

2020 POLO CLASSIC

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PHOTO BY NANCY KLECK

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

JAY HUBBARD

Changes to the Town Business License and Taxes

The Town adjusts how it operates and collects the business licenses and taxes to keep pace with changes to the State code. The following proposed amendments were brought forth for discussion.

- Clarification in the definition of contracted to include building contractors
- A first-time business would pay the minimum fee of

\$30 to obtain their business licenses.

- Adding a new category and fee for Federally regulated contractors of 3 cents per \$100.

The ordinance amendment passes.

Christmas in Middleburg

Jim Herber, chairman of Christmas in Middleburg, addressed the council. After the executive polling of past event attendees. It became clear that as much as people do love to the day, the responsible thing to do given COVID was to scale back the event to individual targeted micro-events throughout the season.

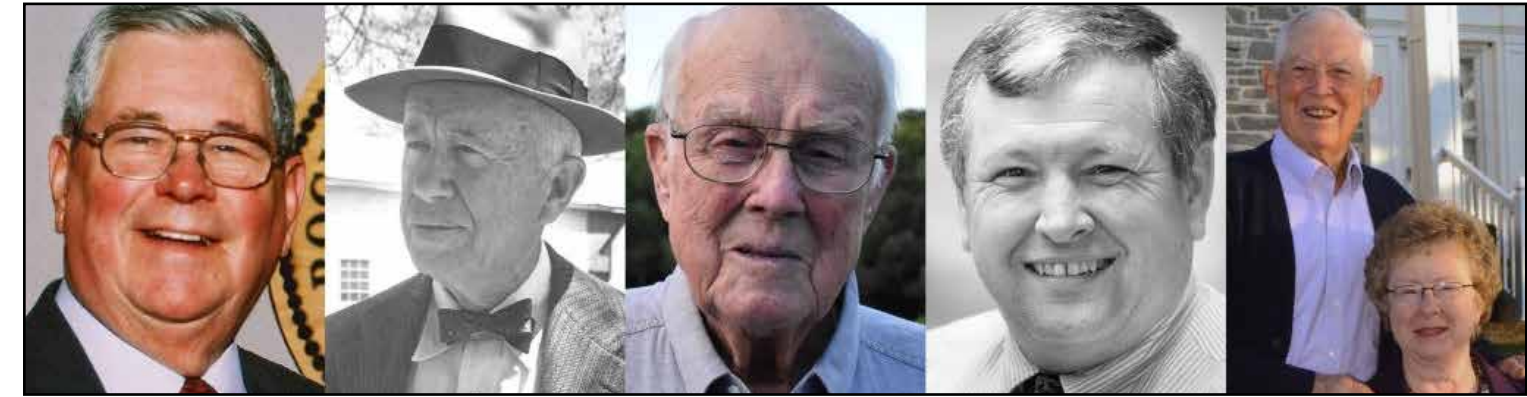
HORSE-CRAZY: 'CHASING DREAMS DESPITE COVID

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NEWS OF NOTE

FIVE INDUSTRY LEADERS INDUCTED TO 2020 LIVESTOCK HALL OF FAME



A.L. (IKE) ELLER, JR.

Five outstanding Virginia livestock industry leaders are being inducted into the Virginia Livestock Hall of Fame this year. Their portraits will be permanently displayed in the gallery at the Virginia Tech Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena in Blacksburg, along with 72 others who have been inducted since 2010.

Normally, the current year's inductees are honored at a special ceremony held every fall. Although the portraits

will still be hung this year, the formal in-person ceremony is postponed indefinitely due to restraints caused by COVID-19.

Nominees for the livestock hall of fame award come through the member state commodity organizations, namely The Virginia Cattlemen's Association, The Virginia State Dairymen's Association, the Virginia Pork Council, the Virginia Horse Council, and the Virginia Sheep Producers Association.

Charles W. Ahrend (deceased) was a New York na-

tive and a revered agricultural and civic leader in Rockingham County and Virginia. He was best known as a pork promoter who prepared and served pork products at many public events. His service on the Rockingham Board of Supervisors and his 4-H swine programs' support cemented his widespread value and popularity.

Christopher Chenery (deceased) was a native of Virginia who bred successful thoroughbred horses at Meadow Farm in Caroline County. These important and influential horses include Hill Prince,

First Landing, Cicada, Riva Ridge, and the record-setting Triple-Crown winner, Secretariat. Recognitions include The Eclipse Outstanding Breeder Award, The Virginia Thoroughbred Hall of Fame United States Racing Hall of Fame, and Pillar of the Turf Award.

Robert E. Foster of Washington County has had a monumental impact on the Virginia cattle industry through his long-time buyer activity, support, and promotion of Virginia Feeder Cattle. He helped shape the cattle industry in the commonwealth and across the

country, making Virginia cattle become a household name in the nation's beef industry.

H. Franklin Graves' fruitful career was focused on marketing Virginia livestock. The Madison County native and Virginia Tech alumnus served the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as livestock services program manager for 33 years. His leadership in market development and livestock grading created enhanced marketing opportunities for Virginia livestock producers and resulted in numerous personal awards.

Riley and Barbara Wagner have had a profound impact on the dairy industry. Their Rilara Holsteins have had a marked positive impact on the genetic improvement of the Holstein breed. They had an equally tremendous impact as leaders in the dairy industry, serving numerous roles for state and national organizations and promotion and management of many sales and conventions.

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NEWS OF NOTE

HORSE-CRAZY: ‘CHASING DREAMS DESPITE COVID

LAUREN R. GIANNINI

Steeplechasing is a cross-country race for horses, and Thoroughbreds are the heart and soul of this exciting sport with its roots in foxhunting in England, which gave rise to enthusiasts challenging each other to a race from one church steeple to another—point to point... Early American settlers brought horses, hounds, and red fox to the new colonies, and George Washington, the first American president, rode to hounds and kept his pack.

Winter’s end is heralded by the spring point-to-point season when local hunts stage annual races that double as a fundraiser to keep hounds and the “country” in good health. Unfortunately, COVID brought the 2020 Spring racing season in Virginia to a screeching halt after two meets. Rappahannock Hunt made their surprising but welcome revival, following a 12-year hiatus on March 7 when they christened the brand new course at Larry Levy’s The Hill Farm (near Culpeper). Warrenton’s annual point-to-point at Air-lie (Warrenton) squeezed in under the wire on March 14. Then there was nothing until June when Middleburg Spring Races and Virginia Gold Cup rescheduled their major meets sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association.

Jump racing is a heady mixture of fresh air, amazing vistas, gorgeous horses, spectators, officials, participants, and tailgates in a festive atmosphere. It all adds up to a terrific day at the races. You don’t have to know anything about horses to enjoy a day at the races. With social distancing and masks mandated, along with other safety measures for all, such as temperature-taking and signing a COVID waiver for those involved as officials, staff, or participants on arrival, but no spectators are allowed at NSA meets. More than ever, racing is all about the horses.

Horses aren’t something you can take up and then ignore. They require care and attention, 24/7. Horse-people come from all walks of life, but the good ones learn how to how to keep the horses in their care healthy and happy. Of course, the best are often found at the top in both NSA and Point-to-point Foundation standings, and they tend to eat, sleep and breathe horses. Running a racing stable is hard work, but it’s a passion for those who get their greatest enjoyment from seeing the horses in their care do well. Even if they never make it to the winner’s circle, the horses who love their jobs are the greatest in the eyes of their people.

See that photo? This year’s Old Dominion point-to-point

at Ben Venue Farm is by Richard Clay Photography about 19 miles out Route 211 from Warrenton. The rolling terrain hides ODH’s timber and hurdle courses’ ups and downs, considered one of the best venues on the circuit. To jump at racing speed over a hurdle or timber jump and land downhill at a gallop is the next best thing to sprouting wings and flying.

Exciting? Heavens, yes! Thoroughbreds can run as fast as 35-40 mph, and many are capable of galloping at even greater speeds for short distances. It’s an exciting finish when horses engage in a stretch duel, racing head to head, striving to be first as they reach for that extra gear while you cheer them home.

Racing returned in September, albeit on a limited basis. The vastly reduced calendar is better than nothing. Two hunt-sponsored point-to-points opened the fall season for enthusiasts. Old Dominion Hounds rescheduled their wildly popular early April races, attended in the past by as many as 10,000 spectators, for September 12, but only 1,000 spectators were allowed, five per tailgate. On the following Saturday, September 19, Waverly Farm again provided a significantly improved stage for the Blue Ridge Hunt Races. Both meets had abundant entries with safety protocols in place according to Virginia’s Phase 3 Opening, which

includes temperature checks and a signed COVID waiver upon arrival.

There are three more NSA racing dates in Virginia, all running without spectators: Foxfield Races in Charlottesville on October 4, Middleburg Spring Races at Glenwood Park on October 10, and the International Gold Cup at Great Meadow in The Plains on October 24. The NSA offers live streaming on the day and also video archives.

Meanwhile, check out CentralEntry.com for lots of info on the three’ chasing circuits—Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware Valley. You’ll find plenty of information at NationalSteeplechase.com as well.

Remember: horses are the heart and soul of racing. Support your local pack, go out and walk hounds in the early morning. Many have social memberships. Think about learning to ride if you don’t already, or you’ve been out of the saddle for yonks. Look into joining an owner’s syndicate. You’ll have a blast cheering your horse. Take up photography – awesome action and landscape opportunities. Contribute to one of the 501(c) (3) Thoroughbred and Horse Rescue charities that walk the walk. There are lots of ways to get involved, and you’ll have a good time to boot.

OLD DOMINION’S BEN VENUE FARM POINT-TO-POINT COURSE FEATURES ROLLING TERRAIN AND SOME SERIOUS UPS AND DOWNS—CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST ON THE CIRCUIT. PHOTO BY RICHARDCLAYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



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NEWS OF NOTE

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS CONTINUES AN OLD MIDDLEBURG TRADITION IN A NEW FORMAT



Middleburg's Emmanuel Episcopal Church will continue its more than 20-year-old tradition of blessing animals on Oct. 4 with an

interfaith event that allows for social distancing and also has an online option for animals and friends staying at home. The Blessing, which will take place at the National Sport-

ing Library & Museum (NSLM) parking area in Middleburg, will be conducted by ministers, priests and a rabbi from area congregations and welcomes animals of any kind, great or

small. In 2019, 94 dogs, including a retired army dog, 5 horses, 6 cats, an African Parrot, an owl, a rabbit and several toy animals took part. The Rev. Eugene LeCouteur

of Emmanuel says that in the new format, animals will remain in cars and be driven past the ecumenical team of clerics, who will administer the blessings through car windows. Large animals in trailers (e.g. horses, cattle) will be directed to another part of the parking area, where they will remain in their vehicles while being blessed. Volunteers will be on hand to direct traffic and hand out goody bags.

Animals sequestering at home can receive their blessings online. Send an email to info@nationalsporting.org for the Zoom link. A minister will conduct individual blessings to all participants joining virtually. Questions about a virtual blessing can be directed to info@nationalsporting.org

"Last year, we had 180 people and more than 100 animals," said the Rev. LeCouteur. "Thanks to the hospitality of the NSLM, our new faith partners and the new format, we hope to bless even more animals this year." The NSLM is at 102 The Plains Road, just off Route 50 in Middleburg.

Rabbi Rose Lyn Jacob of Madison County, Pastor Tracey Lyons of Mt. Zion-Willisville Chapel Cooperative Parish (UMC), Father Christopher Murphy of St. Stephen the Martyr Roman Catholic Church in Middleburg and Pastor Herman Nelson of Shiloh Baptist Church, Middleburg, will co-officiate with the Rev. LeCouteur at The Blessing of the Animals at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at the NSLM, rain or shine.

For more information, call (540) 687-6297 or go to Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/292183898497085>

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NEWS OF NOTE

FIELDS OF FLOWERS HOSTS POTTERY SHOW AND SALE BY LOCO POTTERS

Fields of Flowers, the well known pick-your-own flower farm in Western Loudoun County, VA, hosts a pottery show and sale on Saturday, October 3, 2020, from 10 am to 4 pm. The pottery represented are works of

talented local potters known collectively as LoCo Potters. Their work features functional pieces: mugs, bowls, pitchers, casseroles, vases, birdhouses and feeders, plates, and platters, as well as some artworks. All are hand-thrown, glazed, and decorated,

and each piece is a one-of-a-kind creation suitable for everyday use or as a gift.

Visitors can cut beautiful seasonal blooms and provides small (\$10) and medium (15) size containers and clippers to complete

the task. Fall flowers include zinnias, hydrangeas, snapdragons, lavender, veronica, ageratum, celosia, asters, and more!

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For more information: email info@loudounfieldsofflowers.com; visit: www.loudounfieldsofflowers.com



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURG COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Middleburg Town Council is accepting letters of interest from individuals who wish to be considered for service on the following:

Historic District Review Committee. The HDRC administers the provisions of the Historic Overlay District and assists the Town Council in its efforts to preserve and protect the historical, architectural and archaeological resources in the town. Members should have a demonstrated interest, competence or knowledge of historic preservation within the town. This appointment is to fill a vacancy. Normally, terms are for a three-year period. The HDRC meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month in regular meetings; and, in work session on an as-needed basis.

Go Green Committee. The Go Green Committee is responsible for advising the Town Council on environmental issues. They are responsible for developing recommendations for environmental action plans and for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) resolution. Their goal is to increase community awareness about environmental issues, such as the value of recycling, the importance of preserving water quality and the methods for conserving energy. This appointment is to fill a vacancy. Normally, terms are for a two-year period. The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.; and, in work session on an as-needed basis.

Middleburg Arts Council. MAC is responsible for coordinating the community cultural and art events sponsored by the Town of Middleburg, excluding Christmas in Middleburg. MAC is responsible for staffing the events; for the formulation of the appropriate rules for the events; for organizing any entertainment associated with the events; and, for advertising, promoting and marketing the events. Members are encouraged to have an interest in arts and/or cultural activities; however, members are also needed whose strong suits are administrative related. This appointment is to fill a vacancy. Normally, terms are for a two year-period. MAC meets at 5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month; and, in work session on an as-needed basis.

Anyone interested in serving on any of these committees is asked to send a letter of interest, to include any relevant qualifications, no later than October 30, 2020 to the following:

Mayor and Members of Town Council
Town of Middleburg
P. O. Box 187
10 W. Marshall Street
Middleburg, Virginia 20118
Attn: Rhonda North, Town Clerk

Letters of interest may be included in a public agenda packet. Applicants who do not wish for their contact information to be made public should indicate this in their letter of interest.

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NEWS OF NOTE

THE FENCE POST



With the changing of the season, families join each other around the table for the holidays. From one generation to another, the hand of time and the values held most dear are transferred through stories and days spent on the land. From the moist smell of the soil to the vibrant fall colors to the drifting and settling of leaves on the forest floor, the cycle of life is on

vivid display, not just in nature but also within families across our countryside.

For those who live in the country, we look to the land as what binds us. It is where roots and values are laid down. From the land, our character springs forth. Whether we ride horses, farm or enjoy the recreational aspects, we do what we do because we simply love our land.

Our ownership and sense of

stewardship are closely held notions. However, the millennial generation, while talented, poses real challenges for both the land and the question --- who will be the next generation of stewards that carry on the work of the previous ones.

For hundreds of years, land ownership has been a revolutionary idea. In fact, our sense of natural rights, as opposed to civil ones, springs from land as owned property. And

in the 1660s, William Petty put in motion a radical idea that land should be treated as a form of capital and that the only way to unlock its value was through labor.

But over time, from one generation to another both capitalism and natural rights are increasingly seen as divorced from the land. Maybe these sentiments are merely a reflection of the current migration to the cities. We are

witnessing what many call the Urbanocene. For the first time in history, more than 50% of the world's population now lives in cities. To live in the city means most of the inhabitants live in structures where their feet do not touch the ground easily. This suspended detachment is furthered by grocery stores where one can sustain life without harvest.

The millennial generation is one that flocks to the city,

wants free access to WiFi and prefers Uber to owning a car. In fact, the car may be a precursor to what lies ahead for land ownership. Land to this generation means precious dollars, time and a lack of mobility to roam the city and partake in bustling energy and flow of information pulsating throughout the city. While these are generalizations and do not fit all members of this generation, naturally, they are important realities to consider when we ask who is going to be the next generation of stewards. If not them, who? And with what resources?

In my recent travels around the country, this is the topic tugging at the minds and hearts of the current patriarchs. And with this comes the worry and fear that when land transfers, the new owners will break up and sell off the land. As land is broken up, so are the biodiversity corridors that have been stitched together through the toil, sweat, and blood of the previous generation. A loss of biodiversity corridors is relevant as many believe we have entered into the Sixth Extinction phase and are at the precipitous of global danger. Whether this is correct or not I will leave for others and another time to debate.

But like the cycling of life, hope springs forth. There are new tools and strategies that go beyond traditional conservation easements and mea-

sures. Our company, ACRE Investment Management, in The Plains, VA is developing, deploying and implementing these tools and strategies on private lands throughout Virginia and around the country.

The focus of this column is to share the stories and explain the expanding toolbox available to landowners and how this relates to a variety of local measures. I call this column The Fence Post for a reason. A fence post is where neighbor joins neighbor in conversations and where information transfers happen.

It is my sincere hope that a new notion will take hold where the expansion of this toolbox is merely an exercise in the widening of one's perspective. One that recognizes and unlocks the flows of natural capital on your land, where the lifting and enhancing of those values can endow your land and set the table for the enjoyment and sense of wonder and liberty that springs forth through land ownership.

So lean in, do I have a story to tell you!

Chandler Van Voorhis is the Co-founder and Managing Partner of ACRE Investment Management (www.acre-investment.com), recipient of the 2002 ChevronTexaco Conservation Award and a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

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PROGENY

25 FOXCROFT GIRLS EARN AP SCHOLAR AWARDS

TWO ACHIEVE SELECT NATIONAL AP SCHOLAR DESIGNATION



Two Foxcroft School students achieved the rare status of National Scholar to lead a group of 25 girls who earned 2020 AP Scholar Awards from the College Board for outstanding achievement on Advanced Placement Exams taken last spring.

Current senior Scarlett Dong and Class of 2020 graduate Kenzie Green, who attends the University of Virginia, were among a select group named National AP Scholars. This is the fifth consecutive year that Foxcroft has had National Scholars, who must achieve an average grade of at least 4 (out of 5) on all AP Exams taken and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of the tests.

A total of 14 current seniors and 11 members of the Class of 2020 earned AP Scholar designations. This is the 17th consecutive year that the number of AP Scholars at Foxcroft has reached double-digits, a testament to the academic excellence fostered at the school.

Scarlett and Kenzie were joined by three current seniors — Betsy Altenburger, Julia Clark, and Moni Corona Perera — and six members of the Class of 2020: Tam Le (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Nell Nicastro (Cornell University), Mimi Suh (University of Virginia), Maya Yuan (University of Rochester), Bella Zhang

(University College London), and Cassie Zhang (Boston College) in receiving AP Scholar with Distinction awards, given for achieving an average of at least 3.5 on all exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on at least five of them.

AP Scholars with Honor awards, given when a student scores of 3 or better on at least four tests with an average of 3.25 on all exams taken, were received by four current seniors — Hayden Eskew, Tami Famewo, Rose Uran, and Eunice Yang — and four members of the Class of 2020: Helena Bridwell (Iowa State University), Shea Hogan (Occidental College), Ellie Porte (American University), and Leslie Wang (University of California, San Diego).

Six current seniors received AP Scholar recognition by scoring three or higher on three or more AP exams — Claire Healy, Susannah Manucy, Bianca McNeely, Dami Ogunmola, Gracie Schriner, and Mackenzie Werner.

The College Board's Advanced Placement program provides academically prepared students with an opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school and to earn college credit or advanced standing in classes for successful performances on AP exams. The exams are graded on a 5-point scale, with five being the highest.

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NACHO FIGUERAS WITH BEVERLY EQUESTRIAN'S DARRIN MOLLETT AND BILL BALLHAUS



HILARIO FIGUERAS



REBEKAH GREENHILL



CRAIG DICKMAN OF LUGANO, WENDY AND MICHAEL SMITH



LISA SPODER AND JIM SUTTON.JPG



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CHRIS HOLDER GOT MOST VALUABLE PLAYER



AMY BAIER, AMY DONNELLY, AND ANASTASIA VAKULA
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PASTIMES

DENTISTRY IS A LEADER IN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

MIDDLEBURG SMILES



DR. ROBERT A. GALLEGOS

I receive compliments regularly from patients who are impressed by the technological advancements in dentistry. It got me thinking about how dentistry has embraced these advancements leading to improvements in diagnosis, treatment, and patient comfort as top priorities. I will review some advancement areas that you may experience

and why they are important for your health and comfort.

Dentists and hygienists often wear loupes to enhance visualization. Loupes are small microscopes worn as glasses with varying degrees of magnification. Loupes allow the dentist and hygienist to have an enhanced vision of your mouth, allowing for early detection of disease (i.e., gum disease, decay, oral cancer) and more precise treatment. Full-sized microscopes are also used,

especially for endodontic (root canal) treatment. This allows the endodontist to visualize microscopic cracks and extra root canals for better diagnosis and treatment outcomes. Early and enhanced detection leads to better results, less expense, and improved health.

Digital x-rays are an improvement over conventional x-rays, similar to how digital photography improves traditional film photography. Digital offers significantly reduced radiation exposure, immediate results, no

chemical processing or film disposal (biohazardous wastes), the ability to adjust the brightness and contrast of the image for better diagnosis, and easily share the image with patients and other healthcare providers. Cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) is a 3-D x-ray that has become a part of dentistry for exceptional treatment circumstances: implant planning, root canal therapy, airway evaluation, jaw surgery planning, orthodontic planning, and tumor evaluation.

Digital photography and scanners do not use radiation. Photography and scanning allow for enhanced communication, visualization, and planning. These give the dental team the ability to show the patient a photograph



or scan of their oral condition (healthy or not), allowing patients to participate in and make more informed decisions about treatment needs or desires. Scanners can be used to show possible orthodontic results immediately, plan implant placement, preview cosmetic treatment, plan surgery, and in many cases, replace impression taking. Some scanners have cavity detection abilities using no radiation utilizing near-infrared light. This is not a substitute for x-rays but can detect areas of concern without radiation.

There are different types of lasers offering many uses in dentistry. LANAP is a laser procedure for periodontal treatment that is more comfortable than conventional surgery. For certain procedures, lasers can be used in place of drills or scalpels. Lasers can be used to remove unwanted pigmented areas on lips and gums, and lasers can be used in TMJ therapy.

Communication is enhanced with email, auto calls, text, and websites. The old postcard reminder of your appointment has been replaced with more efficient and environmentally friendly digital communications. Auto calls, emails, and text offer you the ability to access and respond to vital information anywhere and anytime. Email and text also allow you to receive important notifications from the office, such as appointment availability, schedule changes, office COVID procedures, and other notifications. Websites offer prospective patients a way to find out more about the office, services offered, and the dentist and access to fill out new patient forms. For current patients, websites provide access to forms and treatment information before and after visits.

High technology dentistry improves dental care by lowering costs, improving early diagnosis, making treatment more comfortable, and enhancing communication. Dentistry will see continued advancements in years to come with saliva tests for diabetes, certain cancers, and other early detection healthcare tests. Advanced technology certainly complements the way dentists work and the outcomes patients desire.

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

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BUCKLE UP KIDS

IN UNISON

STEVE CHASE

Eventually, artists who have toured for years start to slow down. It's no wonder many of our favorite bands have been touring literally for decades, and after hitting seventy-five or eighty, maybe it's time to throttle things back a bit and settle down into a musical home venue. Whole communities have sprung up from this concept; first, Las Vegas was then the well-known Branson, Missouri. Another home venue is in Marin County, California, owned by Phil Lesh, the indefatigable and octogenarian bassist of the Grateful Dead and the leader of the great series of Post-Dead all-star ensembles, Friends.

I love Phil. He is one of those road warriors who has kept up a steady clip of live tours long after the band's demise upon Jerry Garcia's death. Playing with several post-Dead ensembles, Phil is best recognized in my mind for his fantastic Phil Lesh and Friends groups (the first incarnation of the group was almost 25 years ago, made up of members from the Grateful Dead playing acoustic tunes). The first non-Dead Phil and Friends group appeared in 1999, with Phil's Trey Anastasio on guitar and Page McConnell on keyboards, joined by guitarist extraordinaire Steve Kimock. Since then, the group has had an expansive rotation of great musicians, including some of the best guitarists in the business--Warren Haynes, Jimmy Herring, Derek Trucks, Robben Ford, and John Scofield. Phil has been extraordinarily generous about recordings of these shows, most of which are readily available at sites like archive.org and bt.etree.org, not to mention the official Phil Lesh site, which sells and often gives away excellent soundboard recordings of shows. While every show has a full menu of Grateful Dead tunes, there are always a few jam band anthems from Traffic, Pink Floyd, John Coltrane, the Allman Brothers, or even Elton John.

Phil's venue Terrapin Crossroads sits closed by COVID-19 in San Rafael, California. It's a musical home that allows him to tour when he wants and kick back and bring the musicians to him when he wants to stay home. Some fine live music is always up on the Crossroads net, whose slogan is "Buckle Up Kids." The venue website explains it all in a few sentences:

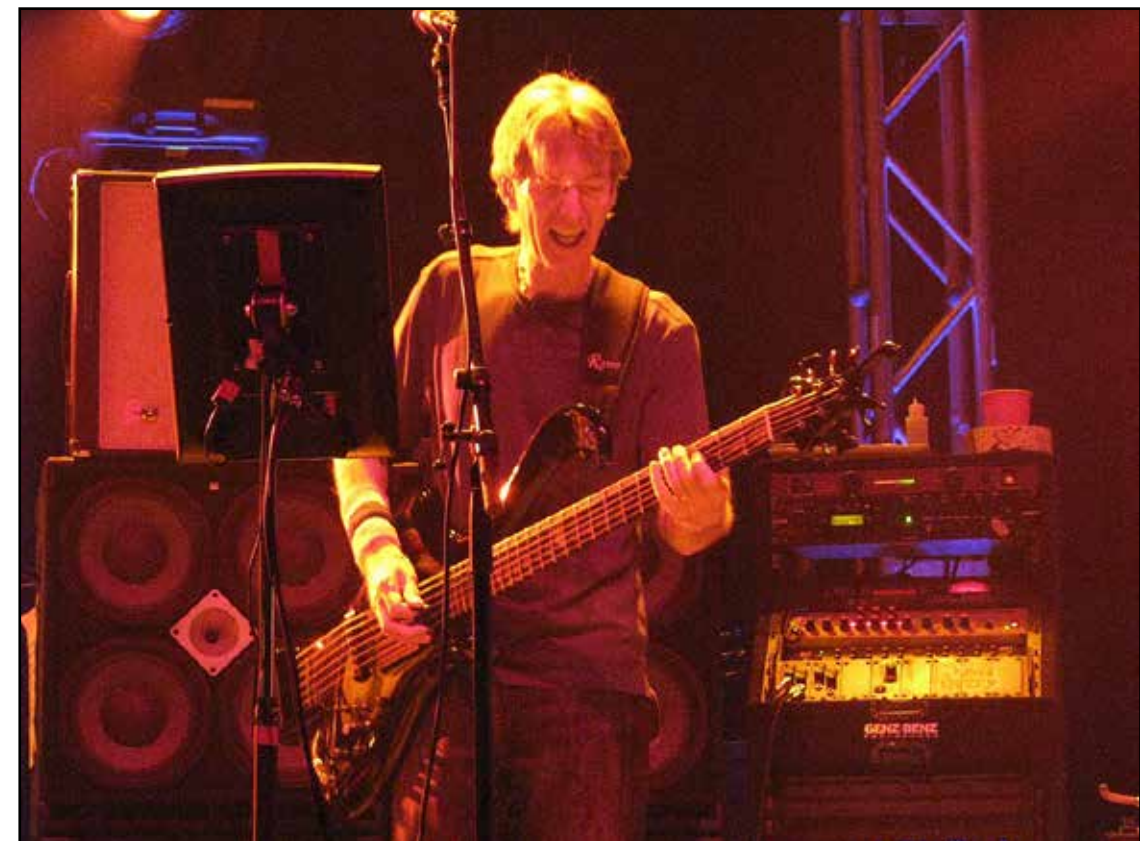
"Terrapin Crossroads hosts ongoing shows where Phil will invite his musician friends -- both young and old -- to play along with him in his various bands: Phil Lesh & Friends, West Coast Rambles, the Fellowship and the Terrapin All Stars."

Yeah, I know we're in Middleburg, not California, but the assortment of live music recording coming out of Terrapin Crossroads via the Internet collapses those three thousand miles

quite effectively. Here's a recording to start with, found at bt.etree.org. <http://bt.etree.org/details.php?id=555073>. It's a Phil Lesh Quintet show recorded off the soundboard on April 29, 2012, with Warren Haynes (Gov't Mule, The Dead, The Allman Brothers) and Jimmy Herring (Widespread Panic, The Dead, Jazz is Dead) providing the dueling guitars. It's a must listen to for those so inclined, with some fine Grateful Dead material, along with a sublime Strawberry Fields Forever and a lively Blue Sky. More at www.terrapincrossroads.net.

Great Concert Pics

There have been many great concert photographers over the years, and one, in particular, has recently caught my attention, Jay Blakesberg. A long-time concert photographer, video producer, and author has a long list of credits shooting many great bands for Rolling Stone and a bunch of other media. His Facebook site Jay Blakesberg Photography and his website www.blakesberg.com have tons of great photos. I like to browse through the Facebook albums to see extraordinary images of some of today's great bands on stage, including recent shows from Terrapin Crossroads, a huge assortment from the Summer Camp Festival, and some great pictures of Roger Waters, moe., Umphrey's McGee, and Yonder Mountain String Band, to name only a few. You can also buy fine art prints and coffee table books, one of which I was given for Christmas a few years



ago, full of great pics from some of my favorite Bands. Seeing we can't go to the shows, looking at great concert pics is a good thing.

Keep your Eyes on B-Chord Brewing Company

The COVID-19 crisis has effectively shut down most venues and festivals, including Terrapin Crossroads and Lockn', but sometimes things can bloom in the ashes. I have talked to the folks at B-Chord Brewing Company in the past about some fine

local music they have presented. Still, with COVID impacting many of the prime venues, B-Chord has only stepped up more to present some of the top national jamgrass talents in the Country outdoors in their 20-acre field on the side of the Blue Ridge in Round Hill. These concerts have limited entry and are socially distant events, keeping the music intimate and the atmosphere safe. Recent shows gave The Del McCoury Band, Larry Keel, Keller

Williams, Jeremy Garrett, Andy Falco, Railroad Earth, and Sam Bush, to name a few. I expect great things from them when the crisis is over as they become a major acoustic music venue only a few miles from Middleburg. Check out the B-Chord Facebook page for news on upcoming shows.

Steve Chase is in Unison listening to Phil and Friends.

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~ BE LOCAL ~

PASTIMES

THOUGHTS FROM THE FIELD

WELCOMING WINTER!

FARMSTEAD SOLUTIONS



NICK GREENWELL

With the sudden drop in temperatures, the arrival of frost warnings (and in some areas, actual frost), and the resulting emergence of multiple layers of clothing, it is clear that IT is coming. One of my favorite facets of living in the Piedmont is that we usually enjoy the beauty to be found in all four of the seasons. With that said, we have been spared “harsh” winters for several years. It may be time to pay the Piper. Let us toss

out a few ideas that will help you prepare your agricultural investments for the coming chill. So... chill out, grab a warm beverage and let us dig in.

One of the most functionally essential considerations for fluctuating temperatures is the condition of fences and automatic waterers. As temperatures rise and fall, wood will invariably expand and contract. This is more prevalent with newer, perhaps still “green” fences. This movement may lead to warping and presents the potential for nail heads to become exposed. It would require

more than two hands to count the times that I had had to doctor a laceration due to an exposed nail. Walking your fence lines weekly is a wise and pleasant routine to develop. As an aside, you are inspecting gates, and hinges for rust would also serve your animals well. Should you have automatic livestock waterers installed, a thorough inspection of the units would help you very well. Specific companies have electrical heating components that warrant examination. A faulty or degraded electrical housing has been known to send

a current through the drinking water, thus keeping animals from drinking. As we know, winter is colic season for horses, and sufficient water intake is vital. In any scenario, it is wise to have the units inspected for disrepair, leaks, etc. Repairing a frozen or leaking waterer below-freezing weather is a scenario that I would like to avoid.

While we are taking a closer look at facilities, it is vital to be sure that your hay storage area is clean and properly ventilated. With the sudden influx of hay, ensuring proper storage can

help to extend the life and quality of your forage investment. It can contribute to your facility’s overall safety (improperly cured and stored hay is a recipe for a barn fire). Given the fermentative nature of muck pits, it is wise to clean them out before any hard freeze or inclement weather (they can also combust). While on the topic of manure, harrowing, and picking your paddocks at any opportunity will be of enormous benefit. Once herd animals get running around and playing due to a warm winter day, or snow, frozen piles of manure are the perfect booby-trap to roll an ankle or bruise a hoof. They even present a hazard for the humans that are owned by these animals when covered in snow.

It would also be wise to inspect any trees close to buildings, fences, or utilities. Limbs or entire trees that appear weak or compromised should be removed before they are expected to bear the weight of ice and snow, thus risking the structures as mentioned earlier. You know the adage about an ounce of prevention. While in diagnostic mode, inspecting heat lamps and forced air heaters in the barn, heat lamps in chicken coops or smaller barns, and water heaters is also a wise idea. Plenty of critters- mammal, avian, and insect alike have probably made use of the nooks and crannies of these units over the previous months.

Investing a beautiful fall day preparing your facilities for the coming months is not only enormously beneficial for your animals; it can be a very enriching and informative experience for family and friends alike. Get out there, enjoy the coming changes in the leaves, and if you need a hand, I am here to help. Thank you for reading. I will see you in the field.



THE AUTOPSY OF A HORSEMAN

SINCERELY ME



BRANDY GREENWELL

2020 Has stolen my creativity, so we’re flashing back to one of my favorites. Enjoy!

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?

Most of them are fused from being stepped on numerous times over the years, starting with your toes. There are no records of your breaks because, of course, you would 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 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 enormous 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 to any heaven in which there are no horses.” R.B. Cunninghame-Graham



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PASTIMES

ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH WITH CUMIN TOMATOES

THE KITCHEN PHILOSOPHY



EMILY TYLER

Even though butternut squash is available year-round, now in its peak season, this simple combination uses the late-season tomatoes and squash with a cumin touch to give it a slightly exotic twist.

Butternut squash Serves 4

2 butternut squash - seeded and cut lengthwise in quarters

Oil for coating the squash

3 cups chopped tomatoes - can use cherry tomatoes, cut in half

3 tablespoons butter

1 teaspoon ground cumin

Salt and pepper

Sour Cream for serving

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees
On a parchment-lined baking sheet, drizzle the squash with a bit of oil, season with salt and pepper
Roast for about 40 minutes or until the squash is easily
~ BE LOCAL ~



8 ripe figs, cut in half

½ cup sliced almonds

Powdered sugar

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees
Line the bottom of a 9" springform pan with parchment and coat with oil
In a standing mixer, whip the egg whites until just foamy and gradually add ¼ cup of the sugar and whip until the whites hold a soft peak - set aside in a large bowl
Using the same bowl (no need to wash), combine the egg yolks, sugar, and almond extract and whip until the yolks become pale yellow about 3 minutes
Using a large spatula, fold in the dry ingredients into the yolks
Then fold in the egg whites
Spoon batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top
Place the figs, cut side up in a circular pattern, pushing them lightly into the cake batter
Sprinkle with the slivered almonds
Bake the cake for on a lined baking sheet for about 30 minutes
Let the cake come to room temperature before unmolding
To serve, sprinkle with powdered sugar

PASTIMES

IT'S TIME FOR FALL HOME MAINTENANCE

ASK A REMODELER



TIM BURCH

Waking up to chilly mornings and the kids being back in school – whatever that may look like – reminds us that it's time to tackle our fall home maintenance list. A regular schedule of maintenance throughout the year is critical to keeping your home healthy and family safe. These baseline preventative steps are a good start.

Gutters, Downspouts, and Low-Slope Roof Maintenance:
Inspect these items and carefully remove any accumulated debris. This check should be completed four times per year to ensure effective draining and avoid damage caused by trapped and accumulated water.

Hose Bibs & Irrigation Systems:
To avoid bursting pipes, turn off exterior hose faucets and irrigation systems before freezing weather sets in, which is typically late October-early November in the Greater DC area. All hose bibs, including "Frost Free," should be fully drained, and irrigation systems should be blown out to avoid freezing during the winter months.

Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC):
It would be best to have your HVAC systems serviced twice per year, spring and fall, to ensure they are operating at their most efficient levels. The system inspection should include changing the filter, adjusting dampers to favor northern (not southern) rooms, clearing leaves and debris from outside units, checking AC refrigerant, and cleaning the AC condenser. Note that some systems require filter changes more or less frequently, so be sure to consult your manual.

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Humidifiers:
Many homes have a humidifier to help raise the humidity during the dry winter months and improve the house's health and indoor air quality. This system requires an annual system check, and the fall is the best time. During their visit, your HVAC service company should perform a thorough inspection and replace the pad/cartridge, which can collect deposits from the water source, clog, and cause leaks.

Other Important Items to Address this Fall:
Change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
Latch windows shut to square them up, seal the weatherstrip, and stop drafts.
Inspect all bathroom caulking and touch up as necessary. Repeat in the spring.
Drain 10-15 gallons from the bottom of your water heater once per year to remove sediment.
Fireplaces and chimneys should be inspected inside and out at least once per year for soundness, deposits, and clearance. Have the chimney cleaned or repaired as needed.

Clean screens in showerheads and faucets annually to ensure optimal water flow.
For your appliances, consult your manufacturer's maintenance recommendations, which should include steps such as cleaning screens on range hood vents, vacuuming refrigerator coils, replacing water filters, and more.
Your septic system should be inspected, and the tank cleaned out once per two-three years.
With this list in hand, you're ready to get to work or schedule service professionals for assistance. If I can help to answer any questions, you may have, please let me know.

Tim Burch is a Vice President and Owner of BOWA, an award-winning design and construction firm specializing in renovations ranging from master suites and kitchens to whole-house remodels and equestrian facilities. For more information, visit bowa.com or call 540-687-6771. Have topics you would like covered, email me at AskBOWA@bowa.com.

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PASTIMES

THE GARDEN, A BUSY PLACE

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

My garden deserves a big thank-you; it's needy, requires weeding, watering,

and deadheading. In return, I receive innumerable rewards, some of which are small, even difficult to define. This year's most generous gift might be the simple escape from reality, a place to lose your mind. Even when the weeding battle appears impossible, like fighting mulberry weed (Foutou villosa), it becomes a physical and emotional absorption and then a feeling of small gains and taking care of business. Those who run those who take on moderate distances achieve a runner's

cal and emotional absorption and then a feeling of small gains and taking care of business. Those who run those who take on moderate distances achieve a runner's

cal and emotional absorption and then a feeling of small gains and taking care of business. Those who run those who take on moderate distances achieve a runner's

Once again, there comes the preoccupation, planning, and scheming for the next season or year. It's an excellent place to be.



high when endorphins are released. The gardener has several "gardener's highs," maybe minor compared to an endorphin rush, but entirely satisfying.

By September, we are on the downside of active seasons in the garden with fall fast approaching. The rewards may be fewer, but they keep coming. My small shady walkway recently erupted with cyclamen's flowers (Cyclamen hederifolium), where they have naturalized and grown happy. Like a sweep of newness, they are delightful. Ants spread the seed to sunlit areas, their preferred space to grow, free of threatening weeds. The season for cyclamen has just begun, and evergreen leaves will follow to occupy winter. The arrival of cyclamen marks a new chapter, a nod to the continuance, despite plants' tiredness around them. The gardener may break out in a joyful dance to the tune of "Happy" (by Pharrell Williams), thankful for the ants and a job well done in their role as seed distributors. So desirable are the seeds to ants, each one coated in a gel-like substance explicitly designed to entice the pickup and mobility, that it's nearly impossible to harvest any for yourself. I add this only to inform the gardener as they are easy to grow from seed and can be a special gift to a gardening friend that might like a late-summer boost.

In the same garden and not far, the bright yellow sternbergia flowers (sometimes known as a fall crocus) are also just arriving; their foliage went dormant as the pandemic began, they've been asleep ever since. Nothing has changed in their world; the response to shortening days and cooler temperatures mean grow, it's time. Underground bulbs are the wellspring for food captured when winter leaves were active, the summer slumber seems odd, but here we are, grateful for another spot of color as days grow shorter. I paired the yellow flowers with the incredible blue of "True Blue" gentian for three years, but sadly the gentian did not survive the drought. I might try again.

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FIDELIO

THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

Prime Fauquier County location minutes from Middleburg | Unbelievable finishes throughout | Antique floors and mantels, vaulted ceilings | 6 BR, 5 full BA, 2 half BA | 6 FP, gourmet kitchen | Improvements include office/studio, stone cottage with office, spa, guest house, pool and lighted tennis court | Landscaped grounds with stream, waterfalls, boxwood and special plantings | 61 acres

\$8,750,000

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ARLINGTON FARM

MARSHALL, VIRGINIA

296 acres of farmland off the Atoka Road | Working farm in crops and hay and improved with multiple large farm buildings and 3 cottages | Beautiful building site for a main house if desired | Conservation easement allows for 1 division and permits construction of an indoor area and additional equestrian and farm buildings | Mix of open land, creeks, pond, woods, pasture, crops and rolling topography

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HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



AQUINNAH

RECTORTOWN, VIRGINIA

Prime Fauquier County location | Residence circa 1850 has been completely updated | 8 BR, 8 1/2 BA, 6 FP | Mountain views | Gourmet kitchen with gas range, subzero fridge | Master suite with balcony | Indoor heated pool, attached gym, par terre garden, greenhouse, tennis courts | Separate building office or guest house | New 8 stall center aisle barn with office and tack room | Riding ring, new fencing, 200 degree mountain views with unbelievable sunsets

\$4,850,000

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DEERFIELD

UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

181 acres | Brick manor house c. 1844 | 4 bedrooms, lovely kitchen, multiple porches, pine floors, 7 fireplaces, original mantels, large windows, detailed millwork | c. 1810 log cabin/pool house, guest house with theater, 2 tenant houses, 5-bay garage and workshop | Sizable pond | Additional 40 acres with equestrian facility available

\$4,500,000

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CREST HILL

HUME, VIRGINIA

Experience unparalleled privacy on this exceptional Fauquier property along the Rappahannock River | 203 immaculately maintained acres w/approximately 1 mile river frontage | 1 acre stocked pond | Elegant stone & clapboard house | 5 BR, 4 full & 3 half baths, gourmet kitchen, spacious great room | Gunite pool w/stunning views of Blue Ridge Mountains | Old Dominion Hunt | 5 stall Jim-Fletcher built barn | Residence set back 1/2 mile from road | VOF easement

\$3,600,000

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WALNUTDALE LANE

THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

Stunning new stone home on 13 acres | Fine materials & thoughtful design built by Promotory Construction | Gorgeous wood floors, high ceilings, beautiful kitchen & family room | French doors from almost every room open to large terrace overlooking large pond & views of the Blue Ridge Mountains | First floor master suite has vaulted beamed ceilings & a luxurious dressing room

\$3,200,000

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PHEASANT'S EYE

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Solid stone home c. 1790 expanded to 5 BR | First floor master suite and large family room additions | 9 FP, antique floors and millwork | Extensive outdoor living spaces, large pool and terrace, multiple outbuildings | 2 car barns used to garage 20+ cars | Accommodates large scale entertaining

\$3,200,000

HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



STONE BRIDGE FARM

LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

Main house c. 1890 with total renovation & expansion 2003-2004 | Stone and stucco exterior | 4+ BR, 5 1/2 BA, 3 FP, exposed beams, vaulted ceilings, recording studio | Beautiful gardens, in-ground pool with spa | Terrace overlooking spring fed pond, 72.1 acres, 2 barns, totaling 14 stalls | Fenced and cross fenced, mature woods with riding trails | Close to Leesburg and Middleburg

\$2,725,000

PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905



OUT WEST

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

32 acres | Gracious home | Impressive kitchen | Hardwood floors, substantial millwork and fine finishes and 4 fireplaces | Perfectly sited to enjoy the views of surrounding farmland | 5 bedrooms, home office, large family room | Newly resurfaced tennis court | Pool with cabana and 4 bedroom guest house with workshop/3 stall stable

\$2,250,000

HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



HILLCREST

UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

Spectacular hilltop setting, bold mountain views and Paris valley views | Home updated in 2017 | 4 BR, 4 BA, 3 FP, gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings, skylights, lovely gardens, walkways and terrace | Improvements include in ground pool with spa | 2 stall barn with tack room, room for horses, spring fed pond | 13.37 acres next to parkland surrounded by large estates

\$1,425,000

PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905



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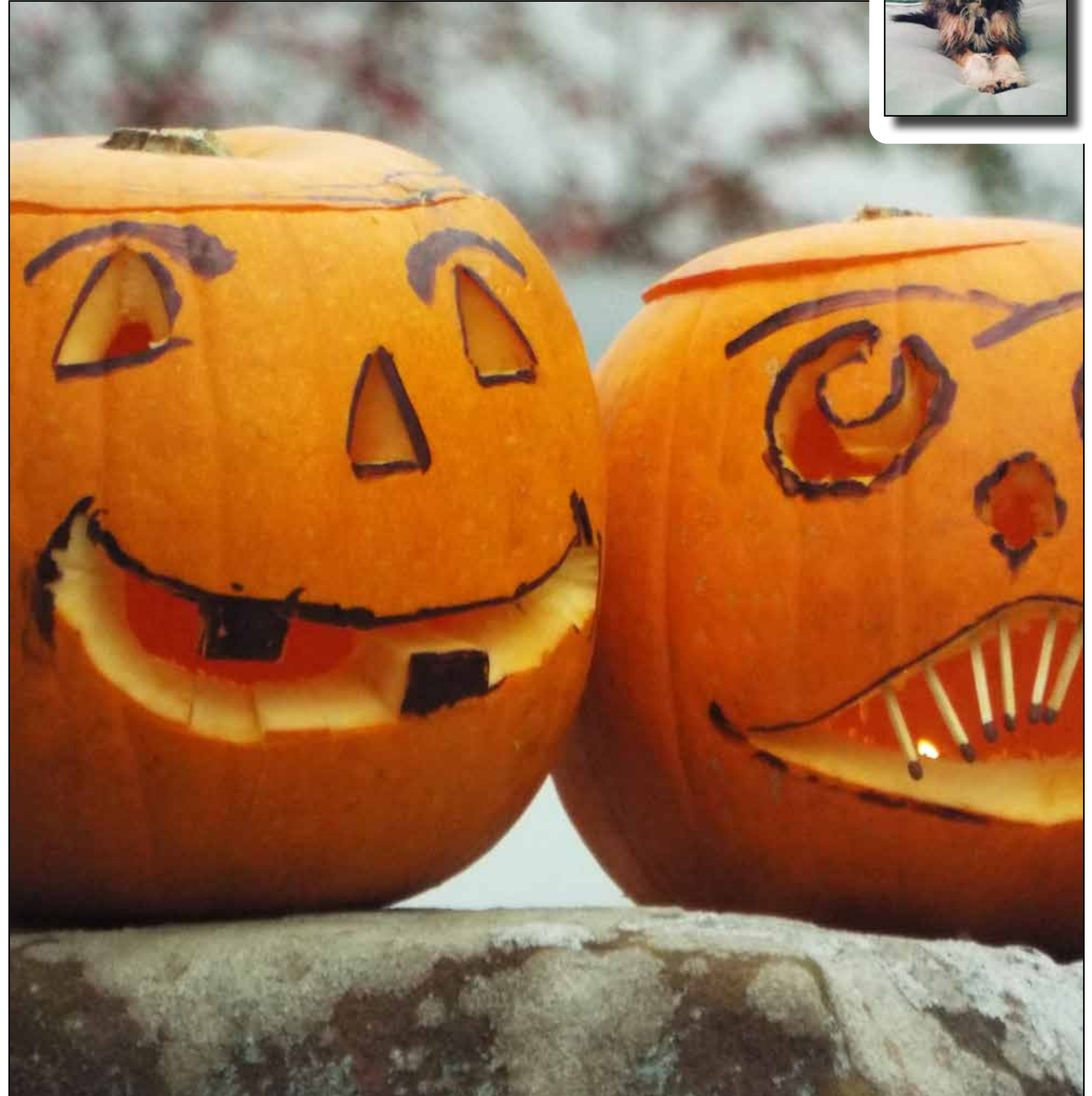
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have to quit your job or completely stop sitting. Buying an ergonomically designed chair for your desk, taking walking breaks throughout the day, and stretching your hamstrings and quadriceps during the day are all ways you can help your body during and after sitting. The standing desk is becoming more and more popular as people see the benefit of standing. Engaging in exercise programs that develop strength, balance, and flexibility will lead to a happier body. No matter your limitations, moving your body during the day increases circulation throughout the body, leading to a happier and healthier body.

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THE HOLIDAYS

AROUND THE TOWN



HAZEL SWEITZER

It's that time of year again! There soon will be a frost on the pumpkin, and my human, Tom, LOVES to decorate. This year will be different for sure since we are still surviving the Pandemic, but I cannot think of a better time for your human world to have a reason to celebrate, be grateful and connect with people you love. Of course, you will have to be careful this upcoming season by staying vigilant about the virus. Aren't you

impressed that a dog knows how to use the word: vigilant?

Anyways, for most of you, these coming months have the potential to either be sad or joyous. I think it comes down to two things –

Expectations

What do you imagine?

Expectations are at the core of most disappointment. Take some time to figure out how you see your holiday and how this year may be different. Understand that

not everybody in your life knows what expectations you have, nor have the same expectations.

We all can imagine how we see a celebration or an event that is meaningful to us. This year it is essential for you to use your imagination when you foresee your holiday. Imagine how you can keep old traditions alive and create new ones that make sense in today's environment. There might be many new opportunities that you may have never thought about.

In this time of uncertainty and confusion, we can use these next few months to connect to family and friends and allow the child inside of us to come out or the puppy.

This could be hiking in the fall or carving a pumpkin, or Thanksgiving dinner, decorating the tree, buying, or making gifts for someone you love. The hardest part of living with the virus for all of us has been the loss of human connection. I feel it as well. I am sad when I go with Tom to work, and

there are not families and children there. Tom has been sure to safely visit people because he becomes very sad without other humans. I think it is vital for all of you humans to reconnect this holiday season. You have had a year full of uncertainty and fear. I hope for all of us the end of this year brings us positive surprises, unexpected beautiful moments, and feelings of LOVE! Start decorating!

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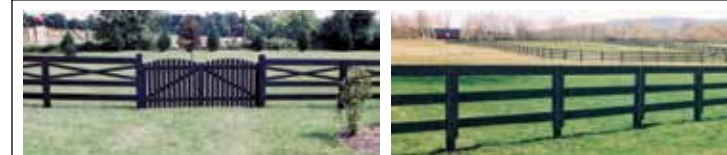
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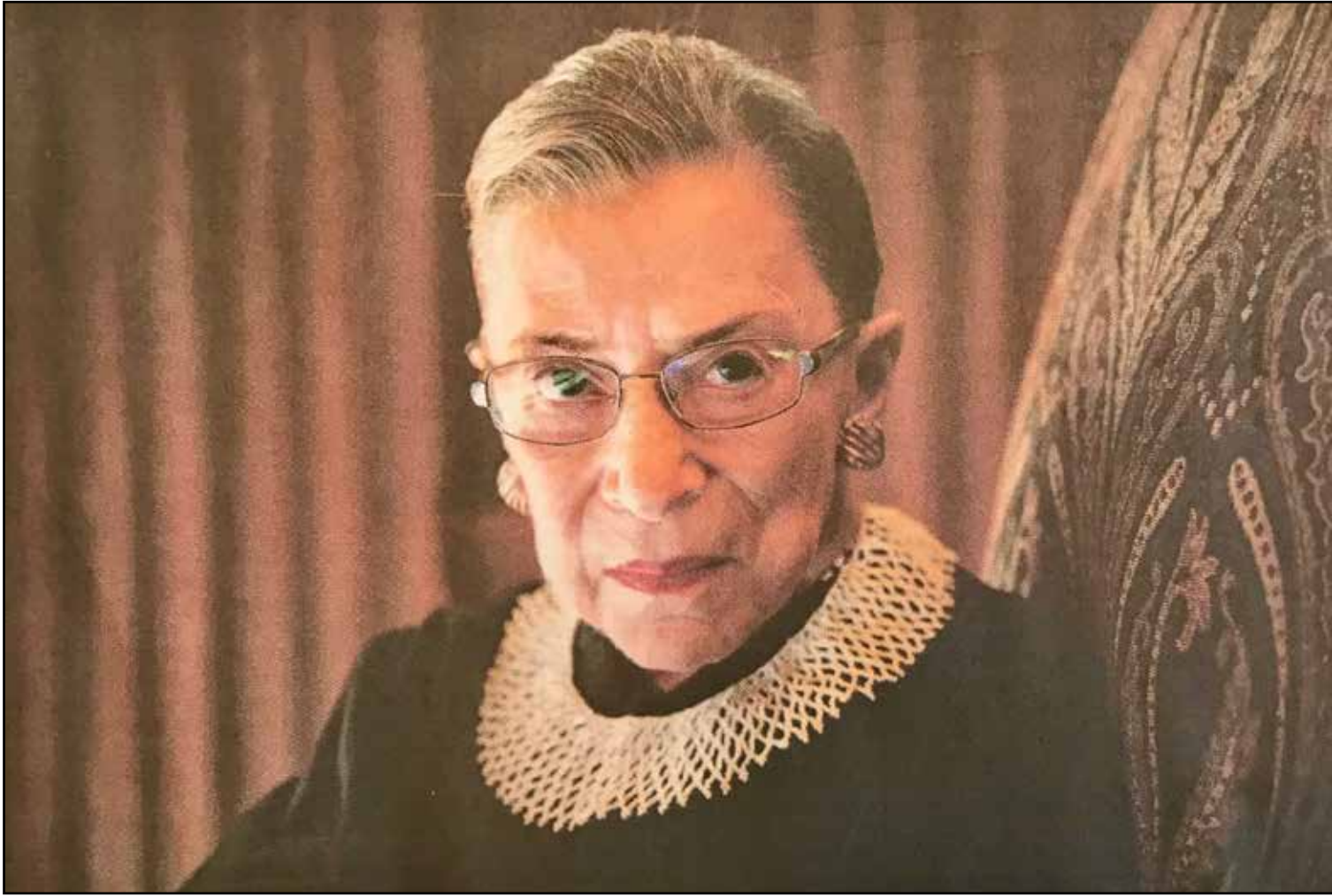
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THE NOTORIOUS RBG – AND WHAT TO DO NOW THAT SHE’S GONE BLUE



JOHN P. FLANNERY

On Friday, September 18, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away at age 87 from pancreatic cancer.

Justice Ginsburg had been fighting one form of cancer or another since 1999.

Despite her illness, the Justice marched on, in Court, and out of Court.

Though slight and fragile in appearance, Justice Ginsburg was a woman of indomitable spirit with a solid steel backbone.

When Justice Ginsburg attended Harvard and Columbia law schools, she excelled, making law review at both schools.

Afterward, she taught civil procedure at Rutgers Law School and Columbia Law School.

She fought for gender equality and women's rights, won victories before the Supreme Court, and joined the Supreme Court on President Clinton's judicial nomination, based on a recommendation by U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch.

There are many cases that Justice Ginsburg considered while a member of the Court, one decision close to the Commonwealth, issued in 1996, was her majority 7-1 opinion in *United States v. Virginia Military Institute*,

holding that V.M.I. had to admit women, ending its 157-year "tradition" barring women from what had been this all-male military academy.

Justice Ginsburg wrote, "While Virginia serves its sons, it makes no provision for her daughters. That is not equal protection."

When it came to questions of a woman's right to choose what to do with her own body, Justice Ginsburg wrote in dissent that "the Court deprives women of the right to make an autonomous choice, even at the expense of their safety."

In a Voting Rights case, Justice Ginsburg wrote another dissent, one of many, attacking the Court's majority opinion: "Throwing out preclearance when it ... is continuing to work ... is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet."

Justice Ginsburg once gave an address that summed up her life's work – "that's what it's all about: women and men, working together, should help make the society a better place than it is now."

Looking for that magic moment that turned Justice Ginsburg's attention to discrimination may have occurred when she at-

tended a dinner as a student at Harvard Law and was asked by the Dean, Erwin N. Griswold, to explain how a woman justified taking a position from a man in a class at Harvard Law School.

Years later, Justice Ginsburg explained that part of her work for gender equality arose out of the "indignities" women suffered at Harvard, shut out of the library, barred from the law review banquet, and denied space in the Law School dorms.

As for her justification for taking a space in the law classes from a man, her life's work best answers the Dean's sexist inquiry.

Ginsburg was "crowned" with the title, the "Notorious R.B.G." – mimicking rapper Biggie Smalls' "Notorious B.I.G." nickname – when an N.Y.U. Law Student, Shana Knizhnik, posted the nickname online to underscore Justice's dissent in the voting rights case I mentioned. It went viral.

When not tapping out an opinion, Justice Ginsburg became the heroine in children's books, inspired Halloween costumes worn by young and old, those dolls that look like her, a coloring book, the subject of a documentary film, and the star of a dramatic film bio.

choose truth over facts!" Biden's quote was seen by many as just another Biden gaffe, but it had a ring of familiarity for students of political science. In Marxist ideology, only the Party can de-

cide what is true, regardless of the facts. Those who disagree with The Truth as deduced by the Party are subject to re-education or even commitment to mental intuitions for their failure to ac-

shouldn't be denied a voice."

In 2016, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), the current Judiciary Committee Chair, said: "If an opening comes in the last year of President Trump's term, and the primary process has started, we'll wait to the next election."

In fact and truth, President Obama had the power to nominate and expect the Senate to advise and consent on that nominee.

But now, when it serves Mr. Trump and Senator McConnell to pack the Court, Senator McConnell refuses to wait upon the election.

McConnell will railroad the Senate confirmation process.

The features of the nominee are manifest:

It must be an ideologue who believes a fecundated ovum is a person and disputes the holdings in *Griswold v. Connecticut* and *Roe v. Wade* that respect a woman's right to be let alone, to control her own body.

This nominee will say she respects stare decisis (legal precedent) but what they mean is they will find exceptions to *Roe v. Wade* to render the holding a nullity.

This nominee will be a product of the Federalist Society, who tells Trump who to appoint and oppose the long-established doctrine separating church and state.

Judge Amy Coney Barrett, one of the possible nominees, gave a graduation speech stating, "your legal career is but a means to an end. And that end is building the kingdom of God."

The nominee will be expected to oppose the A.C.A. (Affordable Care Act), thus putting millions at risk for lack of health care during a pandemic. If appointed before the election, do they expect the nominee to participate in the oral argument on the A.C.A.

The other leading judicial nominee, Judge Barbara Lagoa, is under consideration not just because of her (compliant) legal acumen, as I've outlined, but how her connection to the Cuban community in Florida may help Trump carry Florida in the presidential election.

Whoever is appointed to fill Justice Ginsburg's vacancy, it should be an A.B.A. qualified lawyer or jurist who is no ideologue, independent of anyone group, sensitive to the rights of women and every other litigant, respectful of precedent, concerned about health care, and a person who will restore trust to the Court that Mr. Trump and McConnell have packed.

As the original Biggie Smalls might say about the Justice, "If you don't know, now you know."

As I write this, her body will lie in state, a high honor paid only one other Justice, William Howard Taft, who was also the United States president.

On the day that Justice Ginsburg died, in-person voting began in Virginia.

Almost immediately, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced he would convene hearings to consider a replacement.

In 2016, when President Obama nominated a judge to fill the vacancy created by the death of Justice Scalia, Senator McConnell said the Senate should not consider the nomination and wait instead until after the presidential election: "The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president."

In 2016, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), then Judiciary Committee Chair, said: "A lifetime appointment that could dramatically impact individual freedoms and change the direction of the Court for at least a generation is too important to get bogged down in politics. The American people

cept the Party's pronouncement of The Truth.

In the past three years, the Democrat Party has adhered to Mr. Biden's statement that The

Party chooses its version of The Truth over facts. We have been subjected to a series of patently false versions of The Truth according to the Democrats, including the Russia Collusion

hoax, the false statements about the President's statement on the tragic events in Charlottesville, and the notion that it was the Trump administration that built chain-link enclosures to separate families at the southern border. Most recently, the Democrats told us The Truth was that there was no violence and rioting by their minions in the streets, despite the facts of what we all saw with our own eyes on television each night. Then, in a neat 180-degree pirouette, the Party declared that there was street violence and that the new version of The Truth was that the President is responsible! Each of these examples is patently false but declared to be The Truth by the Democrat Party with no regard for facts, just as Mr. Biden stated.

There are two Big Lies now in vogue with the Left: 1. America is "systemically racist"; and 2. President Trump is racist. These two falsehoods are peddled by the same Party that bloviates about "incivility" on the part of the President and sanctimoniously preaches about uniting the country. At the same time, they refer to the President as "Hitler" to the police as "storm troopers," and to their neighbors who are Republicans as "deplorable." Apparently in the name of uniting the country, Leftist feels entitled to accost citizens in the street because the Left has decided it is impermissible to wear a MAGA hat or tee shirt, they restrict free speech on college campuses, they feel entitled to bully elderly citizens and even a US Senator outside the Republican National Convention because of their party affiliation, and they assault members of the administration in restaurants because they have concluded that the views of the Left are the only views that are permissible and those who disagree are deserving of physical reprisals. I am certain that when I see signs in the windows of local eateries proclaiming "Hate Has No Place Here," they are aimed at these Leftist intimidation tactics, as I have searched in vain for even a single example of anyone on the Right engaging in such behavior.

But back to the first Big Lie, that America is systemically racist. The charge is patently false. It is incredibly frustrating to hear such a divisive message peddled as The Truth by minority athletes and celebrities who have become wealthy beyond imagination in America. What is true is that although America is not systemically racist, one political Party was and is systemically racist. The Democrat Party is the Party of slavery, Jim Crow, the KKK, and segregation. At the cost of 100s of thousands of lives, the country fought a civil war to rid our society of the systemic racism of the Democrat Party, and that struggle continues to this day. Modern Democrats have concluded that an entire race of people is guilty of "white privilege" rather than accepting each person as an individual.

On the other hand, Democrats see race as a spoils system and advocate for all manner of discriminatory policies based on race, from "reparations" to preferential admission and hiring procedures, job promotion policies, separate dormitories and dining halls at universities, and contracting preferences based on skin color and ethnicity. It is shameful to see athletes, celebrities, politicians, and their media allies fan the flames of unrest, justifying burning, looting, assault, and intimidation in the name of "justice." There is no single reputable person on the Left or on the Right who has not condemned the death of George Floyd at the hands of the police. Still, the police officers in question are in custody and will stand trial for their actions and inactions, so what more does the mob want for "justice"? Shall we go back to the older style of "justice" meted out by the Democrat party and resort to lynching? While preaching that they want to unify the country, Democrats have determined to take their marching orders from Black Lives Matter, an organization lead by self-described Marxists. The latter denounce our country, the nuclear family, and advocate for violence against the police. Anyone who thinks this is an unfair characterization should visit BLM's website. This bigoted organization has the full-throated support of the Democrats and Joe Biden, or at least they had until unfavorable poll numbers caused Mr.

Biden to backtrack, but make no mistake about who is pulling his strings. A year from now, will all the "mostly peaceful" burning, looting, rioting, killings of fellow citizens, the murder and attempted murder of police officers, and the defunding of police have improved the communities these "protestors" claim to care about? Will the murder rate in Chicago be cut in half, or will high school test scores in Baltimore show improvement because of the statues that were pulled down or the burned businesses? Imagine how much more of a positive influence could be achieved if Barack Obama's message was that he is living proof that the sky is the limit in America. His two terms as President prove that race does not dictate the outcome of a determined, motivated individual in America.

The second Big Lie is that President Trump is a racist, despite the lack of facts to support this slander. The truth is that as a Washington outsider, President Trump has accomplished more in 3 years in office for all Americans, including minorities than Joe Biden accomplished in 47 years in government. If President Trump is a racist, he is incredibly bad at it, given his record of funding Historically Black Colleges and Universities, creating opportunity zones in urban areas leading to record numbers of minority-owned businesses, criminal justice reform, and economic policies that delivered more jobs and higher

incomes for all Americans, including minorities, before the Wuhan virus. Has anyone noticed a groundswell of support begging for Joe Biden to please drag us back to the days of the Obama/Biden administration when Isis terror was a weekly occurrence, appeasing Iran was the signature accomplishment of the Obama administration, millions fewer citizens had jobs, family income was abysmal and annual GDP was sub 2%? Has everyone on the Left forgotten the facts concerning Mr. Biden's close relationship with Democrat Senator Robert Byrd, leader of the KKK in West Virginia, or the Democrat southern segregationist Senators, he bragged that he was able to "work with" in Washington? Like their predecessors, modern-day Democrats continue to block schoolhouse doors; it is just that today instead of blocking minority students from entering, they have turned around and now stop students from leaving these failed institutions while they send their children to the best schools money can buy. The Left knows The Truth that a solid education is the best predictor of success and independence for all races. The modern Leftists cannot abide by the thought that with school choice and an opportunity for quality education, minority students will become successful and self-sufficient adults, no longer dependent on the Left and its socialist policies, i.e., no longer voting Democrat.

LETTER FROM THE PLAINS

ANTHONY WELLS

Can pigs fly? This is seemingly a foolish question. However, at least one pig has flown. British aviation pioneer John Moore-Brabazon was the first to take a pig aloft. On November 4, 1909, Brabazon tied a small wicker basket carrying a small pig to a strut on his Short Biplane Number 2. His goal was to prove that pigs could fly. The pig apparently enjoyed the flight. So what is the relevance of this amusing anecdote? It's called COVID 19 and the questions that are in all of our minds. Where, why, and how did it originate and become a menace to our planet? A global pandemic on steroids. Where was US Bio-medical Intelligence when the Chinese gave the world the bad news? Like the question, "Can Pigs Fly?" a classic "adynaton," a figure of speech so hyperbolic that it describes an impossibility, we are challenged to ask questions about COVID 19 that may or may not have obvious answers. Pigs certainly cannot fly, yet one did! Are the answers we seek somewhere between the obvious and yes, not only the not so obvious, but also the preposterous, like Lord Brabazon's intrepid pig. A host of media outlets, the Internet, and our government have given us the best they can, amounting to a series of choices to figure out which explanation may or may not be the most cred-

ible. I prefer Log-Likelihood theory, a creation of the little known but brilliant eighteenth-century English mathematician, the Reverend Thomas Bayes, providing us with ways to find answers from seemingly intractable information when traditional statistical probability theory fails because the data is unreliable or, prima facie, nonexistent. What do we know that is reliable? Covid19 originated in China and is a cousin of the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) virus. Coronaviruses are a group of animal-borne viruses that make us all sick. Humanmade biological weapons are either bacterial or viral, weaponized by ill-disposed nations, typically by developing cultured and refined microbes. We know that the Chinese government laboratory in Wuhan City is/was an active and modern biological research facility and that visitors have expressed concerns over inadequate safety and security. The Chinese government, read the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, has stated that Covid19 originated in Wuhan's "Wet Markets," where wild animals, not bats, are sold for consumption. On April 14, 2018, the Washington Post raised concerns overwork at the Wuhan virology facility, using bats on pathogens in the coronavirus family. Did the virus start there, passed to humans via the bat-related work at the facility?

One key question is, who was the first Chinese person in Wuhan to contract the virus? "Patient Zero" may well have worked at the Wuhan facility according to various reliable sources. The FBI's unit responsible for chemical and biological intelligence has detected at least three separate incidents in 2018 and 2019, where Chinese citizens were caught trying to bring undeclared bacteria and viruses into the United States, according to a Yahoo News Report of March 30, 2020, based on unclassified documents. These failed Chinese attempts were detected by US Customs and Border Protection at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Many other reported similar events are too numerous to document here, and they are all reliably evidenced in US official government sources. The Chinese government has taken elaborate steps to censor Chinese medical professionals and journalists who have challenged Beijing's tight control over the origins of Covid19. We know that certain individuals have "disappeared." In late 2019 the FBI warned of a growing biosecurity threat in the United States. We should all be concerned about the fundamental questions that I have posted and the status of our intelligence and law enforcement mechanisms to protect US citizens. At the official US government level, the interpretation of Covid19 events is an unfold-

ing story. Until more hardcore facts become available that may provide concrete evidence, one way or the other, from a worst-case deliberate act of Chinese recklessness with mal intent, to irresponsible control measures at the Wuhan facility that let to staff becoming infected or, simply, the "Market Theory," those bad bats and other creatures sold over the centuries in Chinese markets for the poor and hungry. I have been to China several times and visited such markets. I am not so sure. I ask readers to revert to the Reverend Bayes, whose theory has led to resolving the most intractable technical challenges. The intelligence community should design and run a Bayesian computer model using all the known variables across time and space. I am not a betting man, but if the Wuhan facility was a horse, I think I know where I may place my money. The great poet, T. S. Eliot, wrote in "Four Quartets" the following magic lines, "What might have been is an abstraction remaining a perpetual possibility only in a world of speculation." Let us reduce the speculation about COVID19's origins to a reliable and more definitive assessment. One intrepid little pig did indeed become airborne, and therein may lie a lesson, that things happen in ways and for reasons that are not either what we believe may occur, or what others would have us believe.

How far do Eccentric readers trust the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party? For my part, it is about as far as I can see, very close up, the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, and even then, seeing is not necessarily believing. I do not trust him, period, or any of his entourage and Party hacks. Winston Churchill's famous description of Russia made in a radio broadcast in October 1939, is in my opinion, an apt description of today's China, "A Riddle, Wrapped in a Mystery, inside an Enigma." We need to keep very close tabs on all and every move made by China that may affect the United States and our allies. My new book, "Between Five Eyes," published in Oxford, and here in the United States, is available via Amazon and many other outlets. Our fine Middleburg bookstore, Second Chapter Books, is the place to go. I address Chinese hegemonic ambitions and actions in detail, and how the Five Eyes intelligence community, the United States, the UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand must work in the future to curb Chinese threats, together with Putin's Russia, cyber assaults, and a myriad range of other threats. May Eccentric readers be well during these challenging times.

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE RED

BRIAN VELLA

At an appearance in Iowa earlier this summer, Joe Biden proclaimed that as Democrats, "we

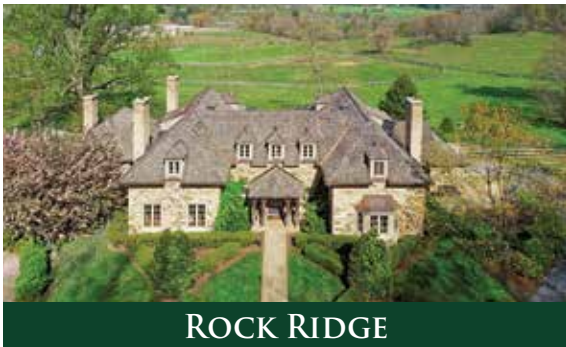


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MORELAND FARM

142 Acres

\$1,600,000

Delaplane/Marshall – Spectacular Views! Approx. 250 acres available in 2 parcels. The primary parcel of 142 acres features the 3/BR, 3/BA stone home, 2 tenant homes, barn and 5 bay machine shed for \$1,600,000. The secondary parcel of 107 acres offers a 2 BR tenant home and potential to build a primary dwelling for \$826,000.

Rebecca Poston | 540-771-7520



TREETOPS

14+ Acres

\$1,350,000

The Plains – Renovated with beautiful views! The farm has 14+ acres of fenced pasture and mature woodlands. 3 BRs, 2.5 BAs with an open kitchen and eat-in area, living room with built-ins, bay window and fireplace. Upper level primary suite with luxury bath, walk-in closet and sitting area. Home also has a separate mudroom, laundry room, and exercise room. A 4-stall center aisle barn with a heated tack room, a storage shed and fenced paddocks. Great ride out, OCH territory. Easy access to I-66, Rt 50 and Dulles Airport.

Cricket Bedford | 540-229-3201



ROCK HILL MILL

18+ Acres

\$1,250,000

The Plains – Tremendous privacy and serenity on 18.67 acres in 2 parcels, both fronting on Rock Hill Mill Road. This wooded country retreat with views overlooking Little River features a custom built French style home and a 4 stall barn with spacious 1 BR apartment. Orange County Hunt Territory.

Rebecca Poston | 540-771-7520



201 W WASHINGTON

2,400 sq ft

\$1,090,000

Middleburg – Rare main street commercial location in the heart of historic downtown. Two large picture windows and large glass doors shed light into 2,400 square feet of space with 10'+ ceilings. This rectangular brick front and stucco sided building offers an open interior space ready for a new owners design. Features separate Men's & Women's bathrooms, utility room and a small storeroom. Side access provided by a garage type door. Plenty of parking and a large paved side lot. Zoned C2 Town Commercial for a wide variety of uses and it is within the Historic District.

Cricket Bedford | 540-229-3201



FOX FLIGHT

5+ Acres

\$899,000

Marshall – Located just outside the village Orlean sits this charming c. 1840's 2 b edroom, 2 bath home on 5+ acres with mountain views. Lovingly updated. Features state-of-the-art kitchen, baths and unique interior with custom painted ceilings, decorative columns and 4 fireplaces. Extensive garden offers outdoor 'rooms' for entertaining, koi pond and fountain. Other features include a vegetable garden, fire pit and a barn converted into a separate Studio. Detached garage, potting shed and outdoor shower complete the property.

Cricket Bedford | 540-229-3201



CANBY ROAD

3 Acres

\$749,000

Leesburg – Immaculate 4/5 BR all brick residence in ideal location on a beautiful country road. Just 10 minutes from Leesburg and all the convenience of shopping, health clubs, and parks, this charming 3 level Cape secluded in a parklike setting. Gleaming hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces & 3 gorgeous acres, it features new HVAC, new windows, huge deck and a spacious lower level.

Mary Ann McGowan | 540-270-1124



MADISON & FEDERAL

3,470.00 sq ft

\$699,000

Middleburg – Excellent commercial investment. One commercial building that appears like two buildings which are adjoined on the corner of Madison & Federal Streets. 4 separate entrances. Zoned for mixed use with Retail & Office spaces. Parking is limited within the town for most businesses, but this building includes 7 rare parking spaces off Federal Street! Long time, active retail business in one building. Seller desires to rent back. Four other small offices are currently rented. Priced well below appraised value. Zoned C-2.

Cricket Bedford | 540-229-3201

Offers subject to errors, omissions, change of price or withdrawal without notice. Information contained herein is deemed reliable, but is not so warranted nor is it otherwise guaranteed.

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