

FOXES ON THE FENCE



HIGHCLIFF CLOTHERS' "DANDY THE FOX"
FOXES ON THE FENCE ENTRY
ARTIST: JUDITH THOMPSON



DEBBIE CADENAS

THE GREAT FOX AUCTION

The Middleburg Garden Club and the Middleburg Arts Council are busy working on a new Spring project for the town. "Foxes on The Fence" a collaboration between local business, schools, and shops with our talented local artists. Starting April 1st, you will see 32 Four foot Foxes leaping and jumping across the fences of Main Street. The Foxes will remain (after online bidding) until the

Art In The Burg event May 20.

The Middleburg Garden Club was approached by professional artist and member Debbie Cadenas who had this great idea. "We have been looking for more ways to help this town and build this community," said President Darcy Justen, "This was perfect. We look forward to working with the Arts Council and the town on raising money for beautification. Our town has been through a lot this past year."

Most shops, business, and schools were very excited to sponsor a fox, and all the artists are donating their time and talent to this wonderful project. This event will launch April 1 with all 32 pieces of art in the shape of a fox hanging for all to see on the iron

fence located on the corner of Main Street. The 7-week event will close with a large Art In The Burg event. All the bidding will be online through their Facebook page Foxes On The Fence. There will be lots of advertising, brochures, and information on bidding coming up soon all over the town.

Look for a People's Choice Award where you get to pick your favorite fox on the Foxes On The Fence Facebook page coming soon. The artist will receive a cash prize and be announced at the Art in Burg Event May 20, 2017.

There seems to be quite a bit of excitement surrounding this event maybe even local news station coverage, so we will keep you posted.

All the Fox sponsorships are taken and artist slots filled, but if you have any other questions, please contact Darcy Justen ddjusten@yahoo.com.

ANIMAL QUARANTINE & AIR TRANSPORT CENTER AT DULLES INTERNATIONAL: TIMELY BOON TO MID-ATLANTIC HORSE INDUSTRY

GREAT MEADOW INTERNATIONAL'S HOPES RIDE HIGH
TO HOST NEW U.S. 4-STAR EVENT

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Mount Gordon Farm
The Plains, Virginia
\$11,750,000

128 acres and immaculate 3 level, 13,000+ sq ft stone & shingle main house • 5 BR • 8 FP • Exceptional finishes on every floor • Caterer's kitchen • Elevator • Spa • Separate guest cottage • Pool • Farm manager residence • 3 additional tenant houses • 12 stall center-aisle stable • Pond • Extraordinary land w/incomparable views extending beyond the Blue Ridge Mts • Orange County Hunt

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Cadore
Middleburg, Virginia
\$1,800,000

Custom-built stone & stucco home • 4+ bedrooms include 1st floor master • Gourmet kitchen • Home office with T-1 line & VIP security system & home automation • 4 stone patios • Perennial gardens & large mature trees • 3-car garage • Gated entrance, pristine grounds, pond, barn • 24 acres

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



The Hague-Hough House
Waterford, Virginia
\$1,495,000

Hill top setting in historic village of Waterford • Circa 1745 brick and stone home on 17.20 acres • 6 BR, 5 BA & 7 FP • Beautiful woodwork throughout • High ceilings • Meticulous renovation • Improvements include barn w/apartment • Garage space for 6 vehicles • In-ground pool • Large pool house • Stone outbuildings • Lovely gardens

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Halfway Road
The Plains, Virginia
\$595,000

13.37 acres in prime Orange County Hunt territory • 1/2 open, 1/2 wooded • Mountain views to the west • Spring fed pond • Hard to find small tract

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Langhorne Farm
Upperville, Virginia
\$5,320,000

266 acres in Piedmont Hunt • Panoramic views of the Blue Ridge, Bull Run and Cobler mountains which surround the whole property • Improvements include 4 farmhouses, an iconic red dairy barn and many agricultural buildings • Ponds and traditional stone walls • This working farm is protected by a Virginia Outdoors Foundation conservation easement which allows 2 parcels

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



Silcott Springs Farm
Purcellville, Virginia
\$1,700,000

Traditional fieldstone house, circa 1790 with 2009 addition and renovations • 4 bedrooms • 3 1/2 baths • 6 fireplaces • High ceilings • Gourmet kitchen • Guest house, barn, spring house, run in sheds • 44.61 fenced & usable acres • Spring fed pond

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Echo Hill
The Plains, Virginia
\$1,250,000

Stone English country home in top location between Middleburg & The Plains on 13 acres • 4 BR home with new kitchen & main level master suite • Hardwood floors, built-in book cases, fireplaces & bright open family room • Bluestone terrace overlooks new pool & entertaining area • Separate guest cottage/pool house & garage • Whole-house generator

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Dover Road
Middleburg, Virginia
\$500,000

Brick home on 3 acres • Minutes from Middleburg • Sold in "AS IS" condition • 4 bedrooms • 2 1/2 baths • 2 fireplaces • 2 stall barn • Shed • Pool in need of repair • Rear brick terrace • Little bit of work but great value

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Creighton Farms
Leesburg, Virginia
\$2,800,000

"Highgate" at Creighton Farms • Possibly best elevated building site east of Bull Run Mountains • Brick and stone exterior • 6,126 sf finished living space • 5 bedrooms • 5 full + 2 half baths • 4 fireplaces • Elevated ceiling height • Superior craftsmanship • Gourmet kitchen • Master suite on main level • Wood and limestone floors • 4 car garage on 4.04 acres

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Westwind Farm
Middleburg, Virginia
\$1,575,000

Classic Middleburg colonial, completely redone in 2009 • 5 BR • 4 full BA, 2 half BA • 2 FP • Gourmet kitchen • Top of the line finishes throughout • 2-car attached garage • Beautifully landscaped • Sweeping unobstructed mountain views • 21.08 gently rolling acres • Fenced & cross fenced • Great barn, multiple run in sheds & riding/jumping paddocks

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Janney Street
Waterford, Virginia
\$996,000

Custom built Quaker reproduction in Historic Waterford • Brick and frame home • Beautiful woodwork • Wood floors • High ceilings • Grand rooms • 4 bedrooms • 3 1/2 baths • 4 fireplaces • 2 separate lots • 3 car garage

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Snickersville Turnpike
Middleburg, Virginia
\$397,000

16.38 gently rolling acres • 4 bedroom perc site • Fronts on Snickersville Turnpike • Minutes to Middleburg

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905
Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



Old Fox Den Farm
The Plains, Virginia
\$1,985,000

Restored 3 bedroom 1830's farmhouse on 65 acres • Multiple porches & fireplaces, lots of charm • Lovely pool, shared pond, 4 stall barn, workshop • Expansive mountain views, rolling open pasture & fully fenced elevated land • Gorgeous setting in the protected valley between Middleburg and The Plains • Conservation easement permits 2 more homes to complete the compound

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Willow Way Farm
Middleburg, Virginia
\$1,500,000

Prime Middleburg location • House completely redone in 2004 • Hill top setting with panoramic mountain views • 3 BR • 3.5 BA • Main level master suite • Pine floors • Beautiful millwork • 3 FP • Attached 2-car garage • Beautiful windows • Gracious room sizes • 4-stall barn • Riding ring • In-ground pool • Lovely gardens • 31.05 acres recorded in 3 parcels

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



6428 Main Street
The Plains, Virginia
\$995,000

Gorgeous country home • Historic village • Panoramic views • 3 acres • Beautifully landscaped grounds with terraced herb garden and pool • 3 BR, 2 full + 2 half baths • Master bedroom w/gas FP on main level • Large dining room w/built-in china cabinets • 2 BR upstairs w/shared BA • Lower level family room w/wood-burning FP • Wet bar & french doors to pool area • Recently renovated

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Squirrel Hall
Bluemont, Virginia
\$382,000

The perfect getaway cabin • Charming post and beam cottage with log addition • Antique brick fireplace, wood stove, vaulted ceilings, beautiful woodwork • Ready for full time living or ultimate weekend escape • Quality construction and great privacy on 3 acres • Just a few miles from Route 7 and easy access to the Appalachian Trail and local wineries

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930

NEWS OF NOTE

ANIMAL QUARANTINE & AIR TRANSPORT CENTER AT DULLES INTERNATIONAL: TIMELY BOON TO MID-ATLANTIC HORSE INDUSTRY

GREAT MEADOW INTERNATIONAL'S HOPES RIDE HIGH TO HOST NEW U.S. 4-STAR EVENT

LAUREN R. GIANNINI

Anyone with a vested interest in the horse industry should be jumping for joy about the multi-million-dollar Animal Quarantine Import-Export Center planned for Dulles International Airport. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Task Force is currently reviewing several applications to develop, build and run this center.

One of the applicants is John J. Cuticelli, Jr., the man behind The ARK at JFK International Airport, New York City. He got involved when contacted by Rob Banner, president of the Great Meadow Foundation in The Plains.

Great Meadow and Banner both played key roles in advancing the idea that the time had come for an animal quarantine center at Dulles to serve the increasing needs of the Mid-Atlantic equestrian communities, especially the horse-centric counties of Loudoun and Fauquier.

With Great Meadow International hosting the only FEI Nations Cup of Eventing™ this side of the Atlantic Ocean, horses will be flying in from Europe and other parts of the world. On top of that, Great Meadow is one of two finalists — Fair Hill in Maryland is the other — being considered by U.S. Equestrian (USEF.org) to host a second Concours Complet International 4-star (CCI****) in the U.S.

Timing Is Everything

When the heirs of Great Meadow's founder, the late Arthur (Nick) Arundel, put the adjacent property, Fleming Farm, on the market, Banner started thinking that the land would be perfect for a big, spectator-based 3-day event.

"Nick always said that Great Meadow and Fleming Farm belonged together," he recalled. "By buying that farm, we could preserve more open space, but at the time Great Meadow didn't have money for the purchase. When we started thinking about eventing and how we could host international level competition, that's when I contacted David O'Connor [U.S. Eventing Team coach]. I didn't know it at the time, but he had been looking for a site to host that level."

Banner wanted a 4-star, but O'Connor thought that the best possibility would be to host a Nations Cup of Eventing. Banner got to work, and generous sup-



THIS ARTISTIC RENDERING OF A HORSE BEING LED INTO THE ARK AT JFK'S IMPORT RECEIVING BAY WILL GO LIVE IN Q2 2017 WITH THE OPENING OF PHASE 2. A FULL-SERVICE ARK IMPORT-EXPORT CENTER, FEATURING EQUINE QUARANTINE/IMPORT, GROOMS' LOUNGE, AND THE ARK AVIARY.

porters empowered the acquisition in early 2014 of the adjacent 174-acres, which expanded Great Meadow to 380 acres. The extra acreage provided plenty of room for the proposed new eventing cross-country course, huge outdoor all-weather arena, and schooling rings. The hallowed ground of the Gold Cup course would be used as lightly as possible to preserve the great turf footing for racing.

O'Connor knew his sport inside out. After retiring from competition with Olympic individual gold and two team medals (silver, bronze) among his accolades, he served as president of the U.S. Equestrian Federation from 2004–2012. He and his wife Karen, also an Olympic medalist, live and train in The Plains. O'Connor knew many of the key local people involved with Great Meadow and eventing. He also confirmed that Great Meadow met all the criteria necessary to host international eventing.

To put Great Meadow on the radar of the USEF and FEI (International Equestrian Sports Federation), O'Connor worked with Mike Etherington-Smith, world class cross-country course de-

signer and former chief executive of British Eventing, and Banner, to name a few.

Great Meadow, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, operates under the stewardship of the Great Meadow Foundation and the entire field events center, including the steeplechase course and eventing facility, is in perpetual easement. This honors Arundel's vision of a multi-purpose equestrian and field sports park dedicated to the preservation of open space and service to the community.

In late July 2014, Great Meadow hosted the final prep event for the U.S. Eventing Team before the FEI Alltech World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France, followed in late June 2015 by the CIC3* and final team prep event before the Pan American Games in Canada.

Great Meadow International was born in spring 2015 with O'Connor as organizer, Darrin Mollett as co-organizer, and Banner as Great Meadow liaison. The GMI committee includes several local people, all with equestrian credentials and background: Nina Fout, Donna Devadas, Mary Pat Guest, Punkin Lee, and Steve Sy-

mansky. Their bid to host a leg of the prestigious series called the Nations Cup of Eventing™ was successful: Great Meadow will host the second annual Nations Cup of Eventing this July 7–9.

Raising The Bar for Animal Transport

"When Great Meadow International was approved by the FEI (International Equestrian Sports Federation) to hold the first-ever Nations Cup of Eventing™ outside Europe, I knew we needed to accommodate horses from other parts of the world," recalled Banner. "I went to Dulles and asked if they could help me make an equine quarantine facility. They said no, but they told me that if I could find an owner-operator, they would be happy to lease the land and serve as landlord."

When Banner read about the \$65-million animal quarantine center, The Ark at JFK International Airport in Queens, New York, he immediately contacted Cuticelli and his wife Elizabeth A. Schuette, The ARK's managing director. They were more than commercial real estate and air cargo transport experts. They became experts in animal air

transport by traveling around the world to study animal quarantine facilities in various countries.

Their goal was to create a model for The ARK that improved the air transport of all animals and livestock, including companion animals and family pets. They also worked diligently with Cornell University College Veterinary Medicine whose standard operating procedures (SOP) for The ARK were approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Cuticelli, Schuette, and Banner met with MWAA (Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority) to discuss developing and operating an animal quarantine and export-import center at Dulles. The MWAA Task Force was receptive to the idea, pending the result of a feasibility study, which Loudoun and Fauquier Counties co-sponsored.

Location Location

To date, there are only three animal quarantine centers in the U.S.: JFK and Miami on the East Coast, Los Angeles on the West. The idea of an animal quarantine center in the Mid-Atlantic area

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NEWS OF NOTE

RECRUITING NEW BUSINESSES

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

DAN MORROW

Punkin Lee, President of the Middleburg Business & Professional Association and a majority of her Board, appeared before Council to report "that they have been meeting weekly to discuss the building vacancies, bad publicity and the misconceptions of why the buildings were empty" in Middleburg.

Lee noted that the MBPA was actively engaged in trying to address both realities and misconceptions.

They post regularly, she said, on Facebook and Twitter "to tell people that Middleburg was still here and urging people to come." They are also surveying their member's concerns and suggestions.

Lee praised Councilmember Littleton for his liaison efforts and regular reporting to the MPBA on what the Town was doing. All agreed, she continued, on the need to establish "a task force consisting of members of their Board, EDAC, and the Council, and to hire a facilitator who could help them pinpoint the problems.

Deltone Moore, the owner of the Popcorn Monkey, told Council that "as a business owner, he had concerns about the empty buildings and the perceived negative publicity. He expressed hope that the boards could work together to accelerate the economic development process."

Councilmember Littleton noted, "that if everyone from each organization were asked to identify the num-

ber one economic challenge in town, there would be twenty-five different answers, all of which would be right." He also suggested "everyone making phone calls once a week" to recruit.

Noting "the need to identify ideas for the long-term," Littleton reported that the MBPA "was excited about doing this and advised that he had a facilitator who could assist" for around \$10,000, a cost that could be shared by the MBPA and the Town.

Dog License Disaster

According to Former Town Council Member Catherine "Bundles" Murdock, Loudoun County now wants to "to issue dog licenses for every dog in Loudoun County." That's "fine for house pets," she noted, but

"would be devastating when it came to fox hunting."

Murdock opened the proceedings of the February 9 regular meeting of Middleburg's Town Council with a reminder that "a public input session" would be held on February 16th by Loudoun County to "examine whether they should cancel permits for kennels." She then gave Council both a copy of a protest email she sent to the County and a letter from the Master Foxhounds of the Piedmont Hunt.

"For many years," Murdock noted, "the County issued group licenses" that covered and entire pack of hunting dogs. This year, however, they "insisted on individual licenses" at the cost of ten dollars per dog. The Middleburg Hunt alone, she said, has around eighty hounds and the Piedmont Hunt one hundred twenty.

The cost of the individual licenses, she noted, is "a financial and administrative burden for a hunt club, which was a non-profit organization." Under the new rules, the Piedmont Hunt, for example, would have to "file for one hundred twenty licenses each year."

It is not as if the dogs are unidentified, she noted. Master Foxhounds' hounds, covered under the group licenses, are all tattooed and their identities carefully recorded.

Middleburg is "the center of fox hunting in America," Murdock continued, and the hunt and hounds are the symbolic centerpiece of the "Christmas in Middleburg" celebrations.

Murdock urged the Mayor and Town Council "to write a letter explaining that Middleburg was the heart of foxhunting and expressing an understanding that the County wanted to keep track of every dog but to ask them to please not loop kennels into that situation."

Mayor Davis, with Council approval, directed the Town Clerk to draft a letter. Councilmember Mark Snyder told Council that he planned to send a personal letter to the supervisors and urged other concerned citizens to do the same.

New Town Attorney(s)

On February 9, Council unanimously retaining a law firm, Vanderpool, Frostick & Nishanian. And that "Martin Crim of that firm be appointed Middleburg Town Attorney to serve at the pleasure of Council in accordance with the legal services agreement and the Town Charter. Crim will replace outgoing Town Attorney Angela Plowman.

Plowman Praised

Council also adopted a formal resolution extending its appreciation to Angela K. Plowman for her service as Town Attorney from March 22, 2012, through February 9, 2017.

After reading the resolution aloud, Mayor Betsy Davis presented signed copy to Ms. Plowman, along with a Middleburg paper weight.

Plowman, in turn, "thanked the Mayor, Council and Town Administrator for the opportunity to serve as Middleburg's Town Attorney for the last five years." Plowman described her time as Town Attorney as one of the highlights of her career and noted that "she was treated with respect, felt appreciated and felt she was a part of Middleburg."

High Water Bills Caused by Leaks

Stuart Will, of IES, responding to several complaints about unusually high water bills, noted that leaks were the cause in at least two instances. He is now inspecting some of the town's water meters "on a weekly basis to see if they were leaking" and, if they were, "he would make the homeowner aware of it."

Will noted, "he was working with the homeowners" to help them understand that, with an undiscovered leak, water that the homeowner was paying for was often simply "going through the meter and down the drain."

Taxable Real Estate Values Rise

Town Administrator Semmes reported that, according to 2017 real estate assessments, Middleburg's taxable real estate values went up 3.51%.

Burglaries

Chief of Police A. J. Panebianco reported that recently, "Middleburg appeared to be surrounded by a rash of burglaries" though he took pains to emphasize "that these were not robberies."

They appeared to be occurring in isolated homes, "not located in neighborhoods," he said. None, to date, "had occurred within the Town limits."

Middleburg is working closely with Loudoun County on the matter, he said, noting that Lieutenant Mike Prince was also assisting with "look-ups for items that have been taken to see if they showed up elsewhere."

The closest burglary to Middleburg, according to Panebianco, was "at the Cobb House, which was approximately two miles away."

The Middleburg Department has been engaged in preventive vehicle stake outs and additional foot patrols, he said.

Panebianco also urged that citizen check out the burglary prevention and response tips on department's webpage.

While the burglaries to date appear to have occurred "when no one was home," Panebianco noted, he also observed that he "did not have information on all of the cases as they have occurred in both Fauquier and Loudoun Counties."

MIDDLEBURG TO BE THE CENTER OF THE THAI "VERSE"

BRIAN LICHOROWIC

The local Social Media has been it's usual goofy self with individuals claiming knowledge of the situation; "I been told it's an Indian" restaurant coming" or "Is it true a new Italian diner is going in there?" And my favorite stated with a level of authority that coveys he must know what he's talking about "I know the building is being knocked down for a new office building to be put up." (Where do they get this stuff?)"

All wrong...

The facts are James & Piya Cammeron are bringing a new restaurant into Middleburg, and it will be a welcome respite for all. Both are new to the area, but not new to gastronomy. As owners of Thaiverse Restaurant in Lovettsville, they were thrilled to find a Middleburg Location available for them when they decided to branch out with the popular Thaiverse restaurant.

As James enthusiastically states, after his company put him up at a B&B in town a few years ago, it quickly became the place they most wanted to set up a restaurant.

It does happen to many; Spend some time here. Fall in love with the town.

That "love" will covey in genuine and traditional Thai cuisine with the Cammerons as our hosts.

"It's our desire to continue to deliver the highest standard of authentic Thai cuisine, and to keep our new local customers happy so that they want to keep coming back while drawing people from far and wide," James told me over the phone.

Their establishment comes with accolades too. Thaiverse has already won multiple awards, the latest being #1 Asian restaurant in the DC region by open table's diners' choice (November 2016). While they wait for the new equipment to arrive (commercial woks have a pretty substantial lead time) the plan is for an opening in late April at the corner of S. Madison and Federal streets.

Piya Cammeron has been formally cooking in multiple cuisines for a long time. Born & raised in southern Thailand, Piya traveled throughout in the country learning regional specialties as she went, then taking her skills to England, where she extended her repertoire to include the best of European cooking. Here she met her husband (James), before they both moved to the USA in 2008, for what was supposed be just a couple of years.

While the menu is being developed and tuned for it's new



location, James and Piya make it clear that there will be a lot of community involvement. Their business model is focused on the hiring of local individuals for the

front as well as the back of the house. "About the only thing that for sure now is there will be great Thai food available to Middleburgers, and there will be take

out service." Doesn't sound like a new Italian diner to me.

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NEWS OF NOTE

NSLM GRADUATES FIRST AMBASSADORS

NANCY MILBURN KLECK

A small group of horsemen, enthusiasts, and sporting art lovers, myself included, was welcomed into the new Ambassador program at the National Sporting Library and Museum recently.

Originally the idea of Pam Stokes-Donohew, Don Yovanovich, and Queenie Kemmerer, the program brings volunteers together with museum staff to learn more about its collections, educational programs, library, membership and development, and the day-to-day responsibilities and challenges of the staff. In turn, the Ambassadors are now able to share a deeper appreciation and knowledge with

newcomers to the museum. Future sessions for new Ambassadors are scheduled for June 13 & 15; August 15 & 17; October 24 & 26; all 2-4 pm at NSLM. Ambassadors will also be able to attend special exhibition tours before the opening of this year's exhibitions.

Within the museum and on the grounds, NSLM offers lectures, gallery talks, Sunday sketching sessions, sporting conversations, open late concerts, and film showings throughout the year. Its calendar of past and future exhibitions make this little powerhouse a gem among museums of any size or kind, and as an Ambassador, it is my delight to share my enthusiasm and support for this fine institution.

Upcoming Exhibitions



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: NANCY KLECK, QUEENIE KEMMERER, JENNIFER YOUNGMAN, PAM STOKES-DONEHOWER, JULIET GRAHAM, EVA SMITHWICK, AND DON YOVANOVICH. NOT PICTURED: JULIE WEIR, ROBERTA JEFFRIES

"Andre Pater: A Matter of Light" (April 21, 2017 - August 20, 2017), a much-anticipated retrospective will feature oil paintings, pastels and other works from collections across the country of contemporary sporting artist Andre Pater (Polish-American, b. 1953). Often regarded as the "Munnings of the 21st Century", Pater's mastery of the use of light and color within his vibrant compositions has no rivals. To appreciate this genius, one must truly get close to the work, especially his pastels. Another rare chance to see greatness.

"The Horse in Ancient Greek Art" (September 9, 2017 - January 14, 2018) exhibition features 8th through 4th centuries BCE Greek vases and sculpture from a private collection, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and other museum collections. Works will illustrate of the significance of the horse, horsemanship skills, and the imagery of the horse in

Greek culture, myth, war, sport and competition.

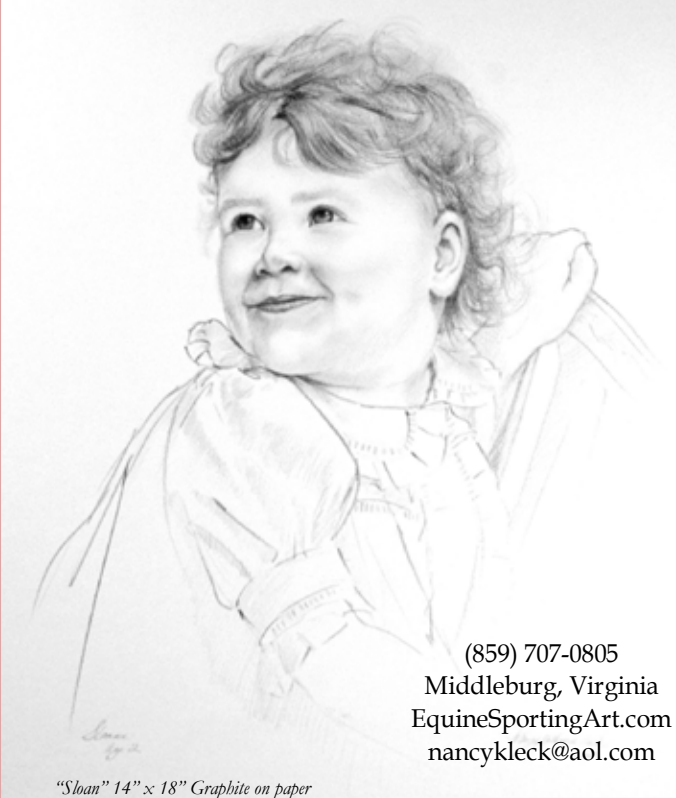
7th Annual Polo Classic

Save the date! Saturday, September 10 marks the 7th Annual Polo Classic at Great Meadow. NSLM's biggest fundraiser, more than 800 spectators enjoyed a glorious day last year watching a British Military Team play the American Team for the Founders Cup. After a divot break, all eyes were glued to Nacho Figueras, international high goal polo player and heartthrob play on the Beverly Equestrian. Team players as of this writing have not been announced, but do get your tickets today!

NSLM is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. The library is free to the public; museum admission is \$10 to non-members; free on Wednesdays and the last Sunday of each month. Visit NationalSporting.org for more information.

Commissioned Portraits

by Nancy Milburn Kleck



(859) 707-0805
Middleburg, Virginia
EquineSportingArt.com
nancykleck@aol.com

"Sloan" 14" x 18" Graphite on paper

SHAKESPEARE IN THE 'BURG FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURG

ANNUAL EVENT FEATURES NEW THEATER COMPANY, VENUE AND EXCITEMENT

The fourth Shakespeare in the 'Burg theater festival will be held March 31-April 2, 2017 in beautiful, historic Middleburg, Va. This year's event will feature a new theater company as well as a greater opportunity to support emerging playwrights—all in an intimate and lovely new venue.

Shakespeare in the Square, based in New York, NY, will perform *Two Gentlemen of Verona*; a play many scholars believe may be the first Shakespeare ever wrote. The troupe will also perform the winning plays from the festival's one-act playwriting competition, a feature of the festival that has grown over the years. For younger theater fans, Nicolo Whimsey will introduce Shakespeare through music, comedy, juggling and more.

Performances will be held at the Hill School's Shelia Johnson Center for Performing Arts, 130 S. Madison Street, in Middleburg. *Two Gentlemen of Verona* will be presented on Saturday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. A brunch, with performances of the winning one-act plays, will be on Sunday, April 2, at 11 a.m.—also at the Hill School.

Shakespeare in the Square actors will present workshops at the Hill School, with plans underway for other local schools to be involved as well. Nicolo Whimsey will perform at the Parish House, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 105 E. Washington Street in Middleburg, at 3:15 p.m., Friday, March 31.

Tickets for *Two Gentlemen of Verona* are \$45. Tickets for the Sunday brunch are \$30, and the Nicolo Whimsey workshop is \$5.



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NEWS OF NOTE

A LONG MARCH FROM HILL SCHOOL TO WEST POINT AND ANNAPOLIS

They both grew up in Aldie, with their family driveways on the same road about a quarter mile apart. They were in the same class at Hill School from Kindergarten all the way through the eighth grade. And now, George Williams and Annie Dunlap also have something else in common:

This fall, they will both be attending college at two of the nation's most prestigious military institutions—Dunlap the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and Williams the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

"It's going to be an Army-Navy rivalry right there on Aldie Dam Road," said Richard Williams, George's properly proud father, and himself a Hill graduate.

Until recently, George and Annie had no idea they'd be making Hill history, the first time two students from the same class would be matriculating at the two academies at the same time. They were friends and neighbors



ANNIE DUNLAP

growing up but went their separate ways in high school. George attends Woodberry Forest, an all-boys boarding school in Orange, Virginia, and Annie goes to John Champe High School in Aldie.

"It's really such a coincidence," Annie said of both being accepted to the two academies. "He went off to Woodberry so I really haven't seen him that much, but I'm looking forward to talking to him about it."



GEORGE WILLIAMS

Said George, "I think she knew what she wanted (about her choice of college) before I did."

Annie said her first exposure to the military came when she was in the fourth grade and visited the Marine base in Quantico to see her uncle complete his training. At about the same time, she also was picking up a lacrosse stick at Hill, a sport her father played in high school. She was soon playing in a local rec league, then competing at Hill and eventually on a travel team.

Over the last three years, she captained and was named the most valuable player on her high school team and won numerous all-conference and all-regional honors, as well. When she learned that Army had added a Division I women's lacrosse team to its athletic program several years ago, it definitely got her attention.

"I contacted the coaches and visited West Point when I was in the tenth grade," she said. "I loved it, loved everything about it. We went on a tour. I observed some classes. My mom thought everyone was supposed to be marching to class, that it was super strict. But people were laughing; it seemed relaxed and very normal to me. I met the lacrosse team, and that was super fun. I connected with everyone. A saw that a lot of the professors were officers and I thought it was great they came back to teach."

From then on, West Point was her first choice. She was nominated for her appointment by Rep. Barbara Comstock and plans to focus on an academic course that will involve international relations and strategic studies.

George Williams plans to study mechanical engineering at the Naval Academy and also will be heavily involved in athletics.

At 6-foot-7 and 210 pounds, he's a natural to row on Navy's crew team, a grueling sport both his parents also participated in as college students.

Several years ago, he attended a rowing camp in southern Virginia and then attended summer crew camps at the Naval Academy, as well.

"He went there more for the rowing than from the perspective of going to school there," said his father, Richard Williams. "But you're there for a week, and you really get a sense of the place. He went back the next year and his interest developed from that."

His family also had significant military ties, including his maternal grandfather, a career officer in the Navy for 37 years. "We had several relatives who had gone to the Academy and played football," said George, who received his Naval Academy appointment from Virginia Senator Tim Kaine. "For me, it was definitely 'this would be really cool to do.'"

Both George and Annie also said their time at Hill School provided a strong foundation, both academically and athletically, for their continued success in high school, and now obviously beyond.

"Hill was a very good experience for me," George said. "It really prepared me for Woodberry."

Said Annie, "going from a small independent school to a public high school made me appreciate all the individual attention I got at Hill. The teachers paid attention to the little things, and they helped me develop really great habits. Hill definitely got me ready to do well in high school."

Katherine Weeden, one of
Continued on Page 11

FOXCROFT SCHOOL PRESENTS GARTH NEWELL PIANO QUARTET IN CONCERT

PUBLIC WELCOME TO ENJOY ESTEEMED ENSEMBLE

As part of its outstanding arts program, Foxcroft School will present the esteemed Garth Newell Piano Quartet in concert Tuesday, March 28 at 7 p.m. in FoxHound Auditorium on the campus of the Middleburg, VA, girls' boarding and day school.

The public is invited to attend the special performance, entitled "Czech Mates," which features works by Antonín Dvořák and Josef Suk. Admission is free, but seating is limited. RSVP to 540.687.4510 or advancement@foxcroft.org by March 10, 2017.

The concert is part of the Helen Cudahy Niblack '42 Arts Lecture Series, established in 2007 by Austi Brown '73 to bring literary, performing, and fine artists to Foxcroft to share their work and experience with students. During their visit, the Quartet members Teresa Ling (Violin), Evelyn Grau (Viola), Isaac Melamed (Cello), and Jeannette Fang (Piano) will present an interactive, educational concert to Foxcroft students and faculty in the morning and hold a master class for a select group of students that afternoon.

The Garth Newell Piano Quartet is known for spirited and impassioned performances that offer an enlivened interpretation of both standard and new repertoire. As artists-in-residence and artistic directors at Garth Newell Music Center — one of the most active chamber music organizations in the United States — they perform over 50 concerts each year, engaging with audiences through conversational and interactive programs. They have toured and given master classes at Carnegie Hall, Strathmore Hall, Corcoran Gallery, and other prominent venues in the U.S. and around the world.

The Quartet members believe strongly in supporting the creation of new music and hold an annual competition for rising composers aimed at bolstering the piano quartet genre. United in their commitment to education and nurturing the next generation, they also direct Garth Newell's annual Emerging Artist Fellowship Program and an Amateur Chamber Music Retreat, oversee the Allegheny Mountain String Project and have an ongoing partnership with the Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology.



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NEWS OF NOTE

AHT INSURANCE AWARDED 2017 LOUDOUN COUNTY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



AHT Insurance is proud to announce that they have been awarded a 2017 Loudoun County Community Leadership Award from the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. This award honors local businesses and community leaders that have shown true leadership and commitment to support the Loudoun community and its citizens. AHT qualified for this prestigious award by their commitment to both support and engage in the community. AHT hosts an annual charity golf tournament, raising more than \$432,000 over the last 28 years for Loudoun Hunger Relief, Loudoun County Fire & Rescue, Loudoun Free Clinic and the Boys & Girls Club. Through donations and sponsorships, AHT supports local schools, Little League teams, organizations such as ECHO, the George C. Marshall International Center, Oatlands Plantation, Leesburg Garden Club, Bluemont Concert Series and the Loudoun Symphony. They also fund an annual college scholarship for local high school students. The firm also emphasizes employee volunteerism, with employees serving in leadership positions at local clubs, nonprofits, churches, and teams. Additionally, their employees also collect food for Loudoun Hunger Relief, sends care packages to U.S. soldiers from Leesburg that are serving overseas and leads drives for Loudoun Toys for Tots.

Nineteen finalists were chosen in five categories including Large and Small Businesses, Nonprofit Executive, Executive Leaders and Young Professionals. These finalists were chosen by a panel of Loudoun's top business and

nonprofit leaders. AHT Insurance was awarded for the Large Business category which is defined as those with 100 or more employees. Nominees for the Large Business category included GAM Printing, Beckstrom Electric, and AOL.

"It is truly a great honor to be recognized by our peers as a business that believes in its social responsibility to our communities and acts on that responsibility by investing our resources to improve conditions for those who need it most. With so many great stories of community commitment by all the nominees for this award, AHT can only be recognized as one candidate of so many who deserves recognition for the work that they do to make our communities a better place to work and live. The message the Chamber shared; one of supporting each other in every way we can truly resonate with us as it creates a virtuous circle of reinvestment and care for all our neighbors in need in Loudoun. AHT is proud to have been a member of Loudoun's business community for more than 95 years and is looking forward to continuing to call Loudoun home as we are about to turn the page on our next century serving the community," said AHT President, David Schaefer.

The Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce is a business networking and advocacy organization dedicated to creating and promoting a world-class quality of life in Loudoun County, VA. They partner with member businesses, nonprofit organization and government partners to create experiences and opportunities that produce personal, professional and community success.

LOCAL ATTORNEY AMY TOTTEN JOINS WALKER JONES



Amy Totten, current president of the Fauquier County Bar Association, joined Walker Jones as a partner. She will continue to focus on family law including divorce, custody, visitation, support, protective orders, and adoption at the Warrenton law firm.

Ms. Totten has almost two decades of litigation and trial experience. In addition to her family law experience, she served as a prosecutor in Fauquier and Loudoun counties as well as a Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney in Henrico County. Ms. Totten has litigated complex di-

vorice/child custody matters, homicide/violent felony cases, and special grand jury investigations.

In 1997, Ms. Totten received her Juris Doctor degree from The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago in 1994.

Amy Totten can be reached at 540.347.9223 or amy.totten@walkerjoneslaw.com. For information about Walker Jones, please visit www.walkerjoneslaw.com.

A LONG MARCH FROM HILL SCHOOL TO WEST POINT AND ANNAPOLIS

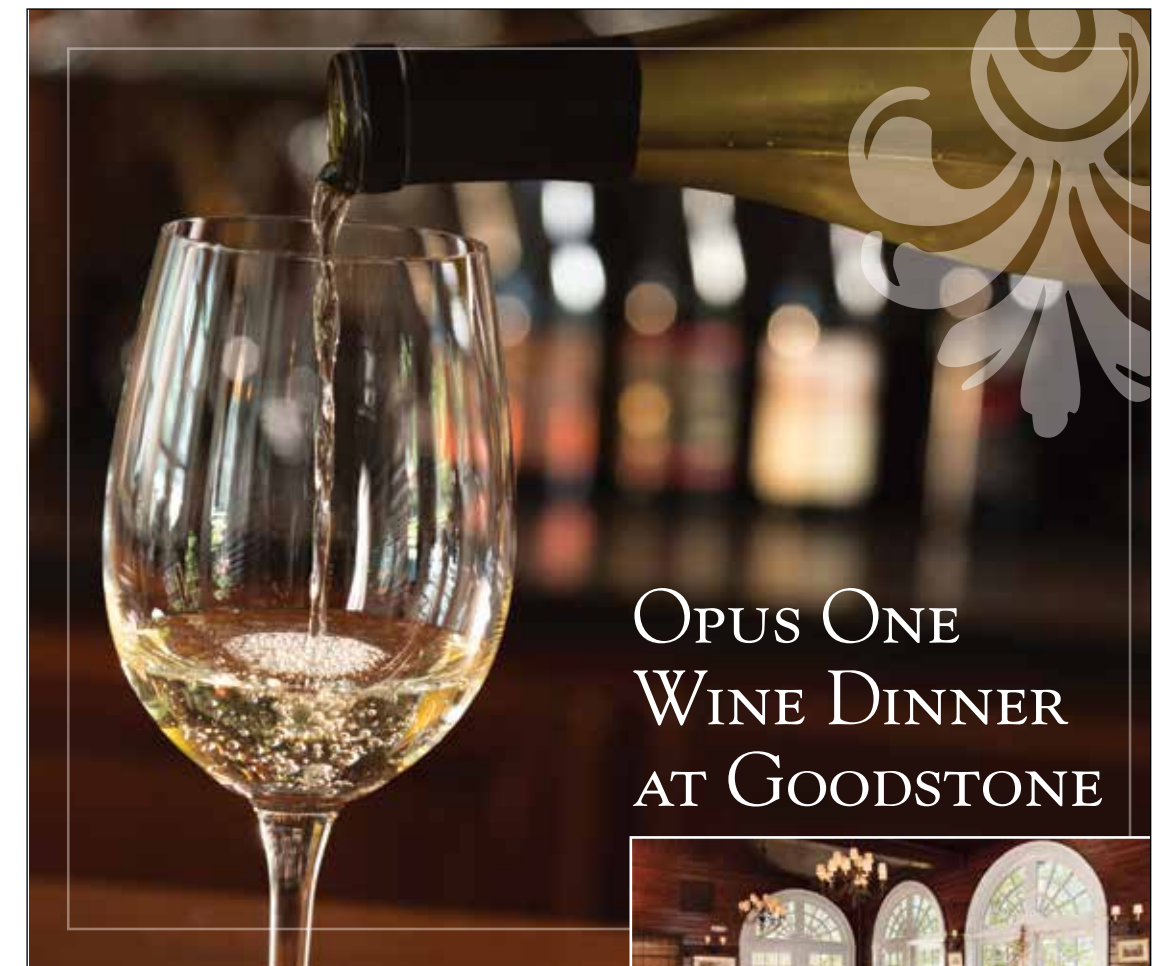
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Annie's math teachers and her lacrosse coach at Hill remembers the spring of 2013 and including the following comment in her report card "This season I treated Annie as my unofficial assistant lacrosse coach. Her leadership, encouragement, and work ethic helped every player improve. In games, she typically won the draw and then adjusted the tempo, and placement of the players, to ensure a positive experience for every member of the team."

"We are exceptionally proud of both Annie and George," said

Head of School Treavor Lord. "What is especially gratifying is knowing both of them since they were five years old! It has been a pleasure to watch them grow as students, athletes, and leaders. They are hard workers and very disciplined. We are confident that they will do well at the Academics."

And now, there's plenty more to come for the two former classmates, friends and neighbors marching proudly down Aldie Dam Road and on to West Point and Annapolis.



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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG CONCERT SERIES OPENS WITH HOLLYWOOD CLASSICS

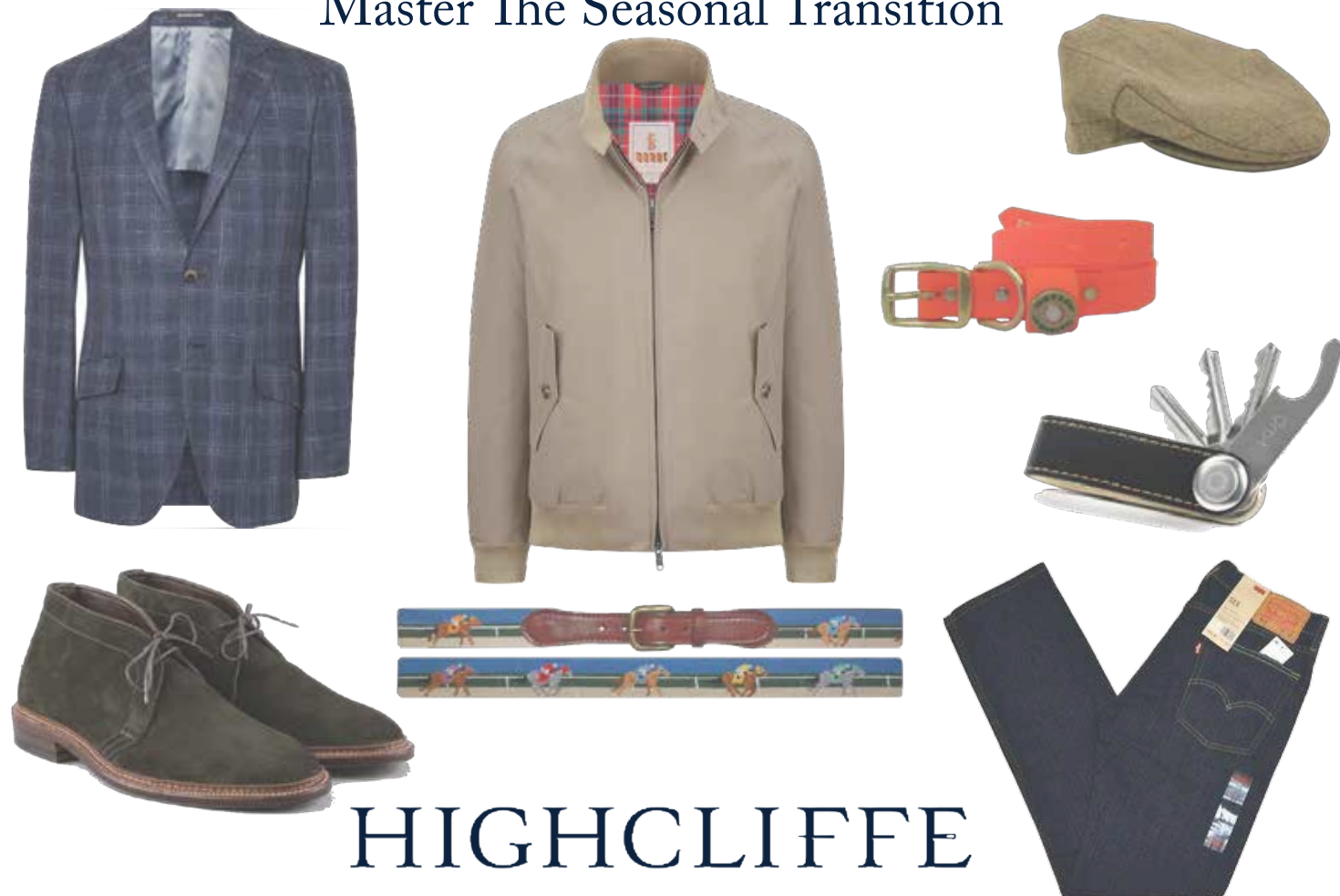


The first 2017 concert of the Middleburg Concert Series will feature both classical and popular movie themes. Music has always played a vital part in film featuring compositions by modern composers such as Burt Bachrach, John Williams, Marvin Hamlisch as well as traditionally classical pieces by composers such as Chopin, Mozart, and Beethoven. Returning for the March concert by popular demand is Abby Foy Middleton, the beautiful soprano who charmed the audience at the Broadway Medley concert last June. She will be joined by concert pianist Anna Nizhegorodtseva who received three standing ovations at the inaugural concert of the series in March of 2015. Also performing will be Concert Music Director, cellist and Shenandoah Conservatory Arts professor, Alan Saucedo; Musicians in Residence, violinist and Shenandoah Conservatory Faculty member, Cynthia Saucedo; and Middleburg United Methodist Church Music Director and Hill School music teacher, Karen Chase. The concert will be on Sunday, March 26th, at 4 PM, at the Middleburg United Methodist Church, corner of Washington and Pendleton Streets.

Abby Foy Middleton is a graduate of the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and has



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performed in numerous operas, operettas, and traditional musicals. Her roles have included Liesl in The Sound of Music, and Marian in The Music Man. Her wistful, yet buoyant voice is always a crowd pleaser. Russian-born pianist Anna Nizhegorodtseva holds degrees from Novgorod Glinka State Conservatory and a doctorate from Catholic University. She has won numerous international piano competitions. In a previous appearance with the Concert Series, she exhibited a truly magical touch on the keys of the 1927 Steinway Concert Grand Piano.

The goal of the Middleburg Concert Series is to make virtuoso performances available to Middleburg residents and visitors and in a small town setting.

There will be a reception with light refreshments to meet the artists immediately after the concert. In keeping with the movie theme, the reception will be sponsored by the Popcorn Monkey. Admission to both the concert and reception are free. Donations are welcome.

For further information, please email middleburgconcertseries@gmail.com or telephone 540-303-7127.

ELIZABETH FOX MCCORMICK 1926 - 2017



Elizabeth "Betty" McCormick was born in New York to Albert C. Fox and Margaret Hoey. The family lived in Plandome, NY, until 1939, when they moved permanently to their summer home, Headlong Hall, in Centerville, MD, where Betty enjoyed growing up riding and showing horses. She attended Gunston School, just across the way from Headlong Hall, then on to Fox Hollow in Lenox, MA. After graduating she went on to Washington College in Chestertown, MD. She married Clifton Miller, Jr., in 1946; in 1952 they moved to Middleburg, VA. Following their divorce Betty worked for Simmons Properties in Washington, D.C. In 1959 Betty married James P. McCormick, a talented horseman she met fox hunting and to whom she would be devoted for their 42 years together. After two decades of training horses in Maryland, the McCormick family moved back to Dover, the family farm in Middleburg, where kids, dogs, and horses were raised and played happily. As Jamie relaxed growing his vegetables, Betty had a green thumb in the flower garden. She had a great passion for fresh-cut flowers; guests would find them beautifully arranged on any visit.

Betty was one of the last of her generation who has made an impression on her community.

Always a perfect hostess, Betty often had parties and events at Dover, where one was always graciously welcomed and treated. There was never a stranger at Dover. One of her greatest joys was to have her children and grandchildren visit her throughout the year, especially at Christmas, where Betty loved the fun, pageantry and traditions of the holiday season in her home. A life-long enthusiast of fox hunting and steeplechasing, Betty could always be found as hounds and her friends gathered at a fixture or at her tailgate spot at many of the local point-to-points and the Virginia Fall Races.

Betty was predeceased by her husband, Jamie, and her oldest daughter, Susan Miller. She is survived by her sister, Nancy F. Moorshead, and by her three daughters, Elizabeth Barrett of Parkton, MD, Carolene Miller of Rancho Murietta, CA, and Katherine McCormick of Middleburg; a stepson, William McCormick of Middleburg, and six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on East Washington Street, Middleburg, on January 30, 2017, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Middleburg Humane Foundation.

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NEWS OF NOTE

GLENDA CUDABACK MORROW (1945 - 2017)



After a long illness, Glenda Sharon Moses Cudaback Morrow died peacefully in her sleep at her home in Reston, Virginia, early in the morning of February 16, 2017.

Born in Napa, California, Glenda was the daughter of Glendon Moses and Carma Jo Kirkpatrick.

A graduate of Napa High School, she majored in Journalism at Chico State College, now California State University, Chico, and worked as a reporter for the Daily Democrat. While at the Democrat she interviewed Robert Kennedy, just days before his tragic death.

She arrived in Chicago and began work for the Chicago Tribune on the eve of the 1968 Democratic Convention.

From Chicago she moved to Paris, France, where she worked for the International Herald Tribune, rising to Director of Promotion. She also served as a Vice President of Whitney Communications in

New York and International Data Group near Boston.

In the early 1980's she founded Cudaback Strategic Communications. As a consultant for International Data Group she was the inspiration and driving force behind the Computerworld Smithsonian Awards and Computerworld Honors programs, which for nearly twenty years helped document the history of the Information Technology Revolution, collecting thousands of case studies and well over a hundred oral histories.

With UNC in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, she created the Knowledge Trust and Louis Round Wilson Academy. With INOVA Loudoun hospital she created the Loudoun Laurels Program, whose oral history and scholarship program now continues under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Joe May. With the Laurels she served for many years as a personal mentor for high school students in Loudoun County.

She was a co-founder and writer for the Middleburg Ec-

centric in Middleburg, Virginia, and one of the earliest supporters and investors in Loudoun Now.

An avid gardener, she preserved and transformed the grounds of the historic stone Everhart farmhouse just north of Waterford. She was an equally avid supporter of those who worked to protect and care for animals, and helped found the Animal Rescue Fund of Delaplane, Virginia.

Glenda is survived by her son Alex Cudaback, her daughter-in-law, Maggie, a grandson, Finn, her husband of 35 years, Daniel S. Morrow, and her first husband, R. David Cudaback.

At her request her body was given to Johns Hopkins Program, whose ashes of her remains are to be scattered by the family in a private ceremony. A small part of her, and no doubt her heart, will rest in Paris.

A public memorial service will be scheduled for a later date.

WILLIAM EDWARD SMYTHE 1936 - 2017

Bill Smythe passed away peacefully January 30, 2017 at Amerisist Assisted Living in Front Royal, Virginia after a long struggle with Progressive Supra Nuclear Palsy (PSP). He was born May 25, 1936 in Philadelphia, PA. Bill lived a full and active life. He wore many hats beginning as a high school track and football star. At George Washington University he was ranked number seven receiver in the nation. Following college he served 7 years in the Marine Corps. During that time he sailed on the maiden voyage of the Kitty Hawk and liked to claim he had "been around the world". While being a small businessman in Middleburg he found time to fox hunt, train horses, race cars, hunt and to fish off Hatteras Island (one of his favorite pastimes). His enthusiasm for tennis was well known and he was one of the founding members of the Middleburg Tennis Club.

Bill was predeceased by his parents Theodore F. and Mae Smythe, brother Jack

Smythe (AZ), first wife Roberta Lohnes Smythe, and second wife Elaine Pierce Smythe. He is survived by his devoted wife of 17 years Ann Garrett of Amissville, VA., son Gregory Smythe and wife JoAnn of Reston, VA, daughter Ashleigh Smythe and husband Derek Berwald of Fairfield, VA, son Andrew Smythe and companion Anthea Greene of Hume, VA., and daughter Kylie McMahon Carroll of Boston. Also surviving are sisters Peggy March, Adele Stuart and Jane Brandhorst (Ted) all of Sarasota, FL, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Leeds Episcopal Church, 4332 Leeds Manor Drive, Markham, VA 26643 on February 12, 2017 at 1 PM. Burial was private. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Middleburg Humane Foundation, the Salvation Army of Warrenton, VA or Heartland Hospice of Warrenton, 400 Holiday Court, Suite 101, Warrenton, VA 20185.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE ARK AT JFK, ELIZABETH SCHUETTE, WITH HER DOG TUCKER IN THE PET OASIS.

is not new, and don't forget the horses in Kentucky, Ohio, and other nearby states. Ask anyone who has shipped equines and livestock to Queens in the Big Apple or to Miami: nerve-racking, long road trip, horrendous traffic, time-consuming are but a few of the complaints.

Washington Dulles International Airport is situated mostly in Loudoun, one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, with a small portion spilling into Fairfax County. Back in 1989, Dulles was the subject of a feasibility study for an equine import-export quarantine facility; however, the results indicated that it wasn't "operationally feasible." At the time, Virginia's horse industry generated more

than \$417-million annually and, even though the Commonwealth and surrounding states hosted many competitions, there wasn't enough demand for equine air transport.

Hark forward to 2011 when a study by the University of Virginia cited that the state's horse industry delivered an annual economic impact of \$1.2 billion dollars. In 2016, Upperville, the oldest horse show in the nation, debuted three FEI 4-star jumper classes offering \$294,000 in prize money, very attractive to all riders, but the prospect of earning FEI points on top of big bucks brings in riders and horses from other nations. More momentum resulted when Great Meadow International, presented

by Adequan, began hosting the only U.S. based Nations Cup of Eventing.

Given that Great Meadow is one of two venues being considered to host the second four-star three-day competition in the U.S., Dulles becomes an even more significant factor to assist in bringing high-performance horses to Virginia.

The Joy of Horse Sports

Last summer, spectators at the Nations Cup got to watch Phillip Dutton in action before he went to Rio as part of the U.S. Olympic Eventing Team and earned individual bronze with Mighty Nice, owned by the HnD Group. Their partnership pretty much exemplifies the Joy of Horse Sports campaign being conducted by the re-branded national governing body, now known as U.S. Equestrian, thanks to the leadership of new president Murray Kessler.

What's happening at Great Meadow on an elite level is happening on grass root levels all around horse country. Eventing involves kids of all ages from Beginner Novice on up. It's also a great spectator sport — to watch up close, and in person, the world's best in action without expensive travel is an experience that belongs on everyone's calendar.

Eventing has three phases. Dressage is like dancing on horseback, but eventers do it without music. The cross-country is a jumping test, consisting of several miles of flagged and numbered solid obstacles situated on natural terrain. Show jumping requires precision over a course of verticals and oxers whose painted rails tumble at the lightest touch. There's a reason why the phrase is horse and rider, not the other way around. You can see it in action at Great Meadow.



HONORED FURRY GUESTS WITH THE STAFF OF THE ARK AT JFK IN THE PET OASIS

Destination: Dulles

The positive results of the economic feasibility study, conducted by HR&A Advisors, Inc., were announced in early February. Now it's just a matter of waiting for the MWAA Task Force to decide who will build the animal quarantine center at Dulles. At least one of the applicants has a working model in place.

On February 13, The ARK at JFK, the world's first privately owned, 24/7 animal terminal and airport quarantine, officially opened Phase 1: The ARK Pet Oasis, Equine & Livestock Export Center, and Aviary In-Transit Quarantine. The other two phases will be fully functional by summer.

"We developed The ARK concept to address the unmet needs for the import and export of companion, sporting and agricultural animals," said Cuticelli, CEO of Racebrook Capital and founder-chairman of ARK Development, LLC/The Ark at JFK. "Transporting live cargo by plane can be a complex and stressful process for

owners and animals alike. Our goal is to make a more efficient and safe process by reducing the need for additional travel and offering trained animal care staff immediately pre- and post-flight. The ARK provides a healthy and comfortable environment and sets new international airport standards for comprehensive veterinary, kenneling and quarantine services."

As Banner put it: "The model John created for The ARK at JFK is pretty much bulletproof and would be the best scenario for horses, for all animals, coming to Virginia and nearby states or shipping to foreign destinations."

The bottom line is, of course, easier and safer transport of all animals, whoever gets the nod from MWAA. No matter how much humans enjoy traveling, there's always associated stress, but try flying animals — dog, cat, horse — it's expensive, emotionally and financially. Having a first class animal quarantine air transport center at Dulles will make a world of difference.

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RAINBOW THERAPEUDIC RIDING

LAURIE PETERSON'S WOODBOX FARM, MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA - PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD

CHANGING LIVES ONE HOOFBEAT AT A TIME
BY MARY VARDI, PROGRAM MANAGER RAINBOW THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

WHAT IS IT ABOUT HORSES? IS IT THEIR STRENGTH? THEIR BEAUTY? THE KIND LOOK IN THEIR LARGE, EXPRESSIVE EYES? COULD IT BE THEIR WIDE BACK OR THE SYMMETRY OF THEIR MOVEMENT THAT DRAWS US TO THIS HEALING ANIMAL? THERAPEUTIC OR ADAPTIVE RIDING USES HORSES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. EQUINE ASSISTED ACTIVITIES CAN HELP ACHIEVE GOALS THAT ENHANCE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND COGNITIVE SKILLS.

HORSES HAVE BEEN USED AS A THERAPEUTIC TOOL SINCE THE TIME OF ANCIENT GREECE. IN THE MID-1940'S, EQUINE THERAPY WAS USED AFTER AN OUTBREAK OF POLIO-MYELITIS. THERAPEUTIC RIDING AND HIPPO THERAPY (PHYSICAL THERAPY USING THE MOVEMENT OF THE HORSE TO INFLUENCE THE NEUROMUSCULAR CHANGES IN THE CLIENT) BEGAN TO BE MORE WIDELY USED IN WESTERN EUROPE IN THE 1960'S.

RAINBOW THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER, LOCATED IN BEAUTIFUL SILVER LAKE REGIONAL PARK, HAYMARKET, VA. WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1985. RAINBOW IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AND OPERATES UNDER THE GUIDELINES OF PATH INTL. (PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP).OUR INSTRUCTORS ARE PATH CERTIFIED AND BRING THEIR LIFETIME SKILLS AS HORSE PROFESSIONALS TO HELP THE INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO ACHIEVE THEIR PERSONAL GOALS ON THE TOP OF A HORSE. OUR EQUINE PARTNERS RANGE FROM OUR SMALLEST, A WELSH PONY NAMED "BLUEBERRY" TO OUR LARGEST, A CLYDESDALE CROSS WITH THE NOBLE NAME OF "KINGSTON."

WE WORK WITH A VARIETY OF SPECIAL NEEDS WHICH INCLUDE AUTISM, HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER, MINOR AND MAJOR LEARNING DISORDERS, SOCIAL ANXIETY AND LOW SELF-ESTEEM. PHYSICAL CHALLENGES THAT CAN BENEFIT FROM OUR PROGRAMS INCLUDE CEREBRAL PALSY, TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY, STROKE, AMPUTATION, AND SPINAL CORD INJURIES. AS PART OF OUR ADAPTIVE RIDING PROGRAM, OUR INSTRUCTORS TEACH OUR PARTICIPANTS RIDING SKILLS. THE LONG-TERM GOALS FOR OUR RIDERS ARE TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE ON THEIR HORSES AND PONIES. INDEPENDENCE MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS TO EACH RIDER. IT MAY MEAN A FORMALLY, NON-VERBAL CHILD IS TELLING THE PONY TO WALK-ON. IT ALSO MIGHT MEAN AN INJURED MILITARY VETERAN IS BECOMING A PARA-EQUESTRIAN AND COMPETING IN NATIONAL HORSE SHOWS.

LOW SELF-ESTEEM ACCOMPANIES ALMOST EVERY SPECIAL NEED CHILD AND ADULT. IMAGINE LIVING YOUR LIFE IN A WHEELCHAIR, NEVER ABLE TO LOOK SOMEONE IN THE EYE. NEXT IMAGINE YOURSELF BEING LIFTED OUT OF YOUR CHAIR, WITH THE HELP OF AN ELECTRIC LIFT, ONTO THE BACK OF A SPECIALLY TRAINED HORSE. THINK OF THE THRILL OF BEING THE TALLEST OF THOSE AROUND YOU. NEXT, WITH THE SKILLS YOU HAVE LEARNED, YOU ARE TELLING YOUR 1,500 POUND PARTNER WHEN TO GO, WHEN TO STOP, WHEN TO GO SLOW AND GO FAST, WHEN TO TURN RIGHT AND LEFT. "LISTEN TO ME, MY HORSE, I AM YOUR LEADER, YOU WILL KEEP ME SAFE, AND I WILL KEEP YOU, SAFE!" THE FEELING OF SELF-WORTH THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY BEING IN CHARGE, ON THE BACK OF A WILLING HORSE IS INDESCRIBABLE.

RAINBOW HAS A VARIETY OF ONGOING PROGRAMS. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER WORKING WITH RECREATIONAL THERAPISTS TO OFFER OUR DESERVING, RECOVERING MILITARY PARTICIPANTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK BOTH ON THE GROUND AND IN THE SADDLE WITH OUR HORSES. WE HAVE JOINED WITH PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY TO CREATE A PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK YOUTH WITH A VARIETY OF EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES. IT IS AMAZING TO SEE A CHILD WITH SEVERE ANGER ISSUES AND A HISTORY OF VOLATILE OUTBURSTS, BECOME CONTROLLED AND CALM IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS HORSE. THIS SAME CHILD HAS BEEN ABLE TO RETURN TO A MAINSTREAM SCHOOL AND BEGIN TO FIND HIS PLACE IN THE WORLD. WE HAVE RECENTLY HAVE BEGUN WORKING WITH YOUTH FOR TOMORROW, A NON-PROFIT THAT PROVIDES A HAVEN AND PROFESSIONAL THERAPIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN CRISIS. WE HAVE ONGOING AFTER-SCHOOL AND SATURDAY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN SEEKING THE THERAPEUTIC.



JOANN SWIFT, PATTY THOMAS AND COLLEEN HAHN



BOB FINI, RANDOLPH KNIGHT, KEVEN COLE, BETH FINI, AND NICOLE FINI



ELIZABETH WILEY, COLLEEN HAHN, KAREN CLIFTON, JEAN PERIN, TERESA RAMSAY, PEGGY SMITH, LYNN HARRINGTON



NICOLETTE HURD AND RON KNECHT



PAM COVINGTON, DR. CARL HUTTON, TERESA RAMSAY, LAURIE PETERSON, PATTY THOMAS AND JOANN SWIFT



LYNN HARRINGTON, RANDY CHAPPELL, BARBARA CHAPPLL, TERESA RAMSAY, ELIZABETH WILEY, KAREN CLIFTON AND PEGGY SMITH



RACHEL EFIRD AND DR. CARL HUTTON



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PRISCILLA & RANDOLPH KNIGHT

PLACES & FACES

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PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



GAP RUN

PHOTOS BY NANCY KLECK



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TIGER TRAP FARM

PHOTOS BY NANCY KLECK



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PLACES & FACES

10TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

THE COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL OF THE PIEDMONT - PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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E. GRANT, JEAN PERIN AND DORI BURNER



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ALYN BEAUCHAMP AND ANN MACLOED



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PROGENY

CAMPUS DIFFERENCES MATTER IN THE COLLEGE SEARCH

THE COLLEGE COUNSELOR

BARBARA CONNER

After visiting a few college campuses, most people begin to think that they are all alike – and in some ways they are right. Most colleges offer students a variety of factors that seem similar: rigorous academics, varied social activities, and meaningful ways to connect with the community.

We often talk about the importance of having students make themselves distinctive during the application and interview process, a strategy designed to help them “stand out” in very competitive applicant pools.

The Five First-Choice Colleges approach, highlighted in the spring 2015 Journal of College Admission, requires that students spend a fair amount of time thinking about what has worked for them during high school (academic rigor and success, social life, leadership, athletics, community service, and civic engagement). After the “Know Thyself” phase, they begin drafting essays they hope will share more about their distinctive qualities with college admission officers.

But in an increasingly broad and competitive admission landscape, we must focus as much attention on the other side of the process.

What if we ask what makes each college different? Understanding the history, ethos, and culture of each campus on a student’s list can lead to a much more satisfying college search and selection process.

Preparing a variety of penetrating questions which require deeper analysis can help students begin to distinguish between colleges with

Great relationships with professors	Organic, locally grown produce in the dining hall	Full professors teach all the classes	Undergraduate research starting in your first year	Really helpful Writing Center staff
We had more apps this year than ever in school history	You can print to the library printers at no charge	Our Career Center will help you write your resume	You will love the rock wall in our fitness center	Our first-year seminar classes are small
Our alums are amazing	Our interlibrary loan can get any book here in 48 hours	College Campus Bingo	The library gets quieter as you move up the different floors	Delayed rush for Greek life
Lots of great food options in the dining hall/food court	We have funding for summer research	We have small classes	Everyone has great school spirit here	They bring in puppies during exams to reduce our stress
Blue lights for safety – response times are less than a minute	The student activities board always plans great events for weekends	If we don't have a club you want, you can start one with a few friends	Our professors travel with students during school breaks and summers	Bonus: Mark off any square if students wish your tour guide a happy birthday ☺

Courtesy of Barbara Conner

similar profiles. Examples include:

- Why was this college founded? What stands out about the school’s history? Was it founded in religion and does religion still play a part in the lives of its students? Was there a historic context in time or place that was – and perhaps still is – relevant?
- Is this a Jesuit institution? An HBCU? A women’s college? What does that mean and what happens differently in the classroom for the professors and for the students?



- Is this a campus dedicated to community service? What difference does that make in the dorms and in the dining halls? How are things different on the campus because of the focus and commitment to the larger community?
- Is a senior thesis or culminating capstone project required to graduate? What types of projects have students done in the past? Are these on display somewhere on campus?

A student’s ability to discern nuances among colleges will take more time and effort than they may realize. But it’s time well spent. Know Thyself + Know Thy College = Five First-Choice College opportunities – an approach that should improve outcomes and lower stress in this competitive admission landscape.

Bingo!

Barbara Conner is Director of College Counseling at Foxcroft School, a college-preparatory boarding and day school for girls in grades 9–12 located in Middleburg, VA and a frequent speaker on ethical admission practices and current trends/ best practices in college counseling, for Potomac and Chesapeake ACAC and Virginia Association of Independent Schools. She earned her M.Ed at The University of Virginia.

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MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS ARE FILLING UP THEIR TROPHY CASES



LILIAN VARGO '19 - 1ST TEAM ALL-STATE & 2ND TEAM ALL-MET

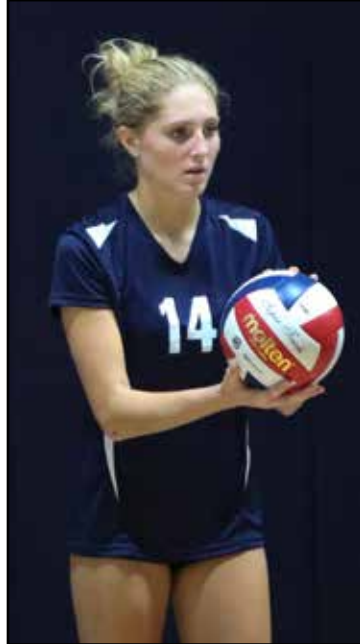
The 2016 volleyball season has now come and gone. The Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association and the Washington Post both recently released the year-end accolades and Middleburg Academy’s team received multiple honors. Beginning with the leader of the Lady Dragons, Coach Maureen DiClementi was named the VISAA Coach of the Year, as well as the Washington Post All-Met Coach of the Year. Coach DiClementi led the Dragons to a 40-3

season record and ended the season ranked 8th in the state and 327th in the nation.

Leading the Lady Dragons in VISAA awards was Junior, Lilly Reilly '18, who was named the VISAA Player of the Year and a 1st Team All-State Selection. Lilly finished the season with stats that were all well above the national average. She played in 105 sets this season and led the team with 378 kills, and a 42.9 kill percentage. She also was

responsible for 98 aces.

The Dragons also had a pair of sophomores who received accolades. Setter Lilian Vargo was named VISAA 1st Team All-State, as well as Second Team All-Met. Lilian led the team with 975 assists on the season and averaged 8.8 a match. Chelsea Penfield '19 was a force on the front line, totaling 105 blocks and coming in second on the team in kills with 363.



LILLY REILLY '18 - VISAA PLAYER OF THE YEAR & 1ST TEAM ALL-STATE



ALISON THOMAS '17 - 2ND TEAM ALL STATE & ALL-MET HONORABLE MENTION



CHELSEA PENFIELD '19 - 1ST TEAM ALL-STATE & ALL-MET HONORABLE MENTION

THE HIGHLAND PLAYERS PRESENT THE MIKADO

The Mikado is one of Gilbert and Sullivan’s most popular operettas. The plot of The Mikado is pure fictional nonsense but was intended as a satire of English society, especially regarding cruelty beneath the finest manners and at the highest levels of society along with the idiosyncrasy of some of the laws passed by the British Parliament. The backstory involves the Mikado (the Emperor of Japan) telling his young son he must marry the much older, unpopular Katisha or be executed. The son leaves the court and assumes the identity of Nanki-Poo, a wandering minstrel, and goes to search for his true love, Yum-Yum, in the Japanese village of Titipu.

Ko-Ko (a commoner whose profession is a tailor) is Yum-Yum’s guardian and intends to marry her. But he is caught flirting (a capital offense) and thus is condemned to die. Instead of decapitating him, the Titipu authorities free Ko-Ko and proclaim him Lord High Executioner. The local nobles demand that he can’t order an execution until he has cut off his head, figuring that to be an impossible procedure. So the story progresses until the Mikado insists on execution, which Ko-Ko manages to avoid with many twists and turns in the story line.

In the beginning, we are introduced to the Nobles of Japan, and the story moves forward to its ultimate and foregone conclusion. Not to



spoil the story, but in the end, all live happily ever after (for the most part).

“To my knowledge, this is the first time this operetta has been performed in this area,” said Director Michael Hughes. “Many who come may know the three most popular

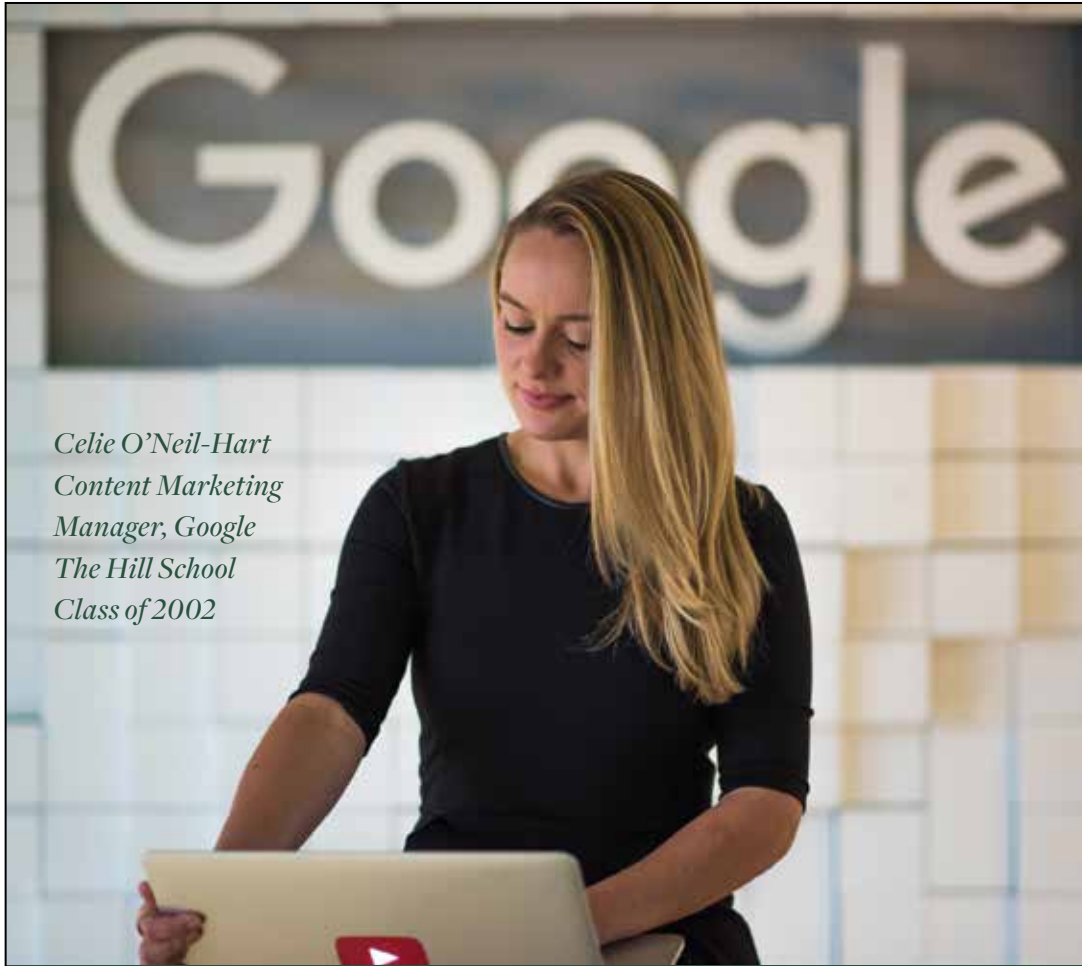
songs: A Wandering Minstrel I, Three Little Maids Are We, and Tit Willow.”

Hughes went on to note that The Mikado is an operetta, a form of music theater that is rarely written today. “An argument might be made that Les Miserable is an operetta and

even Sweeney Todd, but that may be a stretch. Certainly, operetta is more closely related to musical theater than true opera, in that it is lighter in tone and includes more dialogue and comedy than opera,” he said. “However, operetta does, as a rule, demand

a higher vocal standard, and is written in a more classical style than musical shows.”

Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$15 for adults, \$7 for students and children, and \$7 for seniors (60+) on the Sunday matinee.



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PROGENY

UPPERVILLE NATIVE TOPS THE U16 ALPINE PODIUM



BIANCA KLEPPER

WORLD CLASS FENCING COMES TO MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY: COACH ROLANDO TUCKER

For the first time in Middleburg Academy history, fencing is now a varsity sport. A sports of grace, speed and reflexes, fencing, also called Olympic fencing, is a sport in which two competitors fight using swords, with dull tips, winning points by making contact with their opponent. It takes people years to master such a craft, but luckily for the Middleburg fencing team our new varsity coach Rolando Tucker, knows all too well what it takes to be a world class fencer.

Rolando Tucker

For three years Rolando was ranked first in the world for foil (a

type of sword used in fencing) from 1995-1997. Named in "Cuba's Top 10 Athletes" in 1994, he has won gold medals at National Tournaments, Central-American Games, Pan-Am Games, World Cups, and

World Championships. A former Olympian, his team took home the bronze medal at the Atlanta games in 1996.

Upperville native, Bianca Klepper, dominates Podiums with teammates in a strong Season start for Carrabassett Valley Academy U16 Women's Alpine Team.

They say the top is lonely, but not if you've got a built-in podium partner like the U16 Alpine Women at Carrabassett Valley Academy. Bianca Klepper of Upperville, VA, and Ella Spear of Wyman, BE, have topped the podium in nearly every race start this year, signaling a bright future for Women's Alpine racing at the school.

"Having teammates at a similar level gives these ladies a leg-up on their competition," says CVA Women's U16 Alpine Coach, Emille Garand. "They push each other on and off the course, they're both incredibly dedicated and focused individuals, it makes for great skiing."

Spear nabbing 1st, Klepper taking 2nd in the season opener at Sunday River, ME, nearly December, and they never looked back. Volleying for 1st and 2nd became the norm through the next half-dozen races, and this past week they hit the podium again with a 1st place finish for Klepper, and 3rd for Spear at the Slalom races at Shawnee Peak, ME.

Not only is she proving herself on the snow, Klepper, who attended public school in Loudoun County until her freshman year of high school, is one of the Academies top students, enrolled in AP-level classes and maintaining "A" average.

SIX STUDENTS, ONE TEACHER SELECTED TO HIGH ACADEMIC HONOR ORGANIZATION



Seniors Leland Burke of Upperville, VA; Mary Park Durham of Dallas, TX; and Isabella Zimmerman of Fairfax, VA, were elected to the national high school honor society, which is modeled on the

collegiate Phi Beta Kappa. Burke, Durham, and Zimmerman join classmates Emily Dietz (Unionville, PA), Lindy Davenport (Berrville, VA), and Lindsay Woods (Philomont, VA), who had the special distinction of being selected as juniors last year.

Three members of this year's junior class earned that extraordinary honor: Melanie Fann of Purcellville, VA, and international students Emma Cao (Nanjing, China) and Yiming Zhao (Qingdao, China).

In addition, Maria Evans, Ph.D., who chairs Foxcroft's STEM Department, was named. She becomes the seventh faculty member of the Foxcroft chapter, joining Mohler, a math teacher,

Head of School Cathy McGehee, Academic Dean Courtney Ulmer, Athletic Director Michelle Woodruff, and faculty members Lindsey Bowser and Alex Northrup.

SAND STONE FARM SHOW CIRCUIT AWARDS 2016 HIGH POINT WINNER



MARILYN LANE, 17 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER OF MICHELLE LANE-SMITHWICK HIGH POINT WINNERS FOR SAND STONE FARM, MILLWOOD, VA'S 2016 JUMPER HORSE SHOW CIRCUIT. MARILYN IS PICTURED HERE WITH THE WINNING MOUNT CORDELIA, OWNED BY LOUISE PETERSON.

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Spring Into Action and Explore New Activities at the Healthy Eating Active Living Expo and 5K Run/Walk.

Saturday, April 1, 2017
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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PROGENY

FOXCROFT SCHOOL SPONSORS WORKSHOP AT WEF



TONYA JOHNSTON (FEATURED SPEAKER), CATHY MCGEHEE, KATE WORSHAM DIRECTOR OF RIDING AT FOXCROFT; ALUMNA/ALUMNA PARENT/BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER MERCEDES GOTWALD, AND CURRENT/PAST PARENT TIM HARMON.

Foxcroft School and its riding program were front and center at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, Florida — the home of the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) — Wednesday, Feb. 1 when the School sponsored a seminar with mental skills coach Tonya Johnston. The special “Lunch & Learn” workshop, “Mental Skills: Tools for Success in the Ring and the Classroom,” brought together more than 60 riders, trainers, and owners from across the WEF show grounds for an educational afternoon. Johnston, an equestrian Mental Skills Coach, and A-circuit competitor shared valuable information with the audience — which included most of the 13 Foxcroft students who are training and competing in Wellington through the School’s Exceptional Proficiency (EP) program. Started in the 1990s when Alison Firestone Robitaille ‘95 was a rising Grand Prix rider and a Foxcroft student, EP enables girls to spend time away from campus to pursue passions from riding and ski racing to playing the piano at the highest levels while remaining students in good standing and integral members of the Foxcroft community. At the Wellington workshop, Johnston, who has a master’s in sports psychology, encouraged members of the audience to share their different riding challenges and experiences and to consider the importance of self-awareness and understanding to help them achieve success. Johnston also reminded the group to stay focused on things that are within their control, such as setting realistic goals, preparation, planning, and maintaining positive energy in the classroom and the riding ring.



Publication Date	Copy Deadline	Publication Date	Copy Deadline	Publication Date	Copy Deadline
Jan. 19	Jan. 09	May. 25	May. 15	Sep. 28	Sep. 18
Feb. 23	Feb. 13	Jun. 22	Jun. 12	Oct. 26	Oct. 16
Mar. 23	Mar. 13	Jul. 27	Jul. 17	Nov. 16	Nov. 06
Apr. 27	Apr.17	Aug. 24	Aug.14	Dec. 14	Dec.04

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AN EVENING BEHIND THE SCENES WITH PATRICIA HESS, ON MARTIN SCORSESE’S “THE AGE OF INNOCENCE”

Middleburg Academy and the Middleburg Theater Department are pleased to bring you an exclusive showing of the Martin Scorsese’s masterpiece, *The Age of Innocence* (1993), with a guest appearance by Patricia Hess, Assistant Production Manager, Thursday, March 2nd @ 4:00 pm. The seminar will begin at 4:00 pm in the Mary House’s ballroom. There will be snacks and refreshments before the showing segments of the film, with a follow-up Q&A session at the end with Mrs. Hess.

Patricia Doherty Hess
Producer/ Production Manager

Patty has been in the motion picture business since 1979, working primarily on feature films and dramatic television. She has had the privilege to work with many distinguished directors including Martin Scorsese, Alan Pakula, Mike Nichols, Oliver Stone, Stephen Frears, Adrian Lyne, Robert Benton, Chris Columbus, Shawn Levy, Betty Thomas and the Coen Brothers to name a few.

She started her career in Tucson, after graduating from The University of Arizona where she met Leslie Marmon Silko, a MacArthur Fellow, who was making her first film, set in New Mexico. Now a member of The Director’s Guild of America, Patty has been a production manager and producer for over twenty years.

Some of her credits include the upcoming HBO film, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* with Oprah Winfrey, *Philomena* (Judi Dench), *Red Oaks* (Amazon), *Jack Reacher*, *Percy Jackson*, *Safe House*, *Bourne Ultimatum*, *Breach*, *Angels in America* (HBO), *Night At The Museum* (2), *Eagle Eye*, *Glen Garry Glen Ross*, *JFK*, *Lolita*, *The Pelican Brief* and *Raising Arizona*. (Full list on IMDb) Patty currently resides with her husband and two children in Waterford Virginia. She is an avid equestrian



The Age Of Innocence
Director: Martin Scorsese
Cast: Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, Winona Ryder
Genre: Drama, Romance
Year: 1993

The 1993 film production of *The Age of Innocence* was directed by Martin Scorsese and is a film adaptation of Edith Wharton’s 1920 novel of the same name. The story is set the “Gilded Age” (1870’s), portraying New York’s high society. The film was released by Columbia Pictures, stars Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Winona Ryder and was shot largely on location in New York City, Philadelphia, and Troy, New York.

The film won an Academy Award for Best Costume Design and was nominated for Academy Awards for Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Winona Ryder), Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Original Score and Best Art Direction.

The novel and the film tell the story of Newland Archer, played by Daniel Day-Lewis, who intends to marry the respectable May Welland played by Winona Ryder. May’s cousin, the Countess Ellen Olenska portrayed by Michelle Pfeiffer, has

returned to New York, which raises eyebrows in the New York society circles as she had unwisely married a Polish Count, who mistreated her while squandering her fortune. She then left him to return to New York.

HUGE Indoor Yard Sale

Sat 3/18/2017 8:00am-2:00pm and Sun 03/19/2017 10:00am-2:00pm, to benefit the Loudoun 4-H Leaps and Squeaks Rabbit and Cavy Club. Clothing (adults and kids), toy, housewares, decorative items, tools, books, CD’s/DVD’s, pet/animal care items, furniture and much more! All items are half price on Sunday! Proceeds help fund the community service projects that the club performs throughout the year. Location: Sykes Hall @ 4-H Fairgrounds, 17558 Dry Mill Road, Leesburg. Look for the sign!



Contact: Stacey Noll – stacey.noll@nollcentral.com



BINGO

SUNDAY MARCH 26

FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT WAAAG ANIMAL RESCUE

Marshall Community Center
4133 Rectortown Rd, Marshall, VA
2:30 - 4:30 pm
2 Bingo Sessions - 14 games! Cash Prizes!

\$35

\$40 at the door. Purchase advance tickets at:
www.eventbrite.com or angie@waaag.org

WAAAG is a veteran founded, 501 (c)3 nonprofit animal rescue organization. For more information, visit www.waaag.org or call 571.393.4980.

PASTIMES

RED CARPET READY

SINCERELY ME



BRANDY GREENWELL

This time of year us glam girls are finding inspiration from Hollywood award shows for our upcoming local, formal events. Planning outfits for everything from hunt balls honoring a season of good sport to spring galas to prom for the youthful glam girls is commencing. I doubt we will see any meat dresses or neck lines down to the belly but-ton strutting around Middleburg or the surrounding areas, but we will see a lot of ladies (and gentlemen) peacocking in their finest threads.

There are a lot of whacky dress trends out this year but I prefer more classic styles. I wish someone had advised me of the importance of classic styles in the 80's when I wore big bows and even bigger, poufy sleeves. The photographic evidence exists, but is under lock and key.

You will see a lot of two-piece outfits offered this season, not the kind your mother wears, the kind that Rihanna wears. I really don't think that showing your midriff is appropriate at a formal affair, even for the young beauties promenad-

ing. Equally you will see a lot of oddly placed cut-outs. I don't mind an open back or cut out shoulder, but side cut outs, no matter how thin you are, are asking for an odd bulge on your social media posts, unless of course you have one of those magic editing apps.

There are a lot of 'shawty got low, low, low' necklines on trend for sure. Maybe not as low as J-Lo's famous Grammy's outfit on the arm of P-Diddy, but designers are certainly promoting a lot of side boob. Few things are as flattering to a physique as a v-neckline, they just elongate and slim beauti-

fully. My only caution is to make sure your girls are secure. Fashion tape, sticky bras and cutlets all aid in preventing a dreadful wardrobe malfunction on the dance floor.

Angelina Jolie made waves at the 2012 Oscars not for her thes-pian contributions, but rather how she kept oddly cocking her right leg out of her stunning Versace Atelier gown. High leg slits are very fashionable this season, but are meant to flow with your movement rather than obviously trying to peek-a-boo your gams. Don't become a meme phenomenon.

Off the shoulder, A-line dresses are popular this year as are a classic, full skirt ball gown silhouettes. Can I get a Hallelujah?! They are the most universally flattering styles ever designed. Off the shoulder necklines frame your beautiful faces and no person ever said that an exposed collarbone wasn't alluring. A-lines and full skirts accen-



tuate gentle curves and create an hourglass for more athletic builds for true dressing perfection. Curvy girls need to beware of full skirts with box pleats. They will look fabulous until you sit down and the pleats spread giving an appearance of more than desired junk in your trunk.

As always, undergarment appropriately and never sport a VPL nor rogue bra-strap. And smile, friends. Your smile is the best thing you could ever wear. See you on the dance floor.

ALL EYES ARE ON HOLLYWOOD'S RED CARPET

NERISSA BROWN

All eyes are on Hollywood's Red Carpet Season. The most popular question asked is who is wearing what? In Middleburg, I see a little crimson runway wherever I go. Whether taking a stroll to my favorite shops or gathering for one of this season's fashion filled events, fashionistas are mirroring Hollywood and all it's glamor. What's better than swishing local Blanc de Blancs and a bit of red carpet styling at our own Oscar viewing party. Next time, I'm casting my vote for the Oscar presented to the home team for best wine, equestrian style and fun.

Let's take our first clue from the Golden Globes. Fifty Shades of yellow may be this seasons coming color of elegance. Maybe the big surprise of Hollywood story telling is revealed in shows like The Emerald City and Once Upon A Time. They shower us with a historical and a whimsical look at fashion and raptness given by a personal sense of style. The new hit sensation,



gray. Or perhaps freestyle is your thing. Unique and power styles range from baby bangs, shoulder length bobs, and the slick back look. Wearing your hair pulled up, back or in a classic braid is always a go to statement. Finished with your hair styling, give yourself a glow with natural feeling makeup. Continue to soften the cold weather with blush pink. It is the new nude, its warm and it's here for a repeat appearance. No

THE ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

I'm writing The Artist's Perspective on Valentine's Day. The day when love is in the air, which considering the somewhat lack of it these days, it's refreshing to see signs of the mighty heartbeat of passion. Ahhhh, passion. What would we do without our deepest desire to care about something in the most demanding and dedicated ways? To sacrifice. To be one with a someone or something, that you make your life about it. Loud and proud, or softly spoken, hardly a step is taken without considering how those steps may or may not affect that which you are passionate for.

I'm passionate about being an artist. Even though "artist" is just a title, though it may be an earned one.

More so, I am very passionate about creativity, using my imagination, being inspired and inspiring others if possible in the process. I accept that with my passion, and owning my title as an artist, that I will be praised by some for my talent and incorrectly stereotyped by others as starving, or not knowing business, or other such silliness.

Being who you are and being passionate about it is in my opinion, the only way to live. I don't want or wish for my life to be boring or regimented, for it to lack the freedom of thought, or to simply be a part of society. I want my life to be abundant; creatively, mindfully, spiritually, financially, charitably, healthily, happily, truthfully, knowledgeably, worldly, as humanly as possible. I live an artful life and I'm passionate

about it.

For artists trying to find their way, creativity will always be a winding path. Life is a wandering path sometimes, but creativity will bring you so much more than the normal day to day of almost anything else you could do. Every time you create something you have the unique perspective of seeing the inner you. Your originality is at your fingertips. How many people can wake up in the morning with a visual concept and know that it is not only within them to create it, or at least try, but to feel within your skin the joy of sharing it with the world.

There are those who mutter beneath their breath, oh, I could do that. But they never will. Artists by their very nature are people of action. You are not an artist if you merely think

about ideas. Art is not an idea, it is a visual/audible creative action. You only get there by doing. That which has not been created can be a wonderful idea or concept, but it is most certainly not art. Art is, only because an artist executed an idea into a reality. Some ideas take hours, some days, weeks or even years to become a piece of art, and some art is destined never to be, to simply exist as an idea or thought.

For those who covet art, who purchase it, who teach it, who celebrate art, bless the world for you. You make the world more interesting, more fun, more in contrast, more bold, more colorful, more filled with texture and a deeper understanding of ourselves as a human race. What is inspiration without the inspired? No matter if you are drawn to words,



Live An Artful Life, Tom
www.ThomasNeel.com

CAMP IN UNISON

STEVE CHASE

Remember camp? Mystery meat, bug juice, deer flies, and buddy tags? How about corny songs about being "down by the lake", or watching the Good Ship Titanic going down; or ditties like Kumbaya...I won't even go there. I loved camp, and participated as a camper with gusto. Music is an integral part of the culture of camps, be it those corny songs screamed out by the masses in the dining hall at my camp after meals (www.campwoodstock.org); more serious programs like my friend's camp in NH, which has cool rock music sessions for its musically inclined campers (www.kingswood-camp.com); or full blown music camps where aspiring young musicians gather to build skills.

As the music business continues to evolve, bands are finding many innovative ways of promoting their music and building their fan base. For the last few summers, I have seen a number of announcements for multi-day events that bring bands and fans together for musical workshops, private concerts, and master classes. These gatherings are just the ticket for aspiring musicians, but they also cater to the hard-core fan that may not play an instrument, but

are interested in composition, technical aspects, or band business strategies. Some of these camps, located across the nation can offer more than they deliver. If they feature big name stars, a downside can be that the famous musician arrives in a black suburban, does a talk, and high tails it away from the fans as soon as possible. In most cases though, you can hang out with your favorite guitarist. Always do some research to see how much interaction really happens with the musicians.

The center of the band camp universe on the East Coast is The Full Moon Resort in upstate New York (musicmasterscamps.com/full-moon-resort/). Located in a secluded valley amongst the highest mountains in the Catskills, it's a great place to beat the heat of the summer and its only about a six-hour drive from Middleburg. They have a jam-packed (pun intended) schedule this summer of Music Master Camps with a great variety of bands. You can spend a week with Butch Trucks and Orteil Burbridge from the Allman Brothers at their Roots Revival Camp. Folk fans can join Richard Thompson; fusion enthusiasts can hang with Adrian Belew and Tony Levin of King Crimson; or practice your guitar at Dweezil Zappa's Camp Dweezilla. Fans of the Band



can attend Camp Cripple Creek, which will study their music with The Weight Band.

I went to the Umphrey's McGee Summer School at Half Moon a few years back, where I joined 50 other super fans and the band for great week of talks, meals, open rehearsals, and nightly shows on stage and around the campfire. It was a remarkable experience, not soon forgotten. Located in the Catskills, Full Moon offers lodges and camping for participants. I brought my base camp tent, and savored some great weather in the wilds of the Catskills while learning, listening, and hanging out with the band. Regardless of your interests, doing a week at a Mu-

sic Master's Camp is well worth it.

Time to Plan for Summer Fests

The summer festival season offers a large variety of great music on the local and regional level and now is the time to plan. Click over to www.musicfestivalwizard.com to find your music festival. DelFest is looking amazing this Memorial Day weekend, with The Del McCoury Band, Gov't Mule, Trey Anastasio Band, Bela Fleck & Chris Thile, The Infamous Stringdusters, and many more. This festival is definitely becoming as big as Telluride and well worth the quick trip to Cumberland for a day or the weekend (delfest.com).

Feb Playlist

I've put together a playlist of some new finds and old favorites to get you through this weird winter we're experiencing. Enjoy it here: tinyurl.com/zeth54x



Timeless opens a mischievous journey of fashion with its time traveled treasure chest of historical apparel. Was that a black leather three piece worn by the Long Ranger?

As the month of February leans into March, what better time to turn your color wheel from red to shamrock green. Warm up this lazy winter by accentuating your wardrobe with array of colors that hint that spring is coming. Not only will it award you with a lift in your step, it surprisingly will brighten the smiles of those you encounter too. While we wait for the weather to clarify its way, I'm wearing a light coat and carrying another each day. You still can't go wrong with a duster overcoat and the classic pea-coat for those unexpectedly nippy hours. Even though you may pick up a few over garments each season, wise shopping says you will be carrying over classics for years to come. Make your top covering new again with embellishments like over-sized pins. They are showing up new and antique just about everywhere. Try a textured or faux fur vest worn on top to create a distinctive dimension and yes, accentuate your Hidden Figures.

Now that you've made your subtle seasonal shift, it is time for the trifecta. Hair, makeup and nail basics continue to be expressive, if only to highlight your natural beauty. Have fun with hair highlighting and coloring to give a balayage or ombre effect. Try splash lights, ombre reds and highlights of

look is ever complete without a fabulous lipstick. I must admit that I keep oodles of shades in my collection just to keep things interesting. But for the next "it" for this star studded season, metallics are the winners! Finally, the perfect nail pairing can be found in the black based mattes accentuated in gold and silver, coppers, the new french, cashmere inspired neutrals, jewel adorned looks and the ever classy red hot. With your late winter palette shift and your colors done, place your bet by holding on to your statement red handbag. Reward yourself with matching jewelry you love and a little classy bling!

Many may ask why all the fuss about fashion? What's our preoccupation with it? It's one of the oldest forms of self expression and our unique ability to transform ourselves each day. It also gives us the ability to give accent today to memorable times of the past or make a statement for something we hold near and dear. We stylishly wear pink to honor Breast Cancer awareness and boldly wear red for Healthy Hearts. We may even dress in costume to relive the fun and excitement of the 70's or 80's and express the wonder of giving at a Windy Hill Foundation Gala. But each day, we make a choice to put our best foot forward with fashion and style to honor who we are. Middleburg. This is Us and there's no place like home. I'll be watching you on the Red Carpets around town.

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PASTIMES

IS A REMODELER ON YOUR HOUSE-HUNTING TEAM?

WITH VISION, YOU MIGHT FIND AN AWARD-WINNING DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH
ASK A REMODELER



TIM BURCH

According to the National Association of Realtors, 75% of people surveyed believe spring is an ideal time to purchase a home. With spring within reach, I would venture to guess that most buyers will identify a realtor to partner with in their home search. Certainly makes sense. But what about adding an experienced remodeler to the mix?

For years, clients and their realtors have been turning to BOWA

for assistance in quickly evaluating homes before they make an offer. Perhaps they love the property, location and some aspects of the house, but it doesn't quite meet their family's needs. Through a complimentary Purchase Consultation, our design build experts can advise on what modifications can be made to suit the family's lifestyle and budget goals. We can also help to "interpret" the home inspection report. We've seen a number of instances where items deemed "red flags" by buyers, are actually easily remedied by an experienced professional dur-

ing an otherwise planned renovation. Once the buyer decides on the home, we can get started right away on the design. We can even help to identify priorities and develop a master construction plan, which approaches the project in phases identifying a manageable budget and timeline.

When you approach house hunting with the idea of remodeling in mind, you just might find a great deal on a diamond in the rough like these BOWA clients did. The buyers fell in love with the property, saw the potential for the 1940's house

and retained BOWA to design and execute an addition and renovation. The award-winning result was their perfect country home.

The original home was comfortably situated on 175 acres of land, but it did not fit the charm of the rolling landscape. Modernizing and expanding the dated home, while enhancing its harmony with the outdoors, was the top priority of this project. Additionally, the family wanted a well-appointed home that would be comfortable for family gatherings yet large enough for the



charity and business functions they frequently host.

Creating additional space and allowing for more natural light were the keys to achieving the family's desired home. The whole-house renovation included a three-story addition with beautiful new living, dining and gathering areas, as well as a new outdoor living space. Seamlessly integrated with the main living area, the new deck includes a covered pavilion, multiple sitting areas and an outdoor kitchen, which greatly increase the habitable square footage and perfectly suit the homeowner's lifestyle. Upstairs, the new master suite highlights sweeping views of the rolling hills and features a luxurious sculptural tub in the bath and sleek shower enclosure. On the lower level, are new media and game rooms, a kitchenette and a walkout to a lovely patio.

Some of the other project highlights include:

- Sophisticated barrel vault ceiling that connects kitchen to dining room
- Home automation package including audio/visual, lighting, and window coverings
- Custom hickory hardwood flooring throughout the home
- New gas fireplace with gold- honey quartzite surround
- Rustic pine beams in the kitchen

The home now incorporates a rustic-meets-contemporary design that is both intimate and large enough to serve the family's diverse needs. This Loudoun County renovation earned BOWA recognition for three different industry awards including: National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) 2017 Southeast Regional CotY winner, NARI's local chapter Capital CotY competition winner, as well as the 2016 NVBIA/MNCBIA's Great American Living Awards winner.

So, if you're on the hunt for a new home this spring, keep BOWA in mind. I am happy to help..

Tim Burch is a Vice President of BOWA, award-winning design, and construction firm specializing in 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 and enjoys calling on his 30 years of design-build experience to solve their home-related challenges. A third-generation builder and certified remodeler, Tim is the Construction Advisor for The Mosby Heritage Area Association and sits on the Board of Building Appeals for Fauquier County. Before 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.

LITTLE BLUESTEM

THE PLANT LADY
KAREN REXRODE

Our local fields often contain a native grass that has a winter presence which is hard to miss. I have seen it turn a rich rusty red, although this winter it's a tan like the color of mocha. What triggers the darker color is usually a wet fall. I remember the winter of 2001 when it was the darkest I had ever seen and virtually impossible to ignore. Commonly known as little bluestem, it differs from big bluestem by growing lower, only two feet tall, and having much better winter color. A native of most of North America, and the official



too coarse for sheep. As with any true grass, the deer don't eat little bluestem but the seed is favored by several species of grouse, here the ruffed grouse. As native plants have become more and more popular, this one is available.

When actively growing, the blades



state grass of Nebraska, it is botanically known as Schizachyrium scoparium. The name is Greek in origins, schizein, to split and achuron for chaff, referring to the upper lemma. A lemma, in simple terms, is the shorter leafy blade that surrounds the small feathery plume. Prior to being labeled schizachyrium it was known as andropogon, from Greek - man, and pogon - beard. This describes the small divided plumes, like miniature beards, a dirty blond color.

Farmers see this grass as a sign of poor soil and pasture land that has a low pH. Another common name is povertygrass, probably coined from the perception that a farm is poorly maintained, not mowed or home to livestock. Cows and horses will feed on it but it's

SEVENTY FIVE PERCENT OF FITNESS IS NUTRITION

KAY COLGAN BS
CERTIFIED HEALTH COACH AND
FITNESS PROFESSIONAL

Everyday there seems to be a commercial on television touting the miracle weight loss stories and the hope of total fitness by doing some sort of exercise. In only ninety days, your physique can resemble a Greek god or goddess just by doing these exercises. A promise of a radically changed body by using a certain piece of equipment for just 14 minutes a day. The newest advertisement is basically a piece of plastic you stand on and simply twist, claiming phenomenal results. Is that possible? It seems as if everyday someone is inventing a better or faster way to achieve almost impossible results. Individuals buy into these programs only to be disappointed by the results. They might blame themselves for not achieving the results touted by these various programs. Exercise alone, will never equate to weight loss and fitness as it only accounts for twenty five percent. Yes that is right, studies have proven over and over again to lose



weight and have true fitness a staggering seventy five percent comes from balanced clean nutrition.

Seventy five percent of what we eat determines how fit and healthy we are. The saying we are what we eat and drink is so true. Balanced nutrition will give us a strong foundation that will enhance our physical performance. So what is balanced nutrition? Without getting to complicated about macronutrients and micronutrients, just remember we need balanced fuel for our bodies to run at optimum performance. If we don't eat enough or eat the wrong foods are bodies will hold on to body fat and be a bit sluggish. If we look at exercise, we need a balance between cardio fitness, strength and flexibility. With nutrition, our bodies need a balance of complex carbohydrates, proteins, fats, water, vitamins and minerals. No single food group provides all of these, so variety is the key. Our plates should be filled with a rainbow of colorful fruits and vegetables as well as lean protein and grains. Eating lean green and clean will energize your body and give you the fuel necessary to reach your fitness goals. Don't forget to

drink water, often and not just when your thirsty. Our bodies need water to function properly. After all, the number one cause of headaches and muscle cramps can be dehydration.

Instead of looking for the next big thing in exercise, take a look at your current food intake. Ask yourself, how many fruits and vegetables are consumed in a day? Do you eat lean protein everyday? What about good complex carbohydrates? Are you getting enough water? Finally, there are no magic exercise programs. There are no magic diets. Good sound nutrition is the key to optimum health and fitness. Simple, but true. For more information about health and fitness, please contact Kay Colgan at 14 S. Madison Street, Middleburg, Virginia or call 540-687-6995.



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Cats! We have a really great group of cats waiting patiently for their forever families. Contact us to set up a time to meet Malcom, Purcee, Baby Jemma, & all our other kitties.



Jeffrey is an American Guinea Hog, a rare breed of pig very similar to the Pot Bellied. He is 10 months old, castrated & should mature to ~85-100lbs. Jeffrey is used to living outdoors with his friends.



Newton is a DROP DEAD GORGEOUS 11 month old Bluetick Coonhound. He is wonderfully sweet with people, & he could not be more handsome if he tried!! Due to the nature of his breed, we are looking for a home that is able to provide for his athleticism through obedience or agility training & one that can closely monitor him around cats or other small animals.



Erica is a small 18 year old welsh cross who was saved from a neglectful situation. We know that she was ridden by children some years ago but hasn't been in some time so likely could use a refresher course. Erica will require an experienced handler but has tons of potential & is a flashy mover!



Spencer is a VERY adorable little Chihuahua who came to us by way of transfer from another facility that was overcrowded. Spencer can get overwhelmed by things that are bigger than him, so he would not do well in a home with young children. He is a very cute little guy & can't wait to have his own person to love.



Jasmine is a 25 year old small welsh pony cross who came to us from a neglectful situation along with 2 other ponies & 14 rabbits (who are all adopted)! We know that she was ridden by children some years ago but hasn't been in some time so likely could use a refresher course. Jasmine is sound & easy to handle.



There is nothing better than playing & running. The smile on **Sugar's** face says it all! Sugar is a fantastic 4 year old Great Pyrenees/Lab mix who would benefit greatly from being in a quiet home with no other animals. She is 100% house trained, walks nicely on a leash, & would love to be your playmate or couch cuddle buddy!



Cheyenne is a 9 year old quarter horse. She's had some training & handles well on the ground. She is looking for a home with someone patient, calm, & gentle because sometimes things are just too scary for her. Cheyenne would likely be happier as a companion horse than a riding horse for this reason. She gets along well with other horses & ponies.



Zeus is a wonderful, young Boston Terrier mix who was transferred from an overcrowded facility. Behaviorally, he is the perfect dog! Zeus does however have a heart murmur, which is being managed as well as it can be with medication. He gets to spend the days in our office & has been a perfect gentleman & fantastic office assistant!!



Huey is an adorable 1 year old Mini Rex rabbit with an appealingly sweet disposition. This breed makes an excellent family pet due to their even temperament.



Bella & Rocco are a bonded pair of Beagles we would like to adopt together. Bella is 7 years old & is on daily medication for Addison's Disease. Rocco is her best friend at 10 years old. Both are very sweet & have great manners around adults & children.

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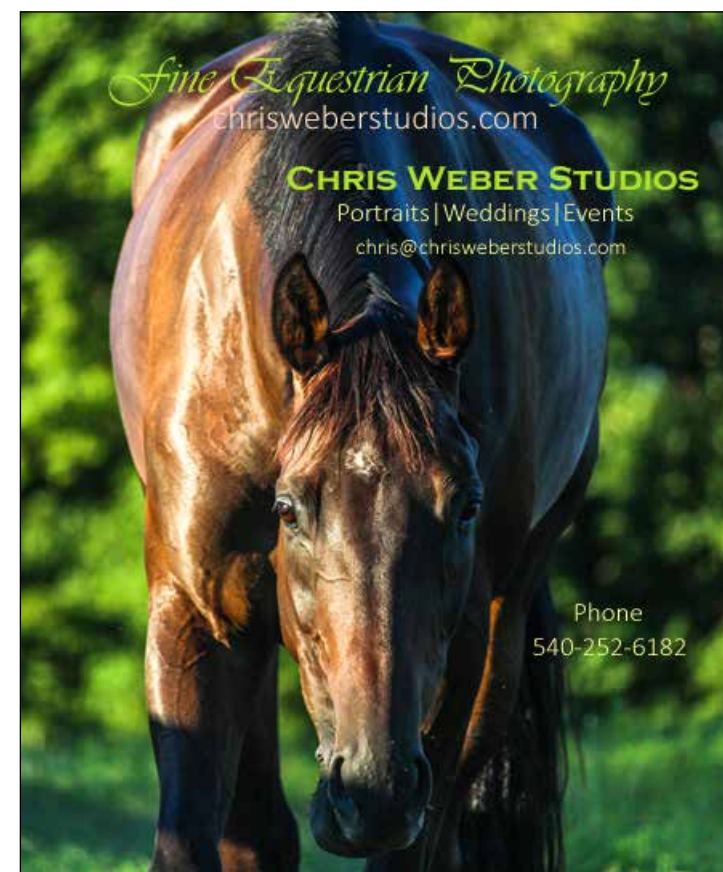
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SPRING
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Middleburg Community Center CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

JAN 28TH: Shiloh Baptist Church 150th Anniversary

FEB 4TH: Loudoun Symphony Orchestra Concert

FEB 24TH: Middleburg Montessori Art of the Piedmont

MAR 3RD: Nat'l Pancake Day Dinner - LCPR&CS

MAR 16TH: MCC Senior Luncheon

APR 1ST: Healthy Eating & Active Living Fair

APR 12TH: Nat'l Grilled Cheese Day Lunch - LCPR&CS

APR 21ST: MCC Concert on the Steps

MAY 4TH: Cinco De Mayo Dinner - LCPR&CS

MAY 19TH: MCC Concert on the Steps

MAY 27TH: MCC Public Pool Opening

visit: <http://www.middleburgcommunitycenter.com/calendar1/>
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EDITORS DESK- LETTERS@MIDDLEBURGECCENTRIC.COM

— H.E.A.L MIDDLEBURG: IN SUPPORT OF GOOD HEALTH —

Last year, the Middleburg Town Council unanimously adopted a “Healthy Eating/Active Living” (HEAL) Resolution in support of a growing national campaign to “improve the physical environment and

give residents more opportunities to be physically active and eat healthful foods.” See

As part of the Town of Middleburg’s HEAL program, a 5K Run and Healthy Eating Active Living Expo is

scheduled for April 1 at the Middleburg Community Center

As the folks at heal.middleburg.com have noted, “As a community, we are very lucky to have a rich trove of local

farmers, gardeners, nutritionists, fitness and wellness experts. We are also blessed to have such a beautiful Town surrounded by the magnificent countryside of the Virginia Piedmont, which encourages

us to eat more healthfully and live more actively.”

We encourage everyone to visit the Expo, designed to appeal to folks of all ages and all levels of physical fitness.

IN MEMORIAM

The Middleburg Eccentric and much of Loudoun County mourn the passing of one of

our founders and most steadfast and faithful contributors

Glenda Cudaback Morrow. In print and in person she

has touched the lives of many. This paper, our communi-

ty, and our County is a lesser place without her.

EVALUATING TRUMP BLUE

DAN MORROW

How does one take the measure of President Trump’s stewardship to date?

There are positives, of course. (See Red in this issue)

But the rare positives have been, by all accounts, overwhelmingly overshadowed by negatives, ranging in significance from the annoying trivial to the risky, dangerous and destructive.

The question, at this point, is how to rank which of President Trump’s actions are “merely” mean-spirited, annoying, ill-mannered, or embarrassing for those of us who see our President as an important symbol of our country and its values . . . And which of his actions are truly dangerous, damaging, and destructive, to our country, our fellow citizens and the world.

The “Punk/Peril” Index

Hence we suggest a new index as a shorthand way to characterize the behavior of the President, his syco-

phants, minions, hangers-on, and other “staff” and “spokespeople.”

We call it the “Punk/Peril” index.

On the “Punk” scale we plot, from 1 to 10, the degree to which the behaviors of the President are “merely” distasteful and annoying: conduct that, in a semantically less reticent age, we would attribute to those of an ill-mannered, out-of-control, loud-mouthed, 6th-grade petulant punk with a tendency to pick on the first, second and third graders.

On the “Peril” scale we plot the degree to which the same behaviors are truly, seriously, dangerous, damaging or immediately destructive.

The resulting index for any given action may thus be expressed as a Punk/Peril Index in the form (x,y). For example:

Misogyny (10,10)

If one takes the Presidents remarks about women and what he, as a “celebrity” could get away with doing to them, as outward and visible sign of his utter contempt for the notion of a woman’s status in

general, and her right to terminate a pregnancy in particular, his “genitalia” remarks rise to (10,10) . . . punk-ish in the extreme and deadly, as his recent use of executive orders and pending appointment to the Supreme Court make clear.

Flynn (10,10)

The ill-fated appointment of Michael Flynn as National Security Advisor was classic Trump “punk” move: guaranteed to annoy. See Flynn’s dismal record at the DIA, his performance at the GOP convention, with a reputation, as once source put it “ . . . As a Captain Queeg-like character, so paranoid that his staff members were undercutting him and credulous of conspiracy theories.”

His failed appointment ranks ten on the “Perilous” scale both because of the unworthiness of the appointee AND because it made clear that Trump was ill-prepared to perform what is arguably the most important function of the President, to “provide for the common defense” in his role as Commander in Chief.

Mattis (2,5)

Trump’s appointment of General James “Mad Dog” Mattis rates a “2” on the punk scale, but only because there is some suspicion Trump agreed to his appointment only because of his nickname.

Mattis ranks a relatively low five on the “Peril” Scale because, by most if not all accounts, he is both sane and capable. Marines do, however, tend to take following orders seriously . . . Perilous, given the Commander in Chief.

China (10,10)

Trump’s mouthing off about what he intends to do about China’s “island building” in the South China Sea, its currency “manipulation,” and our adherence to the “one-China” principle rank 10 on the petulant punk scale for their embarrassingly uninformed tone, and as yet another of Trump’s strutting attempts to appear “macho” in front of his dupes and minions. Provoking conflict with China rates a ten on both the economic and military “peril” scale.

Bannon (10,10)

Reliance on, PLUS the appointment of a fellow petulant punk and entourage member with truly dangerous views clearly rates a (10,10)

The Perils of Petulance

You get the idea. Feel free to index your own favorite Trumpisms . . . And always remember that, like elections, the behaviors of petulant punks in high office . . . have consequences.

NOTE TO DEMOCRATS: “GROW UP!” RED

JIM MORGAN

After a full month and, to the apparent astonishment of liberals, President Trump has not started a nuclear war. What has happened, however, is that liberals have become unhinged. In Leftworld, a 90-day ban on travel from seven countries in chaos because of terrorism becomes a “Muslim ban” and, of course, the predictably goofy 9th Circuit Court goes along.

They also have latched onto the travel ban’s admittedly clumsy roll-out in a way not at all reminiscent of how they defended Obamacare’s disastrous roll-out way back when. But then no one ever accused Democrats of having a sense of irony.

Lefties in general, including that unutterably silly woman at the inauguration whose screaming fit went viral, have adopted a new watchword: RESIST! But they sound more like whiny football fans complaining about how a bad call cost them the game – even though the replay shows the call was good.

Progressives have thoroughly internalized their sense of political entitlement. Their minds reel at the unfairness of their Golden Girl losing the election and they hate Donald Trump for winning. The result is a dangerous and growing lynch mob mentality. Multiple anonymously-sourced stories every day toss some new anti-Trump accusation into the

mix as the left-wing media behave like a slobbering pack of wild dogs, thus demonstrating why the Latin word “sinistra” means both “sinister” and “left.”

That hysterical (highly appropriate word) Left-wing Women’s March was emblematic. The gals bared their breasts like so many Mariannes storming the barricade then made a caricature of the whole thing by dressing up as vaginas to showcase their demand that women not be objectified because of their sex. Um, yeah.

One group of topless young women marchers was accompanied by a young man who spent the whole time obviously ogling them and getting away with it by claiming to be gay. They should all, as New Hampshire Democratic chairman Raymond Buckley recently said, “grow up.” Liberal columnist Tim Krieder declared that voting for Trump was “kind of like a murder.” Sadly, even

growing up wouldn’t cure that degree of derangement.

And speaking of derangement, lefty journalists suddenly have discovered that presidential executive orders are bad but senate filibusters are good. They loathe Steve Bannon because he called them “the opposition party” which, clearly, they are. And we’re back to something we haven’t heard since the Bush administration: “dissent is the highest form of patriotism.” Remember that, Mrs. Pelosi? During the Obama years, dissent became racism but now it’s all good again.

It’s curious that liberals call conservatives “fascists” while their Soros-funded brownshirts are out in the streets shouting down conservative speakers, rioting against anyone who disagrees with them, and looting a few stores while they’re at it. Comment on their violent propensities and they immediately set out to prove you right.

Come to think of it, having that in common may explain why liberals and sharia apologists have become allies lately.

Their main grievance, other than Trump’s very existence, is that he has been doing what he was elected to do. As regular readers know, Red very reluctantly supported Trump as a lesser evil. Since then, your humble correspondent has become much more supportive of him because he handled the transition so well, because most of his appointees were good (how cool is it to have a SecDef nicknamed “Mad Dog?”), and yes, because of the contemptible liberal frothing at the mouth that demonstrates just how far out into left field American progressivism has gone.

In only a month, Trump has, among other things, begun dismantling Obamacare, started defunding the nullifiers in “sanctuary cities,” begun the wall-building process,

frozen federal hiring and new regulations, increased the restrictions on lobbying by former government officials, and reauthorized the Keystone Pipeline.

Significantly, despite the vicious attacks and even this manufactured flap over General Flynn, Trump’s approval rating is holding around 50%. Perhaps it really is morning in America again.

TRUMP’S IMPACT ON SCIENCE A SCIENTIST’S PERSPECTIVE

ARTHUR POLAND, PH.D.

Our new president has already had a very disconcerting impact on science.

The most drastic actions have been a gag order on providing information about global warming at the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as information about energy from the Department of Energy.

There has also been a freeze on

research grants already approved to scientists at Universities doing research in these areas.

Web pages at those agencies that provide information to the public and scientists have been shut down. Employees at those agencies have been

told not to talk to the news media or anyone else about their work, period.

My colleagues feel that congress and the Trump administration are attacking science in an unprecedented manner.

Scientists are sufficiently concerned that they have organized a March for Science planned for April 22, and a People’s Climate March on April 29.

ASK A COUNCIL MEMBER

MARK SNYDER

The Middleburg Council is gathering Friday evening, April 7, at 5:30 and again on Saturday morning at 8:30 for visioning sessions to discuss goals and policies. Council will use a conference room at Salamander Resort. Mike Chandler, a distinguished member of the Virginia Municipal League, former Blacksburg planning commission and council member is our distinguished facilitator. He has exemplary knowledge and experience regarding local governing.

The intent of visioning is to provide an opportunity for each member to discuss matters of importance to the town. The goal is to hammer out a consensus vision – where we are and where we want to be – to guide us in future council matters. The visioning sessions are open to the public; however, these meetings provide no opportunity for public participation. Therefore, I want your comments and suggestions in advance! In my January column, I summarized

the 2008 Town Visioning document, here: < <http://www.middleburgva.gov/documents.html>.

I am about to miss my first council (regular or work) session in a several years, due to a business trip for my company, Northrop Grumman. The trip means I cannot attend the council work session on Thursday evening, February 23. I try hard to attend every council session, to serve the Middleburg community to the best of my ability. The work session agenda includes discussions

CITIZENSHIP - “A PATH OF INDIVIDUAL PROGRESSION” THE PUBLIC SQUARE

JERRY VAN VOORHIS
CHANDLER VAN VOORHIS

Good citizenship takes sturdy belief in something beyond ourselves, and how to adjust to all that may be around us. But it also has to do with what is within us, and its path of progression. Else why are we free?

The ability to “act” in life is the moment we become free. The engine of liberty starts then. Acting is how we dream, and the way we get better. It’s also a way to relieve life’s pressures when they fold in around us, yield to light over darkness in life and, perhaps, even drive us a shade closer to who we are in the universe. These are mostly internal battles not external ones, and they are fought more with the heart than the head.

Acting, the true castle of our character, lives in a realm of risk because it is about tomorrow. Continuously acting is, by nature, dynamic. It opens

life’s mental frontiers to us. It shapes who we become. The arena of individual action - or personal destiny - is the essence of The American Dream’s founding, and the ultimate purpose we must covet and protect most.

We are never the same once we discover more truth for ourselves. Every action creates us anew. Through growth, we change. In becoming new, we first are led to make other choices. This path of progression then lies within us. It’s responsibilities rest within us. The consequences we produce must then be resolved within - far more than through “things” around us.

Acting stretches across all of life: from it we go up, we go down, then up again. One might say, acting is a steady conversion of the human soul.

To think freely - to freely act - precedes even rights of free assembly, speech, press, or prayer. If conscience is the root of liberty, character is its ethical home. And the spirit of

charity is the oil paving the growth of both.

While conscience is first among any tier of freedoms, we often wear other badges of identity. The two most prevalent are choices and causes. We make valued choices, for example, all the time. Choose a school. Get a degree. Select a career. Marry. Save and buy. Borrow. Spend. Invest. Enter contracts. Secure property. Pick hobbies. Create something. Alter priorities. Find our faith. And much, much more. As for causes, we are a society of them today. Many are great ones, and we are known for rallying behind the leading public issues of our time well.

The choices we make and causes that matter are a huge part of liberty, but neither are ultimately at the heart of it as much as conscience and character. Because choices often surrender to fad or fashion, they can occur in a vacuum. But character never does,

for character is who we are. Character pulls poor choices back within ourselves, at times, to amend. Choices are a means of freedom, less an end.

As for causes, they can easily splinter society today. Often full of goodwill, they sometimes coat selfish agendas and press mere liberty of viewpoint. But liberty of view is not the same as liberty of conscience. Wrapped as a yoke which assumes others have to see things our way, liberty of view actually can misapprehend our rights by pressing upon, even skewing, the conscience of others.

Conscience, the crown jewel of our liberty, expresses itself as character. Humbly perfecting both in life is a hard ladder to climb. For most of us, it takes all the energy we can muster within to give up faulty assumptions we hold, repair ourselves, expand our vision of life, make tomorrow better than today, and chisel our finest natures with care and confidence over

a lifetime. For virtue is never borrowed. It must be acquired.

Virtue comes upon us one by one. Through life’s gifts of grace, it wins the day and eventually can spread from millions to other millions - and, one day, touch a whole population. This is the ultimate repayment to ourselves and to society for the liberty it bestows upon us uniquely as Americans. A democracy must be built bottom up by nature and not top down.

Much as fire destroys the dross in gold, our inner constitution is the means for strengthening and perfecting our citizenship as a Republic. Our future rests on assuming such an obligation. The Public Square, in fact, holds we have no other choice, and that we may be starting to own this frontier. For its seed lies in the faith bred by the American Revolution and the promise locked into our Constitutional Founding.



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FLORIDA SPRINGS AND MANATEES

WATERWORLD
RICHARD A. ENGBERG

Last November, I attended the annual conference of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) in Orlando, Florida. You may recall that I retired from AWRA which is headquartered in Middleburg a year earlier after 16 years as Technical Director. It was a great reunion with many friends.

One afternoon during the conference I skipped out of the technical sessions to visit an attraction in the Orlando area. What did I visit, Disneyland? Universal Studios? Any of the many other attractions in the area? No, none of them. Instead I drove about an hour north of Orlando to visit Blue Spring State Park.

Springs occur at locations where groundwater discharges to the surface. Many of the nearly 1,100 identified springs in Florida discharge water under artesian pressure from the underlying Floridian Aquifer and in some cases the discharge is significantly large. That is the case of Blue Spring, a first magnitude spring. A first magnitude spring discharges more than 100 cubic feet per second, which is the equivalent to the average discharge of a small river. The water from Blue Spring emerges from the aquifer at a constant 73 degrees Fahrenheit and flows to the nearby St. Johns River.

However, the attraction of Blue

Spring State Park for me was more than just the spring itself. I talked to a couple of friends at the conference who had visited the park a few days earlier because in November, manatees begin to move upstream in the St. Johns River to winter in the warm water of the spring. They were fortunate to have seen two manatees. They cautioned that morning was the best time to see manatees, because by afternoon, they were often back in the river.

Florida manatees are herbivorous mammals living on submerged vegetation. Fully grown, they can weigh more than 800 pounds. They are gentle giants who have been listed as an endangered species for many years. Contact with humans is the principal reason. For example, they can be killed or maimed by contact with boat propellers. In January 2016, there were an estimated 6000 manatees in Florida water, a significant gain in numbers over 20 years.

I decided to take a chance and go to the park. Even if I didn't see a manatee, the hydrologist in me intrigued by the thought of seeing such a huge spring. The park was beautiful, cypress trees with hanging Spanish moss over the sparkling clear water of the very impressive spring. There were observation platforms built over the water flowing from the spring.

I didn't see any alligators or I



didn't see any of the monkeys that are supposed to live in the park. But within five minutes of walking onto an observation platform, I saw my first manatee gliding slowly along about six inches below the water surface. Some would say it was not beautiful but to me it was, and its

movement through the water was smooth, graceful and, to me, even peaceful. Very shortly I saw another. In total, I saw eleven manatees including a mother with two offspring and another mother with one (see photo).

Seeing the manatees was a great

experience. It reminded me that we humans share the earth with some amazing creatures; we need to remember that our earth is their earth too.

Manatee and offspring, Blue Spring State Park, Florida, November 17, 2016

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