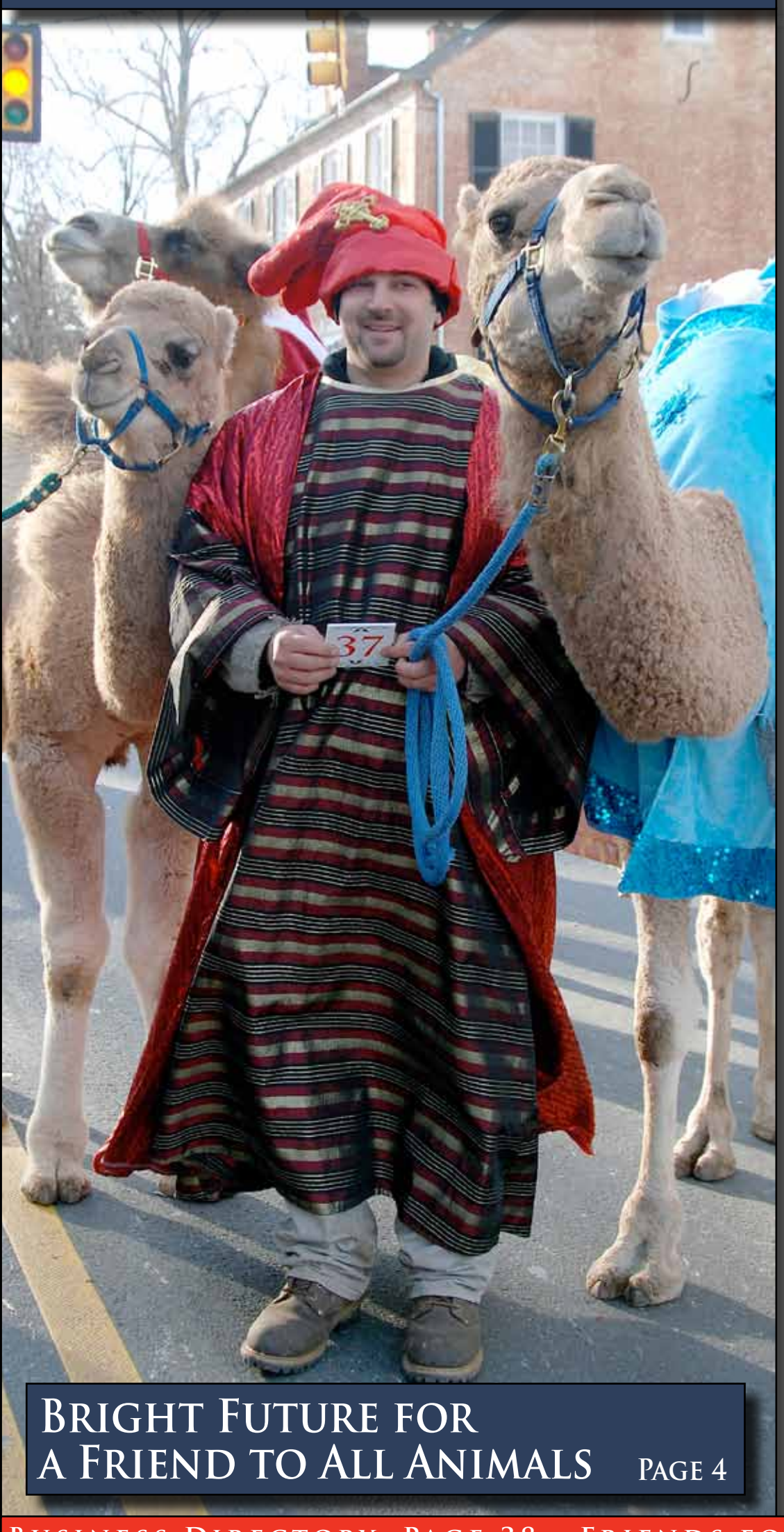
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BUY LOCAL

And Good Luck in the New Year... Page 32

Middleburg Christmas Parade Page 12



Bright Future for a Friend to All Animals Page 4

Celebration Receives High Praise

Daniel Morrow

This year's "Christmas in Middleburg" Celebration received high praise at the Town Council's December 12 regular session, the first since the day of events.

Though official estimates of crowd size are still forthcoming, Council Member Kevin Hazard, the town's official liaison to the Middleburg Business and Professional Association reported that an informal survey of restaurants and retailers indicated crowds as large or larger than last year, and business up.

Traffic flow, to and from the parade, during the parade itself and along the sidewalks of Middleburg, was greatly improved. The Police Department's new "candy cane" stanchions, Hazard noted, not only improved they parade flow, but effectively widened the town's sidewalks, allowing people with "multiple bags" to move easily from shop to shop.

Police Chief A. J. Panebianco agreed, and promised to do his best to outline the entire route of the parade for next year's celebrations.

The effective and systematic clean up during and after the parade, particularly the work of more than 35 volunteer trash can monitors, was also noted.

The weather for the event was perfect, Hazard noted, with one exception. The rains preceding the celebration had left one of the fields used for parking very soggy. A number of cars had to be pushed to escape the mud.

The crowds were not only large, but very well behaved. "Typical" of the folks who come to Middleburg, Police Chief Panebianco noted.

Town Donations to Non-Profits

Each year the Town of Middleburg donates to local charities a significant portion of what the private sector would term the town's "operating profits" from "The Health Center," a building the town owns and rents out at a non-profit "profit" to tenants including the Middleburg Police Department.

This year's contributions totaled $29,000. The recipients included:

Seven Loaves	*$10,000*
Middleburg Volunteer Fire and Rescue	*$4,000*
Windy Hill Tutoring Program	*$ 2,000*
Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund	*$500*
Middleburg Public Library Advisory Board	*$2,000*
Middleburg FISH	*$2,500*
Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter	*$ 2,500*
Middleburg Community Center	*$4,000*
American Legion	*$ 500*
A Place to Be	*$500*

The Town also appears to have finally fixed the heating system in the Health Center building. Minutes after the year's Health Center grants were approved, a tenant in the building appeared to announce that his patience was at last at an end after 601 days of tenancy with an essentially non-functional heating system. He loved the building and the location, he said, and would happily buy the property from the town and fix it himself.

Mayor Davis and Town Administrator Semmes reported that they believed that the heating and heating control problems had, at last, been fixed.

The tenant noted that he had been an excellent steward of the space he rented, had paid his company's entire annual rent in advance, and has made, he said, more than $80,000 worth of permanent improvements to the property himself.

His patience had come to an end, he said, after 601 days of misery, and he took Council to task for its slow and, in his view, completely inadequate response to the problem.

Mayor Davis apologized for the town, and Council appeared to agree that some compensation was due. Details were to be worked out with the Town Administrator.

Middleburg Retains "The CLUE Group"

Continued page 7

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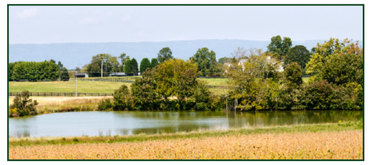
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FQ8204258
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FQ7935337 • $6,364,000

PETER PEJACSEVICH
540.270.3835
SCOTT BUZZELLI
540.454.1399



36579 MOUNTVILLE RD, MIDDLEBURG, VA- Magnificent hunt country estate, White Oak Farm, 60 outstanding acres in the foxcroft area.. Turnkey horse farm with a restored 1890's 4 br, 2 full 2 half bath.Original hardwood, wine cellar, 7 stall courtyard stable with a party/hunt breakfast room, 7 paddocks with new fencing. 2 additional dwellings. LO8233146 $3,300,000

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209 WASHINGTON ST E, MIDDLEBURG, VA -Historic c.1820 turnkey B&B in Town of Middleburg. Includes real estate, successful business, contents (excl. owner's personal items). Beautifully decorated & furnished. Off St. pkg, 8 lovely rooms w/ en suite bathrooms, huge commercial kitchen, dining rm, office, sitting area, parlor, 9 frpls. decks, gardens. Includes add'l .25 ac corner lot Tax ID #538293356000. Walk to shops/restaurants.

PATRICIA BURNS
540.454.6723
LO8226376
$2,200,000



9376 BRIAR LN, DELAPLANE, VA - Turn-key Equestrian property on 31+ private acres, frontage on Goose Ck. Spacious 4 BR; Master suite on main level, California closet, jacuzzi, etc. Open floor plan with mahogany beamed vaulted ceilings. Gourmet kitchen with Wolf appliances, 31x16 den, double 58' decks. Extraordinary stable! 14~x14~ stalls, etc.,120~x240~ ring, 5 paddocks, sheds with water/elec. Great ride-out, Convenient commute....

ANNE MCINTOSH
703-509-4499
FQ8230417
$1,799,000



Beaverdam Bridge Rd, Middleburg, VA - Beautiful custom stone/ stucco home on 10+ acres. 4 bdrms, 5 1/2 baths. Main level bedroom, custom kitchen with granite and a breakfast bar. 4 fireplaces, 3 car garage with an upstairs apartment. HUGE finished basement, whole house generator, porch off the master suite, a pool, minutes to middleburg and Purcellville.

TED ZIMMERMAN
540-905-5874
LO8169923
$1,600,000



23085 Pantherskin Ln, Middleburg, VA- Exceptionally spacious brick house in sought after Atoka Chase, minutes from downtown Middleburg in a very private setting. Large master suite. Large mud room. 4 car garage. Finished lower level. Media room. 10 acres. Pond. 5 bedrooms. 4 baths.
LO8105401 • $1,190,000

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BUNDLES MURDOCK
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19744 RIDGESIDE RD, BLUEMONT, VA -Completely renovated Custom built Cedar Log Home that incorporates local Reclaimed wood. Private upstairs office. 4 stall center aisle barn, tack room,wash stall,feed room. Auto water in stalls&fields. 100x180 Bluestone/rubber ring w/irrigation system. Run Ins. Black board fencing. 36x24 Workshop. Pond!! Incredible stone patio w/ VIEWS!! Easy access to both Rt7 &Rt50 & Middleburg/Upperville area... $1,100,000

MARCY CANTATORE
540-533-4753



272 RETREAT RD, BLUEMONT, VA - VIEWS!! Magnificent stonework, hardscaping and landscaping complete the surroundings of this beautiful custom built home. Main Level living. Hardwood floors. Full walkout basement with RI for Full bath. Covered front & back porch. Trex Decking. Stone patio and outdoor fireplace. Loudoun Co address but LOWER Clarke Co taxes. All paved easy access to Rt7.

MARCY CANTATORE
540-533-4753



21062 HOODED CROW DR, LEESBURG, VA - Tenant occupied until Jan.31st. Please excuse TENANT's CLUTTER. Note that Gleedsville Road at 15 South is closed. Must go past and enter at Emerald Park. Directions noted correctly in listing. Home has over $90,000 dollars in builder and homeowner improvements. Not your typical builder standards. Designer kitchen and baths. Custom yoga studio in basement, yard with sprinkler. No-voc paint

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703-296-2347
LO8221569
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540-533-4753



156 OAK CLIFF LN, BOYCE, VA - Very PRIVATE 7+ Wooded acres w/ its own RIVER FRONTAGE!! Seasonal VIEWS! Great home with many updates in the last 2 years-- too numerous to list them all. Workshop w/ workbench on LL. Gated community with Community Rec area, Shenandoah River Frontage, In ground Pool. Easy access to both Rt50 & Rt7 makes it a great commuter spot. LL Bedrooms have smaller windows.3 BR perk. FP & central A/C AS-IS... $250,000

MARCY CANTATORE
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News of Note

Em Sharp's 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 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.

"As a teacher, Em Sharp was magical. She had the best sense of humor. If you weren't the best at drawing what was on the table, she turned you into the best potter – she let us all make these little clay figures," recalled Stormy Stokes-Hood (class of '81) whose son attends Hill. "She let us figure out what we were good at. She didn't go by the book. She instilled the love of art in me. I went to Corcoran School of Art [Sharp's alma mater] and Em was my mentor. Pursuing a career in art gave me confidence in myself although I ended up with a career in PR. Em gave everyone the opportunity to have fun, to be yourself and to find yourself. She was the best."

On May 11, 2012 The Hill School dedicated its spring reception as a celebration of the life of their beloved Sharp (July 16, 1918–August 13, 2011). She taught art at Hill from 1961-1971 and from 1978-1983. By her leadership and passion, she inspired countless students. Sharp remained a dynamic member of the community and a faculty member Emeritus until her peaceful passing, at the age of 93, at her home, "Toad Hall" at Walnutdale Farm, The Plains. More than 130 people attended the reception, from members of the alumni who studied art with Sharp to former students who had heard about her to Sharp's own children.

The Hill School's Alumni Association sponsors fundraising events in order to support the local community, such as Seven Loaves and the Cherry Blossom Walk. When the 16 board members, including its president Charles Ellison ('97), convened in 2012, they discussed dedicating the spring reception to Sharp. They also discussed their donation to a local cause. According to Stokes-Hood, the alumni "wanted to do something fun and something for the community." That's when they voted unanimously to support the restoration and refurbishment of all 26 signs created and painted by Sharp. Quail Run Signs, owned by alumnus John Ralph, took on the project.

Sharp designed her holiday signs to be double-sided, with several sporting two different images. She created paper patterns from her original drawings so that Middleburg Millworks could cut the designs from exterior plywood, which was laminated with heavy paper to provide a good drawing and painting surface. Two coats of primer later and Sharp was ready with brushes and enamel paint. Once a sign was painted to Sharp's satisfaction, she finished her work with a coat of polyurethane. The process of creating and



Continued page 7

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News of Note

Bright Future for a Friend to All Animals



Once you learn about Middleburg Humane Foundation (MHF) and the tireless work they do to give so many abused, neglected and "at risk" animals a new and loved life, MHF will have grabbed your heart. That is what happened to our family when we moved here and learned about this outstanding organization. Helping this wonderful cause has given me so much more than I have given to them.

After years of only being a donor, two years ago Lisa Ben-Dov asked if I would join the Board of Directors. This move has given me the insight to fully understand all that is takes, physically, financially, and emotionally to run an animal shelter.

Unlike many other businesses or organizations our entire mandate involves twenty-four hour, seven-days-a-week care for needy living creatures. No turning out the lights and going home at six o'clock. Add to that the fact that many of these animals are near death, having been starved or abused, and you have a need that can go all through the night. The work is never ending but it is very rewarding. It is vital to ensure that compassion and empathy are promoted in our community and beyond.

My involvement started with mostly listening, advising, and offering to help in any way that may be useful.

In the past year we have fostered six horses. It is so very rewarding to see the little fellows come thin, matted and afraid and eventually with love and kind hands and hearts have these animals learn to trust again and allow you to wash them, brush them and learn to be lead on a lead line.

Terri, the lady who takes care of our own horses, is truly a miracle worker. Recently two very small, skinny calves came and needed to be hand fed for the first few days. Soon they were standing up, and in a few weeks were putting on weight and feeling great. We named them "Jack and Jill". After two months of TLC, they found their forever home as pet cows with a wonderful family with two young children who are thrilled with their new four legged friends.

This past August a little Chihuahua/mix, "Perogi" came to the shelter. Her owner had died and she and several other small dogs were put in a cold and lonely pen behind a thrift shop where she lived for a couple of years until that owner died. 'Perogi" came to MHF in terrible shape: she had been badly neglected and was suffering from severely deformed hind legs. MHF, with funds from a donor, provided the surgery needed and her physical therapy is progressing very well. She is now ready to be adopted! Please find it in your heart to give this adorable little darling a home as she would be happy to be your new lap warmer….winter is coming!



From humble beginnings, MHF has grown to become a vital organization that now serves an always present need in Fauquier County and the surrounds. The purchase in 1994 of an old farmhouse on four acres has served us well as a farm shelter but over these past 19+ years, the demand for assistance has quadrupled and MHF has outgrown their current facility. The need to help all kinds of animals and families continues to grow. As the need for assistance grows, so do the needs of the organization.

Two years ago, after many years of incredible support for MHF, Zohar and Lisa Ben-Dov came forward and gifted twenty-three acres of land just west of Marshall for a new facility. It is with that gift of land and their tireless work to raise the funds for a new facility from the leaders in the Middleburg community that we will now have a bright future! The new facility will provide MHF with a state of the art farm shelter including a spay/ neuter clinic, grooming salon, small animal adoption center, humane education center and a livestock rescue facility all capable of accommodating our growing needs. The Capital Campaign fundraising is well underway and

Continued page 7

Thos. Hays & Son Jewelers



Merry Christmas ~ Tom & Sue Hays

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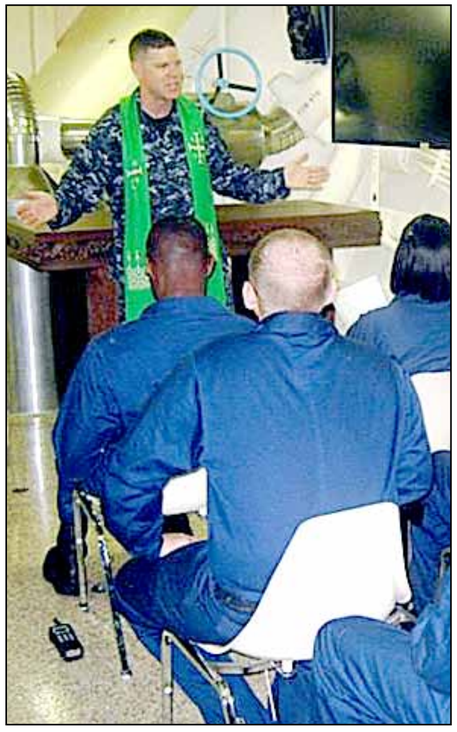
News of Note

'Pastor and Commander' at Middleburg Baptist Church

Herman Melville wrote that a "chaplain is the minister of peace serving in the host of the God of War." Last summer Rev. J. Travis Moger moved from Annapolis, MD, to Middleburg to become pastor of Middleburg Baptist Church, leaving active duty in the Navy but remaining a chaplain in the Navy Reserve. Because of his rank, his children call him "pastor and commander." His military duty takes him to Norfolk once a month where he serves as the deputy force chaplain for Naval Surface Forces Atlantic, comprising 78 ships and 25,000 sailors.

This year he has gone to sea twice aboard the USS Arlington, a brand new 684-foot San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock with 385 sailors. In July he sailed out for a week while its crew tested the ship's defensive armaments: two 30mm guns and two air-defense missile launchers. They passed with flying colors. Moger's purpose, however, was more peaceful. While on board he preached in the ship's chapel and led a daily Bible study. Every evening he put the sailors to bed by giving the evening prayer over the intercom just before taps at ten. "Instead of just a prayer," Moger explained, "I always give a story and a prayer, usually a clean joke or parable that leads into my prayer for the evening."

In November, Moger embarked aboard the same warship for three days to conduct a burial at sea for five veterans, including three who served during World War II. Sailors wearing their dress blue "Cracker Jack" uniforms brought urns with the cremains to the ship's rail and scattered the ashes in the sea, while Chaplain Moger said the words of committal. A rifle detail fired off a 21-gun salute, then taps was played as the ship gently rocked on the ocean waves. Finally, a flag was presented in honor of the departed. The families, who were not on board for the ceremony, will each receive a letter of condolence from the ship's captain, a CD with pictures, a chart marking the location of the burial, and a flag that was flown from the ship's mast.



Chaplain Travis Moger leads worship aboard the USS Arlington.

The ship returned to port just before the Veterans Day weekend. By Sunday Moger was back in the pulpit of his church. It may be a long time before he goes to sea again. Moger has been selected to command a reserve unit in DC made up of chaplains and enlisted chaplain assistants who support the Marine Corps. He begins his new assignment in December.



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Em Sharp's Legacy

Continued from page 3

executing the signs took time and effort, but Sharp considered her project an enjoyable labor of love.

Although the original Christmas in Middleburg poster has no year, locals date the event to 1981 or 1982, which was the first year that the Yuletide signs added their festive appeal to the town's decorations. Their restoration by The Hill School Alumni guarantees the perpetuation of the artist's visions and community spirit for many years to come.

The bottom line is that Sharp wanted to do something very special for Christmas in Middleburg and she succeeded beyond her wildest expectations.

Bright Future for a Friend to All Animals

Continued from page 4

soon MHF will offer giving opportunities to the whole community so that everyone can be a part of this exciting new chapter of MHF!

Every year over 500 animals, both large and small, are fortunate enough to come to MHF. They receive exceptional daily care and a second chance at a happy and healthy life. This is all possible because of the greatly appreciated support of our community. MHF receives no state or county funding so please help MHF stay strong by donating to our general operating expenses or joining our team.

You may help MHF help the animals by: becoming a member, donating funds, volunteering your time, donating items to our thrift shop, donating supplies for animal care, and/ or adopting a homeless animal. Together we are making a difference!

Thank you for helping us continue to help them. For more information on MHF, please visit our website at www.middleburghumane.com or call (540) 364-3272.

Christmas in Middleburg

Continued from page 1

Town Council approved a contract with the Arlington-based "CLUE Group" to provide economic development consulting services. The contract calls for spending no more than $34,000 of the town's $50,000 economic development program budget.

"The CLUE Group," according to Town Administrator Martha Semmes, will be "working with our business community and other downtown stakeholders to create business development and marketing strategies and a 'business toolkit' for our downtown businesses."

Police Work Praised

In addition to his high praise for his department's work during the "Christmas in Middleburg" celebrations, Chief A. J. Panebianco reported that his department had contributed an opportunity to be a "Detective for a Day" for some lucky child to the Middleburg Elementary Schools annual "silent auction." The auction is held each year on the day of the "Christmas in Middleburg" Parade, during the school's "Breakfast with Santa. Over 400 people attended that event this year, and around 125 children had their photograph taken with Santa.

Chief Panebianco also reported that his department's new Facebook page had over 500 "likes" confirmed in one week. Between 300 and 500 people, the chief noted, appear to be visiting the page each day.

Salamander Performance Bond Released

Council unanimously agreed that Salamander Resort and Spa had met the legally binding and duly bonded performance requirements related to the public improvements on their property. The motion allowed Town Staff to release an Irrevocable Letter of Credit from JP Morgan Chase totaling $2,155,745 on the condition that Salamander execute (and the Town accept) a one-year "maintenance bond" totaling 5% of the actual cost of the public improvements, primarily water and waste water treatment facilities and related infrastructure. The new, one-year bond should total $183,673.

New Salaries for Mayor and Town Council

Council voted 3-2 to allow staff to release funds already budgeted for increased salaries for the Mayor and members of Town Council. The Mayor's salary will increase from $1,000 annually to $6,000. Council members, who are currently paid $20 per meeting will henceforth be paid $2,400 per year.

Planning Commissioner Needed

The Town is currently seeking letters of interest from citizens interested and willing to serve on the Town Planning Commission. Chaired by Steve Plescow, the Commission is arguable one of the most important and most powerful of the Town's committees. Letters should be sent to the attention of Rhonda North, Town Clerk, at P.O. Box 187, Middleburg VA 20118 or they may be dropped off at the Town Offices at 10 West Marshall Street.

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Highland Helping Those in Need





Senior class president, Grant Salley and classmates Eddie Campell and Brantley Lawson hand over a check from the senior class to Food Bank Manager Roland Serrano.

Highland School continues its tradition of helping those in need during the holiday season. 100% of the ticket sales from the recent Highland for the Holidays bazaar were divided equally between the Fauquier Family Shelter and the Fauquier Free Clinic. Head of School Hank Berg was able to present each group with $600.

In addition, the 2013 Thanksgiving Food Drive was a great success, thanks to the generosity of our Highland community. Highland's total school donation was 3324 pounds, with 500 from the Lower School, 1286 from the Middle School, and 1538 from the Upper School. Additionally, Highland's Senior class continued their tradition of sponsoring one turkey per Senior with a donation of $735. "We wouldn't even attempt to do this project without volunteers like Highland," said Food Bank Manager Roland Serrano, after Highland volunteers assembled more than 200 baskets in one hour on Saturday. This Thanksgiving, the food bank provided meals for 650 needy families in the community. In addition to collecting wish list items for the food bank, student groups in each division host an assembly to generate awareness for the larger issue of hunger and poverty. In the Upper School, students heard from Mr. David Pirtle and Ms. Resurrection Graves from the National Coalition for the Homeless Speakers Bureau about experiences becoming and overcoming homelessness. Click here to read Mr. Pirtle's profile: http://www.nationalhomeless.org/faces/bios/davidpirtle.html

Foxcroft's Shipka Earns Eventing Rider of the Year & Rising Star Award



It's official: Foxcroft School rider Chase Shipka is a rising star and she's getting an award that says so.

Not only is Shipka the U.S. Eventing Association's Junior Preliminary Rider of the Year but the 17-year-old Marshall, VA, resident has also been named 2013 Nutrena Rising Star in Eventing, the USEA announced recently

Shipka, who will receive the awards at the USEA's annual dinner December 6 in Cincinnati, moved up from the training level to preliminary last winter and proceeded to win six events en route to the top of the Junior Preliminary Rider points leaderboard. She dominated the class finishing 23 points ahead of her nearest challenger, with 112.5 points.

In addition, Shipka finished 42nd on the World Equestrian Brands Rider of the Year list -- the overall standings for all USEA eventers!

Shipka's first-place finishes came on three different horses, two of which also made year-end leader boards. Victory Shehan was 10th among Preliminary Horses and Ever So Lucky was seventh among Preliminary Thoroughbreds. At the Virginia Horse Trials earlier this month, Shipka rode Victory Shehan to second place and Ever So Lucky to sixth in the Preliminary competition.

The big news at that show, though, was her victory on Palm Crescent in the CCI1* Three-Day event. An international level competition, the Virginia HT CCI1*, drew more than 25 entries from around the country. Shipka and Palm Crescent stood in fourth place after the dressage and then claimed the blue ribbon with a clear ride over the long, hilly cross-country course and a strong show jumping round.

Other victories this year came at the Morven Park, Plantation Field, Surefire Farm and Sporting Days Farm, as well as the MCTA and spring Virginia horse trials.

Shipka moved to the Middleburg area from Wyoming before her freshman year at Foxcroft and has taken advantage of the School's unique Exceptional Proficiency Program to train with international star Jan Byyny at Surefire Farm and, during the winter months, in Aiken, SC. The EP Program also enables Shipka, a strong student and junior leader, to spend the winter months training and competing in Aiken, SC, while keeping up with her classmates academically.

Shipka recently began training with Will Coleman, who was a member of the US Olympic Team in 2012, and working on her flatwork with dressage specialist Allison Spivey.

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William Woodward Insists Art is Critical Element in 21st Century Education

Joanne R. Kresic

Many events to mark the 10th anniversary of the Center for the Arts at Highland School in Warrenton are planned for next year, culminating in a gala May 31, 2014. Recently, at one of these celebratory events, local artist and art educator William Woodward presented a lecture on the arts and education in the Rice Theater at the Center for the Arts.

He began by reminding parents that the debate over the ideal education for children has its origins at least as long ago as ancient Greece. The ancient Greeks took into account the education of the mind, the body, and the imagination. "If there is too much emphasis on the gymnastic aspects of education, then a warlike society is created. But when the gymnastic aspects are tempered with aesthetics, you help to create a balanced child."

This is just one reason that Woodward feels it is vital that the arts are included in a school's curriculum. He spoke about the role that art has played in his own life and told many stories, both profound and humorous, of his life as a developing and established artist.

Woodward's passion for art began with representing the things of the world that he loves best. In college, he turned briefly to abstract art, "flinging paint at the canvas just like Jackson Pollock."

However, he soon returned to figurative painting and his interest in narrative art eventually opened the door to commissions for what is now an astonishing body of narrative murals. One mural, "The Great Odyssey of Medicine" is at Fairfax Inova Hospital. It is a bold and dramatic depiction of the history of medicine. Woodward loves painting murals not only for their inherent drama but also because he says he learns so much in the research and planning stages for these large scale visual histories.

In addition, he has the distinction of creating the largest single painting by one artist in the 20th century: his renowned mural of circus life, "The Greatest Show on Earth" formerly at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey corporate headquarters in Vienna, Virginia, and now in Sarasota, Florida.

As an art educator, some of the skills that he teaches his students sound remarkably like skills needed for navigating everyday life: having patience, creating without fear, and believing in yourself, taking yourself seriously. Ultimately, Woodward stated, art "helps people to develop their own uniqueness, their own individuality. They become who they can be."

Head of School Henry Berg summed up the morning's lecture. "On the 10th Anniversary of our Center for the Arts at Highland, we wanted to bring in an artist and art educator to speak to the community about the importance of integrating the arts into the school curriculum as well as into our children's lives. At Highland, aesthetics are an important part of our sensibility. The Performing Arts Center was a wonderful gift to the school and to the community from the Rice family. It has allowed our students to flourish in both the visual and performing arts. As Professor Woodward put it so well, the arts help students along in the process of becoming who they can be: unique individuals with unique gifts."

The Performing Arts Center at Highland School features a 60 seat "Black Box" theater, music practice rooms, an instrumental room, a choral room, drama classrooms, a "Green Room", a spacious art gallery, a 2-D art room, 3-D art room, a photography lab, a digital filmmaking lab, a print room, lobby and the 355 seat Rice Theater. For more information, visit www.highlandschool.org and click on the Fine Arts tab for information on upcoming events, to purchase tickets, to view Gallery photos, and more. Highland School is a PK through Grade 12 coed, independent day school in Warrenton, Va., challenging students to develop the skills and abilities that they will need to thrive in the next stage of their lives.



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Foxcroft's New Dorm is so Green it's Gold





Stuart Hall, the Foxcroft School dormitory that opened this fall, has achieved Gold Certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Program for new construction, Head of School Mary Louise Leipheimer announced recently.

The gold designation, the second highest among four levels possible, is an impressive indication of the building's sustainability and the School's commitment to the environment. Stuart Hall earned 60 out of 110 possible credits in six "green" categories. It excelled especially in water efficiency (ranking in the top 14% among LEED projects in the U.S.) and energy (top 16% in Virginia).

Other especially strong areas were indoor environmental quality and innovation in design, which includes an educational component that earned high marks because of the significant involvement of Foxcroft students..

In announcing the certification, Leipheimer pointed out some impressive achievements in specific areas such as the use of geothermal wells and an environmental-friendly building envelope to saver energy and protect the atmosphere. But she was most excited about the impact students had on obtaining the lofty certification level.

"Because of you," she told the students, "we exceeded our hope of earning a silver certification and we got the gold!"

Student involvement started with the first visioning meetings for the project and included student-based programs to develop a new green logo for Foxcroft, create signage for the building, and design an interactive energy "dashboard" for the dorm that addresses environmental issues from recycling on campus to water use in Stuart Hall.

The most innovative program, however, was a monthly student seminar called Project GreenBuild. Created by the project's general contractor Forrester Construction and architects Hord Coplan Macht, the program included lectures, hands-on activities, and a construction site tour that examined another aspect of building and design each month. Topics, which were organized to coincide with the progress of the building itself, ranged from the design process, sustainability,and project management to foundation techniques, building envelope, electrical and plumbing systems, and finishes. Activities included everything from making cement and building structures out of Legos, to using designing buildings using front-line software.

Other achievements that Leipheimer highlighted from the U.S. Green Building Council's report:

Materials & resources: 92.7% of the construction waste was diverted from landfills and 20.7% of the materials used were recycled.

Water efficiency: There was a 44% reduction in use of water.

Indoor Environmental Quality: 96% of occupants have access to lighting controls and 100% of regularly-occupied areas have views to the exterior.

Energy and atmosphere: The building has an energy-efficient envelope, and uses green-friendly lighting, controls, appliances, and a geothermal HVAC system.

Sustainable Site: There is plentiful open space, bicycle storage, and low-emitting vehicles parking. Storm water design is green-friendly.

In the United States and other countries around the world, LEED certification is the recognized standard for measuring building sustainability. It is currently certifying about 1.5 million square feet of building space each day in 135 countries. The LEED rating system is designed to promote design and construction practices that increase profitability while reducing the negative environmental impacts of buildings and improving occupant health and well-being. Today, more than 54,000 projects are currently participating in LEED, comprising more than 10.1 billion square feet of construction space.

The LEED rating system offers four certification levels for new construction -- Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum -- that correspond to the number of credits accrued in six green design categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design.

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Eight Foxcroft Athletes on All–State Teams

Foxcroft School's highly successful fall athletic campaign reached a triumphant culmination recently when seven members of the powerful field hockey and tennis teams received Virginia Independent School's Athletic Association ISAA Division II All-State honors.

They join cross-country standout Amy Edgemond of Reston, VA, who earlier earned All-State honors by finishing fourth in the VISAA Division II Championship.

Seniors Lilly MacDonald of Bluemont, Alicia Holz of Delaplane, and sophomore Alex Grace of Purcellville were named to the First Team status in field hockey while sophomore Pipsy Steyn of Leesburg received Honorable Mention. MacDonald and Holz also were first-team selections last year.

In tennis, sophomore Annie Mickum of The Plains repeated as a First Team selection and was joined by sophomore Marina Shallcross of Upperville. Senior Kelly Buckland of Alexandria, a First Teamer in 2012, was named to the Second Team.

MacDonald and Holz, both of whom hope to play field hockey in college , were co-captains of the team that posted a 14-4-2 record and finished second in the VISAA Division II state tournament.

MacDonald, who split her time between midfield and defense, was second on the team in goals (10), converting 53.2 percent of her shots (10 for 19). She also was a stalwart defender, breaking up many opposing attacks.

One of the top goaltenders in the state, Holz recorded 11 shutouts in 20 games and collected 106 saves. She allowed only 23 goals -- with 16 of them coming from the Foxcroft's four games against Fredericksburg Academy, the Delaney Athletic Conference and Division II state champions.

Grace was Foxcroft's leading scorer, knocking home 35 goals and recording seven assists. She scored five goals in the state tournament, including the only goal in a 1-0 semifinal victory over Carlisle. Grace also was an all-state first team selection in lacrosse last spring as a freshman.

Steyn, a defender, anchored the back line all season and provided stellar play in the state tournament, especially in the victory over Carlisle. She also had four assists during the regular season.

Mickum and Shallcross led the Foxcroft Tennis Team to a 13-1 campaign, including the School's first Delaney Athletic Conference Championship and a semifinal berth in the VISAA Division II state tournament. Mickum, who played first or second singles and second doubles all season, went 12-1 in singles and 7-2 in doubles, earning Player of the Year in the DAC in the process. Shallcross, playing at No. 1 singles for much of the year and pairing with Mickum in doubles, posted a 10-4 record and was 7-2 in doubles. Shallcross also received first-team all-DAC honors.

Buckland, an honorable mention all-DAC selection, had a perfect 14-0 record in singles competition and was undefeated in doubles until the final match of the season, a tough 10-8 loss to Norfolk Collegiate in the state semifinal. It was the first doubles match she and classmate and co-captain Amalia Simpson had lost in two years at the number 1 doubles position.

Buckland and Mickum were the only Foxcroft players to win in the 7-2 state semifinal loss to Norfolk Collegiate.



Kelly Buckland



Amy Edgemond



Alex Grace



Alicia Holz



Lilly MacDonald



Annie Mickum



Marina Shallcross



Pipsy Steyn



Faces & Places

Christmas in Middleburg

Photos by Dee Dee and Jay Hubbard ~ Middleburg, VA













































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Christmas In Middleburg

Thanks to all volunteers, Town staff, float stagers, trash monitors, parking assistants, shuttle drivers, police, sheriffs, troopers, gator donors, staging site contributors, angel sponsors, advertisers, parade entrants and participants, retailers and restaurateurs opening their doors, and Everyone Who Came to Christmas in Middleburg. A joyous message of celebration got 13,500 visitors to move their feet. Once they got here, **thanks to everyone who moved their hearts!**

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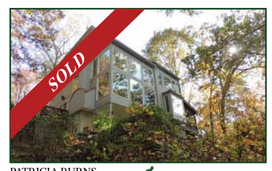
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Faces & Places

Orange County Hunt Meet

Photos by Teresa Ramsay ~ Hillmont Farm



Jim and Shannon Davis



Mimi Ablesmith and Shannon Davis



Pan Drunagel



OCH Hounds



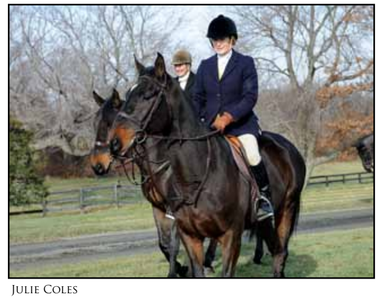
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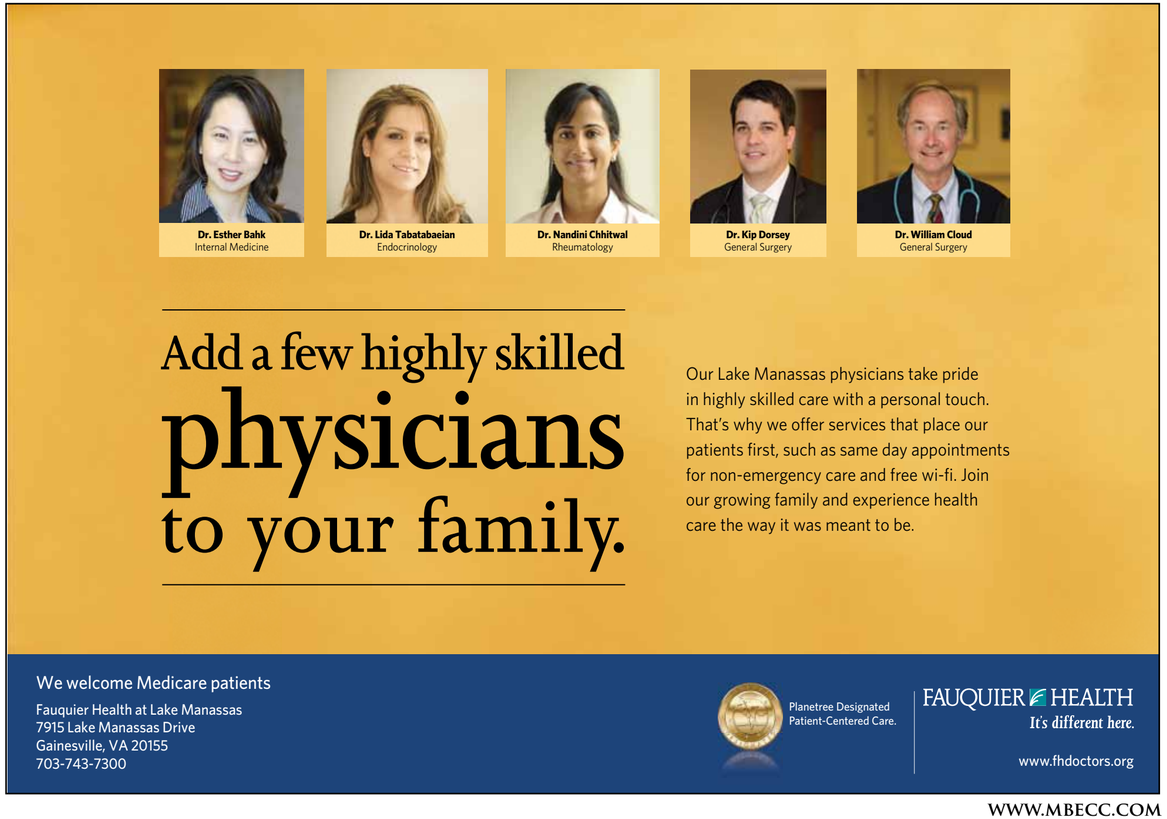
Bill and Elizabeth Wolf



Jean Perin







Faces & Places

Fox Hound Hunt Breakfast & Field Hockey

Foxcroft School ~ Middleburg, VA



Jeff Blue and Penny denegre lead the Middlebug Hunt to Covert





John Denegre and Hunt friends enjoy a delicious repast at the annual Hunt Breakfast hosted by Foxcroft Head of School Mary Louise Leipheimer at her home on campus.









Members of Foxcroft's Class of 2013 "come home" from college for the big day. From left: Mary Marshall Pierce, Emma All, Rebecca Mann, and Carter Ware.



"Big Game" is as fierce a competition as you'll ever see, and full of traditions --like the changing of the Fox & Hound banners that hang on the back of the goals at halftime. When the teams change ends, the banners do too.







Mothers and daughters share the spirit. From left: Carter Ware (Foxcroft '13), and mom Anne Bishop, Nan Coil and daughter Chelsy (Foxcroft '08).





Faces & Places

Salamander Tree Lighting

Photos by Dave Galen and Dee DeeHubbard ~ Middleburg, VA



Light the Tree!!!!



Rosie and her Mon, Dr. Betsee Parker



Howard Allen and Betsy Davis

Salamander Resort & Spa enjoyed its first holiday tree lighting celebration on December 3. The event, attended by over 200 people, featured caroling from the Middleburg Elementary School Singing Club, and musical entertainment from the Community Music School of the Piedmont and the Stafford Regional Hand Bell Society. General Manager Trey Matheu served as the evening's master of ceremonies and was joined at the podium by Resort Owner Sheila Johnson. Finally, special guest Santa Claus made an appearance to light the tree, using a candy cane lever. He then sat for photographs with children in the resort's library.



Donna Strama



George Role and Patricia Burns



Middleburg Elementary Singers





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Pastimes

What've We Learned?

7th Inning Stretch

Alex Cudaback

The Redskins' season has spiraled down the toilet bowl faster than a stinkbug that's decided to winter in casa-Cudaback. At 3-5 (oh, what people would do for 3-5 NOW!) there was still a chance of righting the ship. After all, this was the team that reeled off seven straight to clinch the division last year, right?

Instead, 3-5 has fizzled away to 3-10 and the Raiders, Bears and Chargers are all wondering how they could've so badly scotched what, in retrospect, should've been a gimme on the schedule.

The multi-headed hydra of owner / head coach / star player has once again arisen to ensnare what should've been, at minimum, a .500 season, and the finger-pointing and mea culpas have begun with enthusiasm.

(A quick note: It takes near-mastery of Machiavellian intrigue, confusion, cunning and duplicity to point fingers AND issue mea culpas simultaneously. However, as the current situation proves, where there's a will there's a way!)

So what does it all mean? What's going on? Just how the holy heck is a loyal, dyed-in-the-wool Redskins fan supposed to translate all the jibber-jabber and claptrap suddenly spewing from Ashburn?

To wit, a primer…

When Mike Shanahan says, "When you're taking hits, it doesn't matter who's at fault. The matter is do you protect your quarterback or don't you protect your quarterback? If it's his fault, if it's the offensive line, if it's the receivers — it doesn't matter! It doesn't matter whose fault it is. What matters is he's getting hit."

What he means is…. It's everybody's fault! It's the quarterback's fault for not getting rid of the ball quickly enough and making generally poor decisions. It's the offensive line's fault for confusing NFL games for masquerade balls and showing up as Swiss cheese. It's the receivers' fault not getting open or running the right routes or caring about, well, receiving. It is most certainly, however, not MY fault. Or the offensive coordinator's fault. Those two people, the ones theoretically steering the ship, deserve no fault.

When Mike Shanahan says, "After [an injury] happens, it's too late. Just like the Seattle game at halftime. I could have kicked myself in the rear end. Because my gut was even though the doctor said, hey, he was fine, it was all stable, you don't have to worry. Robert said it was fine. I knew, in my gut. I watched him. I said, hey, that's what I should have done, because I did see it. You have to go with your gut sometimes."

What he means is…. My gut is awesome. My "gut" knows everything. My "gut" knows more about professional football than any of you stupid people questioning me and my motives could ever realistically hope to be blessed with in this or a million subsequent lifetimes. But sometimes my "gut" gets hoodwinked by medical professionals and recent college graduates. Because, hey, no matter how awesome my "gut" is, I can't be held responsible if I don't listen to it. That's the doctor's fault. And the 22-year-old's. Maybe my rear end's. But probably not.

When Mike Shanahan says, "I can go with my gut, and I should have went with my gut, but I thought he had earned the right to play, because he convinced me he was okay. But I think in long terms — because we're talking about honesty right here — it cost us the game. Because the guy that goes in could play at a certain level. So not only did it hurt Robert, but it hurt us from winning the game."

What he means is…. Have I told you about my gut? It's awesome. And the important thing to remember about my "gut" is it's never its fault. My "gut" was right. But RGIII bamboozled my "gut." And his knee got turned into pulled pork because of it. Oh, and did I tell you his Jedi mind-tricks also cost us the game? Serves him right.

When Mike Shanahan says, "[I talked to Dan Snyder about this, because] that's what you do about a quarterback. He's your franchise. That's why you ask those questions. You don't do it about the other positions. Dan could care less about the other positions."

What he means is…. I forgot: it's also Dan Snyder's fault! And all you guys on the team not named Robert Griffin? In Dan's eyes you are just poop on the sidewalk. No, really! That's why he drives around that ridiculous golf-cart at preseason practices; he doesn't want to get you on his Guccis. True story!

When Mike Shanahan says, "What I'm trying to do is be as honest as I can. And I don't normally do that, because I don't really think it's anybody's business, except the guys in our locker room."

What he means is…. If Dan thinks the other guys on the team don't matter, imagine what I think of all you schlubs! Seriously! It actually pains me to acknowledge your existence at all, let alone talk to you and answer your inane, stupid, ignorant questions. (This one actually doesn't need a ton of explanation.)

When Mike Shanahan says, "I don't know [about next year] until I sit down with Dan. Then we'll find out what I think, and I'll give him my opinions, and he'll give me his opinions. Maybe we'll just hit it off and I get that 12-, 15-year contract. Well, maybe three years. But anyway, whatever it is."

What he means is…. All this other stuff aside, when's my contract getting extended? Because even though I hold all of you, the players and the owner in utter contempt (why am I even still talking to you??!?) I still wanna get paid.

And I should.

'Cause, you know, none of this is really my fault.

A big shout-out to Dan Steinberg, Sarah Kogod and The Washington Post's DC Sports Bog for compiling all these awesome quotes.

Merry Xmas.

Excitement, where did it go?

Kay Colgan, Health Coach and Certified Pilates and Fitness Instructor

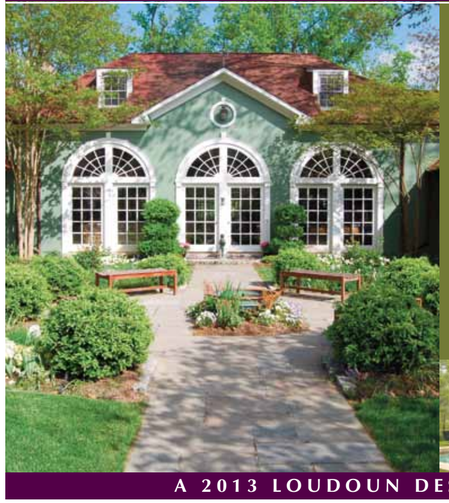
It is 12 noon on the 20th of December and school is about to get out for Christmas break. Remember how that felt. Wow, two weeks without any homework and the possibilities that lay ahead. Okay, Santa coming was quite exciting. Never knew how that big guy could get down those chimney's and stay so clean, not to mention all that he brought with him. But the excitement of just knowing that Santa was coming was all consuming. Children's anticipation of the arrival of Santa Claus is filled with excitement and wonder. Most of us had that excitement when we were kids. But, we grew up, life took over and we became responsible adults. After all, we have a career, kids of our own and a mountain of bills to pay. Maybe the excitement went out with the telephone bill, or did it?

While I'm not suggesting we run out to the nearest mall and sit on Santa's lap, I am suggesting part of what makes us who we are is the excitement that life has to offer. Many things cloud that excitement and get in the way of us truly experiencing what really fills us up and makes us feel like a kid again. Sometimes pushing ourselves a little to try new things will instill in us a sense of excitement that maybe hasn't been felt since our youth. Routines take over and holidays for some become one more task to the already overbooked to do list. Bring some excitement back in the holidays by changing how you do things. In other words, look for extraordinary in the otherwise ordinary tasks at hand. Stepping out of our comfort zone, will create some anxiety, but also will create excitement.

The first step; is to realize age has nothing to do with it. It does not matter how old or young you are, you can and should have excitement in your life. Second, think about what you would like to do and see how you can make it happen. As you can see, this is not just about the holidays, it is about moving forward with a clearer perspective of where you want to be and what truly fills you up. Excitement plays a big role in all of this. Being excited about something is good for our health and well-being. Not to forget it gives us a sense of self and connectivity. I believe it realigns us and allows us to have those feelings of anticipation and wonder, much like a child on Christmas Eve, who can barely contain themselves because Santa will be visiting soon. May the wonder of the holiday season fill you with all the possibilities for the New Year!

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Los Angeles Water – A Story for the Ages

Waterworld

Richard A. Engberg



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Met) is the largest supplier of drinking water in the United States, supplying more than 18 million customers. I just returned a few days ago from meetings with the General Manager of Met and staff. My employer, the American Water Resources Association (AWRA), is planning a meeting in Los Angeles (LA) in 2015 on the subject of water for large urban areas. The visit corresponded with a seminal event in the history of LA water supplies, the impetus for this month's column.

Met would not be supplying that many customers nor would LA be a mega city if it were not for the foresight of a water resources engineer, William Mulholland, who more than 100 years ago realized the LA basin could not support a larger population without importing water. His brainchild, the Los Angeles Aqueduct that brought the needed water to LA, was 100 years old in November.

Begun in 1908, the original aqueduct received water diverted from the Owens River in Inyo County in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It was completed in 1913 under budget at a total cost of $26 million. During the five years of construction a total of 5000 workers were involved. The more than 230 mile long system of storage reservoirs and canals brings the diverted water to a reservoir north of LA.

The project was controversial from the beginning.

In the early 1900's, agents from the city of Los Angeles went to the Owens Valley which, because of abundant water, supported an agricultural economy. The agents purchased land and water rights from many of the farmers in the Owens Valley in some cases through subterfuge that eventually led to serious discord. In the 1920s, a bombing by some residents damaged the upper end of the aqueduct. If you've seen the movie, Chinatown, you know a little about the controversy.

The project was a boon to the LA area. Originally depending on water from small creeks and rivers in the LA basin that sometimes ran dry, the promise of abundant water allowed the city to grow from 61 square miles in 1909 to 440 in 1929 to 503 today.

Still, there was opposition and resentment. A second aqueduct from the Owens Valley, completed in 1970, dried up the river, led to dewatering of shallow groundwater and essentially turned some of the valley into a dust bowl. Lawsuits against LA ensued and finally in 1997, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in which LA promised to re-water the Lower Owens Valley. This finally happened in 2008, five years later than the date specified in the MOU.

Is there a happy ending? I guess so. As of 2012, Los Angeles has a population of 3.9 million. The city has plenty of water and is one of the better cities in the United States for conserving water. However, as the population continues to increase, Met continues to look for additional water supplies.

What about the Owens Valley? Inyo County has a population of 17,000. Happily, thanks to the investment of more than one billion by Los Angeles in Inyo County to restore flows in the lower Owens River, fish, birds, and other flora and fauna have returned to what for many years had become a dust bowl.

Sadly, it took nearly 100 years.

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Pastimes

The Artist's Perspective



Tom Neel

This is the season, that time of the year when you ask yourself, "Where the heck did the year go?" Time is a very interesting thing. It is the one thing we all have a limited amount of and how we use this precious gift correctly, is life's little challenge.

DeeDee Hubbard, Middleburg Eccentric Editor, must be made an example of for this article. Because as life would have it, she now embodies all that time and time management are about. Not only how life changing time can be, but just how routine it can be in the face of unsurmountable odds.

The Middleburg Eccentric is a monthly newspaper and thus, must be managed in a timely fashion. News in of itself, is very time sensitive thing and so the many pieces of this paper, the columns, events, press releases, advertising and yes_the news, must be managed much like that of a chef cooking a bunch of different things for a table of six. It all doesn't cook at the same temp or speed, but it all must arrive at the same time. So, it's not enough for a chef to just be a good cook, he or she must also be great with time management. This by the way my fellow artists, is where art meets business.

In my case, I not only have my artistic adventures, I choose to and greatly enjoy writing for this paper each month. People often ask me, when I paint and I reply, Monday through Friday, unless cutting the grass or appointments come into play. In short though, I try not to paint on weekends and this works out to be mostly the case. That is part of my time management program and after twenty years of doing it full time, why mess with something that works for me.

Okay, so back to DeeDee Hubbard. Imagine you are the chef, cooking your six different dishes for your guests and boom, the kitchen catches fire and burns your restaurant to the ground? You manage to not only get your guests and yourself out alive, but some pets too! As you all you are watching the flaming cinders and wiping the sweat from your brow, it pops into your head that your guests haven't eaten and are still hungry. If you're DeeDee, they are miraculously still fed and with little delay.

Now I give this example, because on November 14, not only did DeeDee Hubbard loose her home to a fire, she lost her offices too and yet with only a short delay, last month's paper and The Artist's Perspective article that you read, made into everyone's hands. This my friends is a glowing example of what time management is about, or more specifically, crises management. To me they are one and the same, as all crises management is, is a hurried version of time management.

Of course time management's best asset is the phrase, "get on with it". There are always going to be challenges, obstacles and hurtles that come along. These things often define us and certainly separate those who can and cannot - get on with it. Being organized in the first place helps when a wrench gets thrown into the mix.

Now there's a second part to this story. It gets back to that first paragraph, where I mention time being the one thing we all have a limited amount of and how we use this precious gift, is life's little challenge. DeeDee came very close to loosing all the time she had left on her life clock. If not for some amazing luck, she and the other occupants of that residence would not be with us, much less having had the paper be published.

In time management, this tells us to slow down a bit and take stock in the time and life we have. The holidays can be so busy and rushed and yet it is the one time a year when we should focus on slowing down a bit. Really embracing our family and friends and the goodness that life brings. I know DeeDee certainly will this year and I think she would probably tell us all, that while there are times to get on with it, don't wait for life changing moments to slow down and appreciate all that we have.

Happy Holidays, Tom

Just Back From..... Inner Mongolia

Exquisite Travels With Matt Hannan



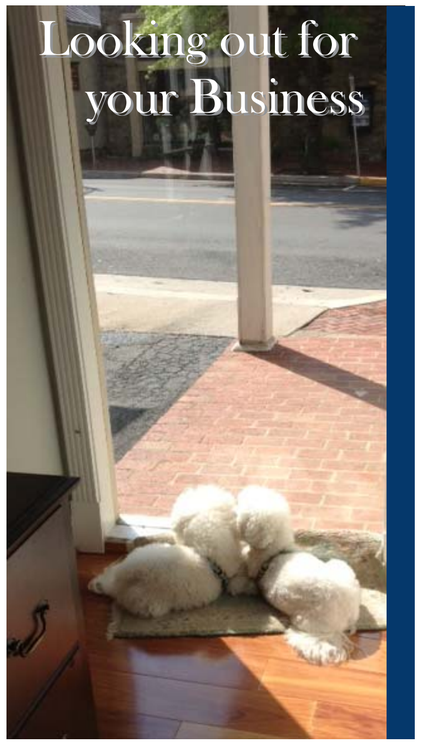
Matt Hannan

By Christmas 1982, Chairman Mao had been dead six years and the remaining living leaders of the Chinese Communist Party had been rehabilitated and reinstated back into the political system. Schools had reopened after the devastating decade-long Cultural Revolution and foreign students from around the globe began trickling into universities throughout China

It was at this time, after a two hour train ride north from Tianjin to Beijing, that our small group of three American students traveling from Nankai University to Inner Mongolia for the holiday, explored the various halls of the capital's largest Tibetan temple and then crashed in the lobby of The Beijing Hotel. The de facto 'living room' for the expatriate community in China, the Beijing Hotel was one of the very few meeting places approved by the central government for the handful of foreign business people and students living in the country at the time. After a few hours of relaxation and conversation we said goodbye to our African classmates from the Foreign Language Institute and boarded the night train to Datong. Situated in the arid northern province of Shanxi, the outskirts of this coal mining town are famous for the magnificent Yungang Buddhist Grottoes dating to the early 5th century. Founded under the Northern Wei Dynasty, these caves lay on the eastern most section of the fabled trade route known as the Silk Road and are now listed as UNESCO world treasures. Temperatures were freezing but we completed our visit and then boarded a crowded local bus back to the city's one hotel open to foreign visitors - a large Stalinist concrete block dubiously named Di Yi Fandian, 'The Number One Hotel'. After an overnight in shared accommodations in a night watchman's room we set out once again and upon arrival at the Inner Mongolian capital of Hohhot, booked a jeep, driver and guide to take us to our final destination, the Mongolian Grasslands.

There we lodged at a former Lama Temple for two nights in a Mongolian yurt - a rounded sheepskin structure held taught by an internal wooden frame, lined with felt carpets and decorated with colorful wooden trunks surrounding an open fire pit. A copper pot holding hot chinese tea hung from a steel chain in the middle of the room and after an evening arrival and greeting by our local Mongolian host, we retreated to the main lodge for dinner. Within the dining hall we sat down with our guide and driver at a round wooden table and before us a simple meal of rice, lamb shank and local beer was laid. A blue and white rice bowl, small white plate, chopsticks and sharp Mongolian steel knife with intricately carved wooden handle were placed before us and we began to eat. Halfway through dinner the electricity went out and to our delight we found ourselves dining by candle light and its soft warm glow for the remainder of the evening. The initial awkward silence eventually evolved into friendly animated conversation and by the end of the evening exhausted by our long journey we decided to retire.

Upon returning to our yurt we stepped outside the hall and immediately looked upwards, for as we ate that night a snowfall had passed placing a light dusting of white powder atop the delicate chinese roof tiles of the Lama Temple above us. From behind the clouds a crescent moon then appeared amongst the brightly lit stars and looking out beyond our yurt in the distance, we saw illuminated the eternally vast and expansive Mongolian Plain.



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Mistletoe

The Plant Lady





Karen Rexrod

A knowledgeable horticulturist will recognize a tree from a great distance, a skill that comes with observation based on branching, bark type and color as well as canopy shape. Honing this skill is best done at this time of year since you can always wander up and find fallen leaves near by to confirm or deny your hunch. As much as I like playing the game of tree identification, I also like looking for that anomaly. Be it a twig nest, leaf nest, live mistletoe or witches broom, a cluster of small branches usually caused by a virus. The hint of green and density of a mistletoe cluster is pretty obvious. Botanically known as Phoradendron leucarpum, translated from Greek origins, phoreo - to bear, dendron - tree and leucarpum - white fruit. Our local species has several common names, the American, Christmas or oak mistletoe, the latter since it is often found on oak, but actually lives on many types of trees. Mistletoe can be found growing as far north as New York, but it is not nearly as common in its northern range. I am always delighted to find it, if for no other reason than to re-affirm its diminishing existence in Northern Virginia.

Technically mistletoe is a shrub that is hemiparasitic which means that it's not a full blown parasite, it can produce its own chlorophyll and support itself, sort of. The fruit is white and the pulp is very sticky. After a bird eats the fruit, it will spend time wiping the stickiness off of its bill (hence attaching seed to tree bark) and/or the subsequent bird dropping will also remain sticky, leaving the seed up on a branch. Each white berry (or drupe) contains 1 seed which can survive for about a year as a young plant, before it needs to find sustenance from its host. As roots grow they reach deeper into the tree, penetrating the cambial layer or bark, searching for that flow of sap.

Historically the fruit as been used to treat various conditions, Cherokee tribes used a "tea ooze" to bathe the head for a headache and infusions for high blood pressure and lung problems. More recent, and highly controversial usage is with the European mistletoe, used to inhibit tumors, raising the immune defense response, particularly in breast cancer patients. The truth is that people have died from ingesting mistletoe berries, which is why any plants you find for sale during the holidays often have the berries removed, replaced with plastic ones.

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe comes to us from Scandinavian mythology, a Norse goddess of love, named Frigga, is a long and convoluted story which ends in the mistletoe berries becoming symbols of love and fertility. An exert from the American author Washington Irving explains it simply here from the book "The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon" written in 1820:

"The mistletoe is still hung up in farm-houses and kitchens at Christmas and the young men have the privilege of kissing the girls under it, plucking each time a berry from the bush. When the berries are all plucked, the privilege ceases."

If not for winter and deciduous trees, plus the allure of such an odd plant, mistletoe might be better suited for Valentine's Day.

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Pastimes

And Good luck in the New Year…

Vine & Dish



Ellen Kassoff Gray

Culinary traditions run deep in all cultures. Human beings throughout the ages have no shortage of material when it comes to telling a good tale especially one involving food. Gastronomic anecdotes are enhanced, as the shared wisdom they offer is a total sensory engagement from aroma to taste to satiation. In the New Year many cultures and customs direct us to "eat for luck". In Spain 12 Grapes are consumed at midnight, where each grape and its subsequent flavor represent a different month which is believed to be a predictor of that month. Greens are consumed in America, Germany and Denmark because they look like money – here's to hoping much of it befalls us all in the New Year. Legumes, pork, fish and various cakes all have customs associated with them that give happy go lucky cooks inspiration and incentive to get in the kitchen – and what cook doesn't love a reason to crank up the range and rattle those pots and pans.

In the south Black-eyed peas and luck in the New Year have had a long relationship – dating back to the Civil War. The "peas" which are actually a bean, were the first celebration foods of the lucky newly emancipated slaves as Lincoln's Proclamation went into effect on January 1st 1863. The luck aspect may have also come from the fact that it saved off starvation for many confederate soldiers after Sherman's Union troops plundered or stole the Confederates other crops. The humble black-eyed pea was originally used for livestock feed. They are also one of the few crops that grow in winter thereby serving lots of fortunate peoples through the rigors of winter.

Hoppin John is one of those culturally rich dishes with lots of folklore surrounding it on just how it came to be. Theories run from children hopping around the table on New Years Day to it being named for a man named Hoppin John (because he "hobbled) who sold it on the streets. Regardless of the facts – Hoppin John is a southern New Year tradition and that's good enough for me.

I've paired the dish with White Hall Vineyards. I chose the 2012 Cabernet Franc because its subtle hints of black raspberries and toasted oak which work well with meaty texture of the beans and the accents of garlic and dried sage, all enhanced by aromas of violet and blackberry.

As I try this new version of Hoppin John a combination of seasonal legumes with a history and an array of vegetable I find my palate and soul warmed thinking about all to come in 2014 ~ I'm 'gonna thank my lucky stars.



Hoppin' John with Sautéed Kale
Serves 6

Any hot sauce or vinegar served as a condiment along side the dish will go nicely and kick things up a bit

1 Tbs olive oil
½ small yellow onion, minced
1 rib celery, finely diced
1 small carrot, finely diced
½ red pepper small diced
½ small leek, cleaned and minced
½ small turnip, peeled and finely diced
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 can black eyed peas, drained
1 can chick peas, drained
½ can peeled diced tomatoes
2 cups vegetable broth
1 cup trofee pasta or short pasta such as orzo
½ tsp paprika
½ tsp of dried sage

1. Heat olive oil in 4 qt pan
2. Add all vegetables and sauté about 4 min on med heat
3. Add broth, beans, tomatoes, pasta and seasoning
4. Bring to soft simmer, cover and cook on low heat – 15 - 20 min to allow flavors to come together. Check and stir every so often to keep from sticking or over boiling.

For the Kale

1 Tbs olive oil
2 Tbs butter
1/8 tsp red pepper flakes
2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
1/3 cup sherry vinegar
½ tsp sugar
1 Bunch kale, picked and washed
½ yellow onion, thinly sliced
½ cup water
to taste salt and pepper

Heat large pan over med heat. Add oil, butter, red pepper and garlic. Cook one minute, add onions, cook two minutes. Add vinegar and sugar and reduce by half. Add Kale, salt, pepper and water. Cook on low heat till kale is tender, approx 10 – 15 minutes.

Place kale on plate and serve Hoppin John on top.



Albert's Corner

A monthly column for people who share their homes with four-legged friends.

Albert P. Clark

Dear Santa,

We need to talk about the whole naughty or nice thing. You and I have been through this before. You think certain things constitute bad behavior, while I know they just constitute being a dog. It is very important for you to understand that I am now, and always have been, nice. This is true for all of my fellow canines too. For some reason, however, you insist on logging all of the tiny mistakes we make: destroyed shoes, accidents in the house, excessive barking. It's not fair.

After much thought, I've decided the problem is your ridiculous attachment to those reindeer of yours. You think they're sooooo special, but what do they do except guide that sleigh? I mean, when was the last time you heard about the amazing heroics of a reindeer? Or the undying loyalty of a reindeer? Or the cute, fuzzy, wagging tail of a reindeer? When has Blitzen ever rolled over and asked for a belly rub? When has Donner ever comforted you when you were sad? When has Comet ever licked you purely out of love? You think they're nice, when really they're just boring. Truthfully, the only thing they do seem to do is bully poor Rudolph by laughing, calling him names, and never letting him join in their games.

Surely you get my point. It's more than obvious that you are lavishing affection on the wrong species.

It's true that we sometimes make unfortunate decisions. But we are overwhelmingly good-hearted, wonderful creatures. And by the way, children are crazy about us. Crazy, I tell you! So that's right up your alley.

But until you have a dog of your own, you'll never know the joys of sharing a home with us. And until you have a dog of your own, you'll keep putting some of us on the naughty list for minor incidents that should be overlooked. I, for one, think it's time to defend my species by begging for a new holiday tradition. Santa, it's time to get a dog!

This dog will, I promise you, change your life. You and Mrs. Claus will wonder why you never lived in the company of a canine before. Gone will be the lonely nights flying solo through the starry sky with just a team of reindeer to ease the loneliness. You and your new four-legged friend will be inseparable.

Please know that I would volunteer to be your dog, but I have obligations to my family and they would miss me far too much for me to move to the North Pole. I hear, however, that there are some wonderful Great Pyrenees available through Appalachian Great Pyrenees Rescue (agprescue.com). That breed does really well in cold weather, is big enough to stand up to anything your reindeer can dish out, and has a gorgeous thick white coat that will complement your red suit nicely.

I know this is a bit of a busy time for you, so just in case you don't adopt a dog prior to Christmas, please take my word that there are no naughty dogs. We are all just goodness and light and unconditional love.

Wags & Licks,

Albert

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.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Sincerely, Me



Brandy Greenwell

The carols are now being played around the clock on the radio, in stores, at gas stations and just about everywhere in earshot. Every time you hear your favorite one you bee-bop, smile and sing out loud whether you are in key or not. I make a point to never sing on key, it is more fun that way. Sing like nobody is listening.

The first one I heard this year was "The Twelve Days of Christmas" sung by The Muppets. Nothing is like hearing Miss Piggy belt out "Five Gold Rings" in her shrill piggy voice. I also love hearing Beaker go "meep-meep" throughout. YouTube it, I promise it will brighten your day.

The Muppets inspired me to come up with my own, "Twelve Days of Christmas". I encourage everyone to do the same, just for fun.

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me a sparkly piece of jewelry.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me two fizzy cocktails.

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me three party dresses.

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me four mani-pedis.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me FIVE BOTTLES OF WINE.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me six cashmere sweaters.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me seven dishes cleaned up.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me eight desserts just for me.

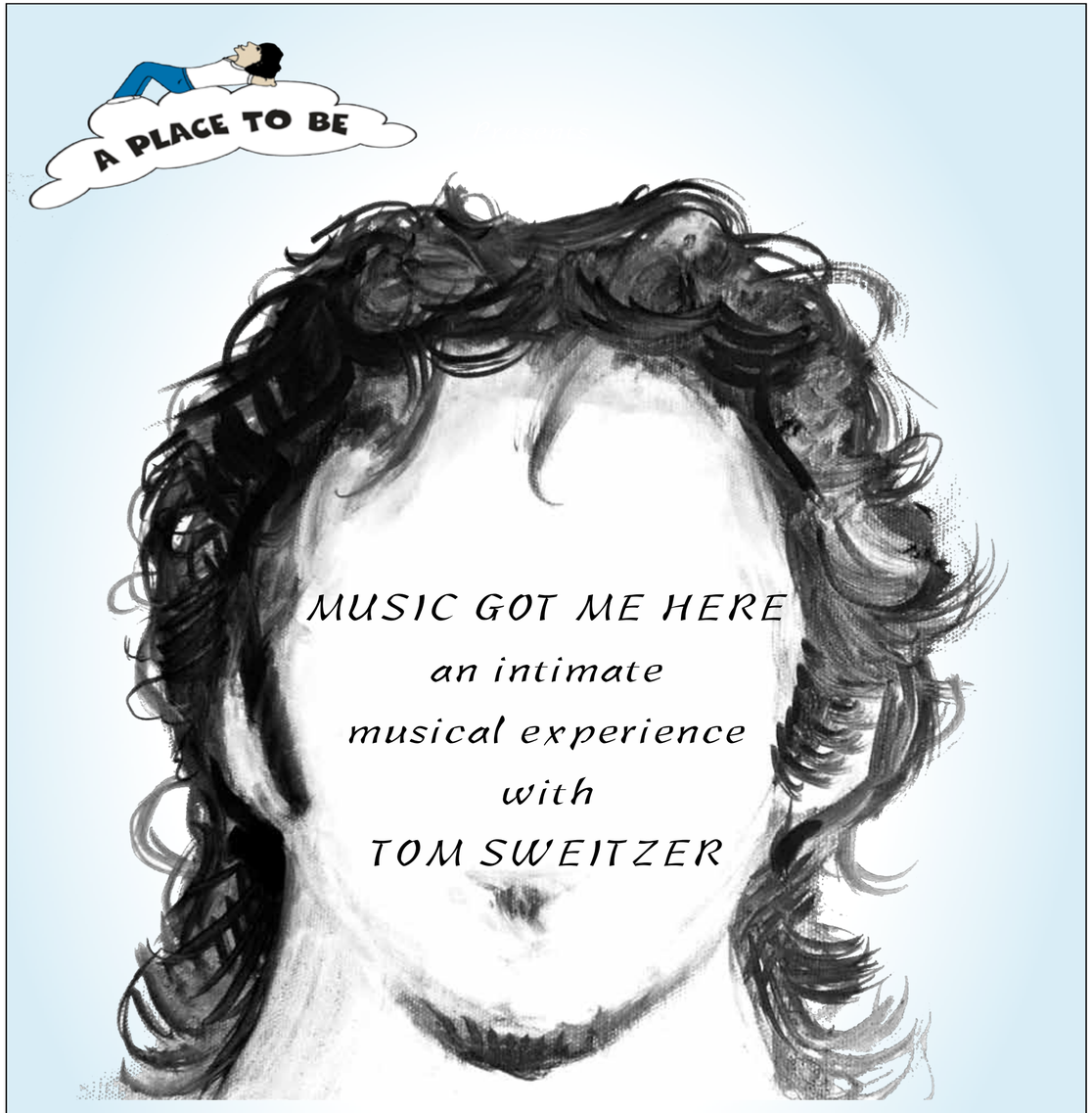
On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me nine windshield scrapings.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me ten homemade dinners.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me eleven mistletoe kisses.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me twelve months of loving.

Wishing all of you a holiday full of spirit and love as well as a very prosperous 2014.



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Alpine is a large handsome, healthy, adult kitty. Bring some love into your home - adopt Alpine. He is EXTREMELY affectionate & interactive. He would do best as an only cat, but doesn't mind couch potato dog friends.



Zara is a tripod (lost her hind leg due to a knee injury.) She lived with cats, other dogs & children in her foster home. She is very clean in her crate. She will be 2 yrs on Christmas Day!





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 1 yr old girl who is very quiet and relaxed indoors but very active outdoors. She knows how to sit and shake and loves treats and belly rubs. Olivia would do best as an only pet.

Amelia is gorgeous pit bull who was rescued from a breeding operation. She was very shy when she first arrived but has blossomed & has a very kind & fun personality. Very snuggable! Will need a very quiet adult only home with no cats.



Tamu is a super special love muffin who needs daily inexpensive medications to be able to defecate. He does not have megacolon but he has slow motility so he needs daily exercise and high fiber food. Tamu is one cool cat!





Gremlin is an adorable, super intelligent, fun-loving little guy! He seems to love everybody & everything including squeaky toys. He would do best in a home with no small children.



Pigeons & Doves We have 6 pigeons and 12 doves in need of a loving home. Some of the pigeons are fancy breeds. Please call and come meet them!

Leo is a 25+ yr 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.



Perogi is a super special Chihuahua X who had a congenital defect in both hind legs. She had corrective surgery on 10/10/13. She is doing beautifully with her rehab! Very affectionate lap dog with a big personality.





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Editor's Desk

Early Christmas Gifts

The annual "Christmas in Middleburg" celebration always brings together some of the best of the best of the outstanding people who make up the greater village of Middleburg -- the folks who live here, the friends and neighbors who visit and shop here, and those who work here, as merchants, professionals, and members of the town government and staff.

Each year the town council gives special recognition to those who spent countless hours organizing, running, and cleaning up after one of Middleburg's most special and festive of days.

This year's event was, arguably, one of the best, if not THE best ever, thanks to the efforts of those we honor, and many all too often unsung heroes.

Especially noticeable this year was the great improvement in transportation to and from the celebration's parking areas.

Crowd control was also outstanding . . . and didn't feel like crowd "control" at all. The stanchions along the parade route not only made the parade itself flow more smoothly, it kept all those who watched it immeasurably safer. Double Kudos to the Middleburg Police Department for both its own outstanding work and for its graceful coordination and cooperation with all the other public safety organizations and authorities who made the day not only safer, but immeasurably more pleasant.

Even trash was handled this year with consummate skill, thanks to a former Army Chaplain, a group of special volunteers from Middleburg Baptist Church, and Town Staff. Trash cans were manned continuously, and emptied systematically throughout the celebration. It's a job no one notices . . . unless it's not done. THIS year was the best ever.

We could fill the paper with the names of people and organizations who made a difference.

Thanks again to all for a most happy day and a celebration worthy of its name.

What Went Wrong With Feminism?

Red

James Morgan

Being a red-blooded American boy, I like women and appreciate what the Victorians used to call a well-turned ankle. I also respect women perhaps because, as a librarian, I've spent most of my working life with female colleagues and bosses. It hasn't been a problem. Moreover, I've been married for 33 years to a woman who runs her own business and who, possessing a black belt in taekwan-do, could kick my butt if she wanted to. She's as independent and accomplished as they come. But she also is quite feminine and femininity is the key to understanding what went wrong with feminism.

It is precisely because I like and respect women that I regret what happened to modern feminism. It became the enemy of everything feminine.

When it was about voting or equalizing property rights or "equal pay for equal work," one could hardly object. And most men didn't. It was, after all, male legislators who voted to institute female suffrage. But, like all aspects of "progressivism" (horribly abused word), feminism was taken over by its most radical proponents who have set the tone. Today, feminism is about two things: abortion and gay rights.

Abortion is the only way, feminists claim, that women can truly be free, as if a woman's freedom depends on her having a right to kill her children when their presence becomes burdensome.

Gay rights became part of the feminist equation because the normalization of homosexuality creates the perfect rad-fem world. It masculinizes women and feminizes men. We can thank that Stalinist bisexual, Simone de Beauvoir, for turning her twisted, abusive, self-destructive relationship with Jean-Paul Sartre into this ideal for modern women. De Beauvoir might be called the "Eve" of radical feminism; the Eve of destruction, so to speak.

Today's feminists confuse equality with sameness. They want to eliminate "gender differences" which they dismiss as "merely cultural." But their anger really should be directed at biology because the basic problem for them is biological: women have babies.

But they can't actually attack biology so they go after men for creating that horrid, oppressive, western, male patriarchy that has kept women down for all these thousands of years. Oh, the humanity!

Nonetheless, women have babies and feminists don't like that fundamental biological reality or its inevitable consequences. Drives 'em crazy, in fact, because it stands in the way of their insistence that women "can have everything." They can't, of course. Neither can men. As Walker Percy once said, "Lucky is the man who does not secretly believe that every possibility is open to him." The woman too.

It is true that, because men don't have babies, there typically have been courses of action open to them that haven't been open to women. Western society, naturally and sensibly enough, developed with this biological consideration in mind. But biology is not oppression.

Feminists continue to spout silliness like the old saw that women are paid 77 cents for every dollar paid to men when, in fact, full-time working women who stay in the work force long enough to gain the same experience, make pretty much the same as men. Moreover, there hasn't been a "glass ceiling" for decades except in the fever swamps of the radical feminist imagination.

What is truly sad, though also quite funny at the same time, is that feminists hold up as their pre-eminent icon none other than Hillary Clinton, a woman who has never accomplished anything except as an adjunct of her husband. If today's feminists were serious about respecting successful, independent women, their icon would be Sarah Palin who actually has accomplished significant things on her own. But they scorn Palin because she opposes abortion. Oh, and because she's feminine.

But, alas, feminism is the enemy of the feminine. And that is where it went wrong.

Suffer the Little Children

Blue

Daniel Morrow

Terrorism seems an odd topic for the Christmas season . . . until one recalls one of the most famous biblical accounts of the Christmas story.

According to Matthew, the entire holy family became refugees, shortly after Jesus' birth, fleeing to Egypt, to avoid falling victim to their own government's plot to kill vast numbers of innocent civilians, most if not all of them, citizens.

The Wise Men themselves warned Joseph of King Herod the Great's intentions, which they themselves had triggered, by asking where they might find the new born "King of the Jews."

Hearing from such reliable sources that this new "King" had been born, Herod clearly believed he had little or no choice.

Herod, not some newborn kid, was "King of the Jews." National security interests alone (not to mention greed and dynastic interests) demanded action.

King Herod thus decided to have his soldiers kill all the new born male children in his kingdom.

The news leaked (the Wise Men ostensibly heard of the plan from Herod's own lips) and in the best Wise Man tradition the three travellers from the east warned Joseph.

No doubt bearing gold, frankincense, myrrh, and whatever else they could carry, Joseph and his family fled south as the killing began.

More than two thousand years later variations of this sad story continue to repeat themselves.

All over the world, though perhaps most notably in the Middle East and Africa, men, women, and children are fleeing self-righteous pursuers, armed with moral certainty, murderous intent and the means to execute both.

Perhaps worse, some refugees are fleeing people who don't mean to kill them at all . . . but manage to do so anyhow . . . knowingly, but with the best of intentions.

These refugees fear becoming "collateral damage" . . . a term that could just as well have been applied to the "innocents" of the biblical account, none of whom were destined to become "King of the Jews," but were doomed . . . because they were born in the wrong place, at the wrong time, in areas controlled by folks who saw their deaths as the sad but unavoidable result of efforts to protect the nation from an existential threat.

Madness. Madness.

Correction

In last month's Eccentric we incorrectly identified the article by Dr. Anthony Wells singled out for special recognition by by the Submarine Review Literary Awards

Well's award-winning article was entitled: "Postscript to Missing Magics Machine Material - Tribute to a Great Submariner: Capt. Edward Beach, USN." It appeared in the Winter (2013) edition of The Submarine Review.

Hypocrisy

Tom Pratt

The secretive American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has just ended a week-long meeting in Washington, according to Democracy Now, where corporate lobbyists worked with state lawmakers to model laws that will later be introduced in states nationwide.

ALEC has long been a leader in suppressing minority votes. Even though they recently lost over a third of their funding , 400 legislators and 60 corporate members (because of their support for Florida's Stand Your Ground Law) they have not given up their quest to destroy the world in pursuit of corporate profits and greed.

Their plan is to prevent President Obama from cutting emissions and to weaken state policies promoting clean energy (they are even introducing a law that would fine people for putting solar panels on their roofs) There is now a concerted effort to plan coordinated attacks on public sector rights and services in the areas of education, healthcare, income tax and workers' compensation.

ALEC was also opposed to the divestment of in South African stocks during apartheid, and guess why: The diamond industry was a backer of ALEC as well as other South African corporations because apartheid was good for corporate interests because workers had little or no rights and therefore labor was extremely cheap.

I think ALEC feared that if the divestment campaign worked and apartheid fell it would empower other citizens to mobilize and demand that corporations be more responsible about where they invest and do business. Any threat to a corporations' autonomy, certainly by ordinary citizens, is a no go according to ALEC and must be squashed.

On the subject of South Africa and the recent passing of Nelson Mandela and the handshake that shook the right wing whackos of the Republican Party.

Few know the role of Cuba in ending apartheid in South Africa. That role was evidenced when Raul Castro was one of only five world leaders asked to speak at Nelson Mandela's memorial service.

According to historian Peiro Gleijeses, whose new book, "Visions of Freedom: Havana, Washington, Pretoria, and the Struggle for Southern Africa, 1976-1991", In 1975 Angola was a Portuguese colony but slated that year to become independent. A civil war broke out involving three movements, the MPLA who won the free elections supported by the Cubans, the other supported by South Africa and the United States. The MPLA (in power today in Angola) was on track to win when Washington urged South Africa to intervene. Cuba then sent in 3,600 troops and pushed the South Africans back to Namibia, which it controlled at the time. For the first time in living memory a non white army forced the " White Giants" army of apartheid to retreat. The Cubans remained in Angola to protect Angola from the South African army and there trained the African National Congress of Mandela. This victory empowered the fighters of apartheid in South Africa and helped end the repressive regime. A very close relationship developed between Mandela and Castro.

I cannot close without mentioning the ridiculous comments of Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen about President Obama shaking hands with Raul Castro.

During the celebration of the life of an extraordinary human being who through peaceful means ended the white rule in his country and who did not seek revenge for his political imprisonment for 27 years one would think that politeness and good manners would trump any differences between two country's leaders.

But no. The ridiculous Ms. Ros-Lehtinen has to stand up and accuse Raul Castro of being a ruthless dictator and malign President Obama for shaking his hand. No wonder we are disliked and thought of as fools the world over if we have members of Congress who can be so short sighted and so quick to attack the President for being polite.

January 11th Civil War Sesquicentennial Events

As part of its ongoing support of educational events surrounding the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the Mosby Heritage Area Association, the Northern Virginia Piedmont preservation and education organization, marks two of the best-known Civil War stories from the Neersville area in two programs, open to the public, set for Saturday, January 11, 2014.

On January 11, is at 11:00 am, at the historic Christian Community Church at St. Paul's, 12623 Harpers Ferry Road, Purcellville, MHAA will recount Mosby's Partisan Rangers' "Loudoun Heights Raid," one of the Colonel's last nocturnal raids, and one counted among his least successful, if not among his greatest disasters. Two of the Rangers' most prominent officers were killed in the fighting and there were many other casualties on both sides. The program will feature Eric Buckland (author of Mosby's Men) and Robert H. Moore II, a Civil War historian and descendant of men who fought with Cole's Cavalry that day 150 years ago. Members of the Gray Ghost Interpretive Group will be performing dramatizations based on Union, Confederate, and civilian accounts. After the formal program, participants are invited to caravan from Neersville to nearby Loudoun Heights to view Cole's Headquarters and the encampment site. Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for students. Lunch will be available for purchase at the church.

Also on January 11, at 2:30 p.m., the Loudoun Civil War Sesquicentennial Steering Committee, the Mosby Heritage Area Association, and Breaux Vineyards are hosting a free program on the notorious "Between the Hills" Confederate partisan leader John W. Mobberly, followed by a Virginia Civil War Trails sign dedication at Breaux Vineyards, 36888 Breaux Vineyards Lane, Purcellville, Virginia 20132. Breaux Vineyards has made available a sign location and parking for travelers to read of this piece of Loudoun's history. Mobberly was seen by some as a protector of Confederate sympathizers often harassed by Union soldiers based at Harpers Ferry. Others considered him a murderous bushwhacker. Nominally a member of E.V. White's 35th Virginia Cavalry, Mobberly was also known to ride with Mosby's Rangers from time to time, or as leader of his own "Between the Hills Gang." So notorious were his actions the Amercian Government hired three men to track him down and kill him, which they did, on the Luther Potterfield farm west of Lovettsville just four days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Mobberly's grave is located nearby at Salem Church on the Harpers Ferry Road.

The sign dedication will be held at the Breaux Vineyards Visitor Center. Speakers will include Dick Crouch, author of Rough Riding Scout. The ribbon cutting for this newest Virginia Civil War Trails sign will immediately follow the formal program. The cemeteries at both St. Paul's and Salem Church both can also be visited that day.

For questions, contact Rich Gillespie at (540) 687-5578 or at rgillespie@mosbyheritagearea.org.

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Oakfield
Upperville, Virginia • $4,900,000

Stone manor house in spectacular setting • 86.81 acres • Highly protected area in prime Piedmont Hunt • Gourmet kitchen • Wonderful detail throughout • 5 BR • 5 BA • 3 half BA • 3 fireplaces, classic pine paneled library • Tenant house • Stable • Riding ring • Heated saltwater pool • Pergola • Full house generator

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Trough Hill Farm
Middleburg, Virginia • $3,200,000

A pastoral 5 bedroom c. 1830 farmhouse and a grand stone pavilion • Elegant but unfussy • 103 acres of open farmland • The pavilion serves as a pool house, greenhouse, banquet room, and guest quarters • The result is refined, but maintains its understated sophistication

Ann MacMahon (540) 687-5588 Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Belvedere
Middleburg, Virginia • $2,950,000

Gracious home with 5 BRs • Gourmet kitchen • Two-story floor-to-ceiling window display of the Blue Ridge Mountains • 3 FPs, coffered ceilings, random width rustic cherry floors • Large home office, gym, rec room, multiple porches and patios. Three finished stories, approx. 10,000 sf. • Carriage house • Privately situated on 27 acres

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930 Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



Liberty Hill
Boyce, Virginia • $2,200,000

Mountain top retreat with 60 mile panoramic views of the Shenandoah Valley • 215 acres • 1/3 pasture • Main house circa 1787 • 3 BR, 1 BA • 2 fireplaces • Random width pine floors • 2 BR, 1 BA guest cottage • Stone & frame barn circa 1787 • Remnants of formal garden • Old cemetery • Spring fed pond • Gazebo

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905 Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Signal Mountain
The Plains, Virginia • $1,950,000

160 acres terracing the Bull Run Mtns. • Stone walls through entire property • Views across the entire region • Stone & cedar carriage house with 3 bay garage and top of the line finishes • 1/2 acre pond • Gated entrance • Complete privacy • Rare find - great escape

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Fox Valley Farm
Marshall, Virginia • $1,650,000

Historic property on 32 acres in Orange County Hunt • 1st floor master, den, grand salon, English kitchen with large dining room & billiard room • Patio, pool & guest cottage • 7 stall barn adjoins 3 BR, 2 BA farm manager's house

Ann MacMahon (540) 687-5588



October Hill
Purcellville, Virginia • $1,325,000

Beautiful farm on 55.24 acres • Lovely views • Contemporary home with 4 bedrooms • 2 1/2 baths • 3 fireplaces • 2 car garage, very private • European style stable with 6 stalls • Tack room • Office, wash stall & apartment • Owner licensed real estate broker in Virginia

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Carrington Road
Delaplane, Virginia • $1,300,000

100 acre parcel • Spectacular building site • Mostly open farmland with some mature forest • Great views of the protected Cobbler Valley • Creek and stream run though the property with large pond site • 4 BR perc certification

Ann MacMahon (540) 687-5588 Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



Keepsake Farm
The Plains, Virginia • $1,195,000

Quintessential Virginia farm house • Storybook setting amid large parcels of protected land • Older log cabin with 1800's clapboard farm house attached • Master bedroom with updated en suite bath with handsome upgrades • Charming gardens among peaceful 7+ acres • Perfect for horses • Two stall barn with water and electric

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930 Alix Coolidge (703) 625-1724



Adams Green Lane
Middleburg, Virginia • $985,000

Quality home in convenient location • Private setting • Much larger than it appears • Expanded and completely renovated • Large 1st floor master suite • Gourmet kitchen w/ Carerra marble • 4 BR & 4 1/2 BA • Hardwood floors • Natural light • French doors • 2 fireplaces & top of the line finishes throughout • Decks for entertaining

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Stone Chase Farm
Round Hill, Virginia • $975,000

Hard to find 17 acre horse farm • Black board fencing & stone walls surround this charming property • Brick home w/ large pool • 5 BR • 2 car garage • 4 FP • Full basement w/ private BR & BA • Kitchen opens to fantastic sunroom • Barn with tack room • Run in sheds • 3 ponds & a creek running through

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Upperville Cottage
Upperville, Virginia • $240,000

Cute bungalow in the village of Upperville • 3 BR • Hardwood floors & built-in china cabinet • Remodeled in 2001 with many important updates such as new septic in 2006, new well pump in 2009, new furnace & water purification system in 2011 and new standing seam metal roof in 2012 • Nice fenced yard and garage/shed

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Kevin Keane 540-687-2221



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UPPERVILLE/DELAPLANE AREA, VIRGINIA
100 acres of open rolling land with pond plus views to the Blue Ridge Mountains and Bull Run Mountains. No existing conservation easements. Well protected area. Piedmont Hunt. $2,200,000
Carole Miller 540-729-7896



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SCAWFELL FARM, ELKWOOD, VIRGINIA
Masterful 2003 renovation & expansion of 1860s home. 5BR/5BA home + 2BR/1BA log home. Rappahannock river frontage. 58 acres. $2,195,000
Alan Zuschlag 540-270-8150
Anita Sisney 703-973-1987



DELAPLANE, VIRGINIA
A lovely 4 bedroom house on 53+ acres in northern Fauquier County. This spacious light filled home features large living room with fireplace & dining room. $1,825,000
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WHITE POST, VIRGINIA
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Jim Thompson 540-687-2224



BLUE HILL, WARRENTON, VIRGINIA
Have it all! Views, open land, location with charming brick 4BR, 3FBA cape cod, on 65 acres. Large sun-filled spaces for entertaining & first floor master. $995,000
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THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA
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THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA
Farmhouse on 3 open acres with pond. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, completely renovated inside with all new interior, new kitchen, hardwood floors and new carpet, plus new roof, & porch. Close to I-66 & Rt 50. $399,000
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