 2.5 BA home features separate Dining Room, Family Room, Living Room with fireplace. Spacious Master Bedroom Suite on main level with huge walk-in closet & Luxury Bath. Private setting on 1.32 acres with sweeping lawns, mature plantings & bordered by a small stream. Patio off the back. 1-car. Garage. Walking distance to PO, restaurants, churches & shops. \$685,000
Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

NEWLIN COURT



Pristine cape cod on .94 acres. Private, excellent condition. 3 bedrooms with 4th on upper level landing, 2 baths, new hardwood floors, open kitchen, beautiful deck overlooking incredible landscaping, basement with walk-out to stone patio, gardens and 2 car detached garage! Gardens professionally designed by naturalist. Convenient to Middleburg. \$539,000
Anne Marsteller (540) 270-6224

FOX HILL-STAUTON



The 5 box stall stable was arranged for boarders; for individual storage of tack & equipment. All fields are board fenced with run-in sheds. There are two arenas: dressage & jumping. The contemporary house has been remodeled with a walk out basement/in-law suite. The western views are magnificent & the 9+ acre farm is five minutes from historical downtown Staunton in the Shenandoah Valley. \$515,000
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NEWS OF NOTE

ANDREW BERGNER AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR



On November 10, 2013, the U.S. Army Colonel Michael Bochna formally presented the Bronze Star to former Army Private First Class Andy Bergner at ceremonies held at Middleburg's American Legion Post 295.

Bergner, now 87, was recognized for his service with the Third Army in Europe in 1945.

Drafted in September, 1944, just after the Allies had broken out of the Normandy peninsula, Bergner was rushed through basic training in Arkansas and shipped out almost immediately. He had just finished high school.

Bergner landed in France in February, 1945, and was sent almost immediately to the front, one of thousands of replacements for soldiers lost in the repulse of a German surprise attack now known the Battle of the Bulge.

He was actively engaged in combat against the German Army until the war in Europe ended in May, 1945.

He continued to serve until July, 1946, when he came home,

went to Villanova on the GI Bill, wed the late Audrey Bergner and over the course of a 65 year marriage, raised a family of five children.

According to his daughter, Laurie Maggiano, Bergner, like many soldiers never talked much about the war.

Happily for his family, friends and history, however, he wrote about it while serving: 270 letters, now published under the title *Just Call Me Soldier Boy*.

In remarks at her father's medal presentation ceremonies Ms. Maggiano read one of those letters, written to a friend, Mary Jane Waterman. It summed up, Maggiano said, "... all that is good about my Dad and our nation."



Dear Mary Jane,

This afternoon we had a retreat parade at post headquarters. It's something like that that makes you glad you're in the service. Everyone is standing at attention saluting in the direction of the slowly retreating flag. At the Old Glory slowly falters down the rope, the band is playing the Star Spangled Banner. You look that flag square in the eye and you say, Buddy, I have a share in you.

Then your thoughts carry you to the woods near Obergefunen, the towns of Schmitten and Dorfweil and other places where you saw your buddies fall and die for that flag you now salute. A quick silent prayer goes up for those men as that flag comes down. Months and for some fellows years of hardship are re-lived in those few seconds. Yes, I did my share. Maybe not as much as some others, maybe much more but I can say, I did my share. Maybe this sounds patriotic or silly. Maybe its propaganda, but the feeling is there and every fellow on that field who can face the flag feels the same way.

Yes, this is still the best country on earth. Sure many things are yet to be corrected but that's out job and we all have the opportunity to adjust this country. Well good night and God bless you.

Your grateful loving friend Andy

P.S. The peanuts arrived today at noon and are already consumed. The fellows want to know if you live on a peanut plantation.

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Harrimans Christmas Eve Dinner & Christmas Day Brunch
New Year's Eve at Gold Cup Wine Bar

NEWS OF NOTE

TRINITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS AUCTION BENEFITS MINISTRIES

This year’s Christmas Auction will take place in Cox Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church located on Route 50 in Upperville, Va., Sunday, December 8, at 11:30 a.m. A cocktail party and preview of the auction items is scheduled for Friday, December 6, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the church’s many ministries to local, regional and international communities.

“This is a wonderful event that benefits our community by providing support to our neighbors who need some timely help,” says Rob Banse, Rector at

Trinity Episcopal Church.

Trinity’s Food Closet supplies non-perishable food items, English as a Second Language classes teach English and provide fellowship and dinner, and the Thrift Shop provides financial assistance for basic needs.

The parish hall hosts weekly meetings of both Alcoholics Anonymous and Co-Dependents Anonymous, and houses The Community Music School of the Piedmont, which offers classes, programs, instruction and music therapy.

Four times a year Trinity participates with the Churches of Upperville Outreach Food Basket

program. The church supports the Piedmont Child Care Center by providing funds to the John Levis Scholarship Fund.

The Upperville Episcopal church supports several regional organizations. Six times a year, church volunteers prepare and serve food to over 400 homeless people in Washington, D.C. at the So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.) facilities.

The church contributes funds to the Windy Hill Foundation for affordable housing in Loudoun, Fauquier and Clark counties, the Kairos Prison Ministry of Virginia for spiritual support of incarcerated men

and women and their families, the Fauquier County Habitat for Humanity to eliminate poverty housing, and the Laurel Center in Winchester to support victims of domestic violence.

The church provides funds to several international aid groups: Helping Haitian Angels in Haiti, the Mwiba Makao Community Center in Tanzania, MAP International of Kenya, and the Mogra Star Academy in Nairobi.

The auction is both live and silent. Silent auction items can be bought at “buy-it-now” prices at the Friday cocktail party. This year’s auction will have something for everyone on your

Christmas list, including original works of art, antiques, fine jewelry, sterling silver, vintage china, house décor, B&B stays, restaurant dinners, and vacations to far-flung and closer locales.

LOCAL BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED FOR MEETING GREEN CHALLENGE

Eight Middleburg businesses took the 2013 Loudoun County Green Business Challenge. They received awards for their achievements in environmental sustainability at the Loudoun Green Gala at the Briar Patch Bed & Breakfast.

To take the Challenge, businesses complete a scorecard listing a variety of environmentally sustainable activities. The businesses receive points for each activity they complete, and based on their point total, the businesses are recognized at levels ranging from “Participant” to “Platinum.”

The Challenge also provides special awards for the “greenest” businesses in the Loudoun as well as for the most innovative and most improved. Businesses that take the Challenge range from brand new to sustainability through leaders in the field. They also range from home-based businesses through corporate giants like Verizon, and they represent an equally wide variety of industries.

This year’s Middleburg honorees

- Briar Patch Bed & Breakfast - Participant
- Blue - Certified
- Middleburg Tack Exchange - Certified
- Magee Design – Silver
- Middleburg Physical Therapy – Silver and Most Improved Award winner
- Wagenburg Farm – Silver and Most Improved Award winner
- Ayrshire Farm – Platinum
- Unison Advisory Group – Platinum

The Challenge includes networking events throughout the year and offers mentoring to help companies take actions that simultaneously benefit the environment and their bottom lines. It is open to every for-profit and non-profit business with a physical presence in Loudoun County. The first event in the 2014 Green Business Challenge season took place on November 6.

To receive information on upcoming events and to participate in the Challenge, please register at <http://www.loudoun-chamber.org/Loudoun-Green-Business-Challenge> or call Paige Romanow at 571-209-9025.

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A professional water test identifies your water’s

- Acidity
- Unwanted Minerals and Compound
- Microorganisms
- Hardness
- Acidity

Acidic water can be harm-

fully corrosive to your entire plumbing system. It can leach metals from pumps, piping, and fixtures. If it is not treated—it can cause leaks in your copper pipes and fixtures. Acidity is measured on a scale of 0 to 14 with 7 being neutral. Water that is less than 7 is acidic. Blue green stains often indicate acidic water.

Unwanted Minerals and Compound

A number of minerals and a compound will cause water problems when they are found in excessive amounts.

One of the most common water treatment problems found in well water is iron. Iron can be found in three different forms:

Ferrous Iron (Dissolved)—Although not visible, this is the most common type of iron. When oxygen is mixed with ferrous iron it stains sinks, toilets, and laundry especially when bleach is added.

Ferric Iron (Suspended)—

Ferric iron or brown water iron is oxidized and forms particles. Often these particles can be seen once water settles such as in a glass. Sometimes particles are too small to be seen and can be difficult to remove.

Iron Bacteria—This is a general term for iron that can leave a slimy growth or build-up in toilet tanks and sometimes clog filters, softeners, and pipes. This bacteria is not harmful but can be a nuisance.

Manganese—Brown or black stains that are found in the dishwasher are usually caused by high levels of manganese. Manganese that is dissolved in water can stain when the level is above .05mg/l. Because the dishwasher heats, agitates, and mixes the water with air—it is the perfect location to see the results of high levels of manganese. Also, manganese can stain clothes in the washing machine. Adding bleach makes the staining worse.

Nitrate—This is a naturally occurring compound that is formed in the soil when nitrogen and oxygen are combined. Small amounts of nitrate are normal but excess amounts will pollute groundwater. The presence of excess nitrate in the soil is usually found in rural and agricultural areas. Common sources of nitrate include fertilizers, livestock waste, and septic systems.

Filter systems are available that resolve all of the water problems discussed above.

Microorganisms

E. coli, Cryptosporidium, Giardia, algae, and mold are microorganisms that can contaminate your water. UV disinfection is a simple, safe, and effective solution that destroys a minimum of 99.99% of harmful microorganisms. A high-powered ultraviolet (UV) light called a UV-C light is used to disinfect the water. The UV-C rays penetrate the microorganisms and destroy their ability to reproduce which effectively renders them harmless. UV water treatment does not change the taste, color, or odor of water.

Hardness

Hard water is caused by calcium and magnesium in ground and surface water. If either or both of these minerals are present in high concentrations in your drinking water—your water is considered hard. Calcium and magnesium come from sedimentary rock such as limestone that dissolves into our water. Hard water results in difficulty making lather or suds for washing and a build-up of minerals on faucets and other fixtures. Sodium or potassium can be added to soften



your water.

Solutions

The good news is there are many effective, user-friendly, affordable water filtration and treatment solutions to unfavorable aspects of your water. These customized solution systems are manufactured to use water efficiently. They conserve your water supply and, if you are on a well, preserve the components of your well. Having your water professionally tested and analyzed is the first step toward ensuring quality water for your family and your home.

Mike Appleton is President of Appleton Campbell, a local, family owned plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and electrical installation and service repair business. Appleton Campbell has been providing customers throughout the Greater Piedmont Region and Northern Virginia with honesty, integrity, and experience since 1976. You can reach Appleton Campbell at 540.347.0765 or at appleton-campbell.com.



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MIDDLEBURG GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS PAST

Travel with the Middleburg Garden Club into a world of our fondest Christmas memories with “An Old Fashioned Christmas,” the theme for the holiday standard flower show, greens sale and bazaar on Friday December 6th from 2-5 p.m. and Saturday, December 7th from 10-2 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church parish hall, 105 E Washington Street in the heart of the charming and historic village of Middleburg.

This extremely popular event takes place in a picture perfect setting located approximately one hour west of Washington, D.C. is part of the annual Christmas in Middleburg celebration. In addition to the wreaths and other greens the bazaar will offer seasonal crafts and gourmet items made by club members.

In keeping with the traditional holiday theme the flower show will feature two interclub classes: one will be a vignette of a doorway decorated for Christmas and the other a holiday buffet table. There are also individual design and horticulture classes open to entries from the public.

This is always a much anticipated event because of the lovely and striking presentations. Last year the show won both Virginia and national awards for the best holiday flower show.

Admission to the show is free. Proceeds from the sale help support the Middleburg Garden Club’s charitable beautification and community projects.

For more information contact co-chairmen: Linda Taylor (540) 687-4176 or ponyprod@aol.com or Meredith Whiting (540) 364-4170 or meredithwhiting@gmail.com. Greens

and wreaths may also be pre-ordered by contacting Lisa Catlett at (540) 687-5925 or thecatletts@starpower.net.

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703.754.3301 Gainesville | 540.645.6229 Fredericksburg

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NEWS OF NOTE

MOSBY HERITAGE AREA ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES FOUR HERITAGE HEROES

The Mosby Heritage Area Association has selected four individuals to receive the organization's annual Heritage Hero Awards, given to individuals or groups that have contributed significantly to the preservation and conservation of the natural and cultural resources in this area.

The awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at the National Sporting Library and Museum at 102 The Plains Road in

Middleburg, Virginia.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

The 2013 Heritage Hero Award recipients are:

Mitch Diamond is a retired businessman who lives with his wife Lucy and several dogs, horses and cows on a historic farm in the beautiful village of Union. He is an active preservationist, having been a key member of the team that identified and researched the previously little known Battle

of Union, and helped get its pristine 8000 acre battlefield officially named to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. He is a member of the Loudoun County Heritage Commission, on the board of the Unison Preservation Society and an active participant in the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition.

John Fishback has always had an interest in history so he became familiar with the Court House records when he began

doing family genealogy in the early 1980's. After running a furniture restoration business for several years he obtained a microfilming position in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in 1988. Over the years he has held several positions including clerking for the Judges, as part of the Courtroom staff, and as supervisor of the Civil Division. In 2004 when the present Clerk, Mr. Gary Clemens, created the Archives Department John became the Historic Records Manager for the

Clerk's Office. He oversees the organization and conservation of the County and Court records dating back to 1757, such as the books that contain Wills, Deeds and Marriage Records and the "loose" papers that were filed in support of the books and Civil and Criminal cases.

Mary Fishback enjoyed a nursing career from 1974-2000. During that time, she also began using the Thomas Balch Library for genealogy and in 1974, started the Loudoun Genealogy Club. In the early 1990s, Mary

helped put together the Thomas Balch Cemetery Committee. Mary had a weekly by-line for ten years in the Loudoun Times Mirror, Loudoun's Legacy. She became an employee of Thomas Balch Library in 2000, earning a certification in Genealogical Studies from the University of Toronto, Canada. She received the Loudoun History Award from the Thomas Balch Library for her efforts to keep it a viable history and genealogy library and the Thomas Balch Commission Honor Award for 25 years of service to the historical community. She volunteers with the Marshall House, Journey through Hallowed Ground, Loudoun Library Foundation, and the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable. She has also volunteered with the Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Loudoun Museum, Waterford Fair, and Leesburg Homes & Garden Tours. She has written five books for Arcadia Publishing on Images of America, Loudoun County.

Robert Lee served as County Administrator in Clarke County and helped the county develop a unique sliding scale zoning in the 1980's. Following his success in Clarke County, Bob moved to neighboring Fauquier County where he also played a critical role in the development of comprehensive plans and rural zoning that have helped to protect Fauquier. Under his leadership as County Administrator, Fauquier adopted a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program that has today protected nearly 10,000 acres of farm land—the most successful PDR program in Virginia! As a finale to his public service career Bob assumed the position of Executive Director of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) the largest land trust in America. VOF holds conservation easements on 677,000 acres of land in the Commonwealth with a huge increase on easement donations during the ten years that Bob was the Executive Director.

Previous winners of the Heritage Hero Award, including Senator John Warner, Karen Hughes White, Janet Whitehouse, Hope Porter, Linda Newton, Robert H. Smith, Su Webb, Lori Kimball, Bob Sinclair, and Walter Nicklin.

The mission of the non-profit Mosby Heritage Area Association, formed in 1995, is to help preserve the Northern Virginia Piedmont and increase public knowledge about this historic area. MHAA provides classroom history programs for 4th and 11th grade Virginia students, sponsors lectures, programs and field trips, and brings nationally known scholars to the area for its award-winning annual Civil War Conference. For more information, visit www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

NSLM NATURE SYMPOSIUM

TOM NEEL

On November 16th, the National Sporting Library's Director of Education, Maureen Gustafson, orchestrated a well thought out and attended symposium, perfectly titled - "Perspectives on Teaming with Nature."

Her choice of guest speakers could not have been more diverse to the topic, yet their scholarly backgrounds and wonderful deliveries, created a vast bundle of continuity. If nature was their fabric, art most certainly was their thread. With clockwork timed precision, each speaker poured their passionate hearts into thirty minute sessions.

First up, Openlands CEO, Gerald Aldemann, who spoke of *Minding Nature: Expanding our Moral and Civic Imagination* gave us an overview of consciousness, partnerships, community, education, advocacy and connecting people with nature, thus setting the foundation of the day.

Thomas Lovejoy, University Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University, who coined the phrase Biological diversity, took us through his in depth vision of *Conservation Solutions in an Increasingly Crowded World*. Touching on ecosystems, the economic benefits of protecting watersheds, new road construction equaling colonization, climate change and closing with ecosystem restoration through re-greening the planet, Dr. Lovejoy could have spent the whole weekend on the topic and the audience would have not faltered.

A short break was followed by Eleanor Jones Harvey, Senior Curator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Her topic, *Landscape as Metaphor* in the Civil War, I thought might be a sluggish one. I was wrong. Not only was the subject completely fascinating, Curator Harvey could have made the most mundane of topics interesting. A gifted speaker, her vocabulary made me feel unequipped, but her energetic delivery made me feel like she had waited her whole life to share her interesting observations with us. One could only imagine how such a devastating time in our history affected all lives and how artists such as Frederick Church, metaphorically captured this emotion through the use of storms, volcanos, meteors and even the aurora borealis. Fascinating.

Artist James Prosek, who currently has an exhibit of his works at NSLM, is also a writer and naturalist. He also serves as Curator Affiliate, Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale. In *Teaming with Nature*, Prosek's whimsical storytelling took us on a journey from his boyhood passion with fishing, to becoming one of the world's most knowledgeable



ELEANOR JONES HARVEY

able authorities on trout. Circling the globe on his artistic and sport loving quest, he says, "Drawing made me a better fisherman." I suspected it worked the other way around too.

Lisa Roberts, is a museum and community education consultant. Roberts' time seemed to echo my recently written desire for public art. The examples she shared from her hometown of Chicago, were in line with her theme - *The Art of Nature*. Artistic imagination was plentiful throughout her presentation, with innovative ways art has brought awareness to the care for nature. With 80% of the population piling in urban settings, instead of piling on more of what Robert's calls, *issue fatigue*, the creative works of art instead seek meaningful experiences to bring nature or, in many cases, the representation of it, to urban environments.

Rounding out the team, was horticultural specialist, Perry Mathewes, who is also the husband of NSLM's Executive Director, Melanie Leigh Mathewes. His topic, *Bringing Nature Home*, began with man's control of nature through gardening and offered a historic journey on the origins of plants and those, who through collecting specimens, made native plants worldly. Names such as John Lawson, Mark Catesby, John Bartram and many others were covered, as were the plants they discovered.

The day also allowed valuable time to visit with and view current exhibits by artists-naturalists, Robin Hill and Meg Page, as well as the previously mentioned James Prosek. Ending the day, there was little question guests happily got their fill, especially for the modest registration fee and then were treated to a reception offering casual time to exchange thoughts with the speakers.

The absence of youthful attendance was the only shame, as most of what was covered here more dramatically affects their future. But NSLM once again has to be credited with a much appreciated program of great value to the community.

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NEWS OF NOTE

ORANGE COUNTY HOUNDS TEAM CHASE RESULTS

The Orange County Hounds annual Team Chase Event was held on Sunday October 27th at Old Whitewood Farm in The Plains. Blue skies and brisk temperatures created the perfect fall day for the 120 foxhunters that galloped over fences in the heart of Orange County's territory. Spectators crowded the hillside to watch and enjoy tailgates amongst fellow foxhunting enthusiasts.

With a new format of just two divisions this year, the Hilltopper Pairs and First Flight Hunt Teams, awards were given for Best Turned Out, Best Hilltopper Pairs, Ideal Time and Best Hunt Teams. Riders from neighboring hunts such as Piedmont, Casanova, Loudoun Fairfax, Warrenton, MOC Beagles and Farmington competed for awards and trophies including the coveted individual Junior and Adult First Flight Championships.

After all teams completed the course, the judges gathered to test the best juniors of the day. Hailing from Piedmont Hounds, the Alcock family had ridden in the First Flight Teams division, and sixteen year old Haley riding Dad's Doing were selected as one of nine juniors to compete for the coveted championship and the George L. Ohrstrom trophy. After a polished test that showcased her family's passion for foxhunting Haley bested the field. The Junior Reserve Championship

went to Sophia Vella on Curious George representing Warrenton Hunt.

The final event of the day was the ride-off for the First Flight Adult Championship and Alfred Hunt Trophy. Daphrie Vander Woude of Warrenton Hunt riding her classic bay Secret Adios went first in the final test. Setting a high standard with their flawless round against a strong field of competitors, she emerged the victor. The First Flight Reserve Champion went to Eduardo Coria on Denali representing Casanova Hunt.

The Best First Flight Team was awarded to Piedmont Hunt's "Wisecrackers" with Alexa Lowe Wiseman, Tom Wiseman, Katherine Berger and Barbara Batterton.

For the second year in a row The Best Hilltopper Pair award went to the Coria Team of Kathleen Lyons on Luke and Lorena Coria riding Wilhemina Star.

Concessions were provided by local chef Jessica Shields and her Cirque Cuisine food truck based in Washington, D.C.

Photos by Richard Clay: www.richardclayphotography.com

HILLTOPPER PAIRS BEST TURNED OUT:

1st: Coria Team 1: Kathleen Lyons (Luke), Lorena Coria (Wilhemina Star)- Casanova Hunt

BEST HILLTOPPER PAIR: 1st: Coria Team 1: Casanova Hunt

FIRST FLIGHT TEAMS BEST TURNED OUT: Eduardo Coria Training: Camille Van Skiver (Phillipa), Camilla Coria (Wilhemina Star) Eduardo Coria (Denali)- Casanova Hunt

CLOSEST TO IDEAL TIME: Loudoun Fairfax Lads: Paul Wilson (Quinn), Larry Campbell (Onyx), Luc Dejager (Vandell)- Loudoun Fairfax Hunt

BEST HUNT TEAM: The Wisecrackers: Alexa Lowe Wiseman (Vienna Windsor Z), Tom Wiseman (Darcor Windsor Z), Katherine Berger (Nestor), Barbara Batterton (Ardagh)- Piedmont Fox Hounds

FIRST FLIGHT JUNIOR CHAMPION AND RESERVE: Champion: Haley Alcock (Dad's Doing)- Piedmont Fox Hounds Reserve: Sophia Vella (Curious George)- Warrenton Hunt

FIRST FLIGHT ADULT CHAMPION AND RESERVE: Champion: Daphrie Vander Woude (Secret Adios)- Warrenton Hunt Reserve: Eduardo Coria (Denali)- Casanova Hunt

MIDDLEBURG REAL ESTATE LISTS WEXFORD FOR SALE HISTORIC KENNEDY RETREAT DESIGNED BY MRS. JACKIE KENNEDY

Wexford, the iconic John F. Kennedy family estate just west of Middleburg VA, is now offered for sale. The property, custom designed by President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy as a family retreat in 1963, is brought to the market for the first time in almost a quarter of a century.

This is not just any house but a presidential family retreat for John and Jackie Kennedy. Jackie selected the property, designed the house and had it built for her family. Every single room has a magnificent view of the surrounding estate.

Wexford is a beautiful, magical place! It is the only house ever built by a sitting president and its place in history is guaranteed by this beloved family who spent happy times there.

In fact, the Kennedy's spent their last weekend at Wexford just three days before they left for Dallas. The White House Photographer recorded that historic weekend.

President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan stayed at Wexford in the 1980 fall presidential election campaign. Reagan met with advisors at Wexford and rehearsed for

his debates with President Jimmy Carter. President Reagan also spent time at Wexford during the transition period prior to his presidential inauguration.

Indeed, some of the meetings of Reagan's foreign policy advisory group prior to taking office took place at Wexford - the Wexford Team 1 - as they were referred to consisted of among others Dr. Henry Kissinger and General Alexander Haig. It was at Wexford where Reagan decided to choose Al Haig as his Secretary of State over Kissinger.

The current owners have found that Wexford has been a great attraction not only for their family and friends, but also when they invited heads of state, dignitaries, and movie stars. Among them, the former Vice President of Russia, Danny Glover, Ben Gazzara and Chuck Norris.

Originally 39 acres, the property today comprises 166 acres in 4 parcels, offering potential for conservation easement tax credits. The main residence is a beautiful stucco home filled with light and sited with magnificent Blue Ridge Mountain views.

Set amid rolling hills in the heart of Virginia Hunt Country, Wexford is surrounded by other large historic farms and estates. Located just west of Middleburg in Orange County Hunt territory, the property offers an abundance of riding trails, peaceful surroundings and dramatic views. Wexford is privately located, yet just 30 minutes from Dulles International Airport and one hour from the Nation's Capital.

This one story 5,060 square foot home, rich with character, features original parquet floors, his and her dressing rooms, original JFK tub, multiple fireplaces, a formal dining room, built-in cabinets and bookcases, nine-foot ceilings and alternate power generators. The surroundings include native fieldstone landscaping, flagstone pool deck with an outdoor cooking area, vine covered trellises, stone patio and a tennis court. The basement space under the house conceals equipment and utilities.

This equestrian property has original stables for horses where Caroline Kennedy kept her little pony (Macaroni, a gift from the President of Pakistan) that include water, electrical, storage for hay and two separate living areas. There is also a separate three-car garage with bath and second floor studio/office. The property still contains an underground bomb shelter which was built for the Kennedy family and the Secret Service personnel. Reminiscent of the days of Camelot, Wexford evokes a past era in American history, with all the amenities of modern living.

For information on this property, please contact the listing agent Patricia Burns at 540-454-6723 (Mobile), 540-686-6321 x222 (Office) or realtorburns1@gmail.com

FIRE AND WATER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Charter School

Suzanna Callie and Dave Quanbeck, of the Middleburg Charter School Committee reported that they have been meeting every other week with the members of a special review committee of the School Board to review their charter school application.

According to Quanbeck they are "working through a list of items that must be addressed, including governance, facilities, food services, transportation, enrollment, waivers of State law and the calendar." He noted that the next big topic for discussion would be curriculum.

Quanbeck also noted rumors that the Loudoun County Public School System might well consider returning ownership of the school building itself to the Town of Middleburg.

Town Attorney Angela Plowman reported that she had found that "the school property was deeded by B. Noland in 1883 to three trustees of the Mercer District #3 School Board" but had not been able to find "that it was ever conveyed to the Town."

In 1911, Plowman said, "the School Board went to the State Board of Education for a loan to construct the school and the State Board questioned the title."

A lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court of Loudoun County at the time, she said, revealed that the three Mercer District trustees had passed away. The court thus formally conveyed title to the School Board of Mercer District 3, a decision that allowed them to get a loan from the State.

The deed described the property, she said, "as four acres more or less, excepting the property on which the Middleburg Jail was located."

Councilmember Mark Snyder expressed concern about how the Town would maintain the property if, indeed, it acquired it, noting that Middleburg simply did not have the funds to do so.

Councilmember Shea suggested that rent would have to be paid if the property came to the Town.

Councilmember Murdock suggested that another option would be that the Town not charge the charter school rent but rather that it require it to maintain the building.

Shakespeare in the Burg

Genie Ford and Prem Devadas appeared before Council to report on progress toward the establishment of a weekend long annual Shakespeare Festival in Middleburg. The Festival is seeking \$5,000 in economic development support from the Town.

Fully supported by The Middleburg Arts Council and the Middleburg Business and Professional Association, the first festival will include events marking the 450th anniversary of William Shakespeare's birth, in April 2014.

According to Ford plans already include two performances by the American Shakespeare Center, four workshops with the Center's actors, a one-act playwriting contest. (She has already received fifty one-act plays from all over the world.)

The sponsors see the Festival as an incubator for new works and something that will grow over time.

Devadas noted that the Middleburg Film Festival showed

how an event could be taken and be made not only into an economic driver but also enhance the lives of the residents.

Councilmember Hazard suggested the committee develop and present a budget for Council's review.

Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk concurred and asked that Ford submit a budget request as soon as possible, ideally before the Council formalizes its mid-year budget adjustments.

Audit

Jeff Mitchell and Sandra Tondreau, formally presented the results of their company's annual audit of the Town's books for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

Mitchell & Company found the Town's books to be in order and received the complete cooperation of the management during the audit process.

The Town's General Fund, Mitchell noted, was getting stronger every year. As of June 30, 2013, the General Fund had a balance of \$1.1 million. Given an annual budget of \$1.5 million, he said, "this was an excellent ratio."

The Town holds assets totaling some \$16 million in three separately audited funds: 1. the Water/Sewer Fund (covering only the operations of the town's water and sewer systems); 2. the Health Center Fund (covering income, expenses and charitable grants from the town-owned "Health Center Building"; and 3. the General Fund covering all other Town income and expenses.

Film Festival 2014

Economic Development Coordinator Pearson reported that the dates for the 2014 Middleburg Film Festival have been changed to October 30 - November 2nd. Vice Mayor Kirk expressed concern that this would conflict with Halloween.

Pearson replied that the conflict, tied to the timing of a film release would only occur in 2014.

Unauthorized Solicitations

Police Chief A. J. Panebianco reported to Council that residents of the town had been receiving phone solicitations from a solicitor claiming to be a representative of the Middleburg Police Department.

Panebianco observed that his Department was NOT soliciting money and that he had advised the solicitor, apparently a contractor for the Loudoun Fraternal Order of Police, that he was not authorized to collect on behalf of the Middleburg Police Department.

Although the solicitation was authorized by the FOP, Panebianco continued, "only 30% of the monies collected were going to them, with 70% going to the solicitor."

Film Festival

Chief Panebianco reported that from a security and traffic flow perspective Middleburg Film Festival was a success, commending the Town staff and his officers who, he said, "worked just as hard as the Film Festival's staff" to make the event work well.

Panebianco expressed concern that the Halloween date set for next

year's event would not work well for his department, and that he hoped the date could be changed.

He also reminded Council that the cost of the Film Festival was not projected in the Town's budget. He estimated that the festival cost his department an extra \$3,700, which he was able to reduce to \$2,700 in out-of-pocket costs by shifting his officers' regular schedules. The cost did not reflect his own time, he said, given that he is not paid for overtime.

Traffic at Pendleton and Marshall

Panebianco noted that he had heard "a lot of comment about the new stop signs at the intersection of Pendleton and Marshall Streets" including the misperception that their installation was the result of a "Salamander issue"

Not true, Panebianco reported. His officers conducted a survey

of traffic at the intersection and found that "the majority of the motorists who were running the stop sign were northbound turning right or left."

In response, the Town has painted stop bars at the intersection, painted the word "stop" on the pavement, and is looking at the possibility of clearing hedges to provide better lines of sight.

Panebianco also noted that the Town had requested the intersection be made a four-way stop; however, but that VDOT had rejected the application.

Reiterating that scofflaws at the stop signs were not a Salamander issue, Panebianco reported that, nevertheless, the Resort had promised to install signs before Thanksgiving warning motorists of the approaching stop sign.

Ongoing Education



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PROGENY

FOXCROFT SENIOR EARNS NATIONAL ACHIEVMENT SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION



Foxcroft School 's Andeulazia Hughes-Murdock has been named an "Outstanding Participant" in the National Achievement Scholarship competition, Head of School Mary Louis Leipheimer announced recently.

A senior from Chantilly, VA, Hughes-Murdock scored in the top three percent of the more than 160,000 Black American high school students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in October 2012. The names of these academically-talented students -- only 3,100 nationwide -- have been referred to colleges and universities across the United States.

The National Achievement Scholarship Program is an academic competition established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students. Students may enter both the National Achievement Program and the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National

Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and meeting other requirements for participation. The two annual programs are conducted concurrently but operated and funded separately with a student's standing determined independently in each program.

An outstanding scholar, Hughes-Murdock attended the highly selective Summer Language Institute for Arabic last summer at the Foreign Service Language Academy at the University of North Georgia. She plays varsity softball and volleyball and serves as a "Dean's Prefect" in the Currier Library on campus.

Andeulazia is the daughter of Michelle Hughes of Chantilly, VA, and Jason Murdock of Baltimore.

"The Summer Language Institute at FSLA was one of the most memorable experiences of my life," says Hughes-Murdock. "I was surrounded by bright kids who were just as passionate about languages and their respective cultures as I am

more than pleased with my choice to study Arabic for the duration of 6 weeks because of the language's importance in the modern world."

A three-week program, FSLA immerses participants in a foreign language and culture. Students attend classes will be taught by foreign language teachers possessing native or near native proficiency, participate in a physical fitness component designed to promote a healthy and active lifestyle, and explore career opportunities with guest speakers from the US Department of State, FBI, CIA, Army or Homeland Security and the like.

The course seeks to give youngsters a solid understanding of the fundamentals of their chosen language of study, a grasp of general cultural norms, and a jump start in preparing for college-level foreign language or international affairs education leading toward a potential career in federal service.

CANINE COMPANIONS CEO VISITS MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY'S SERVICE DOG IN TRAINING



Middleburg Academy's service dog in training, Rocco, was seen lunching recently in the school dining hall with his student puppy raisers and Corey Hudson, CEO of Canine Companions for Independence, with national headquarters in Santa Rosa, CA (where Rocco was born and bred). Mr. Hudson (left) was traveling the east coast with Debbie Dougherty, Director of the Northeast Region (standing right), and visiting with CCI organizations and individuals.

While other schools do have service puppies, Middleburg Academy has an especially well-structured program with a student club highly involved in Rocco's training. Seated with Rocco is Librarian/Media Specialist Janie Banse, faculty co-moderator of "The Puppy Club."

HIGHLAND'S DIG PINK EFFORTS A SUCCESS!

Through sponsorships, raffles, donations and more, Highland School was able to send \$4,000 to the Side-Out Foundation as part of the Dig Pink fundraiser this year.

This is Highland's fifth year of Dig Pink in association with Highland volleyball. Over the past five years the school has raised over \$27,000 for the Side-Out Foundation.

"I am proud of our volleyball teams' participation in this event. Our program is about more than volleyball and this is an example of our extension beyond the court," said Coach Gary Hicklin.

Dig Pink® is The Side-Out Foundation's trademark name for its fundraising events. According to the Side-Out website, "a Dig Pink event can be organized at the local, county, city or state level. Although Side-Out's Dig Pink events began as volleyball specific events, participants do not have to be volleyball players/coaches or even athletes at all!"

The events are supported by middle/high school and college students nationwide. All proceeds benefit Side-Out, which in turn awards grants to medical research organizations and entities dedicated to providing compassionate support to breast cancer patients and their families. Your participation gives youths the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of all breast cancer patients."



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PROGENY

NELSON MANDELA’S GREAT GRANDSON INSPIRES HILL SCHOOL STUDENTS

Luvuyo Mandela, great-grandson of Nobel Peace prizewinner and former South African president Nelson Mandela, recently spoke to the students in grades 4-8 at the Hill School. Mr. Mandela’s presentation explained the history of racial segregation in apartheid-era South Africa, comparing it to Jim Crow laws in the United States. He also described his great-grandfather’s long imprisonment and political activism. Showing a slide of his great-grandfather laughing with a group of children, Mr. Mandela reflected on his great-grandfather’s love of his family. He asked Hill students, “Who is the most important person in this room?” Mr. Mandela went on to emphasize that children are the most important as they are the creators of the future. Introducing Mr. Mandela was Jeannie Van Metre (Hill ‘93), local associate of Porcha Dodson of Los Angeles, CA (also Hill ‘93), whose non-profit organization, Project Knapsack, matches students in the U.S. with African peers for aid and cultural exchange. This year, Hill sixth graders will write letters to South African

MIDDLEBURG/ALDIE “LIGHTNING THIEVES” GIRLS’ SOCCER TEAM UNDEFEATED

The Lightening Thieves had an undefeated Fall Season and then took first place at the Loudoun County Fall Soccer Tournament. Pictured below in front of the Championship Banner with their trophies, the team includes:



TOP ROW: ALEX NORTHRUP, JACKIE AYERS, SAVANNAH BUZZELLI, KIKI WEGDAM, CHARLOTTE ALTO, ALEXA MARSH, ROSE POTTER, GRACIE BASINGER, JOHN AYERS FRONT ROW: CHRISTINA SIRIANNI, CHARLOTTE RUTH ZABACK, CAROLINE HEUER, EMMA NORTHRUP, KAITLYN LUCZAK, ADRIENNE LISKA NOT PICTURED: BLYTHE CONDON

pen pals at Molatladi Primary School in Soweto. Molatladi students will receive not only letters to write a letter to former South African president F. W. de Klerk as if in the year 1991, taking issue with specific provisions of apartheid laws and advocating their repeal. “The pen pal project fits in very well with what we do at the Hill School,” Ms. Turner said at the Luvuyo Mandela assembly, referring to Hill’s emphasis on community. “Our sixth graders will build one-on-one relationships with peers in another culture. I personally believe that such relationships are the single most important factor in creating a different kind of world.”

MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY STUDENTS ENJOY INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EXPERT’S REMARKS

As part of Middleburg Academy’s assembly program designed to bring a range of topics and issues before students and teachers, Dr. Ndunge Kiiti, an expert in sustainable development, communication and international health policy, recently gave a presentation on “Issues of E-Waste in Third World Countries.” Dr. Kiiti, who holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University, is a Professor at Houghton College (NY), where she also serves as the Director of the Center for Faith, Justice and Global Engagement. Dr. Kiiti’s November 8 talk

at the Loudoun County Independent 9-12 school revealed startling e-waste statistics. Students learned that of the 3.41 million tons of e-waste generated in the United States in 2011 alone, only 24.9% was recycled. In fact, each year twenty to fifty metric tons of secondary electronics are discarded by U.S. residents, and then disposed of worldwide. Students were also made aware that China and India receive much of the flow of our used electronics. The central issue is that cell phones, computers and television monitors contain numerous known toxins (among them mercury, lead, bromine, cholorine and cadmium). “When we throw out over 100 million cell phones every year in the U.S., many recyclers are actually shipping the items overseas where they are plumbed -- without any safety oversight -- for their inner parts,” says Kiiti. “Most often,” she explained, “they are shipped following an illegal trade route to Asia, where poor people - sometimes children - burn and extract the desirable (and highly toxic) elements.” Assembly participants viewed a portion of a CBS “60 Minutes” segment which visited one town in China - designated a big “e-recycling center” but actually one of the most carcinogenic places on earth - where women are six times more likely to miscarry and seven out of ten children have too much lead in their bodies. Students were asked to briefly research and share information about e-waste in several countries (India, Nigeria, Mexico, Ghana and Brazil), which served to raise their awareness about governance/lobbying issues and the lack of safety oversights. Together with Dr. Kiiti, they discussed the consequences of our actions: injustices due to false labeling of “products” versus actual “waste,” negative environmental and public health impact; concerns of national security; and how our consumerism and the flow of our e-waste can play a role in perpetuating power struggles and conflict in some civil war torn regions.

MEET THE HIGHLAND SCHOOL PIEDMONT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The mission of the Piedmont Scholarship Program, established in 2012, is to attract new students of exceptional talent to the Highland Upper School. The merit-based program, initiated by generous donors, seeks to enroll students who possess the ability to make a meaningful and significant contribution to the quality of school life. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a passion and excellence in academic performance, extra-curricular activities, leadership, and/or community service. While excellence in athletics is not a criterion for consideration or selection under the Piedmont Scholars Program, students with a strong record of athletic participation along with their record of academic excellence, leadership and extra-curricular excellence are welcome candidates. Recipients of the Piedmont Scholarships this year include:

Erica Champion

Erica joined the Highland School freshman class after completing eighth grade at Bull Run Middle School. During her middle school years Erica excelled in academics, receiving two first place Science Fair awards and one Regional Science Fair award. In addition to being a scholar, she is an artist, equestrian and athlete.

Erica’s Piedmont Scholarship submission was an artist’s portfolio focused on drawings of animals and nature. Her dedication to developing her skill as an artist is emblematic of the determination she brings to every area of school life. “I was attracted to Highland because of the learning environment and I felt I could benefit from the small class sizes and the personalized curriculum. I read that Highland offers many different leadership programs and I hope to graduate with the Leadership plaque.”

Drew Marino

Drew attended eighth grade at Warrenton Middle School. He is the only Fauquier County resident ever to qualify for the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee. As the Scripps Howard Regional Spelling Bee Champion, he represented Fauquier County in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in 2012 and was featured in an on-air interview on National Public Radio. Drew’s areas of accomplishment range from roller hockey to science and engineering. His Piedmont Scholarship submittal was a movie demonstrating his intense interest in science and engineering and the important role they play in daily life.

Erica’s Piedmont Scholarship submission was an artist’s portfolio focused on drawings of animals and nature. Her dedication to developing her skill as an artist is emblematic of the determination she brings to every area of school life. “I was attracted to Highland because of the learning environment and I felt I could benefit from the small class sizes and the personalized curriculum. I read that Highland offers many different leadership programs and I hope to graduate with the Leadership plaque.”

Caleb McGuire

While attending the American Heritage Plantation School in Florida, Caleb was recognized as a scholar, athlete and community servant. After a family move to Virginia, Caleb joined the Highland School sophomore class. Caleb’s Piedmont Scholarship submission was a PowerPoint presentation showcasing a variety of community service activities including his family’s annual mission trips to Honduras. As Caleb stated in his application, “We changed the lives of so many people by building houses, visiting hospitals and giving out food to those less fortunate than us.” “I feel like the teachers at Highland push me to puzzle out my problems and encourage me to improve on what I already love. I came to Highland looking for more than just the standard curriculum... I was looking for a creative style

“Many years ago I attended a Lego Robotics summer camp at Highland and ever since was determined to attend high school there so I could join the Robotics team. Also, the classes are small and there are a wide variety of AP classes for science and math. I do not think I could have found a better school and am very glad I was able to get the Piedmont Scholarship.”



EMILY SCHULZ, CECILIA ZUGEL, DREW MARINO, CALEB MCGUIRE, & ERICA CHAMPION

of learning, tighter friendships and the opportunity to participate in sports.

Emily Schulz

Emily attended eighth grade at All Saints Catholic School. Prior to joining All Saints in 2012, Emily attended Thornton College School in the United Kingdom. Throughout her academic career, Emily has been recognized for achievements in leadership and community service. Most recently she served as an Assistant in the Riding for the Disabled Association. Emily is also an accomplished equestrian and artist. Her Piedmont Scholarship submittal was an extensive portfolio demonstrating her ability as an artist and photographer. Her work shows a depth of understanding of all the elements of art and design and each page shows the love, care and commitment she has to her art. “I really enjoy my classes at Highland because they are not straight lecture, but a small group discussion with room for personal development. This environment allows the teachers to recognize each individual students strengths and weaknesses and help them progress over the years.”

Cecilia Zugel

Cecilia joined the freshman class after graduating from Bull Run Middle School. While at Bull Run, Cecilia distinguished herself academically and as a member of the Women’s Chorus. Cecilia served as Women’s Chorus Class President and was named Outstanding Chorus Woman of the Year for 2012-13. In addition to Chorus, Cecilia is an accomplished dancer and has served as Treasurer for the local 4-H Chapter. Her Piedmont submission was a live vocal audition where she performed the finale from The Gondoliers by Gilbert and Sullivan and Cradle Song by Mozart. “I like the inclusion of international students at Highland which creates more diversity and better mirrors the world in general. I was initially surprised at the honor system and the fact that there are no locks on the lockers. I am really pleased with this trust and respect among faculty and students alike.”



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PROGENY

RECORD SETTING FALL FOR FOXCROFT ATHLETES

SPORTING GREEN

ALEX CUDABACK

Foxcroft School saw a stellar fall sports campaign capped by a school-record-setting 15 selections to the All-Conference roster earlier this month.

The previous best for single-season selections from Foxcroft was 11.

The Delaney Athletic Conference, home to Foxcroft since 2008, recognized students from every team, and every team had multiple selections.

In tennis, the list was headlined by Player of the Year honoree Annie Mickum, a sophomore

from The Plains, VA, followed by first-teamers, sophomore Marina Shallcross of Upperville and senior Amalia Simpson of Newtown, PA, and honorable mention, senior Kelly Buckland of Alexandria.

On the field hockey team, seniors Lilly MacDonald of Bluemont, Alicia Holtz of Delaplane, sophomore Alex Grace of Purcellville, and freshmen Lindsay Woods of Philomont and Allison Buffenbarger of Leesburg were all selected to the first team, and sophomore Pipsy Steyn of Leesburg received honorable mention.

In volleyball, sophomore

Kat Forrest of Sperryville was selected for first team honors, while senior Kate Eagen of Middelburg and junior Emma Rogers of Reston were named to the second team.

Rounding out the fabulous fifteen were DAC cross-country champion Amy Edgemond, a senior from Reston, and teammate Patia Fann, a sophomore from Purcellville.

On the team front, results were just as strong.

The tennis team won its first DAC title ever, going undefeated on the regular season (11-0 conference, 12-0 overall.) The regular season saw an overpowering



run by Foxcroft, which won 66 of 73 sets played; the DAC tournament was even more one-sided, with Foxcroft taking all 12 sets played against Wakefield and Seton.

That dominance earned Foxcroft a no. 2 seeding in the Virginia State Athletic Association Division II state tournament. The ladies won their opening round match 5-1 against Fredericksburg Academy, but eventually fell to Norfolk Collegiate, 7-2, in the semifinals.

The field hockey team, meanwhile, went 14-4-2 on the season. Also invited to the Virginia State Athletic Association Division II state tournament, the team won its opening round match against Highland School 5-0, and its semifinal match against Carlyle School 1-0; a closer-than-it-looked 8-0 defeat to rival Fredericksburg Academy ended Foxcroft's run in the state tournament final.

"I was actually pleased with how well we played. I know the score doesn't say it, but they didn't dominate like they did last time," said head coach and athletic director Michelle Woodruff. Foxcroft's volleyball team

also reached new heights this season, going 8-6 on the year to finish with a winning season for the first time since joining the DAC in 2008. The team made it to the semifinals of the conference tournament before falling to Wakefield Country Day, winner of the last four conference tournaments. Sophomore Kat Forrest of Sperryville set a school record in the conference with a remarkable 128 kills on the season.

And, in cross-country, DAC title winner Amy Edgemond, a senior from Reston, finished fourth among 198 runners in the Virginia State Athletic Association Division II State Championships. She completed the 5K-course at Woodberry Forest School in Orange in a blazing 20 minutes, 34 seconds – a mere 18 seconds behind the third place finisher.

Overall, the team came in 11th place out of 18 schools. "It was a great finish to a wonderful season," said coach Matt Mohler.

That sentiment seems to sum up each of this past season's teams, with opportunities for continued success and improvement clearly on the horizon.

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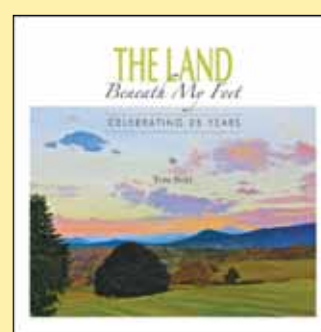
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Friday, December 6, 5 - 8:00 PM



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Christmas In Middleburg



Start the season! A Family Festival Day in Middleburg, Virginia, December 7th, 2013
Sponsor, Donor, Parade Entry information at www.ChristmasinMiddleburg.org

Friday, November 6th

- **2:00pm - 5:00pm: Middleburg Garden Club Christmas Greens Sale**, Emmanuel Episcopal Parish house. Sale of Christmas greens and flower show.
- **5:00pm: O Holy Night!** The Tree Lighting and Carols, the Pink Box, 12 North Madison St. Join us at the foot of our town Christmas Tree in the Pink Box Garden for a heartfelt evening program that includes the Invocation, singers, caroling, hot chocolate & cider courtesy of the Home Farm Store, and of course the illumination of the tree (drum roll, please)! Joyful Holidays brought to you and to us all by the Middleburg Business and Professional Association!

Saturday, December 7th

8:30am: Breakfast With Santa and Silent Auction, Middleburg Elementary School 101 North Madison Street. Breakfast \$10.00 per adult /\$5 per child 12 & under.

9:00am - 5:00pm: Craft Fair, Middleburg Community Center, Sheri Conrad, Managersheri.conrad@loudoun.gov

10:00am - 4:00pm: Middleburg Garden Club Christmas Greens Sale, Emmanuel Episcopal Parish house. Sale of Christmas greens and flower show.

10:00am: Middleburg Methodist Church, hot chocolate in the front yard to warm up while waiting for the hunt to ride by.

11:00am: Middleburg Hunt Review, foxhunt riders and hounds down the main Washington Street. (Be parked by 10am in order to see this signature event. \$5 parking per vehicle)

11:30am - 1:50pm: Hayrides! Beautiful draught horses teamed to take kids of all ages on hayrides around town. Departures from the Pink Box, 12 North Madison Street

11:30am: Middleburg Methodist Church, annual soup and ham biscuit lunch in the church during Christmas in Middleburg on Sat, Dec 7th from 11AM-2PM. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6.00 for children under 12.

2:00pm: Christmas Parade, down the main Washington Street

3:00pm - 6:00pm: Wine Crawl, progressive wine tastings from one end of town to the other.

Saturday Specials for All

- **\$5 per vehicle parking**, includes shuttle and program guide: Mickey Gordon Park, on Rt. 50 east, and Salamander field on north Pendleton St.
- Sit-down or grab-and-go food from the restaurants throughout town
- Kids and family activities all day long!

We Gather Together!

As we gather together with families and friends and those within our community for Thanksgiving, it doesn't take long for any of us to appreciate the blessings surrounding us that we are grateful for.

So, may our Thanksgiving praise lead to more joy, that carries us straight into . . .
Christmas, in Middleburg!
December 7th, 2013

Wine Crawl
December 7th
 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Middleburg Country Inn

Barrel Oak Tasting Room and Gallery

Olio Tasting Room

Home Farm Store

The Wine Cellar

Middleburg Common Grounds

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At The Hill School, Middleburg, VA




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Friday, December 6th



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Recitals at 6:15 pm & 7:30 pm
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Happy Holidays!
The Middleburg Business & Professional Association



Breakfast With Santa & Silent Auction

December 7, 2013
8:00 - 10:30am
Middleburg Elementary School
101 North Madison Street

Breakfast \$10.00 per adult / \$5 per child 12 & under
Breakfast in the Fireside Lounge \$15.00 per adult / \$5 per child 12 & under
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Saturday, December 7

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A Holiday Recital



Friday December 6th
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2013 Christmas Pageant

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All are welcome!

Foxcroft School is located on Foxcroft Road, four miles north of the center of Middleburg. For further information, please call 540.687.4510.

FACES & PLACES

MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL RAVES & REVIEWS

Many thanks to Wakefield students, Paul Martin, Wakefield

class interdisciplinary Composition teacher and Andrea Ross, whose excellent idea it was, for the in depth

look at Middleburg's first film festival featured on these pages. Thanks also to Lauren Gi-

annini and Ryan Perry for their insight and perspectives, and to Sheila Johnson and her terrific staff for

conceptualizing and originating what we hope will become an annual tradition.

BIG TIME FESTIVAL SUCCESS IN SMALL, SPLENDID VILLAGE

RYAN PERRY

When many people hear of a film festival, they think of something like the annual French festival Cannes or the Utah-based Sundance: ostentatious and flashy, supported by a troupe of A-list actors and producers. But from October 24 - 27 of 2013, Sheila Johnson, executive producer of the independent smash hit *Lee Daniels' The Butler*, brought that same level of excitement to Middleburg, Virginia, and what a sight to see it was.

Visually, the town of Middleburg itself is a true gem, and the perfect location to host such an event. Everywhere you look, the grounds and the buildings sport autumn reds and oranges that cast a very warm and inviting mood. As a resident of the nearby town of Warrenton, I joyfully took in the Middleburg scenery. It's not entirely urban, nor is it entirely rural; it's a small town that is wrapped with a natural blanket of gorgeous rural backdrops.

I also enjoyed the opportunity to visit locations such as the newly opened, Salamander Resort and Spa, the Hill School, and the Middleburg Community Center. Though the Hill School and Community Center are landmark Middleburg venues, their atmospheres aren't very old at all. They have a very timeless vibe, much like the town that they represent. The Salamander Resort & Spa had a much more updated and polished ambience, and visitors definitely took notice. Upon arriving at the resort, I noticed that it made a point of honoring Middleburg's hunt country theme with small aspects such as the valet sporting riding apparel. I am sure that the towns own residents were very excited to have such an event showcased right in their own backyard.

The same kind of warm and inviting mood set by the location was also reflected in the community itself. There was enthusiasm everywhere, whether people were going to see a film or volunteer-

ing at one of the events. Had it not been for the volunteers who were present, I doubt that the festival itself would have been able to take place, and I was very impressed with their sincerity.

In between two of the showings that I attended, I met a few friendly faces who, upon seeing me again at later showings, eagerly greeted me by name. Everyone was excited to be there, and that was the kind of upbeat attitude and sense of community pride that brought everything together so nicely. I hope to see the Middleburg film festival become a tradition for years to come, and I'll definitely hope to become a volunteer.

How were the films themselves?

The seven that I saw over the course of one weekend (*Le Week-End; The Best Offer; Journey to Italy; Like Father, Like Son; Philomena; Lee Daniels' The Butler; and Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*) were all excellent, each in their own distinct way.

Being a 17-year-old filmmaker, I'm normally one of only a few people in my group of friends who's talking about a thought-provoking independent film as opposed to a fun summer blockbuster, so I was very pleased to see that a lot of good films without the big budgets for mass advertising had the opportunity to be exposed to such a good crowd.

When independent films come to theaters, they normally have a limited release in few theaters, followed by a wide release, but even their wide releases are few and far between. Avid filmmakers like myself received the opportunity to view a multitude of splendid films all in one place that they wouldn't have received otherwise.

Clearly, I wasn't the only one pleased to see them. When I saw *The Butler*, the screening was immediately followed by a Q&A session with director Lee Daniels himself, as well as Wil Haygood, writer of the film's original source material. Immediately fol-

lowing the session, I was able to shake hands with and receive the autographs of Daniels and Haygood. Many significant questions were also asked that shed light on not just how much the audience felt involved in the film, but how much they were moved by it.

It's one thing to feel involved in the film's happenings, as though they are happening around you, which is a characteristic of good filmmaking.

It's another sensation entirely to see a film like *The Butler* that reminds you of the alienating ways of a very recent history, and how similar things are today. To see a movie that actually makes you think is to see a movie that questions current ways of thinking, and inspires new ones. All of these films did that, and it's remarkable that a town like Middleburg was able to spotlight all of them.

each other, with Barbu trying desperately to hide his plethora of intense feelings, and Cornelia synthesizing the appearance of caring from nothing, a task she accomplishes so well throughout the film, that it calls into question the sincerity of her emotional display in the climactic confrontation with the dead boy's family. I would highly recommend *Child's Pose* to anyone who feels

they can handle the depressing air. Despite being entirely Romanian, the acting was so vivid that I could easily understand the film from start to finish, with or without subtitles, and it could and should be counted as a must watch for the quality of this acting alone.

constant news of the controversial fight. Despite the hatred and confusion happening around the country, he stays sane with support from his family and his essential position at the White House. His relationship with the presidential families grows from a butler into a vigilant and caring friend.

Although this movie touches on a sensitive topic, it brought a sense of calm to many members of the audience. Forgiveness is woven throughout the movie, and by the end forms a warm blanket of forgiveness, comfort, and understanding from the perspective of Cecil's eyes.

This film was a poignant reflection that emphasized the bitterness of this era and highlighted the beauty that rose above, shone through, and transcended the feelings of injustice. In the words of director Lee Daniels, it was a "love letter to America," in the sense that it showcased the fact that the country as a whole has come full circle to embrace the diversity that we cherish today.

these violent criminals is clearly portrayed, as well as the relentless outrage and protests by groups who support mandatory life sentences. One murder victim's mother remains so consumed with anger years after the incident, that she seems to be the disturbed one. Gruesome images of a victim's battered body force an emotional reaction in the first few minutes of the brief and thought provoking film.

Unfortunately, this film is often confusing, jumping from case to case and not fully explaining all the details, leaving many dots unconnected. Though obviously the work of a young and liberal minded director, this film serves as a wonderful catalyst for debate and discussion surrounding this important question of our society's capacity for forgiveness.

“NEBRASKA” ~ REVIEW

JULIET MAYER

Woody Grant (Bruce Dern) is first introduced to us wandering along a highway in Billings, Montana, emphatically telling a police officer that he is on his way to Nebraska. When his son, David (Will Forte), arrives to retrieve him, Woody insists that the scam sweepstakes letter he received in the mail is truly worth one million dollars, and he must travel to Lincoln to collect his

prize.

Wishing to indulge his increasingly senile father while there is still time, David agrees to set out on the road trip with him, stopping in Woody's hometown in Nebraska along the way.

Once they arrive in the town of Hawthorne and reunite with his extended family, word of Woody's apparent good fortune runs rampant throughout the town, turning him in to a local celebrity and placing him at the mercy of those who would take advantage of a man who could never say "no."

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON ~ REVIEW

ROBIN ROSS

Baking cookies with Mom, throwing a baseball with Dad, wrestling with your little brother in the backyard. All of these sweet, simple memories linger in our minds as we grow older, but what if you were suddenly given up by your family at only six years old? *Like Father, Like Son* is a captivating Japanese drama directed by Hirokazu Koreeda that brings this nightmare into reality.

When a no-nonsense,

wealthy family living in the city gets a call from the hospital where their son was born, their world collides with the kind of family they look down upon. The hospital where the two families' sons Ryusei and Keita were born had switched the infants at birth.

Faced with the impossible decision of whether or not to continue raising this boy that is not his biological son, the film begins to focus on Ryota (Masaharu Fukuyama), and his mindset that nature must always come before nurture.

THE BEST OFFER ~ REVIEW

MORGAN HADLOCK

In this film by Italian director Giuseppe Tornatore (*Cinema Paradiso*), Geoffrey Rush stars as Virgil Oldman, a renowned auctioneer who possesses a multitude of quirks, such as an obsession with collecting portraits of women, that have prevented him from finding companionship. He is swift, ruthless, and cunning upon the auction block, and is just as aloof in his personal life; he frequently dines alone, has amassed a extensive glove collection to avoid touching other people, and his only confidants are a

young mechanic (Jim Sturgess) and inside bidder Billy Whistler (Donald Sutherland). He is cold, unflappable, and unaffected—that is, until he receives a call from a mysterious heiress Claire Ibbetson (Sylvia Hoeks), begging him to appraise the valuable collection of art and antiques in her late parents' villa. Intrigued, Oldman visits the house to meet with her, only to discover that she suffers from an extreme case of agoraphobia that has trapped her in her secret bedroom for over fifteen years. Oldman becomes obsessed not only with the valuable collection Claire has inherited, but also

with assisting her in overcoming her fear.

While *The Best Offer* certainly isn't difficult to watch, it isn't the well-oiled, thrilling drama that it was clearly meant to be. Tornatore introduces dramatic storylines that are unnecessary to the overall plot, such as the mechanic's girlfriend issues and Oldman's shady arrangements with Whistler. Due to superfluous scenes like these, the plot comes across as somewhat gimmicky and contrived and the two-hour length of the film feels a bit self-indulgent. The lead characters aren't of any great value, either;

while Rush delivers his lines with deftness and gusto, his character is not at all relatable and downright creepy, making it nearly impossible for him to win over the audience. Sylvia Hoeks's Claire is nearly as unlikable as Oldman; while it is extraordinarily difficult to portray a multi-dimensional, emotional character without any visual aides, Claire comes off as whiny and annoying rather than endearing. Her general obnoxiousness causes the audience to wonder why Oldman likes her so, thus losing their support in his quest to free her from her self-imposed prison.

Tornatore's efforts to turn a ho-hum storyline and characters into a slick, thought-provoking drama do not go unnoticed; the stunning locations and clean camera work add visual interest, while his toying with the notion of authenticity within artifice gives the audience something to think about. Despite what appears to be a genuine effort to make the film work, it cannot overcome its dull, unpleasant characters and sluggish pace, making this reviewer wish Oldman had been content to just leave Claire behind the wall.

CHILD'S POSE ~ REVIEW

JAMES WROE

Calin Peter Netzer's *Child's Pose* tells the heartwarming story of an old aristocratic woman, Cornelia, who, upon hearing about a brutal yet accidental hit and run accident her son, Barbu, perpetrated, immediately sets about manipulating him and any-

one else she can find so he won't have to face charges for killing a young boy, all while her husband and Barbu's fiancée further complicate the issue and Barbu's sense of guilt by supplying their own opinions on the matter. It is not a happy movie, it is not a movie that teaches any kind of moral lesson, but it is a captivating movie.

Cornelia and Barbu, both

portrayed brilliantly by Luminita Gheorghiu and Bogdan Dumitrache, gradually descend from unlikable to almost hate worthy as they take actions for and against each other, all while vividly portraying the emotional tension caused by Cornelia running around bribing police officials and witnesses against her son's will.

The pair act as foils for

THE BUTLER: A LOVE LETTER TO AMERICA ~ REVIEW

MADELINE DARGIS

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that".
—Martin Luther King Jr.

The darkness of the world is made evident in Lee Daniels' *The Butler*, a moving tale based on the true story of a butler who served eight different presidents at the White House over his lifetime. This eye-opening story presents school book American history

in a fresh and invigorating way, through the life story of Cecil Gaines.

From his work in the White House, to the work of his eldest son in the Civil Rights Movement, Gaines' story not only gives the audience a history lesson, but makes them aware of unspoken heroes along the way, while portraying the touching story of the relationship between father and son.

The brutality, hardships, and hatred that were present during the time of the Civil Rights era

are palpable. In a jaw-clenching scene of pure ignorance and prejudice, Cecil's son, a Civil Rights activist, sits in silent protest at the Whites Only section of a diner, accepting cruel insults, vicious threats, and stinging ketchup in his face without retaliation. Later on, the audience is sent into a frenzy of panic and fear when a Freedom Bus is set on fire by the reviled Ku Klux Klan.

Forced to maintain no political opinion while employed at the White House, Gaines grits his teeth and tries to ignore the

constant news of the controversial fight. Despite the hatred and confusion happening around the country, he stays sane with support from his family and his essential position at the White House. His relationship with the presidential families grows from a butler into a vigilant and caring friend.

Although this movie touches on a sensitive topic, it brought a sense of calm to many members of the audience. Forgiveness is woven throughout the movie, and by the end forms a warm blanket

of forgiveness, comfort, and understanding from the perspective of Cecil's eyes.

This film was a poignant reflection that emphasized the bitterness of this era and highlighted the beauty that rose above, shone through, and transcended the feelings of injustice. In the words of director Lee Daniels, it was a "love letter to America," in the sense that it showcased the fact that the country as a whole has come full circle to embrace the diversity that we cherish today.

CHILDREN BEHIND BARS IN LOST FOR LIFE ~ REVIEW

TISH JOHNSTON

While clearly delivering a message from a particular point of view, this documentary about a controversial topic is surprisingly even-handed in its presentation of juvenile criminals who have been sentenced to life in prison without parole. In *Lost for Life* the youthful and hip director Joshua Rofé presents us with

the stories of four homicides, interviewing the young criminals, their families, and the victims' families.

The film forces the viewer to consider what a life is worth, both the victim's and the perpetrator's, and whether or not one should be condemned for life because of actions taken while still a child. The film drives parents to consider their own teenager making such an irrevocable mistake,

and forced me, as a seventeen-year old, to consider what it would be like to face incarceration for the rest of my life with no hope of ever leaving prison. The film is truly moving, as it asks whether or not we can offer redemption to these men, who killed while they were still boys.

Although it is suggesting that these mandatory sentences are wrong, it is balanced. The atrocious lack of guilt of some of

these violent criminals is clearly portrayed, as well as the relentless outrage and protests by groups who support mandatory life sentences. One murder victim's mother remains so consumed with anger years after the incident, that she seems to be the disturbed one. Gruesome images of a victim's battered body force an emotional reaction in the first few minutes of the brief and thought provoking film.

Unfortunately, this film is often confusing, jumping from case to case and not fully explaining all the details, leaving many dots unconnected. Though obviously the work of a young and liberal minded director, this film serves as a wonderful catalyst for debate and discussion surrounding this important question of our society's capacity for forgiveness.

FIRST MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

LAUREN R. GIANNINI

If a long weekend of 20-plus films and other cinematic events all within walking distance of each other sounds like your cup of performing arts' tea, you probably thoroughly enjoyed the Middleburg Film Festival.

The inaugural event attracted more than 2,500 movie fans and the likes of actor Bruce Dern (star of "Nebraska," which opened the festival) and producer Michael Shamberg ("Pulp Fiction" and "Erin Brockovich," to name two), who teamed up with Vanity Fair journalist Maureen Orth for a "Wine and Conversation" event.

Middleburg Film Festival (MFF) owes its inception to connections in the wider world. MFF founder Sheila C. Johnson serves on the board of the Sundance Institute, an internationally recognized non-profit founded in 1981 by Robert Redford to advance the work of independent storytellers in film and theatre. Several years ago, after purchasing the

property for her Salamander Resort, Johnson invited Redford to visit. His comment that Middleburg would be a great setting for a film festival took root and became reality.

Patterned after the Sundance, Middleburg's festival included 20 films, ranging from drama to comedy to documentaries. "Special screenings" included "Journey to Italy" (1954) with Ingrid Bergman, Lee Daniels' "The Butler" starring Forest Whitaker, Oprah Winfrey, John Cusack, and "The Gettysburg Story" as well as special events, such as panels, wine tastings, music, etc. Venues included the National Sporting Library, Hill School, Middleburg Community Center, Boxwood Winery, and Salamander Resort & Spa, the official festival venue.

"It was really a lot of fun," said Joan Ramsay, longtime Middleburg resident. "My husband Robert and I are great fans of good movies, primarily independent films. We saw nine films in three and a half days—that wasn't easy! We had never done that before. We ran into the festival

director Susan Koch many times—she is delightful."

The Ramsays usually attend indie at the E Street Cinema in Washington, DC. "We go there because they have movies nobody else gets," Ramsay explained. "That's how all this came about—the film festival brought all these movies to Middleburg. We weren't going to see Muscle Shoals—but it was great. Before we saw that movie, I didn't know where all those great rhythm & blues singers were coming from."

At the completion of the Festival, Johnson announced the winners of the Audience Awards for Best Documentary Feature and Best Narrative Feature. "I am so pleased that our audience chose to recognize "Comedy Warriors: Healing Through Humor" and "Philomena," Johnson said. "We had so many compelling titles I know it was difficult to choose a 'best' among this incredible fare."

"Philomena" stars Dame Judi Dench ("M" in the Bond movies and star of "The Queen"). Stephen Frears directed the screenplay, based

on the BBC investigative book "The Lost Child of Philomena Lee" about a mother forced to give up for adoption her son, conceived out of wedlock more than 50 years previously. "Philomena" balances its dramatic storyline with great humor, indomitable spirit and joy. Dame Dench studied Lee in order to "get" her—and she does, to the point that critics on both sides of the big puddle are touting Dench for an Oscar nomination.

"We really enjoyed "Philomena" and it won the people's choice although I felt there were others that were also deserving," admitted Ramsay. "I thought that "The Butterfly's Dream" was charming, very romantic and the actors (from Turkey) were there, which was really fun. We enjoyed "Nebraska" and "Tim's Vermeer" was excellent, and "Le Week-end" was a lot of fun."

Many locals were pleased to see Middleburg so alive and active with all its visitors. "Everyone was so nice, and the volunteers with the Festival were wonderful," Ramsay said. "The weather was good, sometimes

work, brings a soulful weariness to his role as a son trying to finally relate to his father in the limited time they have left together.

Both beautiful and harsh, *Nebraska* is by far one of the best films of the year.

Mark your calendars for Oct. 30 - Nov. 2, 2014.

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months, such as ticket sales, venues, etc.

The play performed by the American Shakespeare Center will be *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, a comedy that features the character Sir John Falstaff—the fat knight who is the target of much merriment. There will be two performances, Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon.

Actors from the American Shakespeare Center will also present workshops on acting and stagecraft, with something of interest for all ages. Workshops are designed by Dr. Ralph Alan Cohen, a leading Shakespeare scholar and frequent guest lecturer at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

Shakespeare is coming to Middleburg! Shakespeare in the 'Burg will be a weekend long celebration of Shakespeare, playwriting, acting and the arts, set for April 4, 5 and 6, 2014.

Shakespeare in the 'Burg continues a Middleburg trend of the village as a destination for the arts. The Shakespeare festival, which will feature performances from the American Shakespeare Center, a one-act playwriting contest, workshops on stagecraft and more, will take place in venues around town.

The festival is being presented as a joint effort of the Middleburg Arts Council and the Middleburg Business and Professional Association. There is a website with basic information (www.shakespeareintheburg.com), and additional information will be added in the next two

The one-act playwriting competition has two categories, one for playwrights under the age of 18, and one for those over 18. The rules and instructions on how to submit are online at www.shakespeareintheburg.com/competition.

Sponsorships are needed to make this festival a success and to ensure that we can bring it back in 2015, when the play choices will be Hamlet and Much Ado About Nothing, two of Shakespeare's most popular plays. For more information on sponsorships, contact the Middleburg Business and Professional Association (President Punkin Lee, 540-687-5888) or Peter Wood, chair of the Middleburg Arts Council (rustymetal@mindspring.com), or you can contact Genie Ford, chair of the Shakespeare in the 'Burg subcommittee at 540-687-3448.

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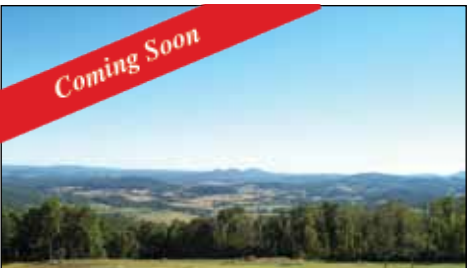
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PARADISE & HOPE FOR HYDROLOGISTS
WATERWORLD

RICHARD A. ENGBERG

More than a week in an area that is paradise for a hydrologist! I just returned from the Pacific Northwest, specifically Portland, Oregon. Lush and green with fall colors thrown in. Large rivers, mountains and waterfalls. So it was foggy, it drizzled, it rained. Still, it was water. A hydrologist has got to love it.

Why was I there? The American Water Resources Association (AWRA), my employer, which, incidentally is headquartered in Middleburg, held its 2013 Annual Water Resources Conference in Portland, November 4-7.

The conference was held at a hotel located on an island in the Columbia River, almost equidistant from the states of Oregon and Washington, but part of Oregon. The windows of the conference venue overlooked the river and the Washington shoreline about a quarter mile away. A spectacular site for a water conference.

The Columbia is a mighty river, with the fourth greatest av-

erage flow of all the rivers in the United States, 265,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). So what is that in numbers we can understand? How about gallons per minute? The average flow of the Columbia is nearly 19 billion, that's right, 19,000,000,000 gallons per minute. That's a lot of water!

Portland is literally bisected by the Willamette River which, unusual for many rivers in the United States, flows north. It joins the Columbia just downstream from the conference hotel. The Willamette is a large river but whose average flow of 34,000 cfs is small compared to the Columbia.

The conference featured about 350 oral and 50 poster presentations on virtually every aspect of water including water quality, groundwater, surface water flow, water economics, water law, water policy, water education, best management practices, invasive species, storm water management, droughts, watershed planning, you name it. Hovering over nearly every presentation was the specter of climate change. How will the potential for near-term global warming, even if it is only a degree or

two, impact water resources both in the United States and the rest of the world?

Many of the best minds in the water resources field representing academia, government, and consultants shared their thoughts and insights with the attendees. But best of all, approximately one-fourth of the attendees represent our hopes and aspirations for the future of water resources. These were the student attendees, graduate students, and undergraduates. I even talked with one absolutely brilliant high school student. Nearly every student either presented a poster or gave an oral presentation and they were universally excellent.

These kids are good, they care about water, and they care about the environment. I came away from the conference with a renewed sense of hope. The field that, for better or worse, I've toiled in for nearly 50 years will be in good hands with this group of young people who will soon inherit it from us old timers.

So on to 2014. AWRA will celebrate its 50th year of existence and the Annual Conference will take place in the National Capitol area at Tysons Corner. My hopes will be high as I look forward to the influx of a new group of dedicated students and professionals with their fresh ideas and optimistic outlooks.



WHAT ABOUT THANKSGIVING?
SINCERELY, ME

BRANDY GREENWELL

It is barely autumn and it seems like the entire country is already getting on their Ho-Ho-Ho. 24/7 Christmas music is playing on the radio, decorations are already up flooding your neighborhood's power supply and of course discounts promised earlier than ever in 2013. I absolutely love the holiday season, but I know I am not the only one who is saying "What about Thanksgiving?" Our society seems to go from candy overload to excessive spending overnight. Is it the sugar high or are we just forgetting about giving thanks?

I am truly thankful for my friends and family. My husband is my best friend, soul-mate and most excellent caller of BS when I am having an over emotional girl moment, which, of course, rarely happens.

I am thankful for the countryside of Virginia and every day I get to spend in her glory, even when the cyclists, godloveum, don't follow the rules of the road.

I am thankful for local wine, gin, vodka and bourbon and their healing properties. I am equally thankful for local restaurants to nurture my family and ease my nightly dishwashing duties.

I know according to Maya Angelou it is supposed to be "... in the reach of my arms, The span of my hips, The stride of my step, The curl of my lips..." but I am so thankful for Spanx, underwire, thongs, opaque tights and slips. Sometimes a girl just needs a little help to feel phenomenal.

Gianni Versace is famously quoted, "Don't be into trends. Don't make fashion own you, but you decide what you are, what you want to express by the way you dress and the way you live." I am so thankful that ultra-low rise jeans are becoming extinct. There could not possibly be that many plumbers in the making.

Though "the most beautiful makeup of a woman is passion" I am super thankful for lengthening mascara, anti-aging serum and lip-gloss.

"Women think of all colors except the absence of color. I have said that black has it all. White too. Their beauty is absolute. It is the perfect harmony."- Coco Chanel Everyone should be thankful for the black cashmere sweater and its summer counterpart the white tee shirt. These essentials are golden.

A-line anything should be given great thanks. It is O negative of flattering fits in the fashion world.



WILLOW LEAF SPICEBUSH
THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXROD

Little did I know that there are more than 80 species of lindera or spicebush. Many are superior ornamental shrubs, yet largely unavailable. Of the 80, only 3 are native to North America, Lindera benzoin being the best known, a lovely, deciduous shrub and a favored food source for the spicebush swallowtail. Others are primarily native to Eastern Asia and Japan, all shrubs, some reaching 20 feet and quite a number of them are evergreen or at least very persistent when it comes to foliage.

My favorite (only because it's one I've been able to find), is the willow leaf spicebush or Lindera glauca var. salicifolia. In this case the foliage is actually winter brown, summer green and fall spectacular. Providing a long season of interest - October to March, the fall color is outstanding and the winter leaves persist and turn tan, even rustling as winter winds blow.

I have 3 in my high shade garden, where they will eventually reach 15 feet with an equal spread. From 2 different sources, one in Pennsylvania, the other Connecticut. The Horticultural Society of Pennsylvania has chosen Lindera glauca var. salicifolia as a Gold Medal winner, given to plants that exemplify



outstanding merit.

Few shrubs have such an unusual season of interest, which has attracted the attention of the cut flower industry. One can hope that demand might push growers to produce more. It seems that propagation is a bit of a challenge,

both from cuttings and seed. The slender leaves (salicifolia refers to - like a salix or willow) of winter are a beautiful khaki brown and hold up well as a cut stem. I know that they surpass any other shrub for brilliant color in October and November, challenged

only by the fall color on maple trees, with shades of orange and red. As the leaves slowly turn and gain their winter color, I'm grateful for a shrub that is so hardy, so beautiful and (maybe best of all) deer resistant.



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PASTIMES

SO WHAT DO WE KNOW?

7TH INNING STRETCH
ALEX CUDABACK

What do we know, eleven weeks into the NFL season? We know the Kansas City Chiefs are still legitimate contenders but don't pack the punch on offense to survive a shootout against a quality opponent, something that will come back to bite them in the post-season. We know the long-feared AFC East and North divisions are looking long in the tooth and that, with the exception of Cincinnati and New England, most of their teams are in need of serious soul-searching and off-season retooling. We know that the debate surrounding Andrew Luck, Robert Griffin III and which one will be proven the better quarterback around which to build a successful franchise needs to be shelved for the season. Regardless of where you come down on the Griffin spectrum, that he came back too soon from off-season surgery, that the weapons around him (coordinator included) aren't sufficient, or that he was a single-season-flash-in-the-pan, the argument is moot. Until these, and other, fundamental questions are answered we won't really know a thing. At this point, there's simply no comparison. We know that Jacksonville and Tampa Bay, regardless of how hard they play out the season and how many wins they manage to pull out of a hat, are bad teams that need to seriously reconsider the paths upon which they've set themselves. We know that Tony Gonzalez, who decided to come back for one last shot at the only thing his first-ballot-Hall-of-Fame career is missing, a championship, is the most disappointed and frustrated guy in the league. Number two would be his quarterback, Matt Ryan, and the next fifty or so guys would be the rest of the Atlanta Falcons, all of whom are quickly spinning down the drain of the dreaded lost season. We know the NFC East, at least as far as prognosticators are concerned, is about the most upside-down, head-scratching division in all of football. Washington's plummet to the cellar, New York's bipolar play, Dallas's inability to do much of anything with a roster supposedly deep with talent, and Philadelphia's flight to the top of the standings all combine to create a muddle of unpalatable, unstable play that makes people without a rooting interest change the channel. We know that Sean Payton and Andy Reid are the frontrunners for Coach of the Year. We know Cam Newton and the Panthers may be the most interesting thing to watch the rest of the season, if only because so many people had written them off only a month ago. We know the NFC North may be home to the most disappointed, frustrated fans in the league this year. With gobs of talent spread between the Packers, Bears and Lions nobody seems to know what to do week to week or from roster to roster. The only team making a run at the moment is Green Bay and that's towards the cellar. Luckily, the squatter status of the Vikings will keep them from ever getting there, but until Aaron Rodgers comes back the Packers are riding the rails to nowhereville. We know the two coaches we

enjoy watching suffer the most are still Bill Belichick in New England and Jim Harbaugh in San Francisco. Disappointment and frustration just seem to suit them better than success and accolades. We know the Seahawks and the Broncos are as good as advertised, and look to be the two teams best positioned for a meeting in next February's Super Bowl. Over on the diamond, meanwhile, an off-season short on big-name free agents (no, Robinson Cano, you are NOT a big-name free agent and anyone who even considers giving you \$300 million for ten years should be fired on the spot) has quickly and with much fanfare been completely and deliciously hijacked by everybody's favorite prima donna, Alex Rodriguez, and his Mr. Magoo of a foil, MLB Commissioner Bud Selig. Ten days into the arbitration hearing that he himself called for, A-Rod threw what must have been the greatest hissy-fit in the history of adulthood, storming out of the hearing, the building, and, possibly, the city. "I am disgusted with this abusive process, designed to ensure that the player fails," Rodriguez said in a post-tantrum statement. "I have sat through 10 days of testimony by felons and liars, sitting quietly through every minute, trying to respect the league and the process. "This morning, after Bud Selig refused to come in and testify about his rationale for the unprecedented and totally baseless punishment he hit me with, the arbitrator selected by MLB and the players' association refused to order Selig to come in and face me. The absurdity and injustice just became too much. I walked out and will not participate any further in this farce. "I lost my mind. I banged a table and kicked a briefcase and slammed out of the room," Rodriguez said later on WFAN radio. "I probably overreacted, but it came from the hearing. Everything with A-Rod comes from the heart, from the apologies to the mirror kissing. I'm just glad that when he acts like a four-year-old told to go to timeout, that comes from the heart as well.



A SPIRITED RENAISSANCE ~ APPLE PEAR STRUDEL

VINE & DISH



ELLEN KASSOFF GRAY

Moonshine conjures a myriad of metaphors; pottery jugs with XXX etched into it, Appalachian mountain folk pickin' and fiddlin', supped up prohibition era cars and most of all (if you watched a lot of TV in the 70's) the sardonic king of primetime hooch - Hawkeye Pierce. The charisma of moonshine is compelling; it symbolizes Americas rugged past, our taxation disputes and most appreciably - good ole entrepreneurial American spirit. Nowadays this once relatively endangered species is enjoying a resurgence making its way back (legally) as a hand crafted purely American artisan spirit. Through our newly found fixation with all things local - 'shiners have become legit contributors to that fixation. I visited Belmont Farms last month, a husband and wife owned distillery located in Culpeper. As farmers, the Millers take great pride in growing their crops and are totally vested in the time-honored method of copper pot, still fresh whiskey production. I took home a few bottles of the "hillbilly pop", legal since 1988. I shared it with my husband, and it was bottoms up for a few humorous nights. We tasted through the Virginia Lightning, Kopper Kettle and Apple Pie the latter being my favorite, its even bottled in the enduring Mason jar. I thought I'd utilize the whiskey IN my dish but quickly found myself creating a recipe to pair with the Apple Pie's sweet high-octane character and carried on nipping it straight up. Continuing the fun, I thought an ideal dish would be a seasonal fruit dessert, and bonus with Thanksgiving around the corner I have a sweet course to bring to a party. It seemed obvious to use apples; however, I added pears to this recipe because they provided another element of texture



tured this month on the History Channel's "10 Things You Don't Know About: Prohibition." The episode begins airing on History 2(H2) November 23rd @9pm

- Apple Pear Strudel**
8 servings
- 3 cups peeled, cored, and sliced apples (about 1 1/2 lbs)
- 3 cups peeled, cored and sliced pears (about 1 1/2 lbs)
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- Melted butter for brushing

(about 4 tablespoons)
Vanilla ice cream (optional)

Prep the filling: Set a large colander over a large bowl. Place the apples and pears in the colander and add the butter, lemon juice, graham crackers crumbs, 1 teaspoon of the cinnamon, and salt; toss to mix. Set aside to infuse the fruits and seasoning for 1 hour. Complete the filling. Lift the colander from the bowl. Pour the accumulated juices back on to the fruit and toss well. Make a cinnamon-sugar Graham Cracker sprinkling mix. Whisk together the remaining cinnamon and sugar in a small bowl. Set aside. Layer the pastry: Preheat the oven to 375°F. One at a time, unfold 5 phyllo dough sheets and stack on top of each other. Lay a slightly dampened (not wet) cloth over the top to keep them from drying out while you work. Unfold the 6th sheet and lay it flat, with a long edge facing you. Carefully brush the sheet with some melted butter, sprinkle it liberally with the sprinkling mix.

Lift the damp cloth; separate the top dough sheet from the stack and lay it directly on top of the sugar-sprinkled sheet (put the damp cloth back on the stack). Brush with butter and sprinkle mix as before. In this manner continue layering, buttering, and sugaring the dough sheets until you have a 6-layer rectangle. Don't worry about minor breakage of the dough, this is almost inevitable; try to orient the sheets so that unbroken areas support broken ones. Fill the strudel. Spread the fruit filling over the phyllo, leaving a 3-inch margin along the edges. Fold up the dough over the filling. Roll the dough all the way up. Carefully lift the strudel and place it seam down on the prepared baking sheet. Bake the strudel. Brush the top of the strudel with melted butter and sprinkle with remaining mix. Bake until golden and filling is bubbly - 35 to 45 minutes. Serve warm. Cheers.

THE ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

I recently purchased a new car. It's my first with a lot of technological wizardry. Assorted bells and whistles, that we know no one really needs to get from point A to B. Why then? I must admit, much of it is cumbersome and the old me likes simplicity, while the new me tries not to be left behind. Yes, my smart phone is smarter than me. But, if we progressively learn to grow with technology, it can make life simpler and often even better. The key is holding onto the basics, while navigating through the process of evolution. Art has experienced technological evolution too. It is all around us, despite what many artists think. As pure as you may think you are to your creative process, you have progressed wildly from the olden days. In fact, many artists seem to be dragged kicking and screaming into a new world, leaving behind the so called "traditional" ways of the old masters. I get it. I also understand, first there was darkness, then a candle and a light bulb. A pretty straight line, then came the ruler. Hand mixing paint with ground pigment, egg yokes and water, today, paint in a tube. Water came from a river, then a well and now a faucet. We all have accepted technology throughout history and my guess is that if the old masters had what we have today, they would have used it too. That proof lies in a look at the past, with Dutch masters using "camera obscura" in the 17th century and a more modern master, Norman Rockwell used both photography to shoot his models and a balopicon, or what we now know as an overhead projector, to trace a basic layout of his work to be painted. He was quick to mention that many revisions would then be made to his sketch and he said, "Painting from photographs can be a wholly creative performance if the artist himself is creative." I welcome anyone to tell me that Norman Rockwell wasn't a master painter and easily one of most creative and narrative artists in history. He understood the advantages of technology and where he would draw the line. No pun intended!



artists of all time. I personally think he overstepped the boundaries of originality, but there's little question of his creativity. Confusing isn't it? Today, some of the best known artists I know, even ones that lead the charge on painting en plein air, at times strongly depend on photography and even digital manipulation through photoshop. I personally use the advancement of water soluble oil paint and there are many other examples of technological progression that could named. Recently though, I was exposed to a pet artist that I felt was really crossing all the boundaries. He is not local and I will not mention his name here. But I knew, at looking at his paintings, that they were nothing more than 100% photo manipulation or digital paintings. Uses a stylus and software, he makes his photo of a pet, look as though it was painted. While he calls the final product an original, it is really nothing more than a print, as the original itself only lives in a digital world and can only be created as such. Here's the kicker though. On his website, he is completely and descriptively honest about his process, thus making me feel there's no problem with it at all. He is using technology to its fullest and proud of it. His collectors can easily choose to embrace his process or not. This single act itself, validates a new creative boundary for him. All forms of creative expression are choices and how you as an artist chooses to use or not use technology is a personal one. Being open minded may expand your horizons.

www.ThomasNeel.com

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~James Small, A Place To Be Student, age 15

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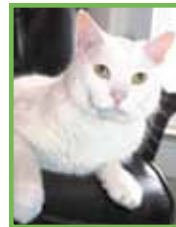
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Bailey is a gorgeous but not typical yellow lab. She would do best as a single dog & cannot live with cats or small children. Bailey needs a quiet home with a secure fence. She loves toys, the water & belly rubs. Great companion for car rides too!



Cotton is a 3 yr old 13.2h gelding Cremello pony who is very affectionate. He is a quick learner: lunges, walk, trot, & whoa. Cotton has good ground manners: stands for the farrier, is healthy, & 100% sound. He needs an experienced trainer & handler as he has tons of potential for a big future!

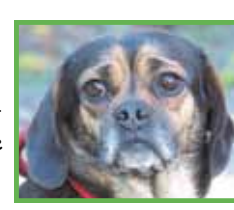


Olivia is a very special well mannered 1 yr old girl who is very quiet & relaxed indoors but very active outdoors. She knows how to sit & shake & loves treats & belly rubs. Olivia would do well as an only pet or with another dog.

Bessie is an active Beagle X who loves to play & run. She is strong for her 28 lb size. She would be a great jogging/hiking partner. She loves to learn, does well with training & likes to cuddle as well. She would do best as a single dog in a cat free home.



Cupcake is an absolutely adorable young lady who is very shy & nervous in new situations. She needs a quiet adult only home with a secure fenced yard. She gets along well with other dogs & cats.

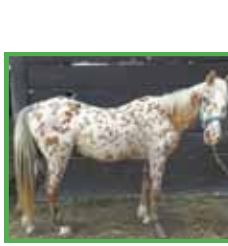


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Ellie is a 3 yr old, 15h, dark brown, TB mare. She was raced in PA. She came to us severely underweight. We plan to start working with her soon. She is a wind sucker, but not a wood chewer.

Leo is a 25+ year old Leopard Appaloosa. He was rescued from a starvation situation & is now at a good weight. He is very sweet & easy going. Due to his old age he will need to be on an equine senior mash. Leo is a perfect lawn ornament & companion.



Nola is an opinionated 7 yr. old Terrier X. She is incredibly sweet, smart as a whip but a little shy with new people. Nola is a couch potato who would prefer a quiet home with no children & lots of love.



ALBERT P. CLARK

ALBERT'S CORNER

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

Sometimes I write with structure and purpose. Sometimes I use a stream-of-consciousness approach. This time I'm streaming. With the holiday season approaching, I'm just too excited to concentrate. But I will share my thoughts on Thanksgiving.

First of all, it's the very best holiday of the entire year because of the whole part where everybody obsesses about food. It's a day when I feel an even deeper connection with people. Suddenly, we're all the same single-minded creatures drooling over something delicious. Yes, turkey day rocks.

There's also the football aspect, but believe it or not, I'm not a fan of football. I prefer tennis balls. So I watch The National Dog Show instead.

I have recently learned, however, that the holiday is actually not just about worshipping at the altar of mashed potatoes and TV. Apparently, it's about being grateful for the harvest. I guess it involves Pilgrims and Native Americans, but I don't really understand all of that. I do understand giving thanks for food. That, I get.

At our stores, customers fill out bone-shaped notes and write what their pets are thankful for. Lots of people participate and we get all kinds of responses. Here are a few recent ones:

- Maggie is thankful for belly scratches.
- Riley is thankful for a third chance at life.
- Cody is thankful for bones and squeaker toys.
- Ginger is grateful that the backyard is full of squirrels.
- Ella is thankful to be rescued from a shelter

just in time for Thanksgiving.

- Safari is thankful for catnip and catnaps.

- Alex is thankful for his loving family.

- Murphy is thankful for incredible oncologists.

It's really interesting to read what people have to say. The ones about rescue are always my favorite. Animals who get adopted often seem to have a permanent look of gratitude in their eyes.

If I had to ask my people to write a sentence about what I'm thankful for, they would say that I'm grateful to be able to talk. I talk all of the time, sunrise to sundown. My people might not quite understand the "words", but I try to make them just the same. With me around, it's never quiet in the house and my people never have to have a boring one-on-one conversation. They say I'm something called an "interrupting pest", but I have no clue what that means. I'm sure it's a compliment.

One of the few times I don't talk is when I'm eating. Which brings me full circle back to the topic of food and the upcoming holiday. We can enjoy lots of the same things people do - but do your research! Things like nutmeg, onions, garlic, some nuts, sage, turkey skin, cooked poultry bones and chocolate are toxic to us. We can eat a little plain broccoli, carrots, turkey without skin, sweet potatoes and pumpkin though. Just make sure everything is unseasoned.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family - two-legged and four!

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

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EDITOR’S DESK

FIRE AND THANKSGIVING

On November 14, 2013, fire all but destroyed the residence of the editor of this newspaper and threatened to destroy the Eccentric’s offices and the equipment necessary to publish the paper.

A friend, the mother of a friend and former employee of Mello Out was driving by late that night and noticed that our roof was on fire.

Had she not stopped, many of us living on the corner of route 50 and Zulla Road may well not have awakened from a sound sleep. Indeed, none of us might be here.

The response of the Middleburg Fire Department was both swift and outstanding.

With flames still rising, smoke everywhere, water already beginning to cascade into every nook and cranny, and people and pets still not sure exactly what was happening they made sure everyone was out and safe. Then they asked, “What shall we save first?” and went inside to save it.

You are reading this because, in our case, they saved our computers.

They were soon joined by fire fighters from companies all around Middleburg.

The Middleburg PD took control of traffic and local security and made us feel safe and secure during a long and stressful night.

We kept watch over our open office and home and slept, at least for a while, in our car with our dog.

We never felt alone, because we never really were alone. Police patrols regularly made their u-turns just west of us and made sure we saw them watching over us.

In the days that followed a parade of friends, new and old, offered us food, clothes, support and shelter.

This may not have been the happiest of Thsnksgivings . . . but, for us, it has been a Thanksgiving most real.

For all those whose sense of duty, honor, selflessness, courage, generosity and true friendship have been extended to us, we are truly truly thankful.

It’s good to be part of this extraordinary community . . . and to both know and experience the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

THE VIRGINIA ELECTIONS

BLUE
DANIEL MORROW

The Tea-Party-dominated GOP made history this month, blowing an election in which a Republican victory seemed all but predestined and foreordained.

The Democratic victory flew in the face of Virginia’s long tradition of electing statewide officers from the party opposed to the sitting President.

Worse, the GOP lost despite facing a candidate closely associated with a Democratic President suffering his lowest approval ratings ever.

Why?

By deciding to chose its candidates in convention rather than a primary, the Virginia GOP essentially allowed its activist right, its Tea Party wing, to choose its candidates.

Cuccinelli and Jackson were, of course, disasters

Even so, they came close to snatching a victory from what at one point seemed an inevitable and overwhelming defeat.

GOP veterans of the Rockefeller or even the Ronald Reagan stripe have been heard admitting that ANY old-school moderate or conservative Republican could have captured the top two state-wide slots this year, noting that even Mark Obenshain came within a recount of defeating a much better man.

The GOP’s nightmare right believes, and continues to preach, that it is the wave of the future . . . that its losses are analogs of the early defeats of the Young Americans for Freedom in the days of Goldwater vs. Johnson.

They’re not.

Indeed, arguably they’re much more similar to the Dixiecrats, or Mc-

GOVERNORS AND GOVERNING

RED
JAMES MORGAN

Well, the carpetbagging professional fund-raiser won. His 2.5% victory was helped along by the 6.5% of the vote garnered by the “libertarian” candidate whose presence on the ballot was made possible only by a big contribution from a high-powered Texas Democrat. Clever strategy; more so than the old Democratic techniques of getting out the graveyard vote or buying the street bum vote with cigarettes, booze, and a ride to the polls, but it still is distasteful and shows just how far “progressives” will go to win elections.

It didn’t help that the Democrats continued to push the false “war on women” supposedly being waged by Republicans (tell that to the single moms whose health insurance has been cancelled thanks to Obamacare). Nor that they portrayed Cuccinelli’s desire to limit abortion as “absolutist” while their own position of abortion anytime, anywhere, for any reason is called “moderate.” They even dubbed Cuccinelli “an ideological extremist,” funny coming from disciples of Saul Alinsky. Pot meet kettle.

It also didn’t help that, near the end, they made numerous misleading robocalls trying to confuse the issue in conservative households by asserting that Cuccinelli was FOR abortion or that they pounded Cuccinelli for his alleged connection to the gift scandal that affected Gov. McDonnell and ignored the fact that the Commonwealth Attorney’s office in Richmond had cleared him of any such connection months before. But then this is, after all, “the Chicago Way.”

What to expect from McAuliffe? His experience, according to the Washington Post, consists mostly of using “government programs, political connections and access to wealthy investors of both parties in pursuit of big profits for himself.” That won’t help him govern Virginia but it might help him accomplish his real goal of securing the state for Hillary in 2016. Obamacare, however, will be a problem as it was during the last couple weeks of the gubernatorial campaign, almost causing him to lose a race which everyone had declared he would win big.

Afterwards, Cuccinelli said, “The race was a referendum on Obamacare . . . and Obamacare lost.” That obviously is true and has become even more so since the election with the revelation that the Dear Leader lied his way through the entire process (no surprise there) and also because of the several million (and counting) insurance cancellation letters that have gone out. It is becoming ever more obvious, even to some hard core Obammunists, that Cuccinelli and the Tea Party Republicans were right all along about the disaster that Obamacare would (has) become.

It is said, perhaps correctly, that the GOP could have done more for Cuccinelli; given him considerably more money and generally put more effort into his race than it did into Chris Christie’s sure thing in New Jersey. Certainly, there is no question that the Republican party nationally and in Virginia was divided and this disunity is clear in the predictable post-election breast beating. But it also is standard behavior for the losing party in any election.

Various sources have blamed the government shutdown or the Republican National Committee or the Republican Governors Association. Take your pick. Money clearly was a problem as Cuccinelli was badly outspent. In fact, National Review said that “he probably suffered the worst financial disadvantage of any gubernatorial candidate in modern Virginia political history.” McAuliffe raised over \$34 million to Cuccinelli’s \$19.7 million and he efficiently focused those funds in his ad campaign, especially during the last few weeks when concern over Obamacare nearly negated the advantage.

So what now? Should the GOP become more “moderate” (i.e., Democrat Lite) or more conservative? That argument will continue but at least it shows that Republicans don’t march in lockstep or follow a pre-determined party line as Democrats do. That reflects diversity, properly understood, and it hopefully will help the good guys hold the country together. Now, on to 2014!

Carthyites, or the early supporters of George Wallace.

Far from representing the vanguard of a new generation, they’re the last sad vestiges of old and long discredited prejudices, dying religious dogma and destructive points of view.

Happily, their astoundingly self-righteous special insights into the mind of god wind up alienating more people than they convince, and arguably they convince few, if anyone new.

They oppose women’s rights, the rights of gay people, voting rights, the rights of immigrants, universal health care, modern science, and most of the other insights that have made the world a safer and saner place to live.

Older white men and older white married women seem to remain disproportionately gullible . . . but not young people, women, minorities of all description (including those in the process of becoming majorities).

Most Americans, and most Virginians now find others find their views short sighted at best and heartlessly mean-spirited at worst.

They seek office in local, state and national institutions they make no bones about despising.

They preach minimalist government but make no bones about using government to enforce their

A LESSON OF INTELLECTUAL INTEGRITY

MARK KIMBALL

One of the enduring issues that various people or groups still debate is who was responsible for the death of JFK. Don’t worry. I am not going to review all the theories or argue for or against the FBI, or the CIA, or the Russians, or the Cubans, or Uncle Guido and his pals in the Mafia.

What I do want to bring to your attention is the one great book that anyone with a real scholar’s interest in the assassination must study. I almost said “read,” but that would be misleading. At just over 1500 pages and several pounds, this encyclopedic tool requires time, patience, a sturdy table, and a mind uncluttered with preconceived notions, political agendas, or messages from a galaxy far, far away.

The book is titled Reclaiming History. It was researched and written by Vincent Bugliosi over a twenty year period. You may remember Mr. Bugliosi from his work as the prosecuting attorney at the trial of the Manson “family,” among other things. In this instance, it is his purpose to take on all comers and prove that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone and killed the President. There is no point of view that is not covered and virtually no person of interest that is not examined including 44 specific groups, 214 potential co-conspirators, and 82 people named at one time or another as a shooter.

This is not popular history. It is not a fun read or a clever page turner to snuggle up with after a hot bath. This is get down and dirty, bring your “A” game serious historical detective work. Come looking for one of those breezy blogs that you can find on the internet every day and you will be disappointed. But come you must, if you care about the truth. You may not like what you find, but you will most likely be impressed and possibly overwhelmed by the logic of Mr. Bugliosi who reminds us that, in the end, it is the evidence that matters.

If you have an opinion on what happened in Dealy Plaza and have not researched its treatment in Reclaiming History, you should do so as soon as possible. Afterwards, you will have three choices: 1. Ignore the truth 2. Change your mind or 3. Go back to work and find better information than the author.

This book came to

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