Middleburg Eccentric™
MIDDLEBURG'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
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ROCKIN' HENS AND A VIRGINIA MERITAGE
PAGE 38

MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL

PAGE 10



SHEILA JOHNSON AND THE IMAGINATION GAMES ALLEN LEECH

MAJOR INVESTMENT IN FOXCROFT SCHOOL

PAGE6

CHRISTMAS CHEER "A VERY GOOD YEAR"

DANIEL MORROW

Middleburg's auditors, Mitchell & Company of Leesburg pronounced Fiscal 2014 "a very good year" for Middleburg during the presentation of its annual audit of the Town's finances.

Total assets rose from $16.6 million in 2013 to $17.1 million.

Total liabilities decreased, but only slightly, from $3.73 million to $3.67 million. Total assets rose from $12.9 million to $13.4 million.

The Town's "General Fund," essentially its main checking account, reported revenues of $2.3 million in fiscal 2014, and expenses of only $1.9 million.

"No issues encountered" during the course of the audit, Mitchell reported. The Town's records and staff support for the Mitchell & Company auditing team were deemed "outstanding."

The only note of concern raised during the report was a potential shortfall of some $643 thousand in the fund that undergirds the town's pension system. That amount will show as liability in next year's audit unless the fund's investment portfolio returns show marked improvement or the shortfall is made good from the Town's general funds. Many if not all the state's small towns had suffered similar problems during the recent recession, Mitchell & Co. assured Town Council. Given its current cash flow Middleburg appeared to be quite able to address the issue.

Salamander Subdivision

Will Moore, Middleburg's Town Planner and Zoning Administrator reported that the Middleburg Planning Commission had met with representatives of Salamander on October 27 for what he termed a "pre-application discussion" of a "preliminary plat for subdivision" of the residential areas zoned R-1 and R-3 owned by the Salamander organization.

"A conceptual layout of lots and streets was presented and discussed," Moore reported. "Additional discussion will be taking place in coming months including evaluation of the proposal relative to the [town's] Comprehensive Plan and review of consultant recommendations from the time of original rezoning."

According to Moore the Town should anticipate "an application for revisions to the associated proffers" though, "the timing of such application in relation to the application for preliminary subdivision is not certain at this time.

Town Administrator Martha Semmes noted that she had been answering questions about Salamander's plans, no doubt prompted by the meeting of the Planning Commission and news of the opening of a Salamander Real Estate Showroom at 100 W. Washington Street.

For many of Middleburg's citizens, business people, and friends, rumors that Salamander would soon be selling "residences" within the Town Limits of Middleburg came as news.

It was, in fact, as Semmes reported, old news, dating back to the original July 2005 Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and the Salamander organization.

That agreement made construction of the Inn and Spa possible, provided for a significant set-aside of Salamander land as a nature preserve, guaranteed the construction of the Town's multi-million-dollar water and sewer treatment facilities, and limited residential construction on the property to no more than 49 new residences in the areas zoned R-1 and R-3.

In a 2007 rezoning, those boundaries were confirmed. At the same time zoning was approved for a new "mixed use village" designation, which would include both residential and commercial space. The 2007 rezoning provided for up to 12 single family units, ideally, to be set aside for local school faculty and staff housing and up to 48 multi-family units, designed to provide a mix of workforce housing and housing for for elderly residents

At present it would appear that the Salamander organization will build the residences it plans to sell, promising to

Continued page 16

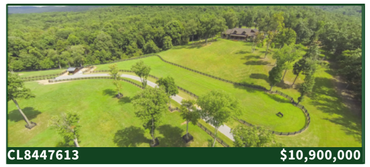
BUSINESS DIRECTORY: PAGE 46 · FRIENDS FOR LIFE: PAGE 42

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DOUBLE WOOD LN, BERRYVILLE - Majestically positioned on top of the Blue Rdige Mtns, Cassique Farm consists of 472 acres (9 parcels) that backs up to the Appalachian Trail. 4 bdrm, 4.5 bath w/ spectaculr views. Huge barn w/ 8 stalls, 2 wash bays, 8 pastures, 8 run-ins, 6 wells, 4 septics, and 2 ponds. no detail left undone. Meticulously designed!
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CL8454045 $3,100,000

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Anne McIntosh 70.509.4499


LO8294956 $2,400,000

NEWLIN MILL RD, MIDDLEBURG - Professional grade horse farm. 35 pristine & private acres w/ gorgeous views of Blue Ridge Mtns! 2 barns (11 stalls), auto-waterers/run-in sheds in every paddock, 2 riding rings (one lighted). Boxwood gardens, hardwoods, guest quarters above garage, barn appt., and a pool.
Ted Zimmerman 540.905.5874


LO8441685 $2,297,000

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FQ8230417 $1,500,000

BRIAR LN, DELAPLANE, VA - Turn-key Equestrian property 31+ acres, Goose Ck. 4 BR; Master suite on main level w/ jacuzzi. Mahogany beamed vaulted ceilings. Gourmet kitchen, Wolf appliances, double 58' decks. Stable stalls, ring, 5 paddocks, sheds with water/elec. Great ride-out, Convenient commute....
Anne McIntosh 70.509.4499

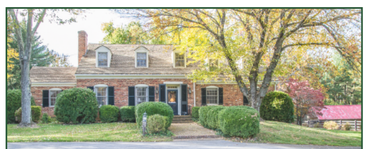

LO8268517 $1,400,000

BEAVERDAM BRIDGE RD, MIDDLEBURG, VA - Stone and stucco home on 10.88 acres 4 br, 5.5 ba. Main level bedroom, gourmet kitchen with granite and breakfast bar, custom bookshelves, 4 fireplaces, 3 car garage w/ 1 br 1 ba apartment, finished basement, pool. Mins to Middleburg.
Ted Zimmerman 540.905.5874



LO8450912 $1,375,000

MIDDLEBURG - Historic charming residence located on 0.74 acres in the heart of Middleburg. Stone house, HW floors, 7 fireplaces w/ 4 bdrms & 3.baths. Lovely front porch. Game room on ground floor w/ fireplace & seperate entrance. Beautiful gardens w/ large barn & garden shed. Close to shops & the many yearly Middleburg events.
Bundles Murdock 540.454.3499 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835


CL8477362 $1,050,000

6 bdrm/4 full bath house on ten acres in the heart of Blue Ridge Hunt Country. Master on main level, open kitchen, sun room w/ stone fireplace, finished basement w/ bedroom/full bath, library, & more. 2, 2-car garages, 2 barns, pool, potting shed, dog kennel, mature landscaping, stone work, flagstone patio. Add'l 22 acres available.
Anne McIntosh 70.509.4499


LO8454618 $549,000

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FQ8415944 $425,000

UPPERVILLE - Charming 4 bedroom house in a prime location! Built in 1840, & tastefully updated w/ new hardwood floors throughout, great baths and kitchen, & a working fire place! Freshly painted, bright & clean. Turn-key! Huge, partly finished space w/ concrete floors to be used as a workshop, or finished to fit the buyer's needs.
Laura Farrell 540.395.1680 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835


LO8476725 $399,900

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News of Note

A Thank You from AJ

November 6, 2014, is a day that forever changed my life. On that day at 2:31 PM Amy Panebianco, my wife of 27 years, passed away. She lived a life of service and, it was apparent as approximately 1,200 people who took time from their schedules to attend her funeral or visitation night. It was heartwarming.

I have witnessed death as part of being a police officer. Often observing what appeared to be a strong support system for the remaining family. However, nothing I have observed anywhere at any time compares to the love and support given to Amy and I by Middleburg. To that end, I say thank you. Those words fail to bring the gratitude to the level it should be …but they are the words that I have to use.

I cannot thank everyone individually in this letter because I'm not sure the list would fit without making this a novel. However, it is safe to say that so many of you offered letters of support, hugs, tears, funds for her, food, and most of all an outward display of love and affection. This community made the unbearable… bearable.

I will start with thanking Middleburg as a whole. I have never been more comfortable anywhere and it is because of you and the nature of this community. True community spirit is rare and Middleburg has it. The character of this community extends to more than just the façade or the look of Middleburg…it is in the people. YOU ARE AWESOME.

One can imagine that in 27 years of marriage there were lots of opportunities to create fond memories. We did exactly that. The memories created at the very end of her life were some of the most important. I was blessed to be able to spend almost every day with her as she declined. The blessing wasn't in the decline…but in the time we shared. There was truly nothing left unsaid.

The last few months were difficult but could have been worse if I had to choose to be elsewhere. I was able to stay by her side because of the graciousness of our Mayor, Betsy Allen Davis and the rest of the town council: Darlene Kirk, Bundles Murdock, Trowbridge Littleton, Kevin Hazard, Kathy Jo Shea, Mark Snyder, and Erik Scheps. They knew this was time I would never get back…and it meant the world to both Amy and I that they allowed it.

Because I love the town so much it could have been a struggle to stay away. Worry is sort of part of my job. However, during the past almost three years now, the police department staff has really become one unit. We understand the bigger picture and the importance of this community and the vibe it has. I left the department under the capable and watchful eye of Lt. Mike Prince. We have worked together on a daily basis since I came to Middelburg and we think alike on so many levels. I was confident he would do a great job… and he did so thank you Mike.

Mike didn't have to do it alone and because he knows it takes team he relied on the rest of the staff to step up and help out. Officer Heather Fadely took the helm when Mike needed a break as did the rest of the staff as others needed relief.

In fact, each officer did his or her part to make it possible for my family to have this incredible end of life experience. So to Officers Tharpe, Hollins, Putnam and our part time staff of Officers Davis and Proffitt… I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I want to thank Marvin, Martha, Cindy, Rhonda, Debbie, and William for helping in the way each of you did. Again, there were so many more that helped and I cannot name them all. However, each of you knows who you are and I hope you know what it meant to both Amy and I.

In an effort to say thank you I want to share the most personal memory and most life changing event I have experienced to date. Amy's last minutes of life shared and made possible because of all of you.

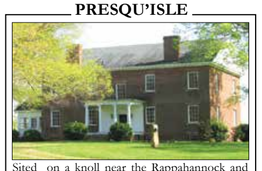
The day was spent with my son Scotty, his wife Jenna, Gracie our German shepherd, and me in bed with her and the others at her bedside. We spent the day talking to her, hugging, kissing her, and telling her how much we loved her. I held her hand and rubbed her cheek. At around 2:30 PM her hand started to get cool and her breathing changed. I turned her head to look her in her eyes and said "it's ok to go…I love you and thank you for loving me….I love you." And at that moment with my son holding her hand, Jenna rubbing her leg, and Gracie on her lap… Amy left this world knowing she was loved and most importantly she was with her family. Again, thanks to all of you.

I hope you know how difficult it is to share such a personal event… but I cannot think of a better way to say thank you than to let all of you know what you made possible. I was blessed to be with her at the end. Many people do not have that opportunity. I did and there is nothing that holds a greater value in my life.



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Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

BEECH HILL



Complete privacy, yet enough grass for a few horses. The house sits in the middle of **38 acres** with mature plantings. Wooden beams in the living room & refinished parquet floors. Main level bedroom & bath, the same off the family room in the finished lower level and two more bedrooms upstairs. There's a pond, 60X40 machine bldg, & smaller wood stables offer possibilities. A studio/office with heat, water, internet & AC by stabling. **$745,000**
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Emily Ristau (540) 687-7710

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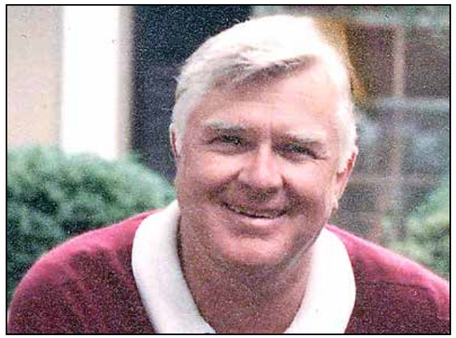
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News of Note

George Wagner White



George Wagner White, 84, of Middleburg, Virginia died November 16, 2014.

George White was born on August 5, 1930 in Nashville, Tennessee to Joris MacDonald White and Elizabeth Gannaway. He attended Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tennessee and then enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Japan in the early 1950's where he gave riding instructions, trained and showed horses for the General and other officers.

George moved to Middleburg, Virginia and married Nanette Hewett of Albertville, Alabama. Together they raised her two children from a previous marriage, Marianne and Pamela Peppiatt, as well as their children Lizanne White Driskill and Chip White.

His love of horses, foxhunting, farming and the countryside led him to his first job selling hay and grain to large farms up and down the east coast. With the feed and hay business underway, he saw a need for fencing which led to the establishment of George White Fencing, now in business for fifty five years. Other businesses included Piedmont Petroleum, Middleburg Self Storage and a hardware store.

George served on the Board of Directors for the Hill School in Middleburg from 1990 to 1992, the Vestry of the Emmanuel Church as well as the Board of Directors for the Middleburg Tennis Club.

Not only was George a successful local businessman but an avid gardener. He spent many hours gardening and shared his vegetables with family, friends and co-workers. An invitation to George and Nanette's home usually included a home-cooked meal and an invitation to pick whatever was in season at that time. To many in the Middleburg community George is considered a "Local Legend".

His love of family was his biggest gift of all and he shared his humor, good wit, kindness and generous spirit with so many of us in his life.

He is survived by children, Elizabeth Anne Driskill (Lizanne) and George Wagner White, Jr. (Chip); his stepdaughter, Marianne Peppiatt Dodson and his grandchildren, Alexandra Elise White (Allie), William Shearer Driskill, Jr. (Will), Pamela Ashley White, George Wagner White, II (Wagner), Thomas Everett Dodson (Ted) and Leah Holt Dodson.

He is predeceased by his wife of fifty years, Nanette Hewett.

The service will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Middleburg, Virginia on Friday, November 21 at 2:00 PM.

Donations can be made in memory of George White to:

The Nanette White Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Hill School, P.O. Box 65, Middleburg, VA 20118

The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 1051, Middleburg, VA 20118

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 306, Middleburg, VA 20118

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News of Note

Ruth Bedford Makes Major Investment in Foxcroft School

Former Student Leaves Legacy of Stewardship & Sets Standard for Alumni



Ruth Bedford and Foxcroft School were born in the same year, 1914. Upon her death in June, Ruth made certain that a Foxcroft education for women would live on to see another centennial by earmarking $40 million from her estate for her alma mater, the school she loved so well.

Foxcroft leaders were stunned by the bequest that will more than double the school's endowment. It is the largest gift ever to an all-girls school and one of the largest gifts from a woman to a secondary institution.

"It is a transformative gift," Head of School Cathy McGehee explained. "It will help us fully realize all our dreams for generations to come."

Bill Weeks, who was a Foxcroft trustee for twelve years, said The Standard Oil heiress has ensured that hundreds of future young women will earn a world-class education.

"Her last act was consistent with her whole life of giving back," Weeks continued. "Her greatest gift came at the end of her life."

And what a life it was.

Ruth was an exceptional woman who had the kind of courage and confidence that Foxcroft School has always worked to instill in their students. Although she grew up in a privileged family and could have lived a highly discriminating life, she chose to live modestly, to pursue sports and the arts and to invest her inheritance in worthy endeavors.

She took naturally to her family's interest in horses, becoming an accomplished rider and eventually an owner of racehorses that won races at Belmont, Saratoga, and other east coast tracks, under the family's Nyala Farms name. She also became a skilled sailor, golfer, tennis player, and aviatrix, and as an adult could frequently be sighted skimming a seaplane along Long Island

She attended Foxcroft School in Virginia for high school, where she continued to ride, sing in the choir, involve herself in a wide variety of events, and play occasional pranks which were "all good fun, nothing that you could get kicked out for!" Her abiding interest in doing good led to work in social services after her years at Foxcroft, and then to service with the Red Cross in Europe during World War II, where she volunteered to be stationed in England during the Blitz.

Community service was and is a hallmark of the Bedford family and Ruth's lifetime of generosity contributed to their legacy of stewardship.

She and her sister, Lucie, volunteered for fifty years at Norwalk Hospital in Connecticut competing every day to see who clocked the most volunteer hours.

Her grandfather, Edward T. Bedford, was a director of Standard Oil and a leading benefactor of the Westport, Connecticut community.

After the war, Ruth also acted on her interest in theater by going behind-the-scenes to work on Broadway for several years. She moved from casting assistant to assistant stage manager to assistant to the director on several productions, including the long-running, Tony Award-winning play Happy Birthday.

Ruth remained an active and engaged member of her community into her nineties, watching young riders almost daily, spending time with friends and her beloved dogs. She lived most of her life well below her means, comfortable in converted garages that had been apartments for staff on the grounds of her family's property, and driving an old Oldsmobile station wagon. As described by her friends, "Ruth was generous, unpretentious, with a zest for life, a beautiful smile and laugh, and an interest in everybody around her no matter their position in society. And she also loved a glass of scotch after 5 p.m.!"

When Ruth died on June 15th, she was almost 100 years old, and had been in touch with the school for her entire life. But no one at Foxcroft had any idea that her donation would be so significant.

"We had received a "Donor Card" from her a few years ago on which she simply checked the box, "Included in my will," explained Director of Institutional Advancement Marion Couzens. "There was no indication of what she intended to earmark for Foxcroft, and when I telephoned to thank her, it was clear that she had no intention of discussing the subject further."

So the telephone call that advised Foxcroft trustees of Ruth's $40 million gift was a shock of the most pleasant order.

"Ruth's gift allows us to begin realizing our dreams for the future of Foxcroft," comments Head of School Cathy McGehee. "With this gift we may think more boldly about all we can do to prepare our girls to be 21st-century leaders.

"Our students will directly benefit as we expand the experiential learning that has always been a hallmark of a Foxcroft education, refresh our physical plant, and strengthen our scholarship offerings."

"Ruth's gift is a ringing endorsement of girls' education, and a challenge to other women to support the schools which have helped to shape them," McGehee continued.

Her enduring relationship with Foxcroft seems fitting for a woman who was so ahead of her time – at its founding the school was equally ahead of its era on issues of appropriate education for girls. Foxcroft School was founded by Charlotte Haxall Noland in 1914, the year of Ms. Bedford's birth. Miss Charlotte embraced the concept of the school's motto, mens sana in corpore sano (Juvenal, Satire X) – a healthy mind in a healthy body -- at a time when physical exertion was widely considered inappropriate or even unhealthy for young women.

The Ruth Bedford gift is the largest ever bestowed on a girls' secondary school and reflects the increasing level of philanthropic grants from women in the United States.

"Ruth loved Foxcroft's lack of pretension, its commitment to service, and its dedication to the student as a whole person," Marion Couzens continued. "She remained involved with the school throughout her life, meeting with Foxcroft staff members as recently as this past Memorial Day, two weeks before her death."

What do Foxcroft students of today think of Ruth Bedford's $40 million gift to the school.

"It's wonderful," said Senior Lilly Potter." "It will do so much to extend a Foxcroft education to more girls, and that will increase the power of those girls to change the world for the better."

"The Foxcroft culture is warm and very much like a family," Lilly continued. "We all support each other and have a real confidence of sisterhood. We're not afraid to be smart. We have the confidence we'll need to conquer any situation."

Petia Fana, a Foxcroft Junior who clearly loves the close relationship Foxcroft students have with their teachers hopes the faculty will also benefit from Ruth Bedford's gift.

"Our teachers are of the highest quality," Petia explained. "They work overtime to help us in every way and those relationships are some of the most important we'll have in our lives."

Stephanie Young, a Foxcroft alumna who continued her education to receive two law degrees, is a perfect example of a Foxcroft teacher.

"Working in the legal field was not for me," she explained as she described why, despite the drop in annual income, she was delighted to return to Foxcroft as a member of the history faculty.

"Foxcroft is a great school run by a great team for truly great students," Stephanie said. "My students here really value what I teach about world culture, international relations and freedom in America. I'm confident they will remember and apply the knowledge they gain here to improve the world."

Community service is a major part of a Foxcroft education and there is no question that the grant will also support expansion of some programs according to Anne Michele, an alumna who is a member of the Board of Trustees.

"It's simply an incredible gift in any day or age," says Anne. "It underscores Ruth Bedford's independence and shifts the entire paradigm about philanthropy from women."

The gift will double the Foxcroft endowment and will, in a few years, increase the annual interest from the endowment that the school uses for expenses.

"We always run a very lean operation and we have been judicious in our maintenance investments," she continued. "We will continue to need donations to our annual fund but Ruth's gift will allow us to expand our scholarships and financial aid budget. We will be able to do a much better job of maintaining our 52 buildings and 500 acres."

"Fifteen percent of our annual budget comes from the interest we earn on our endowment, so Ruth's gift will make a remarkable contribution to our ability to improve our services over the long term and to extend a Foxcroft education to more girls."

Funds will be allocated for a scholarship in Ruth Bedford's name and a portion will be earmarked to honor her love of theater.

"When I heard about Ruth's gift I was astounded," recalls Mary Louise Leipheimer, former Head of Foxcroft School. "We knew that she intended to remember Foxcroft in her will but we never expected a gift of this size – it is beyond our wildest dreams."

Bill Weeks, past Foxcroft trustee, father and husband of alumnae, and also a personal friend of Ms. Bedford remembers, "Ruth was always a very independent person, a true woman ahead of her time, and this gift shows the kind of leadership and commitment to giving back that was so typical of her, and so in keeping with Foxcroft's culture."

New Organ to Highlight Spectacular Christmas Music Service at United Methodist Church

Middleburg's United Methodist Church will dedicate their new organ at the annual Christmas music service Sunday, December 21st at 11a.m. The clear, rich sounds of the new organ will be enhanced by string accompaniment provided by Alan Saucedo on cello and Cynthia Saucedo on violin.

The new organ is a gift from the Donald Taylor family in memory of his late parents Margaret and Chester Taylor and from the estate of Janis E. Combs, a longtime choir member at the church.

Allen Organ Company, the largest and best-known purveyor of church organs in the United States, supplied the powerful new instrument, which embodies the most advanced technology available. The quality of the sound is that of a large, complex pipe organ, and can replicate various types of organs such as baroque European models. The organ can also play the notes of other musical instruments such as trumpet, piccolo, and chimes.

This Christmas music service has always been a highlight of the season for church members and the entire community, since Middleburg United Methodist Church has an exceptionally fine music program under the direction of Karen Chase.

The service will showcase the new organ's outstanding capabilities and vibrant sound quality, along with choir, soloists and instrumental accompanists. A brunch reception in the fellowship hall will immediately follow the service.

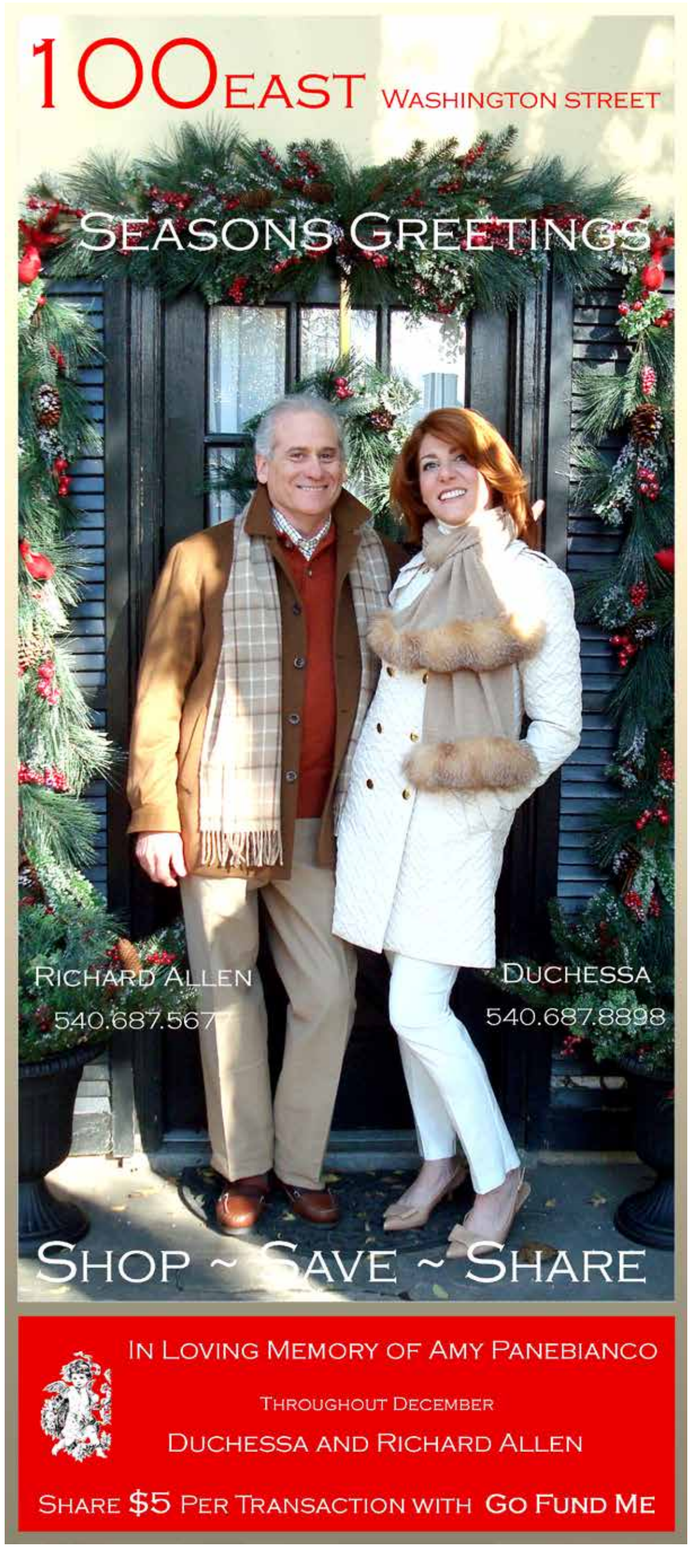
All are welcome to attend.

Middleburg United Methodist Church is located at 15 W. Washington Street in Middleburg. The church office phone number is (540) 687-6492.

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News of Note

Sea Hero, Splendid Gift from Paul Mellon

Installed in Boxwood Garden at National Sporting Library & Museum



Raising a winning racehorse is fraught with challenges, and moving and installing a beautiful three-quarter life-size bronze sculpture of one has challenges of its own.

Paul Mellon left the spectacular bronze of Sea Hero, to Middleburg's National Sporting Library & Museum when he died. His only stipulation was that it remain in his wife's estate until she died. Rachel, "Bunny" Lambert Mellon, 1910-2014, ensured that her husband's gift be bequeathed to the NSLM, and moving preparations began in Curator of Permanent Collections Nicole Stribling's office.

"We are grateful to the Mellon family for this splendid gift to the collection," said Executive Director Melanie Leigh Mathewes. "This sculpture is a beautiful example of the sculptor Tessa Pullan's work, and we're excited to add it to our campus for our visitors to enjoy."

According to Nicole, Mellon was an enthusiastic supporter of the NSLM from the institution's beginning in 1954. He donated numerous important volumes and supported the institution as a lifelong member. His art donations included a superb collection of early American weathervanes, works by Edward Troye and John Skeaping, and the three-quarter life-size Civil War Horse sculpture by British artist Tessa Pullan, which stands at the campus entrance.

Sea Hero, who was Mellon's first and only Kentucky Derby winner in 1993, was bred at Rokeby Stables in Middleburg. His bronze was sited at the Mellon estate in Upperville, on an immense stone base. The base and sculpture together measure eight feet tall and weigh almost two tons.

"The move was not easy," Nicole, who spent the first seven years of her career at the National Gallery of Art, explained. "But the process was fun and fascinating. The Boxwood Garden had been designed to become the site for Sea Hero, so we knew the piece was coming and understood the dimensions and process we would need to move it securely."

After consultations with many experts, the NSLM contracted with Benjamin Gage of Fine Art Specialists LLC to carry out the move.

Gage describes himself as a "carver of stone, poems and guitar" who, because he learned how to move and manage his own sculptures, has become a highly regarded expert.

"I've ended up handling art for a living," Gage says. "From King Tut to the Boller and Chivens 16-inch Cassegrain telescope at the new Air and Space Museum Observatory in Washington, D.C., I love difficult unusual projects."

"Because Ben is experienced with large sculpture, we had absolute confidence in his ability to take excellent care of Sea Hero as he travelled to his new home," Nicole noted. "He was precise and sensitive about this 3,500 pound fine art move, a perfect combination for a project of this kind."

Once the plan was reviewed and approved, the move was underway.

On Monday, October 27: The sculpture was removed from its pedestal base with rigging and gantry. Sea Hero was packed into a travel crate, the pedestal base was removed from its ground and secured to a pallet. Gravel was removed from the installation site and exact placement location of base was again measured and confirmed.

On Tuesday, October 28th, the crate and pedestal were lifted by crane onto a flatbed trailer and shipped to the NSLM campus. The crate and pedestal were removed from the flatbed by crane, placed into garden area and the ground was excavated for a new concrete pad.

The new concrete pad was poured on Wednesday, October 29th.

On November 4th, the pedestal was moved into place by crane and shortly thereafter, the bronze of Sea Hero was lifted and moved into place by crane. Security hardware that is not visible was added for safety and dirt and gravel was replaced around the base.

"He looks splendid in his Boxwood stall," Nicole said happily.

As an additional gift, the Estate of Paul Mellon is funding the conservation treatment of the sculpture by well-known bronze conservator Andrew Baxter. Mr. Baxter will soon clean, re-wax and polish Sea Hero to restore its original patina and shine.

"Maintenance and restoration are of critical importance to ensure that a work of fine art destined to live outside remains in excellent condition," Nicole emphasized.

The thoroughbred Sea Hero, who now resides in Turkey where he is regarded as a superstar, was an underdog when he won the Kentucky Derby.

"He'll certainly be a superstar in Middleburg," Nicole concluded. "I absolutely love this handsome piece."

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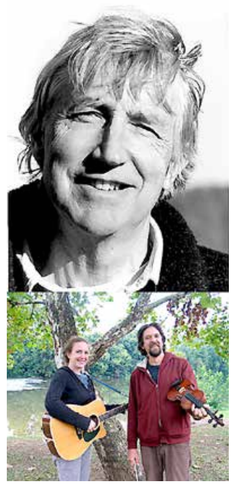
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John Gardiner WWII Stories



Loudoun author John Rolfe Gardiner teams with "Furnace Mountain" musicians David VanDeventer and Morgan Morrison for an evening of story and music reprising the World War II years. John will read "The Voyage Out" his fateful tale chosen for the O Henry Prize and Best American Short Story collections. He'll be accompanied by the Furnace Mountain musicians playing WW II classics such as "White Cliffs of Dover," "When the Lights Go On Again," "I'll Be Seeing You," "There's A Long, Long Trail," and others. Gardiner is a winner of the Lila Wallace prize. His work has appeared in the New Yorker and many other publications. The locally-beloved Morgan Morrison and David VanDeventer, roots music masters with an international following, are staple performers at the annual Watermelon Park Festival, and have recently returned from another Furnace Mountain tour in the U.K.

Tickets: $10 All Seats. Click below to purchase online

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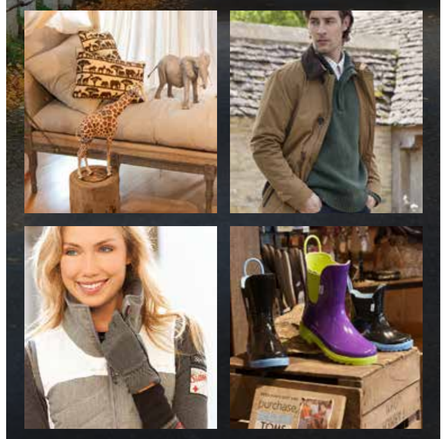


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News of Note

Middleburg Film Festival

Lauren R. Giannini

The second edition of the Middleburg Film Festival has been deemed a smash hit. For four days, October 30 to November 2, MFF attracted more than 3,000 people; many were first-time visitors to Middleburg, who found themselves just as charmed by the unique setting as they were entertained by the superb roster of movies and festival-related activities.

Sheila C. Johnson, the president of Salamander Resort, and founder of the Middleburg Film Festival, has done her homework very well. Year two of the festival turned out pretty much exactly how she hoped it would: a critical and popular success with a great future.

"We could not be more pleased with this year's festival," said Johnson. "Our audience grew significantly in our second year, thanks in large part to the distributors, filmmakers and the support of the local community."

Press coverage was quite positive about the success of the film festival, and many accolades came from within the industry itself. A visit to the Middleburg Film Festival's Facebook page offered numerous compliments and positive extracts from various published reviews, as well as comments from people who attended and volunteered and others who said they would definitely make plans for next year.

"The Festival is a very nice way to introduce people to Middleburg," said Martha Semmes, Town Administrator and a veteran both years. "We had a group of 12 women from Women's Forum, we're all graduates of Duke University. Some live in Loudoun County, some in Maryland, Alexandria, and they all said that they would like to come back another time and see more of Middleburg."

Semmes volunteered again this year and was able to watch three films, in addition to the two she attended on purchased tickets, 71 and *The Homesman*. "It's also a different way to introduce the world to Middleburg, and Sheila Johnson has said that she likes keeping this film festival small," said Semmes. "The producers and director like it because it's more intimate, especially the Q & A sessions following the films. It's more enjoyable for them. Many people who talked to me all mentioned how friendly the town is, how beautiful. People from Ashburn and Leesburg said that they never think to come out it until something like this reminds them of how charming Middleburg is."

Semmes also credited the town's Maintenance Supervisor, Marvin Simms, Jr. when a couple commented on how clean it was, even with all the extra people who shopped, explored, ate at various restaurents during the festival. "Marvin worked very hard to get the leaves up, maintain the trash pickup, and all the little details," said Semmes. "The businesses make their shops look so nice and put out flowers. It really is a community effort and you have to give the businesses credit for being so welcoming. The film festival brought in people who don't normally come out here. The festival provides a window into the community."

The locals were out in strength, both as ticket holders and volunteers, but few could compete with one Facebook poster who admitted watching 12 of this year's topnotch roster of 20 films. Michael and Kimberly O'Donnell, who live near Middleburg, are film festival enthusiasts who attended both years.

"It was really, really good," said Kimberly O'Donnell, CPA and head of O'Donnell & Co., LLC, based in Middleburg. "We thought the first year was fabulous and this year they did another stellar job selecting the movies. The quality of these films was just fantastic: the story, the acting, everything. I highly recommend *The Homesman* with Hilary Swank and Tommy Lee Jones — it was fabulous, and *The Imitation Game* was amazingly good. Michael and I wish we had three days just to go to the movies."

People who attended the Middleburg Film Festival were able to vote for their favorites. *The Imitation Game* received the Audience Award for Best Narrative. "To be able to welcome director Morten Tyldum, screenwriter Graham Moore, and actor Allen Leech made the screening of The Imitation Game so personal and special," said Johnson. "The audience not only saw a fascinating film, but were treated to fascinating behind-the-scene stories."

Dior and I and Red Army tied for the Audience Award for Best Documentary. One brings the movie-goer into the storied world of the Christian Dior fashion house for an inside look at the first haute couture collection by Raf Simons, the new artistic director. The other is about the Soviet Union and the most successful dynasty in sports history, the Red Army ice hockey team.

The Imitation Game, which is already lauded as one of the best spy thrillers ever made, looks like an Academy Award contender for best picture. Haunting and intense, filled with suspense, yet alleviated by dark humor and at least one scene that will bring most viewers to tears, it portrays a genius, himself an enigma, who helped to shorten World War II and, in so doing, saved thousands of lives. British mathematician Alan Turing, played by Benedict Cumberbatch, a likely nominee for Best Actor, is a pioneer in computing who leads a team of scholars, linguists, chess champions and intelligence officers in a race to break the unbreakable codes of Germany's Enigma machine.

Plans are underway for next year's Middleburg Film Festival: a carefully curated selection of narrative and documentary films which screen in intimate theatre environments, followed by Q & As with filmmakers and actors. The festival includes special events and social receptions in a beautiful area with lots of history — a great day or weekend getaway for families and friends.

For more information: www.middleburgfilm.org

Middleburg Film Festival

Ryan Perry

On October 30 – November 2 of 2014, the rural northern Virginia town of Middleburg hosted enthusiastic moviegoers to its second annual film festival, and it was as exciting a follow up as one could imagine.

Much like last year, Middleburg's own Hill School was used as a venue for films, as well as the much newer Salamander Resort and Spa, but the festival also made way for new sites to be visited, such as the National Sporting Library and Museum and even the prestigious Buchannan Hall in the nearby town of Upperville. The Salamander was as illustrious as always, and likewise, the vintage atmosphere of the Sporting Library represented the town's timeless and homey heritage.

Another tradition that I had noticed had carried over from last year's festivities was the general excitement of the crowd. After many of the films I saw, even those that weren't preceded with a Q&A session, there were clusters of viewers in groups eagerly discussing and sharing their thoughts on the films. The patrons weren't the only ones who exuberated with enthusiasm, however. Not unlike last year, the festival likely wouldn't have even happened without the help of the volunteers. Upon returning to a familiar location, a few volunteers who were present at last year's festival kindly greeted me by name, and it's that kind of sincerity that gives people something to look forward to in Middleburg. You can go to the cinema and see a good movie, but there's no sense of community. It's the same as living in a small town as opposed to a bustling city – here, everyone knows your name and is genuinely glad to see you. That's what distinguishes the Middleburg Film Festival from better known events such as the Toronto Independent Film Festival or Sundance: there, there's so much hustle and bustle to get to your films that there's no time to stop and talk about them. Here, however, the whole thing is treated much more socially and less like an event.

As for the films themselves, there certainly weren't any that were worth hating. though I felt that last year's offerings were slightly more favorable. The eight that I saw over the course of the weekend (*Two Days, One Night; Low Down; The Clouds of Sils Maria; The Homesman; Mr. Turner; The Last Five Years; Escobar: Paradise Lost; and The Way He Looks*) were all well worth watching, and distinctly varied from one another. Being an adolescent filmgoer of 19, I'm one of the few in my crowd who tends to look past the shine and excitement of the year's summer blockbusters and appreciate the charm of an independent drama, and the majority of these films gave me what I was looking for, with one or two of them being of lesser quality.

However, there were certainly events prominent at the festival. Following multiple screenings (including the showing I attended of *Low Down*) were Q&A sessions with the producers and writers of the films. During this session, the questions that were asked made it very clear that the audience was very engaged in what was happening and took in the various meanings of the film. There were also tributes to esteemed costume designer Colleen Atwood (known for her work on Tim Burton hits such as *Sweeney Todd* and *Alice in Wonderland*) and Oscar-nominated composer Marco Beltrami (*The Hurt Locker* and 2007's *3:10 to Yuma*). Also included were several events that took place on Halloween, such as an elaborate masquerade ball and $1 screenings of nostalgic Halloween classics such as *Scream* and *Edward Scissorhands*. Clearly, festival founder and Middleburg resident Sheila Johnson wanted to up the ante from last year's opener, and her efforts paid off.

Overall, the Middleburg Film Festival's second outing was as good a follow up as one could expect: it was bigger, it was better, and it was a perfect experience for independent filmgoers to view some of the year's most under recognized cinematic treasures, as well as a grand opportunity for the films to be showcased to such an approving audience. Much like Halloween, the anticipated occasion on which the festival coincided, it's an experience that only comes once a year, and I can't wait to see what next year's festivities bring.

The Homesman

Ryan Perry

When you've got a western that stars Oscar winners Hilary Swank and Tommy Lee Jones, and also happens to be written and directed by Jones, you've got the potential for a real winner. But does *The Homesman* deliver? Most of the time.

The story follows Mary Bee Cuddy (Swank), an independent woman tasked with transporting three mentally unstable women across the frontier to the home of a minister who has promised to care for them. Assisting Cuddy in her perilous travels is George Briggs (Jones), an Army deserter whom she rescued from hanging.

At times, *The Homesman* tends to take a liking to *True Grit* – it follows the journey of an old man reluctant to be accompanied by a headstrong young woman. But here, the roles are reversed: Cuddy is the one leading the mission while Briggs is the one who takes orders. Clearly, Jones wrote the feministic role specifically for Swank (having fought a similar battle of feminism in her award-winning role in *Million Dollar Baby*), and you can tell the actress wouldn't have had it any other way. Though she is clearly determined to transport the women to safety, it's evident that a part of her is driven by the determination to prove that she can do it. While this would be considered a flaw in another character, it's made up for by the fact that Cuddy isn't afraid to ask for help from Briggs. She understands that she'll need him, but tries to resolve a problem before having to turn for help. She tries to keep a problem her own without bringing anyone else into it, and although at times her feminism horn can be heard distractingly loud, it's not enough to bring down the fact that she is a very likeable character.

Jones actually turns out to be one of the problems of the movie, acting as comedic relief when it just isn't needed. While in any other film it would have been a good opportunity to have a comic relief character to bounce off of Swank's serious role, it just doesn't work in a film as serious as this one. If it were part comedy, it would have felt less stale, but here, it almost feels as though Jones is attempting to recreate the Mel Gibson/Danny Glover duo from Lethal Weapon out in the old west. That isn't to say that Jones doesn't excel whenever he does have a serious moment, and it's for that reason that he should have played it straight.

Overall, while not as thought-provoking as other contemporary westerns such as *True Grit* or *3:10 to Yuma*, *The Homesman* is still an entertaining watch, anchored by Swank's stellar performance. I give it three out of four stars.

The Last Five Years

Ryan Perry

After the commercial and critical success of 2012's music-driven comedy *Pitch Perfect*, it was no surprise that leading actress Anna Kendrick would eventually star in a musical. That musical would be *The Last Five Years*, director Richard LaGravenese's adaptation of the 2001 Broadway show.

The story follows Cathy (Kendrick) and Jamie (Jeremy Jordan of *Joyful Noise*), and their trials and tribulations as a young couple. Jamie's songs tell their story from the beginning, and Cathy's start from their breakup and work backwards until the two sides meet in the middle. The plot technique is an interesting one, but nothing that hasn't been seen before (clearly alluding to the backwards storytelling of *Pulp Fiction*).

Likewise, the songs are none too special, but offer nothing worth complaining about. They don't have the glamorous sound of a Broadway show, nor do they succumb to the typecasting issue prominent among most musicals: while *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, for example, has a very obviously vintage 1970s tint, *The Last Five Years* doesn't really pertain to any particular era. The result makes for a soundtrack that, while less likely to become outdated, is undoubtedly less memorable than something akin to *Rocky Horror*.

How about the acting? Much like the song offerings, it's fair, and good enough to get by. Nobody here is receiving an Oscar nomination, but they do a good enough job of representing their characters and their emotions. While the chemistry between the two leads is convincing, Kendrick in particular shines, partly due to having the more emotionally developed character, and partly due to being the better actor.

In all, *The Last Five Years* is an interesting practice; while it is admirable to see an attempt at a movie musical that doesn't fall into the over-glamorized stigma of shows like *Chicago* and *Hairspray*, the result is undoubtedly less memorable. The Last Five Years is in a category all its own, and while nothing harmful, I'm not sure how soon I'll be revisiting it. Although it wasn't my particular cup of tea, I think others will likely relish its simplistic style. I give it a passing score of three out of four stars.

Two Days, One Night

Ryan Perry

Esteemed Oscar-winning French actress Marion Cotillard (*Inception*) may be on her way to earning her second nomination in Belgium's entry for the award for Best Foreign Language Film, *Two Days, One Night*. Oh yeah, she's that good.

Cotillard stars as Sandra, a worker at a solar panel plant who faces losing her job. Her cash-strapped coworkers have sold her out in favor of a substantial bonus, but she's managed to convince her boss to hold another ballot Monday morning. Now, she has only the weekend to convince her colleagues to vote in her favor, and the clock is slowly ticking away.

What makes Sandra such a compelling character is the fact that not only is she faced with a crushing situation, but she is also suffering from depression. She's constantly combing through anti-depression medication and barely has the energy to haul herself out of bed, but under the motivation of her husband (Fabrizio Rongione), picks herself up and fights through the day. She's the everyman, the everyday person struggling to make it day to day, so her journey is authentic and easy to empathize with.

In the same way, just as sure as Sandra is the protagonist, her boss and coworkers are just as understandable. Though the situation is a frustrating one, they're in the same economic boat as Sandra, so they don't seem selfish when they defend their vote to her, saying, "I didn't vote against you, I voted for my bonus." This is what contributes to the strongest aspect of the script: it doesn't have, nor does it need a villain to create a bitter, real-world situation.

The film isn't perfect, however. As compelling as the story can be, it can also be just as repetitive to watch Sandra pursue sixteen coworkers and attempt to sway their vote. *Sixteen*? Ten would have been just fine, but such a lengthy number makes it seem as though the writers were just trying to draw out the runtime to the 90-minute mark. I couldn't help but think back to the first time I saw *National Treasure* – as bizarre of a comparison as that sounds, I had much the same reaction: sure, I love what the characters are doing, I would just like to see them do something else. A little variety in terms of storytelling wouldn't hurt, but for what we have, the film is perfectly fine. However, I must acknowledge the fact that the filmmakers are representing a true story, a little known fact even among the film's fan base. Given that sixteen was the actual number, I can't complain too much, but it was a minor nitpick of mine in an otherwise perfect movie.

While not a perfect film, *Two Days, One Night* still manages to be poignant and engaging, sporting a strong leading performance and making for a film I won't soon be forgetting. I give it three and a half out of four stars.

Human Capital

Mary Chubb

The film opened up on a biting winter's evening with a hit-and-run accident simply shrouded in secrecy, and instantly, the audience was hooked. "Human Capital" presented a twisting tale told in four parts, from three perspectives, that outlined the events leading up to this accident as well as the aftermath. Throughout the riveting story, while trying to figure out who drove the jeep, the viewer is shown scenes of love, scandal, corruption, and endless conflict. Directed by Paolo Virzì, and holding the honor of being the Italian entry for "Best Foreign Language Film" at the 87th Academy Awards, this film enthralls the viewer with a brilliant plot, commendable performances, and flawless cinematography and sound.

Human Capital is told in four pieces, the first three being told from differing perspectives but over the same period of time. Chapter one surrounds Dino Ossola (Fabrizio Bentivoglio), a humble real-estate agent turned social climber upon seeing the lavish lifestyle of hedge-fund manager Giovanni Bernaschi (Fabrizio Gifuni). Dino gets wrapped up in Bernachi's latest project, quickly losing a fortune to the world to which he strives to belong. Chapter two focuses on Carla Bernaschi (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi), a former actress who yearns for the theater but is trapped in her life as Giovanni's wife. In the midst of a futile attempt to fund a theater, she gets wrapped up in an affair with director Donato (Luigi Lo Cascio). Chapter three begins to solve the mystery with which the other two end. This chapter is centered on Serena Ossola (Matilde Gioli), daughter of Dino and former girlfriend of Bernaschi's son Massimiliano (Bernaschi). Serena finds herself tied up in the messes of the hit-and-run while trying to manage a relationship with Luca (Giovanni Anzaldo) the anxious and unsettled artist. Chapter four merely focuses on the aftermath of the ever-twisting and turning situation between the families while displaying social commentary on the corruption that finds itself rife in society.

Human Capital, being an Italian film, demanded for the American audience to understand the film through subtitles. As English-speaking viewers, we relied more on the actions of the characters rather than inflection when it came to understanding the importance of certain plot points. The actors led the deaf audience along an action packed trail, with believable emotion, precise actions, and powerful performances. In his portrayal of Dino, Bentivoglio creates a character living in a cloud of illusion who is realistically fraught with anxiety in his attempts to join Bernaschi's world. Gifuni, as Giovanni Bernaschi, develops an aura of power to accompany his manipulative and corrupt character. Bruni Tedeschi brings a brilliantly subtle despair into each of her scenes as Carla Bernaschi. Together, all the performances make a foreign film attainably understood and enjoyed by an American audience.

One of the most outstanding aspects of this film was undoubtedly the cinematography and sound. There were many interesting tracking shots that developed a feeling of involvement and intrigue rather than simply watching action play out. During each scene between characters, there was a fascinating sense of the camera actions mimicking the emotions of the moment. Throughout many scenes, the camera shakes and switches rapidly back and forth to reinforce the conflict that encircles each person. Through the use of cinematography and sound, one scene in particular was brilliantly conveyed to the audience. A moment of near death, bursting with police activity and devastated characters, is shown in slow motion, with muffled sound. While this technique is usually rather cliché, the scene engrossed any audience member who was watching.

Ultimately, *Human Capital* was, simply put, excellent. Intrigue, scandal, and corruption were all brought together into one brilliant film, capturing the audience, shedding light on social issues, and showing the saddening depravity of those in power. From start to end, the audience was not merely watching this film, we were living it.

Escobar: Paradise Lost

Gabriel Himelfarb

Whoever thought that a movie titled *Escobar: Paradise Lost* wouldn't actually be about Pablo Escobar at all? Sadly, many movie fanatics (and Pablo Escobar fanatics) had hoped for this film to realistically depict the violent and traumatic life lead by the Columbian drug lord during the 1980's and 1990's; however, what these fans received probably wasn't what they were expecting. Written and directed by Italian actor and director Andrea Di Stefano, the film, instead, focusses on the life of a Canadian surfer bum in his mid-twenties, and his relationship with a girl he meets during his travels along the beautiful beaches of 1980's Columbia. While the beginning of the film may start out slow, the movie really picks up its pace as soon as it is revealed that Nick's Columbian girlfriend is actually Pablo Escobar's niece. What a fun way to kick off a surfing trip.

As Pablo Escobar himself is first introduced, on paper he seems like a wealthy, hardworking business man who has a few secrets between him and his close friends; in fact, the guys seems pretty likable. Benicio Del Toro does an absolutely fantastic job capturing both the look and ominous personality of Pablo Escobar, and seems as if he simply belongs to play this role. On the other hand, Josh Hutcherson, who plays as Nick, seems to fall flat with his persona. Compared to Escobar, every other character in the film seems boring and stale, and even the star of *The Hunger Games* couldn't pull his own weight to match the masterful performance of Del Toro. As the drama and action intensified, I couldn't help but think that Hutcherson seemed like a helpless dog being chased around the streets of Columbia by gun-toting madmen; although his role was most likely meant to be played with a central focus on vulnerability, he just didn't appear to be prepared for anything coming his way. In addition, another draw back that the film suffered from, was a tendency to rely on gunfights and action to derail the viewer from the lackluster plot. While some of the action scenes are fairly tense and well choreographed, it appears as though they were added into the movie for the sole purpose of clichéd fight-scene entertainment.

Even though the acting wasn't superb and the plot felt like it

Continued page 16

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News of Note

The Way He Looks

Maddie Dargis

"It's safer not to look around, I can't hide my feelings from you now, there's too much love to go around these days". –Belle & Sebastian, *There's Too Much Love*

It is nothing we have not seen before; adolescents trapped in a teenage love triangle as everything in their lives slowly seems to begin to spiral out of control. Yet sometimes a classic story can be reiterated in a refreshing and invigorating way. Keeping the story modern and relevant, "The Way He Looks", is a twist on the cliché teenage melodramatic romance, with the main character Leonardo being a blind teenage boy who slowly falls in love with the newest arrival at his high school, the curly-haired and bronzed-skin Gabriel. Recognized by many for its endearing love story, "The Way He Looks", directed by Daniel Ribeiro, has been chosen as the Brazilian entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 87th Academy Awards, and was a stand-out at the 2014 Middleburg Film Festival.

Presented in a simple manner, the viewer is able to understand the characters on a personal level. Giovana, played by Tess Amorim, has been harboring a secret crush on her best friend Leonardo, played by Ghilherme Lobo. In the opening scene, the two are shown lounging by a translucent pool on a sizzling day, with obvious chemistry and comfort. The viewer is only made aware of Leonardo's major disability when he struggles finding his way through the water, guiding himself only with the sound of Giovanna's compassionate voice. In this scene and throughout the movie, Leonardo is always shown attempting to overcome this incapacity.

It is easy to relate to Leonardo and Giovana's friendship as we see the ease with which they interact. Walking Leonardo to and from school, Giovana constantly cares and guides her blind friend though life. The dynamic between them soon changes however, when Gabriel, played by Fabio Audi, appears in the picture. As Leonardo and Gabriel spend more time together, the viewers see how well their attitudes complement each other, and how they become better people when around one another. With their charm, tenderness, and raw emotion, the actors portraying the substantial characters are the highlight of the movie; they brilliantly portray the positive aspects of humanity and human relationships. The attachment to the characters is essential, and extremely contributes to the involvement of the audience. One scene that was especially touching was when Gabriel introduced Leonardo the band "Bell & Sebastian", and encouraged him to come out of his shell to experience more of what the world has to offer. With awkward movements and a jig in his step, Leonardo's hidden feelings rise to the surface.

Persevering through hatred, ignorance, and prejudice, Leonardo grows as an individual through accepting his relationship with Gabriel. The audience learns tolerance and compassion from experiencing first-hand the everyday issues that Leonardo is faced with. Sparked with the passion of young love and the realization that it does not matter what other people think, the characters in *The Way He Looks* inspire and make an impression on every viewer.

Force Majeure

Maddie Dargis

Force Majeure opens with a picturesque scene - a family of four on a ski trip, standing upon the magnificent French Alps as they pose for a photographer. However, events take a downward spiral and this seemingly perfect vacation turns into a nightmare.

Written and directed by Roben Östlund, *Force Majeure* examines the psychological effects gender stereotypes can have on a family. The film takes place at the breathtaking resort of Les Arcs, where Östlund provides many spectacular shots of the Alps. The majestic yet icy and distant location provides for a parallel to the situation at hand.

Tomas (Johannes Bah Kuhnke) is the father of the posh family, and seems to have a magnetic connection between him and his phone. His wife, Ebba (Lisa Loven Kongsli), reveals to a friend at the resort that these family vacations are the only time Tomas can escape work and find time to relax. However, things become rather tense. On Day Two of the five-day getaway, the family is enjoying a nice brunch on a high terrace when people begin to gasp and point; a controlled avalanche has begun to cascade the mountain. Östlund expertly executes this scene by using a combination of footage of a real British Columbia avalanche and a green screen to produce the realistic avalanche. Many of the tech-savvy guests including Tomas extract their iPhones from their ski jackets to take pictures and videos. However, Ebba becomes increasingly nervous as the 100-foot wide mass of packed snow seems to be headed directly towards the terrace. The next few seconds that ensue change the entire trip (not in the way most viewers expect).

In a gut instinct, Tomas flees the terrace as it is covered with a blanket of snow, leaving his wife and children behind. He returns to the table shortly after and instantly viewers can sense the awkward cloud that has permeated the family. Although everyone is safe, the situation at hand proves hazardous to the family dynamic. Tomas refuses to admit that he abandoned the family in a moment of panic. Tension continues to build between Tomas and Ebba until eventually everything goes downhill; their children become emotionally distressed as they worry that their parents are getting a divorce and even Tomas has an emotional breakdown outside their hotel room door. The film seems to hit a stalemate with the constant bickering until the introduction of new characters.

Östlund does provide some humorous moments throughout the film, most noticeably when Tomas' friend, portrayed by Kristofer Hivju, arrives on scene with his girlfriend and is bombarded by Ebba about the ongoing situation. Hivju does a striking job in the film as he boisterously attempts to play the mediator between the couple, stating that perhaps Tomas was planning on returning to dig the family out after he fled. Although this scene provides a slight, facetious diversion from the gloomy circumstances, Hivju's character brings important points to light that causes viewers to self-reflect; human beings don't always have control over their gut instincts. One would like to think he would be the hero, risking his life to save his loved ones. But when an individual is put in that situation where he has a split-second to react, he truly doesn't know what his first impulse would be. Just as Östlund forced viewers of his controversial film "Play" to question the uncomfortable topic of liberal sensibilities and racism, the Swedish director goads viewers' minds regarding the gender stereotypes that accompany the patriarch of the family. Östlund continues to press the boundaries, and is certainly a director that people should keep their eye out for.

Low Down

Anthony Del Rosso

Based on Amy-Jo Albany's memoir, *Low Down* is a compassionate look at the relationship between a teenage girl and her brilliant but junky jazz pianist father. Set during the years between 1974 and 1976, Amy (Elle Fanning) is surrounded by outcasts and addicts living in seedy apartments and getting by on gigs, tricks or other less seemly endeavors. Despite overwhelming heartbreak and tragedy, Amy survives the mayhem to tell a tender tale of love and devotion to her father.

The movie opens with Amy's voice over, "I often thought my father was born of music.

He heard music everywhere, in the squeaking of rusted bedsprings and the buzzing of flies. Dripping faucets were filled with rhythms for him, as was the irregular flashing of the busted neon outside our window." That lovely image is spliced with Joe Albany (John Hawkes) being grabbed, thrown up against a car handcuffed and carted off to jail for yet another parole violation.

And so it goes throughout the movie. Amy is wise beyond her years and hip to the ways of junkies, prostitutes, drunks and perverts who wander in and out of life with her father.

Despite the many times she has been let down by Joe, she adores her dad and is awed by his talent. The movie, told through Amy's eyes, is hopeful, loving, and forgiving. But Joe is bound to disappoint and gradually Amy grows up and realizes that Joe will never overcome his cycle of addiction.

Low Down has no shortage of great performances. As Joe's doting mother (Glenn Close) thinks he's been "touched by God" and yet, in one scene, cradles him after he's passed out and anguishes, "my poor lost boy." Amy's mom, Sheila (Lena Headey), an absent alcoholic one-time singer, derails a possible rapprochement with her daughter by delivering a boozy, lacerating speech that reduces her daughter to tears. Joe's best friend Hobbs, (Flea of Red Hot Chili Peppers), appears to be a rock but later sheepishly confesses that he hawked his horn to score some dope. Alain (Peter Dinklage) is a sweet neighbor squatting in an abandoned apartment in the building who has his own secret life as a porn star. This collection of supporting performances, while brief, are exceptional. They round out the ensemble and add a layer of realism that lacks from similar independent films.

But, the two leads steal the show. Fanning and Hawkes play off each other in a way that is organic and natural. They sometimes share the close bond of a doting father and loving daughter, other times the detached relationship of the drug addict and quietly crying child. Fanning shows dramatic chops beyond her age. She swoons as a stars truck girl infatuated with Joe, and stomps as a tough-as-nails woman angry with the world. Hawkes is the lynchpin of the film. His subdued performance convinces the audience of the fragile, piano wire taught individual that is Joe Albany. Hawkes pulls Joe in multiple directions. From the loving, devoted father to the surly son to the struggling addict who does everything he can to stop but loves it too much.

As you can imagine, music in a film about 70's jazz figures prominently, and the musicselection in "Low Down" is sublime. The melodies and rhythms convey just as much about the characters as the exposition. Whether it be a stirring jazz during a touching diner scene or a mournful piano during Amy's moments of utter sadness, the music makes the film. It adds another layer of emotion that enforces what is shown through the cinematography.

The cinematography is another

Continued page 16

The Clouds of Sils Maria

Evy Edens

Distinguished actress Maria Enders, beautifully played by Juliette Binoche, is faced with the frightening, but exciting, opportunity to take part in the revival of the play that sparked her fame nearly twenty years ago. After gentle prodding from her tough, but charming, assistant Valentine, played by Kristen Stewart, Maria decides to take on the role of Helen, the lead opposite Sigrid, whom she played the first time around.

We observe as Maria and Valentine reside in a lovely house in the Swiss mountains, where they prepare Maria for her upcoming role. Maria has a very strong emotional attachment to Sigrid's character and she has a hard time coming to terms with the fact that she can no longer play her, due to her age. She has this amazing connection with Sigrid and she can't seem to see eye to eye with the character of Helen. Everything about Helen seems inherently wrong to Maria, and Valentine is in the difficult position of having to find a way mediate this battle between Maria and her mind.

As if the preparing for the role of Helen didn't take enough of a mental toll on both Maria and Valentine, they must also deal with Jo-Ann, played by Chloe Grace Moretz, the troublesome young actress who's been cast as Sigrid.

At times, it's easy to be distracted from the conflicts due to the breathtaking views of the Swiss countryside, where the majority of the film takes place. Maria and Valentine frequently go on hikes, occasionally rehearsing lines as they go. They have a beautiful friendship and it's easy to forget that they're in a business relationship. The chemistry between Binoche and Stewart is marvelous; they could just as easily pass for a mother and daughter as they could for long time friends. You get emotionally invested in their relationship, so you're on the edge of your seat in the midst of their frequent, and sometimes painful to watch, arguments.

Everything about this film is very human; it's easy to relate to Maria and Valentine's characters because they're both rough around the edges. Binoche and Stewart's performances are heart-wrenchingly raw and admirable vulnerable, and with every tear shed and argument shouted, you sympathize with them and truly hope that

Continued page 16

Red Army

Allison Swede

With patriotic characters, unbreakable bonds of teammates, and heartbreaking details of life in the Soviet Union, the documentary, Red Army, takes the viewer through the life of hockey players during the era of the Soviet Union. This documentary depicts the experiences which Slava Fetisov had during his lifetime as a star hockey player, from his experience in the regiment of the Red Army Club, to his fruitful carrier in the NHL.

Red Army takes the sport of hockey to another level. It describes the art of hockey which the Russians successfully mastered, thus winning numerous gold medals in many Winter Olympics. It describes the importance and deep bond between teammates; their minds linked as a unit. It describes the feeling of patriotism which drove the Red Army Club to perform at their best even in times of struggle and hardship.

Although the film seems to emphasize the struggle of the era of the Soviet Union, it does not drag along without humor. Interview segments with Slava Fetisov add a pinch of humor to the heavy film. Such witty comments, along with personal quirks, and touches of attitude, keep the interviews alive, and deters the viewer from becoming overwhelmed by the harsh life experiences which Sláva and his teammates share.

Director, Gabe Polsky, produced a masterpiece with personal interviews and a mirage of photos and videos from the era of the Soviet Union. Each scene of this production flows with flashes from actions in past to the after effects of such in the present. The documentary is accented with clips of the confusion which shook Russia during the Soviet Union, along with videos of the Red Army Club's successes and failures, and photos of both the hockey team and the personal life of the key members of that team. Along with those depictions which throw the viewers into the life of the Russians, the interviews of teammates Viacheslav "Slava" Fetisov, Alexei Kasatonov, Sergei Makarov, Igor Larionov, and Vladimir Krutov depict the truth about the hardship in Russia under the restrictions of the Soviet Union. Such interviews demonstrate how Russian governmental turmoil was reflected in the turmoil which besieged the Russian hockey team.

Where other documentaries fail, Red Army, entices and enthralls all viewers. This film is not to be considered a dull documentary; each scene pulls the viewer further into the struggle during the command of the Soviet Union. Each moment of this film is exciting and moving. The documentary is well crafted with video clips of hockey success woven with depictions of the tragedies which constantly plagued the close knit Russian hockey team.

Continued page 16



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- 20 individual clients
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- Social Group – 6 participants
- 2 therapists on staff
- 5% of clients on partial or full financial aid



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- 3 Lunch Bunches, 70 participants
- Same Sky audiences total 5000+
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Where are our clients from?
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Who Do We Serve?
We Serve People from 1 to 75 years old with:
~ Physical/Medical Challenges
~ Developmental/Intellectual Challenges
~ Behavioral/Learning Challenges
~ Social Challenges
~ Life Challenges

Do you work only in Middleburg?
APTB staff also see clients at INOVA Outpatient Rehab Facility (Loudoun), The Radiation/Oncology Department at INOVA Loudoun, The Auburn School, The Paxton Campus, Levis House, Fauquier County Schools, and more



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Windy Hill Fashion Show

Thank You!!!!

Donna Barkley and Beth Ann Mascatello, Chairpersons, wish to thank the many people on the committee who worked tirelessly to make this year's event a great success; the sponsors and friends for their financial and professional support; auction item donors; the local shopkeepers who provided the fashions; and the models (human and canine!) who showed off the outfits so beautifully.

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News of Note

Highcliffe Clothier's New Digs



Morgan Hensley

When you walk into Highcliffe's new storefront, you get the feeling that you are standing with one foot in the rich past of hunt country and the other foot in something totally new. The clothing is at once nostalgic and quirky and totally captures the essence of Middleburg, or as owner and certified fitter and designer Mark Metzger would say, it's "classical and traditional and fun and eclectic."

That phrase is perhaps the best way to describe both the store and Mark's outlook on fashion. Mark has worked in tailoring and design for thirty years. He is the currently serving his second term as the president of the Custom Tailors and Designers Association, the oldest continuously operating trade organization in America. He is an award-winning carp fisherman. Mark is many things, but more than anything else, he is a highly distinguished tailor that has designed custom suits for foreign diplomats, NFL quarterbacks, and people from all walks of life.

Mark opened the first Highcliffe in Washington DC in 1995. The store takes its name from a castle in England from which Mark's family owns a clock. Eight years ago, Mark decided to move the store out to Middleburg to be closer to the hunt country culture that inspires his fashion sense. The original Middleburg location, which was tucked away on the corner of Madison and Federal, received notable accolades, most recently its third consecutive "Best of Virginia Award" from Virginia Living. Despite its rustic charm, the store proved to be a tad cozy for the growing business, and so Mark and Highcliffe's management began scouting out a new location.

The new location on Washington Street places Highcliffe in the very heart of Middleburg. Although there is a noticeable increase in foot traffic and visibility, the move was also symbolic. With the move, Highcliffe also underwent a rebranding process to update and modernize the company. Philip Miller, Highcliffe's marketing manager, notes that it was "impossible to replicate the feel of the old building," and so rather than try to recreate the original store, Highcliffe renewed their image without losing what made it so great. Two locals were vital elements of this process, Kris Hobbie and Richard Williams. Hobbie, a designer, was able to bring a creative vision to Highcliffe that was as practical as it was artistic. Richard Williams, a general contractor that specializes in restoring historic homes, helped turn this vision into a reality. This team was able to create something totally new and refreshing that pays homage to the rich equestrian history of the area.

The layout of the new location, which opened October 25th, is much more open and spread out than the old store. The hand-hewn tables boast an impressive display of tweed, denim, and khaki. Perhaps the most notable section of the new store is the the "custom corner" near the dressing rooms. The "corner" is replete with plush tweed couches, a big-screen TV, and a bar stocked with the finest whiskies. As the name would suggest, the lounge area is there for those looking to buy a custom-tailored suit, shirt, or sport coat. Custom designed sales account for 30% of Highcliffe's business, the store's largest single factor. The experience of working closely with the customer is the bread and butter of Highcliffe. Although many retailers offer "custom" options online, Mark notes that it's "not about checking boxes. It's about the conversation." The lounge area facilitates this process of combining the customer's wants with Mark's design vision and know-how. And even if a customer isn't looking to buy a piece of custom clothing, the "corner" is an excellent place to sit, relax, and chat for a little bit. "Sometimes people want to come in and say hello," Mark says, "it's all part of being a small town haberdashery."

As the weather grows colder, consider stopping by Highcliffe to see some new clothes, check out the new location, or just say hello. For men, Philip and Mark recommend boots that can be dressed



up and down. Highcliffe offers London tan wingtip boots with lightweight rubber soles made in Maine by Rancourt & Co. As for the ladies, manager Emily Hemby suggests a warm tweed jacket by Chrysalis of England. It's a classic that will last a lifetime.

Highcliffe's focus is and has always been to incorporate elements of the hunt country so firmly engrained in the area's history without getting locked in the past. This vision allows Highcliffe to make something truly unique that fits the needs of each and every customer. "No one wants to see something tired," Mark says, and if tired is what you're looking for, Highcliffe is not the right place to look.

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News of Note

Christmas Cheer "A Very Good Year"

Continued from Page 1



build them to "the same exacting standards as Salamander Resort & Spa. "

"Each home," according to Salamander's promotional materials, will include " . . . stunning stonework, expansive bluestone patios, wainscoting, dramatic tile selections, a wine cellar, stone fireplaces, a gourmet kitchen designed by working chefs, and sustainable all-natural materials that blend artisan-craftsmanship and 21st century technology."

All home owners will also enjoy the "exclusive benefits" of membership in the "Salamander Residence Club."

Current plans call for the new residences to be built in "three distinct areas, each with their own unique characteristics."

"Estate homes" offering what Salamander describes as "the utmost in privacy" will include lots "backing onto the Resort and Spa's 200-acre conservation preserve."

"Village homes" will be constructed "closest to Middleburg and its activity" with "pastoral views of the resort's meadows and rolling landscape."

"Cottages" at the eastern end of the development, Salamander says, will be "built at a future date and provide owners with a luxurious way to take in the bucolic countryside."

Home sales, according to the brochure, will begin in 2015.

The complete text of the brochure, "Residences at Salamander, " can be downloaded at http://www.salamanderresidences.com/pdf/Residences-digitalbrochure.pdf.

Chief Panebianco

Mayor Betsy Davis reported to Council that Chief A.J. Panebianco had returned to duty, closing with a moving description of the funeral ceremonies for Amy Panebiaco, in Buena Vista, Virgina.

More than 1,200 people signed the guest register, and clearly well more than that number stood by and with the Chief on that day.

Most of the Middleburg Town Council and every Middleburg Police officer were there.

Uniforms of State, County, and Local Police forces, as well as those of the Cadet Corp and Officers from VMI were everywhere.

Chief Panebianco who unexpectedly asked to be allowed to speak, thanked his friends and family, and the people of Middleburg for all they had done for him and his family.

After the Chief had finished, Mayor Davis, reported that there were few if any present, including battle tested soldiers and career police officers, who managed to hold back tears.

Water Protection

Led by Council member Mark Snyder and the town's increasingly active well-head protection committee, Council approved several new measures to help keep Middleburg's fresh water supply safe.

Funding for printing and distribution of a new brochure outlining how to handle leaking home heating oil tanks passed unanimously.

Citizens of Middleburg should watch for the brochure in the same envelope with a forthcoming water bill.

New signs and drain markers designed to heighten awareness of areas and infrastructure critical to watershed protection were also approved.

Escobar: Paradise Lost

Continued from 11

came straight from a Hunger Games spinoff, what the film did boast (incredibly well) was a wide variety of absolutely breathtaking Columbian vistas. A mixture of excellent cinematography and plain beautiful Columbian landscapes combine to form several truly awe-inspiring moments. I can remember one scene in particular, in which the magnificent manor of Pablo Escobar is shown off, and I was completely astonished at the sheer size and decorum of the beautiful home; the scene provides a quite intimidating look into the lavish lives of the corrupt and wealthy. I enjoyed the film to a certain extant, but some aspects certainly weren't up to par for today's standards. On a final note, I will say that Benicio Del Toro did an amazing job portraying Pablo Escobar, and if there ever is another movie that actually focusses on his life, he's the man to play the role.

The Clouds of Sils Maria

Continued from 12

everything works out in the end. The intimate setting also feeds into this sense that you're a part of the story.

The Clouds of Sils Maria is long ride, but the journey's filled with heartwarming ups and heartbreaking downs and it's most definitely worth the ride. The acting is outstanding and for anyone doubting Stewart's ability to convey emotion, please give this movie a chance, because, I can assure you, it will change your mind. This film really makes you think, because you're left with a few loose ends, which is nice because you can create the rest of the story for yourself, but if closure is necessary for your enjoyment, this may not be the movie for you.

Red Army

Continued from 12

This film is exceptional. I highly recommend it for anyone who wishes to learn in an engaging way about both Russia's history and the tragedies of living in such a time. Furthermore, I recommend it to viewers, regardless if they enjoy hockey or Russian history. Everyone is guaranteed to appreciate this well crafted documentary. From the opening scene to the ending role of credits, this film will keep your eyes glued to the screen.

Low Down

Continued from 12

high note for *Low Down*. Cinematographer

Christopher Blauvelt's use of dark and smoky interior shots, probing and shaky long shots, and sun-soaked exterior shots convey the seedy, cheap, and sometimes hearting warming setting of 70's Los Angeles.

Jeff Priess's debut as a feature film director is quite good. His excellent choice of a cinematographer, cast, and music weave together to create an enjoyable picture that tells an engaging story about a complicated, flawed man who has an extraordinary gift and infatuated, young girls whose along for the ride. It's well worth your time.



What You Don't Know About Propane – but Should

Answers and Insights that could save you $1,000s

Dale Schulz

Where Does Propane Come From?

Propane is a by-product of drilling for Natural Gas (Methane). All propane in our area comes from North America. The U.S. is a net exporter of propane, primarily to Central and South America. The propane is separated from the methane, butane, and ethane at the refinery. Propane is transported to our area via rail and pipelines. If propane did not exist, someone would have invent a similar product. It is that useful.

Is Propane less costly than home heating oil and diesel fuel?

Adjusted for BTUs, propane is about $1.00/gallon less than either home heating oil or diesel. This why school districts around the Country are converting their school bus fleets to operate on propane. It is not only saving them money, but equally important propane burns cleaner than diesel. Hunt Country Propane only sells clean burning propane.

We recently purchased a new home and were told that the tank was owned by the propane company. How did this happen?

Your builder, typically a production builder, struck a deal with the propane company where the propane company would provide the tank free of charge to the builder and the propane company would own the tank and lease it to you. It was a good deal for the propane company and the builder, but not for you. The problem is people who don't own their tank pay significantly more than those who own their tank -in some cases, $2.00/gallon more. In effect, people who don't own their tanks are subsidizing the price of those who do own their tank. In building custom homes for nearly 28-years in our area we never built a home that the owner did not own the tank when they moved in. Our clients would never have accepted such an arrangement. Over the lifetime of homeownership, you could pay $15,000 - $20,000 more for propane if you don't own your tank than your neighbors who do own their tank.

Question 4. What is a Minimum Usage Fee?

If you are leasing tank and don't use what the propane company has projected you should use, you will be charge a Minimum Usage Fee ("Muffie") at the end of the Winter season. The #1 reason for your not using the minimum is typically due to a warmer than normal Winter. This fee can be $200-$300. The Winter was milder than usual in 2011-2012 and thousands of propane users were billed for a Minimum Usage Fees in April. Hunt Country Propane does not have a MUF. Never has. Read your contract and see if you have a Minimum Usage Fee. It's not reasonable – you don't control the weather.

What areas does Hunt Country Propane deliver to?

We are small, local propane company who currently only delivers in Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William, Clarke and Frederick Counties in Virginia. We are growing rapidly in this limited market area. We have no plans to expand beyond this area at this time. Every day we get calls from people wanting to become Hunt Country Propane members and save on propane. It only takes a 5-minute call to switch. It couldn't be easier.

Does your Hunt Country Propane provide other services?

We are one of the largest KOHLER generator installers in the area. As a propane company, we can provide a 500 and 1,000 gallon tanks for the generator which will allow the KOHLER generator to operate up to 8-16 days continuously should you lose power at your home. Our KOHLER generators are fully automatic. Being a propane company we can provide a turn-key solution. If there was a better standby-generator for residential use, we'd be selling it. Unlike others, KOHLER generators have commercial-rated engines.

What can I do to make my home significantly safer at minimal cost?



The number #1 thing you can do to improve the safety of your home is to purchase and install a combination CO/Propane detectors in areas of the home you have gas appliances, for example, the basement. These Carbon Monoxide/Propane detectors can be purchased local or online from Home Depot and Lowes. They cost approximately $40/each. Have a CO/Propane detector is as important, maybe even more important, than having smoke detectors in the home. If you have gas appliances in multiple locations purchase detectors for all these locations. They could save your life!



News of Note

2014 Hunt Country Christmas Ball Benefits Therapeutic Riding Centers

The weekend of December 4-6 attracts thousands of visitors to our quaint hamlet, The Middle Burg, in the rolling hills of Virginia Hunt Country. The streets come alive with cute chubby red cheeked children and their parents who travel from near and far for "Christmas in Middleburg". They come to watch the parade, shop and dine in the fabulous boutiques and cafes, and fill their hearts with the joy of the Christmas season. A group of women who are active in the community are committed to benefiting all who cherish the wide open spaces of our lovely countryside. While most of our gentle readers are enthusiastic equestrians, not everyone in our community, is fully able to enjoy the wide open spaces, be it on the back of a horse or the trail of a hound. Therapeutic riding programs allow one to connect or even physically move in a way they have never been able to before. Be it a child with a cognitive and speech disability or a veteran who has lost his ability to walk again, the relationship and connection with a therapeutic horse allows room for many opportunities. The experience may give them the inspiration to speak when at one time they could not, or feel the motion of walking when they themselves have not been able to, but can feel and enjoy the motion of the horse. In the best of holiday spirit and goodwill, the Inaugural Hunt Country Christmas Ball will be held on December 6, 2014, at the luxurious Salamander Resort and Spa at 7 o'clock pm to raise funds for those with disabilities. The Christmas Ball will feature an elegant dinner, dancing and silent auction to benefit Golden Dreams of Middleburg, and Rainbow Therapeutic Riding Center of Haymarket.

Therapeutic riding programs provide equine assisted activities to people with disabilities. The movement of the horse assists certified therapists in providing physical therapy especially to people with low muscle tone. Ground work utilizing natural horsemanship enables clients to improve social communications and cognitive skills. Other areas of benefit are fine and gross motors kills, core strength, balance and coordination, social skills and language needs, and sensory integration.

Rainbow Center has been serving inpatients at Walter Reed National Medical Center now for 3 years. Soldiers from the amputee and brain trauma unit attend with their family members for 2 1/2 hours sessions. The majority of wounded warriors that attend have combat related injuries from Iraq and Afghanistan. These injuries include:limb loss, nerve damage, traumatic brain injury, post- traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or balance issues, and all actively attend therapy appointments daily at the hospital. Most have been at Walter Reed from 6 months to 1.5 years. Some of our participants have been there for 5 years.

Mark was the first participant from the Wounded Warriors @ Rainbow Program to attend therapeutic riding at Rainbow Center. Mark is a Marine triple amputee from the Afghanistan war. Post deployment, he was at Walter Reed for 3 years when he decided he wanted to ride horses again. His family was in great support and had horses, but Mark was worried he would never be able to ride again. This was a great healing process for Mark. Rainbow started Mark out without any prosthetics, and once they added prostheses, he used his new arms and legs to ride a horse again on his own for the first time since he was a boy. The horse notices something foreign about the prosthetic, but quickly became comfortable with the devices. Mark was able to do trail rides by the third riding lesson. He felt confident and proud, and stated that he could not wait to return home to get re acquainted with his horse again. His greatest fear was that his horse would not recognize him anymore....

Rainbow Riding Center gave confidence and practice that he needed to realize that his life did not end, and that it is only just beginning again Many of the people who go to the Riding Centers do not have access to other recreational activities suitable for their needs. A local rider, Rob, a 30 year old rider said, "when I ride, I feel invincible". If you are a horse lover, you know there is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of the soul. Christmas is the season for giving and what better way to celebrate the season than to give back to those in need? Therapeutic riding programs enable their participants to achieve their goals on the back of their noble horses.

HUNT COUNTRY CHRISTMAS BALL 2014

Please join us for an evening of fine dining and dancing at the Salamander Resort and Spa Ballroom, on Saturday, December 6, at 7pm. Enjoy endless libations throughout the night while listening to the music from the HRH Band and dancing the night away. Members from the National Cathedral Choir will be singing Christmas carols during the opening of the Ball. Please take the opportunity to visit the silent auction, you might find something to put under your tree for someone special, all while supporting those that make miracles happen.

Tickets are $150.00 per person and can be purchased at: www.huntcountrychristmasball.com. Formal affair - Scarlet if convenient

For further information please contact ForgetMeNotsLLC@gmail.com.

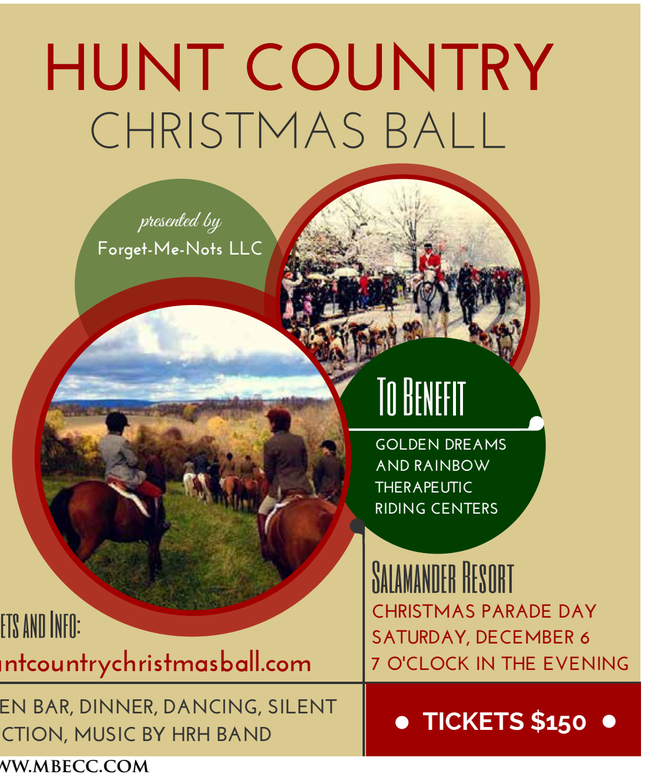
Inquiries about the Riding Centers please see our website for directions and information;

www.rainbowriding.org and www.Goldendreamsriding.org

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Friday, December 5th



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5:00 pm – 5:45 pm

Enjoy Holiday Music
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Afterwards, please join us for The 4th Annual Holiday Concert
A Place to Be Holiday Recital at 6:30 pm
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Happy Holidays!
The Middleburg Business & Professional Association

Places & Faces

The Blackthorne Inn Hosted the Wedding for Lysa & Carl Hutton

Photos by Teresa Ramsay



Lysa Hutton and James Cornwell.



Carl and Lysa Releasing the Doves during the Ceremony.



Tommy Lee and Diane Jones and Carl Hutton.



Miranda Scott and James Cornwell..



Rick Eckhardt, Paul Cronin and Carl Hutton.



Bobby Burke, Teresa Ramsay and Snowden Clarke



Nick and Bucky Slater.



Lisa Inganamort and Tracey Weinberg.



Marila Slye and Bettina Gregory.



Emma Orndorff, Anthony Horkin, Lysa & Carl Hutton.



Tom and Ann Northrup, Lysa and Carl Hutton.



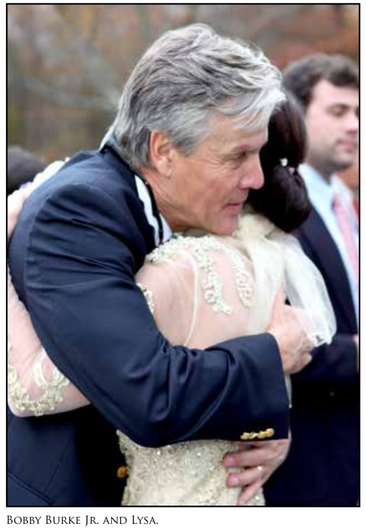
Lysa and her father Bobby Burke..



Roy and Denise Perry and Lysa Hutton.



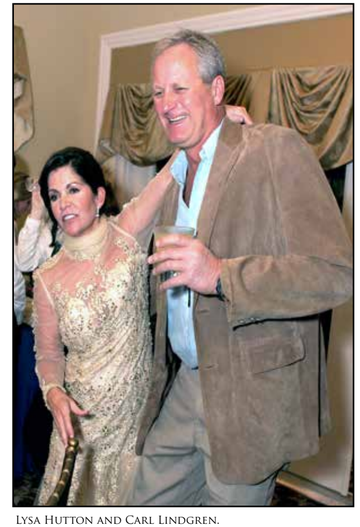
Lysa Hutton and Tom Sweitzer



Bobby Burke Jr. and Lysa.



Lysa and Carl Hutton.



Lysa Hutton and Carl Lindgren.

Places & Faces

Poplar Grange Halloween Party

Hosted by Mike and Wendy Smith ~ Photos by Teresa Ramsay



Mike & Wendy Smith



Miranda Scott, Chiara Parlagreco and Teresa Ramsay



Barbara Roux & David Roux, Tracey Weinberg and Jim Thompson



Natalie & Glenn Epstein, Adrian Rey, Tom & Linda Neel, Leslie Hazel and Holly Mulldon.



Mike Smith



Roy & Denise Perry



Barbara Roux, Alexa & Tom Wiseman



Shelby Bonnie, Melton Sender and Laurie McClary



Champion Strect and Laurie Ambrose



Nick Slator, Barbara Byrd and Bucky Slater



Neil Morris, Julie Gomena and Robert Bonnie



Mike & Wendy Smith



Wendy Smith

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Christmas In Middleburg



Photo credit Jim Poston

Saturday ✵ December 6th ✵ 2014
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2 00pm Christmas Parade
www.ChristmasinMiddleburg.org



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Places & Faces

International Gold Cup

Great Meadow. The Plains, Va. Photos by Lauren Gianinni



Magalen O. Bryant"s Plated, ridden by Jeff Murphy, trained by Jimmy Day, winner of the Sport of Kings Maiden Hurdle.



Aoife Brazil and son Niall Murphys.



Heather and TJ LoCascio enjoyed the racing. TJ and Allen Richards are partners in Upperville Auto Repair, which opened September 1.



Middleburg Hunt members Anne Sittman and Steve Payne hosted a big tailgate party of locals and "out-of-towners" who support steeplechasing, foxhunting polo, and hunter/jumper shows year round.



Spy In The Sky has earned a paycheck in all three of his starts for new owner Gregg Ryan, former top amateur jump jockey and Jt-MFH Piedmont & Snickersville), placing 4th in the Zeke Ferguson Stakes.



Bendure Communications' Marcia Massenberg and Sue-Ellen Taylor with Jordan Koepke, photographer



In the $50,000 Zeke Ferguson Memorial Hurdle Stakes, Magalen O. Bryant's Casual Creeper (Darren Nagle in light and dark blue silks), 20-1, claimed 2nd place, 11 lengths behind "runaway" winner Able Deputy, owned by NSA leading owner Irvin S. Naylor.



The International Gold Cup trophy gets a celebratory lift by the winners.



Winner of the 2014 International Gold Cup: Grinding Speed, Mark Beecher shouting in triumph, crosses finish line 3/4 length in front of Magalen O. Bryant's Dakota Slew.



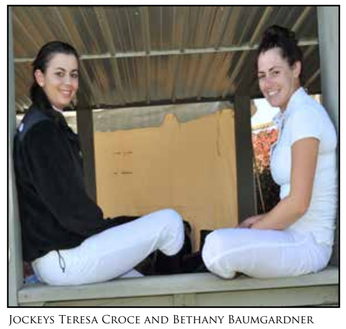
Gaynell & Ingo Sahlwann and family of McLean and Delaplane..



IGC Race Officials: Jennifer Youngman and Graham Alcock



Michael Wharton's Grinding Speed, trained by Alicia Murphy, ridden by Mark Beecher: in the winner's circle of the 2014 Maserati International Gold Cup.



Jockeys Teresa Croce and Bethany Baumgardner



Hat Contest Winner: Men-Nick Neakruse



Hat Contest Winner: Children – Elizabeth Mote



Hat Contest Winner: Outrageous – Lisa Spoden



Hat Contest Winner: Hat Contest Winner: Elegant – Julie Posey



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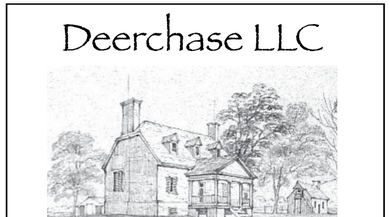


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Places & Faces

The International Gold Cup

Great Meadow, The Plains, Va, Photos by Liz Callar



Sen. and Mrs. John Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Irv Naylor, Dr. William Allison Ex-MFH.Race Chairman, and Jack Ferguson, with the Trophy.





Sen. John Warner, Micael Crane, Jimmy Day, Trainer, Karen Crane & Roger Dodson.



Tom Bishop and Jeff Blue



Jack russell. "Rok and Rol Platinum" owned by Moira Kelly-



Speedy and Eva Smithwick - trophy presented by Susie Hart-Dr. Pug Hart



Brooke Rogers Ware



Melvin Johnson and Gus Forbush



Hat Contest Winners



Dr. Reynolds Coles, Jockey Gustav Dahl, Trainer Elizabeth Voss, Owner Trillium Stable

Christmas In Middleburg

Come get your joy on! A Family Festival Day in Middleburg, Virginia, Saturday, December 6th.



Photo credit Dee Dee Hubbard

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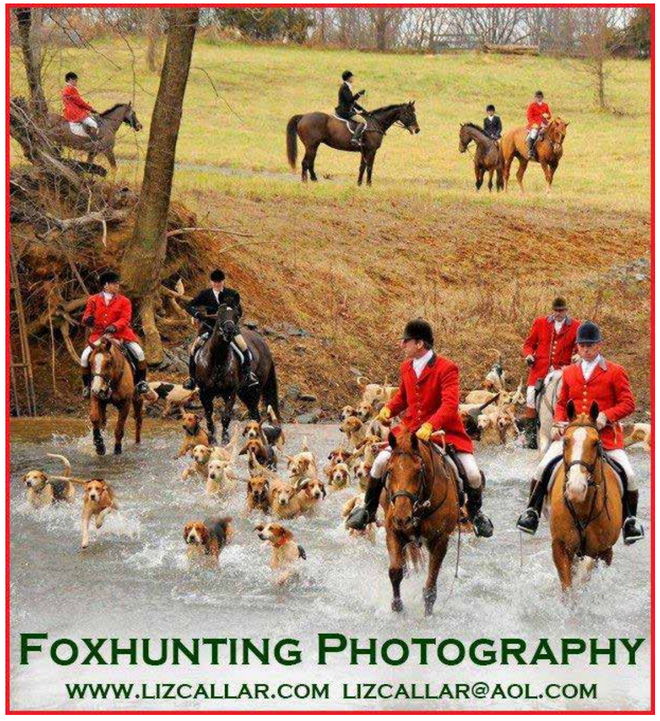
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Places & Faces

Halloween in Middleburg

Middleburg, Va. Photos by Jay Hubbard

























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December 5th through December 28th



Frederick Nunley



Kathie Ratcliffe



Jane Frenke

Friday, Dec 12th, 5 - 8 pm - Reception
Saturday, Dec 13th, 2 - 5 pm - Meet the Artists

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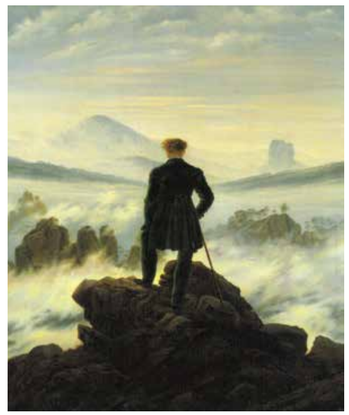
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News of Note

Will Washington, the Bald Eagle, Fly Again?



John P. Flannery

An eagle was saved from injury, found on Stevens Road in Lovettsville, afterwards named Washington, and taken to the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center.

The question, if he recovered, was could he ever fly again?

With rehabilitation and exercise, it was clear that Washington could fly indoors in a flight cage.

Dr. Belinda Burwell, Blue Ridge's Director and Vet, finally decided that Washington was fit to fly free again, in the wild, and the appointed date was November 5th.

Of course, there was no way to be certain Washington would fly – but the idea was to return Washington somewhere close to where he'd been found and near the Potomac River.

Geoff Lawson, the General Manager and Vice President of the National Conference Center, located on Upper Belmont Place, was asked if his grounds, just East of Leesburg and near the Potomac River, a perfect location for Washington's launch, could be used.

Geoff's response was immediate: "Let's do it."

On November 5, 2014, near the Center, and bordered by a grove of trees and 225 onlookers, Belinda and Heather Sparks, the Center's Wildlife Rehabilitator, took some care to extract Washington from a large carrier in their SUV.

Belinda wore a thick coat and long thick leather gloves protecting her arms. They extracted Washington, who was not one bit happy about being handled and disturbed.

"He dug his claws into my gloves," said Belinda.

Belinda wrestled expertly with Washington, and held him and walked the whole circle round the field of release so Washington could be seen by all who came to see this grand predator take flight.

Geoff greeted the conferees to the Conference Center grounds who stood waiting excitedly, the young students who came, and visitors to the grounds for this special occasion. At least one visitor traveled from as far away as North Carolina to see Washington, the bald eagle, take flight.

Many appeared anxious, to be warily watching Washington, waiting upon what Washington might do.

Belinda explained as she walked among stunned observers that Washington was young, about five years old, "that he could live into his thirties," a little small, a meat eater, she said, "we feed him rats and fish," that he may have traveled from the North Country, from Canada, that he was frantic, restless, and trying to bite her as she brought him out of his carrier, and walked him around.

Belinda said, "He doesn't like people a lot."

Belinda said this, looking down at Washington, bowing toward him, cradling Washington tight in her arms before the moment she would try to release him to fly.

"This is about the release



of a wonderful American icon," Belinda told the crowd, "He's been building up strength for his release today."

Belinda introduced Loudoun County Animal Control Officer Krista Shires who brought Washington to the Wildlife Center from Lovettsville.

Then the moment came. Belinda walked forward with the eagle. "He wasn't looking in the direction he should fly," Belinda said, "he had his head turned back toward my left shoulder, away from the line of flight, trying to bite. I wasn't sure he would go."

"I walked forward," said Belinda, "and I held him out at arm's length," encouraging him to take flight. "I wasn't sure he would. It seemed like a long time. And then…."

Then Washington spread his wings and traveled a few feet aloft to Belinda's left. Cameras clicked. Pleasing sounds of approval. Scattered clapping.

Belinda smiled almost as broadly as Washington's wing spread.

Washington climbed between the branches in the surrounding stand of trees and then toward the right of the gathering, higher, toward the Potomac River, less visible as he went farther away, but it was almost like he was showing us his proud young profile once more before he left those people that he "doesn't like."

Belinda said, "I'm always happy to have them get back to the wild, but then I worry about them."

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Your Cultural Commute



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Devon Zebrovious

Progeny

First in flight: Foxcroft School drone leads the way at "Da Vinci Challenge"



It felt just a bit like what one imagines the Wright Brothers experienced at Kitty Hawk back in 1903. After days of work and care, and a whole lot of last-minute calibrating and double-checking of systems, the big question was: Will it fly?

Standing out on Foxcroft School's large riding ring on a bright and beautiful, if a bit blustery, afternoon Sunday [Oct. 26], Gaby Panetierre, Patia Fann, Jasmine McGreen and Saylor Hart were ready to find out. The four Foxcroft students -- and a half-dozen other student and family teams participating in the Kashmir World Foundation' s Da Vinci Challenge -- had built their own drones over the previous month. Now, after completing a number of pre-flight tests and making a few adjustments, the girls' hexacopter had been cleared to test.

With a whirring of rotors and motors, and a steady hand on the remote control, the Foxcroft drone lifted off the ground and headed skyward, easily making the proscribed maneuvers and drawing a hearty round of applause from the assembled parents, students, faculty, family, and friends.

There were students from the Potomac School, the Heights School, Potomac Falls High School, Saint Mary's Catholic High School, and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology there with their drones, but it was Foxcroft -- the only all-girl team – that was first in the air.

Head of School Cathy McGehee, an enthusiastic booster of STEM education for girls, was beaming. So was Dr. Maria Eagen, Foxcroft's Science Department Chair, who has a doctorate in Aerospace Engineering and used to launch satellites from Cape Canaveral. Eagen put the Foxcroft team of Patia Fann of Purcellville, VA, and Jasmine McGreen (Cornwall, NY), freshman Saylor Hart (Keswick, VA), and senior Gaby Panettiere (Miami, FL) together and, with assistance from volunteer technology consultant Lew Burridge, took them to Tysons for the three previous sessions of the workshop.

As Sunday's "Flight Day" went on, most of the other students got their UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) flying, although the gusting wind forced the event indoors. Foxcroft's spacious Mary Louise Leipheimer Gymnasium, the size of two full-sized basketball courts with a second level and room to spare, provided a perfect, wind-free environment and it was an exciting afternoon for student "pilots" and spectators alike.

After the demonstrations, the event moved Foxcroft's Currier Library where McGehee, KWF CEO Aliyah Pandolfi, TACP Network Director Ron Pandolfi, and John Hampton of BirdsEyeView Aerobotics spoke and the Da Vinci students received their "pilot's licenses."

"What an exciting start to what I hope will be a long-term partnership as we and the Kashmir World Foundation work to encourage girls to get involved in robotics and problem-solving," said McGehee, noting that the percentage of women in computer science has dropped precipitously since 1984. "This country is in a race for STEM education and we know a lot about how girls learn. We know that girls are more engaged when they work in collaboration and when they work to solve real-world problems. And that's exactly what the Da Vinci Challenge does."

A four-session workshop during which students built their own Quad-copters or Hex-o-copters from advanced carbon fiber components, learning the fundamental components and electronics of remotely-operated aerial vehicles (UAVs) along the way. They used CAD and 3D printing to customize their drones and upon completion receive a Drone Operators Certificate as well as their fully-operational copters to take back to their schools.

Kashmir-Robotics is the tech arm of the KWF, which last year launched the Wildlife Conservation UAV Challenge inviting scientists, artists, and engineers around the world to develop UAVs optimized for protecting rhinoceros from poachers in South Africa. Some 139 teams from 30 countries responded and, KWF CEO Aliyah Pandolfi says, she was concerned to see that the best ideas and brightest students were not from the United States.

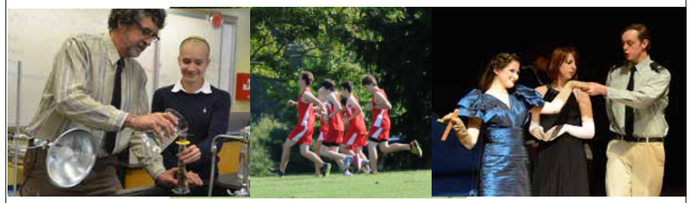
She wanted to do something about that and created the Da Vinci Challenge. Ronald Pandolfi, who heds up Kashmir-Robotics as well as the Technology-Assisted Counter-Poaching Network, led the workshop in which teams were provided kits and a little help -- mostly when asked -- as the students encountered the fundamental components and electronics of UAVs and figured out how to put everything together.

" I learned so much at the workshop," said Panetierre, a Foxcroft senior from Miami, FL, who plans to study computer programming in college. "I learned how to build a drone, of course, but I also learned collaborative skills that I will use later in life by working with people I hadn't worked with before.

"And I learned that the pursuit of knowledge itself is valuable. I'm generally very results-oriented but in this workshop we had to use a lot of trial and error and I learned that you can learn a lot from failure."

On Sunday, though, the Foxcroft Drone Team – which will now become the core of Foxcroft School's new Robotics Club, didn't fail. They passed – literally – with flying colors!

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Highland Scholarships

The purpose of Highland School's Piedmont Scholarship Program, established in 2012, is to attract new students of exceptional talents to the Upper School. This year, we are pleased to welcome seven new Piedmont Scholars to Highland.

Caleb Beverstock, Grade 10, came to Highland from St. Luke's School. He said "after attending an open house and speaking with current teachers and students I realized that the individualized attention that the teachers give is a rare quality. I thought I would never find another school that feels like home. Highland not only cares about my academic growth, but also my growth as an individual." Caleb's portfolio was his poetry.

Elizabeth Debes, Grade 9, came from Linton Hall School. She was attracted to Highland, "because I find that I thrive in a small school environment. I am also very interested in History, English and Science, and Highland has great advanced programs for these subjects. I have made a ton of friends and am excelling in my classes." Elizabeth's portfolio was her music.

Nate Decker, Grade 9, came from Floyd T. Binns Middle School. He said his Highland experience "has been amazing. I came here to have smaller classes where the teachers pay closer attention to you, and where everyone always has a good attitude. I hope to leave my mark academically and be part of a championship basketball team." Nate included his drawings in his portfolio, and focused on character and leadership as well.

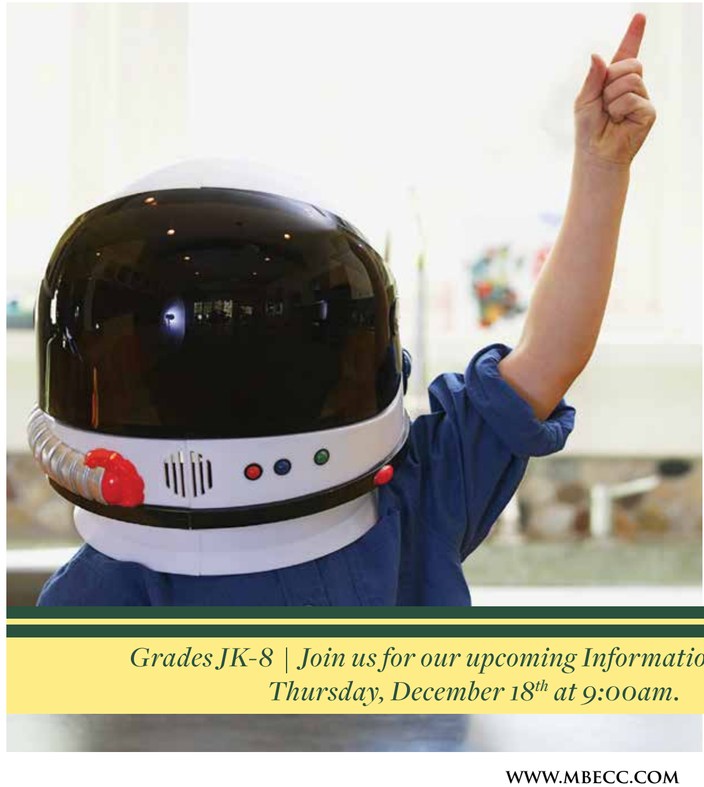
Eva Martella, Grade 9, was previously home schooled. She did extensive research on Highland before making her decision to attend and was "excited to find how the school places a priority on development beyond the classroom through its school spirit, clubs, sports and community involvement. I love all my teachers and coaches who bring a lot of passion and energy to involving us in their subjects." Her portfolio was centered around global studies.

Anika Metcalf, Grade 11, came to Highland from Bishop O'Connell High School. She transferred to Highland due to the class sizes and "the close relationships you are able to develop with your classmates and teachers due to the smaller amounts of students in each class. I have made many new friends and the teachers really take an interest in your life and your academics, as well as your goals for the future." Anika's portfolio consisted of her photography, a hobby in which she has had an interest since she was very young.

Caitlin Parz, Grade 9, came from Marshall Middle School. She was attracted to Highland when "I read about how much they nurture talents within the arts, and academics of course. At Highland the teachers have a passion for what they are doing and go into details that I couldn't learn anywhere else. My experience so far at Highland has been magnificent." Caitlin had a varied portfolio with visual arts.



Gabriella Saunders, Grade 9, came from Floyd T. Binns Middle School. She chose Highland, mainly due to her sister's positive experience here. "My experience so far has been amazing too! I love the small class sizes and the teachers are amazingly helpful and good at their jobs. I feel really comfortable to go to school every day. I hope I can give back my talents in sports, academic excellence and artistic ability." Her portfolio included her art.



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Grades JK-8 | Join us for our upcoming Information Session, Thursday, December 18th at 9:00am.

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Progeny

Wakefield's Dr. Daryanani to present at mindfulness symposium

Wakefield School's Director of Learning Support Dr. Amrit Kasten-Daryanani will present at the Mind & Life Institute's International Symposium for Contemplative Studies on Friday, Oct. 31.

Her presentation is titled "Mindfulness as Mortar for the Schoolhouse: Using Mindfulness Meditation to Increase Student Well-Being, Awareness, and Sense of Self-Agency."

Dr. Daryanani's work explores whether mindfulness meditation and directed self-compassion help students coping with a learning disability in an intensely academic independent school, and asks if these practices reduce stress, increase task persistence, and provide students with the ability to 'push back' against their diagnosis." Her poster explores "how a six-week mindfulness meditation program is influencing a group of twice-exceptional students at Wakefield. It explains how mindfulness programming supports a key mission of the learning support program, which is to help students accept, understand, and challenge their learning disabilities and differences. Efficacy measures include pre- and post-testing, structured interviews, and teacher feedback."

The symposium, held in Boston from Oct. 30-Nov. 2, brings together scientists, scholars, artists, and contemplatives to explore clinical science, philosophy, humanities, education, economics, the arts, and other domains. The event seeks to encourage and help shape a cohesive interdisciplinary field of contemplative studies in which basic and applied science, scholarship, education, the arts, and contemplative traditions collaboratively develop an integrated way of knowing.

The program will include keynote addresses by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama; Diana Chapman Walsh, president emerita of Wellesley College; Richard Davidson, director of the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; Amishi Jha, director of contemplative neuroscience, the Mindfulness Research and Practice Initiative, at the University of Miami; David Germano, director of the Contemplative Sciences Center, University of Virginia; Arianna Huffington, president and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post Media Group; and Tania Singer, director of the department of social neuroscience at the Max Planck Institute.

The program will also include master lectures by several distinguished scientists, scholars, artists, and contemplative teachers as well as individuals and groups presenting individual papers, panels, or poster presentations, reflecting the most current contributions to the ever-growing field of contemplative studies. Also featured will be contemplative art performances and exhibits, as well as continuous contemplative practice opportunities.

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Lungeline

Virginians win multiple trophies at National Steeplechase Association annual awards dinner



Demonstrative won The Lonesome Glory Champion's Award as NSA leading money earner for owner Jacqueline Ohrstrom, trainer Richard Valentine, and jockey Robbie Walsh. Laird George, Valentine's stable manager, won The Woodville Award for "behind the scenes" achievement. (L-R, Kiearen Norris, Laird George, Richard Valentine, Jacqueline Ohrstrom, Robbie Walsh, and Tate Shaw)



Hot Rize won Timber Horse of the Year for trainer Russell Haynes, Champion Jockey of the Year Willie McCarthy, and a syndicate of pleased owners. (L-R, Robert Banner, Russell Haynes, Willie McCarthy, and Ryan Broyles)



Perfect Union won the Three-Year-Old Champion award for owner, Beverly Steinman and trainer, Doug Fout.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT BANNER

Louise Whitner Accepts Laura Pickett Trophy for Excellence in Horsemanship



PHOTO BY LINDSAY BROCK

The Laura Pickett Trophy for Excellence in Horsemanship was donated to the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) by Vicki Lowell and created in memory of a very special equestrian and trainer – Laura Pickett.

Pickett lost her fight against breast cancer at just 52 years, after a five year battle. The Trophy honors her contributions to the sport she loved and the legacy she left behind. She inspired enthusiasm for life, in addition to good horsemanship, and her award is presented to an "up and coming" rider who best exhibits the same qualities. Of the 32 riders nominated, Whitner rose above.

Cricket Bedford – Louise's mother – received a call earlier this week from their trainer Marti Bigley with unexpected news. "Wash your hair – we're going to Washington," exclaimed Bigley.

"When I got the news I wanted to pinch myself. I couldn't stop screaming," said Whitner. "I am really grateful and lucky to be doing what I do. I have had so many opportunities."

Whitner competes in the Pre-Childrens Division with Van Gogh, a barely 15.1-hand mount she got to ride on this spring. "He's lovable, but not easy," admitted Bedford. "Every little girl grows up dying for a horse and she got hers, he just happens to be a mini one."

Vinny, as Whitner has come to call Van Gogh around the barn, has found a special place in the young rider's heart, despite his antics. She fondly explained the horse's signature move in the show ring. "He likes the crowd. Sometimes he'll sit back, spin and give them a wave," she joked.

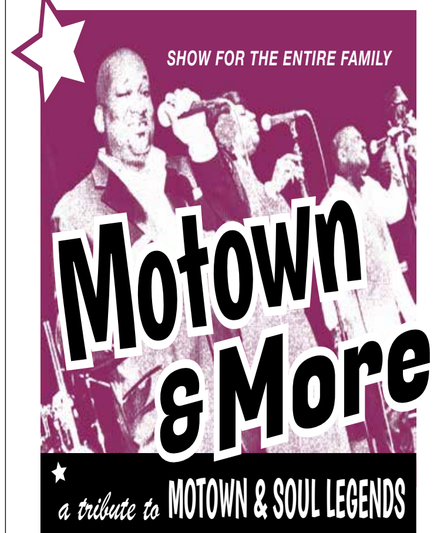
Whitner's self-proclaimed obsession with horses started young, and with plenty of familial influence. A mother whose lineage is steeped deep in fox-hunting and a father who trains steeplechase horses gave their daughter plenty of opportunities to feed her hunger. "I fox hunted once, and it scared me to death. The show ring is where I want to be," laughed Whitner. "I love the connection you have with your horse when competing. My horse is always there for me – he's never going to break my heart like some boy."

Whitner's yearning for blue ribbons led her family to Bigley and assistant trainer Robin Anderson at Merry Point Farm in Unison, VA, eight years ago. The then four-year-old fell quickly in love with a pint-sized pony named Spot and her fate as horse-crazy was sealed.

While Whitner accepted the Laura Pickett trophy during the WIHS evening festivities this Thursday, Bigley returned to familiar territory. The honor was her second after Mary Elizabeth Cordia, who she also trained as a child rider, accepted the award in 2012.

"It's so much fun to watch these girls grow up and evolve into really good riders and horsewomen," said Bigley. "Louise takes on so much responsibility aside from just riding the horses. She's positive and always smiling – she deserves this."

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Pastimes

Rockin' Hens and a Virginia Meritage

Vine & Dish



Ellen Kassoff Gray

Every once in a while the perfect alliance is formed – and it must celebrated. Vine and Dish seeks such exceptional amalgamations within the local culinary realm to create gastronomic unions with indigenous Virginia provisions and Old Dominion wines. And every once in a while in all the exploration and examination of products - perfection is achieved. This is the case with the Pearmond Virginia Table Red and Cornish Game Hens aka Rock Hens, and with the grandest of all eating and drinking holiday's looming – Thanksgiving is the perfect meal to try your hand at a hen… or six. This combination of taste; nutty crispy skinned poultry paired with a meritage of earthy and currant like grapes lead to a sensation that will enthuse even the most incredulous of guests and astonish those out of state visitors who are still to some extent doubtful of Virginia wines.

Pearmund is an Ameritage that has an unexpected depth of rich, mid palate fruit and very soft tannins. Red currant popped on our palate one late November fireside evening with a distinct nose of black fruit and toasted caramel. There is an obvious dedication to wine making in the bottle. Chris Pearmond is a long time veteran of the Virginia wine industry and it shows. He has mentored many, and is a Virginia industry guru from "berry to glass".

Game Hens are also an unexpected and a pleasant find for holiday dining – they are a low key smaller bird thank its chicken counterpart that's big on flavoryet deliveries a delicate poultry mouth feel with a slightly sweet finish.

Cornish Hens have half the fat of chicken but twice the flavor of that overgrown Thanksgiving gobbler.

Saltine Stuffed Cornish Game Hens with Pan Gravy
Serves 4

Stuffing:

1 cup chicken livers (about 7 ounces)

1/4 cup canola oil

1 large yellow onion, cut into 1/4-inch dice

3 celery ribs, cut into 1/4-inch dice

3 garlic cloves, minced

2 teaspoons chopped fresh sage

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

8-10 Saltine crackers crushed into pieces

Hens:

4 Cornish game hens

2 tablespoons olive oil

4 tablespoons unsalted butter (1/2 stick), cut into small pieces

Salt

Freshly ground black pepper

2 carrots, coarsely chopped

2 celery ribs, coarsely chopped

1 medium yellow onion, coarsely chopped

1 cup Roasted Chicken Jus (recipe in Chef's Appendix)

Braised Cabbage for serving (recipe page tk)



Make the stuffing. Clean the livers; coarsely chop them into 1/2-inch pieces. Heat the oil in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add the onions, celery, and garlic, cook for 2 minutes; then lower the heat to medium-low and continue to cook until the vegetables are translucent and begin to soften—6 to 8 minutes. Add the livers, sage, salt, and pepper; sauté until the livers are cooked—about 5 minutes. Transfer the mixture to a paper-towel lined plate to drain. Place the crushed matzos in a medium bowl; add the liver mixture and mix well with a wooden spoon. Taste the stuffing and add more salt or pepper if you wish.

Clean the hens. Trim any excess fat from the hens; wash them under cold water and pat dry with paper towels. Set aside.

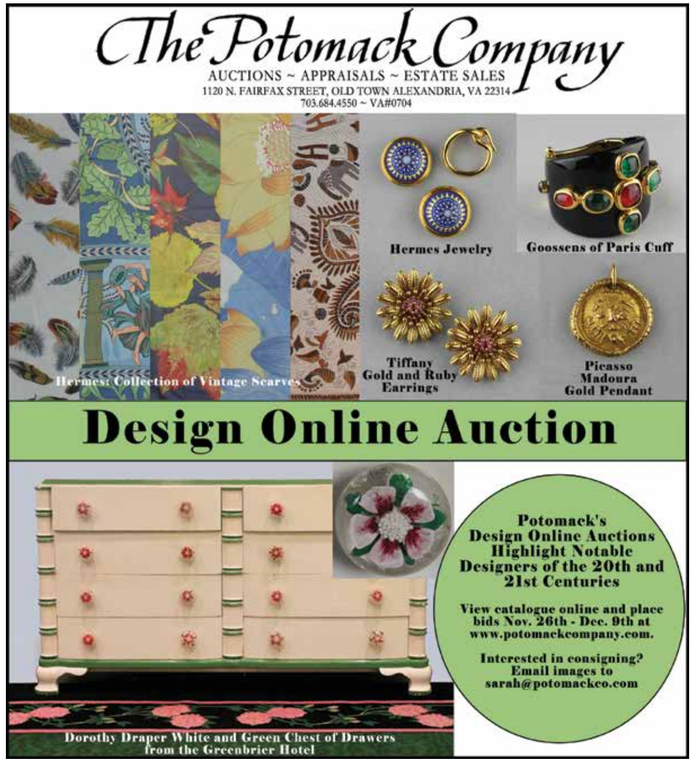
Mix a mirepoix. Mix the carrots, celery, and onions in the bottom of a roasting pan large enough to hold all 4 hens.

Stuff the hens. Preheat the oven to 400°F. Loosely fill the cavity of each hen with stuffing. Drizzle 1 1/2 teaspoons oil over each hen and rub into skin. Sprinkle each hen with salt and pepper. Truss the hens with twine (tie the legs together, tuck the wings under the backs). Place the hens, breast up, in the roasting pan, on the mirepoix. Dot each with the butter, dividing equally. (If there is extra stuffing, place it in an appropriate size casserole or ramekin; add it to the oven with the hens about halfway through the roasting time.)

Roast the hens. Place the pan in the oven and roast for 10 minutes; then lower the heat to 325∞F. Roast until done (the internal temperature of the thigh should register 160° on an instant read thermometer)—for 40 minutes more, checking from time to time that the hens are browning evenly and rotating the pan 180 degrees about halfway through the cooking time.

Make the sauce. Transfer the hens to a cutting board and cover with foil to keep warm. Transfer the mirepoix and pan juices to a small saucepan and add the Roasted Chicken Jus. Bring to simmering over medium heat; simmer for 10 minutes. Strain the sauce through a fine mesh strainer into another pan or serving pitcher; discard the mirepoix and keep the sauce warm.

Carve the hens for serving. Slice the thighs, legs, and breast meat from each hen—as you would when carving a turkey. Carefully spoon the stuffing from inside each hen and place on individual plates. Spoon some of Braised Cabbage next to the stuffing. Arrange the meat from one hen on top of the stuffing and cabbage on each plate. Spoon the sauce over the top and serve.



Posture and Healthy Aging

Kay Colgan
BS Certified Pilate's and Fitness Professional

Would you like to look younger? Maybe having better balance intrigues' you. Or possibly just feeling better about yourself is a reason to make this one thing a priority. It's no secret that having good posture is youthful, creates an environment for better balance and magnifies our self esteem.

Take a look at yourself in the mirror and analyze your posture. What do you notice? Is your head over your shoulders? Are your shoulders back and relaxed? Does your abdominals protrude or are they engaged? Do the hips align with the knees and ankles?

Write down what you notice and then start the process of changing what is out of alignment. Being aware is half the process of turning a slouch into good posture.

Gently pulling your head back almost like a turtle pulls its head into the shell is a good place to start. Dropping your shoulders down your back by ever so gently engaging your shoulder blades. Pulling your abdominals up and in and elongating the lower back. Keeping the lower back in neutral, by not over extending or flexing the pelvis. Lastly, not locking your knees and make sure they are in alignment with the ankles. While at first, this all might seem awkward, with consistency of working on your postural muscles, memory patterns will emerge and your posture will improve. Along with your redeemed posture, comes better balance, better self esteem, ability to breathe better, and definitely a more youthful look.

Also, engaging in an exercise program that specifically targets your postural muscles will help to seal the deal for good posture. Pilates is an excellent program to encourage and strengthen the muscles that contribute to good posture. Remember you have the power to change, no matter your age. Healthy aging encompasses many things, but posture is paramount to building the foundation.

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

Mac-a-Doodle

Girls and Their Dogs



"Mac is five years old. We got him from our grandma - she bred him. He is a Pembroke Welsh Corgi. Mac is obsessed with food. His favorite food is food! We actually named him after food; Mac and cheese.

He likes flying objects, chasing squirrels, swimming and riding in cars. The funniest thing is that when we are riding in the car, Mac tries to chase the windshield wipers. Mac also likes it when we cover him in leaves.

We like to get in a big pile of leaves with him and then throw the leaves in the air. Mac likes us to spoil him; he appreciates being an only dog. We all just like to hang out together. Mac loves us and we love him.

Mom says Mac can be naughty, but that's what makes us love him even a little bit more."

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Hardy Cyclamen

The Plant Lady





Karen Rexrode

After closing my nursery in 2005, I was left with many flats of Cyclamen hederifolium seedlings. Most were planted in my garden, others given to friends. Now, 9 year later, they are flourishing, even naturalized in a couple of areas, particularly in my gravel path.

Their best attribute may be the winter foliage. Marked in silver, the leaves are persistent and clean in our Virginia winters. Much of my seed was purchased from Ellen Horning of the now defunct Seneca Hills Nursery in upstate New York. She offered specialized seed, many were arrow leaf forms, long and much more narrow that the species.

As garden plants (hardy tubers), I find them particularly satisfying. Summer dormant, the flowers of white or pink bloom in August and September, before the arrival of foliage. The decorative leaves are marked in patterns of silver, some completely silver, and highly coveted. Tubers are available now in garden centers that sell bulbs. Although they are amazingly easy from seed, taking an average of 3 years to flower.

The word cyclamen is Greek for circle, in reference to the round tuber, although I have heard that it may also refer to the flower stem curling into a big circle or spring. From France, Turkey and Europe, there are 19 species, members of the primrose family. Most gardeners are more familiar with the tender Cyclamen persicum, an indoor plant, popular in fall and winter. Hybridization has lifted them to a status worthy of many fine greenhouse plants with gorgeous foliage and flowers of plum, garnet and soft shades of pink. A few are even fragrant. Sadly these are difficult to resurrect after they go dormant, use them as a winter pick-me-up.

The hardy cyclamen on the other hand, is easy to grow and worthy . Reaching only 6 inches in height, use them in the front of the woodland border where you can enjoy their diminutive flowers and winter foliage. So refreshing when the rest of the garden is in a deep slumber. Great planting partners are snowdrops and winter aconites. Set yourself up for a delightful early spring.

Middleburg Hunt
by photos by charlotte



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Pastimes

The Artist's Perspective

Tom Neel



As we wind down 2014 and another year passes, this is the time of year I really start looking closely at the next year and what I want from it. As an artist, one thing I always intend is for creative longevity and happiness. This, by the way, is not just about working a long time, but rather to be creatively expressing myself a long time and so far, so good.

Creativity though, is both a learning process and an evolutionary one. As we learn more we naturally evolve, but as we age we also naturally evolve in our perspective of life and this, in turn, affects our creative expression as much as anything. Life and certainly time itself moves differently as we age and creative expression and our personal feelings about it, move right along with it.

There are those who have lived very uncreative lives that all of a sudden feel a deep burning desire for it and go on a creative treasure hunt later in life. This can be much like learning a new language and unless kept fun, can stop them in their tracks too or become very rewarding. But there are others who have been creative their whole life in one form or another, that seek a new flight of stairs and some have been stuck on a staircase landing, progression-less for years and want to ascend again.

I think not only the most creative artists, but the happiest ones, continually seek new ground, re-invention, rejuvenation, growth, broaden scope and challenges. As an example for myself, I know one thing I've developed is a love of larger scale. This doesn't necessarily mean the story or the narrative has to become more complex, but the story's visual impact does and so I continually develop this. This is an evolutionary growth.

But there can also be revolutionary growth as well, where by what comes out of you is not familiar. It's not like going from painting horses in your style to then switching to wildlife in that same style. I'm talking about more radical transformations and frankly, while it may leave your collector base scratching their heads, it may be necessary for your voice and satisfaction as an artist. Art should feel like freedom, not shackles and chains.

Your longevity as any type of an artist may also have to do with your commercial success and what you have become known for. I think collectors expect growth too. They may not wish for radical change, but I don't think they celebrate stagnation either. Write a hit song and your audience is always going to want to hear it, but with growth comes new hits and even broadened nostalgic appeal.

As you look towards next year and your artistic future, try to look where your are going and not where you are. Fixation on where you are is in itself, anti-growth and creative growth is the key to creative longevity. Give yourself goals of growth and forward looking objectives for your creative expression and as these five or so weeks fly by and that new year arrives, it will bring a more natural renewal and creative flow.

Live An Artful Life, Tom

What to Wear for the Holidays

Sincerely, Me

Brandy Greenwell



Believe it or not, Holiday 2014 is here and charging full steam ahead. From now until 2015 it is going to be a marathon of open houses, hunt breakfasts, office and school parties, cocktail outings, formal engagements, power shopping and your cousin Sally's wedding. What the heck are you going to wear? Sorry Gents, this is a guide just for the ladies.

Of course we always like to look a "10", but we need to pace ourselves and train for the next six weeks of outfit coordination. Keep things simple and be mindful of comfort. This is a marathon not a sprint. With the upcoming extreme hustle and bustle, make sure that all the tags are on the inside of your garments and your shoes match. I am not referring to shoes matching the outfit, but rather each other. And I have never worn pants in public that were inside out.

Open houses and casual hunt breakfasts are the easiest. Usually jeans are acceptable, but if you want to wear knits or a casual dress, it would certainly be appropriate as well. Your staple uniform for open houses could be a jeans, boots (tall or short, whatever is most flattering on your leg) a turtleneck or blouse (oxford or otherwise) and a blazer. Reuse the blazer, change the jewelry and top and trade the boot for a heel of your choice for the rotation. For a dressier alternative use you blazer over a simple knit LBD with tights and scarf.

Office parties in the ultra professional environments are super simple. Sweep a tiny bit of sheer, shimmering eyeshadow over your lids, add lower eyeliner, an extra coat of mascara and the best shade of red lipstick your complexion allows. Change your work shoes to sassy pumps and voila.

For school parties, I say go all out with the Christmas sweater, flashing ear bobbles, blinking Rudolph nose and antler headband. Your children will only be embarrassed as teenagers when they see photographic evidence of your fashion statement. Right now they will just absorb your spirit and glow with you. Literally with your battery powered sweater.

For weddings, cocktail and formal occasions, I am going to keep it simple. Unless it is a ball or others specified, I find short dresses perfectly acceptable for dressy occasions. Find a style that is V-necked, fitted at the waist with a full skirt to be most on trend this year. The V-neck will focus up to your glowing face because your smile is always your best accessory, the waist will accent what is usually a woman's smallest point and the full skirt will hide that extra Christmas cookie or 6 you snarfed and didn't work off. Change your hair, makeup and accessories for a different look and find a similarly sized friend with whom to exchange inventory.

Now for what to wear shopping. I already went out on a limb with the Christmas sweater and antlers, but if I mention fanny packs I will be lynched by fashionistas far and wide. Think extreme comfort and ease. A small cross body bag will be your best friend while checking loved ones off your list. It will provide optimal range of motion and easy access for hands free spending. I hope everyone is going to shop local and avoid the contact sport of mall shopping.

Ready, set, go!

How Safe are Dental X-rays?

Dr. Robert A. Gallegos



Radiographs (x-rays) are used in medicine and dentistry as part of an evaluation during periodic health screenings and for investigation of specific health issues. Comparing digital x-rays to conventional film is similar to comparing digital photography to conventional photography. Digital is generally preferred due to the ability to acquire an immediate image, elimination of environmentally hazardous chemicals, lower radiation and the ability to enhance the image. Digital x-rays, like digital photographs, can be enhanced to increase their clarity and diagnostic ability. It is also easy for the doctor to share digital images with other health care providers by sending an electronic file. In some situations conventional x-rays are still helpful, i.e., where the cost of purchasing digital sensors may be prohibitive or if digital sensors are not available.

Digital dental x-rays use a very small amount of radiation that is directed precisely to the site where it is needed. Radiographs play a critical role in dental examinations and treatment. The consequences of not taking x-rays are: missing a disease process in its early stages which leads to more expense, more treatment and increases the chance of a poor health outcome. The diagnostic advantage provided by radiographs far outweighs the exposure concern. Your x-ray frequency should be determined by your dentist who knows your dental health history. If you have healthy teeth and gums your x-rays will be less frequent than if you get cavities or have gum disease.

The following list will allow you to compare dental radiographs with other sources of radiation that you may encounter in your life. In the United States, radiation dose is usually measured in millirem (mREM). The average person in the U.S. is exposed to 300-360 mREM in background radiation each year, add 100 mREM if you live at high altitude like Denver, Colorado. Background radiation is the radiation we are constantly exposed to from the environment. As you can see, digital dental x-rays are very low exposure.

Dr. Robert A. Gallegos is a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry, he is on the faculty of Spear Education, a member the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine and the American Dental Association. Dr. Gallegos practices dentistry in Middleburg, VA. www.MiddleburgSmiles.com.

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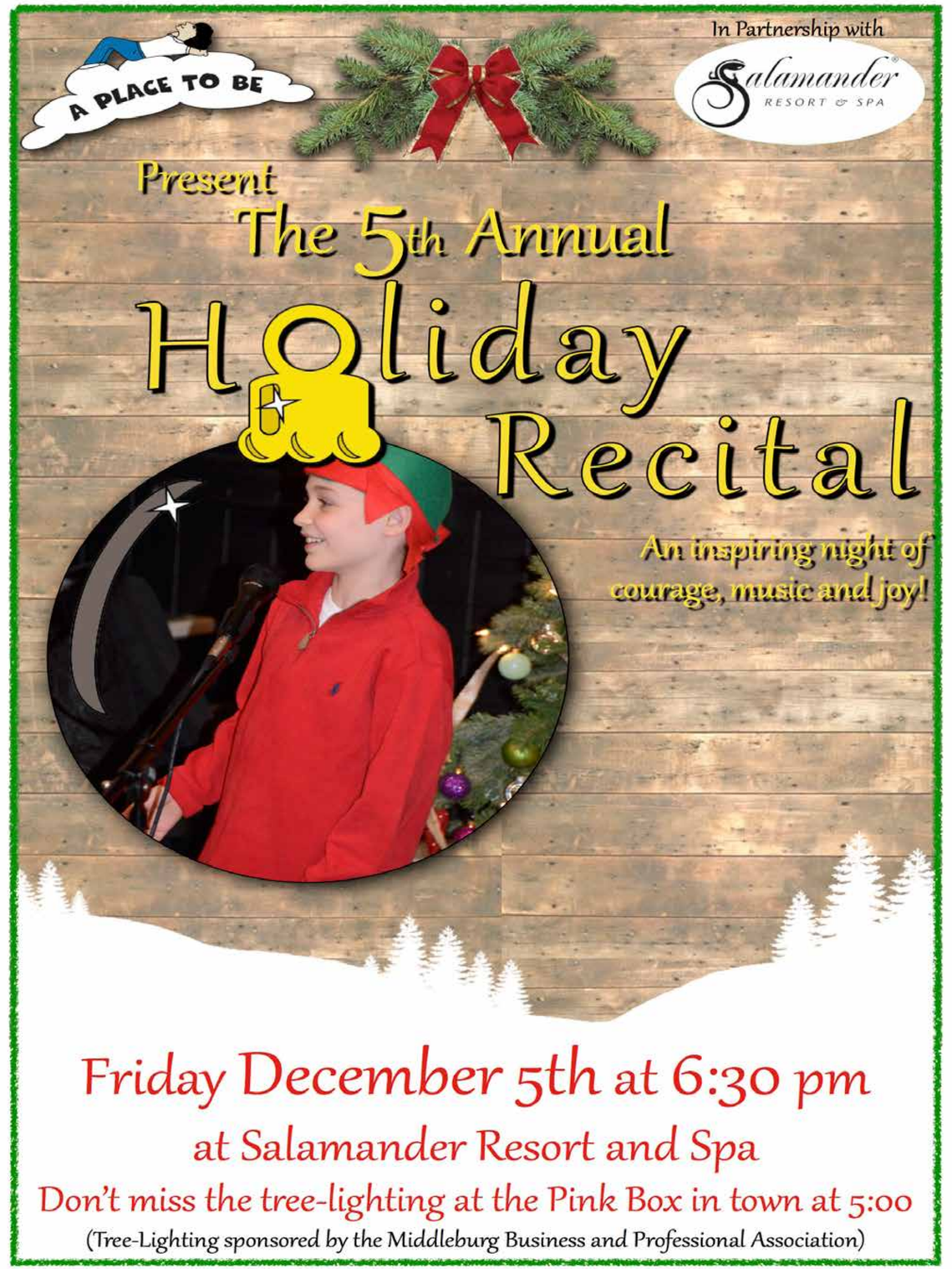
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Friends for Life

Middleburg Humane Foundation



Annabelle is a 5 yr old, 14h Mustang X. She is extremely smart & willing to learn. She has great ground manners. She has had a saddle on several times, but has never been ridden. She could make a great trail horse once broke.



Paige I'm a very laid back girl, I get along with other cats in fact I spend my days in a playroom with several other teenagers. I could live just fine with a cat friendly dog too. I am really a go with the flow kind of girl.

Dingo is a sweet 3 yr old Chi/Pom X. He came to us after his family lost their home in a fire. He lived previously with children & enjoys their company. He does well with cats & most dogs. An all around happy little guy!



Ned is 25 yr old, 15H QH X gelding. He is very sweet & stands for the vet & farrier. He would make a great lawn ornament/companion.





Daffy is one of the Looney Tunes gang, named after all their playing around. He gets along great with other cats & is a very social guy. If you prefer the more strong & silent type- he's your boy!



Livia is an amazing 7 yr old girl. Sadly, she had a poor start in life & lived as a breeding dog. Now that she's spayed & has been able to put her past behind her, she has excelled in training with our volunteers & even knows how to do a little dance!

Middleburg Humane Foundation
admin@middleburghumane.org
(540) 364-3272
middleburghumane.org

Forrest is an adult male neutered Pot Belly pig that weighs about 100 pounds. He loves apples & tomatoes. He is shy with new people but will warm up to you once he gets to know you. He loves dogs & cats & is an easy keeper. Forrest must be adopted as a pet only.



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Albert's Corner

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



Albert P. Clark

A few years ago, my people had a holiday party for the team at Wylie Wagg. The house was full of pet lovers. While the canine members of the family started out safely tucked away in our own room far from the festivities, it's no surprise that the well-meaning guests eventually decided we needed to be liberated. My people agreed, and chaos ensued.

I ran around demanding attention, because I have ego issues. Little Isabelle jumped in every unsuspecting lap. Tucker put his pointy whippet nose in everyone's face. And 70-pound Riley promptly helped himself to half of the huge carrot cake that would have been dessert. It was pandemonium.

Part of the problem was that we are not the best behaved bunch around new people. We love new people in a way that is over-the-top, out-of-control, and completely embarrassing to our own people, who rightly blame themselves for our, ahem, "enthusiasm". But part of the problem was misguided kindness. What looked like our sad separation from the fun was actually in our own best interest. It took Riley a full two days to recover from the Carrot Cake Incident.

Now, some dogs behave themselves under any and all circumstances. They are pictures of restraint and civility. They would never breach the personal space of an unfamiliar person or devour a cake because it's within reach. If you share your home with one of those dogs, kudos to you! You've done an amazing job training your best friend, and I applaud you.

For the rest of you, however, I would like to offer some quick advice to make the holidays a little easier:

Keep sweets, especially chocolate and xylitol, securely away from pets. Macadamia nuts are also toxic. Remember that you may receive wrapped gifts that contain chocolate. If a package might contain food, do not put it under the tree.

Holly and mistletoe are toxic to pets, and poinsettias are mildly toxic as well. It's better to choose other types of holiday decorations if you have animals.

Never give a dog or cat access to an unattended alcoholic beverage. Alcohol can be fatal to our four-legged friends.

Limit the use of candles to areas that are not accessible by pets in order to prevent injury and/or fire.

If you have a large party, consider giving your pet(s) a quiet room of their own where they can spend the evening safely relaxing in a comfortable bed – just remember to provide water at all times.

Holidays can be very energetic and exciting times for pets. Houseguests, gatherings, and celebratory meals, however, can cause unintended stress and potential hazards. The last thing you want is to have to make a trip to the emergency vet. Be smart, keep us in mind, and help our holidays be the healthiest and safest they can be!

And also, don't forget to get a little something special for us to eat on Thanksgiving and to open on Christmas morning. We like to be included in the fun. It doesn't have to be anything elaborate to make a big impression on us!

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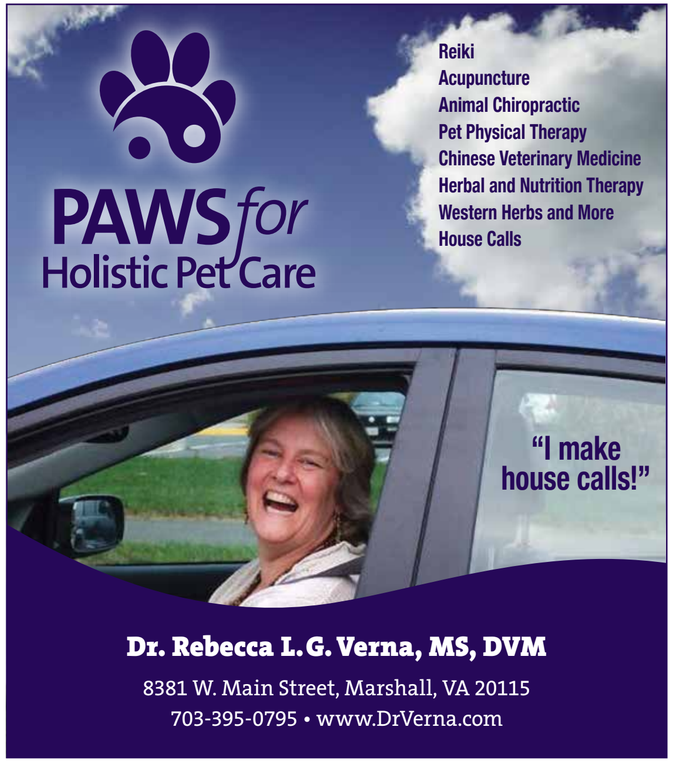
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Editors Desk

The Residences at Salamander

It was standing room only at Town Hall on July 14, 2005. After a 3 hour debate, more than 20 speakers, and remarkds from each and every Town Council member, Middleburg, by a 4/3 vote, approved a Memorandum of Agreement that allowed construction of what is now the Salamander Inn and Spa.

Mark Snyder's motion, seconded by former council member Eura Lewis, was supported by then Vice-Mayor Betsy Davis and Darlene Kirk. Those four votes made it unnecessary for former Middleburg Mayor Tim Dimos to cast a tie-breaking vote. Dimos had spoken in favor of Salamander

Some 88 acres of Salamander's 340 acre property were within Town Limits before the agreement was reached.

The construction of at least 49 residences on Salamander property was approved in 2005, and raised slightly in a 2007 rezoning agreement.

The agreement, in the words of one council member at the time, marked the formal beginning of a new and mutually beneficial working relationship between the Town and Salamander. That relationship has continued, expanded, and improved to this day.

Salamander, the Town of Middleburg, the Zoning Commission, Town Staff and Town Council, we are certain, will continue work together to make the new residences a welcome, valuable, and highly appropriate addition to 21st Century Middleburg.

Welcome Home, Chief.

We are all with you.

Mid-terms

Blue

Daniel Morrow

Here we go again.

After ALMOST twenty-four hours of gracious good will hunting and solemn promises to do better this time, congress is off and running again to gridlock or worse.

Giddy Republicans now tell us that executive action on immigration will result in (surprise!) uncompromising Republican opposition to the point of forcing a government shut down.

Why shut it down? The President hurt their feelings (see immigration), and worse, the feelings of their oil baron contributors, and folks who think we need the Keystone Pipeline.

With their blood oath to repeal Obamacare almost as successful as the Redskins against Tampa Bay, the GOP will do its best to undercut universal health care coverage as much as they can nationally, and more at the state level.

They'll run into veto pens in Washington, and voters who need the protection and coverage provided by Obamacare state by state.

The "new" GOP majorites will pass doomed legislation and then play Democrat, shedding crock tears about the 41 Senators or so who conspire to thwart the "will of the American people" (as expressed in the lowest turnout, in the most gerrymandered national election since World War Two)

And what a win it was.

America has spoken.

But which America?

Old, white, male America, for sure. Two thirds of white male voters (and higher proportions in the old south) voted for GOP candidates?

And what did they give us besides double gridlock?

If nothing else we can look forward to the mutterings of an amazing list of truly crazy and happily outspoken GOP legislators.

My personal favorites? (With thanks and credit to blogger Brian Tashman)

1. Ted Cruz (with back up from Joni Ernst of Iowa and perennial favorite, Glen Beck.)

They promise to save us from "Agenda 21," an ancient sustainable development treaty that Cruz says "will bring an end to paved roads and golf courses . . . "

Ernst warns that it guarantees the arrival of bad guys in black helicopters, " . . . .moving people off of their agricultural land and consolidating them into city centers and then telling them that you don't have property rights anymore."

2) Arkansas Congressman Tom Cotton, tells us that folks on food stamps live "high on the hog" and crop subsidies to millionaire farmers are in the national interest. He also thinks ISIS is "at the gates" on our southern border.

3) Georgia's Jody Hice apparently agrees with the right "reverends" John Hagee and Mark Biltz that "blood moons "have preceded world-changing, shaking-type events" and, no doubt, that the way the moon looked in Atlanta during the April 2014 Lunar Eclipse gave us a clear sign that the "end times" are near. Kool-aid anyone?

4) Gay-bashing Wisconsin Congressman-elect, Glenn Grothman, suggests that local schools enact "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policies, lest growing support for gay rights in the U.S. lead to divine punishment."

5. And then there's Montana's Ryan Zinke, who actually told a GOP gathering that Hilary Clinton is not only "Satan's bride" but "the anti-Christ." How did he know? Special insight into the mind of God (or Satan?) based on his military "experience" in 25 countries. To his credit, he later said he was just kidding about the "anti-Christ" remark.

If we are lucky these people and their friends will accomplish little or nothing in the next two years.

Unfortunately, that means those in both parties who try to speak for the better angels of our natures will get little or nothing done as well.

Ah, Victory ! Nice job, Pyrrhus.

2014: The Thrill is Gone

Red

James Morgan

"I don´t really care to be president without the Senate," Obama said back in June. And American voters, apparently OK with that, decisively took the Senate away from him on November 4, six years to the day, that dreadful day, since, in a moment of temporary insanity, they bit into the poisoned apple of Hope-and-Change and first elected him.

Republicans this year ran a national anti-Obama campaign; sensible and completely understandable given the country's mood after six years of this mess. It was also something of a "we told you so" campaign. They didn't come right out and say that, of course, but many Republicans warned at the beginning of this presidency what would happen if Obama got his way. And they were right. His destructive policies, both domestic and foreign, have hurt this country and much of the rest of the world far worse than even his worst critics feared.

So 2014 was not, despite the frenzied insistence of Democrats, simply a typical anti-incumbent, mid-term election. It was a pretty complete rejection of Barack Obama. The incumbents who lost were all Democrats and strong Obama supporters.

Nor was it about low turnout. Democrats also lost in states where the turnout was higher than it was in 2010, the last mid-term election.

Nancy Pelosi, the gift that keeps on giving, whined that her party's defeat was based on vote fraud by Republicans. She must have forgotten that voting machines in three states were detected switching Republican votes to Democratic candidates. "Calibration errors," they said. Uh-huh.

Victor Davis Hanson summed it up: "Race/class/and gender baiting lost out to the dismal recovery, a foreign policy in shambles, a ruined health-care system, an alphabet soup of government corruption, and an Islamic State/Ebola/open border miasma of incompetence."

It would appear that Americans aren't as stupid as Democratic activist and Obamacare author, Jonathan Gruber, says we are.

But, having received what Joe Manchin called "a real ass-whuppin," Obama has doubled-down on his arrogance. Remember, he declared in 2009 that elections have consequences and crowed, "I won!" Yet now, in the face of a massive repudiation of his policies, all of which he sternly insisted were on the ballot, elections apparently do not matter and he expects the Republicans to "work with him."

Never mind that he hasn't been the least bit interested in working with Republicans these past six years. Now that they've won, it is the Republicans who are being told that they must be flexible.

Obama even seems to believe that he speaks for "the two-thirds of voters that chose not to participate" and that they all support his policies. Amazing. The man is a bigger narcissist than even Bill Clinton. In any case, his attitude does not bode well for the country over the next two years as The One will focus even harder on governing by executive decree, his preferred style anyway. Kim Jong Un would be proud.

So the Republicans will shortly control both houses of Congress. This guarantees nothing, of course, but it is a necessary first step toward making things better. That will happen only if they have the spine to stand tall and do what Charles Krauthammer suggested; pass a bill a week and send each one to Obama's desk to either sign or veto.

Authorize the Keystone pipeline. Rein in the IRS. Repeal the Obamacare medical devices tax. Re-fund our military. Demand that the border be secured. If Obama signs these measures, good. If not, then the GOP has at least tried and is building a public record on which to run in 2016.

The GOP should remember 1994 and not backslide as it did then after winning an even bigger victory than it did this year. Now is the time to push the Republican agenda and push it hard. It is not the time to blindly "seek common ground" in Democratic quicksand.

Hypocrisy

Waterworld

Tom Pratt

I cannot understand how the American electorate could possibly support a party that has done nothing but obstruct the workings of the American government. I also cannot help but think it was some kind of protest vote against President Obama, but why is beyond my comprehension.

The President has not been perfect in many ways but has earnestly tried to help most Americans with his social programs. He is the only president to have enacted some kind of affordable health care for those not eligible for Medicare and he has tried diplomacy instead of rushing to war.

He has tried to raise the minimum wage, has looked out for workers rights and has been a champion of human rights.

He has been sensitive to women's issues and, of course, supports free choice when it comes to a woman making difficult choices about reproduction.

And for trying to improve the lives of most Americans, his party is voted out. What is wrong with America?

I can answer that in a few simple ways.

Far too much corporate control, far too much money in the election process and far too few people controlling over 90% of the wealth in this country.

The Supreme Court illustrated that it is, for the most part, in bed with the corporations by passing Citizens United. The Court is partisan in the worst way by helping to destroy the voting rights act.

This party that is now in control is made up of climate deniers who disregard findings of the United Nations Committee on Climate who recently predicted that, if we do not phase out fossil fuels by the end of the century, the planet may be doomed.

Many in the now controlling party want to push for the Keystone Pipeline and still perpetuate the distorted facts that have been proven wrong over the last three years, for one, that the pipe line will create jobs. That simply is not true. The jobs created will be only temporary and no permanent positions will be created.

It is simply another way corporations will fatten their pockets with no regard for the damage it will do to the environment. Not only will there be leakage, but damage to the land it runs through during the construction phase also increase the production of the dirtiest fuel extraction on earth. It will not improve our dependence on foreign oil as most will be exported when it reaches the Gulf. It is simply a vessel for extracted Canadian oil that will be exported.

And on a related subject: I recently attended a film at the Middleburg Film Festival, a documentary entitled "The Overnighters" about the huge influx of people seeking jobs in the booming oil industry in North Dakota. The film followed a preacher around who was really trying to help the flood of people coming to his town by allowing them to camp in the church parking lot, sleep in the church and in his own home. Residents objected forcefully.

After the film we had a discussion and I raised the point that the companies drilling the dirty fuel had no responsibility for the housing of the workers. Why did the state, or at least the town, when approving the drilling not make it a condition that housing be required for the influx of workers?

I have visited China on a number of business occasions and all factories of any size provide housing for the laborers coming in from the rural areas. But here, in good old capitalistic America, we make no such allowances. To make things even worse for the new North Dakota workers, the residents of the town gouged the workers by raising rents to astronomical levels. Nice America!

All we can hope is that now President Obama, who is in the last two years of his term, will not be as nice as in the past to the obstructionists and will use every bit of his power through veto if necessary to stop Keystone Pipeline companies from doing even more damage than they already have.

AWRA Turns 50

Waterworld

Richard A. Engberg

The American Water Resources Association (AWRA), headquartered since July 1999 at 4 W. Federal Street in Middleburg, turned 50 years old this year. AWRA, a non-profit, multidisciplinary water resources association (NGO), was founded on March 23, 1964.

There are many water resources organizations in the United States. So what is unique about AWRA? It's not the largest nor is it the smallest. What makes it unique is that it is multidisciplinary. I'll explain that with an example from my own career in water resources.

As a young hydrologist with the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), I thought I could solve any water-related problem - give me a problem, I would solve it, end of story. Then I was assigned projects and introduced to the real world. Sure, I could find answers, I could determine the chemical constituents in water, I could measure the flow of streams, I could measure water levels in wells. But these activities only produced data. Reports that I prepared interpreted these data which was helpful in addressing the problems in the study areas but seldom solved these problems.

About that time, in 1972, I learned of AWRA. I prepared an abstract for a national AWRA meeting, it was accepted, and I was off to St. Louis to present the results of a project I had finished. That meeting was eye opening for me. Not only was I surrounded by some of the leading hydrologists in the U. S., but also by experts in many other water-related disciplines including civil engineering, biology, forestry, geography, and ecology. Even sociologists and attorneys were in attendance.

The perspectives I received from these experts were eye opening. Here was an organization in which multiple water-related disciplines were represented, an organization dedicated to solving water resource problems using a team approach. I was hooked and joined AWRA immediately and have maintained my membership.

Fast forward to 1999: I retired from a successful 30-something year career with USGS and the Department of the Interior and almost immediately joined the AWRA staff who were in the process of moving to Middleburg.

As Technical Director, I became part of an organization that was still the only multidisciplinary water resources organization in the U.S. Almost 16 years later I'm still with AWRA. Among other duties, I have had the pleasure of helping to put together approximately 50 cutting-edge conferences in the U.S. and elsewhere on all aspects of water resources.

This year, an AWRA 50th Anniversary Committee produced several publications including an update of the history of AWRA. The year culminated with the 50th Annual Conference the first week of November at Tyson's Corner.

Prominent water resources professionals from around the U. S. and the world presented results of their multidisciplinary projects at the conference, discussed water policy, predicted the future of water resources in the U.S. and introduced new initiatives to address water resources problems holistically and in a sustainable fashion

The conference proved once more that a multidisciplinary approach to water resource problems provides the most satisfactory solutions.

I'm retiring from AWRA in a few months but I'm confident that it will maintain its leadership in water resources for many years.

And how about this, it's still located in Middleburg!









The Middleburg Eccentric

Hunt Country Guide

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Oakfield
Upperville, Virginia • $4,900,000

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Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Dakota
Middleburg, Virginia • $4,300,000

87 acres • Fieldstone and stucco house featuring a reclaimed-timber barn transformed into an intimate family room overlooking two expansive ponds • Custom kitchen, antique beams, lovely first floor master suite, 4 bedrooms • Media room, bar, exercise facility, generous storage • 3-car garage, in-law suite, 3-stall barn, generator

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Trough Hill Farm
Middleburg, Virginia • $2,950,000

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 • Great location

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Pohick Farm
Delaplane, Virginia • $2,250,000

78-acre farm in sought after Fauquier County • One-of-a-kind pastoral hill-top setting • Dramatic private postcard valley views of Cobbler Mountains • 4 bedroom home • Pool • Poolhouse • Guest/tenant cottage and pond • Ideal for horses, cattle, hay, row crops, vineyards • Additional land available

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Liberty Hill
Boyce, Virginia • $1,900,000

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

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Signal Mountain
The Plains, Virginia • $1,795,000

160 acres terracing the Bull Run Mtns. • Stone walls through 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



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



Stonewood
Middleburg, Virginia • $970,000

Charming stucco, log and frame home • 10 acres • 3-4 bedrooms • 3 1/2 baths • 2 fireplaces (one in the kitchen with antique brick floor) • Beautiful reclaimed pine flooring • Bright and sunny family room opens to bluestone terrace • Master bedroom opens to private balcony • 2 car garage • 4 stall barn with tack room with 2 paddocks • 2 recorded lots

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October Hill
Purcellville, Virginia • $935,000

4 bedroom • 2 1/2 baths • 3 fireplaces • 2 car garage • Main house totally renovated, new kitchen, granite counter tops • Hardwood floors on main level • New carpeting & freshly painted • 20 acres • Phenomenal European style stable with 6 stalls, tack, office & apartment • Owner is a licensed broker in Virginia • More land available

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Elmore Farm
Markham, Virginia • $895,000

c. 1820's gracious old Virginia home • 40 acres bound by Goose Creek • Original floors and stone fireplaces • High ceilings • Huge back porch, 4+ bedrooms and in law suite • Bright and modern kitchen with family room addition for today's living • Great views, open pasture & pond

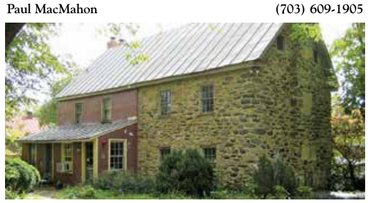
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Washington Street
Middleburg, Virginia • $825,000

Classic Virginia colonial • Circa 1926 • Stone and frame construction • 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths • Hardwood floors • High ceilings • Screened side porch on .65 acre in town • 2-car garage with apartment • Beautiful gardens and rear terrace

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Julep Chase
Rectortown, Virginia • $599,000

Circa pre-1800 • One of the oldest homes in historic Rectortown • 2 bedroom • 1 bath • Dining room, sitting room & spacious library with built-in book shelves • Viking 6 burner stove & Sub-zero refrigerator • Improvements include house-sized wood-working shop with Cyclone system • Two generators

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