

MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL TOP PRIZES & REVIEWS

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HOWARD ALLEN, TREASURED MIDDLEBURG CITIZEN,
TRUSTED FRIEND OF JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS
AND DEDICATED STEWARD OF HIS VILLAGE

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TRIBUTE TO HOWARD ALLEN

MIDDLEBURG TOWN
COUNCIL REPORT

DAN MORROW

Vice-Mayor Darlene Kirk opened the November regular meeting of the Middleburg Town Council with a tribute to Mayor Betsy Davis, the Davis Family and the Mayor's late father, Howard Allen, world class photographer, father, and outstanding citizen of Middleburg. So many joined the family to mourn his passing that the Virginia Department of Transportation agreed to halt its work on the main streets of his beloved Middleburg to accommodate the ceremonies. (See story on page 3).

Good Preliminary Audit News

A preliminary report presented to Town Council at its late October work session by Sandy Tondreau of Mitchell & Company, Middleburg's official auditor, indicated that as of June 30, 2015, "... all of the Town's funds had cash balances that were up."

Fixed Assets in the town's General Fund were also up this year, she noted, due to the Marshall/Madison Street Improvement Project and the donation of the Asbury Church property to the town.

Noting that the Town's auditors were legally and ethically required "to communicate with the Council" and "to bring any issues to their attention," Tondreau reported that they found nothing unusual or out of the ordinary."

\$1 Million Surplus

Thanks to significant Salamander-driven increases in revenue from meal and occupancy taxes, plus an increase in business license fees, the Town's General Fund showed over a \$1 million surplus.

That, according to the auditors, was "very good," especially for a town that was showing a deficit as late as 2006.

Even the Town's "Health Center Fund" showed a profit this year, good news for the non-profits that benefit from annual donations financed from profits made from renting space in the Town-owned "Health Center" building.

A major source of lost revenue for the Town had been the Town's leaky water pipes. That problem too has been significantly improved. The auditors reported that "the percentage of gallons billed-to-pumped was now at seventy-eight percent (78%), which was an all-time high."

Underfunded Pensions

Despite apparently shocking news that the Town's pension fund was underfunded by \$400,000 at the end of 2014, Mitchell & Company assured Council the anomaly "... was not the fault of the Town as it has paid what it was told to pay" by the Commonwealth's Virginia Retirement System (VRS).

"The good news," Ms Tondreau noted, "was that the amount of the underfunding decreased from the previous year ... and that

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Joy Thompson
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LO9503330 \$599,000
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Joy Thompson
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LO8763606 \$1,385,000
OLD MEADOW LN, MIDDLEBURG - Minutes from town, private, protected, all brick Georgian. 10' ceilings on first floor, coved ceiling, lovely molding, 2 gas fireplaces, 4 BR, 4.5 BA, new sunroom, great kitchen, 3 car garage w/ workshop, circular asphalt driveway on 7.75 ac. Perennial gardens w/ stone walls, flagstone terraces and views.
Scott Buzzelli
540.454.1399



LO8718782 \$2,600/m
38085 HOMESTEAD FARM LN, MIDDLEBURG - All of the modern conveniences with the charm of the past! Solidly built 1850's Brick and log Farm house with 4BR's and 2 full BA's, 4 FP, wood floors & more. Completely renovated. Available either unfurnished for \$2600 or furnished for \$2750. Convenient to Middleburg. Pet allowed on case by case basis marc train to dc.
Mary Roth
540.535.6854



FQ8470391 \$3,999,000
10000 MOUNT AIRY RD, UPPERVILLE - Extraordinary brick colonial on 50+ gorgeous acres in prestigious Greystone. Over 9000 sq.ft. of spectacular living space featuring 3 beautifully finished levels. Heated pool, tennis court and brilliant gardens overlook a picturesque pond with fabulous mtn views,in a private & secluded location!
Scott Buzzelli
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FQ8736929 \$1,035,500
JAMES MADISON HWY, WARRENTON - Fabulous property on 63+ acres in Fauquier CO.Immaculate light-filled 4BR house with high ceilings and windows,great views & lovely pool. 2 small barns, fenced paddocks,creek. Protected area and private location. Access to miles of riding trails. Winery potential. Property in land use.
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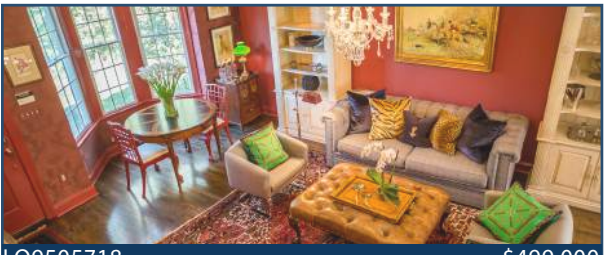
FQ8757628 \$690,000
11558 HUME RD, HUME - Perfectly maintained home; 4000+ sf on 3 levels. 10.2 ac w/ paddocks, pond, horse stable. Stunning outdoor living spaces: large deck overlooks Cobble Mtn & valley, kitchen flows to covered porch, extensive hardscaping, perennial gardens, 1st floor master, lrg great room, LL family, guest room.
Carole Taylor
703. 577.4680



LO8719148 \$2,300/m
38103 HOMESTEAD FARM LN, MIDDLEBURG - Wonderful, updated 3BR/3BA cape cod-style house, with a BR on each floor. Enjoy the peace and quiet of the country only minutes to Middleburg. Home can be rented either unfurnished or furnished at \$2550.
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LO8269159 \$2,800,000
35679 MILLVILLE RD, MIDDLEBURG - Beautiful stone home on 40+ acre. Bright, spacious 4 BR/5BA- perfect for entertaining. Open floor w spacious light-filled dining room and living room that open up to decks and views of Goose Creek. Exquisite 8-stall stone horse barn with tack room. Additional guest house and lot available.
Peter Pejacevich
540.270.3835



LO9505718 \$499,000
13 HUNT CT, MIDDLEBURG - Immaculate all brick townhouse with high end upgrades & finishes. Recently refinished hardwood floors, many built-in bookcases, beautiful crown molding, Wi-fi thermostats & Ralph Lauren lighting fixtures throughout the house. 3 fireplaces, 4 levels, beautiful light-filled kitchen. MUST SEE!
Scott Buzzelli
540.454.1399



FQ8503814 \$524,000
3085 RECTORTOWN RD, MARSHALL - NEW, LOW PRICE! Charming 3BR/2.5BA cottage. Weekend retreat or full-time living. Amenities include Viking range, soapstone counters, hardwood floors, wonderful front porch/second level porch with lovely views, wood-burning fireplace, fenced backyard. 2200sf.
Walter Woodson
703.499.4961



LO8765170 \$2,150/m
13886 BERLIN TPKE, LOVETTSVILLE - Main and upper level of an all brick Cape Cod house. Basement level is a completely separate apartment with own entrance. Generous sized rooms, 2 master BR's on upper level. New carpet in living room, newly painted, and spruced up. Electric service and mowing provided by owner. Comcast available. Quiet location close to commuter routes.
Mary Roth
540.535.6854

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NEWS OF NOTE

HOWARD ALLEN, TREASURED MIDDLEBURG CITIZEN, TRUSTED FRIEND OF JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS AND DEDICATED STEWARD OF HIS VILLAGE



Betsy Allen Davis and Page Allen agreed, when they spoke at their father's funeral, they simply didn't realize when they were children that Howard Allen was an exceptional citizen and gentleman.

"He was the kindest man I have ever known," Betsy remembered. "He never spoke ill of anyone and he loved his family, his work, his town and his friends passionately."

A native of Winchester, son of Lewis M. Allen, MD, a well-known obstetrician in Winchester and Dorothy Gilpin Allen, Allen moved to Middleburg in 1955 and raised his daughters there with his wife, Nancy Lee Coble Allen, who preceded him in death earlier this year.

A quiet man who was highly regarded by everyone, Allen grew up at Clifton Farm on the Virginia and West Virginia border, where, as young children, he and his brother met the young Charles Lindberg when he landed at Winchester Airport early in his aviation career.

"Lindberg was a hero to my Dad," Betsy explained. "He and his brothers, Lewis and Doug, were at the Winchester Airport when Lindberg made a stop over once and were able to get his autograph. Dad treasured the memory of the courageous

pilot all his life."

Howard Allen and his wife were exceptional Middleburg citizens and the small Hunt Country Village benefited enormously from their generosity and dedication. But, as Betsy remembered, late in his life she realized that he was unaware of how treasured he was by his friends and community when he suggested that his organs be donated. "I have not done enough for people during my lifetime, perhaps by donating my organs I will help others after I am gone."

"Nothing could have been further from the truth," Betsy recalled. "...so I sat down and wrote him a long letter describing all the many kindnesses and countless hours of service he had given to everyone. I think he was really surprised and touched. After he read my letter, he said, "Maybe I've done more than I realized...Thank you.... That makes me feel so much better."

One of the people who trusted Howard Allen thoroughly was Jacqueline Kennedy. When the Kennedys were in Middleburg, neither Betsy nor Page really realized how important they were. "It was through the Middleburg Orange County Pony Club, that we first met the Kennedys. Page was often invited out to Glen Ora to ride with Caroline and then

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RACING FOR CHARITY & VIRGINIA EQUINE ALLIANCE WIRE-TO-WIRE WINNER



LAUREN R. GIANNINI

Racing for Charity has all the earmarks of being a runaway success. On Sept. 20 at Great

Meadow in The Plains, the Virginia Equine Alliance presented Virginia Downs, an afternoon of six Thoroughbred flat races with pari-mutuel wagering. The VEA invited Fauquier SPCA to

participate by handling the ticket sales and parking, and their efforts harvested \$15,000 (see photo): win-win, wire to wire.

This is the new concept of racing in Virginia, and it fits in very well with the vision of the horsemen who collaborated to form the Virginia Equine Alliance. They were intent on saving racing in the Commonwealth, because Colonial Downs in New Kent, after 17 years of operation, turned in its racing license.

The non-profit VEA united four longstanding equine groups: the Virginia Gold Cup Association (VGA), Virginia Harness Horse Association (VHHA), Virginia Horseman's Benevolent and Protective Association (VHBPA), and Virginia Thoroughbred Association (VTA).

These four organizations offer an impressive roster of knowledgeable horsemen with expertise in all facets of the horse industry, as well as serious business acumen. The VEA

interim Board includes Dr. Will Allison, ex-MFH, Executive Director Virginia Gold Cup; David Ross, President VHBPA, Wayne Chatfield-Taylor, President VTA; R.C. Dunavant, DVM and former President of VHHA.

They, in turn, appointed Debbie Easter as VEA interim President. Easter is the current Executive Director of the VTA. Her business is Thoroughbred racehorses and she has a lifetime of experience as breeder, owner and bloodstock agent. The VEA interim Executive Director, John (Jeb) Hannum, served as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association and several years as Racing Commissioner. He's also a former amateur steeplechase jockey.

"We have a great group of people, but we needed the legislation to go through so that we can do what we're doing," said Dr. Allison. "Senator Jill Vogel and Delegate Michael Webert, Magalen Bryant's grandson, really fought for this. There's a lot

going on and we have a lot of work ahead of us, but we got off to a good start this fall. Racing For Charity in Virginia is going to get bigger and better. Going to the races is a great outing for families and friends, especially when you know you're helping a local charity."

In addition to Virginia Downs at Great Meadow, the VEA sponsored three graded turf stakes, at risk to lose their graded status, which ran at Laurel in Maryland on two consecutive Saturdays in September with combined purse money of \$800,000. On the second Saturday at Laurel, VEA ran the five Virginia Bred/Sired stakes on the card. Harness racing enjoyed a four-day pari-mutuel meet over two weekends at Oak Ridge Estate in Nelson County, highlighted by the \$300,000 Harness Day of Champions for trotters and pacers on October 18. Four flat races, including the Old Dominion Turf Championship (VA Bred/Sired), rounded out the racing action at the International Gold Cup.

VEA's vision for 2016 includes more racing, Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds. Board members have been looking for venues suitable for flat and harness racing.

"Racing is good for all of us, but it also has to be good for the communities," said Debbie Easter. "We're hoping for eight more race days next year — at Great Meadow, Morven Park, could be at Oak Ridge again where we had four days of harness racing this fall, and the Fairgrounds in Woodstock would work for the Standardbreds, too. We all work together to put on the racing. I would hope that other charities will want to be involved. We hope to do as much as we can for the local communities."

Last year and again this year, the VEA held a fundraiser event the night before the International Gold Cup. To date, the relatively new non-profit has helped to raise about \$150,000, benefitting the Fauquier Free Clinic and Fauquier SPCA.

How it works is simple. The money that the VEA receives from the pari-mutuel wagering through the state is used to fund the racing. To fulfill "Racing for Charity," VEA turns over to the charity the "front side" of the race meet. "They can sell tickets, parking, admission, tailgates spaces," said Easter. "Some people might want to attend the racing just to support the charity. We didn't have a lot of time this fall, but in the future the charity can sell sponsorships."

There's a lot of potential for the VEA to take racing in Virginia to a whole new level. Non-profit local charities might want to consider the benefits of Racing For Charity. After all, there's nothing to lose.

For more information, visit: www.virginiaequinealliance.com

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"Mulford Realty has a long history of land and farm sales. Residential sales and land development are a big part of their portfolio as well," Gardiner continued.

"Real estate is a lot of fun. I love meeting new people and helping them see the best return from the sale of

their property."

Gardiner Mulford is a graduate of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, a former U.S. Army Infantry Officer and a life-long equestrian. He also holds a Virginia ABC Farm Winery license. Gardiner Mulford is a beekeeper and Mead maker operating as Maidstone Meadery. You can find his Mead at the Home Farm Store in Middleburg and the Natural Market Place in Warrenton.

Gardiner operates his office from the Old Marshall Home at Oak Hill in Delaplane, Virginia.

To reach Mulford Realty, LLC, please telephone 703-303-2090.



MIDDLEBURG CONCERT SERIES CHRISTMAS CANTATA FEATURES CONTEMPORAY COMPOSER

On Sunday, December 20th, at 4 PM the Middleburg Concert Series will present the final performance of its 2015 season, with a celebration of Christmas music. In addition to traditional pieces, the performance will showcase a cantata by acclaimed contemporary composer, conductor and humorist Pepper Choplin entitled "I Hear The Prophet Callin'". Mr. Choplin who has performed his original composi-

tions at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and all over the United States incorporates folk, jazz, gospel and sacred music into his cantatas.

Major sponsors for the concert are Greenhill Winery & Vineyards and StoneSprings Hospital Center. There will be an opportunity to visit with the artists and the major sponsors in the fellowship hall immediately following the concert with refreshments provided by the Goodstone Inn and Restau-

rant. Greenhill will offer its new honey products for sale and representatives from StoneSprings Hospital Center will be available to provide more information about their brand new hospital on Route 50.

Performing during the concert will be the combined choirs of First Baptist Church of Winchester (directed by Lori Horne) and Middleburg United Methodist Church (directed by Karen Chase), organists Larry and Sue Correll,

violinists Cynthia Saucedo and Enrique Reynosa, Maryory Serrano playing the viola, and Alan Saucedo playing the cello. Featured vocal soloists will be well known local talents Sarah Brissing and Karen Chase.

This inaugural year has been hugely successful for the Middleburg Concert Series, exemplified by the increase in attendance at every concert as well as the growth in the quality and breadth of individual and business sponsors. The goal of

the concert series continues to be to provide the opportunity for area residents and visitors to enjoy virtuoso performances by Kennedy Center level artists. The concerts and reception are free. Donations are welcome. Middleburg United Methodist Church is located at the corner of Washington and Pendleton Streets in the village of Middleburg.

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG GARDEN CLUB'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FLOWER SHOW, GREENS SALE AND BAZAAR

This extremely popular event is back this year in a picture perfect setting of the charming village of Middleburg, Va. and is part of the Christmas in Middleburg celebration Family festival Day. This is always a much anticipated event and draws visitors from all across the state for the lovely and striking presentations. The show is a tradition that spans decades of the Club's community involvement and offers residents

and visitors alike a glimpse into the beauty and magic of floral design and gardening. Middleburg Garden Club has won both Virginia and National awards for the best holiday flower show. They are also a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The theme of the show this year, "A Middleburg Country Christmas", will showcase a variety of Holiday floral interpretations and artistic crafts. There

will also be individual design and horticulture classes open to entries from the public. Make sure you don't miss arrangements like "A Country Gallop" a tall decorated Riding boot or "Christmas in Middleburg Parade Party" an alfresco buffet table suitable for a tail gate party just to mention a couple of the many designs.

Seasonal decorative crafts and gourmet items made by our members along with greens and wreaths and the bazaar items will

be for sale.

"It's just amazing every year to see so much talent show-cased in our Christmas show," said Darcy Justen, a Vice President of the Club, "and we love offering bows, wreaths and kissing balls to sell in the Bazaar to help you decorate your home. We sell out of our Kissing balls every year they are beautiful and hand-made the same way they made them 200 years ago". Come out and join in the fun!

The event will held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish hall

105 East Washington St Middleburg VA

Dec 4 Friday 2:00-5:00 and December 5 Saturday 10:00-2:00

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

GREAT MEADOW INTERNATIONAL APPROVED TO HOLD FIRST EVER U.S. FEI NATIONS CUP EVENTING COMPETITION

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) is pleased to announce that Great Meadow in The Plains, Va. has been approved to hold the U.S. leg of the 2016 FEI Na-

tions Cup Eventing Series. The prestigious CIC03* competition has been approved to run July 8-10, 2016. This will be the first time an FEI Nations Cup Eventing competition will be hosted by the U.S.

Great Meadow Foundation owns and operates the picturesque venue, which annually hosts the Virginia Gold Cup steeplechase races. Eventing competition was added to the Great Meadow calendar in

2014 when it hosted the World Equestrian Games Preparation Event for the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team. Its inaugural CIC3* was held in June 2015 as part of the Pan American Games Preparation Event.

Learn more about Great Meadow International at www.greatmeadowinternational.com

MUSEUM OF HOUNDS & HUNTING ART SALE AT SALAMANDER RESORT

The Museum of Hounds and Hunting North America, Inc. will showcase an exhibition and sale of paintings and sculpture by contemporary sporting artists, November 25 - January 4, in Middleburg at Salamander Resort & Spa's Equestrian Center.

Proceeds from the art sale at the MHHNA satellite gallery will benefit the 501(c)(3) organization, which was founded in

1985 to serve as the repository for the art, artifacts and memorabilia of the centuries-old sporting tradition of foxhunting.

The MHHNA Inc.'s exhibit and art sale includes works by 20 artists, including Anita Baarns, Sandra Forbush, Juli Kirk, Gail Guirrerri-Masyk, and Booth Malone. The satellite gallery offers originals and bronzes, as well as gift items, including reasonably priced prints, posters, greeting cards

and MHHNA memberships.

One goal of the Museum of Hounds & Hunting North America, headquartered in the historic Westmoreland Davis Mansion at Morven Park (Leesburg, Va.), is to encourage new members. Gift memberships are an excellent way to support the Museum as well as to check items off your holiday list.

"The more members we have, the more outreach we can

do in the future," stated Nancy Bedford, MHHNA board member and expert-in-situ for the gallery at Salamander Resort.

Everyone who visits the satellite gallery at Salamander will be eligible for special random door prizes, such as art lessons, trail rides, riding lessons and special events at Salamander, polo lessons, individual museum memberships, free MHHNA tours, gifts for kids of all ages, and much more.

Special MHHNA events, receptions and meet the artists, as well as the hours of operation will be announced on the Town of Middleburg's website, which is updated regularly.

On December 5, traditionally Christmas in Middleburg, The Museum of Hounds and Hunting gallery at Salamander will be open all day. The evening before, December 5 from 6 to 8 p.m., the art show in the Stable Lobby of the Equestrian

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NEWS OF NOTE

TAPS AND ATOKA: THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS LEE

At the intersection of roads leading to Marshall and Warrenton, to Unison and Blumont, and the turnpikes to Winchester and Alexandria, sits the tiny crossroads village of Rector's Crossroads, known as "Atoka" since 1893.

It now stands as an historical treasure and a gem of 19th century vernacular Virginia architecture, nestled in a perfect piece of rolling green landscape.

But keeping it that way

hasn't been easy.

There's been a store at the crossroads since the 1830s. But in 1988 it was seen as the perfect location for a used car lot.

Using the ca. 1801 Caleb Rector House as the car lot office—a place to buy a Buick or a Benz with a few Ranger legends tossed in to grease the finance office doings—it was a great way to make the best of location, location, location.

Had it remained so, the treasure that is now "Atoka" would

no doubt would have become a semi-abandoned relic of the worst of the Commonwealth's roadside architecture: a sad store-deli with gas, perhaps a discount store, and a used car lot.

Happily, with Linda Newton, a Rector family descendant, and her husband Bob, a different vision emerged.

Working with neighbors and other interested families in the Atoka area, Linda proposed preserving "historic" Atoka.

Leave the store, she pro-

posed, for that is essential to the history of the crossroads, but restore the other buildings so that people could see and experience its history.

The Newtons joined with their neighbors to form The Atoka Preservation Society (TAPS) in 1988.

The Caleb Rector House was preserved first, its exterior stabilized. In the parlor of the Rector house, now the headquarters of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, John Singleton Mosby's partisan rangers were awarded their official designation as the 43rd Battalion of Virginia Cavalry on June 10, 1863.

Later, the ancient log Angus Brown House was preserved.

TAPS then leased space in each structure to local preservation and conservation-aimed nonprofits, a form of adaptive re-use that not only provided affordable office space to the non profits, but also helped preserve the properties themselves.

The Mosby Heritage Area Association was TAPS first tenant, happy to use a building associated with their namesake.

They soon were joined by the Goose Creek Association, the Citizens Association for Route 50, the Land Trust of Virginia, and the Upperville Colt and Horse Show, now spread out over

the two buildings.

After a quarter century of fundraising and restoration and stabilization efforts, the Atoka Preservation Society decided that their mission was complete by the summer of 2014.

To keep these historic structures in good hands, they turned to the Mosby Heritage Area Association, which became the new steward and manager of their historic properties.

In January 2015, the Rector House was turned over to MHAA, and the Angus Brown House followed in early fall.

On November 4, the Mosby Heritage Area Association gathered with members of TAPS at Donald and Pat Brennan's historic Llangollen near Upperville to honor the accomplishment of the Atoka preservation organization and to toast the future of the historic crossroads village under MHAA's management.

Linda Newton, of course, was there, with the outgoing President of TAPS, Leslie Van Sant. Glasses were raised to them with full hearts.

The Mosby Heritage Area Association, created in 1995 with the heritage area, works to impress the need for stewardship in the five county region. Their watchword remains "Preservation through Education".

TOWN MEETS COUNTRY IN NEW REAL ESTATE PARTNERSHIP



Town meets country in a fitting professional match as Teddy Zimmerman and Laura Farrell combine experience to establish a new real estate partnership at Middleburg Real Estate.

Few real estate professionals can boast of deeper roots than Zimmerman, a fifth-generation local. With a father who is the joint-master of the Piedmont Fox Hounds and a mother known as the "pied piper of Piedmont," Zimmerman hails from a long line of foxhunters and horsemen and therefore knows the local dirt roads, hills, coops, and trails as well as anyone.

An alumni of the Hill School, Woodberry Forest School and Hampden-Sydney College (near Hollins University, where his wife Lucy graduated), Zimmerman is entirely in his element in Virginia country sports, farm life and, the local

real estate environment he has come to know and represent. Teddy closed over \$5M in sales this year.

When Laura Farrell moved to a family thoroughbred farm in the Orange County Hunt while her husband launched a DC investment fund, she brought an extensive background in closing complex real estate transactions.

Prior to making Virginia horse country home, Farrell was a top producing agent selling over \$10M a year for multiple years in Bucks County, PA with a strong (often equestrian) client base from New York and Philadelphia. Farrell also brings the noteworthy experience of selling properties in Manhattan for Brown Harris Stevens.

Farrell is a member of an international real estate federation based in France, has real estate licenses in PA, NJ, NY, and VA and a degree in civil/en-

vironmental engineering. With an equal love for the equestrian lifestyle, she trains in dressage and enjoys riding foxhunters with her sister.

In an area where it can often feel that there are more realtors than properties for sale, Zimmerman and Farrell recognize the advantage of local knowledge, land stewardship and conservation. Both understand hard work, client-first service and the unique lifestyle—on and off the saddle—offered here in hunt country.

By leveraging and combining each other's unique relationships and experiences, Zimmerman and Farrell intend to bring a new level of service and professionalism to the sophisticated real estate market that characterizes this very special part of the world.



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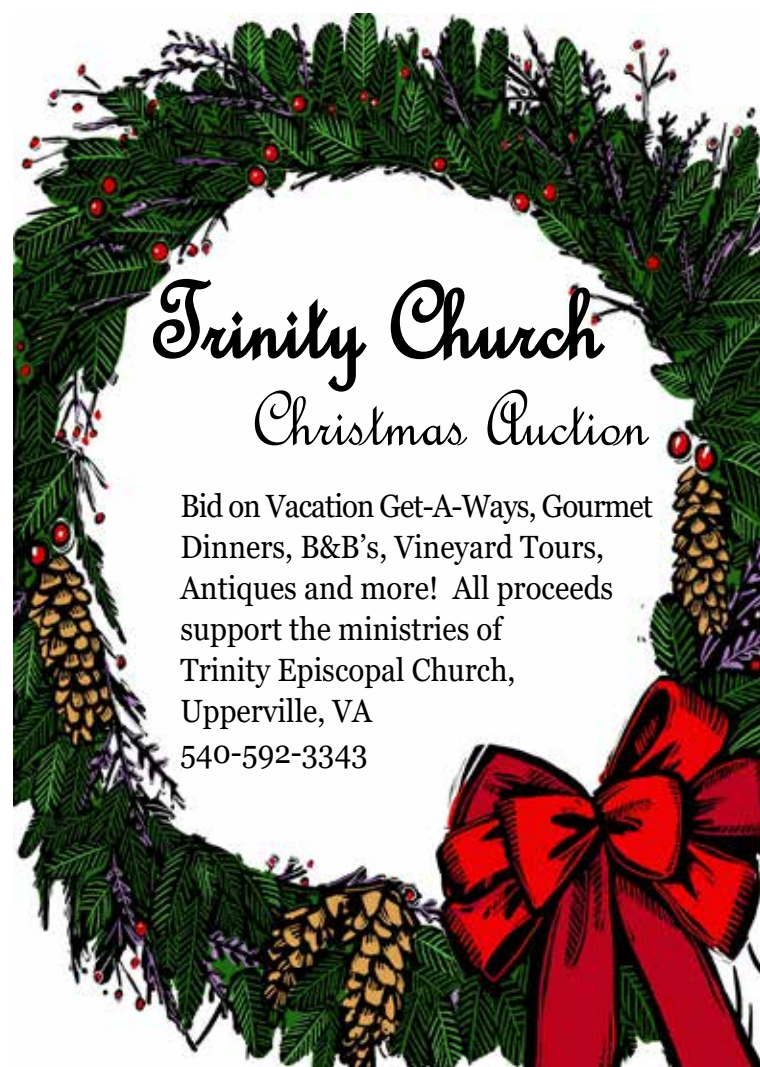
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NEWS OF NOTE

ASTRONAUT MARK KELLY VISITS POWHATAN SCHOOL



It is not often that a small independent school in a rural area is given the opportunity to meet a true American hero who also represents the best of the best in his field, but that is exactly what happened on Tuesday, October 6 when retired Astronaut Mark Kelly came to visit students at Powhatan School in Boyce, Virginia.

Mr. Kelly regaled 240 pairs of student eyes for over 30 minutes, describing in detail what it feels like to blast off from a launch pad at 17,500 miles per hour and orbit around the Earth every 90 minutes, taking in a sunrise and sunset every 45 minutes. He spoke of the time and focus it takes to learn how to operate the over 17,000 knobs, switches and pulls in the cockpit of the space shuttle. The students learned what kind of toll it takes on the human body to exist without gravity for an extended period of time, as his twin brother Scott is experiencing during his year-long stay on the International

Space Station. Perhaps most importantly, he advised the students that just because you aren't good at something right now, whether that is science or soccer or math, that fact has little bearing on how good they could be. In fact, he drew many parallels to his own experience in having difficulty with math at an early age and not naturally excelling at piloting aircraft. Kelly said, "I wasn't really very good at this (flying) right at the beginning - I think Tom Cruise would have been better. How good you are right now at anything is not a good indicator of how good you can become." After his engaging talk, Captain Kelly signed over 90 copies of his books, "Astrotwins, Project Blastoff" and "Mousetronaut" in the school's library.

Kelly also spoke to over 280 guests that evening at a pledge dinner in support of Powhatan School's Curiosity Ignited Capital Campaign, a campaign to expand STEM education at the school. The dinner event



with Kelly as keynote speaker launched the campaign's public phase with a goal of \$1.395MM, half of which is already raised. Monies will support the renovation of lower and upper school science labs, constructing a boardwalk, gathering pavilion and wildlife observation deck in the school's adjoining Crocker Conservancy, technology infrastructure investment and developing a STEM endowment fund

to secure continued resources for these fields. Monies already raised have enabled the school to hire a full-time STEM instructor and a technology partner.

Kelly, husband of former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, began his career at NASA in 1996 and made four trips to the International Space Station and commanded the shuttles Discovery and Endeavor.

THE OUTPOST'S "HELP US, HELP OTHERS SALE"



The hope for Pam and Keith Foster when opening The Outpost in Fall of 2012 was to not only establish itself as a cool and distinctive shop, but also a store that would serve the Middleburg community by truly giving back to those in need.

Since their opening of The Outpost, Pam and Keith have supported local and national charities through hosting special events and donating ALL proceeds from their annual "Help Us, Help Others Sale." For the "Help Us, Help Others Sale," The Outpost loads their back room with their amazing finds from all over the world and reduces prices with all proceeds from the sale going to committed non-profits that are committed to improv-

ing the lives of others and land preservation. This year the sale begins on Friday, November 27th and runs through Sunday, December 13th.

This fall The Outpost will be supporting the Windy Hill Foundation and Oatlands Historic House and Gardens. The Windy Hill Foundation seeks to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing to low and lower income families in Loudoun, Fauquier, and Clarke Counties and to encourage self-improvement and self-sufficiency among tenant residents. Oatlands Historic House and Gardens is a 415-acre self-supporting National Trust Historic Site and National Historic Landmark. The site features a stunning landscape with magnificent gardens,

1804 mansion and 19th century brick dependencies, including the Oatlands greenhouse, the second oldest greenhouse in the nation. Oatlands carries out its mission of historic preservation, land conservation, education, research and community outreach. For more information on The Windy Hill Foundation and Oatlands, please visit www.windyhillfoundation.org and www.oatlands.org.

We hope that you will visit The Outpost this season and especially during their "Help Us, Help Others Sale" and support of two very worthy causes in The Windy Hill Foundation and Oatlands Historic House and Gardens.

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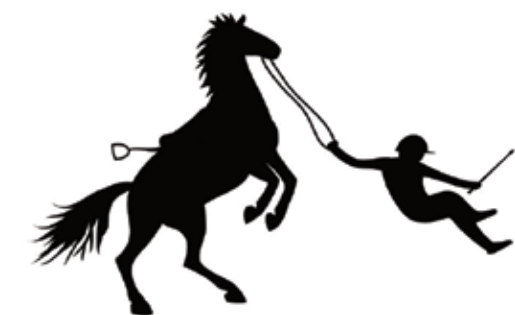
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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL TOP PRIZES & REVIEWS

SPOTLIGHT is the audience's favorite film and top prize winner from the Middleburg Film Festival. From director/writer Tom McCarthy, the film follows the team

of Boston Globe reporters who pursued the Catholic Church's cover-up of pedophile priests. "Every film in our slate was a stand-out," said Middleburg Film Festival Founder Sheila C.

Johnson. "Audiences were especially moved by SPOTLIGHT's terrific ensemble cast, superb craftsmanship, and most importantly, its riveting and important story. The touching real-life

"Cinderella" tale of Harry -- and his beloved horse, Snowman, also captivated festival attendees." This year, as in past years, many films was reviewed for The Middleburg Eccentric by Wake-

field School's tenth grade English class and Ryan Perry

2015 MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL IN REVIEW

RYAN PERRY

The cozy rural town of Middleburg has just wrapped up its third annual film festival, running from October 22 - 25, and I can't think of any other event where I would rather have spent my weekend. It seems as though festival founder Sheila Johnson is constantly upping the ante from the previous year, and this year's fest was no exception. There were just as many locations as last year's, ranging from classic vintage venues such as the Hill School, National Sporting Library and Museum, and Buchanan Hall, as well as the elegant Salamander Resort and Spa. Each of these locations truly did a job to encapsulate the small town's homey heritage, and generally give off a very warm and inviting atmosphere. The illustrious Salamander in particular played host to a myriad of exciting events, including an orchestra concert paying tribute to *Fargo* and *Twilight* composer Carter Burwell, as well as the world premiere of actress Meg Ryan's

directorial debut feature, *Ithaca*. That means that not only was Ryan there in person to present her first film in the director's chair, but those who saw the film at the Middleburg festival were the first viewers in the world to see it. How were the films this year? It's a sign that the festival is clearly growing (boasting a body of 26 films as opposed to last year's 20), and the selection that was able to attend (including *Macbeth*, *Louder Than Bombs*, *Spotlight*, *The Preppie Connection*, and *I Saw the Light*) was one of the best that I've seen at any of the festivals. Not unlike the selections offered by previous years, each one offered a distinctive and unique experience that distinguished it from the others. While some were certainly more favorable than others, the overall collection proved to be one of the most memorable that I have seen since the festival's conception back in 2013. Being a few weeks away from turning 20, I'm typically one of the few people in my age group who is excited to see a low-

budget independent drama as opposed to a summer spectacle blockbuster film, so I was very excited not to experience a venue that showcased a variety of indie films, but also to see an audience who was just as excited as I was. A particularly fond experience I had was spent waiting in line for one of the films I attended, sharing a conversation with fellow moviegoers about the films that we had seen over the weekend. I hadn't known any of them before that evening, but they were very eager to share their thoughts and recommendations. It clearly showed that those who were at the festival were there to satisfy a deep love for cinema, and doing so in a rich location at the same time. One of the most exciting experiences that I had was the opportunity to shake hands and converse with actors after two Q&A sessions. Performers that I got to speak with included northern Virginia resident Tab Hunter and young actor Devin Druid, star of the festival's own gem *Louder Than Bombs*. In both

experiences, the actors were extremely down to Earth, and generally enjoyable to talk to. It should also be noted that one of my assignments for my Film Appreciation college course was to attend at least one of the films at the festival. Upon returning to class on Monday, I had heard stories from all of my fellow classmates who had also attended the festival about how this was their first year of going, and based on their experiences, they are strongly planning on attending next year as well. Each of them had not only enjoyed their films, but more importantly, had also said that they thought the scenic environment was the perfect location for such an event. Being an avid attendant of the festival by this point, I was, of course, looking forward to it, but was very pleased to hear such positive feedback from my peers. Another aspect that simply cannot go unrecognized is the amazing volunteers who make the festival run. Not only do they perform their jobs with a great deal of dedication and commitment,

but also with a warm and genuine smile on their faces. Each one that I encountered was overly kind and courteous, and seemed excited that I was there. The experience that they provide really does make the Middleburg festival stand out from the Toronto and Sundance festivals as one of the more personable cinematic experiences you'll have this season. Overall, the Middleburg Film Festival's third edition was a riveting follow-up that proves to up the ante in every aspect from the previous years. From the general quality of films to the myriad of esteemed celebrity events on display, the 2015 festival boasted all of the excitement of a more well-known festival like Toronto or Sundance, but also stands out by means of its personable community atmosphere and absorbing horse country backdrop, and it's an experience I'll certainly be partaking in again next year.

REVIEW: ANOMALISA

ANYA PARKS

Anomalisa, a beautifully filmed and carefully constructed stop-motion, is the provocative tale of Michael Stone (David Thewlis). Stone is a motivational speaker by trade who finds himself helplessly unsatisfied with his life. He is paid to uplift the lives of others, stating that all humans are individuals that both desire and deserve happiness. This advice, so valued by all (It increased telemarketing sales by ninety percent!), is painfully ironic to both Stone and the audience as Stone is, quite literally, surrounded by clones. By using the same face molding and voice actor (Tom Noonan) for everyone with the exception of the key characters, directors Charlie Kaufman and

Duke Johnson clearly convey Stone's dissatisfaction with those surrounding him, as well as the life he is shackled to. Everything and everyone is the same. There is no change in his monotone world, and on a trip to a conference, he desperately attempts to find something significant by calling an old girlfriend. He asks her back to his room, attempting to find some solace, if not in his soul, then in her body. The meeting is a disaster, and Stone can do nothing but return to the hotel alone. When he hears Lisa (Jennifer Jason Leigh), he is fresh out of the shower, fully bared to the audience as he yanks on his face, revealing the clay structure beneath. How fortuitous! In his most desperate moments, questioning his identity, his

very existence, Stone hears the sound of change. The first voice in what seemed to be years has distinguished itself. Stone's reaction to Lisa, so meek and plain, is telling of his desperation.

When Stone finds Lisa he is mesmerized by her voice despite its grating pitch, and enchanted by her face, seeing past her scar and to her unique features. Lisa appears to Stone as a miracle. Finally, there is a anomalous face in sea of monochrome! So taken in by this encounter, so desperate to drink in the sound of her voice and the look of her face, Stone fails to see Lisa as a person. Lisa, in turn, fails to do the same. As a scarred telemarketer of average intelligence, Lisa too, is desperately trying to find something worthy within

herself. She turns to Stone to successfully find it.

In the end is a twisted love story, not designed to last, but to comfort the two tortured souls we focus upon. Each contributes to the brief

happiness of the other: Stone a reprieve from a repetitious, unsatisfying world, and Lisa, the belief that she is different, an anomaly —an Anomalisa.

REVIEW: HARRY AND SNOWMAN

DORIA GILBERG

Get out the old riding boots, snap on that helmet, and be prepared for the leap of a lifetime- if you can find the horse first. Harry and Snowman? More like Harry and Harry. The title leads the audience to jump to the conclusion that this is a documentary about the connection between Triple Crown winner Harry deLeyer and his prize-winning horse, Snowman. Snowman galloped

away from the screen and refused to come back until half of the film was over. Once you actually find Snowman, saddle up the steed and bound off to the ring.

Harry deLeyer had a very humble start growing up on a farm in Holland during World War II. He arrived in America with his wife through the works of an American soldier Harry never even met. While working as a riding instructor at a female private school, he nearly missed the livestock auction that would

change his life. With a flat tire and the clock ticking, Harry arrived at the auction just as the left-over horses were getting settled onto the slaughter truck. Snowman locked eyes with Harry in between the rungs of the trailer, and it was at this moment that Harry paid \$80 for what would be a world-renown horse. Snowman and Harry won the Triple Crown in 1958, but the fame did not stop there. Jumping show obstacles became far too

Continued page 14

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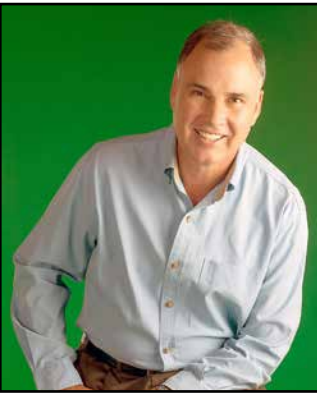
We are small, local propane company who currently only delivers in Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William, Clarke and Frederick Counties in Virginia. We are growing rapidly in this lim-

ited 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.

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NEWS OF NOTE

REVIEW: HARRY AND SNOWMAN *Continued from page 12*

easy, so Harry set even higher goals and Snowman soon broke the record for clearing the tallest jump. This so called “Cinderella Horse” has inspired and captured the hearts of millions around the globe.

The film had an enormous

amount of potential; the story of Harry deLeyer itself is absolutely amazing. It is the epitome of a rags to riches story. Who wouldn’t want to be enchanted and captivated by a tale that proves that success comes with dedication and hard-work?

However, Ron Davis, the director and producer, ultimately failed in successfully portraying this story. The use of “original tape” of Harry competing in a show or Snowman swimming through the ocean seems like it would be a wonderful inclusion to make

the film more raw and authentic. The film was filled to the brim with this “original” footage. Most old tapes are low-quality and fuzzy because the ordinary family member is not an expert videographer, but this wasn’t the case in this film. The unbelievable

quality of the “original” tape made me wonder if it was legitimate or not. It seamlessly flowed between shots of current film.

Harry and Snowman became a celebrity duo quickly rising to fame across the world. His entire life and soul revolved

REVIEW: ARABIAN NIGHTS: THE DESOLATE ONE

JULIANA PARRA

To be honest, when I was perusing through the movie titles that would be showing at the Middleburg Film Festival, *Arabian Nights: The Desolate One* immediately jumped out at me. I imagined a beautiful film filled with enchanting characters in a whimsical setting; something like *Aladdin*, if you will. Before the movie began, two men introduced the film and talked about the process of creating director Miguel Gomes’s vision. They talked about how *Arabian Nights: The Desolate One* was the second movie of Gomes’ trilogy, but knowledge about the first film was not necessary

for understanding this one. Regardless of their assurance, I did not understand how the two films could be so disconnected that information from the first movie was irrelevant to its sequel; nevertheless, I focused on the screen and decided to remain open-minded as the opening credits rolled through.

Arabian Nights: The Desolate One is comprised of three different stories all completely unrelated to one another. Throughout the 120 minutes I sat in that theatre, I tried my hardest to make sense of each scenario but found it was nearly impossible to pry a plot out of that film. The characters were not linked in any way,

the scenery was dull, and the conflicts were insignificant; I was not emotionally attached to people on the screen and felt no sympathy towards their trivial problems. One of the main reasons I struggled to connect with the characters was due to the excessive use of profane language and nudity in the film; I completely understand that every director has his or her own distinct taste, but I personally was uncomfortable with the amount I witnessed. I could not identify any need for the vulgarity and was frankly confused, along with a few audience members, about its significance. I at least tried to remain in my seat while others chose to leave; nevertheless,

I focused on the screen and continued to stay open-minded as the story continued.

Overall, the only correlation I could make from the three stories was that the protagonists were all isolated from their families or society in some way. In the first story, a murderer, who has been on the run for the past six months, has a sudden change of heart and allows the authorities to finally take him captive. In the second story, a judge finds herself unable to deliver a proper verdict when the citizens reveal a strange chain of crimes that have been uncovered from the past year; she is lost among the chaos and insanity of the unraveling situation. Lastly, in the third story

Dixie the dog goes from family to family trying to bring them the same joy that the previous Dixie had given them; the current Dixie is living in the shadow of the former dog, yet he tries his best to bring the people comfort during their hardships. In retrospect, I assume that is why the title is *The Desolate One*, but it could be a longshot. I left the show scratching my head and trying to put the puzzle pieces together as I wrote down my thoughts. It is safe to say I did not understand Gomes’s film, so if you went to see it and have any thoughts, please feel free to share them with the rest of us.

REVIEW: LOUDER THAN BOMBS

KATE GRANRUTH

Louder than Bombs, the first English language film directed by Norwegian filmmaker Joachim Trier, is the type of film that makes you want to run home and hug every single member of your family, and never let go ever again. Those who watch take an emotional roller coaster ride as the characters mourn,

mess up, and pretend to process their feelings with and about one another. The story is told from the perspectives of a father, Gene (Gabriel Byrne), and his two sons, Conrad (Devin Druid) and Jonah (Jesse Eisenberg), who are all attempting to live in a world following the death of their wife and mother, famed war photographer Isabelle Reed (Isabelle Huppert). This is a

story that could very easily fall into cliché; it is not the first time a movie has been made describing a family dealing with the repercussions of the death of a loved one. However, *Louder than Bombs* deftly avoids all tropes and expectations its plot could entail, through outstanding filmmaking choices and stellar performances from the entire cast. What sets this film apart in terms of filmmaking is the fact that the focus is not on the big picture, but on separate moments in each character’s lives. There are few scenes in which Conrad, Gene, and Jesse truly discuss the main conflict of Isabelle’s death, yet this remains the constant recurring theme due to the detail oriented approach Trier took. Audiences are exposed to tidbits of information that gain them access to the thoughts of each character. For example, Conrad’s crush on the girl in his English class is revealed at the same time that it becomes known that he keeps thinking he sees women

wearing his mother’s donated clothing, and that he wants to hug them because it would be like hugging his mother, or his discovery of an article written about his mother’s death while shopping at a gas station. The lack of sharp contrast and distinct transitions between these small, “normal” moments and these crucial, heart-wrenching to watch moments, make the entire film much more poignant and effective, as it showcases the way real life works, where big occurrences happen with no warning, falling along in place with the smaller ones.

Every role in the movie was acted brilliantly. Eisenberg masterfully adds the perfect amount of sarcasm to the melancholy role of Jonah, keeping him likeable while also maintaining the character’s deep-seated flaws. Byrne showcases an incredible range of emotional expression, going from comedy-fueled scenes about his attempts to connect with his son to forlorn

ones that focus on the troubles of his marriage, and Reed is impressive as well. Despite being in the film much less than the others, she creates undeniable chemistry with each of her costars, and expertly portrays a mother who is absent but wanting to feel needed. The true showstopper of the *Louder than Bombs*, however, is Devin Druid. His depiction of Conrad is phenomenal; there is no better word for it. He can say more in a single stare than most could say in a monologue. The actor possesses a rare talent; the role of a teenager struggling to feel normal when everything around him is far from it is one of the hardest to play, and Druid is stellar.

Louder than Bombs is a film that delivers, managing to balance melancholy overtones with gritty humorous undertones, while continuing to surprise the audience. The cast perfectly plays out Trier’s vision, and it will resonate with audiences long after the credits roll.

Another strong quality that the film boasts is its production design. From the sets to the cars to the costumes, everything feels like an authentic representation of the time period. The film is what you would call a “period piece,” intended to encapsulate a specific era, and in that regard, *I Saw the Light* hits the mark.

Unfortunately, for every technical and acting quality present, there’s at least one aspect of the story that falls flat. For example, when the film starts, Hank and Audrey are nearly ready to divorce, and you feel like you’ve missed a good thirty minutes of back story. This ties into the big problem with Hank himself: there’s no growth. As amazing a job as Hiddleston

Continued page 16

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NEWS OF NOTE

REVIEW: I SAW THE LIGHT *Continued from page 14*

does with the material, the material just doesn't offer any development for the character; he starts as a self-destructive drunk, and that's how he ends. I understand that that was a big

part of his life, but it just would have been more impactful to see him in his early days and then fall from grace. Exploring Williams's songwriting process would have also been a nice touch. I

don't need a history lesson on his inspirations or anything, but I'd like something, greater than "songs just happen."

In the end, *I Saw the Light* is far from being a terrible movie.

It has a lot going for it, from the acting to the visual design, and especially the music. But there just aren't enough musical moments, and the spans of time in between them can tend to drag

because you feel like you're missing information. For all that the film does well, I'm giving *I Saw the Light* two and a half stars out of four.

REVIEW: MACBETH

RYAN PERRY

William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, one of the playwright's most popular tales, has been brought to the screen for a new generation by up-and-coming director Justin Kurzel. And does Kurzel's interpretation do the tale justice? Well, mostly.

The story follows Macbeth (*Steve Jobs* star Michael Fassbender), a servant to King Duncan of Scotland during wartime. After returning from battle, Macbeth and his friend Banquo encounter a trio of witches who speak of an enticing prophecy: that Macbeth, as well as

Banquo's children, will one day rule Scotland.

Spurred by greed and a lust for power, Macbeth's conniving wife, Lady Macbeth (*Two Days, One Night's* Marion Cotillard) convinces her husband to do the unthinkable: murder Duncan in his sleep and forcefully succeed the throne. After becoming king, Macbeth's corruption quickly transforms him into a monster that even Lady Macbeth comes to fear.

Though I'm a fan of Shakespeare, my most anticipated feature for this film was the casting. Fassbender and Cotillard are two of

my favorite actors working today, and unfortunately, the acting was the only area that fell short. A part of this effect comes from the screenwriters' decision to commit fully to Shakespeare's original dialogue.

While this is certainly an ambitious feat and should be acknowledged, it also takes a toll on the acting. Most of the delivery feels as though the script was memorized and then repeated exactly as it appeared on paper, with little room for emotion. Occasionally, a character would break the monotone by shouting their lines, as though to emphasize the emotional importance, but the result feels rather forced. Not

all Shakespeare films are like this, so it's disappointing to see this effect on such talented actors.

Fortunately, my complaints for the film end there. In terms of visual style, *Macbeth* is an absolute triumph, boasting costume designs and scenery that evoke the time period excellently. The majority of the film was shot on location throughout the Isles of Scotland, and every image, from the shots of gorgeous landscapes to Macbeth's vast castle, looks as crisp and authentic as it gets. The music is also well-composed, matching the plot's dramatic tension and, when paired with the visuals,

wraps you up and takes you into the film's world.

In all honesty, *Macbeth* is a really good movie - it's just not as good as I had hoped. If you're a Shakespeare fan, you'll probably appreciate the use of Shakespearean language, it just didn't do it for me. Fortunately, the commitment to dialogue and faithful story retelling show Kurzel's dedication to the material, and the film's technical excellence is strong enough to eclipse its flaws. I'm giving *Macbeth* three stars out of four.

Howard Allen was an avid tennis player and golfer and played golf into his 90s. He was a member of the Middleburg Tennis Club, Loudoun Golf and Country Club in Purcellville, Winchester Golf and Country Club and Millwood Golf Club.

Howard Allen was an avid tennis player and golfer and played golf into his 90s. He was a member of the Middleburg Tennis Club, Loudoun Golf and Country Club in Purcellville, Winchester Golf and Country Club and Millwood Golf Club. His wife of 67 years, Nancy

Lee Coble Allen, preceded him in death in 2015.

He is survived by two daughters, Dorothy Page Allen of Boyce, Va. and Betsy Allen Davis of Middleburg; a brother, Douglas Allen of West Chester, Pa., four grandchildren, Brooke Costin Kline of Charlotte, N.C.

(husband, Nate); and Liza Costin Taub of Clifton, Va. (husband, Phil); Whitney Allen Groseclose of Arlington and Lauren Davis of Middleburg and four great-grandchildren, Emma Madison Taub (11), Mason McKelvy Taub (7), Morgan McKelvy Kline (7) and Elise Catherine Kline (4).

The family requests that any charitable donations in Mr. Allen's name be sent to the Middleburg Community Center, Box 265, Middleburg, Va. 20118, American Legion Post 295, P.O. Box 4, Middleburg, Va. 20118 or to Laurel Center, Box 14, Winchester, Va., 22604.

REVIEW: SPOTLIGHT

RYAN PERRY

There's been a lot of Oscar buzz for director Tom McCarthy's dramatic true story film, *Spotlight*, saying that we could even be looking at this year's Best Picture winner. And I'm here to tell you to believe the hype.

The story takes place in 2001, following the newspaper staff of the *Boston Globe* as they attempt to cover a massive and dangerous story from multiple angles: uncovering an unprecedented molestation scandal within the Catholic church, in a town

where interviewing a priest on the subject is practically the same thing as suing the church.

Right away, the most noticeable thing about *Spotlight* is its impressive cast. The reporters working the story are played by Michael Keaton, Mark Ruffalo, Rachel McAdams, and Liev Schreiber (I'd see a movie with any *one* of them in it), and they all bring their A game. Although these are A-list actors, you hardly see the performers as much as you see the characters they play, because they slip into their roles and play off of each other so naturally.

This is an ensemble picture, and no one performer outshines the others.

A reason for this is because, though they are expertly acted, the characters are already written so well. The script effectively captures the camaraderie that develops between a publication staff, and while it is interesting to see the staff cover the same story from four different angles, it's just as rewarding to see them shooting the breeze in the newsroom. They really do feel like characters who would hang out together outside of work, which makes their work all

the more effective.

Another interesting feature that film buffs are sure to take notice of is the cinematography. Now, I'm not talking about the use of fancy camera angles, but rather where the actors are placed within the frame. A good example is when the director places a character who is talking in the center of the frame, and the character who is listening is in the foreground (in the audience's perspective). It may sound like a small detail, but it makes a big difference in visual storytelling, particularly in a film that's practically driven by dialogue.

Whenever a journalism film comes out, the first instinct of the viewer is to compare it to the 1976 drama *All the President's Men*, and *Spotlight* is the first film to come out in a good while that lives up to that standard. The story is briskly-paced and is anything but one-sided, the acting is spot-on, and the cinematography is expertly framed. The result makes for a journalistic story that joins the ranks of *All the President's Men* and *Zodiac*, and a film that I surely won't soon be forgetting. I'm giving *Spotlight* four out of four stars.

HOWARD ALLEN, TREASURED MIDDLEBURG CITIZEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

stay for dinner. Page never really thought much about it, she loved to ride and therefore was just going to a friend's house to ride."

"We knew her husband was the President, but Jackie was so natural and unassuming that we could not have imagined the glamorous life she was living. Dad always said there were two Jackies: the First Lady, the very poised and elegant lady that the public saw; and the young mother who simply loved to ride and cherished her simple life with her family in Middleburg."

In fact, Jackie never visited Middleburg without visiting The Fun Shop, Nancy Allen's amazing emporium of everything anyone could possibly want or need that is now run by Page and Betsy. And, she always asked to see Howard.

"She was so protective of her children," Betsy explained, "...and she was so worried about photographers taking pictures and selling to inappropriate outlets. As soon as she realized that she could trust our Dad absolutely, they developed a close friendship that lasted all her life."

In fact, Mrs. Kennedy and then Mrs. Onassis, shared her birthday with Howard Allen and never did that special day go by that she didn't write him a long congratulatory letter, to which he responded in kind.

"I remember, not so many years ago, when Jackie had come to the shop to see my Dad and it was very close to closing time. She asked to see his photos of

the latest hunt she was in and he brought out what seemed like hundreds and she spread them out all over the floor in the back card room."

"They had been there a long time when I went back to see how they were doing and realized that my niece, Whitney, had seen Jackie sitting cross-legged on the floor. Whitney showed her some ballet moves and Jackie asked her if she knew yoga and then proceeded to show her some yoga positions."

Jackie was one of the most naturally charming and kind individuals one could imagine.... Very much like my Dad, in fact. It's no wonder they were such good and trusted friends."

One of the highlights of Howard's life was the publication of his book, *Unforgotten Times: Jackie Kennedy's Happy Days in the Virginia Hunt Country*. Because he had never released or sold any of his Kennedy photos, Howard wrote Caroline after Jackie's death, and asked if she would give her "blessing" for him to publish some of them as part of the historical record. She agreed absolutely, and the resulting volume led to his being regarded by many as 'the unofficial Kennedy family photographer during the time they spent in Hunt Country. Dad often said that he believed that at age 93, he was the oldest first time author to be published!

According to Amazon, Howard's book is a poignant reminder of the lost magic of

the Kennedy years and includes never-before-seen photographs. With text by the photographer, the book gives a glimpse into the private life of a very public family, but it also shows the loving mother Jackie was to Caroline and John.

Many believe that she was never happier than when she was in the country and that her life in Middleburg was a welcome escape from the pressures of being First Lady.

One of Howard Allen's most treasured possessions was a photograph he took of Caroline dressed as a princess that Jackie signed and framed for him.

Howard was, according to his daughter, a humble man.

"He was always the unpretentious fellow in the background. He didn't scold us or insist we do things his way, but he was always there in a heartbeat for anything we needed or wanted. Our lives growing up seem perfect looking back now..... and perhaps they were."

Even as a photographer, Howard was totally uncontrived. He usually carried only one camera and not a lot of gear..... although he was known to have two sometimes.... especially for weddings.

He also made it clear in his price list for events and weddings that he took photographs as he saw them....without staging to capture important moments.

"If you want staged photography, I'm not your

photographer."

Adored by her parents, whom she greatly admired, Betsy also grew up to be a highly valued citizen, following in the footsteps of her father. In fact, in the footsteps of her paternal grandmother, Dorothy Gilpin Allen, who was the first female member of Town Council in Winchester, VA.

In addition to his pursuit as a photographer, he actively pursued tennis and golf and served on a multitude of county and village organizations..... the Middleburg Town Council and Planning Commission, Middleburg Lion's Club, American Legion, and Emmanuel Episcopal Church Vestry and Treasurer.

He thoroughly enjoyed and supported local equine endeavors and his daughter, Page, had a beautiful pony, Craven Bantam, that she showed successfully.

"I liked to ride," Betsy recalled, but Page was really the horsewoman. In fact, riding became her life ...she trained at Morven Park to become a riding instructor and later taught there, as well. Our dad loved and supported all the local equine events..... from horse shows, to the Fall and Spring races and the Hunts, Dad and Mom (and Page and I) always looked forward to going to Foxcroft on Thanksgiving morning for the wonderful Hunt Breakfast and to watch the beautiful horses and riders take off on their merry chase! It was a magical morning."

In his later years, Howard had quite a routine. He began by going to the Middleburg Bank, then to the Post Office, and then, of course to The Fun Shop to check in, and then to Library because he was an avid reader and finally to the Safeway. In fact, he went to the Safeway several times a day. Neither he nor Nancy kept up-to-date lists of what they needed, so Safeway trips became a regular and frequent feature of his daily outings.

When Betsy and Page were thinking about what to say at his funeral, it was difficult for them to really describe the life he provided.

"He adored us and we adored him," Betsy said. "I am grateful that Page and I had the opportunity to tell Dad how much we loved him and how much he meant to us..... and he was able to tell us the same. There was nothing left unsaid"

So the WWII ambulance driver who traversed the front lines, who was a church leader, a town council and planning commission member, who always had a helping hand for all he knew, who loved breakfast more than any other meal of the day and who was known to his grandchildren as Doodin...which was also on his license plate.... who was open to the change that he knew was inevitable in his much-loved village... leaves a family that serves the community in much the same way he did.

"He taught by example," Betsy said. "When we were

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all of the [VRS] municipalities were getting hit on this to varying degrees."

In fact, the Town's fund balance, she said, "was up from \$2.6 million last year to \$4.2 million this year" and that "this took into account the adjustment for the pension liability."

New Town Treasurer

On November 2 Middleburg's long-serving Town Treasurer, Debbie Jewell resigned.

Town Council appointed Middleburg Town Administrator, Martha Semmes, to serve as acting treasurer until the position can be filled.

Middleburg Economic Development Co-ordinator, Cindy Pearson, was praised for her help, along with other town staff, in performing many of the Treasurer's duties in the interim.

At press time the Treasurer's position had been properly advertised and Town Administrator Semmes and Vice-Mayor Darlene Kirk are reported to be screening resumes and applications.

A hiring announcement is expected soon.

New Digs for the MPD

After years of suffering bravely through rain, snow and gloom of night, not to mention mold, cold, heat, humidity and a notoriously cranky (and sometime non-functional) heating and cooling system INSIDE its head-quarter in the town's ironically named "Health Center Building," the Middleburg Police Department will soon be working from new office space.

At its last work session Town Council approved, without objection, a motion by its long-serving public safety liaison Council member Bundles Murdock, seconded by Council member Mark Snyder, that Council authorize signing of "a three-year lease with a two-year renewal option in a form approved by the Town Attorney, with the owners of the condominium known as Building A, Units One and Two, Federal Court." Rent for the space on the west end of Town on the south side of Federal Street: \$45,800 per year.

Police Chief A. J. Panebia-co's officers have also requested that funds heretofore appropriated to pay for gym memberships be re-allocated to fund the purchase of exercise equipment.

Middleburg Country Inn Site Plan Waiver

By a three to two vote Council has approved "a waiver of complete frontage improvements along Jay Street because requiring improvements at this

time could restrict future development" of the Middleburg Country Inn.

The approval was made "subject to the provisions of a public pedestrian connection (such as a temporary trail), acceptable to Town Staff, "between the sidewalk network on Washington Street and the newly constructed sidewalk on the adjacent Federal Street Office Building property."

According to Town Planner and Zoning Administrator Will Moore, the request for the waiver was made because the property "could potentially be re-used by a purchaser who was looking to convert the use to a general office use."

"Normally," he continued, "when a property that was non-conforming as to site improvements changed use, it must come into conformance with the site improvement requirements."

The Middleburg Inn property situation was, in his view, "unique" Moore stated, in that, legally, "it involved two separate parcels" with Middleburg Country Inn's main structure and majority of its parking being located on one lot."

A separate, connected lot, designated "Lot B," currently has no buildings on it but serves as "the primary ingress/egress" for the Inn and provides a "small amount of parking."

As a result, Moore noted, because the change-of-use plan was "to continue to use the ingress/egress," he felt compelled to address the two lots as "one property in terms of site improvements."

The requested waiver applied to "frontage improvements along Jay Street, Moore noted, which would include some pavement widening and the installation of curb, gutter and sidewalk."

"Normally, Moore said, he would not support a request of this nature" but was doing so in this case because the situation was, in his words, "unique."

The applicant's position, Moore said, "was that if he looked to develop the vacant parcel in the future, he did not want to be hindered by the site improvements, specifically the entrance."

According to Moore, the applicant had indicated although "he could come up with something, he would prefer not to do the improvements until the vacant lot was developed."

The Town's Planning Commission had mixed feelings on the request, Moore told Council. Their main concern, he said was "the pedestrian connection" linking the two sidewalks currently separated by the property(s).

The Commission, he said, was "not as concerned with widening the pavement, installing curb and gutter or the construction of a new entrance as they saw the applicant's point about maintaining flexibility for future development."

Asked by Town Administrator Martha Semmes why the matter had been placed on Council's work session agenda "as an action item when it was not previously discussed with the Council," Moore replied "that this was because he was unable to attend the regular meeting and his absence slowed the process." If more time was needed by the Council, he noted, the matter could be tabled.

Council member Kathy Jo Shea opposed granting the waiver, noting that, in her view, if the applicant intended to divide his parcel immediately the improvements could wait. In her view, however, the current owner seemed to be saying "that this may be done some day," which meant

the pedestrian work would have to wait" until some undetermined point in "the future." "What," she asked, "would occur if the lot was not developed for thirty years."

Council member Mark Snyder noted that if and when the lot that abutted Jay Street was developed, "it would require the installation of a sidewalk and gutter." He questioned why it was reasonable to waive the frontage improvements if someone wanted to change the use of the property which the applicant clearly did.

Architect Bill Turnure, speaking on behalf of the applicant, told Council that "if they wanted the improvements installed, the boxwood bushes would have to be removed and the access would be moved to the south." He also noted that "a couple of trees would also have to be removed for the new street access." As for "future development of the vacant lot" any new structure could front on Route 50 or Jay Street; thus, they really

didn't know and couldn't say future access to "Lot B" would be located.

Town Planner Moore again reminded Council that "there was no guarantee the property would develop and could stay this way in perpetuity" and reiterated that "the only reason he considered this was because it was unique in that it involved two parcels."

Council member Snyder reiterated that, in his view, "Council was being asked to grant a waiver that was not fully defined for an undetermined period and advised that he was not comfortable with that."

With Mayor Davis absent, Vice-Mayor Darlene Kirk and Middleburg Country Innkeeper and Council Member Kevin Hazard abstaining, the motion to grant the waiver was passed 3-2, with Council members Littleton, Murdock and Schops in favor; Council members Shea and Snyder, opposed.

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The Middleburg Business & Professional Association*



PLACES & FACES

UNISON HERITAGE DAY UNISON, VIRGINIA ~ PHOTOS BY NANCY KLECK



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THE INTERNATIONAL GOLD CUP

GREAT MEADOW, THE PLAINS, VA, PHOTOS BY LAUREN R. GIANNINI

It's a late October tradition at Great Meadow in The Plains, similar to the first Saturday in May, when thousands of people — family, friends, business associates — gather for the sporting celebration known as the International Gold Cup Races. Entertainment includes terrier races, tailgate competition, hat contest, pari-mutuel betting, shopping, people-watching and the horses, of course — beautiful Thoroughbreds, racing over timber, hurdles and on the flat.

Michael Wharton's Grinding Speed, trained by Alicia Murphy and ridden by Mark Beecher, bested the competitive field of 10 to win his third International Gold Cup. The 9-year-old gray gelding earned the lion's share of the \$75,000 purse, along with a well-deserved place in the National Steeplechase Association's record books as the 2015 champion timber horse.

In the feature, Personal Brew went way out in front to set the pace for most of the 3½ mile race. Showing heart, stamina and dogged determination as well as his athletic jumping style, Grinding Speed took over the lead in the final mile. In a thrilling, hard-fought drive to the wire, Grinding Speed crossed the finish line 1 1/2 lengths in front of challengers Dakota Slew and Straight To It. In the NSA report, Don Kiplinger pointed out that they have posted the same order of finish in the last two International Gold Cups and in the 2015 Virginia Gold Cup.

The lone local horse in the trio, Dakota Slew, is owned by Magalen O. Bryant and trained by Richard Valentine. The other two are based in Maryland. With a total of five stakes wins on the Gold Cup course — 2012 IGC, 2013 VGC, 2014 IGC, 2015 VGC, 2015 IGC — Grinding Speed has proven that he's totally at home at Great Meadow.



ALLEN & JENNIFER RICHARDS, ANDREW RICHARDS & CAITLYN VALENTA. 1933 PACKARD



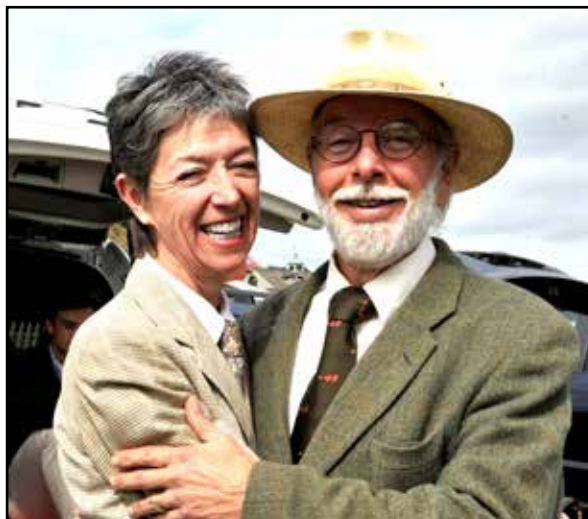
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GREAT MEADOW, THE PLAINS, VA ~ PHOTOS BY VALERIE DURBAN



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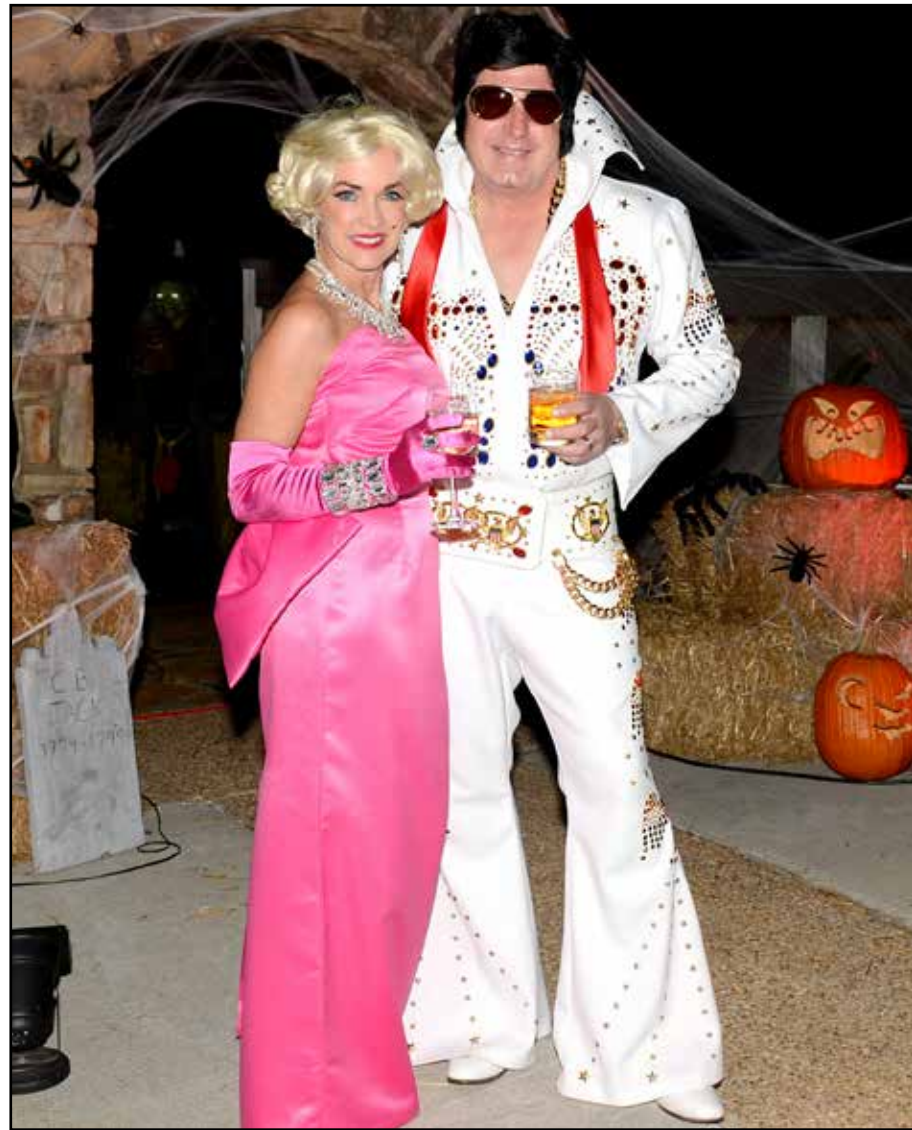
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7TH ANNUAL ANIMAL NIGHT BIG SUCCESS

ATTENDEES OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE FUND'S (ARF) "ANIMAL NIGHT" ENJOYED AN INFORMATIVE SPEECH BY POLLSTER, DAVE SACKETT. THE STAG EVENING INCLUDED A DELICIOUS DINNER CATERED BY KAREN HARPER-FUOG FOLLOWED BY A LIVELY DISCUSSION OVER COGNAC AND CIGARS. MUSIC WAS PROVIDED BY PETER DURAND AND MEGAN MCKINNEY. FUNDS RAISED BY THE ANIMAL RESCUE FUND (ARF) ARE DISTRIBUTED TO ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS IN VIRGINIA HELPING ANIMALS IN NEED.



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MATT SHEEDY, HENRY LEVINE, FRANK BALTZ.JPG



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MICHEAL SMITH, KEN RIETZ, ALEXANDER VOGEL

2ND ANNUAL ANIMAL RESCUE FUND'S CAT NIGHT

THE SECOND ANIMAL RESCUE FUND'S (ARF) "CAT NIGHT" WAS AGAIN HOSTED BY WENDY SMITH AT HER FARM, POPLAR GRANGE. THE LADIES ENJOYED A BUFFET DINNER, FINE WINES AND A LIVE AUCTION. ALL FUNDS RAISED BY ARF WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR TO VIRGINIA ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE APPLIED FOR GRANTS.



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That 70's Windy Hill Fashion Show THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION

Thank You!!!! Thank You!!!! Thank You!!!!

Bethann Beeman and Beth Ann Mascatello, Chairpersons, wish to thank the Fashion Show coordinators and 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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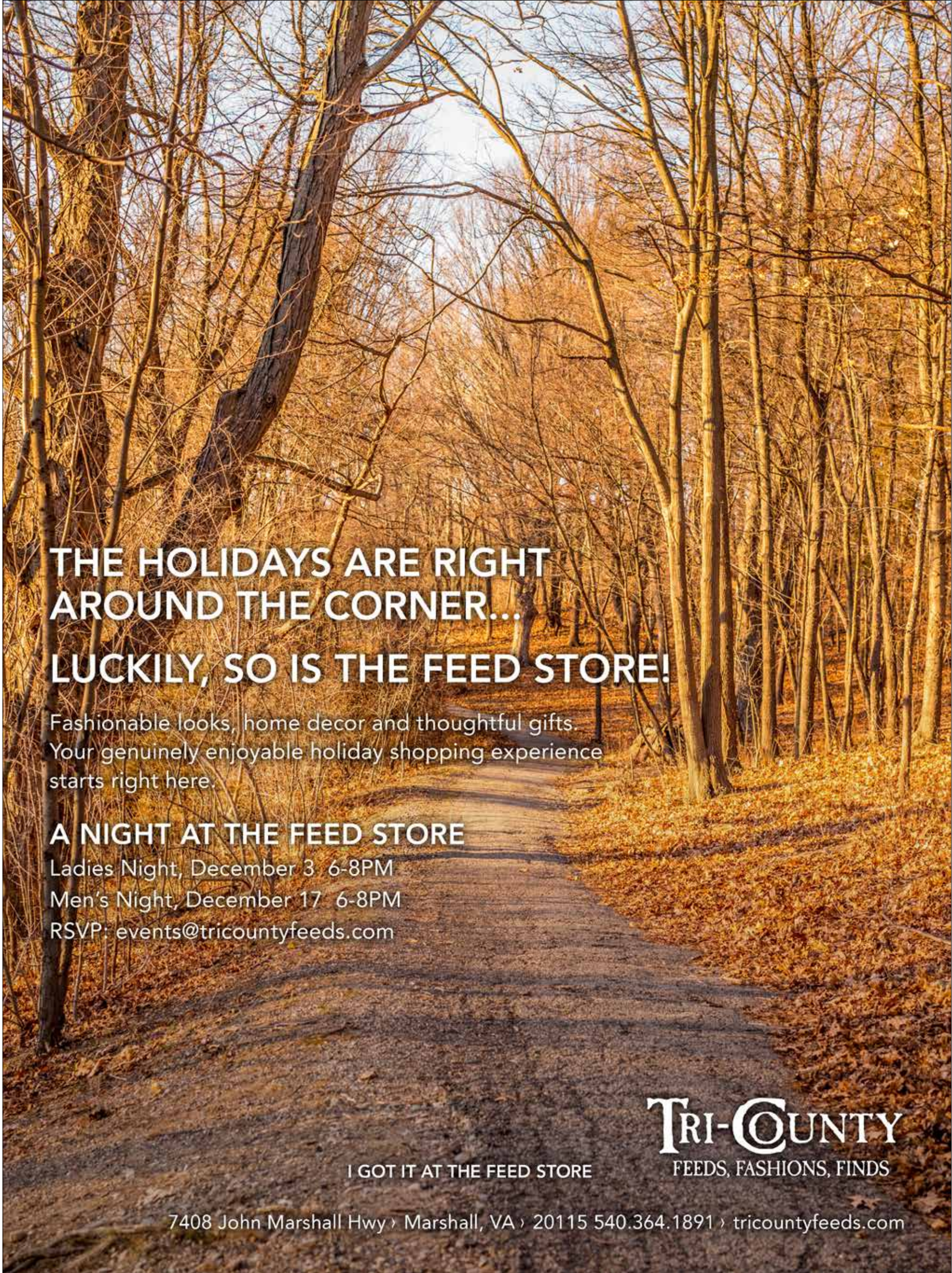


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PROGENY

MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY'S GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPS



Middleburg Academy's Girls' Volleyball team won the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association Division 2 state championship at Saturday's finals. The 3-0 victory over Peninsula Catholic (#2) capped a season for the Dragons who finished with an impressive

30-2 record.

Key wins in their season were home and away victories over Flint Hill (who won the Division 1 State Championship) where Middleburg Academy won the Flint Hill Tournament Championship. "We have a lot of respect for Flint Hill and the tradition they have built, but those

wins did give us the confidence to make a run at the State Championship," said sophomore Lilly Reilly '18. It was in that same tournament that Middleburg also defeated the team they lost to in last year's championship game.

The team is comprised of Delaney Blackburn, '16, Darby Dettra '16, Elle Benefield '17,

Meagan McDonald '17, Alison Thomas '17, Emma DiClementi '18, Lauren Greminger '18, Lilly Reilly '18, Chelsea Penfield '19, Lilian Vargo '19.

Middleburg Academy began their march to the title with a win over St. Margaret's. The Final Four was hosted at Richard Bland College in Petersburg,

VA on Friday and Saturday. Middleburg Academy will be returning all its starters next year, and coach Maureen DiClementi is looking forward to another spectacular season.

FOXCROFT'S ALEX GRACE TO PLAY AT UVA



Foxcroft School's Alex Grace, a speedy goal-scoring midfielder and two-time state tournament Player of the Year, signed a letter of intent Wednesday (Nov. 11) to play lacrosse at the University of Virginia next year.

The senior from Purcellville has led Foxcroft to consecutive Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association Division II championships. In three years at Foxcroft, she has scored 218 goals and collected 36 assists for 254 career points. She holds school records for most goals in a season (92) and most ground balls in a game (10), a season (82) and a career (215).

Grace caught the eye of Virginia coaches during her freshman year -- just two years after she started playing lacrosse -- and received a verbal commitment in the summer of 2013. Virginia made it official with the letter that Grace signed at an all-school assembly in Currier Library, with Grace's parents, Jim and Jennifer, siblings Matt, Kevin and Ambrose, and Foxcroft lacrosse coaches Patrick

Finn and Michelle Woodruff looking on.

"While her stats and achievements depict an accomplished high school lacrosse player and athlete," said Finn, who also played lacrosse at UVA, "it is her hustle, determination and 'never give up' spirit that set her apart from her peers."

"We have had the pleasure of watching Alex grow and mature as a student and as a lacrosse player," said Woodruff, Foxcroft's Athletic Director as well as lacrosse and field hockey coach. "Today is the culmination of Alex's hard work and of the support, guidance and commitment of a great many other people -- her coaches, teachers, teammates and most of all her family. We are all so proud of her."

A fine all-around athlete who has also achieved VISAA All-State honors in cross country and field hockey and was named Delaney Athletic Conference Player of the Year in Basketball last season, Grace demonstrated her lacrosse skills as a freshman when she scored 56 goals and added seven assists in helping Foxcroft to the

finals of the state tournament. She was named to the All-State team for her performance.

Grace was even better her sophomore year, setting the school single-season record of 92 goals and adding 16 assists as Foxcroft posted a perfect 17-0 record and won its first ever VISAA Division 2 championship. She was named Player of the Year in the state tournament.

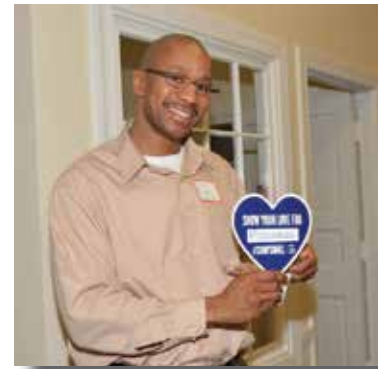
In 2015, Foxcroft repeated as state champion with Grace contributing 70 goals and 13 assists. Her most dramatic goal came in the final of the state tournament against Highland School when she intercepted a pass, raced the length of the field and scored with four seconds left to give Foxcroft a 9-8 victory and its second straight title. In the previous day's semifinal, Grace also scored with seconds remaining to lift Foxcroft. Again, she was Player of the Year.

Grace needs 20 goals next spring to break the school record for most career goals. Emma Rogers, who graduated last spring and now plays for Radford University, holds the record of 237 goals set

from 2012-15.

Grace is the second Foxcroft player to sign a letter-of-intent at a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I college in recent years. Meredith "Dish" Harris of Middleburg signed with the University of Denver in 2009 and went on to become an all-league player and participate in the NCAA tournament. Many other Foxcroft graduates have played in college as well.

The National Letter of Intent (NLI) is a document used to indicate a student athlete's commitment to participating at NCAA colleges and universities in the United States. The NCAA Eligibility Center manages the daily operations of the NLI program while the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) provides governance oversight of the program. Started in 1964 with seven conferences and eight independent institutions, the program now includes 676 Division I and II participating institutions. There are designated dates for different sports, and these dates are commonly referred to as "Signing Day".



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PROGENY 21 FOXCROFT SCHOOL STUDENTS AND GRADS ARE NAMED AP SCHOLARS



NINE CURRENT FOXCROFT STUDENTS RECENTLY WERE NAMED AP SCHOLARS. THEY ARE (LEFT-TO-RIGHT, BACK ROW): CHARLOTTE SCHARFENBERG, LUCY MATZ, ALEX GRACE, LILLY SAVIN, SERENA HOLZ AND (L-R, FRONT ROW) MARIAS BLUNDELL, MARINA SHALLCROSS, PATIA FANN AND ISABELLA ZHAI. CHARLOTTE, ALEX, SERENA, MARIAS, MARINA AND PATIA -- WHOS LED THE PACK WITH A AP SCHOLAR WITH DISTINCTION DESIGNATION -- ARE ALL FROM THE AREA.

An impressive 21 Foxcroft School students -- including nine current seniors and one-third of last spring's graduates -- earned 2015 AP Scholar designation from the College Board for extraordinary achievement on Advanced Placement Exams, Academic Dean Courtney Ulmer announced Monday.

This is the 12th consecutive year in which Foxcroft has seen the number of AP Scholars reach double digits.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides academically-prepared students the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. Worldwide, only about 24 percent of the 2.3 million students who took AP Exams performed well enough to earn an AP Scholar Award.

Patia Fann of Purcellville, VA, led the way among the current seniors by earning the AP Scholar with Distinction Award for achieving an average of at least 3.5 (out of 5) on all the AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of the tests.

Eight members of the Class

of 2015 also qualified for this lofty honor: Meredith Dietz of Unionville, PA, who is a freshman at Northeastern University), Phoebe Fei (Zhejiang, China, Carnegie-Mellon), Arianna Gorman (Haymarket, VA; University of California, San Diego), Ja Yoon Lee (Seoul, Rhode Island School of Design), Molly Murphy (Middleburg, University of Virginia), Jolina Shen (Beijing, Emory University), Stephanie Zhang (Guangdong, China, Emory) and Amy Zhang (Beijing, UVA, ward University).

Lucy Matz, a current senior from Coatesville, PA, Julia Peters (Great Falls, VA) and 2015 graduate Lillian Potter (Middleburg, Hollins University) were named AP Scholars with Honor after achieving scores of 3 or better on at least four tests with an average of 3.25 on all the AP exams they took.

Two recent graduates and seven members of the Class of 2016 achieved AP Scholar status by earning grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. Alumnae Hannah All, a freshman at UVA from Middleburg, VA) and Tory Weber (Waterford, VA, Boston College) were joined by current seniors Marias Blundell (Bluemont, VA), Alex Grace (Purcellville, VA), Serena Holz (Delaplane, VA)

Lilly Savin (West Palm Beach, FL), Charlotte Scharfenberg (Middleburg), Marina Shallcross (New York, NY) and Isabela Zhai (Beijing) in this category.

More than 3,600 colleges and universities annually receive AP scores. Most four-year colleges

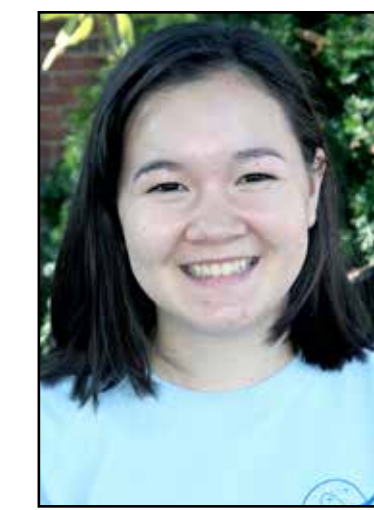
in the U.S. provide credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying exam scores. Research consistently shows that students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher college graduation rates than stu-

dents who do not participate in the Advanced Placement program.

Foxcroft has a tradition of academic excellence that is reflected in these results. For more information about the school, please explore our website or call 540.687.5555.

FOXCROFT'S PATIA FANN EARNS NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDATION

PURCELLVILLE RESIDENT AMONG NATION'S TOP SCORING STUDENTS



Patia Fann, a Foxcroft School senior from Purcellville, VA, has been named a Commended Student in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program, Foxcroft Head of School Catherine S. McGehee announced Monday at a school meeting.

More than 1.5 million juniors in 21,000 U.S. high schools enter the 2016 program by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) last fall. Just 34,000 of them, chosen from among the 50,000 high scorers on the

exam, earned commended student status.

Patia scored in the top two percent of all test-takers, well enough to have been a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist in several less populated states.

Although she will not continue in the 2016 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Patia may be eligible for special scholarships and grants. The National Merit Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies, awarding scholarships worth \$33 million.

WWW.MBECC.COM

PASTIMES

CHRISTMAS OR THANKSGIVING CACTUS



KAREN REXRODE

Settling the seasonal cacti dilemma, how do you tell the difference between Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus? Both are species of schlumbergera, named after Frederick Schlumberger, a Belgian horticulturist. Thanksgiving cactus is Schlumbergera truncata (cut off) with leaf sections that have pointy edges or lobes. Christmas cactus is S. x buckleyi, a hybrid using all 6 species of schlumbergera (native to Brazil). Both produce flowers that resemble one another, the only difference is the color of the anthers, which are purplish on Christmas cactus and yellow on Thanksgiving cactus. The triggers for flowering are the same, shortened days, cooler temperatures, and dryer conditions. Since most of these occur naturally in fall, buds of-

ten develop at the same time on both species. If your plant grows but does not flower, increase the light, keep the plant away from artificial light sources at night and let it go a little dry. The dryness imitates a dry season which occurs naturally in tropical regions where they grow. Incredibly long lived, I remember repotting an old plant at the plant farm only to find a marble in the soil. When the customer came to pick it up, he remembered losing the marble as a young boy. The plant was on its third generation of owners. Easy to propagate as well, every leaf section has the potential to root, which is best done in early spring or late winter. Simply break the sections where they join each other and place in a shallow container with a gritty potting soil. Sand and potting soil



THE ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

I care about my eyes. We all use them and we all, given a moment to think about what I have just said, would rank them as one of our grandest possessions, but do you take your vision for granted? I do not. I use my eyes, no, rely on my eyes and my vision everyday. I make my living by observation and there is no greater tool than sight to accomplish this. While this is an art column, we all are bombarded by stressful things to our eyes. Your artistic endeavors aside, driving, sitting in front of computer screens large and small, bright sunlight, night time headlights and a plethora of signs, all at different focal points, are a visual juggling act. Add

in many wearing glasses or contacts, with different prescriptions of strength, plus changing seasons, dryness and tear reduction with age, well, the old eye balls take a beating. Years ago my wife Linda and I started scheduling regular eye examinations. It was important to me to make sure my most useful tool was 100% part of my artistic team. Yes, team! In order to do what I, and most artists do for a living, there is a team. It includes our mind, hands, our sense of inspiration and certainly vision, both inward and outward. Listen, in short, quality vision is a must and where that is concerned, I have trusted my vision to only one person. Middleburg's top visionary, Dr. Charles "Chip" Stine of Middleburg Eye Center.

Okay, so as much as this might sound like a personal endorsement, you betcha it is! Practicing in a quaint 1700's log cabin at #4 Pendleton Street in Middleburg since 1989, Chip Stine has offered the highest quality of eye care and so fortunately for us, to a small town population. Imagine that, one of an artist's best resources available right here? Think about it. You can't get your art supplies here, but you can have your eye sight monitored in trusting hands, and friends, you cannot mail order that! I recently had my annual examine with Dr. Stine and this I'd love to share. Dr. Stine doesn't know unhappy. One of Chip's greatest assets is the most genuine smile on the planet. This

is backed up by being so authentically small town hospitable, that sitting in his chair brings a feeling of honesty and trust. You never feel like Middleburg Eye Center is some satellite location to a big conglomerate. There's an education to be had in a visit with Dr. Stine as well. Safe focal distances and eye care are important messages, but your eye doctor can see things in your eyes that other doctors can not, such as diabetes, high cholesterol, hypertension and more. Yours eyes are a unique window into you. What I like about Dr. Stine's approach too is he's not an over prescriber and since he doesn't sell glasses, there's no conflict of interest in his prescribing or not prescribing a prescription for them.



You know your eyes are important to you and especially as a visual artist they can be everything. If you haven't had your eyes checked or if it's been years since your last check up, an eye exam is a great gift to give yourself this year and hey, you could also meet one of Middleburg's finest people in the process!

Live An Artful Life, Tom

THE HUMAN BODY SHOP

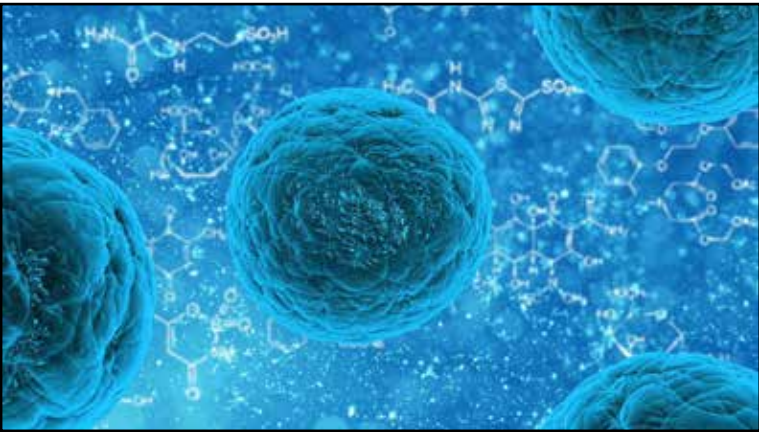
IMED

TERRY SHARRER

Let's begin with a few specific examples from the not-too-distant past. In 2006, a team at Wake Forest University removed muscle and bladder cells from a young woman and cultured those cells in their lab before seeding them onto a bladder-shaped scaffold. Those cells grew into a new bladder which surgeons successfully implanted, restoring normal function. Five years later, regenerative medicine researchers at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm used bone marrow stem cells to grow the world's first synthetic trachea, which they implanted in a patient whose natural trachea had become cancerous. Three years ago, surgeons

at Hasselt University Hospital in Belgium implanted a 3-D printed lower jawbone, made from titanium powder, into an 83 year old woman's mouth. Later she had false teeth set into her new jaw, but already by then, dental scientists at King's College London were making progress toward growing human teeth with natural root structures from adult human gingival epithelial cells of the gum. And quite recently, bio-engineers at London's Queen Mary University announced their findings that a solution of proteins and peptides, upon touching each other, self-assembled into shapes that can be guided into forming blood vessels. This list could go on and on, as news in 2015 alone included announcements of bi-ionic eye implants, regenerated

taste buds, 3-D printed ear-drums, lab gown contracting muscle, and insulin-producing mini-organs that can be transplanted into the omentum of severe diabetics. Innovation is speeding up, as everything seems to stimulate everything else. The technologies that drive biomedical engineering today—stem cell culture, 3-D printing with living cells, protein chemistry for biomaterials, and neuroprosthetics—have surprisingly long histories. As a whimsy, MIT alumnus Arthur Little denatured hog collagen and spun it into a smooth fiber to make "a silk purse from a sow's ear" in 1921. His purse is in the Smithsonian, but collagen is used today to make artificial organ scaffolds. James Till and Ernest McCulloch, at the Ontario



Cancer Institute, proved the existence of stem cells in 1961, but it wasn't until 2007 that Shinya Yamanaka and James Thomson independently demonstrated how fully differentiated cells could be reverted to what's called "induced pluripotent stem cells." With stem cells at hand, engineers at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh (UK) created a 3-D cell printer in 2013 for living tissue fabrication, though rapid prototype printing began a generation earlier.

Neuroprosthetics derive from the first pacemaker in 1950, and first cochlear implant in 1972, but now devices that affix to the surface of the brain can free "locked in" patients from the most severe paralysis. It is conceivable that the future will bring a 3-D printed novel-fabric patch, made of stem cells, that literally is a living prosthetic. And, we should notice that all the technologies of biomedical engineering are becoming automated.

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HOW DO YOU ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL DESIGN?

ASK A REMODELER



TIM BURCH

A successful remodeling project is one that improves your family's enjoyment of your home long after the project is completed, and the process starts with a great design. Following are a few tips I often share with clients to help ensure successful designs and get their remodeling experiences started on the right foot.

Collect your Ideas

While tearing pages out

of magazines is one option, a great online tool for collecting and sharing ideas for your home renovation is Houzz. Houzz features more than 8 million photos uploaded by remodeling and design professionals, which can be filtered by room, style, and geographic location. Photos you love can be noted and organized in online "Ideabooks," then shared with others. It's a great way to visually communicate what you're looking for and collaborate with members of your design team.

Brainstorm with All Parties

Include your spouse or partner and family in developing a list of needs and wants, as well as a list of what challenges you're experiencing in your existing home. You may not all be on the same page and you don't need to figure out the solutions, but presenting all of the information to the design team will help them to work with you to develop the best strategy.

Wait for the "Aha"

I tell people that when the design is right, you'll know it! If you find yourself questioning various aspects of the layout, scope or features then communicate with your team and keep at it. Making design changes on paper is cheap, and your team should be willing to rework the details until the design feels right for your family. The additional time spent will ensure a smoother construction process and fewer costly changes.

Make Decisions Based on Your Family

You can surround yourself with a team of experts, but at the end of the day the decisions that are made have to be what's best for your family. I often advise against making a decision strictly

based on resale value or always deferring to an interior designer for finishes. While you certainly want to consider the input of your team, ultimately you know what will serve your family best and you should trust yourself to make the right decisions to ensure maximum enjoyment.

Work with a Respected Design Build Partner

An experienced design build professional will serve as your single point of accountability for the entire process, from project feasibility and needs assessment to drawing, selecting and budgeting on through to construction. During this process construction professionals are working alongside the architectural team and other specialists to ensure reliable materials are specified, drawings are clear, and challenges are addressed to lay the ground work for a smooth production process. Most importantly, they are ensuring that the project that is being designed aligns with the homeowner's budget goals finding areas of efficiency and appropriate cost savings wherever possible. Perhaps the most valuable advice I can give is enjoy the process! It really can and should be



a pleasure. Do you have a remodeling or design question for me that you'd like to see answered in the next issue? Email me at AskBOWA@bowa.com. Tim Burch is Vice President of BOWA, an award-winning design build firm specializing in luxury renovations ranging from master suites and kitchens to whole-house remodels. A Northern Virginia native, Tim focuses on clients in the Loudoun and Fauquier County areas providing them with his 25 years of expertise in the design build construction industry. He is a third generation builder, certified remodeler, and instructor. Prior to joining BOWA, he was the Lead Project Manager of Construction for the Emmy Award winning construction reality television show, Extreme Makeover Home Edition on ABC Television. For more information on Tim and the BOWA team, visit www.bowa.com, or call 703-734-9050. Have a question for Tim that you'd like to see covered in Middleburg Eccentric? Email him at AskBOWA@bowa.com.

DONNA AND BUDDY

A GIRL AND THEIR DOGS



Buddy is a Tibetan Terrier. You think he is a terrier, but he is not a terrier. The Tibetans are a 2000 year old dog bred in the Himalayas by the Tibetan Monks. They were considered watch dogs and good luck for the monks. The monks never sold the dogs. However, an English doctor visited the monks, and in return for the favors she did for them, the monks gave her dogs which she took back to India in the 20s. Shortly after, the doctor moved back to England where she was from, and then took the dogs to America where they were bred and thrived. In 1973 - the dogs were removed from rare-breed status and were finally recognized by the American Kennel Club. It took a long time! They are not terriers, they don't dig, but they need to be exercised. Their coat is long and shaggy and do you do need to comb them otherwise they will mat up. Strangely enough, Ti-

betans don't really shed. Thank goodness since my uniform a navy blue and removing dog hair would be a nightmare. Buddy will be four. Usually we have an older dog and then get a younger dog to help extend the older dog's life. Before we had Buddy, we had two Polish

sheep dogs. Once they were getting older and one passed away, my husband, Alan, said that we needed to get another dog; hence Buddy. Buddy and I exercise every morning, when I am home. I am a flight attendant and have been working for 43 years. Most of my

trips are either to Dubai, Japan or Beijing. It is really heartbreaking when I get ready for my trips and am packing my bag on the bed. Buddy will jump up on the bed, rest his head on one of the pillows and look at me with the saddest face. However, the absolute best thing is when I come home from

a trip. This dog acts like he hasn't seen me in a year! He jumps all around and makes little squealing sound and is so happy to see me. It is the best thing ever to have a dog that loves you unconditionally. He is so happy! I can't even imagine life without the love of a dog.

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Lysa, Middleburg Smiles Patient

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PASTIMES

HONORING TRADITION

BRANDY GREENWELL

Last month, in the article cooing my darling husband for our anniversary, I wrote, “traditions are bonds that grow stronger each year.” As we round into holiday season, starting with Thanksgiving and ending in 2016, we all need to buckle our seat belts for the upcoming hustle and bustle. Parties, benefits, pageants, vacations, shopping, family, food, food and more food whirl with momentum this time of year with only a few hours of daylight to manage it all.

Do you honor traditions? If not, you should. Bring on the warm and fuzzy feelings this season and share, establish or re-institute your traditions. Take the time out of your busy schedules to grow, your roots will thank you.

Fox hunting in general is a Sells/Greenwell family tradition as both of my parents hunted, they brought me along fox hunting as a child and now my husband, who also hunted in his youth, and I hunt together with Middleburg Hunt. Fox hunting on Thanksgiving is an extra special tradition. Around here, we give thanks to our landowners who generously let us ride across their land, the comradery hunting brings and the sport in general. We generally dine at a local

establishment on Thanksgiving, rather than cooking, and regale the tales of spending the morning with horse, hound and Mother Nature. Tally Ho!

After every holiday dinner, we traditionally like to play Trivial Pursuit. Growing up, I remember my father making child friendly Q&A so I could play with the adults. Last year, we introduced my parents to Cards Against Humanity. I had to make parent friendly Q&A so they could play the filterless, crass card game with Generation X competitors. Perhaps we need to alternate to be fair. Whichever game we choose, playing always brings togetherness, which is the point.

Both of my Grandmothers have passed, but without fail, we have the same menu for Christmas every year as we did when they put their magic touch on our nourishment. We say grace to them, as well as others not at the table, and it is just like they are with us gobbling rib roast, intentionally carved with a bone for every dog might I add, mashed potatoes and pickled watermelon rinds amongst many other traditional tasty treats. My husband and I started a new Christmas Eve tradition with having a seafood dinner to pay homage to his roots. After all, he is my lobster.

Whether it’s a recipe, an evening caroling, wearing a spe-



cial sweater, a flag football game, or array of lighted decorations, do your part to keep traditions alive. Don’t let the seasonal frenzy

overwhelm the important things: the history, the tradition and the gratitude for both. “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and

look around once in a while, you could miss it.” Thank you, Ferris Bueller. Chic. Chica-chic-ahh.

ALBERT’S CORNER

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

ALBERT P. CLARK

A long time ago, I wrote a letter to Santa. I waited patiently for a response, but it never came. At first, I chalked it up to mail delivery issues at the North Pole. Maybe a polar bear ate it. Maybe a fierce wind swept it out to the Arctic ice. Maybe an elf forgot to put it in Santa’s in box. I didn’t know. So I waited. And waited. And waited.

Then, just last week, out of the blue, an envelope arrived. It was a bit tattered from the long journey. But it had an unmistak-

able return address. I know of just the one guy at the North Pole after all. So it had to be from him. And it was!

He was really nice. It wasn’t a form letter or anything like that. He addressed it to me personally and even thanked me for the cookies and milk I left out for him on one of his recent visits. It seems he and Mrs. Claus might even be adopting a dog of their own soon. (Apparently, Rudolph needs a loyal friend who won’t laugh, call him names, or exclude him from games.)

He also explained that there are so many people contacting

him now via social media that it’s really hard to keep up with all of the regular mail.

Anyway, the whole letter was awesome and I’m going to frame it. He’s coming back this way in a few weeks, and he said he’d stop by. I’m so excited.

He did let me know, however, that he found my letter to be a little bit funny. In the letter, I explained that I was very worried about whether I had been naughty or nice. Being a dog, and a terrier at that, I sometimes do things that might not be all that great. It’s standard stuff – squirrel chasing, barking at deer, tearing up a shoe

or two. But I was still concerned.

What Santa told me in his letter was that dogs are never truly naughty. Never! He said we are some of the kindest souls on this earth. He said we’re amazing creatures. The heroic among us go to war, fight crime, detect illness, guide the blind, and provide therapy. Yet, he noted, even the most ordinary of us enrich the lives of our people in extraordinary ways. He said some of the tiniest of us are the mightiest, and some of the largest of us are the most gentle. He said we all understand something that very few people understand: unconditional

love.

But what he wrote at the end of the letter was the best compliment of all. He said that he brings gifts once a year, but that dogs are gifts each and every day.

Thank you, Santa. I think you’re pretty special too. Can’t wait to see you again! I’m counting the days.

Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wagg, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, with locations in VA and DC.



GRATITUDE AND FITNESS



KAY COLGAN
KAY COLGAN, CERTIFIED FITNESS AND PILATES PROFESSIONAL, HEALTH COACH

Recently, I encountered a conversation with an older gentleman; he was working at a local drug store. I asked him if he was having a good day. He replied he would rather be fishing. Which I said, maybe tomorrow. He went on to say, he cannot afford to go anymore. In fact, he said he use to own a business and had everything. Now, he says he has nothing. As I left from the store, I wished him good luck and maybe things would turn around. Unfortunately, with his present state of mind, he will stay right where he is. Sometimes we can’t see the forest for the trees. So to be grateful for anything is hard when we only see what is wrong or what we can no longer do.

Gratitude goes hand in hand with fitness. Numerous studies have been done to show the impact gratitude has on us psychologically and physically. Appreciating what you already have, no matter how great or small may be the secret to a happier, healthier life. In fact, a study done by the University of California-Davis in 2007 showed a direct correlation of gratitude and life satisfaction. Those who were grateful had increased life satisfaction. The simple act of writing a letter of gratitude to someone who has touched their life in some way, left them with a more positive outlook on life. One of my wonderful clients, wrote me a letter that I received on a day that I was not feeling particularly positive. In his letter, he said that he was grateful for my classes and what they had done for him. Wow, it

totally turned my day around and I realized how lucky I am to be in this profession. I keep that letter in a special place and often times I take it out to reread it. It brightens my day.

Relationships can be strengthened by focusing on what is right instead of what is wrong with your partner. To feel more connected in your relationship, focus on the positive gestures your partner makes. This will help to strengthen your bond.

Numerous studies have been done to show the relationship of mental health and being

grateful. Despite life challenges you may be facing, taking the time to journal what you are grateful for can help increase energy levels and boost a more positive outlook.

The research shows us that a better quality of sleep is had by those that are grateful. Just the mere act of saying a few things out loud that you are grateful for might improve the quality of sleep.

Finally being grateful allows you to be positive in all aspects of your life including fitness. Those that are grateful

seem to be motivated to work-out and enjoy it. Hence, feeling grateful goes hand in hand with fitness.

Thanksgiving is a great time to reflect on what you are grateful for and maybe set the tone for a more positive outlook going forward. I am grateful for all of you and wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

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

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Laverne is a 10 yr old, healthy & sound, 14.2h gaited Arabian X mare. She was rescued & is now ready to find her forever home. Laverne is sassy with other horses/top dog in the field! We have not yet tried her under saddle.



Dean is a very personable kitty who is looking for love! If he's not getting the attention he feels he deserves, he meows until you notice him. Dean had some kind of accident that left him with a broken leg before he came to us. He gets around just fine & is able to run & jump like other cats.



Roberta is a 9 yr old, 14.2h healthy & sound Paint mare who is very affectionate with people & is good with other horses. She & her weanling were rescued in October 2013. Roberta has good ground manners & would make a great companion.



Dudley is a young adult Pit Bull Terrier who is very affectionate & has lots of energy. He would do best in a dog-savvy home, & also a home without cats. He has a best friend here & plays a lot so we'd love for him to find a home with another dog. This cross-eyed pup is super fun.

Ivan is an active, friendly 5 yr old pug. He hasn't had much experience living indoors, so he is hoping for a home with someone who will patiently show him what to do. Ivan loves to play & has a doggie friend named Demi who he would love to go home with - but it is not required.



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



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LOUDOUN NOW: OUR FINEST HOUR

For all of us who love Loudoun, for all who love local news and the all-too-often underpaid and overworked journalists who report, write, edit and publish it, and especially for all of us who still love good old-fashioned paper-and-ink newspapers, the eight days between Tuesday, November 3 and Wednesday, November 11, may well be remembered as some of the county's darkest . . . and finest.

On that dark Tuesday the employees of Leesburg Today and Ashburn Today were told, by all accounts without warning, that the next edition of their papers would be the last; that, with few exceptions (press accounts put the number at five) few of them could expect to be hired by the organization that had bought them out and closed them down; and that unless alternative employment was found, their next paychecks, for most if not all of them, would be their last..

The next day's paper was, of course, one of the most important in the Loudoun County calendar: the election results issue.

The staffs of both Leesburg and Ashburn Today, despite the bad news, went to work to put out their papers. That's the kind of people they were and are.

By late Wednesday the community had begun to react in earnest.

By Friday a group of concerned citizens convened to ask Norman Styer and his team if they thought they would be willing and able to start a new paper. They said they thought they could.

By Sunday a group of dedicated staffers, supported by a truly diverse cross section of the community and a core of loyal advertisers made Friday's belief a formal commitment.

By Wednesday night a new paper, Loudoun Now and a new website, LoudounNow.com were ready.

They are now a welcome reality.

That's good news, good news indeed, for all of us in the county.

Good news for the First Amendment.

Not to mention good news for people who had dedicated, in some cases, nearly thirty years to reporting and publishing the local news and serving the community in many, many other ways.

When the offices of the Middleburg Eccentric burned to the ground, destroying everything we needed to produce our paper except our most vital resource, our people, Leesburg Today's editor, Norman Styer, now the Editor in Chief of Loudoun Now, was the first to call, offering office space, computers, and any other help he could provide to preserve and protect a paper that many would have seen as a competitor.

That's the kind of man he is . . . the kind of team he attracts . . . and the kind of people who rose up to encourage and support Loudoun Now.

In the weeks and months ahead we will do all we can to return the favor . . . to both the Loudoun Now team and all those who stood with them.

We hope you will too.

TOWN COUNCIL IN TRANSITION

At November's regular meeting of the Middleburg Town Council two of its members, Bundles Murdock and Kathy Jo Shea, announced that they would not be running for re-election next year. A third, Trowbridge Littleton, announced that he would run only if a suitable candidate can not be found for his seat. It was broadly hinted that a fourth, unnamed member, may not run.

If only Murdock, Littleton and Shea depart, well over half a century of institutional knowledge leaves council, not counting the years members of their families have served on Council, committees, and in other volunteer/public service capacities.

Middleburg has been blessed and enjoys a long tradition citizen public servants.

It's time for the next generation to step up and serve.

What that means, how its done, and what it takes will be the focus of an upcoming series of interviews with Council members in the months ahead.

We hope that, by February, we will be favored with a more-than-full slate of highly motivated, well-qualified, and public-spirited candidates.

We owe it to our community . . . and to all who have served us so well for so long.

THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING AN UNDERGRADUATE IN AMERICA THESE DAYS

RED

JIM MORGAN

The "Show Me" state has shown us how stupid campus political correctness has become. But Missouri University is just one among many. Yale and other hotbeds of student goofiness also have gotten in on the act.

At Mizzou, where this current whine-fest got started, someone apparently shouted the N-word at Payton Head, the student body president. Off campus. He blamed university president Tim Wright for not doing something about it and later falsely claimed that the KKK was operating on campus. One wonders how strong a presence the KKK could have on a campus that had elected a gay, black student body president.

Someone else smeared feces in the shape of a swastika on a bathroom wall. This also was deemed racist so the students issued a lengthy list of demands designed to hold the university administration accountable for these horrendous actions which made them all feel "unsafe" and "marginalized." No one seems to have asked why an off campus incident is the responsibility of the school or why a poop swastika is racist. Anti-Semitic, yes, but racist?

The football team then said it would take its ball and go home unless these outrages were stopped. I wonder if their 4-5 record had anything to do with that.

Grad student Jonathan Butler was so upset by the rampant racism at Mizzou that he went on a hunger strike. He wouldn't eat until the university president resigned and other conditions were met. But Gandhi he's not. Butler, complaining about the marginalization of himself and other students of color, is the son of a Union Pacific Railroad executive who made over \$8 million last year. I should be so marginalized. And the real reason behind his hunger strike? Grad students lost their free health care thanks to . . . wait for it . . . Obamacare.

Predictably, the university president apologized and resigned. Kind of amusing really. Poor guy never knew what hit him: a reliably liberal college administrator getting flanked on the left and called a racist. Jeez, you'd think he was a Republican or something. But it sure is fun to watch when PC devours its own.

They've even turned against freedom of speech by kicking a student journalist out of their safe space in the "common" area. Ironc, isn't it? And one student declared herself "tired of hearing that First Amendment rights protect students when they are creating a hostile and unsafe learning environment." Poor baby.

This whole thing is, of course, blatantly racist itself, and incredibly juvenile. It was created using phony stories of hate and discrimination in the aftermath of Ferguson which, itself, was based on a phony story. "Hands up, don't shoot" didn't happen. But Butler, who once worked for Rahm Emmanuel, cleverly took his old boss's advice to "never let a good crisis go to waste." Even if you have to make one up.

Meanwhile, a Yale administrator asked students not to wear "insensitive" Halloween costumes like sombreros. When Professor Erika Christakis of Yale's Silliman College replied that people should be able to wear whatever Halloween costume they want because universities shouldn't censor such things, some uber-sensitive students naturally called Christakis a racist. One of them then called her husband, Nicholas Christakis, Silliman's head master, "disgusting" because he's not making Yale a "welcoming place." These pathetic, whiny little children want "safe spaces" and "trigger warnings" to let them know when someone is about to say something that might traumatize their little doily brains. They really do seem to believe that the world revolves around their intellectual comfort zone. Heaven forbid that anyone should question that.

What kinds of parents raised these self-important little twits? And, anyway, shouldn't that be Silliperson College? I mean, "Silliman" is just so sexist.

For a good analysis of how "higher education" has become little more than a four-year extension of adolescence, read this: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/09/the-coddling-of-the-american-mind/399356/>

MISSOURI BREAKS BLUE

DAN MORROW

Six months ago the The University of Missouri in Columbia was no doubt best known for its world class School of Journalism (arguably the first school of its kind in the word), its Division One Tigers (their mascot is named Truman, after Harry), and a host of diverse, famous and infamous alums, among them Virginia's Tim Kaine, Brad Pitt, Ken Lay, George C. Scott, Sam Walton, and Tennessee Williams.

At press time "Mizzou" seems on the verge of becoming the poster child for what promises to be a long hot fall, winter and spring of protest on campuses all across the United States and (if 1968 serves as a precedent) all the western democracies.

First and foremost it has set an example, praised in some circles, condemned in others for successful social action in the face of what was perceived by students and faculty alike as a campus culture of pervasive and persistent racism.

The struggle wasn't against the most obvious and most mean-spirited manifestations of the mindset all too familiar to most if not all of us who have been paying attention at some point during any period of American history within living memory.

It struck out at racism in its most perfidious and difficult to address form, the racism made manifest in what could and should be the culture in which it was least likely to thrive: a modern, first-class American university devoted to preserving, protecting and passing on to future generation the highest of all its academic disciplines.

Second, Missouri's football team and coaches demonstrated once and for all the power of collective bargaining, and (sadly) what really seems to matter on all too many campuses. Months of protest created little or no change until, and only until, football with all its emotional and economic power, was brought to bear.

Third, and for a liberal most distressing, was that a problem so obvious, so well-studied, so destructive of everything that both liberal democracy and liberal education stands for, would in this day and age require such anti-theoretical means to address such well-meant ends.

Some scholars have applied the term "vindictive protection" to the attitudes displayed.

What our conservative friends tend to brand and condemn as "political correctness," most of the rest of us see as simply "good manners."

There now exists, however, a broad gray zone in which even good manners can be and are seen as "offensive."

One of the main functions of a college or university, in our view, is to explore and test the edges of that cyclically expanding and contracting gray zone.

A university or college that doesn't expose its students to people and ideas and behaviors that they may find offensive, insulting or even traumatic, is no university at all.

Protecting students from exposure to what are now often termed

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

Medecin sans Frontier (Doctors without Borders) is a remarkable organization of medical professionals who set up hospitals in remote and very often dangerous places in the world where other health providers often will not go.

Last month a horrific bombing by U.S. and Afghan forces destroyed an MSF hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan where patients burned in their beds, MSF staff members were killed and in one case decapitated. In all, 30 people were killed including 13 staff members, ten patients and seven unrecognizable victims yet to be identified.

Even more heinous and unbelievable is that staff members were shot while fleeing the building. MSF carefully informed both Afghan and U.S. officials of the coordinates of the hospital on a regular basis. The attack lasted for half an hour after the authorities were informed of the bombing!

MSF has demanded an independent investigation of the incident and will not be satisfied with simply internal one done by the Pentagon and Afghan government. So far one explanation is that the forces thought the hospital was under Taliban control a fact that MSF vehemently refutes.

This is not the first MSF facility to be attacked by U.S. and allied forces. Another hospital this time in Heedan, Yemen was attacked 23 days after the one in Kunduz.

These attacks violate the Geneva Convention and every humanitarian law on the books.

So why the attacks?

MSF, as their name implies, treats human beings without regard to their military affiliations, in other words wounded are wounded, Taliban, ISAL, Americans, Afghans etc. I am sure this raises questions with trigger-happy gunners on war ships and higher ups as well.

MSF has conducted 60 interviews with staff who were in the hospital at the time and has compiled a report that states that MSF did everything it possibly could do to make sure the U.S. and Afghan forces knew the hospital was a civilian hospital treating wounded from all sides. Their rules are that no one may carry a weapon inside or around the build-

A THANKSGIVING PERSPECTIVE ON LEADERSHIP

THE PUBLIC SQUARE

CHANDLER AND JERRY. "DUTCH" VAN VOORHIS

The Public Square holds there is a great need for the return of virtue as the defining quality in public service - and leading well.

In one year, we will choose the next President of the United States. As the candidates struggle to win, voters are trying to understand how the contenders, themselves, are made up.

The act of creating appeal with voters and aligning with hopes of donors obscures who the candidates really are. But to voters character matters over issues and style. Issues change, and style may be captivating at first but soon pass from fashion.

The Debates help only a little. In pressing their chances to inherit a culture of power, candidates too often blur their assets in their very talk. They don't answer questions, or they try and speak to every side. And the very debate stage is confused with competing party brands vying among dominance. Finally, those lacking in public trust are likely if they win to be maimed in office for their term. This drags a nation down.

As we thank the presidential candidates for the rigor in sharing themselves in the debates, Thanksgiving may be good time to look at the deeper index of instincts forming good leaders. Here are a few:

- Good leaders know who they are. They know their roots well, and have a great sense of home, of comfort with themselves, and of place. Their goodwill, born of confidence, is contagious.
- Good leaders often are tied to the land. By nature, land fashions us less as consumers than citizens. Washington was our Nation's first farmer. Jefferson
- Good leaders have a true sense of servant hood. They rigorously avoid one of entitlement. They perennially reach out to others to enlarge their lives and their work, counting this - the good they do - as their own.
- Good leaders bring purpose, energy and reform to all they do. But they never become captive of their own ideas. They know life is part of a much larger arena for overcoming human adversity.
- None of this is to sweep aside deep preparation for holding office. Education in various circles of power, the limits of human nature, and the ideas, interests, institutions, and ideologies of the time, are critical tools in the art of governing. A President must be Chief Executive, Chief of State, Commander-in-Chief, Chief Diplomat, and Chief of Party, among other roles, to be effective.

But more than preparations suit a leader for tasks of great responsibility. Good leaders know the culture around them, but know when to resist it. They don't really use power, as much as deftly know how to assume it. They see leadership as setting a tone, offering spacious direction, inspiring the public faith, uplifting the citizenry.

The root of true leadership is virtue, and virtue depends on character, and character depends on honor. The American nation is built on honor. Trust is the very sinew of democracy. More than pitches and programs and benefits, we need a call to honor as a country.

Beneath the personalities and issues, let us call upon leaders who will nourish America's self and nurture her soul, and know the balance of each, and how to help uplift both. The Public Square believes virtue is the defining quality to isolate in the presidential choices in 2016.

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The Haven
The Plains, Virginia
\$2,295,000

Fabulous equestrian property • High efficiency low maintenance home with state of the art geothermal and solar systems • Stone fireplaces, pool, cabana • Great kitchen and bathrooms • Huge front porch overlooking pond • 7 stall stable with apartment • Euro felt arena • 4 paddocks and prime ride out location

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Foxhall
Round Hill, Virginia
\$1,000,000

Historic property in protected area • First offering since 1951 • 3 log structures circa 1690, 1720, and 1940 connected to create charming home • 4 BR, 3 BA, 3 FP & beautiful floors • Huge boxwoods • Needs updating • 33.89 acres mostly open • Creek • Solid barn • Original structure Quaker meeting house

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Stonewood
Middleburg, Virginia
\$750,000

Charming stucco, log & frame home on 6.38 acres • 3-4 bedrooms • 3 1/2 baths • 2 fireplaces (one in the kitchen with antique brick floor) • Beautiful reclaimed pine flooring • Bright & sunny family room opens to bluestone terrace • Master bedroom opens to private balcony • 2 car garage • 4 stall barn with tack room • More land available

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Faraway Farm
Middleburg Area
\$2,975,000

Solid stone home with copper roof on 70 acres • Original portions dating from the 1700's • First floor bedroom & 3 additional suites • Original floors • 8 fireplaces • Formal living room • Gourmet kitchen • 2 ponds • Mountain views • Stone walls • Mature gardens • Pool • Log cabin • Piedmont Hunt

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Buck Run Farm
Hume, Virginia
\$1,925,000

Stone & stucco cottage overlooking 2 ponds & amazing mountain views • 72 acres with minimal maintenance & maximum quality throughout shows in every detail • 4 BR • 2 1/2 BA • 3 fireplaces • Copper roof • Antique floors & beams • Charming library & multiple french doors open to massive stone terrace

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Briar Lane
Delaplane, Virginia
\$885,000

31.6 acres of rolling land combines open pasture with mature woods • 4 bedroom brick & stucco home • Sited to capture views from every window • Large main level master suite overlooks gardens, terrace, pool & large stocked pond • Improved by a 4 stall barn and 2 car garage • Gorgeous land and a manageable property for full time or weekend • Very well priced

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Kenthurst Lane
The Plains, Virginia
\$700,000

Colonial on 2.51 private acres • Classical architecture with notable features • Coffered ceiling • Dental moulding • Transom windows • Stone fireplace • Sand-in-place hardwood throughout main and second levels • 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths & 2 fireplaces

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Trough Hill Farm
Middleburg, Virginia
\$2,450,000

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Ragley
Upperville, Virginia
\$1,600,000

13.54 acres surrounded by large estates • Prime protected location • Updated brick home • Notable room sizes • 5 bedrooms • 5 full baths and two 1/2 baths • 2 fireplaces • In-ground pool • Stone walls • Beautiful gardens • Well built home

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Dogwood
The Plains, Virginia
\$870,000

Private 10 acres between Middleburg and The Plains • 3/4 bedroom home • Open floor plan • Large front porch with views to the west • Traditional materials such as stucco exterior and metal roof • Wood floors • Fireplaces • Built in book shelves • Beautiful plantings and fenced yard • Great location and easy maintenance

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Copper Hill Farm
Haymarket, Virginia
\$680,000

Private horse property • Brick home w/first floor master BR • 4 BR • 2 1/2 BA • Bright, freshly painted, new carpeting, refinished hardwood floors & high ceilings • Open floor plan • Screened in porch off kitchen • Living room w/FP • 5 stall barn • Paddocks • Dressage ring • Large storage building

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Fairview
Boyce, Virginia
\$2,300,000

Circa 1904 Colonial home • 3 BR • 3 1/2 BA • High ceilings • Gourmet kitchen • 5 fireplaces • 90x200 covered arena • 12 total stalls • Main barn redesigned by John Blackburn • 4 bay garage with apartment • 12 paddocks • Asphalt drive & security gate • Heated pool • Property has 2 DUR's and whole house generator • Hilltop setting with mountain views

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Echo Hill
The Plains, Virginia
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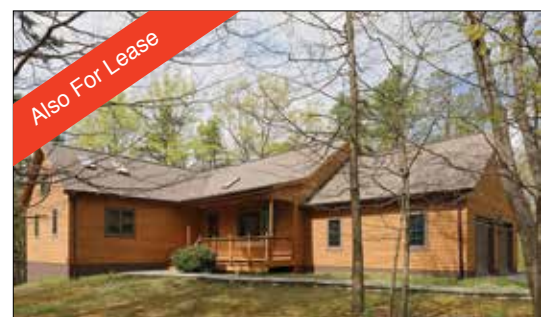
STONEHILL FARM



Turnkey horse farm on **6+ lush acres** only 2 min. from Middleburg. Fully updated stucco & stone farmhouse. 3-4 BRs/2.5 BAs. Traditional details throughout. Hardwood floors, original fireplaces, high ceilings, crown molding & cast iron radiators. Spacious eat-in country Kitchen, formal Living Room and Dining Room. Outbuildings include Garden Shed & 4-stall center aisle Barn. 6 paddocks with new fencing, automatic waterer & run-in. Great ride out. Middleburg Hunt territory. **\$765,000**

Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

BUCHANNON GAP



Priced below recent appraisal! Custom built cedar home atop Bull Run Mtns. on **8+ private acres**. Windows & skylights bring nature into this 3 BR, 2 BA home. Gourmet Kitchen with NEW appliances, granite & ceramic tile, Great Room with Cathedral ceiling, stone fireplace & hardwood floors. Spacious Master Suite with Luxury Bath. Full walk-out basement with woodstove & ready for Bath. Front porch, rear deck & 2-car Garage. **\$635,000**

Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

FORTUNE MOUNTAIN



Marshall, VA ~ Beautiful custom built Cape, on approx. **4 gorgeous acres** with wonderful mountain views. Built in 2003 with the finest quality and craftsmanship, this 3/4 bedroom home offers 4300 SF with vaulted ceilings, 4 full baths, stunning windows, spacious deck surrounding the pool, 2 stall barn and run in shed. Pristine condition and lovely neutral decor. Finished lower level, to use as an office and/or recreation room. **\$559,000**

Mary Ann McGowan (540) 687-5523

649 FEDERAL STREET



Paris, VA~Ideal Hunt Box or investment property! Circa 1909, charming 2-bedroom/1-full bath cottage, on main street Home features an enclosed front porch, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen. Original hardwood floors throughout. All cabinetry inside the house was custom made by the late owner, Calvin Thomas. Located on a corner lot with sweeping lawns. Turnkey detached workshop with electricity and wood stove. Property being offered "as is." **\$295,000**

Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

FARM HOUSE



Rare opportunity to live on a large farm between Middleburg and The Plains. Three bedrooms and two baths. Very large country kitchen, mudroom, Living room and Dining room/study. Hardwood floors throughout, pastoral views and sun filled rooms. Sweet front porch overlooking fields. Located in the most desirable area of Orange County Hunt territory. Very private and quiet. **\$1,990/mo**

Rein duPont (540) 454-3355

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