Middleburg Eccentric
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Middleburg Film Festival
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Middleburg: 230 Years Old and Still Making History

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Photo By Sharon Hallman Photography

3rd Annual Forrest Allen Financial Aid Fund

The annual A Place to Be (APTB) event to raise funds for financial aid was graciously hosted this year by Tanya and Joe Matthews at Trillium Farm in Purcellville, Virginia on October 6th- 8th.

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Middleburg Town Council Report

Dan Morrow

Sidewalk Cafés

At Town Council's September 28 Work Session, Town Planner Will Moore suggested that Middleburg, for the first time, consider seriously the idea of allowing sidewalk cafes on its streets.

According to Moore, "he had been approached by a couple of businesses that were possibly interested in sidewalk dining."

There was much to consider in what might appear to be a simple request, Moore noted, including liability issues and ensuring non-interference with passable rights-of-way.

Nevertheless, the Town Planner noted, sidewalk cafes could do a lot to add life to a street, citing Winchester's experience with their pedestrian mall, and Leesburg's sidewalk dining.

If Council thought the matter worth further consideration, Moore volunteer to craft a draft ordinance for their review.

Councilmembers Daly and Leonard-Morgan were enthusiastic about the idea. Councilmember Mark Snyder was somewhat skeptical, but expressed interest in seeing Town staff "work out a way so it could happen."

Moore promised to have something for Council to review, "within the next couple of months. "

Quarterly Messages from the Mayor

Mayor Betsy Davis reported that "someone [had] suggested that time is allocated" for a formal quarterly "message" to the citizens, written by the Mayor and/or a member of Council, and published once per quarter on the Town website and in the newspaper.

Councilmember Leonard-Morgan said he thought it would "be nice if a different member of Council suggested a theme each time a message was done."

Councilmember Mark Snyder, who already writes a column once a month for the Middleburg Eccentric said he thought the topics covered should be "the Mayor's preference" and suggested, "if she wanted input, she would have it. "

Councilmember Littleton said he thought that such a "message" "would increase citizen engagement and transparency."

Since "the next quarter begins on October 1st " Littleton suggested the Mayor's first "message" appear before Thanksgiving and take advantage of all free media coverage available

Mayor Davis agreed.

Water Tower Issues

Mark Alvarez, of Stonewall Court Homeowners Association, appeared before Council at its regular monthly meeting on October 12 to advise Council that his residents had received a notice that work on the water tower there was in progress and would continue until November 9th.

Heavy equipment, he noted, was parked in the lot near the tower, including two heavy-duty trailers, and sandblasting supplies and equipment that were doing serious damage to the pavement.

Though it was both true and reasonable that the Town had an easement, guaranteeing ac-

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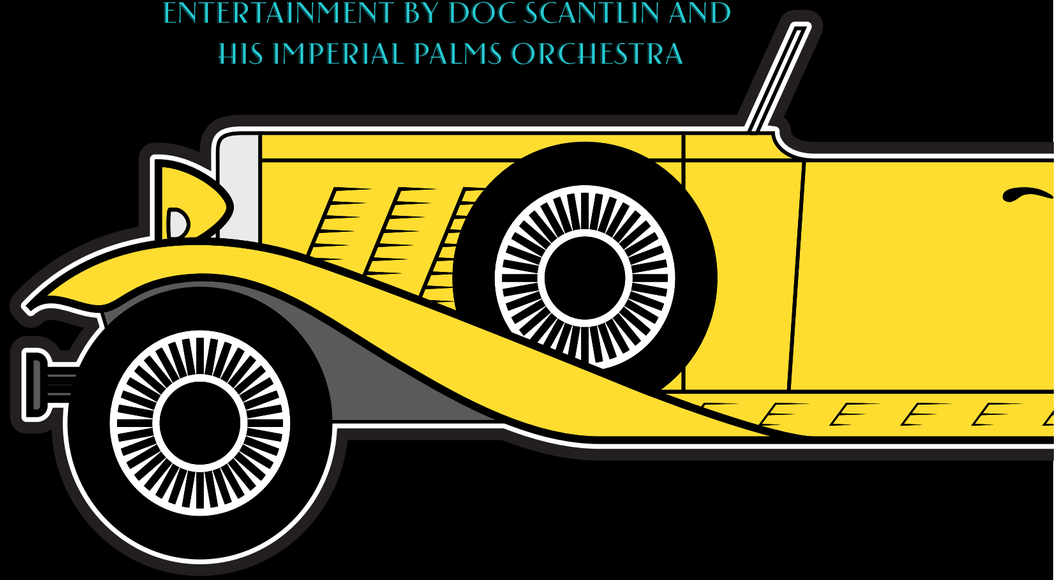
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News of Note

The Inn at Little Washington Set To Celebrate 40 Years!





Tom Neel

As The Inn at Little Washington soon sets itself to celebrate a milestone 40th Anniversary, instead of beginning this story with Once upon a time, let's just imagine it all as "A MAGNIFICENT DREAM". In 1978, a young Patrick O'Connell opened his tiny restaurant in an old building, in a little town in one of the smallest, least populated, but most picturesque counties in Virginia. By the mid-eighties, he greeted his first Inn guests, and by 1987 The Inn at Little Washington became a member of Relais & Chateaux, the luxury hotel association based in Paris. O'Connell, by the way, has been its North American President for over the last 12 years. Two years later his inn was honored with the first ever Mobil Travel Guide 5 star award, and the following year another first, two 5 stars, one each for The Inn and his restaurant.

Over the next ten years, Chef Patrick O'Connell would be awarded by the James Beard Foundation, Best Chef Mid Atlantic Region, Outstanding Chef in America, and The Outstanding Restaurant in America. The flow of prestigious national and international awards would continue, along with hundreds of magazine covers, feature articles, television appearances and yes, those coveted Michelin Stars!

Known as the Pope of American Cuisine, Chef Patrick O'Connell is quite simply an exceptional culinary pioneer. But as a business person, O'Connell has done what few could have ever imagined and embodies those words, build it and they will come! He doesn't look at his inn or restaurant as most might think, but rather as theater and he's meticulous about it. Everything from lighting, design, placement, presentation and certainly, customer service, are there to create an extraordinary guest experience. In fact, he shares of his staff's training, "What we are teaching has more to do with life skills than restaurant skills." But O'Connell has not only created a world-class restaurant and inn, which competes with exotic European castles. He has done a great deal for the little town of Washington, the rural county of Rappahannock and the state of Virginia. Keep in mind, with Virginia's bustling wine industry today, The Inn at Little Washington was schooling patrons on the art of fine wine before most had even heard the word - Sommelier!

Creative, clever, and quite humorous are deep within this man's DNA. It's so fitting then for his 40th Anniversary to be named "A MAGNIFICENT DREAM". Over the years having collaborated on so many projects with "Chef", as his staff refers to him, I was again honored by him choosing me to create the celebratory painting by the same name. "We like nothing more than throwing a party.", O'Connell shares. "It energizes and exhilarates us, and reminds people that life is worth living!" So much so that he's actually throwing three parties, "something for everyone!"

The first, on June 16, 2018, at historic Mt. Vernon, pays tribute to George Washington, who as a young surveyor became "so interconnected with our village of Little Washington." O'Connell and his talented staff will magically revisit history by transforming the grounds of the picturesque home of our first President into a magnificent evening of splendor! As with his 30th Anniversary, this party will too include the country's most respected chefs dining with guests, while enjoying culinary delights and fireworks over of the Potomac River. Proceeds from this event will benefit Mt. Vernon and co-hosts, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

Paying tribute to O'Connell's French inspirations, the second party will truly be a once in a lifetime European gala taking place at the greatest chateaux ever built, Vaux le Vicomte, 40 minutes outside of Paris. The 15,000 s.f. palace was built in 1661 by Louis XIV's minister of finance, Nicolas Fouquet, and sits on 1,200 acres of vast Parisian gardens. Limited to 150 guests, this rare experience will be one for the history books.

The Third party will be a two-day Woodstock-like summer festival reunion. Open to the public and to include The Inn's past chefs and former employees, this event will be more relaxed, with music, a bonfire, and glamping! Think of it as luxury camping. Proceeds from this event will benefit O'Connell's Foundation.

Patrick O'Connell and his extraordinary kitchen staff still wear their iconic Dalmatian print pants, and now a new spotted mascot named Luray can be found greeting guests. Patrick says of his new pet pooch, "He's been a genuine delight and gift!" When asked about his four long decade milestone and success, O'Connell truly sees food as art and shares of his Inn's longevity, "It's this quality of being able to be adaptable and nimble, but always our most immediate priority is making our guests happy anyway we can. For me, the definition of true luxury is when no compromise was made for the quality."

For more information about "The Magnificent Dream" and The Inn at Little Washington's 40th Anniversary, please visit - TheInnAtLittleWashington.com

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News of Note

One of the Nation's Top Steeplechase Events Returns

International Gold Cup races are a fall favorite event



Thundering hooves, fancy parties, lavish tailgate spreads, more than 45,000 fans and spectacular fall scenery will all be part of the upcoming 80th running of the International Gold Cup on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Great Meadow in The Plains, Va. (5089 Old Tavern Rd., The Plains, Va., 20198). It is the largest steeplechase event in the mid-Atlantic and one of the largest in the country—and one of the few to feature sanctioned pari-mutuel wagering.

The first International Gold Cup was held in 1930 at Grasslands Downs, Tennessee the King of Spain provided a spectacularly beautiful gold trophy. Although the race meet moved to Virginia in 1984, winners of the International Gold Cup are still awarded the same magnificent trophy.

"The Virginia and International Gold Cup are currently the only venue in Virginia with live pari-mutuel on-site wagering," explained William Allison, president of the Virginia Gold Cup Association, "We are excited to feature betting for our fall races again. It has been a big success and added a lot of fun for our attendees."

The International Gold Cup is well-attended by Washington's diplomatic community including ambassadors and representatives from many nations. The event provides a unique venue for social entertaining and a great place to network in the midst of spectacular fall scenery. The first race will be run at noon.

Gates open for the event on October 28 at 10 a.m. with the first of eight races starting at noon. Early arrival is encouraged. General admission car passes are $75 and are available online (www.vagoldcup.com), as well as at many area Harris Teeter stores (see website for info). For information contact the Virginia Gold Cup Association at 540-347-1215 or visit the web. Advance purchase of tickets is recommended. Children 12 years of age and under are admitted free with an adult. To get there from Washington, D.C. take I-66 west to Exit 31 (Route 245 south) and follow signs into Great Meadow, only 50 minutes from Washington, D.C.

For ticket outlets and other information, go to www.vagoldcup.com.



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69th Annual Emmanuel Christmas Shop



Even in a town steeped in tradition, there are only a handful of events that have continued uninterrupted for 69 years. The Christmas Shop is one of them and on November 2nd, 3rd and 4th Emmanuel Episcopal Church will once again be transformed into a magical Christmas wonderland with the theme of "All God's Creatures. The Christmas Shop is an outreach of Emmanuel Church, attracting more than 25 vendors from around the country selling unique gifts, fashion, jewelry, children's clothing, toys, books, antiques, decorations and so much more. Brassicas Café from Aldie will be serving scrumptious organic quiches, pastries, and lunch. Live music, a children's art show, visits from E. Manuel Fox and lots of woodland animals hiding throughout will enhance your shopping experience. There is truly a gift for everyone on your holiday list and probably a little something for you too. And this year, you can have your gifts beautifully wrapped before you leave the Shop. Proceeds from the annual event benefit Emmanuel and its work in the Middleburg community including, Seven Loaves, Windy Hill, Fish and Blue Ridge Hospice.

The Christmas Shop is a Middelburg tradition embraced by the entire town. It takes a village to run an event of this size and the small congregation of Emmanuel gets lots of help from its friends and neighbors, who volunteer as Elves during the three days of the show. Townies also help with marketing and house vendors who come from far away. Annually, the show draws more than a thousand visitors who patronize local eateries and shops while they are visiting.

Pretty soon you will begin to see the big white tent being erected on the lawn of the parish house at 105 E. Washington Street and teams of volunteers streaming in and out with decorations and set up. Mark your calendar for the first Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in November for the 69th Annual Emmanuel Christmas Shop. The suggested donation for admission is only $5 per person and $10 per family. See you there.

For Additional Information 687-8053 lamagg@aol.com

We Dare You to Attend "Scary Songs & Stories"

Don't miss this fun pre-Halloween event on October 29!



Middleburg's Emmanuel Episcopal Church presents the latest in their "At The Parish House" performance and arts series. "Scary Songs & Stories" will be the perfect warm-up for Halloween. Local residents and students will do their best to frighten you with a medley of songs and stories (Headless Horseman, anyone?). It all happens on Sunday October 29, 3 p.m., at Emmanuel's Parish House (105 East Washington St.). To reserve a seat, call 540-687-6297. There's no charge (free-will offerings accepted). Scary refreshments will be served. Join the fun and definitely wear your Halloween costume!



News of Note

New Task Company Comes Life from A Seasonded Planner

JoAnn Hazard turns years of organizing experience into personalized service company

Life these days seems to be busier than ever with loose ends dangling for many. JoAnn Hazard, a Middleburg business professional with more than 30 years of management experience heard too many friends talking about it and Loose Ends was born.

Through the years Hazard worked in administrative management, personalized services as well as acting as Innkeeper of the beloved Middleburg Country Inn. Her diligent and thorough organizing skills attracted clients and friends seeking out her recommendations for events, personal items, travel planning or household management recommendations.

"Once we retired as Innkeepers, I missed the day to day interaction with the public and noticed that there is a need for extra help," said Hazard. "I wish that I had had this service as we were raising our family and building a business. Sometimes you just need a discrete organizer to come in and be an extension of the family team to get stuff done, and tie up the Loose Ends."

All services are billed at an hourly rate based on service with a two-hour minimum. Services include but are not limited to, travel planning, appointment scheduling, event planning, bill paying, basic bookkeeping, household management, organizing, packing, gift buying and more.

To reach JoAnn Hazard visit www.looseendsbyjo.com or call (540) 687-5978. Life does not have to be hard when you have someone on your team to tie up the Loose Ends.



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Sandy Lerner's Book, *Caticons*, Just Released

An intimate, private look at 4,000 years of art imitating cats

"What if you had an (almost) unlimited budget and unfettered desire to surround yourself with furniture, clothing, art, household objects, books, and pretty much everything else in various semblances of cattitude? You would have caticons," opines Sandy Lerner on the book jacket of her latest literary endeavor. "Welcome to my thirty-year odyssey probing the corners of the art world, catalogues, foreign shores, and cyberspace, all in search of the one Cat Thing I did not have." She continues, "This book chronicles that journey, a catwalk of 4,000 years of Art Imitating Cats and the ways in which humans have expressed their love of and appreciation for all things feline."

Caticons is not just another coffee-table book of pretty pictures. It is an intimate and very personal glimpse into a unique and wonderful—but highly specific—journey that spans four millennia, five continents, and virtually every genre of decorative arts. Even for those who are not avid cat lovers, the book is riveting in the scope and breadth of the collection that has been amassed and the history and explanation behind each example, curated with both care and humor. The collection includes works by such as Picasso, Matisse, Giacometti, Fragonard, Manet, Fabergé, Tiffany, Lanvin and many others makers who surprise and delight the reader.

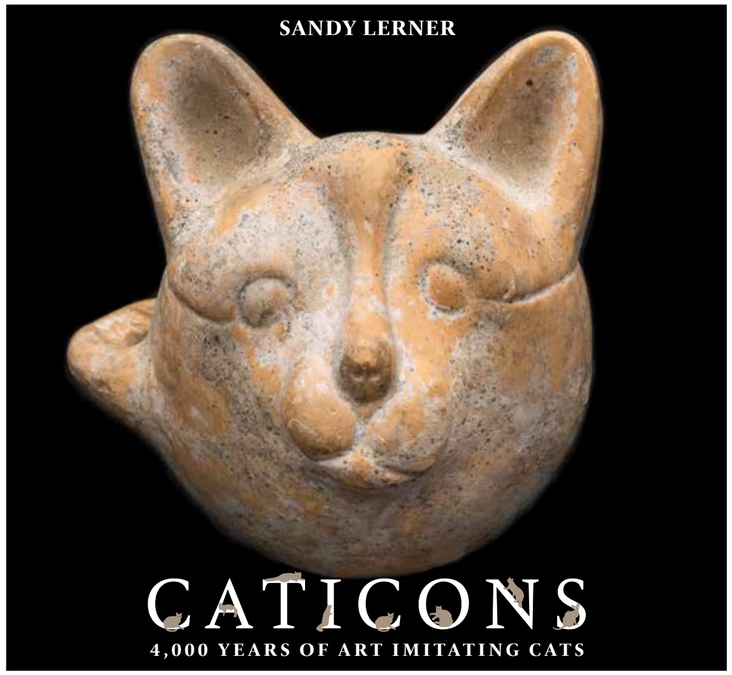
Within the 300 pages of gorgeous photography, Lerner brings us into a world that includes items such as a Hittite ceremonial cup with cat's face made of earthenware from 1700 BC to works of the current century along with a little history, some prose and poetry, and much love. There are paintings, sketches, jewelry, books, screenplays, clothing, furniture, ceramics, china, porcelain, earthenware, bronzes, sewing articles and housewares—even a cat Tarot, a German chess set with cat playing-pieces, and a truly beautiful and bizarre citrus-reamer. Interspersed throughout the book are tributes to cats by renowned people from all aspects of life—historians, artists, authors, poets, philosophers, photographers, entrepreneurs and others Lerner has come across during her 30 years of collecting.

Lerner may be best known for her co-founding of Cisco Systems, Urban Decay, promoting animal welfare and, latterly, her decades of certified organic, humane and predator-friendly farming and agricultural enterprises: Ayrshire Farm and Gentle Harvest; her work within the animal welfare community is equally well-respected.

Lerner explained, "This book documents a very personal collection, one originally began as a catholicon for my congenital need to live with cats, during a catless hiatus caused by living with my new husband, an individual allergic to the entire family of Mammalia." She continued, "Unlike some collectors who either follow trends or believe they are prophets in the art market, I have collected simply on the catholicity of (1) is it a cat, and (2) do I like it? Therefore, there are no images of unhappy cats, unlucky cats or even unsociable cats. 'My cats' are happy, healthy, and loved, in art as in life."

There are many poems and apposite quotes throughout the book but Louis Camuti's dictum opposite Andy Warhol's "Sam" seems to sum up not only Caticons but Lerner's approach to life: "Cat people are different, to the extent that they generally are not conformists. How can they be with a cat running their lives?" Combining art, history, humor, and beauty, Lerner gives us all a reason to consider the family cat(s) with a renewed appreciation.

Caticons is available online at www.caticons.info and at select museum shops, e-tailers, and cat fancy sites.



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News of Note

Wendy Linn wins blue ribbon at AIM sculptor exhibition



A native of Tipperary, Ireland, Wendy started taking sculptor classes at the Corcoran in Washington, DC, and continued to pursue her passion for sculpting with Goskin Carey at Artists in Middleburg.

Wendy is a fashion designer by trade who has long been involved in the arts, and she is an accomplished polo player as well.

This exemplary bronze statue of her polo pony Campanita with a player in action represents various polo players, including herself.

This beautiful work was done as a commission for a client and may be viewed at the current exhibition at AIM.

Kindness Day

Lauren R. Giannini

On Sunday, November 12, six businesses in Middleburg are participating in a grassroots celebration of World Kindness Day. It's simple: just stop in at any of the shops and meet the Kindness Ambassadors, share kind ideas, and choose your Random Act of Kindness from the board. No entry fee. No donations. Just a kind smile.

Here's the list of where and when you will find Kindness Ambassadors: from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Middleburg Common Grounds (114 W. Washington St) and Second Chapter Books (101 W. Washington St); from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Artists In Middleburg (102 W. Washington St), Imagine A Holistic Approach (15 S. Madison St), and Kriser's Natural Pet (5 E. Washington St - formerly Wylie Wagg); and at Highcliffe Clothiers (112 W. Washington St) from noon to 3 p.m..

Cindy Battino of Transformational Healing is behind World Kindness Day in Middleburg, thanks to her son, Blake Seidel, who graduated from UVA and danced with the Charlottesville Ballet for nearly three years. He was horrified about the incident in Charlottesville, but it became personal when he learned that two of his good friends were in the group of people hit by the driver.

"Blake called me from Lithuania where he's dancing with the Aura Dance Company and asked me to do something good for the world," said Battino. "I came up with Kindness Day."

Battino was amazed when a google search brought up World Kindness Day, which is being celebrated officially on Monday, November 13. She decided that it would be better to observe Kindness Day on a Sunday.

World Kindness Day is an international event that was observed for the first time on November 13, 1998, by the World Kindness Movement (WKM), a coalition of kindness NGOs, representing 27 nations. It's a movement with no political or religious affiliation. The WKM's goal is to foster goodwill to all via random acts of kindness.

In the USA, WKD is the hallmark of the Be Kind People Project and Life Vest Inside. Both organizations offer interactive websites and ways to encourage kindness as part of every child's development.

The host businesses are located in close proximity on the main drag, Washington Street (Route 50) with one exception on Federal, notable as the crossroad for Middleburg's only traffic light. Each business will display the poster for World Kindness Day in Middleburg in their windows. Visitors unfamiliar with Middleburg can get directions to each location via their mobile devices, by stopping in at any business with that distinctive poster in the window, and by accessing this story online. One nice aspect of visiting this small town is how lovely it is to walk everywhere.

"It is our goal to inspire many random acts of kindness in our area the day of November 12 and the week that follows," said Battino. "There really is a World Kindness Day and there really is a Science to Kindness. We are not asking anyone to be a Super-Hero and save the world — a smile to a stranger will more than do."

For those who like inspiring quotes, here's one that hits the proverbial nail on the head. Credit goes to the late, great Sir Charles Chaplin, Knight of the British Empire (1889-1977), English comic actor, filmmaker, and composer who rose to fame in the silent film era of the early 20th century.

"We think too much and feel too little. More than machinery, we need humanities. More than cleverness, we need kindness and gentleness."

- Charlie Chaplin

Mark your calendars: Middleburg on Sunday, November 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — a low-key and timely celebration of goodwill, of peace on earth – a movement that can make a real difference in the world, one random act of kindness at a time.

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News of Note

Middleburg Town Council Report

Continued from page 1

cess to the site, he noted, the small Homeowner's Association had to bear the burden of any repaving required, currently estimated at around $40,000-50,000.

Alvarez also noted, "that there was heavy equipment parked in the emergency fire lane, including a truck and two heavy-duty trailers." Alvarez expressed serious doubts about whether an emergency vehicle could respond under those conditions in the event of a life and death situation.

He then asked Council for help.

Mayor Davis said Town Council "would discuss his concerns and have the Town Administrator get in touch with him."

Town Administrator Martha Semmes noted that she had "tried to contact Mr. Alvarez; however, his voice mail was full."

Town Planner Stuart Will and the Town's Maintenance Supervisor, she said, had looked already at the equipment and reported that some items had been moved.

Ms. Semmes expressed appreciation for Mr. Alvarez' concerns and noted that the Town would do what it could to address them.

Honor Oath

Police Chief A.J. Panebianco administer his department's Oath of Honor to three officers on October 12: newly promoted Lieutenant Jay Hollins and Corporal Heather Fadely, as well as a new part-time Officer, Mark Davis.

Hollins, he noted, had been with the Town for five years and brought twenty-three years of law enforcement experience to the position. The new Lieutenant currently serves as the department's training officer and firearms arms instructor and will be taking over criminal investigation duties.

Corporal Fadely is the first female officer to be promoted in Middleburg. She has served here with distinction for six years and brought with twelve years of experience with other departments

Mark Davis, Panebianco noted, brings thirty-five years of police work experience with him to the job and is a lifelong resident of Middleburg. He is married to Mayor Betsy Davis.

Before a Middleburg Police Officer is truly added to the local force he or she swears, in addition to the oath sworn before the Clerk of the Loudoun County Circuit Court, the following:

On My Honor,

I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public trust.

I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions.

I will always uphold the Constitution, and the community I serve,

So Help Me God.

New Assisted Living Facility

According to Town Planner Moore Middleburg's Planning Commission has been in discussions with a developer hoping "to construct an assisted living facility in Middleburg." A formal presentation to the Commission is expected as early as November.

Moore noted that "there was a multitude of issues associated with this request," among them the Town's "constrained use" regulations "defined in the zoning ordinance for assisted living facilities that were for six or fewer persons."

There was, he continued, "no use defined in the Town Code for something on the scale that was being proposed," a facility of some 75 to 120 units.

Councilmember Mark Snyder observed that "this would have a huge impact on the town."

Gas Masks

Police Chief A. J. Panebianco reported that in recent meetings Middleburg's "partners in law enforcement in Northern Virginia" they had often discussed "pop-up protests" similar to the recent unfortunate events in Charlottesville and elsewhere across the Commonwealth.

Panebianco suggested that his department "needed additional equipment to protect the officer" during such events, namely gas masks, costing less than $5,000 for both equipment and training.

If something like the Charlottesville event happened in Middleburg, Panebianco observed, he thought it was important that local officers, Middleburg officers, be present and active.

Without gas masks that might well be impossible. Indeed, under such circumstances, the Middleburg Force ran the risk of being kept away from events happening in the Town they were sworn to protect and serve.

Murdock Appointed

On a motion by Mark Snyder moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk, Middleburg's Town Council unanimously agreed to ask that the Circuit Court appoint former Council Member Bundles Murdock to the Town's Board of Zoning Appeals to serve the remainder of the term vacated by Kathy Ribaudo.

HOLIDAY
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Nov. 14th Deadline
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Dec. 4th Deadline
for Dec. 14th Issue

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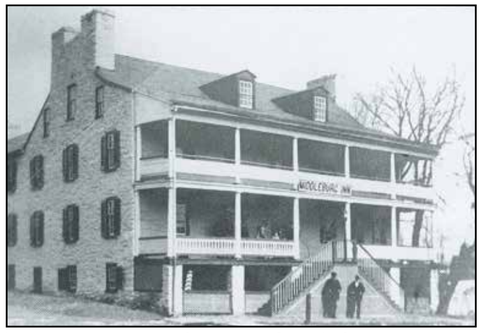
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News of Note

Middleburg: 230 Years Old and Still Making History

A few stories on who we are



The Middleburg Inn: Originally Chinn's Ordinary, one of the first buildings at Chinn's Crossing prior to 1787. Today this is the Red Fox Inn (credit: The Pink Box)

Bridge Littleton

Believe it or not but this year our great town achieved another milestone birthday. Middleburg is 230 years old and its story is a rich one, filled with ups and downs, triumph and tragedy. Three such stories are examples of this unique history and how it continues to shape our future. From the roots of our founding to the impacts of the Civil War, to Middleburg's Desegregation in the 1960s, in many ways, our story is the American story, one where we have been shaped by events but more importantly one where we have shaped those events.

Our beginning is a humble one, born out of the courage and tradition that embodied the Revolutionary Spirit. In 1749 the British Crown appointed a new Surveyor General for the Virginia Colony, a young man of 17 named George Washington. Within a year he was helping lead an extensive survey of the Piedmont and the Shenandoah Valley. This survey, still used by County Planners to this day, includes a small settlement known as Chinn's Crossing. It was a tiny hamlet of four buildings centered around Chinn's Ordinary, a local Inn which welcomed visitors traveling between Alexandria and Winchester. Owned by Joseph Chinn, a local landowner, the "Ordinary" remains today but is known to all of us as the Red Fox Inn. As the Revolutionary War came to Loudoun County many joined the cause of freedom, sending over 2,000 men to fight with General Washington. One of those men was Leven Powell. Having risen to the rank of Colonel, Powell returned to his wife and children in Loudoun County after the harsh battles at Valley Forge. It was here, at Chinn's Crossing that Powell had the vision for a new community, situated on a major commerce route and surrounded by fertile fields. Powell purchased 50 acres for $1,250 from Chinn and Middleburg was officially established in 1787 by an act of the Virginia Legislature. Powell, however, refused to have the town named after him, instead settling on Middleburg because of its location. A Delegate for Loudoun to the Virginia Legislature and eventual Congressman of the United States, Leven Powell left a tremendous legacy for Middleburg.



Map of the Burning Raid on Middleburg and Surrounding Towns, November 28th – December 2nd, 1864 (credit: Eugene Sheel)



Col. John S. Mosby, infamous raider and leader of Mosby's Rangers who's exploits led to the Burning Raid in 1864. (credit: Library of Congress)

Over the next 80 years, Middleburg thrived as a prosperous farming and trade route town, ideally situation on the Ashby Gap Road (Now Rt. 50). Growing from two dozen residents in 1790 to well over 400 by 1860, Middleburg's future looked promising. This outlook changed dramatically with the start of the Civil War in 1861. While Middleburg was involved in many skirmishes during the war, one specific event in 1864 changed the fortunes of Middleburg for decades to come. Many are familiar of the raids of Col. John S. Mosby and his Rangers. Originally ordered in 1863 by Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart to "harass the enemy for a few days", Mosby and his Rangers went on to become one of the most successful underground raider units of the Civil War, using Middleburg as their base of operations for over two years. Impossible to find, Mosby's Rangers lived off the land and hid from Union detection in local homes. They focused their hit and run attacks on supply lines, wagon trains, small outposts, and Union supply depots. Within a year their successes had caused so much damage to the Union Army, General Ulysses S. Grant ordered the dispatch of a Calvary Division to lay waste to Loudoun County to "consume and destroy all forage and subsistence, burn all barns and mills, and their contents, and drive off all stock in the region.…In this way, you will get many of Mosby's men." These instructions were given to the local commander, General Sheridan, who had already fallen victim many times to Mosby and his Rangers. On November 28th, 1864, the Union Army unleashed its devastating campaign that laid waste to the economy of Middleburg and surrounding areas. Infamously known as the Burning Raid, the campaign last five days with disastrous effect: 6000 cattle, 4000 sheep, and 600 horses killed or taken. Added to this was the burning of 8 mills, 230 barns and 25,000 bushels of grain. So effective was the devastation that it reduced the Middleburg economy to a shadow of its former self which did not recover for over 60 years. Farmers left and shop owners abandoned their stores. The long-term impacts were real and by 1900 the population of Middleburg was just 280 people from over 400 at the start of the War.

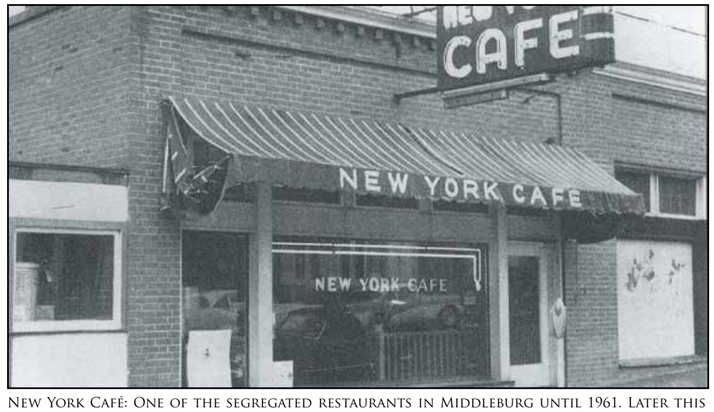


President and Mrs. Kennedy in Middleburg in 1962, after the end of segregation. Here they are leaving from Sunday Mass at the Middleburg Community Center (credit: Library of Congress)

This was all about to change with the election of President John F. Kennedy.

Within months of being elected, President Kennedy and his family began coming to Middleburg as a weekend getaway from the bustle of Washington DC. An admirer of Middleburg and ardent supporter of the Civil Rights Movement, President Kennedy's home away from home was also segregated. Realizing the significance of this stark contrast, local Civil Rights Leaders began to organize a bus visit and sit-in to Middleburg's four restaurants after two black students were refused service at a Middleburg restaurant. They planned to arrive on a Sunday while the President was attending Mass at the Community Center. Rev. Albert F. Pereira of Middleburg's Catholic Church and celebrant for Mass when Kennedy was in town was also a staunch opponent of segregation. Meeting with Mayor Reamer and the four local restaurant owners, Rev. Pereira outlined the planned sit-in. Realizing the importance of this situation, none of these community leaders "wished to embarrass the President or give the Town a bad name." And with that, segregation was ended in Middleburg and all were welcome. Within a week, blacks and whites were eating together at the Red Fox Inn. The date was April 10th, 1961, over a decade before many other parts of Virginia would integrate.

These stories give us but a glimpse into the rich heritage of Middleburg. Whether it's the Free Church which was founded for all faiths by Leven Powell, the writing of the Monroe Doctrine at nearby Oak Hill, the Middleburg Freemans Burau which distributed land to freed slaves during Reconstruction, or the regular visits of Presidents, Kings and Queens, to the formation of the National Sporting Library and the Salamander Resort, Middleburg's first 230 years have been nothing short of incredible. As we look to the next 230 years we must preserve our history for the next generation and build on the traditions and community which make this a truly special place.



New York Café: One of the segregated restaurants in Middleburg until 1961. Later this building became the Coach Stop and now is known as Lou Lou's (credit: The Pink Box)

If you would like to learn more about Middleburg rich history, I strongly recommend the following books:

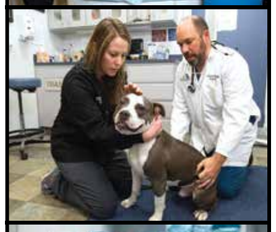
The History of Middleburg and Vicinity: Honoring the 200th Anniversary of the Town, 1787-1987, by Eugene M. Scheel 1987

Middleburg & Nearby, by Vme Edom Smith, Ph.D. 1986

Images of America: Middleburg, by Kate Brenner and Genie Ford 2012.

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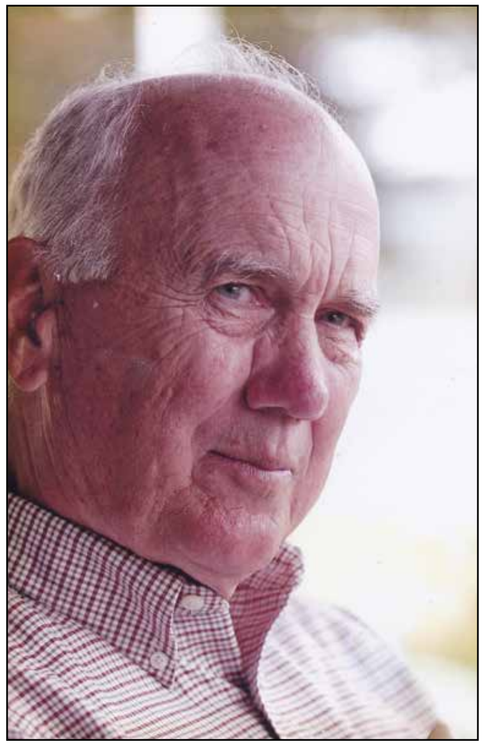
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C. Oliver (Ollie) Iselin III (1927 - 2017)



C. Oliver (Ollie) Iselin III, a native of Middleburg who was an All-American rower when he captained the Harvard crew team and later served for more than 20 years in the CIA in posts in north and west Africa, died at his home on Oct. 10 from congestive heart failure. He was 90.

Mr. Iselin joined the agency in 1951 shortly after he graduated from Harvard. He was given a medical discharge from the agency in 1973 when he was diagnosed with lymphoma at the age of 45. He retired from government service, eventually returning to his farm in Middleburg and later went into a complete remission.

Mr. Iselin became an accomplished polo player when he was stationed in Tangier, Morocco from 1954-1960 and continued to play the sport after leaving the CIA, competing locally and abroad.

Mr. Iselin was born in Pittsburgh on Sept. 5, 1927, the son of C. Oliver Iselin Jr. and Elizabeth Brown Iselin, a member of the first graduating class of Foxcroft School in Middleburg and a co-founder of Middleburg's Hill School.

Mr. Iselin's grandfather, banker, and philanthropist C. Oliver Iselin, was considered the pre-eminent American yachtsmen of his time, participating in and winning six consecutive America's Cup races in 1887, 1893, 1895, 1899, 1901 and 1903.

Mr. Iselin grew up on his parents' Middleburg farm and lived there for another 38 years after their deaths in the late 1970s. He attended The Hill School in Middleburg, St. Albans in Washington, D.C. and graduated from St. Mark's School in Southborough, Mass. in 1945. While at St. Mark's, he also attended Foxcroft for six weeks when a measles epidemic closed down St. Mark's. He was the first male student to attend Foxcroft, an all-girls school then and now.

He was in the class of 1949 at Harvard but graduated in 1951 after spending two years in the U.S. Army before returning to Cambridge to earn his degree. He was a member of the Porcellian Club and the Harvard Lampoon. He was captain and named an All-American rower for the Harvard crew team that won the Grand Challenge Cup at the prestigious Royal Henley Regatta in England in 1950.

He was married to the former Julie Thayer (Dody Vehr) in 1953. They lived in Georgetown, Great Falls and later purchased a farm in Unison, Virginia. They divorced in 1978 and Mr. Iselin later married Mary Sprague ("Swannie") Cunningham. They lived at Wolver Hill Farm in Middleburg where Mr. Iselin grew up, successfully breeding, selling and racing thoroughbred horses, farming cattle and growing crops.

He was an avid sportsman and he and "Swannie" owned a trout stream and camp in the Catoctin mountains for many years known as "Otter Valley." They both enjoyed fly fishing, shooting sports, horse racing, tennis and traveling.

Mr. Iselin was on the board of directors of the Middleburg Bank for many years, succeeding his father. He also was on the board of Middleburg's Sharon Cemetery and a member of the Ristigouche Salmon Club and Middleburg Tennis Club.

He was a wonderful father, grandfather, and employer and respected and loved by many, a true gentleman in every sense of the word.

Mr. Iselin is survived by his wife, his daughter, Julie Iselin Diehl, of Middleburg, a sister, Barbara Sears, 96, of Hamilton, Mass., and two grandsons, Daniel Iselin Malone of Denver, Colorado and Malcolm Thayer Malone of Bozeman, Montana, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a sister, Nancy Marburg of Lutherville, Maryland.

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The 8th Annual Holiday Recital



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News of Note

The Gift of Memories

Part 2



Aaron Kroeber

I opened my eyes to see my Star Wars poster hanging on the slanted ceiling of my room, grudgingly rolled out of bed and headed towards the bathroom to pee and brush my teeth.

For a moment thought about taking a shower when I noticed patches of sweat in the shirt I slept in.

What a weird dream I had…. it seemed so real, I wonder what "project" I was working on.

I decided to skip the shower and head straight for the bus.

At the stop Greg was waiting for me.

"Good morning sunshine!" he said letting out a big chuckle. "Today's the big day!"

"What are you talking about?" I asked.

"Don't try to bail on me now! We made a deal!"

"I really don't know what you mean," I answered.

"Last night we bet that if you lost the game, you would talk to Stephanie! And of course, tahnks to your incredibly lame skill set, you lost."

"Whatever dude" I said giving him a punch on the shoulder.

We both laughed and got on the bus.

We were one of the last stops on the route and the ride to school was always short for us.

In about 5 minutes Greg and I were dismounting from our big yellow chariot.

Stephanie, of course, was only feet away talking to her friends.

"There ya go" Greg said pointing to Stephanie and her posse, "Now's your shot!"

"Nah man, I can't, not with all the other people around, you know how nervous I get."

Indeed, only 4 years ago, when I was 12 and just starting junior high, I had to give a speech to the class.

I peed myself before I spoke a word.

You better believe I heard about THAT for months.

Like clockwork, as soon as I got the words out, Stephanie's friends all dispersed in different directions leaving just her standing there. Alone.

I looked at Greg, he looked back at me giving the head nod to go over.

I took a deep breath and started walking towards the most beautiful girl in the world!

"Hey you remember Stephanie Carter?" Greg asked.

"Huh?" I said startled by Greg's words.

Suddenly disoriented, I looked around to see where we were.

We were standing in the lobby of Mr. Carter's office, waiting for his receptionist to tell us we could go back.

"Stephanie Carter, she went to our high school, you were always obsessed with her, didn't you guys even date?"

"Oh yeah, uh yeah," I fumbled out "I remember, you made me talk to her for the first time, you don't remember?"

"Oh yeah! Hmm, maybe I should've talked to her, then I would've had in an with her father!" Greg said and laughed.

The joke didn't sit right with me though.

I just couldn't decipher why.

I smiled, "Yeah we dated for awhile, I wonder if her dad remembers me..." I trailed off at the end.

Greg turned to me, with that Greg look in his eye, "Well why don't we find out? This is the perfect presentation to do so."

"I don't know man, we haven't done a lot of testing on it yet, I don't want to turn our boss into a vegetable, or something"

"We tested it on you man! And you are perfectly healthy!" He grinned "We just tell him it's fully tested and then let him try it."

I looked down at my hands feeling uncomfortable with the idea that I was, in fact, "perfectly healthy. "

Things around me had been feeling strange lately.

Was it because of what we built or was I just delusional?

I was pulled out of my thoughts by Mr. Carter's receptionist. "You guys can head back now" she said.

We both stood up, gave each other a motivational head nod and smile and walked, in sync, into Mr. Carter's office.

I had to hold back a gasp, the place was huge.

Giant floor to ceiling windows behind his desk, towering bookshelves filled with books about who knows what.

But the part that really caught my eye was the Grizzly.

I kid you not, he had, in his office, a giant, stuffed grizzly bear at least 8 feet tall.

Mr. Carter must have seen me eyeing the bear. "You like my bear Chase?"

"Uhh y-yes s-sir" I stammered out.…

I kid you not, he had, in his office, a grizzly, which stood at least 8 feet tall.

Mr. Carter must have seen me eyeing the bear. "You like my bear Chase?"

"Uhh y-yes s-sir" I stammered out.

"Shot it myself," he boasted, standing and putting his hands on his hips.

"Wow, congratulations!" Greg chimed in with as much fake admiration as he could muster.

"So," Mr. Carter said, "What are you two here to present. I am crunched for time so either get on with it or we can talk about my bear for the next . . . " he looked at his watch, "10 minutes."

I looked at Greg. He needed to start. I was way too nervous.

Greg started our "pitch" with a question: "Mr. Carter, do you remember?"

"Do I remember what?"

Greg looked at me, so it was my turn

"Do you remember your childhood?" I asked.

"Well yes, parts."

Now Greg "Do you remember your teenage years?"

"Again, yes, but only parts"

Now me "Do you remember college?"

"Yes, parts, gentlemen I get the gist, please, PLEASE, get on with it," Carter answered, now clearly more than a little annoyed.

"Sorry, sir." Greg said "Okay, what if we told you, we had the ability, no, the POWER to give you back to your most defining memories, the events that truly shaped who you are today?"

He looked back and forth between us.

I felt cold beads of sweat start to form on my forehead.

His gaze was unnerving.

"I am interested," he finally said. "Please go on."

I opened my mouth to start the next part of my speech, something I had practiced a thousand times in front of my mirror, but nothing came out.

Greg looked at me. "You okay man?" he whispered.

I tried to nod but the world started spinning faster and faster, I closed my eyes hoping it would stop…

"Chase wake up" Stephanie said, pushing on my shoulder. "We are supposed to be studying the constellations for astronomy!"

"Sorry" I said laughing "I just had the weirdest dream, I was working for your dad's company!"

She laughed too, "That would be super weird!"

I looked back up to the stars and started to think.

As I did Stephanie nuzzled in closer.

Was that just a dream? It had felt so real. I touched my forehead and could feel sweat beads just like in the dream. Something out of the ordinary was definitely happening, but I couldn't put my finger on exactly what is was.

Stephanie, her head on my chest, looked up at me, and I was drawn into the warm comfort of her gaze, "I swear I could just lay here forever, the stars are so beautiful."

"I agree but somehow Mr. Martens still makes them sound lame and boring."

"Hey, you wanted to take this class for the easy A, and I just went along with it." she said.

"Steph, you are seriously the most beautiful girl I have ever met, and I am so lucky to be your boyfriend."

She smiled and gave me a quick kiss on the cheek and we just lay there. It felt like the whole world slowed down for us, we were just there, and I had never felt happier. I could stay with her, on the hood of my beat up '98 Corolla, for the rest of my life.

I turned my head look down at her, and finally mustered up the courage to say something I had never said to any girl before, "I love you."

She looked up at me with a smile from cheek to cheek, and said the best thing I could have ever heard "I love you too"

Then suddenly, I heard low murmurings, as if there was a large group of people near me, and soft music playing. I sat up and looked around to see where it was coming from, but we were the only people there.

"Is everything okay Chase?"

"You don't hear that?" The murmurings were starting to get louder, it was like I was in a crowded room, the music was getting louder as well.

"I don't hear anything babe" I could tell she was starting to worry, but the noise kept getting louder and louder until i could barely hear myself think. I put my hands over my ears and looked to Stephanie for reassurance. She smiled, her beautiful calming smile, and mouthed "It's okay". The noise became too much, I cringed and buried my head into my knees still holding my ears…

To be Continued

NEW WRITERS

Each Month The Eccentric will feature in this space new work by young writers heretofore unpublished.

An Army reservist and avid hiker
Aaron Kroeber lives and works in Reston, Virginia

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Places & Faces

3rd Annual Forrest Allen Financial Aid Fund

Benefiting A Place to Be ~ Trillium Farm, Lincoln, VA

Text By Ryan Perry & Forrest Allen Photos by Sharon Hallman Photography

The annual A Place to Be (APTB) event to raise funds for financial aid was graciously hosted this year by Tanya and Joe Matthews at Trillium Farm in Purcellville, Virginia on October 6th- 8th. It was quite a weekend, starting each evening with a spectacular wine tasting reception and Hors d'oeuvres provided by Red Fox Inn, Back Street Catering and Salamander Resort and Spa. The guests were clearly moved by a preview of Music Got Me Here, the documentary film by award winning director Susan Koch and centered around Middleburg and A Place To Be community members, Forrest Allen and Tom Sweitzer. Music Got Me Here chronicles Forrest's journey of recovery following a traumatic brain injury sustained while snowboarding in 2011. The film celebrates the transformative power of music on both of their lives and screened at the Middleburg Film Festival on October 21 and 22.

Each night culminated with the premiere performance of APTB's newest stage production, One Second of Grace, penned by A Place To Be Director, Tom Sweitzer, with original music composed by Kyle Boardman. The concept for the show came from Fusion Academy senior Grace Wheeler, who envisioned a musical that would speak to the mental health issues of today's adolescents in daring and creative ways. The show received an accolade of praises and was a smashing success.

As Kim Tapper, Associate Director of APTB, explained to the audience, "We're here to raise funds to help others have the chance to find their place to be because we believe that therapy and help - should not only be for those who can afford it. A Place To Be's goal since inception has been to breakdown the invisible, and sometimes very visible, barriers between "us" and "them" – those with disabilities…mental health issues and those without. We use performance, theater and music, to shine light on various challenges that people are facing and on the resiliency, inspiration and courage that they discovered to help get them through. That is what ties all of our shows together. When you donate to APTB, you are investing in human potential and possibilities for individuals and for our entire community. And you are committing to the values that APTB is built on: kindness, hope, acceptance, inclusion, innovation, and love."

The audience totally embraced Kim's message, Forrest's story of hope, and the courage and talents displayed by the entire cast of One Second of Grace. The week end was a resounding success! The Matthew's gracious hospitality along with the generosity of our sponsors and community allowed APTB to raise more than $100,000 for the Forrest Allen Financial Aid Fund! When the donations were tallied and the total announced, Forrest Allen exclaimed, "It's incredible that we not only reached our goal, we surpassed it. This means that lots of other people will have the same opportunities that I have had at APTB, and proves once again that nothing is impossible!"

As for the venue, Trillium Farm was the perfect setting to kick off A Place to Be's fall season of performances. The theater is simultaneously illustrious and humble, boasting an atmosphere of elegance while not overdoing itself in fanciness. It's even better that it's gently tucked away inside a blanket of rural hills and farmland. From the patio or the tennis court, visitors could clearly see deer romping freely and horses grazing through the surrounding hills, casting a light of serenity over the event.

Next year at this event, APTB will premiere its 1st ever Elementary School Production to teach younger children about empathy and understanding of differing abilities. And most exciting, this show is being written by A Place To Be's own Amy Stone and yours truly, Ryan Perry! You won't want to miss it!



Ryan Perry and Amy Stone



Preview of Music Got Me Here



Tom Sweitzer & Forrest Allen



Annie Hart, Forrest Allen, Tutti Perricone & Toliver



A standing ovation for One Second of Grace



Lots of clouds, each representing a donor

Places & Faces

3rd Annual Forrest Allen Financial Aid Fund

Benefiting A Place to Be ~ Trillium Farm, Lincoln, VA

Photos by Sharon Hallman Photography



Tanya and Joe Matthews,Grace Wheeler, Forrest Allen, Kim Tapper, Tom Sweitzer & Toliver



Vince Perricone, Emma Orndorff, Anthony Horkan, Tracy Lowry & Rick Boardman



Rae Stone, Dana Reuter & Forrest Allen



Mark & Brenda Moore



Krister and Angela Killinger & Tom Sweitzer



The cast of One Second of Grace

Exhibit to Feature Emotive Work of Portrait & Documentary Photographer



Exhibit to Feature Emotive Work of Portrait & Documentary Photographer, Sharon Hallman

For photographer, Sharon Hallman the environment and the subject are ever-changing and ever-connected—each with fleeting magic moments often missed in today's hectic lifestyles. Known for her ability to capture ordinary moments and transform them into extraordinary lifetime memories, Hallman accomplishes this not only through her photography, but also by literally digging up dirt and other nature elements from photo shoots and preserving them in glass capsule keepsakes for her clients. "I've collected everything from soil where my subjects stood, to water from a pond where one of my subjects saw her beautiful reflection for the first time, and recently a snip of a horse's mane from a portrait session of a girl and her beloved horse," says Hallman.

"I love to think of the way that each item holds pieces of DNA from the person and who they are in that moment."

Hallman's debut exhibit titled "I Am. Evolution of a Woman's Soul," will feature portraits of female subjects from birth through death that illustrate her distinctive ability to capture the light that shines within. "Sharon has an incredible ability to pull out the inner spirit in people," says client, Lauren Pacione."When you see her images they aren't just of a person, it's of their dreams and potential—the dancer, the musician, the astronaut. It's as if she sees us through our child selves with wonder and infinite awe."

Hallman's ability to see the beauty in a person's soul and not just the physicality of a body has inspired her to photograph a wide variety of subjects—from painful yet beautiful moments with hospice patients to moments that run the emotional gamut with kids and adults facing various life challenges at the music therapy organization "A Place To Be." While her upcoming exhibit focuses on images documenting the Evolution of a Woman, the exhibit also includes magical moments from her work as A Place To Be's resident Photographer.

In addition to Hallman's photography collection, the exhibit will include natural elements from her shoots, an actual preserved placenta, and handmade dishtowel created by a woman born over a century ago, who was also one of the inspirations behind the theme for Hallman's exhibit.

"I Am. Evolution of a Woman" Exhibit is being hosted by A Place To Be Music Therapy Center: 8 North Jay Street, Middleburg, VA. Saturday, October 28 from 5-8pm. Parking is available behind the building or on the street.

Places & Faces

Thank You Anne Hallmark! We Will Miss You!

The andy Bergner Center, Emmanuel Church, Middleburg, VA
Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard and Olivia Rogers at Valley Consulting





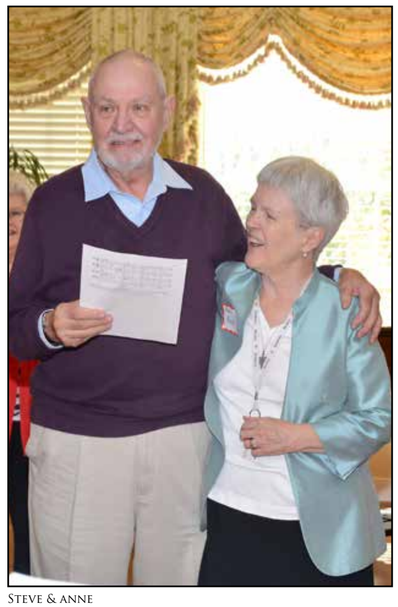
The Blessing of The Animals



Even Freddie got Blessed



Katy's Wedding, Photo By Olivia Rogers at Valley Consulting



Steve & anne



Anne and Kay



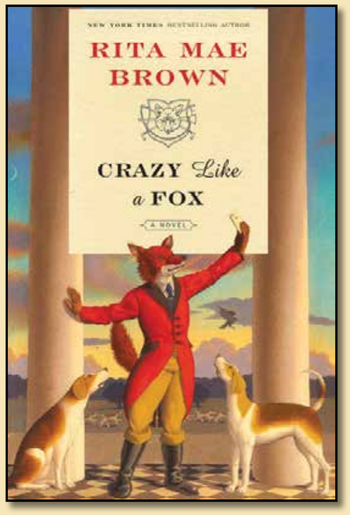
LOUDOUN LAURELS 2008 ~2016



Mr. William (Bill) H. Harrison, The Hon. Betsy Davis, Mrs. Judy Washburn, Ms. Cate Magennis Wyatt, Mrs. Margaret Morton, Mr. Joseph L. Bolding, The Hon. Joe T. May, Mr. Childs Frick Burden, Mr. Kim Hart, Dr. Edgar B. Hatrick, III, Judge Thomas D. Horne, Mr. Eugene Scheel, Mr. Jim Roberts, erobert E. Sevilla, Esq. and Mr. J. Hamilton Lambert. Not Pictured: Dr. Jack Cook, III, Stanley caulkins and Paul Ziluca.

We fondly remember our Laureates who are no longer with us: Mr. Fred Drummond, Ms. Su Webb, Mr. Lang Washburn

Mystery at the Museum



Museum of Hounds & Hunting NA, Inc.
Signing and Reception

Sunday, November 12 • 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

at Morven Park Mansion
17263 Southern Planter Ln, Leesburg, VA 20176

Join Rita Mae Brown for a 'meet and greet' book signing for $75 which includes the book and a champagne reception to benefit the Museum of Hounds & Hunting, NA

RSVP: katepolo@icloud.com or 540-687-5053

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Emmanuel Christmas Shop

November 2nd, 3rd & 4th • 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

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- Santa Fox
- Music
- And more!

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Middleburg, VA

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or
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All proceeds benefit Emmanuel's outreach programs and the upkeep of our historic church, open 24 hours a day.



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Our Café Will Offer:

- Quiches
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- Sandwiches
- Afternoon tea & sweets
- Coffee

All proceeds help support Emmanuel's outreach projects and to sustain our historic church, open 24 hours per day.

Places & Faces

Pints & Paws An Udder Success

GoodStone Inn, Middleburg, VA - Photos & Story by Nancy Kleck

Middleburg Humane Foundation was joined by the brew crew from Loudoun Brewing Company recently on a very warm afternoon under the trees at Goodstone Inn and Restaurant.

Several dozen pooches and their adoring humans enjoyed a box lunch provided by the Shenandoah Valley Golf Club and downed with Loudoun Brewing's cold glasses of beer. Dog treats were plentiful, of course. Many of the guests were well known to the staff and smiles and wagging tails abounded as everyone got reacquainted.

Before the 'Wag n Walk' around the trails, a theatrical group of pooches of various sizes and shapes vied for best costume. A pumpkin Pomerian, a devilish Rotty, a froggy black mix, a hot dog Dachsund, a lion Pomerian, and a black and white Holstein pit bull mix were among the tough competition.

After intense deliberation, the devilish Rotty won 1st prize. 3rd went to Ollie the Holstein but he seemed to think he'd won too. Whatever indignity this handsome faux moo endured wearing pink belly sausages disappeared as he was overcome with congratulatory hugs and kisses. Puppy love: that's what it's all about..... Moooooooo!

























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words to live by

OBEDIENT CHEERFUL THRIFTY BRAVE CLEAN REVERENT

PLEASE HELP THE CUB SCOUTS OF ALDIE/MIDDLEBURG PACK 1737

Your donation of non-perishable items will be given to Seven Loaves food pantry to be distributed to our neighbors in need.

ITEMS NEEDED

Non-perishable food items:

- Canned protein (tuna, salmon, chicken, peanut butter, ham)
- Soups, stews, chili, lentils, beans, soup mixes
- Fruit juices (all sizes) in plastic bottles (no glass)
- Grains (pasta, rice, macaroni & cheese, crackers, stuffing mix)
- Cereals (multigrain, low sugar such as cheerios, cornflakes, raisin bran, grape nuts, oatmeal, chex, cereal bars)
- Vegetables & fruits in cans or plastic bottles/jars (no glass)
- Condiments in plastic bottles/jars (no glass)
- Hygiene products (diapers, TP, tissues, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, wipes, paper towels)

Please put your donation in the bag provided and place outside for pick up by 8am on Saturday, November 11.

Places & Faces

Goodstone Inn A room with a View

Middleburg, VA - Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard



Kassie Kingsly, Leah Ferguson, Tim Harmon, Penny Denegre, Jack Ferguson and Jeff Blue



shelley & Mark Betts



Stuart Weinstein-Bacal, Sharon Hess, Lisa & Tom Patterson



Shelley betts, Eric Smith and Mark Betts



Matt Bowe, Mark Betts and Clint Good, AIA



Bill & Elizabeth Wolf



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Places & Faces

Wheatland Farm Dinner at Downton

Photos & Story by Nancy Kleck

Turn of the century fashion of the popular British Downton Abbey series was the theme of Mark and Muriel Forrest's Faith and Family Foundation's 12th annual gala at Wheatland Farm recently in Purcellville. Over 300 guests attended, many of the ladies dressed in beaded gowns, vintage style jeweled head bands, pearls galore, mink and ermine stoles, diamond tiaras and full length gloves. The gents did not disappoint: a certain gentleman was dressed in a British calvary uniform, and another came dressed in red and white striped bathing suit attire, socks included, complete with handlebar mustache.

Starting off the evening's fundraiser was a pre-dinner meet and greet with Huntsman Ronald Johnsey, several members, and his very happy hounds from Loudoun Hunt. Adding to the elegance was a group of ladies riding side-saddle that included Devon Zebrovious on a handsome bay and Maureen Conroy Britell on a stunning grey.

Built in 1741 by a family of Irish Quakers on land given to them by George and Lawrence Washington, Wheatland Farm was a founding farm in Loudoun County. Since its inception in 2011, the Faith and Family Foundation at Wheatland Farm has provided therapeutic riding and traditional riding lessons, an adaptive Kidzkare hair salon, adaptive and traditional swimming lessons, a wheelchair lending and repair program, and support and outreach to children and adults with disabilities throughout Loudoun County and the Washington Metro area. Growing each year, a regulation sized Wellington Dressage Arena was recently opened, complementing the farm's 14,000 square foot equestrian center. A judge's box, stadium seating, flags and floodlighting are in the works. The center offers a competition sized indoor riding arena, classroom, parent lounge and foyer.

The evening's dinner and auctions was held in the loft of the great barn, a 240-foot long former dairy barn, built in 1801, and is the largest in Virginia. It was fully renovated for special functions and was a perfect venue for the dinner. It was announced that Wheatland Farm was awarded the USEF/USPEA Center of Excellence status for International Paraequestrian Dressage. Highlighting the evening, USEF President Murray Kessler and USPEA President home Hand were honored for their many decades of service to equestrian sports in the US and their work on behalf of equestrians with disabilities, exemplifying the farm's motto: "There is nothing you can't do."

For more information visit www.wheatlandfarm.org



Dr Robbi Perna



Chip and Barbara Comstock



Ben and Jen Fernando



Devon talks with guests



Joyce and Richard Mullins - Rose Marie Bogley



Laureen Johnson, Sue Stroz and Rebecca Hart



Kathy and Julian Heron



Jack Joyce - Debbie & Kevin Brock



Ashley Russell, Devon Zebrovious, George Kuk, Bernadette Boland, Jon Henkel, Maureen Conroy Britell



Mike Gilboy and Loudoun Hunt Huntsman Don Johnsey



Brooke Waldron, Barbara Comstock



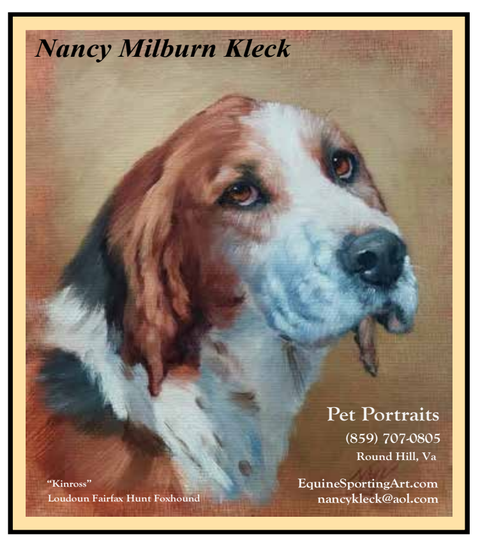
Colleen Gustavson - Carli von Hall



David and Mimi Kamne and Michael Alway



Conor Forrest and Anna Weber



Places & Faces

The Plains Real Estate Co. Open House & Art Show

The Plains, VA Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard





Jacobi Noonan



Matt Sheedy, Heidi van Voorhis, Heather Trumbo



Jen Kitner and Kevin Henry



Patty Callahan, Scott Kasprowicz, Elizabeth Montgomery



Debbie McLaughlin and Mimi Regamey



Tom and Linda Neel



The Escalona Family



Heather Trumbo, Beth Benhard



Teresa Duke, Bob Foosaner



Sue Braswell, Jennifer Sims, Harry Braswell



Earl Douple, Chris Malone, Christine Douple, Ellen Hearty, Chandler van Voorhis





Patty Callahan - Andie Martin

Places & Faces

The Middleburg Fall Races

Glenwood Park, Middleburg, VA

Photos and Story by Nancy Kleck

A Birthday Gift Came in a Half Length

The steeplechase world is a small, tightly knit community, and everyone knows everyone else. When a new entry by a well known face gives racegoers a thrill it's a special day not long forgotten.

The races at Glenwood finished pretty predictably with the exception of a first time starter on the sanctioned race circuit trained by the affable Irish gentleman, Jeff Murphy. A jockey for the last few years, Murphy looked the part as he sent a handsome dark bay gelding named SECRET SOUL to the course for the James P. McCormick Memorial maiden timber with leading Irish point-to-point rider Byron Moorcroft aboard.

Looking at prospects one day with Liz Millikin last year, Jeff noticed the dark bay gelding and asked about him. Liz tried to divert his attention to another horse, "no, no, no" she replied, "he's hot." An unremarkable winner on the flat, he was by a Canadian champion grass horse and out of a stakes winner. Jeff thought him too attractive, and worth the effort. He took him home.

Lots of ground work and a winter of foxhunting helped him return to form for his first sanctioned start at Glenwood. "He's super brave" Jeff said. This jockey would know. "And Byron gets along well with the horse."

And they're off! It wasn't long before Secret Soul began to break away. Once around and then again. As the crowd watched his 60 - yes 60 - length lead begin to shrink as he approached the turn home, the crowd was screaming, "come on 9! come on 9!"

Won by a half length. "He had enough to get home," Jeff described, barely hinting at the joy of his first sanctioned victory. Later I learned it was his birthday. A day, indeed, that will be long remembered.

1st Race - The Bon Nouvel Hurdle: REPORTER, owned by Beverly Steinman, trained by Doug Fout, ridden by Shane Crimin

2nd Race - The Theodora A. Randolph Cup Hurdle: PADDY'S CROWN, owned by Magalen O. Bryant, trained by Richard L. Valentine, ridden by Shane Crimin

3rd Race - The Randolph D. Rouse Memorial Hurdle: OFFICER SYDNEY, owned by Rosbrian Farm, trained by Ricky Hendricks, ridden by Ross Geraghty

4th Race - The National Sporting Library & Museum Cup Timber: WORRIED MAN, owned by Four Virginia Gents, trained by Doug Fout, ridden by Kiernan Norris

5th Race - The Daniel C. Sands Cup Hurdle - INDIGO HEART, owned by Carrington Holdings, trained by Arch J. Kingsley, Jr., ridden by Michael Mitchell

6th Race - The James P. McCormick Memorial Timber: SECRET SOUL, owned by Jeff Murphy, trained by Jeff Murphy, ridden by Byron Moorcroft

7th Race - Training Flat Race: MASERATI (BRZ), owned by Amy Taylor Rowe, trained by Leslie F. Young, ridden by Kiernan Norris

8th Race - The James P. Mills Memorial Flat Race: ERYX, owned by Sara E. Collette, trained by Neil R. Morris, ridden by Byron Moorcroft



Devon Zebrovious and George Kuk



Lisa Jawer, Natalie Epstein



4th Race NSPLM Cup WINNER WORRIED MAN Doug Fout trainer congratulates Kiernan Norris



Lisa Ben-Dov, Rose Marie Bogley, Robert Heggestad, Patricia Brennan



Brooke Rogers, Mary Margaret Sharf, Gregg Ryan, MFH



Brad Hitchen, Jenny Youngman and Sean White



Bennett Stichman, Christine Olsen, Lisa Mackey, Shannon Stichmann, Heidi and Eddie Raydon, Kevin Chamberlain



Harriet Clubb, Roz Drayer, Cory Staffanson, Victoria Weseley, Lalai Nelson, Maxine McBean



Bill Stromire, Leta Stalnaker, John Harrison



2nd Race Winner Theodora A Randolph Cup PADDY'S CROWN Magalen Bryant Owner Richard Valentine Trainer Shane Crimin Jockey



3rdRaceWINNEROfficer Sydney, Rosbrian Farm Owner, Ricky Hendrinks Trainer, Ross Geraghty Jockey



5th Race Daniel Sands Cup WINNER INDIGO HEART, Carrington Holdings owner, Archibald Kingsley trainer, Michael Mitchell Jockey



McCormick Memorial WinnerSECRET SOUL Jeff Murphy owned and trained Byron Moorcroft Up



Laura Chlopecki, Laura Smith, Kristin Nobble, Bruce Smith



Jake Carle and daughter Sarah Carle



Places & Faces

The Middleburg Fall Races

Glenwood Park, Middleburg, VA
Photos by Nancy Kleck



Laura Chlopecki, Laura Smith, Kristin Noggle, Bruce Smith



Brooke Rogers, Mary Margaret Sharf, Gregg Ryan, MFH



Perry & Melanie Mathewes, Anne Marie Barnes



Leslie Hazel, Mr and Mrs Jack Helmly, Jim Burnes, Cherie Turner, Tanya Woerner, DVM, Catherine Burger, Kate Robbins



Nick & Bucky Slater

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Package for 4-6 people: $200.00 plus tax
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Dinner for 2 to go $75.00 plus tax

Please place your order by November 19th, 2017, by calling 540-253-5644, Tuesday through Sunday, after 5:00 pm. The Rail Stop will be closed for regular service Thanksgiving Day. Pick up will be November 23rd, Thanksgiving day, between the hours of 12:00 and 3:00 p.m. Have a great and safe holiday!



The Hill School Group



Suzy Quinn, Cricket Bedford, and Lindsay Wright

The Theadora Randolph North America Field Hunter Champhionship

Glenwood Park, Middleburg, VA
Photos by Nancy Kleck



Field Hunter Champion Mackenzie Taylor

Goshen Hunt

On

Rita



Reserve Champion
Lindsay Kelley
Piedmont Fox Hounds
on Cooley Mind Reader



Best Turned Out
Frank Cubero
Spring Valley Hounds
on Face Up

Places & Faces

Cindy Pearson Retires

Middleburg Town Hall ~Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard

















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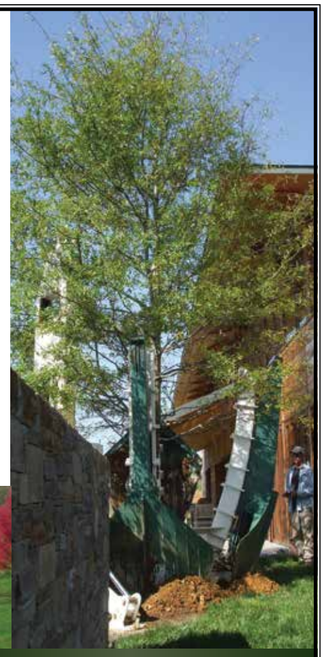
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Middleburg Film Festival

And the Oscar goes to...

Middleburg Film Festival's Just Keeps Getting Better

Nancy Kleck

For four days in October, Middleburg offered a rare opportunity to see some of the year's best films -- over two dozen Oscar contenders, critically acclaimed foreign language films, and compelling documentaries, one especially close to the heart of this little town.

Festival founder Sheila Johnson and Executive Director Susan Koch for the fifth year welcomed a packed room to view the first film in Salamander's ballroom,"Darkest Hour." It was quite an auspicious start and received a rousing applause from the audience. Question and answer sessions with filmmakers and actors followed nine of the films to make viewing experience that much more meaningful. Here are brief recaps for your consideration:

Breathe - a true story about an ex-British Army officer and his aristocratic wife's efforts to live a full life despite his paralysis from polio.

Call Me By Your Name - two young men discovering first love in a summer in Italy.

Darkest Hour - set in the early days before World War II as Hitler's troops march north from Paris to invade England, newly appointed Prime Minister Winston Churchill wages his own battle to resist Parliament and fight on or negotiate with a madman.

The Devine Order - one woman's fight for equality and right to vote in 1970 Switzerland (Switzerland's submission to the Oscar for Best Foreign Film).

A Fantastic Woman - a transgender woman's lover dies and the contempt and rejection she endures in Chile (Chile's Foreign Language Oscar Submission).

Film Stars Don't Die In Liverpool - the true story of a younger man and Hollywood star Gloria Grahame who returns to the man's home in her last days.

Happy End - a dark comedy of family dysfunction set in upperclass Calais, France (Austria's Best Foreign Film submission).

Hostiles - surviving and healing through the journey of returning a dying Cheyenne war chief by his enemy, an army captain, to his tribal homelands in 1892.

I, Tonya - the true story of Olympic figure skater Tonya Harding's involvement in the career-ending attack on fellow skater Nancy Kerrigan.

In The Fade - a Kurdish mother seeks justice in Hamburg after the murderer of her husband and children go free (Germany's submission for Foreign Language Oscar).

Lady Bird - a coming-of-age teenager's last year in an all-girls Catholic high school.

Last Flag Flying - a Vietnam vet is joined by two fellow vets on his quest to bury his son in his hometown rather than Arlington Cemetery.

The Leisure Seeker - a long-married couple in their golden years revisit their misadventures traveling in their beloved Winnebago affectionately named "The Leisure Seeker".

Loveless - a divorcing Russian couple face skewed values and misplaced priorities as they look for their missing child.

Mudbound - a pair of returning soldiers face different challenges in the Jim Crow South after World War II.

Novitiate - a young nun's struggle with issues of faith in the Catholic Church.

The Other Side of Hope - a Syrian refugee's journey to find work and home in Helsinki.

The Square - a contemporary art museum curator's attempts to live up to the ideals projected in one of the museum's installations: "The Square".

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri - a mother of murdered child seeks justice (Toronto Film Festival People's Choice Award).

Under The Tree - neighbors feud because of an overgrown, untrimmed tree shading their backyard (Iceland's Foreign Language Oscar submission).

Wonderstruck - an intertwining tale of two deaf children seeking answers.

The documentaries:

Faces Places (Visages Villages) - a friendship between a legendary filmmaker and a photographer in the French countryside (winner of Best Documentary 2017 Cannes Film Festival).

Jane - newly discovered original footage of Jane Goodall's life in Tanzania filmed by her husband.

Joan Didion: The Center Will Not Hold - nephew and actor Griffin Dune's intimate recollection of the literary icon through archival footage.

Meltdown - a renowned photographer and a climate expert revisit Greenland's changes and its implications in global warming.

Music Got Me Here - longtime Middleburg resident, Forrest Allen, and his recovery from a life-threatening brain injury through the music therapy of Tom Sweitzer.

The 2017 Audience Award Winner, chosen by audience ballot, went to Mudbound, directed by Dee Rees. Ms. Rees attended the festival and was recognized with the festival's 2017 Visionary Award. "We want to congratulate Dee Rees on her remarkable film," said Middleburg Film Festival Executive Director Susan Koch. "With Mudbound, Dee Rees has firmly established herself as one of the most talented and important directors working in film and television today – and we look forward to presenting many more of her films in the future."

This coming March 4th, the 90th Academy Awards ceremony will be held in Los Angeles. Tune in to see if your favorite wins an Oscar.

Movie Review: Battle of the Sexes



Ryan Perry

Who doesn't love a good sports biopic? Something like Rocky or The Karate Kid is always reliable for a good mood, but it's even better when it's a true story. Such is the case for Battle of the Sexes, the tale of tennis star Billie Jean King.

The story follows King (La La Land Oscar winner Emma Stone), who, in the early 1970s, was at the height of her game and reigning womens' world champion. King was steadfast and determined to be the spearheading force behind powerful strides for women in the public eye, but her greatest challenge came in the form of former mens' champion, Bobby Riggs (Foxcatcher's Steve Carell). When Riggs challenged King to a "battle of the sexes," the entire world tuned in to see the outcome.

It's a safe bet to say that both Stone and Carell will recieve Oscar nominations for their work here. The extensive team of makeup artists did an uncanny job of perfecting the resemblance to the real King and Riggs, but more importantly is the charisma that each actor brings to their role. Stone's interpretation of King is determined on and off the court to be a game-changer for women, but in private settings, she is struggling with personal issues that threaten to plague her career. It's a hard balance to walk, but it's her refusal to give up or give in that makes her a memorable and relatable protagonist, even with her flaws.

Likewise, Carell is an over-the-top cartoon character, which is playing to his strengths. He was great in Foxcatcher, another sports biopic wherein he was altogether grimy and cast an uncomfortable presence, but any fan of The Office knows that Carell is at his best when he's allowed to let loose. He does so here in reckless fashion, subeverting his gambling addiction into a game for himself instead of addressing the issue. He's surrounded by problems, but his choice strategy is to simply power through it with a chipper jog, and his energy is truly infectious. He's a perfect opposite to Stone's self-serious face of progressive change.

The film is soaked in a rich 1970s aesthetic that extends beyond the already-exceptional costume design of the clothes worn, home decor, and cars driven. The music ranges from Elton John to Tommy James and the Shondells, which is no issue as far as I'm concerned, and the film itself is even shot on actual film. For those who don't know, most movies today are filmed digitally, as the process has simply become cheaper and more efficient. So few films anymore are shot on actual 70-millimeter film, but when they are, the difference is clear and noticable. Quentin Tarantino, an artist among today's directing titans, shot his last feature, The Hateful Eight, on 70-millimeter, and the style is very befitting of a film of this nature.

One aspect that stood out to me in a way that I wasn't expecting was the addressal of King's burgeoning sexuality as a lesbian. Being of the Christian faith, I don't believe in the same-sex practices, but I also don't take issue with any individuals who do. With that said, however, the scenes that address this plot point were unexpected, and watching them with my girlfriend was quite the experience. They are very minimal and imply more action than they actually show, but if you are a viewer who is sensetive to this type of material, this is your warning.

Overall, Battle of the Sexes is a very enjoyable film. It has clear themes of equality between the two genders, as well as making the most of whatever issues you might be going through, and a swift delivery of these themes through exceptional acting and aesthetic work. The vision behind the co-directors is clear and realized, and while Battle of the Sexes may not be a groundbreaking film, it is a very enjoyable one. I'm giving it three and a half out of four stars.

Movie Review: Breathe

Ryan Perry



Disabilities can be hard to properly represent on film. You either get a case of Rain Man, where it's so uplifting that it's a little unrealistic; or Me Before You, where it's so bleak and dour that it neglects the notion of a positive outlook. In the case of Breathe, you'll find a film whose tone leans a little more towards Rain Man, and in this case, that's not necessarily a bad thing.

The story begins in the late 1950s, and follows the true romance between former soldier, Robin (The Social Network and Hacksaw Ridge star Andrew Garfield), and his wife, Diana Cavendish (Claire Foy). When Robin is diagnosed with polio, Diana is steadfast and determined to do everything she can to love him and make their lives as normal as possible.

Garfield is an actor who has generally impressed me, even when his films have not. He's never given an overly dramatic performance, but rather relies on subtle and subdued emotional conveyance. Aside from the first act of the film, wherein he sports a distractingly fake British accent, this is another performance that delivers on emotion. His most powerful moments are found lying in a hospital bed, unable to speak, and simply acting through his facial expressions. It's a rare and minimalist style of acting reminiscent of the golden age of silent cinema, and one that always scores points from me.

Even more impressive is Foy, whose iron will to love no matter what is the element that carries the entire movie. She's unbreaking in her determination, and every time a new obstacle presents itself, she shows worry like a normal person would, but she doesn't crack under pressure. I think when most people watch movies, they see in a protagonist what they want to see in themselves, and Claire Foy's interpretation of Diana Cavendish is the idealizatoin of that concept.

Visaully, the film is impressive, but it has its ups and downs. The production design (costumes, cars, home decor) is strikingly accurate to the time period and wonderfully captured. But in terms of lighting, it's a little on and off; light is used as a tool to reflect the emotional state of the two lovers, which is very poignant and creative. Whenever they're in an overwhelmingly light or dark place, the audience is literally in that place with them. But when their journey has so many emotional ups and downs (which is only naturally to be expected), to see the frames cut between starkly contratsing light and dark can be a little jarring.

The script is another facet that is good, but easily could have been great. The formation of the Cavendishes' relationship is extremely rushed, but after the initiating action that activates the conflict, the pacing mellows out to a more progressive rate. On the one hand, it covers a lot of ground without dragging its feet, but sometimes it can feel as though it's moving a little too fast without too many slowdown moments that allow you to take in the atmosphere.

In terms of writing, there's also the matter of tone, and representation of true events. The film has a very uplifting tone, but there are definitely moments where optimism can outweigh realism. I found myself thinking, "there's no way it really happened like that." But surprisingly, I wasn't too bothered by it, because of the film's message: with a lot of work and patience, love can achieve greater things than we think are possible, even in the most dire of circumstances. It's cheesy for sure, but I'd be lying if I said it wasn't satisfying by my standards. But for those seeking a more challenging cinematic experience emotionally (like say Dancer in the Dark or Grave of the Fireflies, a beautiful film that's anything but hopeful), or just something with more realism and authenticity, you might be disappointed.

Overall, Breathe is a movie that is definitely not without its problems, but the things that are done well are so good that they tend to overshadow the negatives. This is the first film directed by Andy Serkis, who is one of the most prolific actors of the modern era, and for a debut feature, it's better than expected. I genuinely look forward to seeing his craft behind the camera develop over time, and this is a solid starting point. It's well-acted, beautifully though not always evenly shot, and touching in a way that knows it's a little sappy and just embraces it. Keeping those things in mind, there's a lot to get out of Breathe. I'm giving it three out of four stars.

Movie Review: Hostiles

Ryan Perry



I used to not really like western films, but as I've learned more about film criticism, I've taken to the genre with a lot more enthusiasm. There isn't any specific aspect that draws me to them, but every time I watch a good one, I just get sucked right in. And Hostiles is one of my very favorites.

The story, set in the 1892 frontier, follows renowned Army captain Joe Blocker (the Dark Knight trilogy's Christian Bale), who has been tasked with escorting Cheyenne chief, Yellow Hawk (Wes Studi), and his family on a journey from New Mexico, to their tribal homeland of Montana.

Blocker has nothing but the most bitter contempt for Yellow Hawk and his people, viewing them as nothing more than mere savages. His mission grows further complicated when the traveling party encounters a widow named Rosalie (Gone Girl star Rosamund Pike), whose family has been murdered by a Comanche tribe. Against insurmountable odds, the group's only chance for survival is to lower their defenses and learn to trust one another.

Although a lot of classics have emerged from the western genre, it's very clear if you've seen more than one that there is a formula: two or more people from opposite walks of life embark on a perilous trek to rescue or kill someone. But that doesn't have to be a bad thing; in fact, it makes a good western very difficult to mess up. All you have to do is avoid straying too far from the formula, and fill the frame with pleasant scenery and acting. And Hostiles doesn't miss a beat.

Bale is exceptional in the role of Blocker, unbreaking in his prejudice for the Native people. But he also has a lot of traditional values and customs that he holds to, so he's not entirely evil. No one really is in this picture; everyone is always just looking at someone else from a different angle.

If there's any theme most prevalent in Hostiles, it would definitely be that of prejudice and discrimination, and the importance of putting aside these issues in order to survive. This method of writing the theme directly into the narrative is a call-back to the John Wayne classic, The Searchers, which also tackled racial tensions between the cowboys and Native Americans. The screening I attended was followed by a Q&A with talented director Scott Cooper, who spoke about the theme's relevance in today's political and social climate. It's very hard and remarkably commendable to get that point across without overly politicizing it or forcing a point of view, so that end, well done, Mr. Cooper.

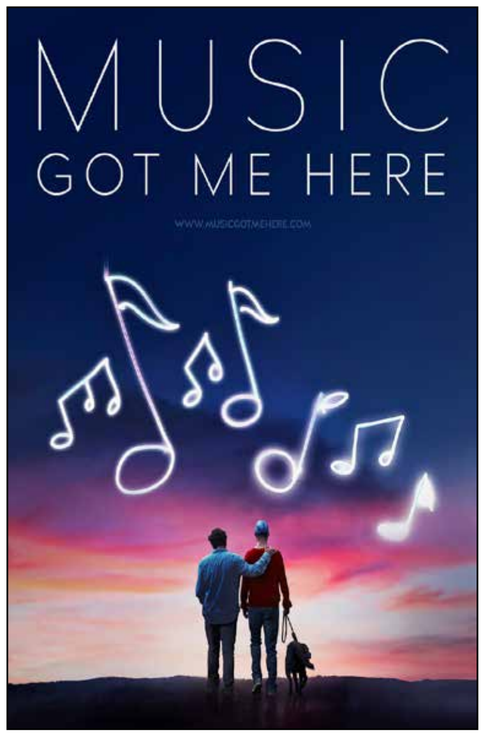
On a technical level, Hostiles is unbelievable to witness. Max Richter's original music is sweeping and immersive, and the cinematography is lush and incredible. Every new location fills the frame with breathtaking and inviting shots, depicting the untamed beauty of the environment in a way that clashes sharply with the constant threat of danger at hand.

The result truly catches you off guard every time a shootout invades the scene, which proves to be a visceral attack on the senses. This can be a good and a bad thing; on the one hand, the action isn't constant, but rather comes in short-round bursts. It does a lot with very little, which is highly commendable. On the other hand, the gunshots sound sharper and more metallic than any other I've heard on film, and for viewers with sensitive hearing, it can be rather trying to get through. It doesn't make the film any less good, but on a sound design level, you should definitely know your limits before seeing this one.

Hostiles clocks in at just over two hours, and doesn't waste a second of its runtime. The acting is reflective of the script's powerful themes, the music and visuals are breathtaking, and aside from the sound design's potential to be jarring for some viewers, I can't think of a single gaping flaw I have with this one. Similar to action classics like Terminator 2 or Logan, Hostiles is characterized by overwhelming violence but ends on a high note that dares the viewer to find the light in the darkness they face. Whenever it comes out in theaters, I am strongly planning on rounding up a group of friends to rewatch it just to see their reactions to it, and until then, I give Hostiles four out of four stars.

Middleburg Film Festival

Movie Review: Music Got Me Here



Ryan Perry

Some movies are made purely as escapism, a temporary foray into a world other than the viewer's own, and there's nothing wrong with that. Some are meant to teach you something. But the films that last the longest over time are the ones that change your perspective, the ones that open your eyes and mind to a new and untapped meaning. Those are a rare breed of cinema, and Music Got Me Here is among them.

The miraculous true story follows two Middleburg, Virginia residents whose lives have been shaped by music: eccentric music therapist, Tom Sweitzer; and Tom's former music student, Forrest Allen.

Their paths converge after Forrest sustains a traumatic brain injury during a snowboarding accident, and what follows is a long and trying journey of recovery. With Tom's aid and musical influence, Forrest is determined to regain his voice, his mobility, and his direction in life.

In the case of most "true story" films, you're typically getting a narrative film that's based on a true story, so you're almost always running the risk of missing details or not truly getting the full story. Fortunately, Music Got Me Here happens to be a documentary, so you know that every bit of what you're seeing is raw and authentic. It truly does a job to put you in the perspective of Tom and the Allen family, and every step of their journey is powerfully felt.

Given that this is a documentary, there isn't much to say in the way of acting; this isn't an adaptation trying to represent a story, but rather, this is the story itself. Tom and Forrest aren't playing characters, they are the stars themselves. As a result, there is no acting here; evey tear and every triumph is genuine, captured exactly as it happened.

The same applies to the editing (or simply put, the way that frames are cut together). Normally in movies, I don't notice editing unless it's really good or really bad, and here, it certainly isn't the latter. Editor Georgia Koch does a swift job of capturing real life, a signature style of this particular medium.

But this film isn't about the technical aspects or the acting; it's about the story, and the layers of themes behind it. The easiest lesson to pick out is "wear your helmet," which Forrest was not during his accident. He now acts as a strong advocate for this very notion, and is devoted to using his story to change the lives of others.

But there are so many more ideas at play here, namely the importance of accepting your decisions as opposed to regretting them, and perhaps most importantly, the significant and weighty role of music therapy. Without breaths turning into hums, turning into sung words, turning into spoken conversations, Forrest's brain wouldn't have been reactivated the way it was. It's imperative that music therapy be recognized as much more than just singing songs to make people feel better. It's a clinically-proven method of positive impact, and Forrest Allen is living proof of it.

To be honest, this was an interesting review for me to write. Because I am blessed to know Forrest and Tom personally and call them my friends, I had to separate my bias and judge it simply as a film first. And as a film, I firmly believe that even if an audience member doesn't have that personal connection to the people on screen, it will leave just as much of an emotional impact. It's an authentic and powerful film about strength and resilience, about family bonds and the endurance of the human spirit. It's more than just a cautionary tale about helmet advocacy, it's also a virtuous story about accepting the life placed upon you and using it for the betterment of others. Music Got Me Here is an important film for all to see, and I don't need to know Forrest personally to give it four out of four stars.

Movie Review: The Devine Order



Audrey Brown
Wakefield School
Class of 2019

The year is 1971. The world is swollen with hippies, disco music, and demonstrations for equality and peace. But in Switzerland, women are still forced to remain indoors and perform the duties classically assigned to the female race, smothered by their husbands, who are preparing to vote on a referendum for the first time in eleven years to determine if women in their country should gain the right to vote.

And thus opens The Divine Order, Petra Volpe's German-language film that has already been nominated as the Swiss entry for the 2018 Academy Awards' Best Foreign Language Film category. The film chronicles a few weeks in the life of Nora (Marie Leuenberger), who, after witnessing the imprisonment of her defiant and rebellious niece Hanna (Ella Rumpf); being repeatedly told by her husband (Maximilian Simonischek) that, contrary to her own wishes, he possesses the dominant, final say in the household to bar her from obtaining a job; and becoming inspired by fellow females like the village's beloved Vroni (Sibylle Brunner) and Italian immigrant Graziella (Marta Zoffoli), involves herself in fighting for the right of Swiss women to vote. Although opposed by a clear majority of the people in her village—a picturesque set of serene buildings set on the side of a snowy Swiss mountain—Nora fails to lose hope, and, flanked by a small group of supporters that continues to expand as the movie progresses, she experiments with her womanhood and prospects of freedom through a series of experiences, including attending a session about self-love taught by a bejeweled, incense-burning hippie; dancing at a disco with her friends; and ultimately leading the women of her village to go on strike from their jobs and families in an attempt to prove to the men that, without women, the men cannot function in society.

Volpe directed The Divine Order with obvious grace; not a detail is overlooked, and every audience member is able to identify with and sympathize with Nora and her female compatriots as they experience obstacle after obstacle in their quest for liberation. Leuenberger deserves specific laud for her portrayal as the conflicted housewife/revolutionary: unwilling to ever completely neglect her beloved sons and family but also invested in taking a stand to provide opportunities for the females of the future, she captures the audience's attention and emotions and causes them to rejoice when she succeeds and to deflate with her as her struggles for victory fall short once again.

Though not an audience-favorite character like Nora, another actress who deserves praise for her role is Therese Affolter as Dr. Charlotte Wipf for just the reason that she was not a well-liked character; her slimy attitude from the moment that she hands flyers to a group of working men for her coalition of women themselves against the woman's right to vote causes the audience's skin to crawl. Similarly, Maximilian Simonischek as Nora's husband Hans depicts a character of many sides—telling his wife over the phone that he is in favor of women's rights, shouting at her in person that it is his choice by law whether she should be allowed to work or not, refusing to raise his hand in favor of the women's vote when polled—wrenching the emotions of the audience in as many directions as he himself portrays on the screen.

Even the costumes in The Divine Order are a work of genius: just as Nora's household is depicted in a series of progressive stages throughout the movie, from Nora vacuuming the floor under her father-in-law's feet and hanging up dripping socks from a clothing line to her father-in-law himself eventually frying an egg on the stove, costume designer Linda Harper subtly depicts Nora's personal decision toward freedom as she sheds her floral-patterned headscarf and woolen skirt in favor of a loose yellow blouse, bellbottom jeans, and a new, stylish haircut. Likewise, the scenery, while beautiful, presents a slight commentary on the stifling environment that the women must have felt a part of. In all, every aspect of the film makes it clear that even subtle, symbolic details were not forgotten.

The Divine Order leaves audiences feeling grateful for the strength and ambition of women like Nora, empowered by the prospect of equality and freedom of the sexes, and touched by the stories like those of these simple Swiss women who joined together to fight for a cause. Petra Volpe and her team of cast and crew depict a beautiful and unforgettable film that is both compelling and inspiring for women and men across the globe.

Movie Review: A Fantastic Woman

Nina Bonin
Wakefield School
Class of 2019

Endurance Against the Odds in "A Fantastic Woman"

To set the record straight, the word "transgender" is an adjective. They illustrate and add depth to nouns, divulging their cloaked splendors and hidden horrors; this is what "transgender" does for the movie "A Fantastic Woman" and its main character. This film vividly tells the story of a transgender woman dealing with a terrible loss, inflamed by the stigma of her gender identity. The movie begins with a joyful birthday celebration for Marina that takes a harrowing turn when her older boyfriend Orlando suddenly falls ill that night. After he is rushed to the hospital, Orlando unexpectedly dies, leaving Marina lost and shaken. In the ensuing events, Marina must deal with Orlando's cruel and transphobic family who cut her off from his funeral and evict her from their shared apartment, handle a skeptical detective who smells foul play in Orlando's death, and grapple with graphic images of her deceased boyfriend that manifest within her daily life.

Played by the remarkable and inimitable Daniela Vega, Marina is truly revealed to be a fantastic woman who perseveres through invasive interrogations, derogatory digs, and malevolent misgendering. All that she struggles against is tightly bound with the omnipresent bigotry of the narrow-minded people and intolerant world that surround her. When she is abducted by her dead partner's son and his brutish friends, they hurl obscene slurs at her, violently wrap packing tape around her head, and dump her in a deserted alley way. Marina simply rips and tears the tacky tape and sordid words away and later finds her way to Orlando's funeral, even after her bitter and unwelcoming reception at his wake. Marina is forced to constantly battle with these elements that are ill-natured forces in the story.

As a key facet and one of the despicable instruments of the storyline, transphobia pervades every moment of Marina's life with its cruel and spiteful marks. From unabashed staring at her nether regions to being labeled a chimera and a "crazy man," everyday humiliations that transgender people face are brought to light, complicating a seemingly mundane story of devotion and demise. As these details and components are carefully and surreptitiously woven into the plot line, every quick glance and misspoken word is intensified with meaning and malice.

Details matter to the story of "A Fantastic Woman," and the minute differences in the definitions of words were important to me as I considered how best to describe Marina Vidal. "Fantastic" is not a word that I would have chosen, as it is often a bland and overused adjective with little significance or impact to support it, but its use in the title of "A Fantastic Woman" is one of the numerous ways that evinces Marina's tremendous tenacity in a world that strives to curb her and her indefatigable spirit.





Progeny

Author and Montessori Advocate speaks at Middleburg Montessori School



Trevor Eissler makes no secret that he is a Montessori Education Advocate. Along with being an author, Trevor is a business jet pilot and flight instructor living and working in Texas. His book, Montessori Madness, is a testament to his journey becoming a Montessori Parent and familiarizing himself with the Montessori Philosophy and how it differs from traditional schooling.

We often hear today that the traditional system of schooling is struggling and policymakers are trying to find a new method. In Montessori Madness Eissler argues that the Montessori Method is the answer to save our schools from the outdated factory model of schooling that is failing so many children throughout the country.

During Eissler's talk at Middleburg Montessori School, he asked the group of 25 parents and community members, a critical question, "Who is flying your child's educational plane?" The child, he said, should be their own pilot, not just in their education; but also in their life. Eissler points to one characteristic of the Montessori Method that sets it apart from other educational philosophies: choice.

Giving children, from an early age, the choice of what they want to do or learn about during the day sets them up with the confidence and skills needed to be curious and resilient, as well as critical and analytical thinkers as they grow—all skills needed to be successful adults and citizens. Being schooled in this way means that children are tapping into their inherent desire to learn and are active participants in their learning. Learning becomes intrinsic to the child's life and character versus being something that is forced from the top down upon them.

Middleburg Montessori School hopes to continue this conversation about the power of intrinsic motivational learning and welcomes you to visit our school to observe and join the conversation about the role of choice in a child's education.

info@MiddleburgMontessori.com



Foxcroft School Celebrates Creativity with the Opening their Innovation Lab





With the snip of a ribbon held, aptly, by students who helped create the makerspace, Head of School Cathy McGehee and Director of Educational Technology Alex Northrup officially opened The Innovation Lab at Foxcroft School (TIL@FXC) Wednesday evening before an enthusiastic gathering of students, staff, and townspeople.

"The opening of a makerspace at Foxcroft is a crucial component of our strategic plan to strengthen a curriculum and pedagogy specifically for girls," said McGehee, "One that is intentionally interdisciplinary and that provides real-world learning experiences.

"What makes this space so unique among other schools that have makerspaces is that it was researched, designed, planned, and budgeted for by our own students," she added.

A year ago Northrup convened the team of students that created TIL@FXC and they immediately took the reigns of the project. "It was a joyful experience for me to see their enthusiasm and creativity," he said. "I learned a lot from them. Sometimes I had what I thought was a good idea and it was overruled by the students. That process, like this space, did what we try to do every day — move the students to the center of the learning process. Instead of being passive recipients of knowledge, they are active participants in creating their own learning. They begin to see themselves as makers — confident, confident, and curious citizens who are going to make the world a better place.

Junior Amara Brooks and sophomore Kenzie Green, two of the students on the "Space to Innovate" team, also spoke, both expressing surprise and delight at how quickly the project moved from idea to reality.

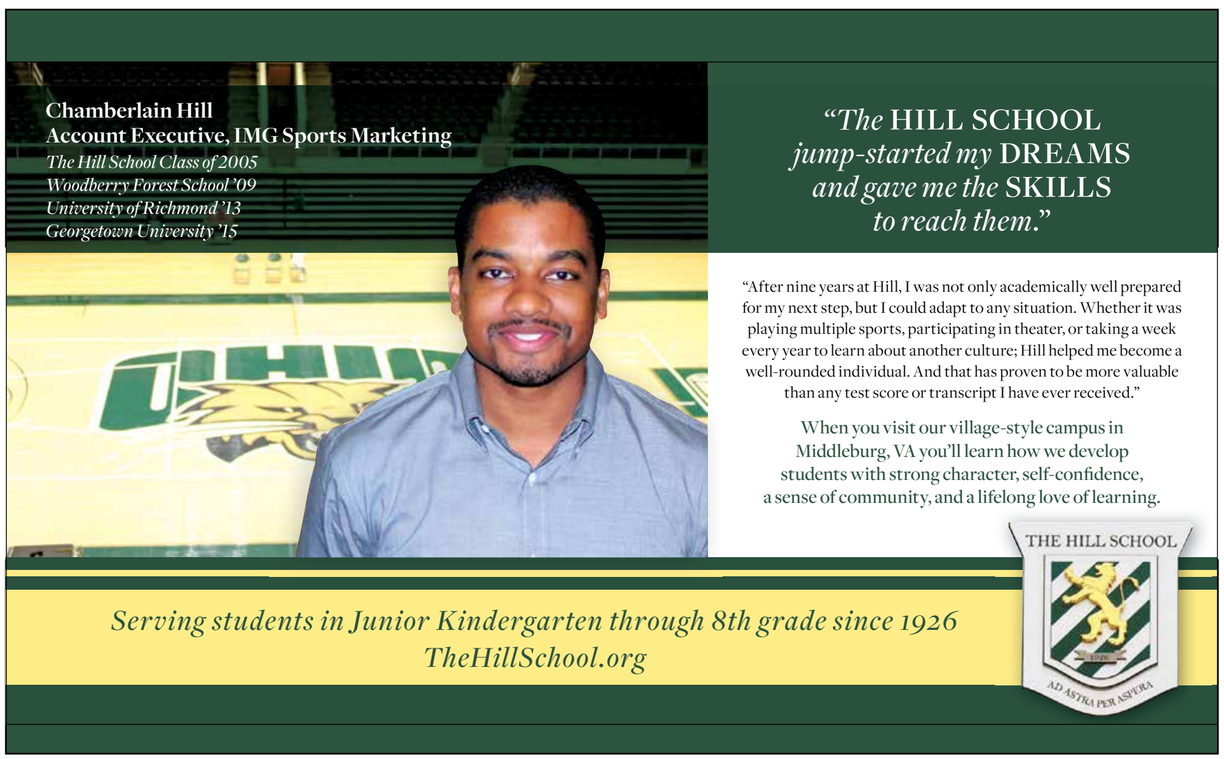
"I thought this would take years," said Kenzie. "And now, it's here already and lots of people are using the space every day and creating things. It's so exciting!"

Those present for the event, which featured Lego candies and student-made souvenirs, included Middleburg Mayor Betsy Davis; Vice President of The Association of Boarding Schools Andy Hirt; members of the Middleburg Professional and Business Association; representatives of Foxcroft partners K2M and Hord Coplan Macht; parents; students; and news reporters.

After the ceremony, the visitors explored the five-room space, observing and talking with girls using the impressive facilities. Some girls were busy making souvenir T-shirts and laser-cut key rings. Others were making jewelry, retouching photographs on large-screen computers, or using the programmable sewing machine to create intricate embroidery. In the Engineering Shop, students showed off the gliders and drones they had made. In the Collaboration Room, summer learning projects from a mathematical analysis of women's empowerment in four countries to the prototype of a transforming dress being created for the spring production of Cinderella were explained.

And everywhere, the energy and happiness were palpable. "Ultimately," said McGehee, "we are fostering a culture of creativity and joy, and building skills, confidence, and courage that will prepare our students for success in college and in their professional lives.

Yes, and letting them have a lot of fun doing it!



Progeny

Three Foxcroft School Students Earn National AP Scholar Status

Record-tying 30 Honored in All



Melanie Fann



Lindsay Woods



Isabel Zimmerman

Three Foxcroft School students, including current senior Melanie Fann of Purcellville, achieved the rare status of National Scholar to lead a record-tying group of 30 that earned 2017 AP Scholar Honors from the College Board for outstanding achievement on Advanced Placement Exams, Academic Dean Courtney Ulmer announced Friday.

In addition to Fann, May 2017 graduates Lindsay Woods of Bluemont and Isabel Zimmerman of Fairfax, VA, and Tanzania were named National Scholars got earning an average grade of at least 4 (out of 5) on all AP Exams taken and grades of 4 of higher on eight or more of the tests. Foxcroft has had only four previous National AP Scholars — including Fann's older sister Patia —and Melanie is the first to achieve it before her senior year.

Zimmerman, a freshman at Georgetown University, also received an AP International Diploma (APID), for "outstanding academic excellence with a global perspective." The APID is a globally recognized certificate awarded to available to U.S. high school students applying to universities outside the country and international students attending schools outside the U.S.

More than half of the Class of 2017 earned AP Scholar honors. Worldwide, only about 22 percent of the 2.2 million students who took AP Exams performed well enough to earn AP Scholar designation. Ten current students earned recognition, as the number of Foxcroft AP Scholars reached double digits for the 14th consecutive year— an impressive feat for such a small school.

Seven 2017 graduates and a current senior joined Fann, Woods, and Zimmerman as AP Scholars with Distinction by achieving an average of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on at least five tests. Emma Schmidt of Warrenton is the senior. Leland Burke of Middleburg, who attends the University of Mary Washington, Emily Dietz (Unionville, PA; University of Maryland), Guen Geiersbach (Middletown, DE; Lehigh University) Jacina Hollins-Borges (Alpharetta, GA; Davidson College), Elle Lassiter (Round Hill; University of Richmond), Minje Lyu (China; University of Toronto), and Sofia Tate (Upperville, VA; Georgetown) are the recent graduates earning the Scholar with Distinction designation.

Their classmates Michelle Arubi (Nigeria; Florida Institute of Technology), Allison Buffenbarger (Leesburg, VA; Stevens Institute of Technology), Grace Kendall (Woodberry Forest, VA; University of Virginia), and Carolina Wasinger (Fairfax Station, VA; College of William & Mary) were named AP Scholars with Honor, as was current senior Emma Cao of Nanjing, China. They achieved scores of 3 or better on at least four tests with an average of 3.25 on all exams taken.

Rounding out the record-tying group of 30 with AP Scholar honors for scoring 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams were seven recent graduates and seven current students. Of special note is Sylvia Yuan of Ningbo, China, who accomplished this at the end of her sophomore year. Other current students, all seniors this year, are Elisa Chen of China, Abby Jones (Gaithersburg, MD), Camila Kiger (Colombia), Pradyuta Padmanabhan (Chantilly, VA), Pia Scharfenberg (Middleburg, VA), and Yiming Zhao (China). The recent graduates include Fabiana Byles (Jamaica; Colorado), Mary Park Durham (Dallas, TX; Emory), Millie MacArthur (Richmond, VA; St. Andrews), Charlee Schulte (Middleburg, VA; Virginia Tech) , Arianna Soresi (Middleburg, VA; Miami), Isabel Stettinius (Upperville, VA; Virginia), and Chloe Xu (China, New York University).

Patia Fann of Purcellville, VA, attained the rare status of National Scholar to lead a record-setting 30 Foxcroft School students earning 2016 AP Scholar Awards from the College Board for outstanding achievement on Advanced Placement Exams, Academic Dean Courtney Ulmer announced Wednesday.

To become a National Scholar, a student must earn an average grade of at least 4 (out of 5) on all AP Exams taken and grades of 4 of higher on eight or more of the tests. Fann received perfect 5s on all 10 exams taken, becoming Foxcroft's fourth National Scholar and the first one in nearly a decade.

Fann led a stellar group of AP Scholar award-winners that includes 40 percent of the most recent graduating class. Worldwide, only about 22 percent of the 2.2 million students who took AP Exams performed well enough to earn AP Scholar designation. Eleven current students earned recognition, as the number of Foxcroft AP Scholars reached double digits for the 13th consecutive year— an impressive feat for such a small school.

Along with Fann, seven recent graduates and two current seniors — Lindy Davenport of Berryville, VA, and Lindsay Woods of Philomont, VA — received the AP Scholar with Distinction Award for achieving an average of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on at least five of the tests. The alumnae who qualified for this lofty honor are Marias Blundell of Helena, MT, and Bluemont, VA, who now attends Hampshire College; Serena Holz (Delaplane, VA; College of William & Mary); Carli MacMahon (Napa, CA; St. Mary's College of California); Lucy Matz (Coatesville, MD; Vanderbilt); Charlotte Scharfenberg (Middleburg, University of VirginiaMarina Shallcross (New York, NY; Davidson College) and Isabella Zhai (Beijing; University of California, Berkeley).

Current seniors Emily Dietz of Unionville, PA, Guen Geiersbach (Middletown, DE), Sofia Tate (Upperville, VA) and Chloe Xu (Shanghai, China), junior Melanie Fann (Purcellville, VA) and 2016 graduate Victoria Zhao (Shenzhen, China; Rhodes College) were named AP Scholars with Honor. They achieved scores of 3 or better on at least four tests with an average of 3.25 on all exams taken.

Ten members of the Class of 2016 and four current seniors achieved AP Scholar status with grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. They include New York University freshmen Lily Cooke (Key West, FL) and Sophia Deng (Shenzhen, China); Jessie Herman (Waterford, VA; The New School); Carrie Hsueh (Taoyuan, Taiwan;

University of Washington); Winnie Masson (Alexandria, VA; University of South Carolina); Annie Mickum (The Plains, VA; Fordham University); Lilly Savin (West Palm Beach, FL; Virginia Tech); Pipsy Steyn (Leesburg, VA; University of Colorado;), Rose Sun (Beijing, China; Boston University), and JiMin Yoo (Seoul, South Korea; University of Richmond;). Seniors Leland Burke (Upperville, VA), Mary Park Durham (Dallas, TX), Grace Kendall (Orange, VA) and Isabella Zimmerman (Fairfax, VA) were also so honored.

More than 3,600 colleges and universities annually receive AP scores. Most four-year colleges in the U.S. provide credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying exam scores. Research consistently shows that students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher college graduation rates than students who do not participate in the Advanced Placement program.

Foxcroft School's tradition of academic excellence and outstanding student body are reflected in these results. For more information about the school, please explore our website or call 540.687.5555.



Allison Buffenbarger



Leland Burke



Grace Kendall



Elle Lassiter



Millie McArthur



Pradyuta Padamanabhan



Pia Scharfenberg



Emma Schmidt



Charlee Schulte



Arianna Soresi



Isabel Stettinius



Sofia Tate



Carolina Wasinger

Pastimes

The Autopsy of a Horseman

Sincerely me





Brandy Greenwell

Horse people are a special breed. Whether you ride for sport, pleasure, or not at all, if you are a horseman, your life is centered on a magnificent, 1000-plus pound animal that, by nature, sees you as a predator. Bonding with horses is a relationship unlike any other that will leave an imprint on your soul forever, and sometimes your body as well. When you eventually end up with the tag on your toe, hopefully not from a horse related incident, what will your autopsy say about you as a horseman?

Starting with your toes, most of them are fused from being stepped on numerous times over the years. There are no records of your breaks because, of course, you would just secure it to its neighbor with vet wrap instead of seeing a doctor. On occasion, your vet was consulted.

Your legs might be slightly bowed from all the time in the tack and your knees have multiple scars from repairing torn menisci. You have zero joint fluid left because you always cared for your equine friend's joints before your own and both were not in your budget.

Your hips have been replaced and your pelvis is completely uneven because for one reason or another you have ridden with one stirrup longer than the other for most of your life.

If you are male, your poor boys had a relationship with the pommel that was not unlike Tyson vs Holyfield. If you are female, you're so tight you could have cracked a walnut down there from riding a hole longer to get your horse to engage from behind.

You may or may not have your whole spleen, your liver is shot, because generally, horse people like to drink a lot, and your lungs could be compromised from either smoking or standing next to the chimney trainer outside the schooling ring for all those years.

Spine- serpentine-like with a fused vertebra or two. Ribs- so compromised that not even forensics can tell what happened.

Your collarbones, shoulders, and elbows are like a Jenga puzzle. There is at least one bone sticking out where it shouldn't be, and if you tried to correct it, your whole joint would crumble.

Hands. Your hands are huge with giant knuckles and sandpaper like skin. The fingers that do bend, do so in different directions. You could never really flatten your hand to give a high five upon victory because your muscle memory pulled you into a fist from years of riding with contact, braiding or clutching a curry. Horse people invented the fist bump for this reason.

Your face is weathered with sunspots and wrinkles from years of taking care of your friends in extreme heat or cold, without a day off since you first met. Wrinkles, no, they are lines of joy and your bright smile will be frozen for eternity like the very first time you swung a leg over to feel the gentle breath of the wonder beneath you.

Lastly, your heart is enormous and could still beat otherwise because it was so strong and steeped in unconditional love from your horse. "God forbid that I should go any heaven in which there are no horses." R.B Cunninghame-Graham

The Artist's Perspective





Tom Neel

Influenced by my Aunt Dottie being a professional photographer for the government, and my brother's early interest in being a shutterbug as a hobby, for me, after owning a few Kodak Instamatics and Polaroids, I took the plunge in purchasing my first true camera in the late 1970's. It was the newly released Canon AE-1. This was a single lens reflex (SLR) with interchangeable lenses and it used this stuff called film, which was both fairly expensive and required time to develop. That time and expense made you think a bit more about each shot you composed, its exposure, and the story you were trying to tell through your efforts. Then came the patience in waiting to get your film processed into prints or slides, and the hopes of having a few good shots out of a roll of 24 or 36 exposures.

Photography for me was like walking next to a big vacuum cleaner, as I was easily and quickly sucked in. Within just a few years I had purchased two Canon F1s, one of the known workhorse cameras of National Geographic, who at that time was a force of incredible photographers. This also mostly predates quality zoom lenses and therefore photographers instead carried heavy bags of single focal length lenses. Multiple camera bodies with different lenses meant you could be at the ready. All of this was slung over your weakening shoulder.

Pretty much, anyone, I included, who was into photography this deep would also begin their own processing. It used chemicals, was time-consuming, but at least produced the results on the same day. Most processing in that time was sent off to labs and was not done locally in a few hours. I also got bitten by the large format camera bug, purchasing a Mamiya 645, lenses for it and the ability to process its film as well.

At the time, pioneers of photography like Ansel Adams were heroes. Photography was a serious art form. There were those like me spending thousands on film and others who so infrequently took photos that a roll of film would take months or more to use. By the time they got the role of film processed, they forgot much of what was on the roll in the first place. I can remember the last time I went to Europe with a film camera. It was in the 90's and my processing bill was over $900. Soon after I purchased my first digital camera, boasting 3 megapixels. I also bought a charger and a few memory cards and it all set me back around $1,200 which I felt was very reasonable at the time.

Life is very different today, isn't it? Everyone has a camera phone, everyone uses it, and we all have video cameras too! If you actually own a purpose-built digital camera, memory (the film of today) for every electrical device is almost free. There is no processing costs or waiting, just instant gratification. We fire off and delete more photos per person than 1000 photographers back in the day. Heck, through purging, I've been doing my best to keep my personal digital photo file under 30,000 images for the last decade.

In a creative sense, there is a point to my story. Photography used to be a meal and it may have become a bag of potato chips. If you take photos and care about the results, the fundamentals of photography haven't changed. The viewfinder is your canvas, a source of light and its direction is your brush, good composition is a must, and it's still all about telling a story.

Live An Artful Life, Tom

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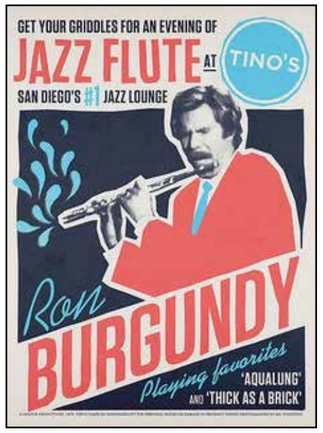
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Pastimes

Be a Festivarian

In Unison



Steve Chase

I have a secret to let you in on and don't tell anyone. The Telluride Bluegrass Festival is the best music festival in the Country. This year will mark the 44th year that the greatest acoustic, roots and bluegrass musicians gather in this remarkable location to play great music. Led by the "King of Telluride", Sam Bush, who has played at every festival thus far, past bands have included Peter Rowan, Béla Fleck, Jerry Douglas, Chris Thile, Fauquier native Larry Keel, Tim O'Brien, Yonder Mountain String Band, Robert Plant, Mumford & Sons, Keller Williams, Greensky Bluegrass, The Infamous Stringdusters, Elvis Costello, Emmylou Harris, David Byrne, Lyle Lovett, Del McCoury Band, Counting Crows, Bonnie Raitt, Allison Krauss, the list goes on and on and on. Often times after their sets, the musicians will gather at the merchandise tent to meet and greet folks, where else could you meet and talk music with the great Peter Rowan or Jerry Douglas?

Those who attend are known as Festivarians, and each morning they line up at the Town Park Field to get the best possible location for the day. There are rules and rituals. Bring a blue tarp and some folding chairs, set up your spot, and the Festivarian custom is that the spot is yours for the day. This means you can head back to town during the day and not risk losing that prime viewing location. The music goes for four days, with additional shows happening over the Ridge in the Mountain Village and at the tiny Elk's Park downtown. You never know who might show up to sit in at the Elk's Park performances, including heroes like Sam Bush and Chris Thile. Another tradition is the Telluride House Band, that includes Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas, Bela Fleck, Edgar Meyer, and others. With lineups like this and the extraordinary setting of Telluride Town Park, the experience is one that you will never, ever forget.

We went a few years ago and are thinking of going back. Tickets are limited to about 10,000, and go on sale, online, on December 7. Buy them early and get the four-day pass! Lodging can be found in Town (recommended) or over the ridge at the Mountain Village. A gondola ride connects the two locations. You can learn more at www.bluegrass.com/telluride/.

Jazz Flute!?

So, what is it with Jazz flute? You either love it, hate it, or don't realize that it is even a thing. Those who didn't know about it were awakened when Will Ferrell's great Ron Burgundy character revealed that he played Jazz flute. On the bad side, you have soft jazz flutists spraying out horrible pabulum that would have me throwing shoes at the speakers—beware of this music.

There is a long history of jazz flute music, starting in the twenties and growing with the evolution of Jazz music. By 1956, Down Beat magazine established the best flutist award, and at that time, the two hot players were a young Herbie Mann and Sam Best. The blind Jazz artist and prodigy Rhasaan Roland Kirk, known best for playing three saxophones at once, also focused on Jazz flute for a time, experimenting with alternative blowing techniques and singing through the flute, which was later popularized by Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson. Even the great saxophonist John Coltrane got into the flute on his last album Expressions in 1967. Some of my favorite jazz flute tunes come from Chick Corea's early Return to Forever albums--Return to Forever has incredible flute tunes like the title track and Sometime Ago. The subsequent release, Light as a Feather continues the flute brilliance on 500 Miles High, Spain, and Light as a Feather All of this great flute work is done by Joe Farrell, who also contributes to Corea's Friends album. Unfortunately, those early RTF albums are on ECM records, which still is not on Spotify; you can hear these on Apple Music.

I have put together a Jazz flute playlist for you, best listened to on a crisp fall night before the fire with Wasmund's Single Malt Rye in your glass. You can listen to it here, I threw in a few rock tunes too: https://tinyurl.com/y98h2l2k and don't forget to follow me on Spotify.

Steve Chase lives in Unison and tries not to play the music too loud.

Grief and Exercise

Fitness Professional



Kay Colgan
Certified Fitness Professional

Everything is fine and then it isn't. Someone you dearly love passes away. For a time, it feels like the clock stops ticking. Breathing becomes difficult. The heavy fog starts to creep in. Everyday activities become harder. Planning anything beyond that moment is not doable. Tears come out of nowhere. The what-ifs surface and then it all repeats. It's as if you are caught in a time warp. Moving on seems like a foreign concept. Moving anywhere is almost impossible. Grief is heavy. It engulfs your soul. But, exercise can help you cope.

Six months ago, I lost the love of my life. He was an amazing person, who made me a better person. My husband of twenty-two years, my daughter's father. He was not sick. It was sudden and traumatic. His heart stopped working. How could this happen, he was so young? At first, I could not move. I have been an avid exerciser and in the fitness profession for over thirty years. The more I did not move, the sadder I got. The advice I have given to clients over the years began to ring in my head, just put one foot in front of the other. No big plan, just go for a little walk. As you are walking, breathe. Breathe deeply and connect. So, I began just like a beginner and I finally could breathe. Exercise empowers us. Plain and simple. Does not matter how old you are or what shape you are in. It allows our brains to release feel-good hormones. Something you desperately need when the fog is so thick. Studies have shown that exercise helps when it comes to walking through grief. Of course, talking about your loved one and feelings helps immensely. Walking with a friend is the best. Grief comes in waves and going through all of it is necessary to truly heal. Exercise doesn't prevent the process of grief, it helps us to move forward.

My heart was broken on May 8th of this year. Chris was a wonderful husband and an amazing father. We have a strong faith so that comforts my daughter and me. He is at peace. We are finding our peace through our faith and all our memories. Of course, being physically active daily helps a great deal. All of us will experience loss in our life. Remember, exercise will help you breathe and move forward. Exercise does not eliminate the grief but allows us to move through it and not get stuck.

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

Add Personality to the Design of Your Kitchen

Ask a Remodeler



Tim Burch

One of the best parts of a kitchen remodel is customizing the space to meet your needs. While many people would be happy with a kitchen that is functional, practical and reliable, others long for the beautiful details and customized features that truly make the space their own.

Here are seven ideas for customizing your kitchen design:

Creative Cabinets: The old rules are out! Cabinetry is now a great area for adding personality to a kitchen. Cabinets can range in color from light to dark and even feature contrasting colors or complementary designs within the same kitchen. Choose a light color for upper cabinets and a darker color for the bottom – or not! Mix and match a combination of glass doors, fully covered cabinet doors and even open shelving. Be creative!

Design the Perfect Island: Where does everyone end up? The kitchen! Create an area for guests and family to gather while you cook and entertain. Depending on your needs, this multi-use space can be planned for additional food prep, much-needed storage, food display and a homework station. One of the more popular design options includes choosing a contrasting color for counters or cabinets on an island.

Don't Forget the Ceiling: Taking the design in your kitchen from the floor to the ceiling can make the space feel larger and more luxurious. A few options to consider include adding crown molding, exposed beams, or even wallpaper or a faux finish to your ceiling for a unique look.

Customized Range Hood: The hood over your range can be customized for any look. Do you want it to blend with the cabinets, be sleek and minimalized or a focal point? Stainless, bronze, wood and mixed materials are all common options.

Add a Beautiful Backsplash: A backsplash is a feature that many people overlook in their new kitchen, and it's a space that easily lends itself to full customization. You can choose a backsplash material like stone, metal, pebbles, glass, colorful tiles, custom-painted tiles or intricate mosaics. Think about creating a focal point over your range with a beautiful design within your backsplash.

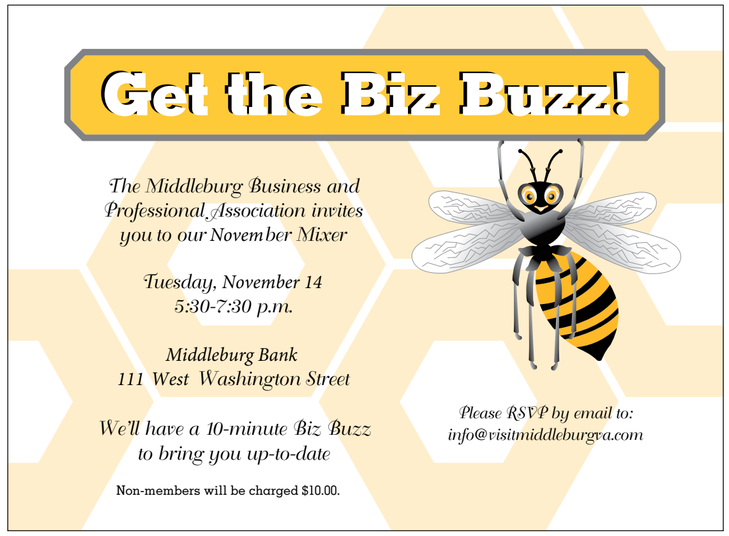
Add Creative Lighting: The best kitchen designs utilize a mix of ambient lighting, task lighting, and specialty lighting. Decorative but functional pendant lights can create an accent over an island or table, while recessed ceiling fixtures with dimmers can help light the task at hand. Under-cabinet lights can add a finishing touch and a bit of warmth. If your kitchen lacks natural light, consider a skylight or nearby bay window to bring in the sunshine.

Reconsider Appliances: There are so many configurations in appliances today, making it easy to customize your kitchen to suit your needs and optimize the space. Do you want a separate under-counter refrigerator for tomorrow's ingredients or beverages, a second dishwasher in your island for entertaining, a steam oven or warming drawer? Make your wish list and let an appliance expert help.

The options for your kitchen are virtually endless! Some features help to make your kitchen function better, while others help to add your desired look. The key is making notes about how you use – or want to use – your kitchen and your needs and wants, then prioritizing your goals. An experienced kitchen designer can help to combine the elements in a way to reflect your goals and style while optimizing your budget.

Tim Burch is a Vice President of BOWA, an award-winning design, and construction firm specializing in renovations ranging from master suites and kitchens to whole-house remodels. A Northern Virginia native and third-generation builder, Tim enjoys calling on his 30 years of design build experience to solve clients' home-related challenges. He is the Construction Advisor for The Mosby Heritage Area Association and sits on the Board of Building Appeals for Fauquier County. Prior to joining BOWA, Tim 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 540-687-6771.









Pastimes

Halloween Candy versus the Dentist

Dr. Robert A. Gallegos

Every year when Halloween comes around I have this inner conflict: candy versus the dentist. What do I do? Do I give out toothbrushes and toothpaste and risk my house getting papered? Do I turn off my lights and go out for dinner? Or, do I embrace a bit of Americana?

I have to admit that Halloween has always been one of my favorite "holidays". A survey done by the American Dental Association and PopCap Games in 2012 of trick-or-treating aged kids showed that 94% of children participate in trick-or-treating and 65% of them consider Halloween the best holiday of the year. Another finding is that 67% of kids surveyed agree that they eat too much candy at Halloween and 78% of the kids agree that too much candy is bad for them.

Our kids are telling us how much they love the fun of Halloween but the candy can be excessive and unhealthy. I have a solution! Bring your excess candy to my office after Halloween, up to November 15. My assistant, Cara, whose husband is a Wounded Warrior, will collect your donations to send them to our deployed troops and first responders through a company called Operation Gratitude, www.operationgratitude.com. They donate many different items to our troops and first responders. Last year they distributed 533,891 pounds of candy. Along with your donation of candy, I will donate toothbrushes and toothpaste. We all win and I don't have to worry about my house being papered!



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





Thanksgiving, Turkey-birds & Dogs

BeeZee - CEO (canine executive officer) – smart, funny, better than a wise grandmother… Rescue (MiddleburgHumane.com): adopted December 2010



Thanksgiving means turkey – great for humans, especially dogs. We love turkey! Raw, roasted, boiled, casseroled -- big yum BUT cooked bones are lethal. Dogs have incredible stomach acids and most of us – me, too! – digest raw poultry bones, but never ever feed cooked poultry bones. Cooking poultry bones makes them brittle, so they splinter and inflict terrible damage like ripping holes in a canine's esophagus, stomach, and intestines. In other words, cooked turkey bones can kill your best friend, canine or feline…

Dogs are really clever about getting into places where food's hiding. So you might want to make sure that your best animal friend(s) can't get into your trash. My human freezes garbage. We live in the country, and we don't have mice. But we do have a very disgruntled me. Heck, I must be in my 70s now and there's not much to do except sleep and eat, not necessarily in that order, with the occasional run outside to chase off deer, rabbits, or whatever, and carouse with my canine neighbors, but I digress…

Please secure your trash when you get rid of your turkey carcass —don't just bag the bones and toss them in the can. Wild animals can get into trash, easy-peasy – cooked bones are not good for wildlife either.

About those giblets – do you use them for gravy or shudder with disgust when you pull them out of your T-bird? If the latter, why don't you use the heart, gizzard, liver, and neck to make a lovely broth for your dog? Chop up the gizzards into the finished broth and refrigerate: Gizzard broth totally dresses up kibble. Dispose of the cooked turkey neck (re-read first paragraph).

(Re felines: I mentioned them once – please feel free to apply my suggestions about turkey to your cats, but be aware that they have different dietary needs than dogs – not that I have anything against cats. I love them. It's fun to chase them, but for me, it's, even more, fun when they stand up to me and play instead of running away… I do enjoy a feisty cat, but I digress… again… writing is hard.)

If you're into letting your best friends enjoy a bit of their *wolf heritage, you can freeze the gizzard, heart, and liver and feed them frozen, one at a time, to your pooch, who will go crazy over their pupsicle.

*wolf heritage: your dog wasn't always a dog – surprise! Way back, long ago, like maybe 40,000 years ago, all domesticated dogs are descended from wolves in Tibet and Mongolia or Europe that went extinct. But I digress, once again.

Trust me: happy mornings are when I get a frozen chunk of raw local grass-finished beef heart or liver or kidney or a nice frozen marrow bone, followed by ¼ cup of kibble Being frozen, they won't make a mess all over your kitchen floor or rugs. I have one particular area rug, just for me, where I get my breakfast pupsicles and marrow bones and any treats and bickies.

A word of caution: If you have never fed BARF (bones and raw food), hold off handing a thawed or frozen turkey neck to your pooch. Do your research. Read up on the subject. Get educated. Talk to your vet. Go online and look for BARF and raw dog food. Don't be a sheeple and follow a trend without investigating it thoroughly to see if it suits you and your lifestyle and, most importantly, your best canine friends.

I get my big meal in the evening. On T-Bird Day, I get turkey and some mashed cooked peas or greens beans, maybe some cooked spinach. She won't give me potatoes, but I get a taste when she makes handmade egg noodles and pasta. I'm a lucky dog…

And she's really careful with what fats I eat. Everyone needs healthy fat in their diet – it's good brain food for humans, and I love a little butter or olive oil, but she's very careful to make sure any bacon we eat is nitrite/nitrate free. I love bacon fat on my kibble, but it does not love me. It makes me sick – awful yellow stuff. If your best friend isn't back to normal in about 24 to 30 hours or so, you might want to call your vet, just in case, it's something serious.

Oh, one thing this time of year – so good for us!!! Pumpkin puree – pure puree, not the pumpkin pie stuff with all the spices – nuh-uh, no no no! Pure pumpkin puree! Canned or cooked fresh – so good for us (oh, I already said that). You can look it up on the internet – good for lots of reasons. Really yum… Maybe my human will learn to make treats with pumpkin this year.

It's time for a snack and a nap…

Red

The Plant Lady

Karen Rexrode



The garden shed chatter is usually about the weather. Temperatures, rain, the forecast, these are things of great importance. Keeping that in mind, it seems that we've been cheated this fall. No reds, oranges, very little yellow and worse yet, dry and drier.

I just finished a lecture on color in the garden. There was a fine examination of the color wheel, primary colors, secondary colors, tints, and shades. A 101 on color theory. A point I made was the lack of naturally occurring red colors in our climate. Tropical places have many red flowers, we have only a few. On one hand, I can count all of the native perennials that flower red, most are summer blooming, brightly colored to draw hummingbirds.



If we truly desire red, it's best to wait for fall. Maples, tupelos, some oaks, and vines; namely Virginia creeper make a great show. Our lack of color this year can be blamed on the lack of rain. Its arrival and we need buckets, will probably be too little, too late.

Now as a happy gardener, and as a lot, we usually are very happy, I have enjoyed the splendidly warm days. The gardens are dressing down and going to bed. There still lies some hope for a red show from the fall and winter berries. Deciduous hollies are full, some of the viburnums have a red glow to them, the sumacs berries look glorious. Colored red to attract birds, some berries will hang in there until spring.

A potentially bigger concern for the gardener is the continuing lack of rain. Spring flowering shrubs may be greatly affected as the buds have or are developing now. It's a time frame that will end with frozen ground and cool temperatures. The most critically affected will be broad-leafed evergreens like rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, and pieris. I strongly suggest you soak the ground around these shrubs so they can build buds. Deciduous trees and shrubs are holding onto their foliage because they are relying on the leaves to continue photosynthesizing. They are not willing to lose these if there is no rain. Another survival mechanism. Do not put the hose away yet, do not cut off the irrigation just yet.

And on a positive note, if you missed your reds, it will be poinsettia time soon.





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Liam
Black & Brown Tabby DSH
2 years old



Dixie
Thoroughbred
21 years old
one-eyed



Cooper
Lab Mix
10 years old



Lola
Terrier Mix
10 years old



Reba
Black and grey
Tabby DSH,
3.5 yr old



Mikey
Black Pot Bellied Pig
6 years old
Overweight/needs exercise



Ned
Grade Horse
27 years old



Rusty
Coonhound
5 years old



Cami
Black & White DSH
Senior Female



Chocolate
Shepard mix,
6 month old



Captain Hook
Tri-color beagle mix,
1.5 yr old,
no kids



Ely
Tri-color Yorkie,
6 yr old



Petra
Mustang
7 yr old



Trapper
Lab Mix
3 years old



Mighty Man
Orange and White tabby
DSH, 9 yr old, FIV +



John
Miniature Pinscher
7 yr old



Pippi Short Stocking
Siamese, 10 yr old
needs a mellow home



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Film Festival Kudos

For yet another year thanks go out to Sheila Johnson and the Salamander organization for staging another world-class event here in Middleburg.

The 2017 Film festival was a triumph.

Some of the best of the worlds films, filmmakers, actors and industry leaders were brought together in Middleburg to both entertain and educate

Thanks to all who made the festival possible . . . and to all who came to enjoy it and make it a smashing success.

Honor

And thanks again to Middleburg's Police Chief, A.J. Panebianco, for his special emphasis on personal integrity, what was in a semantically less reticent age referred to as "honor," as a core principle for those who protect and serve our community.

Middleburg is unique in requiring that its police officers swear a special oath, aptly named an Oath of Honor, before their families, friends, and the people they serve before their badges are pinned on them formally.

The oath is re-affirmed when officers are promoted.

Our Police Chief brought the Oath with him to Middleburg. The officers who have sworn that oath while serving under him have done us, and him, proud.

Letter to the Editor

I have never written anything for submission to a newspaper of any sort before, but feel compelled to do so now. In the Middleburg Eccentric Sept. 28 – Oct. 26, 2017, edition, Elaine Broadhead of Middleburg, Va. wrote a "Letter to the Editor: Bank Manager" concerned with the character of the new merger between Access Bank and Middleburg Bank and wrote "Access claims it is a community bank which in my estimation means a Bank for everyone regardless of wealth. This does not jibe with the new policy eliminating free checking and charging unless one has a minimum of $1,500. I hope that Access will reconsider their policy and will again be a bank for the people all people." To this, I wish to respond.

I have only been with Middleburg Bank for one decade and, although with the recent merger, they allowed my senior account to remain under old terms so long as I had direct deposit (SSA) and received statements via e-mail, changes still did not apply to all terms. When I visited concerning the other accounts (overdraft, etc.), there were new methods/terms/expenses on how they would handle the same and it became quite obvious that even the senior allowance granted might change in the not-too-distant future.

Following at-length meetings with officers of Middleburg Bank, I have taken my business to the Bank of Clarke County, where not only do they offer free checking to more than just the elderly, but they have hired some of the very special personnel from Middleburg Bank, who previously might have handled your account as well, as they were themselves unhappy with the new Access changes. It is my understanding from Bank of Clarke County that Middleburg clients have been flocking to Clarke for these very same reasons.

An article on page 9 of the Loudoun Tribune Aug. 3, 2017, says it all:

Access President and Chief Executive Officer Michael W. Clarke said in a release "As we integrate the two companies, our combined financial strength, and economies of scale will allow us to deliver a valuable and compelling client experience to targeted businesses and affluent/high net worth consumers in a manner that also generates attractive financial performance measures compared to peers."

Perhaps Elaine and all you non-affluent consumers out there might want to change to Clarke too … I too want only a bank for "all the people" – not just the affluent – and I would hope that the affluent would also want the same for "all the people."

Kathleen Hampton
Bluemont, Va

Letter from the Plains

Most readers may agree that the key roles of government include defense of the nation's security interests at home and abroad, education, at least until the conclusion of high school, critical infrastructure such as roads and bridges, a basic social security system for our nation's retirees, and a legal system that upholds the rule of law on well established common law principles, supported by effective law enforcement. Overriding these is perhaps the supreme task of upholding the constitution of the United States. Perhaps everything else could be construed as secondary or even unnecessary. In the advanced economically successful western democracies state-provided health care is also a given and is high on their list of key government functions. The wealthiest of the European nations, such as Germany and the United Kingdom, have well established public health care systems. None of these nations are in any way "Socialist". They have private health care also, for those who can afford the premiums. Readers may be unaware that Winston Churchill was a Liberal until his party imploded in the 1920s and he joined the Conservative Party. WSC was not an old-style Tory. Far from it. As a Liberal Minister, he introduced far-reaching state-based social reforms and benefits that preceded the United States by several years. During his tenure as Prime Minister during World War Two, his cabinet introduced and passed some of the most advanced educational reforms of the twentieth century (the Butler Education Act) together with the beginnings of the National Health Service (NHS), while saving the world from Nazism. In spite of UK budgetary dilemmas, the NHS survives as a model of social reform, providing in British parlance, a critical function for a caring western democracy. This segues me to Senator John McCain, a true American hero, and statesman. He has, with his two female Senatorial colleagues, successively put the kybosh on each and every move by the Republican Party to undermine Obama Care, the Affordable Care Act. Irrespective of party affiliation and core political ideology, Senator McCain, like Winston Churchill, has put himself above party and addressed the key issue of what is best for the large majority of the American people. He has eruditely explained that proposed changes, worst case repeal, would disenfranchise millions of Americans from healthcare, totally disrupt the health insurance industry with potentially catastrophic results, and throw the medical profession at all levels into chaos. Senator McCain has shown two outstanding qualities – courage and leadership, hallmarks of the former US Navy pilot and a heroic prisoner in the Hanoi Hilton. I may not always have agreed with Senator McCain on other issues, but one thing is absolutely sure, I have never ceased to respect his integrity, courage, and care for the well being of the American people, and the citizens of Arizona. What more could one ask? He does not fall into a pathological diatribe, invective, and arguments that seem to emerge from a straight-jacketed mindset that can only hear the echoes of its own rhetoric. Perhaps we should all stand back, take a deep breath, set aside our politics, transitory as they truly are, and thank Senator John McCain for his unflinching and selfless service to the United States.

Anthony Wells
The Plains, Va

Honor

Blue

Dan Morrow

More than half a century ago, when I was both taller and smarter, the honor code at the University of Virginia was a simple affair. Roughly stated, the code read: "A gentleman," (for women undergraduates were yet to be admitted to the "College of Arts and Sciences"), "does not lie, cheat or steal" or "tolerate" the presence of those who do.

In the Fall of 1963, a student accused by a fellow student of any of the offenses was honor-bound to leave the University within 24 hours, or request a trial before his peers. Only students served on the tribunal, the Honor Committee. Decisions were final.

Of the three "honor" offenses lying was first among equals and a close corollary to cheating.

Many of our professors were veterans of the Second World War. Some were veterans of both. Though they played no role in either accusing or expelling liars from the "college" they strongly supported the ethic.

They taught, and we learned to distinguish between bald-faced lying and what West Pointers still call "quibbling," essentially weaseling out of a lie. "It depends upon what the meaning of "is" is, for example, or "Many agree with me that x or y is true."

We learned, in a thousand ways, the prices paid by those lied to.

We learned that Rudyard Kipling, now arguably best known from Disney movies, but then as the foremost apologist for the British Empire and the glories of death on the battlefield, changed his mind when his own underage son, Jack, inspired by his father's work, volunteered and was killed on the Western Front. In 1915 Kipling, heartbroken, wrote a short poem:

If any question why we died,
Tell them, because our fathers lied.

From William Faulkner's biographer, and Faulkner's The Reivers," his last novel, written at UVA we learned that:

"A gentleman accepts the responsibilities of his actions, and bears the burden of their consequences, even when he did not himself instigate them, but only acquiesced to them, didn't say no, though he knew he should."

Now, it seems, lying has become an infectious norm at the highest levels of government, practiced in both the bald-faced extreme and in the clumsiest forms of quibbling, daily, even hourly, by our accidental President, his minions, and those who support and enable them.

The great historian of the Second World War's battles against Japan, John Dower, has described one of the most prevalent forms of Trumpian prevarication as " . . . a kind of historiographic cancellation of immorality—as if the transgressions of others exonerate one's own crimes"

Were he a gentleman, which he most certainly is not, Mr. Trump might well leave the White House in disgrace.

How sad it is that he is both a liar and no gentleman . . . that so many of us continue to support and defend him . . . and worse, that so far, no one with the power to do so will "ask" or compel him to leave.

Union - Larger than Statehood But not Adrift

The Public Square

Jerry Van Voorhis
Chandler Van Voorhis

Much attention is paid to the state of our 70-year post World War II world order. But what of the deeper, longer 240-year old American Order - and it's fit into the times?

There is some feeling America and the West may be losing their footing. The nation state is under attack today. While America may be justified in its world role still, it is also less whole than in 1945. We know great nations or civilizations, though, don't rise or decline in a vacuum.

There are many reasons civilizations can falter. They consume too much, and deplete their resources. They print too much money, and go into debt. They use their military too much and weaken their homeland to pay for conflict far way. They raise taxes to stay strong, but hollow out people's livelihoods in doing so. They then subsidize the struggling parts of society, and reward those protecting them at the top.

Over time leading nations can watch their vision slip. As they do, they often grow corrupt. They ignore their history, and before long unobtrusively dishonor their beliefs. Their foundation of community and nationhood grows uncertain and finally erodes. With large size and little soul, one day not much may be left.

This is not inevitable. Events affect the course of change most - but so does national character. Character survives because systems cannot, and character alone improves them. For our country to be better and our world stronger, America's house must again become whole.

It can. The fortunate part of America's character is that it thrives, in both foundation and apex, beyond the normal assets of national power. The foundation of America rivets on integrity and conscience. It's apex and reach - growing out of conscience - comes from the force of citizen aspiration. So America, first and foremost, is an idea whose essence goes beyond the bookends of the nation-state. Statehood in America matters because its vision does.

In his Farewell Address on September 19, 1796, George Washington named five large principles that should guide the young new nation: 1) the permanency of union, 2) national independence, 3) moderation over spirit of party, 4) religion and virtue as "pillars of human happiness," and 5) fiscal rectitude. These are the ingredients by which a people could have "command of its own fortunes."

These - the ethics of union, purpose, character, money, morality - remain wise first foundations. They need relevant honoring again. At the other end of our long union, not facing into the past but the future, a perfect union was avoided so a steadily "more perfect" one could be formed. Because America is founded upon a widening and ever deepening concept of its roots, there need be no betrayal. The bookends - of conscience and possibility - create an undimmed ceiling. Our character is linked to the very rope of human progress.

The foundation and future of our Republic, then, not its present condition, govern us. The core of our civilization is woven into a web of consistency and moral power that cannot be rent. Parochial dives and speculative theory will never tear this garment asunder. It is connected beyond the gifts of empire. For a nation as generously conceived as ours, this means we need to step back from ourselves.

We may possess one of the finest Republics ever, yet too many have spent the past 40 years trying to drown it in disfavor. The Public Square believes we must be jealously careful. Why? Just as a thirsty plant drinks the gentle rain, we need as citizens to soak in the gentle rain once again of our Republic. For, what we think, we are.

Nations don't generally thrive on grand conceptions. Politics, even at their largest level, often stay local. But now and then they soar. America is less a static identity than a moving notion built on a new principle of statehood. This principle is larger than statehood, but not adrift from it.

Our greatest duty may be one of viewing our heritage anew. Proverbially, this means not loving the darkness more than the light - in short, shredding a magnificent inheritance, or failing as Lincoln spoke in 1861, "to save the good old ship of Union."

Gravitational Waves, The Nobel Prize

A Scientist's Perspective

Dr. Art Poland, PhD

In 1916 Albert Einstein predicted gravitational waves. In 2017 the Nobel Prize committee awarded a group of scientists the award in physics for making the first direct measurement of gravitational waves. Previously they had only been inferred indirectly.

So, what does this mean? Who cares? What it means is that we are progressing technologically to levels not thought possible in the past. When Einstein predicted gravitational waves, it was said that they would be so weak that we would never be able to measure them. That was before we even knew that anything with the mass of black holes existed. It was before we had computers and many of the other technological devices that we commonly use today, like lasers. We should care because it means that nothing at the technological level seems impossible.

So, what is a gravitational wave? Think about a bathtub full of water that is left undisturbed for long enough such that the surface is perfectly still. Now, poke your finger into one end of the water. You will see a wave move away from your finger and move to the other end of the tub. If the wave starts out small, it may never reach the other end of the tub. Einstein predicted that the universe was like the tub, and any matter (like a star) moving would act like your finger, causing a gravitational wave to be sent through the universe. The problem is that the force of gravity is so weak that it seemed impossible to measure this wave. It would be like measuring the wave at one end of your tub caused by a mosquito landing on the other end.

What pieces of the puzzle allowed us to measure gravitational waves? First, there was the discovery of black holes. The mass of these objects was much greater than anything envisioned during the early 1900s. This would be equivalent to discovering an elephant-sized mosquito. However, a single black hole isn't going to be moving fast enough to produce a significant wave. With computers, scientists were able to simulate various scenarios of large masses that might produce gravitational waves. With lasers and very high-speed computers, scientists learned how to measure very small changes the in a position of a test object with an incredible accuracy of time. With two measurement devices, placed sufficiently far apart, each would see the wave at slightly different times.

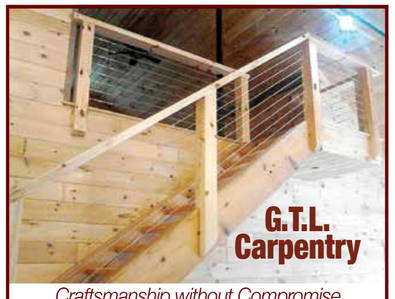
The measurements observed were compared with various computer simulations to determine that they saw two black holes colliding. They were also able to determine that the event occurred in the southern skies about 1.3 billion years ago.

This scientific result and advancement in technology was the result of research by American scientists at a cost of about $620M. Given today's turmoil, I hope that Americans feel that it is worth it, and would like to remind people that the money went to jobs for Americans in America. The benefit to society is as yet unknown.

Some interesting websites to learn more about these waves see: https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/gravitational-waves/en/, http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/10/gravitational-waves-discovered-neutron-stars-pictures-science/, and

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2017/10/16/scientists-detect-gravitational-waves-from-a-new-kind-of-nova-sparking-a-new-era-in-astronomy/?utm_term=.ade3dc2b56be

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Utilities

Ask a Council Member

Mark Snyder

Hello Middleburg! The Eccentric had some last minute publication issues and were not able to include diagrams in my column last month. I also saw that Vincent Bataoel "disputed" my September column on social media with more faulty cost numbers for town utility bills. He also made similarly reckless statements regarding Middleburg's budget.

The utility data I analyzed include combined bills for water and sewer service costs, as that is the norm for town residents. The numbers Mr. Bataoel posted on social media appear to exclude sewer costs, comparing us to Hamilton and to Leesburg. Hamilton has 61% of its 753 customers residing outside of town, paying higher rates. Leesburg is a town with over 50,000 in-town residents plus many thousands of outside water customers and are of a scale with which we can never compete. A new mayor (or council) cannot change our utility costs much, because they reflect reality. That reality is a utility with only 484 customers.

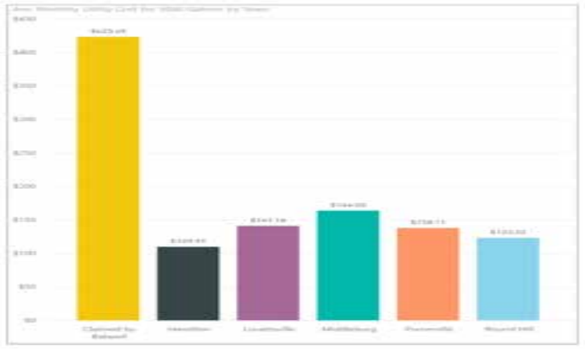
Since the tables and charts were missing last month, they are below.

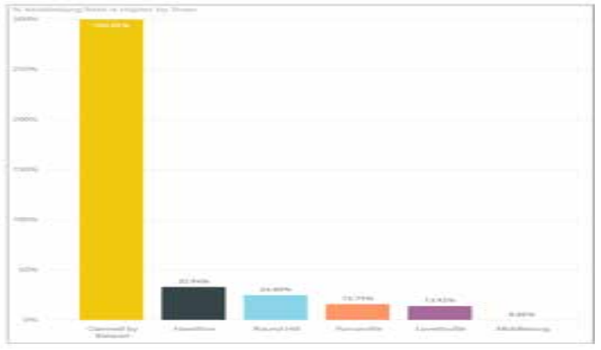


THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE WEIGHTED-AVERAGE COSTS FOR CUSTOMERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF EACH TOWN.

Water& sewer	Middleburg	Hamilton	Lovettsville	Purcellville	Round Hill
4,000 gallons	$130.77	$94.38	$141.16	$116.12	$98.66

The following charts show these weighted averages for 5,000-gallon water and sewer costs by town, and compare costs from other towns to ours. As you can see, Middleburg customers do pay more. However, Middleburg customers are clearly not paying two to three times more than other towns pay! That is my opinion – what do you think? I welcome all comments, suggestions and questions!





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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



Langhorne Farm
Upperville, Virginia
$3,990,000

266 acres in Piedmont Hunt • Panoramic views of the Blue Ridge, Bull Run and Cobbler 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

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Red Gate Farm
Aldie, Virginia
$3,750,000

149 acres along the historic and scenic byway between Aldie and Leesburg • Open, usable, rolling farmland • 2 ponds, windmill, lots of road frontage • 5/6 BR Victorian farmhouse plus converted water tower • Charming setting, large porches, beautiful specimen trees, large garden side pool • First time offering in 50+ years • Not in Conservation Easement

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



Mayapple Farm
Middleburg, Virginia
$3,400,000

"Mayapple Farm," purist delight • Original portion of house built in 1790 in Preston City, CT • House was dismantled and rebuilt at current site • Detail of work is museum quality • Log wing moved to site from Western Virginia circa 1830 • 4 BR, 4 full BA, 2 half BA, 9 FP & detached 2-car garage • Historic stone bank barn and log shed moved from Leesburg, VA • Private, minutes from town • Frontage on Goose Creek

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Merry Chase Farm
Marshall, Virginia
$2,800,000

Prime Atoka Road location • 155.08 rolling & mostly useable acres • Beautiful setting, tree lined drive • Main house circa 1837 • 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4 fireplaces • Improvements include 4 tenant houses, 3 barns, indoor and outdoor riding arenas

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Belvedere
Middleburg, Virginia
$2,195,000

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

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



Monroe Valley Place
Aldie, Virginia
$1,899,000

Beaumont Model Home, prime lot in Creighton Farms • 3 level brick home • Amazing quality & detailed finishes • 5 bedrooms • 4 full + 1/2 bath • 4 fireplaces • Master suite on main level • Gourmet kitchen with Wolf appliances & shaker cabinets • High ceilings, oak floors, award winning media room, elevator • Attached garage • Rear brick patio • Golf course views

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Gileswood Farm
Purcellville, Virginia
$1,950,000

Immaculate custom-built craftsman home with gorgeous finishes • Gourmet kitchen • Vaulted ceilings • Open floor plan maximizes light & views • 1st floor master suite • Home office • Large family room opens to impressive pool area with cabana and extensive stone terrace overlooking neighboring lake • Large barn easily built out for horses • Land fenced & prepared for 2 acre vineyard

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Old Fox Den Farm
The Plains, Virginia
$1,900,000

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



The Hague-Hough House
Waterford, Virginia
$1,395,000

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 with apartment • Garage space for 6 vehicles • In-ground pool • Large pool house • Stone outbuildings • Lovely gardens

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Bust Head Road
The Plains, Virginia
$1,325,000

82.69 acres • Mostly wooded, mountain views, bold stream in very protected area • Conservation easement • Can not be subdivided • Prime Orange County Hunt location • Halfway between Middleburg and The Plains

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Pleasant Vale Land
Delaplane, Virginia
$1,300,000

302.09 acres in excellent Fauquier location • 2 tax parcels, 1 mile Right of Way to property • Approximately 30-40 acres open • Balance wooded rising to top of Naked Mountain • Frontage on Kettle Run • Potential tax credits

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Stoneway
The Plains, Virginia
$1,195,000

Well designed stucco single story • 3 BR • 4 full BA • 2 half BA • Master bedroom w/his and hers dressing room/bathroom en suite • Library • Sun-filled sitting room-dining room • Kitchen with breakfast nook and chef's caliber appliances • 2 FP • Large mudroom off 2 car garage • Cutting garden • Nestled on 10 private wooded acres in sought after Orange County hunt

Alix Coolidge (703) 625-1724



Woodward Road
Marshall, Virginia
$790,000

1-level living in this energy efficient home • 10+ acres just 2 miles from 166 • 3 BR, 2.5 bath house w/2 car garage, office, sunken living room w/10' ceiling • 28'x14' sunroom w/views of garden & rock out cropping • Over sized 38'x40' three bay heated workshop w/auto lift • Great for collectors • 2 small barns & 2 paddocks & spring fed pond • Very well built & very well maintained property

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Oak Ridge
Warrenton, Virginia
$705,000

Prime location, off Springs Road • Surrounded by large farms & estates • House circa 1890 with 2 BR, 1 1/2 BA, FP, hardwood floors, new kitchen • Garage • 2 sheds/studio potential • Tenant house • Property shares large spring fed pond • Private setting on 13.21 acres

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Pleasant Vale Road
Delaplane, Virginia
$550,000

Great Fauquier County location • Small tract surrounded by large farms • Home built by current owner • 4 BR, 3.5 BA & 2 FP, huge 2-car attached garage • Room under garage can be used as a wine cellar • Shades in all rooms • New flooring throughout most of 1st floor & upstairs bathrooms • Freshly painted • Basement had been workshop • 6.84 acres, fruit trees, stone walls, mountain views • Owners motivated to sell!

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Middleburg ~ Custom estate home on **3+ lush acres** minutes to town. This 6,000+ sq. ft. former model has open floor plan with 5 Bedrooms, 6 Baths, stunning Chef's Kitchen that opens to Family Rm w/fireplace, wall of windows & spacious side covered porch. Formal Living Rm w/fireplace, Dining Rm, Den/Office, & Master Suite with Sitting Room, his & her Walk-ins & Luxury Bath. Quality finishes through-out include hardwood floors & crown molding. Spacious Nanny Suite on top level. Fully finished lower level with Rec. Room. 3-car attached garage. **$895,000**

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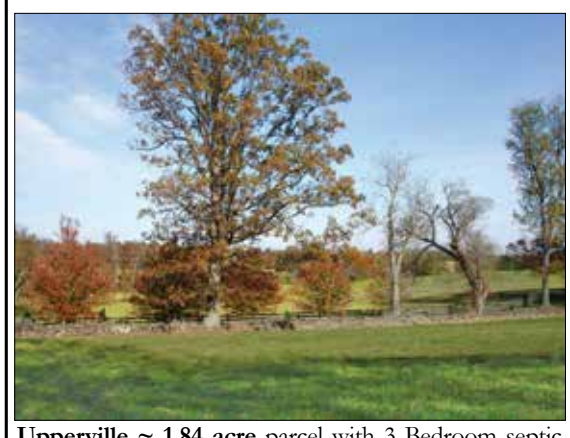
OLD BOARDING HOUSE



Delaplane~ Located in the historic village, this 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath home has been meticulously renovated. Features original hardwood floors, 5 fireplaces, formal Living Room, Dining Room & Library. All new gourmet Kitchen, Baths & Master Bedroom Suite. Re-plastered walls, new lighting, new furnace/AC, sound system, extensive landscaping, fenced back yard, expansive rear terrace, covered front porch & detached 2-car garage. **$749,000**

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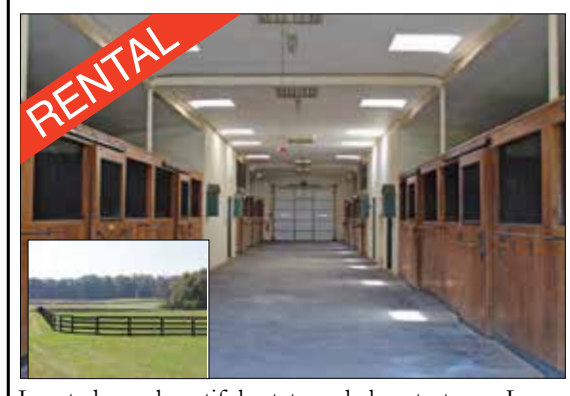
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