Middleburg Eccentric
Middleburg's Community Newspaper
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Page 21

Pigs Can Fly

International Gold Cup

Page 12



Photo By Nancy Kleck

International Gold Cup & Other Reasons for Giving Thanks

Horse-Crazy

Lauren R. Giannini

Thanksgiving heralds the holiday season, and we have many reasons to be grateful despite and because of all the challenges thrown at us throughout 2020. Now more than ever, staying well is a priority that requires significant effort and planning. It isn't easy or fun to protect ourselves from OPGs (other peoples' germs), although some have been doing this for years. It isn't a political statement to wear masks, practice good hygiene, and distance yourself from others. It's just plain old-fashioned common sense.

A big thank you on behalf of all racing and 'chasing enthusiasts to the National Steeplechase Association and its NSA Network for making sure that you had options if you couldn't be there in person. They provided Live Streams of each race meet on the day, bringing sanctioned meets into the safety of our homes, and the archived videos are available to one and all.

Will O'Keefe is one of the greatest and possibly the best race announcer. We think he deserves a special lifetime achievement award and heaven help 'chasing and point-to-points when he retires. It hasn't mattered whether Will is calling the races for a mega-crowd of thousands or spectator-free meets. His passion for the sport comes through loud and clear as he narrates each contest from start to finish.

The video camera work is excellent, even with changes in natural lighting on various portions of the course, but it's all there: gorgeous Thoroughbreds piloted by jockeys in bright silks, beautifully framed by the undulating sea of green turf. Will keeps you posted on who's in the lead, who might be challenging, and, with videos, you can see so much more detail. It's almost as good as being there, and "almost" is way better than no racing at all.

Now, however, the fall steeplechase season is a wrap, and standings are final for both sanctioned and point-to-points. It's challenging to contemplate Great Meadow on October 24 without its signature crowds of nearly 50,000 arranged around three sides of the course, but this season has been all about the horses. Tod Marks, the official NSA photographer, writes terrific previews and reports, and we enjoyed what he wrote about this year's International Gold Cup (links at the end).

Here's Tod's opening sentence: "Saturday's 10-race card at Great Meadow Race Course in The Plains, Va., had it all: Blow-out wins, white-knuckle finishes, and outstanding rides by apprentice riders. And of all the

Happy Holidays
Let's Go Shopping

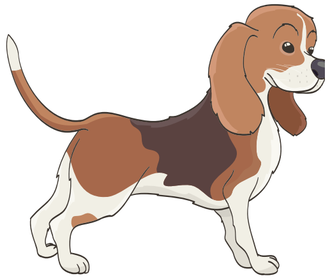
Page 16

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Let's all join together to help our local non-profitsmeet immediate needs (due to Coviad-19)



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•Providing kid friendly snack bags to families due to the schools being closed.
•We are serving over 10 counties and our top three are: Loudoun, Fauquier and Warren county
•Our biggest need at this time is: canned veggies, canned beans, canned chicken/tuna, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodle, mac n' cheese, cereal, oatmeal, cooking oil, diapers, baby wipes, personal hygiene products



A PLACE TO BE
PO Box 1472 * Middleburg, VA 20118
(540) 687-6740 * Contact: John Tong
john@aplacetobeva.org

A Place to Be serves many medically fragile clients with underlying medical conditions that put them at increased risk of complications from COVID - 19. While we cannot work with our clients in person, we have successfully transitioned our services to telehealth and are working with many new children with special needs children for free in local public schools. You can support our efforts with a donation by texting the word "SINGS" to 91999 on your cell phone. We will use these contributions to provide refurbished iPads to some of our clients that have limited technology in their homes. Thank you all who have been so generous to us in the past and please consider a gift during these difficult times.

MIDDLEBURG FISH
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
PO Box 306
Middleburg, VA 20118
(540) 687-8771 * Contact: Martha Cotter
bigfish@middleburgfish.org

This year, Middleburg FISH, an all-volunteer organization that helps our neighbors who are struggling - has helped a lot of people for the first time. Many of those people have he'd severe illnesses in their family, or lost a job due to COVID and are truly in a crisis situation. They are so touched by the fact that "their neighbors" care through FISH, and there is a helping hand when they reach out.

Our Local Churches Need Your Help Too...

Middleburg Methodist Church ~ 540-6876492

Saint Stephans Catholic Church ~ 540-687-6433

Emmanuel Episcopal Church ~ Middleburg, VA

Shiloh Baptist Church * Middleburg, VA 540~687-6511
Mount Zion Baptist Church ~ 540-687-5830

News of Note

Inova Loudoun Hospital opens a new Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit



Inova Loudoun Hospital (ILH) recently opened a new Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit (STICU). The unit has six fully functioning ICU beds and is located on the first floor of the main hospital. The team will care for any trauma, surgical or procedural patients that require an ICU level of care.

ILH is deeply grateful to the Virts Miller family for their generous support.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Town of Middleburg is providing rent/mortgage assistance to **in-Town residents** with an economic impact due to COVID-19, such as a loss of job, wages, or income.

Contact Claire Louis at the Windy Hill Foundation for more information and documentation requirements: 540-687-3273

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 5, 2020

STAY SAFE DURING COVID-19:
1) Wash your hands; 2) Wear a face covering; 3) Keep six feet of distance

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News of Note

River systems are Integral

The Fence Post



Robert Banner

In last month's installment, we described a well-managed property like a diversified stock portfolio. All the natural assets available are used to create financial rewards without relying on real estate development to fund your future. Conservation easements, mitigation banks, and nutrient banks all help to create layers of value in your portfolio. The last two programs are designed to reward a landowner for helping improve the water quality that flows from the land to larger bodies of water like the Chesapeake Bay. Using the wide-spread root structure of trees, nutrient banks filter the nutrient "pollution" (fertilizers like phosphorous and nitrogen) that runs off fields into nearby streams and tributaries. The trees' roots keep it on the land where you want it, not in the river system where you don't.

You may ask, "How do I benefit?" More on that in a moment. But first, to best understand the value of the programs that help solve the problem, you have to understand how rivers got us to this point. To understand how rivers got us to this point, you have to read The Source, by Martin Doyle. Required reading for any conservationist, Doyle explains how rivers made America, and then, how America remade its rivers. Beautifully written, this history lesson is a voyage downstream where every sentence flows easily into the next, and each section ends with a revelation that quickly pulls you into the next section. It was mesmerizing, especially as it pertains to river system here in Virginia. Here's why.

Every region of the nation has used (sometimes misused) their rivers as an artery for travel, commerce, irrigation, and often, to pull pollution away. Many a metropolis was given birth by a powerful river, a distinct advantage. But, by trying to harness the power creating canals, dams, levees and reservoirs, we solved some problems, yet created others in the process. Before we tackle how America remade its rivers, let's learn how rivers made America.

In Virginia, the river system has always been integral to our lives. Doyle describes how harnessing the Potomac actually played a role in writing the Constitution. In the 1780s, the rivers in Virginia were really the best way to transport goods from the "western" regions to market. To use the Potomac, however, you would have to get around Great Falls and its deep chasms. Unfortunately, there was no canal to facilitate that at the time. The question was, who would pay to build a canal? The federal government? A state government? A private enterprise? George Washington owned a company, The Potomac Company, that wanted a piece of the transportation business, yet the Articles of Confederation were insufficient to define who was financially responsible. So, our founding fathers met in Philadelphia to amend the Articles of Confederation by writing the Constitution, a document that would answer that question … and many, many more.

Once America learned how to use its rivers, we learned how to control their enormous power. Doyle explains how the Army Corps of Engineers helped control Mississippi flooding with an intricate system of levees and reservoirs. From flooding to drought, Doyle explains how the Hoover Dam was built to harness the flow of the mighty Colorado River for irrigation of the parched southwest. He goes on to explain how the Tennessee Valley Authority built a system of dams that brought inexpensive power to those who had lived in darkness for generations.

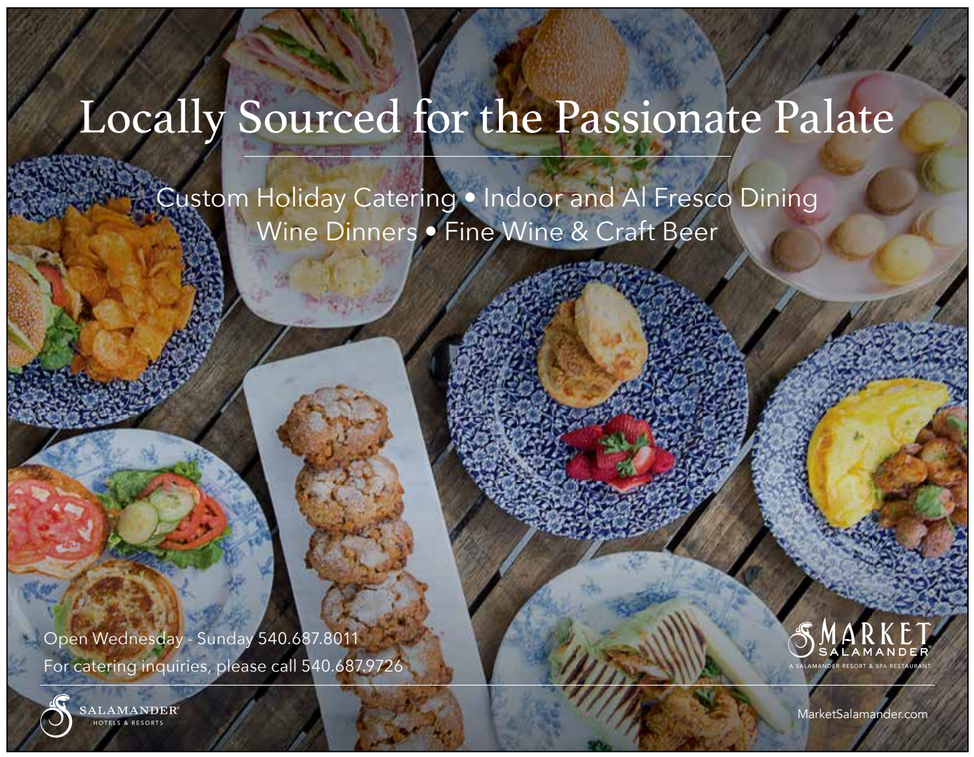
We have controlled floods. We have irrigated fields. We have produced power. But not without mistakes. We have also used rivers to get rid of human waste and chemical pollution. Remember the Cuyahoga River in Ohio that actually caught fire in 1969? While swimming is now permitted in the Cuyahoga, I'll let Doyle describe how we have regained control of "point source" pollution that dumps waste directly into our rivers. Instead, let's focus on today's issue, non-point source pollution that is unobserved, but slowly creating a large dead spot in the Chesapeake Bay.

Science has determined that as much as 80% of the problem is created by agricultural runoff. Farmers using fertilizers may enjoy increased production of crops, but when it rains, the runoff leaches the nutrients from tilled fields into the rivers, where it is carried to the Bay. There, it does the same thing in the water that it does in the fields promoting organic growth. But in the Bay, that's not corn, soybean or hay … it's algae. The algae flourishes, dies, and bacteria proliferates depleting the water of oxygen where no marine life can survive. That is the dead spot.

The solution? It's a complex question, but in 2005, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) devised a program of rewards for landowners who plant banks of trees (new forest) to filter the runoff before it reaches the river system. This is how a landowner (maybe you?) can find reward by simply growing trees. The state studies the sensitivity of each region to the river system. It values each region with an award of credits that can be sold to real estate developers if you plant to the DEQ standard and protect the new forest in perpetuity. Developers buy the credits to permit their projects in more urban areas. Landowners who already use a conservation easement to protect their land love this program because they are already in compliance with the commitment to protect the land. This program utilizes the natural assets the land will always retain and offers a landowner reward for doing the right thing for the ecology.

While The Source doesn't mention the Virginia program, it might be in Doyle's next book. As the Virginia model gains popularity, other surrounding states may replicate the program to amplify the benefit for us all. We may just fix this problem. If everyone does their part, we're well on our way. One thing is certain. The Virginia program is doing its part to clean the Bay, and it finds reward for responsible landowners by involving private industry to help pay for the fix. Read Doyle's book. You may be the next in line for a nutrient bank on your property.

Robert Banner is the Special Project Officer at ACRE Investment Management in The Plains, VA, ACRE is a full-service natural capital asset platform for landowners to manage their ecological portfolio. Learn the potential of your property. Contact Banner at rob@acre-investment.com to understand how the DEQ program in Virginia can benefit you and the environment.



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News of Note

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Unveils the Harrison Street Pollintor Meadow Interpretive Panel



Ribbon cutting (L to R): Mark Whaley, NOVA Parks, Kelly Burk, Leesburg Mayor, Suzi Worsham, Leesburg Garden Club President, Michael Myers, LWC, Neil Steinberg, Leesburg Council Member

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy installed a pollinator meadow along Harrison Street near downtown Leesburg along the Washington and Old Dominion Trail with partners Friends of the Washington and Old Dominion Trail, Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority, and support and funding from the Leesburg Garden Club and Loudoun Wildlife members and volunteers. An unveiling ceremony of the newly installed interpretive panels with partners and supporters will be on October 28 at 4:00 pm. The ceremony will include social distancing and COVID-19 precautions.

Volunteers planted 1358 native plants including 264 grasses and sedges and 1094 fords on 7,600 square feet. These plants provide a vital habitat for pollinators, seed eating birds, and other wildlife, providing an example of an aesthetically pleasing meadow created from native plants. Interpretative signage was installed to explain the project and educate residents about the importance of native flora and the benefits native vegetation provides to wildlife.

Birds seen enjoying the meadow include the white-throated sparrow, American goldfinch, ruby-throated hummingbird, gray catbird, and tufted titmouse. Many butterflies including monarchs, red admirals, viceroys, and eastern tail swallowtails are frequently seen, as well as red-legged grasshoppers, common eastern bumble bees, honey bees and spotted orb weavers.

"We are extremely grateful for funding from the Leesburg Garden Club to be able to install signage along this beautiful pollinator meadow. This meadow provides tremendous benefits to our pollinators and other wildlife, and it's a great example of how wildlife habitat can be created in small spaces. We hope the residents of Leesburg and recreational users of the W&OD Trail enjoy this meadow as much as we do," states Michael Myers, Executive Director of Loudoun Wildlife.

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy appreciates all that helped bring this project to fruition, including Earth Sangha and Watermark Woods for supplying the native plants, Pulse Design for fabricating the interpretive panels, Manuel Rivas of Northern Virginia Property Services for installing the interpretive signs and maintenance, Susan Abrahams, Conservation Landscaper, for her time and instruction on how to design and maintain a meadow, Ann Garvey for bringing a vision to reality, and the 20 volunteers that donated more than 100 hours of their time.

News of Note

Middleburg Film Festive Movie Reviews

Sound of Metal

Ryan Perry

There's a lot to enjoy about the Middleburg Film Festival, my favorite aspect being the sensation of meeting and engaging with fellow film enthusiasts. But even in a year when we can't get the shared in-person experience, one quality always prevails: the joy of discovering a truly great film that you've never heard of. *Sound of Metal* is one such film.

The story is centered on Ruben (*Nightcrawler*'s Riz Ahmed), a drummer in a heavy metal band who begins to experience rapidly degenerative hearing loss. It's not long before Ruben is completely deaf, and must adapt to a whole new way of perceiving the world around him.

I have no idea what's going to happen with the Oscars this year, given the current state of the world, but if awards season prevails, I will be truly disappointed if Riz Ahmed isn't up for Best Actor this year (I can't say I'll be surprised, given the Academy's track record when it comes to recognizing quality performances, but I will be disappointed). He truly is that good at delivering a convincing level of fear and frustration with his situation, but also planting a seed of hope in the viewer that he might just find contentment.

Olivia Cooke (*Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*) also turns in an impressive performance as Ruben's supportive girlfriend, Lou. I don't want to say too much about her character, but suffice it to say that Cooke hits all of the necessary emotional beats and offers a unique perspective.

One of my favorite details of this movie is the sound mixing. There are several instances in which the film will indicate that we're experiencing things from Ruben's point of view by temporarily cutting out or significantly muffling the sounds around him (sort of an audio version of a point-of-view shot). I was reminded of *Hush*, another recommended film with a deaf protagonist, that did the same trick, and in both cases, it pays off really well. It's not a necessary detail, but it takes things an extra step further to make the movie stand out strongly.

But sound and editing tricks are merely paint colors in a director's palette, and the true portrait we're meant to take in is the story. And fortunately, the story is wonderfully executed, taking a sad situation and showing the real trials that it brings without ever becoming overwhelmingly depressing. The story's themes



have a lot to say about accepting difficult circumstances, being unashamed of a disability, and well as striking a balance between having hope and aspiration for more for yourself, while also learning to be content with your current setting. The script manages to say all of these ideas without screaming them at you, and it never insists that you feel one way over the other.

I can't gush enough about how much I enjoyed this movie. Between the emotionally authentic performances, the unique sound design, and the mature script, *Sound of Metal* is not only my standout film of this year's festival, but my current favorite movie of the year. I enthusiastically recommend this one, and I give *Sound of Metal* four out of four stars.

Minari

Ryan Perry

Two years ago, a little movie that I saw at the Middleburg Film Festival snuck onto my radar, and ended up becoming my favorite movie of that year. That movie was *Roma*, and it instantly charmed me with its authentic and nostalgic quality, created by a writer/director crafting a personal tale out of his own childhood upbringing. This year, *Minari* promises a similar viewing experience.

The story, written and directed by Lee Isaac Chung, is centered on the Yi family: father Jacob (Steven Yeun, of *Burning* and *The Walking Dead*), mother Monica (Han Ye-ri), daughter Ann (Noel Kate Cho) and son David (Alan Kim). The family begins to undergo a reasonable amount of conflict after Jacob's ambitions move them from California to Arkansas to try and start a farm. Oh, and he's also moved his mother (Youn Yuh-jung), bearing a spit-fire personality, into the home.

Right away, one of the



strongest aspects of this film is the collection of performances. This is truly an ensemble piece, meaning it wouldn't work as well if the actors couldn't bounce off of each other so comfortably. Everyone is great here, but the standouts are Yeun and Kim.

Anyone who is familiar with Steven Yeun's body of work shouldn't be surprised by the level of his performance. Though he hasn't starred in a ton of material, he often brings a familiar brand of charm to his characters, as though watching him is like hanging out with an old friend. This has really paid off in a show like *The Walking Dead*, wherein he's able to be the bright spot in a show that's actively rotting, as well in *Burning*, in which his effortless charm is a sinister mask. Very little is different here when it comes to his everyman quality, and he's able to captivate your understanding even when he seems in over his head.

But even with that said, the true show-stealer is seven-year-old Alan Kim. Chung has confirmed that Kim's young character is based upon himself in his own childhood, and it shows by the way that David is somewhat positioned as the protagonist. His energy is precocious, mischievous, and all around enjoyable to watch.

Strong performances aside, perhaps my favorite aspect of this film is the quiet nature of the story. Similar to *Roma*, *Minari* has the authentic and personal quality of being written from the perspective of someone looking back at his childhood and telling a tale from a specific page in his own story. It also falls into a comparable category with movies like *The Florida Project* and *Paterson* (two of my favorites of the last decade), on the grounds that it's a subtle and simple "everyday life" kind of story. This isn't a narrative built on large-scale events, but rather one that's focused on finding the significance in the mundane. If that sounds like something that pulls at your interest, then you'll likely be right at home with this one. As for me, I'm giving *Minari* three and a half out of four stars.

One Night in Miami

Ryan Perry

One of my favorite formats that a film can use to generate tension is confining its cast of characters to a small isolated setting, and exploring the conflict through dialogue. For prime examples, you might look to *Rashomon*, *12 Angry Men*, or *The Breakfast Club*. This type of plot structure can sometimes be a limitation on the story, and other times, it can work wonders. So how do the results fare for the historical fiction drama, *One Night in Miami*?

The story is a fictional account of a real night in history: February 25th, 1964, the night that then-22-year-old boxer Cassius Clay (played by Eli Goree) dethroned Sonny Liston as the world heavyweight champion. The fiction kicks in immediately after, when Clay spends the evening in a hotel room with three other pop culture icons of the era: R&B singer Sam Cooke (*Hamlilton*'s Leslie Odom, Jr.), football player Jim Brown (*Straight Outta Compton*'s Aldis Hodge), and political activist Malcolm X (Kingsley Ben-Adir). What begins as a night of casual celebration on Clay's behalf slowly transforms into a heated debate of social and racial issues, wherein the men use their words to slash at each other like daggers.

The film is based on a stage play of the same name, and a lot of characteristics carry over from the stage to the screen, for better and for worse. Let's start with the better. When working from a script that prioritizes character interactions as the main method to deliver the story, two things have to be in top form: the dialogue, and the performances. And in the case of this film, these two aspects not only meet the requirements, but are the strongest assets on display.

For anyone who's seen *Hamilton* or *Harriet*, you'll not be surprised by the level of charm and charisma that Odom, Jr. brings to the role of Sam Cooke. The same can be said for his co-stars, all of whom slip comfortably into their characters. But it's Ben-Adir as the socially aggressive Malcolm X who stands out among the group. The young actor is clearly aware that the famous figure has been played before by Denzel Washington (one of the best actors of our time), and is determined to bring his own sense of presence to the role. I can't guarantee that it'll surpass Washington's (a high bar to clear without question), but it is certainly refreshing.

The dialogue is also worth praising, and it's worth noting that the screenplay is penned by Kemp Powers, the playwright behind the original source material. The exchanges that he's written between the characters speak directly to issues that African Americans faced at the time, and they're delivered with sharp ferocity.

If there's any big issue standing against the movie, it's how the script uses its setting. When introducing the review by talking about single-setting dialogue movies, I cited a couple examples of films that I feel have mastered this particular style of film (*Rashomon*, *12 Angry Men*, and *The Breakfast Club*). *One Night in Miami* has strong performances and stronger words, but what it lacks that those films have is a sense of urgency. In each of those examples, there's a clearly-established reason why the assembled cast is unable to leave the small setting that they've been relegated to. But in the case of this film, nothing's stopping anyone from walking out except for the fact that if they do, it grinds the tension to a halt. This issue would likely never occur to audiences watching the story unfold live because the setting is the entire stage; where else are they going to go?

Overall, *One Night in Miami* is a great idea that could have benefitted from a slightly tighter execution. The cast showed up to deliver and they certainly did, and a meaty script was provided for them to work from. But part of that script includes utilizing the setting within the story, and it hardly does. However, if you go to this movie hoping to be moved by its messages of freedom and equality, chances are you likely will be. And if that's the ultimate goal of the movie, then I would classify this one as a success. For me, I'm giving *One Night in Miami* three out of four stars.





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News of Note

International Gold Cup and Other Reasons for Giving Thanks

Continued from Page 1



Photo By Nancy Kleck

highlights, none shone brighter than Curve of Stones' victory in the $25,000 International Gold Cup, his second timber-stakes score in two weeks."

Everyone was there, and Tod gives the full scoop better than we ever could do it. Suffice it to say, when the racing concluded in November, Jonathan Sheppard ended up adding a win and purse money from five horses, thereby boosting his bid for yet another top trainer title in both races won (16) and money won. Jack Fisher ran a very close second in Money Won but saddled only half the winners.

It was an interesting season, no matter how you view it. But it's all about the horses really. One favorite race is the Steeplethon, a very unusual hybrid mix of timber and hurdles that demand a special Thoroughbred.

Starlight Racing LLC's Invocation, this year's Steeplethon winner, was pretty brilliant over hurdles earlier in the gelding's career, as stated in Will O'Keefe's Central Entry treasure trove of racing information and statistics. In October 2016, Invocation debuted as a 3-year old over hurdles, placing third, and four weeks later, proved best in a field of nine at the Colonial Cup for his first win. He earned eight firsts over hurdles and on the flat by mid-2019 when he went to a new trainer, Mark Beecher, who grew up in the saddle in Ireland and crossed the big puddle to the USA in 2010. Within two years, Mark's career as a jump jockey took off like a rocket. He retired from race-riding in a blaze of glory after piloting Mystic Strike to victory in the 2019 Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. Among his many awards are seven NSA titles, including several as leading rider over timber.

They say it takes one to know one, and no doubt this trainer and the horses in his program have come to a good understanding because Invocation has gone from flat to steeplethon to hurdle to timber to steeplethon as if it's all in a day's work. It will be interesting to see how next season goes for Invocation and what's in store for him and his trainer.

All this research has made us very keen to engage in a marathon of following some favorite horses in their careers by taking a ride down memory lane via NSA Network's archived videos. Because watching these amazing equine athletes and their riders is a great way to get some joy and alleviate cabin fever – the next best thing to being there…

Happy Healthy Thanksgiving!

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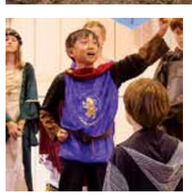




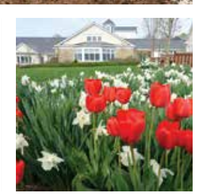
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Hill Builds a Stout Defense to Prevent Covid



Leonard Shapiro

Angela and Krister Killinger, parents of Hill School fifth and seventh graders, admittedly had some trepidation about sending their children back into the classroom in early September as the Covid pandemic showed little sign of abating at the end of the summer.

More than two months after the Sept. 10 start of school, Angela said, "I have no concerns now. Hill has done an amazing job keeping everyone safe. The children had some anxiety about going back, but they now go there confidently. Everyone is following the rules, washing hands, wearing masks, social distancing and a lot more.

"It's been such a great mood enhancer for them. There's a new life around the dinner table, the chatter of the school day, what they did in class. They're so engaged in learning again, after so many months in kind of a funk."

Surely that has to be sweet music to the ears of Hill's teachers and administrators, many of whom spent a good part of the summer planning for the return of 233 students to their Middleburg campus.

Kara Whitehead, who has taught second grade for 14 years at Hill, was part of the task force led by Head of School Treavor Lord to tackle and try to solve all the issues they might face when students from Junior Kindergarten to eighth grade returned for the fall semester.

"Am I nervous?" she replied in response to a question. "With all of this ongoing support and collaboration, in-depth thought, hard work, and determination to do what's right, I am a bit, but not terribly. I've never heard a Hill teacher say something is too hard. Challenging yes. Too challenging, no. I'm more focused on doing the right thing for our children than I am about the worry of returning to campus every day.

"I really feel that Hill would never ask us to do something that's not sound or good for everyone. We hear all the time that returning to school in person is what's best for the children. As teachers, we do what we do because we love children and work to do what's best for them and their families. We're also here because we believe in community and a sense of belonging."

Hunt Lyman, Hill's Academic Dean, also was a key member of the task force. Ironically, when Hill went to a virtual teaching program to cope with Covid right after spring break last year, he also was instrumental in helping devise the plans to keep students engaged in their schoolwork via Zoom.

The decision to bring students back into the classroom was not made lightly, he said.

"Number one, we're a relatively small school," he said. "We also have an expansive campus with a lot of outdoor space. We've set up 19 outdoor classrooms where we can have students outside for a good part of the day. And we also have tremendous flexibility with our faculty in terms of curriculum."

Said Kara Whitehead, "we are fortunate to have this beautiful campus. We all want students to engage in a strong and healthy learning environment. We want our students to be happy and participate in activities that are much the same as before Covid-19, but in new and different ways."

Different from past years but now standard procedure, there is daily mandatory hand-washing, mask-wearing, and social-distancing. But Hill also has gone way beyond to fulfill CDC, state and county rules on dealing with Covid.

They now have two homerooms for each grade (Kindergarten through 8th grade) instead of the usual one, allowing for fewer students in a room and providing further spacing between desks. Instead of students moving to different classrooms during the day, their teachers come to them.

First thing in the morning, windows and doors are opened to circulate fresh air, and during and at the end of each day, staff ensure all high touch areas are cleaned. Each class has a dedicated bathroom. There is new furniture in the rooms. All sports activities are co-ed. And every student in 3rd to 8th grade has their own Chromebook computer.

Before the start of the school year, all students, teachers, and staff members had to take a Covid test. The School also requires the daily completion of a health screening app for all members of the community.

"They have to enter their temperature," Kara Whitehead explained. "The app asks if anyone in their family has had an unexplained fever, cough, headache, nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath, a whole Covid checklist. If there's a yes answer on any of the questions they get a big no and can't come to school."

Not a single student or teacher has contracted Covid since the start of the school year, the most important NO! of them all.

Many parents have echoed the sentiment of gratitude for having their children learning in-person at Hill. As Lynn Holtzman, a parent new to Hill, recently wrote in an email, "I am amazed and so appreciative of how well you have all done with the start of school.

"The feedback we've gotten through the zoom meetings, newsletter, class parents and teachers has been great, and the flexibility you've shown with tweaking procedures as necessary is kind of mind boggling. We are not used to a school with that kind of level-headed decisiveness. And the boys love school, have made friends and are happy. We are very grateful, so thank you!"

Angela Killinger sums it up: "Hill has just done a great job. We couldn't be more pleased."

Places & Faces

International Gold Cup

Photos By Nancy Kleck



Invocation (FR), in back behind Peppay Le Pugh, winner of the Steeplethon, Sean McDermott up for trainer Mark Beecher and owner Straylight Racing



Curve of Stones on his way to win the 2020 International Gold Cup winner with Barry Foley up for trainer David Bourke and owner S. Rebecca Shepherd



Checking the hurdle before The Steeplethon



Anticipating, winner of the $30,000 Ratings Handicap Hurdle with Parker Hendriks aboard for owner Sherry L. Fenwick, trainer Jonathan Sheppard

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2nd Placer SUPER SATURDAY in the 2020 International Gold Cup with Gerard Galligan up for owner Irv Naylor, trainer Katherine Neilson

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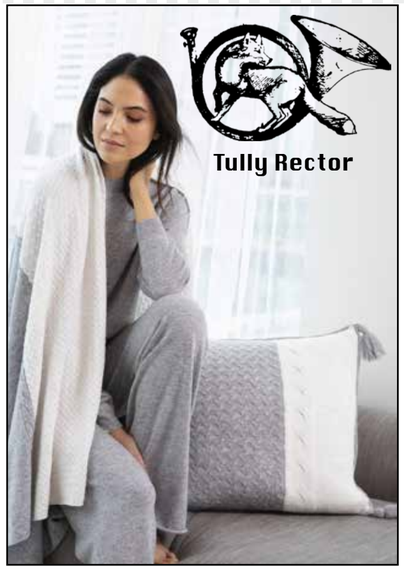
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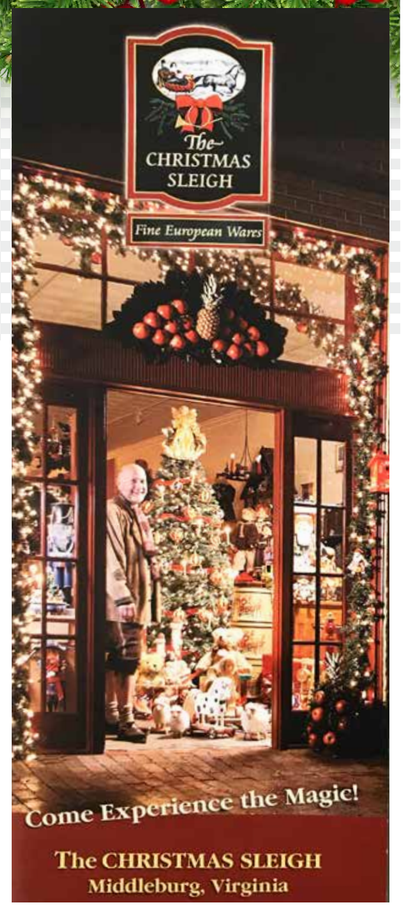


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Pastimes

Pirate Radio Lives

In Unison

Steve Chase

During the sixties in the United Kingdom, the record companies controlled the music that any disc jockey could play over the airwaves. Combine that with the monopoly of the BBC, and there was a need for some radio freedom. Irishman Ronan O'Rahilly gave listeners the answer, Radio Caroline, a pirate radio station that broadcasts from various ships in the Atlantic Ocean beyond any jurisdiction that operated from 1964 until 1990. Since then, it has been on satellite radio and since 2000 on the Internet. We listened to Radio Caroline the other night in Unison, streaming it from their website. Nowadays, its focus is "Album Oriented Rock", which means classic rock and eighties music, generally, but sometimes really good contemporary tunes are played. I'm listening to it more and more and especially like the UK feed. It's free and well worth the listen. More at radiocaroline.co.uk

Weird Band Names

The repertoire of rock music from the last half of the 20th century provides today's musicians, usually busy writing their music, with a rich palate of material that they can interpret in their 21rst century way. I love listening to original music straight from the composer, but I still get a chill down my spine when a group of post-boomer musicians tears up a good cover like I Am the Walrus; give a soulful Dear Prudence; or make the concert one big sing along when they play Wish You Were Here or Breathe from Pink Floyd. Ever hear of the Brain Damaged Eggmen? I've got a show of theirs from a few years back playing pretty loud right now, and does it sound good. Last heard live in 2012, the Eggmen, brain-damaged as they might be, is a rarely heard combination of musicians from the Disco Biscuits and Umphrey's McGee. The best place to find them is to do a YouTube search for some phone video, or there is one show hidden in archive.org at http://tinyurl.com/psvsnk9 . I have a few more shows, but they require some excellent web detective work to find more—worth the search.

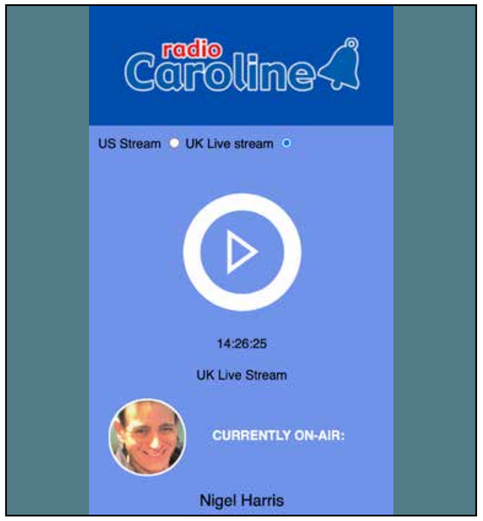
Hype Sites

I'm always looking for that new music site, whether it's a traditional website or social media feed. Here are a couple of sites that I check in with regularly. The music blog The Bluegrass Situation (www.thebluegrasssituation.com/) has mostly up to date news, videos, reviews, and show calendars that cover the wide world of Bluegrass. Hype Machine (hypem.com) is the polar opposite of Bluegrass Situation, serving up a Twitter-like feed of a wide variety of indy, rock, dance, techno, world… whatever is getting the hype at the time. There can be real treasures and some stinkers on the feed at any moment, but only you can be the judge.

I'm still formulating my favorite albums and performances for 2020, and one research site I find helpful is www.albumoftheyear.org. This fun site has lists from many of the best music blogs and an index by genre so that you can find the best and worst of 2013 lists from dubstep to alt-country, jazz to indie rock. Well worth a visit, especially with a Spotify window open, you can explore, discover, and listen to artists and cuts you never heard before, and that is always a good thing.

Xmas Fire Pits

Fire pits are popping up everywhere in our backyards. Not sure why it didn't happen sooner-- what can be better than sitting around the fire on a brisk starry night listening to a friend strum a guitar or playing your favorite tunes off the web. While you could use a cheap Bluetooth speaker off your iPhone, you need more fidelity. Sonos has been a high-quality networked



music solution for years now, and they have a great portable speaker to add to your fire ring environment. The Sonos Move, at $399, is not cheap, but it brings you amazing sound that you can pull off your phone, using Spotify, Apple Music, Pandora, or your favorite boutique streaming service. You can connect with Bluetooth, through your WIFI network, or with Apple Airplay 2. A lithium battery supplies the power if you are too far from an outlet. See more info at sonos.com. If you are considering a firepit and don't want to hire a mason, check out the Solo Stove firepits. The Bonfire and Yukon are amazing stainless steel firepits that minimize smoke with their amazing airflow design. They go on sale all of the time. See more at solostove.com. Both of these make great gifts for the holidaze.

Steve Chase is in Unison listening to Radio Caroline.



Dentistry for Children Q&A

Middleburg Smiles



Dr. Robert A. Gallegos

When should I bring in my child for their first dental visit?

The first visit should be after the baby teeth first begin to erupt. Establishing an early relationship with the dentist and dental hygienist in a friendly, pain free circumstance will alleviate a child's anxiety in future visits. This is also an excellent time to discuss proper homecare, diet, bottle and pacifier use. It is also important to evaluate the teeth, habits, tonsils, nasal breathing, tongue and lips including the tongue and lip attachments (frenum) at a young age.

Can babies get cavities?

Decay in baby teeth is too common and totally preventable. The most common causes of baby tooth decay are poor diet, improper bottle use and poor homecare. Your baby's diet is extremely important during this development time. The same foods that cause cavities in adults also cause cavities in baby teeth. Avoid sugary drinks and foods. A common mistake is fruit juice. Juice boxes provide almost no dietary benefit; they are mostly sugar water. When your child goes to bed the only liquid that should be in a bottle is water, no milk, formula, fruit juice or breast milk. Parents and caregivers can spread decay causing bacteria by putting the baby's spoon or pacifier in their mouth and then back to the baby. As baby molars erupt, have your dentist place sealants in the hard to clean deep grooves to protect against decay. Healthy baby teeth are essential for the child to be able to chew properly and develop the jaw space for the adult teeth and proper breathing.

How should I clean my child's teeth?

Even before teeth erupt, use a moistened washcloth or cotton gauze to wipe the gums after every meal. This establishes a routine that makes homecare easy as the teeth start to erupt. As teeth begin to erupt, switch to a soft infant toothbrush and use a grain of rice sized amount of fluoride toothpaste to brush their teeth until age 3. From age 3-6 use a soft child's sized toothbrush with a pea sized amount of fluoride toothpaste. You should be doing the brushing for your child until they can manage good brushing on their own, usually by age 6-7. But continue to monitor and occasionally take over brushing to make sure they are doing a good job and that they are spitting out the toothpaste, not swallowing. When your child starts to brush their own teeth it is time to introduce floss. Establish good oral homecare habits and routines. Take care of oral homecare needs after meals, well before bedtime with no snacks in between. This will avoid bedtime struggles with a sleepy child and establish good habits.

When should we get rid of the bottle?

By age one most children should transition from a bottle and drink from a cup. When at home use a regular cup without a top or straw. In the car use a sippy cup to prevent accidents. This develops proper drinking and swallowing habits which aid in the growth and development of the jaws and airway.

When should we get rid of the pacifier?

Pacifiers are soothing for babies but after age 8-9 months babies can become attached and have some separation anxiety. It is best to end pacifier use by age 6-7 months. Continued use of a pacifier has been related to increased ear infections and abnormal jaw development which will effect breathing as well.

Your child's first visits to the dental office are all about introductions, fun and education. Make it a good memory and continue at home with positive reinforcement during daily homecare routines.

Dr. Robert A. Gallegos is a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry, visiting faculty at Spear Education, alumnus of Pankey Institute, 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.

Pastimes

A little Joy

Around the Town



Hazel Sweitzer

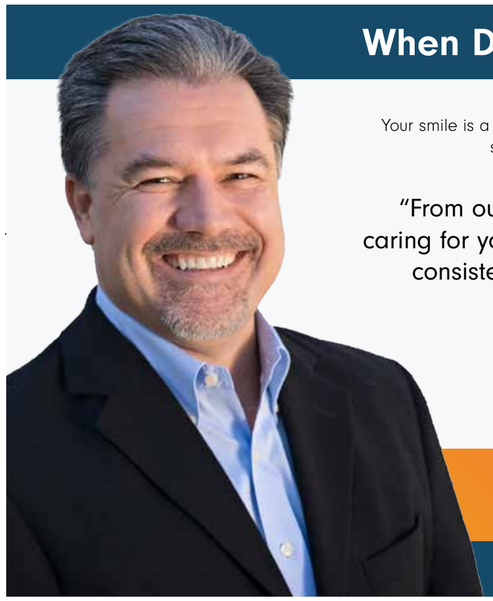
Here come the holidays! And that means family, friends, food, gifts, and fun. Or does it? I know all of you humans are sad about the pandemic and how it will affect your holiday plans, I don't blame you. The fewer people, the fewer chances food will fall to the floor during a Thanksgiving or Christmas feast. It is important to remember although this year may be different, there is always a chance for joy. My human Tom is making a list of people who could use a little joy this year. He even has a group of children from A Place to Be Music Therapy Center participating in phone calls to people who might feel lonely or isolated this holiday season.

I have to be honest. I have noticed that people look a little stressed and distant as I walk around town. It is always refreshing when someone stops to talk to Tom and pet me, but recently it seems like a lot of humans carry a worried look on their face. I think Tom is right by spreading Joy to people who need it because recently, I have seen other dogs in town that could use a little pick me up. Who can't use a little extra love from someone? A little Joy.

This holiday season, make a list of people who could use a card or a phone call from you. I know mailing letters is out of date, but out of all years, maybe this year is the right time to sit down and write someone you love a long letter. It shows you have taken the time and the letter's details show you have thought about them. Everyone, even dogs, deserves to end this year with a good feeling. If anything, this pandemic has shown us that we need each other more than objects, and little things mean more than ever before. I miss people just like you do, and I know there are some months to go yet before we can proceed to a more typical lifestyle. Still, hopefully, from this whole experience, you have found a more profound sense of appreciation and gratitude.

I hope to see you around town, and be sure to smile behind your mask. People can tell if your smiling, and everyone needs a smile now and again. Happy Holidays and be good to yourself and others. The most significant gift you can give someone this season is not just a dog bone, but the gift of your heart and mind thinking about them and reaching out!

Have a great end of 2020!!



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Pigs Can Fly

Sincerely Me



Brandy Greenwell

I have the most amazing horse ever to walk the face of the earth, and my connection and bond with her are like those found in a little girl's dreams. I imported both of her parents from Ireland and bred, foaled, and know every ear flick she has ever made from the second she graced the planet. I started calling her Pig or Pighorse, not because she is a grey who prefers living her best life with mud ground into her face, but rather the reaction and dance when she tasted her first Saratoga Peppermint Pig, which was given to us as a Christmas 2009 gift. Her expression of pure, sugar-coated bliss, along with the gratitude dance she choreographed after that, left marks on both of us for different reasons beyond tasty treats.

Many seasons ago, my Pighorse and I came to a terrifying coop while hunting with Middleburg Hunt. I will fully own that it was terrifying to me, not Pig, as she would jump a barn on fire if I asked her. You see, I am more of a Chicken than a Pig when it comes to jumping and has been since I was in Pigtails and jodhpurs. In the short moments approaching this Chicken eating coop, I looked for any way out of jumping when a friend behind me encouraged me by simply saying, "KICK ON." I did, and my Pighorse and I sailed in harmony over one of my biggest fears. My encouraging friend caught up to me at speed and said, "Brandy, Pigs do fly." And yes, they can.

As the Holiday spirit is beginning to buzz, I am reminded of the Peppermint Pig tale and find it worthy for many reasons in the challenging 2020 environment.

The online product description: "This "Peppermint Pig" as aptly it was named, was cast of hard candy, similar in fashion to candy cane and festive pink in color. And while the Pig is honored in Victorian holiday tradition as a symbol of good health, happiness and prosperity, these special "Peppermint Pigs", unique to Saratoga Springs, came to represent much more. They proudly stood for an old-fashioned Yuletide itself-a wonderful time when red-cheeked children laughed and rode old wooden sleds over fresh snow, when church bells pealed and warm memories were shared by a gathering of family and friends. After the holiday dinner, the Pigs were broken and shared by all in the hopes of good fortune for the coming year."

Why are these Pig-ramblings newsworthy? Very only, we as a country need to remember to love like a child, share more peppermint-flavored gratitude, and trust that if you believe, Pigs can fly. I wish you a healthy, blessed, and loving Holiday Season.

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Pastimes

What Changes Have You Made to Your Home Since COVID-19?

Ask a Remodeler







Tim Burch

With corona virus numbers ticking back up, likely, many of us are still hunkering down in our homes with our "pod" of family and perhaps a few close friends. Having been at this since March, it's also likely that our homes have taken on many new roles…everyday office for one or more, schoolhouse, gym, restaurant, outdoor entertainment venue, and more. But how can we make our homes work in all these new ways?

I chatted with TJ Monahan, BOWA's VP of Design, to find out some of the ways he has made his family's home more functional and enjoyable during this time. The following are some projects he has undertaken. Big Impact with Removable **Wallpaper:** Hands down, TJ's number one recommendation is removable wallpaper. TJ transformed a bare room in the basement into his office with the help of bold decals from WallsNeedLove and a modular office system from Ikea. TJ loves these decals because, in his opinion, they are more impactful, cleaner, and more comfortable than painting. His second project was cozying up an office for his wife using a sophisticated, feminine pattern from Rocky Mountain Decals.

The great news is the material to cover 20 square feet is under $90, and you can finish the project in about one hour. Wow! The Great-er Outdoors: TJ then turned to the home's exterior to spruce up their patio area and landscaping. With just a little bit of work and some plantings, they were able to create more privacy and an outdoor room for al fresco dining with family and enjoying safely with friends.

A Space for the Kids: With mom and dad both settled in their new home offices, TJ and his wife also wanted to create dedicated spaces to accommodate their children's distance learning. Carving out a learning nook in each of their rooms with a great desk, good lighting, and a chair they picked out themselves set these kids up comfortably for their adventure in schooling. So far, so good!

A Need for Speed: With two adults and two children all working from home, TJ took steps to improve their Internet speeds. TJ found the best solution for them was installing a multi-point mesh WiFi system. He chose the eero system, but there are several well-reviewed options available today. Your home's size determines how many points/bases you need, but generally, the systems cost a couple of hundred dollars and can be easily set up by a non-techy in minutes. The result is improved internet efficiency, reduced network congestion, less buffering, and a more productive family.

Create a Mini Home Gym: Missing their usual workout routines, TJ carved out a small space in the corner of their finished basement for a small home gym. By allocating just 30-40 square feet, TJ was able to create a dedicated space with padded floors for a stationary bike, weights, resistance bands, and more to keep the family fit and motivated. The solutions to making your home more functional and enjoyable often fall on a spectrum. On one end are DIY projects you can knock out with a little elbow grease or retail therapy and on the other are more elaborate solutions requiring thoughtful design and careful construction. If you're interested in bouncing around some ideas for your home, 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.

Two Holiday Favorites

The Kitchen Philosophy





Emily Tyler
www.thekitchenphilosophy.com

Lemon Cream Tarts

8 Individual tarts

I love the idea of everyone getting their own tart and the combination of berries and the lemon cream is delicious - You will have a bit more lemon cream leftover after filling the tarts, but not to worry, toast up a bagel, serve a bowl of berries or grab a spoon, it wont go to waste.

Shortbread Crust

2 sticks unsalted butter, softened

2 cups flour

½ cup powdered sugar

Pinch of kosher salt

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Special equipment: 8 4" individual tart pans with removable bottomsMix all of the ingredients in a bowl until well combined

Divide the dough into 8 portions

Pat the dough evenly into each tart pan, and place on a baking sheet

Bake the tarts at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes or until lightly golden brown

Let cool completely and fill with the lemon cream right before serving

Lemon Cream Filling

8 ounces (1 cup) lemon curd

16 ounces cream cheese

½ cup granulated sugar

Zest and juice of 1 lemon

Combine the above ingredients in a food processor and blend until very smooth. Stir the above ingredients until well combined and smooth

Store the lemon cream in the refrigerator until ready to fill the tarts

Assorted berries for serving

Rosemary Pecans

These pecans are so addictive - serve them with cocktails, in a salad, alongside an offering of cheeses, or even on ice cream with a pour of your favorite chocolate sauce.

1 cup whole pecans

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

¼ cup brown sugar

½ teaspoon kosher salt

Heat a cast iron pan to medium heat and add the butter

Add the pecans and rosemary and stir

Sprinkle the brown sugar and salt over the pecans and stir until the sugar melts and the pecans become fragrant and lightly brown

Spread out the pecans on a sheet of parchment paper, and when they are cool enough to handle, break them apart

Store in an air-tight container

PASTIMES

New Gardeners Surge



The Plant Lady

Karen Rexrode



The Corona virus has been a horrible event but a good thing for the gardening world. There may have been toilet paper and hand sanitizer shortages, but there were also seed shortages, with some seed companies experiencing sales twenty times higher than last year. As a lifelong gardener and proponent of the activity, I'm delighted.

The largest surge in horticulture was in home grown vegetables, followed by organic gardening, and indoor plants. As new gardeners enter the realm of vegetable growing, I suspect that they visualize tidy plants loaded with fruit, when in reality the vegetable garden is rarely a thing of beauty. Growing squash, cucumber, or zucchini vines are fine before borers and powdery mildew attack. Tomato plants look their best two months after they're planted but can quickly become a tangle of heavy stems. This may not be the case in other parts of the world, but in our high humidity and buggy summers, it's a given. Who cares one might think, it's about the harvest and indeed it is, with the ultimate realization that ugly fruit might be better fruit.

Space restrictions may be a problem for some homeowners, corn needs to be planted in rows with a minimum of three for wind pollination. The vining vegetables, squash and cantaloupe, become enormous in their sideways growth. Even compact varieties are substantial at five square feet. A work around is growing them vertically, which will also serve pole beans and snap peas. A common mistake with supports for climbers is underestimating the weight and potential height. A typical "garden center" trellis will not do. My most successful support has been landscape timbers sunk in the ground with a metal rod at the top to connect them. I use inexpensive sisal twine staked in the ground to run the vines up, which is great for the first year, but wears too thin for a second, which is perfect, I compost what's left and start with new string each year.

Not all vegetables age into unattractive adults. Bush beans and peppers may need staking but are handsome enough to grow in a summer flower border. Cool season vegetables such as kale, Swiss chard, beets, and lettuce can also be spectacular in containers or flower bed. Herbs will certainly work in ornamental yet functional roles. Parsley (a biennial) can be a stunning filler plant, as well as chives, sage, rosemary, and cultivars of thyme.

As any new gardener will learn, gardening may seem like a battle between good and evil. As a long time servant of the craft, my evil list has shrunk considerably. Things that were once vetoed, like underground bees, aphids, powdery mildew, and even poison ivy (in small doses) are now accepted. The observant gardener, with time, will learn how perceived adversaries are not evil, or that the battle to control them is the wrong thing to do. In my opinion evil comes from invasive exotics like the emerald ash borer, the spotted lantern fly, Japanese stilt grass, Russian olive, or the callery pear (the Bradford pear's offspring). Not to be too critical and tip the scale in a negative way, I believe that any beginning gardener will soon learn that the balance between planting, growing, and harvesting is a journey of delight where the gardening Gods deliver random moments of perfection.

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$8,750,000

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Gracious Georgian Manor home, 11,000 sf, built in 1930 | Updated and suitable for large scale entertaining | 7 BR, 7 1/2 BA, 7 FP | High ceilings, formal gardens & private setting | Belmont style stable w/30 stalls and 2 apartments | 4 BR guest house/entertainment complex, 4-car garage w/office | 4 restored tenant houses, skeet range, pool & tennis court | 167.59 acres mostly open & rolling with bold mountain views and large spring-fed pond | Also available with 241 acres for $8,500,000

$6,500,000

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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

$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 | Gunnite 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

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Alix Coolidge 703.609.1724



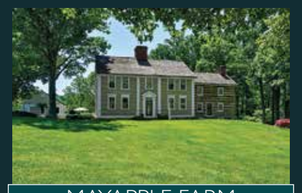
PHEASANT'S EYE

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



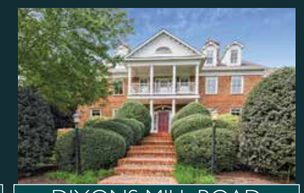
MAYAPPLE FARM

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

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 | 37.65 acres

$3,200,000

Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905



DIXONS MILL ROAD

MARSHALL, VIRGINIA

Lovely brick home on hilltop setting, completely redone by current owners | Wood floors, high ceilings, lots of light | 6 BR, 5 1/2 BA, 5 FP, sweeping stair case in foyer | Basement level finished for family enjoyment w/ media room, office, gym, billiard room, full bar w/ kitchenette, full bath & outside entrance leading to pool and spa | Improvements include 3-car garage, heated 4-car garage w/car lift | Potting shed/studio w/ attached heated green house | 20 car barn for serious collector | Swimming pool with spa | 5-stall barn | Property fenced and cross fenced | 68.23 acres

$2,375,000

Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905



HILLCREST

UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

Spectacular hilltop setting, bold mountain views and Paris valley views | Home updated in 2017 | 4 BRs, 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



TWIN CREEK FARM

ALDIE, VIRGINIA

Quiet country living on 33 acres with great proximity to the conveniences of nearby shopping, restaurants, schools & hospital | Rare find to get this acreage and have FIOS - work from home while enjoying the privacy of your own farm | Rolling acreage, stable, fencing & bold creek | 5 BR home has been well maintained | Southern exposure with great light & lovely views | Main floor master suite & 2-car garage

$1,395,000

Marqui Simmons 703.774.6109
Helen MacMahon 540.454.1930



BUST HEAD ROAD

THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

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

$1,100,000

Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905



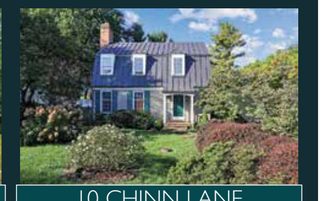
ALDIE SPRINGS

ALDIE, VIRGINIA

Charming home w ith 3 bedrooms, 2 full BA & 2 half BA, FP with insert in family room | Rear deck for outdoor entertaining & front porch add to the charm | Attached 2-car garage | Large Morton building for storage, workshop or more garage space | 28.34 mostly wooded & private acres, multiple springs & creek plus waterfall | Trails throughout, hunters paradise | Minutes to Route 50 and Route 15 | Property has Fios

$1,010,000

Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905



10 CHINN LANE

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

In town living with main level primary bedroom with pocket doors that open into the living room | 3 BR, 2 half BA, hardwood floors & fireplace | French doors open to private patio with mature gardens & space for expansion | Great full time or weekend getaway property within walking distance to town

$899,000

Margaret Carroll 540.454.0650

Obituaries

Betty June Randolph



Betty June Randolph died peacefully at the age of 93 on Tuesday, November 17th at 4:23am while being treated at the Novant UVA Medical Center in Haymarket, Virginia.

Betty June was born in Miami, Florida and lived in beautiful Coral Gables with her father, Dr. Herman Walter Cook, her mother, Vivian Turner Cook, and her little brother, Buck. As a child she loved animals and always brought home strays. She also had two pet ducks.

Betty attended Ponce de Leon High then went on to college at the University of Miami. She was a founding member of the Delta Gamma sorority, Beta Tau chapter and sweetheart to the fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon. She was also a princess of the Orange Bowl float and Miss University of Miami.

Betty later became an airline stewardess on Peninsula Airline and met up with the handsome Captain Archibald Cary Randolph IV, who was the chief pilot. Soon after, they eloped and married in Reno, Nevada.

Betty then moved with Arch to Virginia, where they began their lives together, from the sunny palms of Coral Gables to the shady oaks of Grafton Hall in Upperville, home of the late Col. Richard Henry Dulany, Arch's great-grandfather and founder of the Upperville Colt and Horse Show and the Piedmont Fox Hounds. It was here at Grafton Farm that Betty learned to ride, and she named her horse "the beast"!

After settling down in Upperville, Betty and her family became lifelong members of Trinity Church.

Betty June had many interests. She was a master marksman and won many championship trophies as 1st marksman and NRA sharpshooter. Betty was a long-time member of the Middleburg Tennis Club, where she was well known for her infamous lob. She also enjoyed gourmet cooking, skiing, poker, and parties.

Betty June Randolph is pre-deceased by her husband, Archibald Cary Randolph IV, her son, Thaddeus Market, and her younger brother, Herman Walter Cook (Buck). She is survived by her son, Archibald Cary Randolph V, her daughter, Jane Cary Randolph, and her step-daughter, Rebecca Ann Dulany Randolph Armstrong, along with six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to Middleburg Humane Foundation or any animal shelter of your choice.

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Ruth Williamson Ripley



Ruth Williamson Ripley, a woman of great style, substance, and business acumen which helped found a highly successful real estate firm in Middleburg, Virginia, died on November 17, 2020, at her home on Reed Street in the village.

Her son, Phillip Thomas Jr., said the cause of death was congestive heart failure. She was 80. Ironically, Ms. Ripley's life was in jeopardy in 1970 when she discovered that she had been born with a potentially fatal atrial septal defect. The malady was discovered purely by chance, but she underwent successful open-heart surgery at Georgetown University Hospital in 1971. It was performed by heart surgery pioneer Charles Hufnagel, who invented the first artificial heart valve. She often told friends and family that Dr. Hufnagel had given her a new lease on life, and it made her appreciate every day since even more.

On February 9, 1940, Mrs. Ripley was born in Dallas, Texas, to Alice Neill Williamson and Richard Wallis Williamson. Her father was originally from England but ended up in Texas, traveling the world selling Texas cotton. She grew up in the Dallas suburb of Highland Park on Turtle Creek, and a life-long love of animals and nature first took hold when she started feeding the ducks flocking around the creek near her home. She graduated from Highland Park High School, where she was on the tennis team and, like her mother, attended Randolph-Macon College in Lynchburg, Virginia. While at Randolph-Macon, she met Middleburg native Phillip Thomas, a Marine veteran and a student at nearby Lynchburg College.

They both left school when Ms. Williamson was 19 to get married in Dallas in 1959, initially living in Fairfax before moving to a house off Snickersville Pike, and then to Philomont.

The marriage ended in divorce in the early 1970s, and not long after, she went into the real estate business with her friend, Carole Miller. Together, they formed Middleburg Country Properties, initially with an office above the kitchen store next to the Middleburg Safeway. She and Ms. Miller merged their business with Gloria Armfield's company and formed the firm of Armfield, Miller & Ripley, which later was sold to Washington Fine Properties. Ms. Ripley never did officially retire, and her last listing and sale were made last year with her friend and real estate partner Lynn Wiley, selling a house for her friends John and Lynne Donovan on Rock Hill Mill Road.

An adventurous traveler, she frequently went on trips abroad with her friend, the late Gail Matheson. Ms. Ripley also owned a home in Akumal, Mexico, where she learned and loved to scuba dive. She went foxhunting in Ireland and once took a trip to drive carriages in England with her second husband, Fred Miller. On that same journey, she was riding up the Long Walk at Windsor Castle when her horse spooked, throwing her to the ground and resulting in a broken collarbone.

Ms. Ripley enjoyed skiing with her two sons and was an enthusiastic tennis player and a longtime member of the Middleburg Tennis Club. She was an avid gardener, often creating gorgeous flower arrangements from her own gardens. She was particularly fond of orchids.

Ms. Ripley was known for her sense of style and comfortable grace, including wearing brightly colored scarves and pashminas. Her homes were an eclectic collection of antiques, unique items and always featured paintings by her good friend, renowned Middleburg artist Robin Hill.

Over the years, Ms. Ripley doted on her numerous dogs and cats, many of them she adopted, and some adopted her. She always had multiple bird feeders around her home and often fed peanuts to neighborhood squirrels, some of whom knew to come to the door every morning. She also was known as an excellent cook who hardly ever bothered with recipes. She enjoyed making and sampling adventurous new dishes, often with friends and family at holidays, dinner parties, and in the kitchen with a glass of wine nearby.

Ms. Ripley was active in the Middleburg community, serving on the board of The Hill School. She was a senior warden and longtime member of the Flower Guild at Trinity Church in Upperville. She also frequently helped friends and family arrange flowers for weddings and funerals.

She was a member of several local garden clubs, including the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club, Piedmont Garden Club, and the Middleburg Garden Club.

She was a founding member of the Hill School Ski Club. Instead of socializing with other parents in the ski lodge at Bryce Mountain, where students skied every winter Friday afternoon, Ms. Ripley took ski lessons herself. She skied with her sons at Bryce and enjoyed trips with them and her good friends Doris and Peter Weeks to ski more challenging mountains out west.

Of all her many interests, Ms. Ripley's favorite role was as a loving grandmother to her four grandchildren. Ms. Williamson is survived by her two sons, Richard Reed Thomas of Birmingham, Alabama, and Phillip Swing Thomas, Jr. of Washington, D.C.; a sister, Isabel W. Griffith of Newport R.I. and a brother, Richard W. Williamson of Dallas Texas; grandchildren Richard Reed Thomas, Jr., Bailey Mara Thomas, Suzelle Margaret Swing Thomas, and Williamson Carl Thomas; two nephews and a niece.

A celebration of her life will be held at Trinity Church in the spring, with a date still to be determined. Donations in her name should be made to the rector's discretionary fund at Trinity.

"Uncle Bob or Bobby" Glenn Elwood Simmons 1941 – 2020

Just the day before horses were to begin shipping into Glenwood Park for the annual running of the VA Fall Races on October 10th, a place Bobby Simmons had been to more times in his life than most people ever will, he left this earth.

Walking up the hill from his cabin at his beloved Sunnybank Farm, just as he had done for over 60+ years, Bobby visited the barn for the very last time.

He had come to Sunnybank when he was a teenager working for Mr. Sam Fred and his well-known daughter, renowned race-horse trainer, Mrs. Dorothy "Dot" Smithwick. On this 1,650 acre farm, Bobby took care of not only champion steeplechase horses such as Neji and Bon Nouvel, but also top show hunters and fox hunters alike. Not to mention managing a coop full of chickens and an immense vegetable garden.

For the many folks who have passed through the stone pillars at Sunnybank Farm, most everyone knew "Bobby." Through the years he always had a dog by his side and several barn cats. And to each of those people, many award-winning riders in their own right, he taught so many things not just about caring for horses but about farm life in general. On his off time, Bobby enjoyed hunting deer and teaching others how to do it.

In 1999, the Steeplechase Owners & Trainers Association (SOTA) honored Bobby with the Woodville Award for employees in the horse world that are "behind the scenes." And in 2012, the Virginia Point-to-Point Association (VPPA) honored Bobby again with the Friends of Phillip Hughes Memorial trophy for his lifelong passion of caring for steeplechase horses.

The horse world has lost a one of a kind in Bobby Simmons. May he rest in peace.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a gathering to honor his life will be held at Sunnybank Farm in the spring or when conditions allow.

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Trump-Giuliani Agonistes

BLUE

John P. Flannery

Trump and Giuliani appear unable to conquer their shared self-pity and despair, and so, drawing upon art and biblical myth, we may conclude that, unlike Samson, they will not be restored to whatever "storied" strength they may claim to have enjoyed.

Following the election on November 3, the Nation suffered an identity crisis – a kind of Jekyll-Hyde split – there were those who hadn't had enough of Trump - and the rest of us – including you dear reader who prefers democracy to monarchy –who realize we must suppress the beast that lurks within the body politic.

Consider how truant our Chief Executive, Donald Trump, has been since he lost the election, barely lifting a finger to ease the pain of the sick and dying, obsessed only with how he may succeed himself in office – by overriding the will of the voters.

It was clear two days after the election that the transition from Trump to Biden would occur with or without Trump's participation.

Trump's challenges to the election, in and out of Court, evaporated in the days that followed like a morning mist dissipating in the daylight's warming rays.

Judges asked the right questions, found no fraud in the election, and repeatedly denied Trump's laconic lawyers. They appeared ethically inert to professional demands that they only argue what is true and lawful.

Biden marched on, giving the Nation a new look, a regular order, conducted with respect, patience, and decency.

Biden announced his chief of staff, and his picks for State Department, his National Security Adviser, the Ambassador to the United Nations, and more.

Biden consulted with infectious disease experts to fight the pandemic while Trump preferred to golf.

The cynical say Trump uses the crisis he has created to build a war chest for another presidential race in 2024.

Of course, Trump could have done that without undermining faith in our election.

The nail in Trump's political coffin came out of the Federal Court in Pennsylvania.

U.S. District Judge Matthew W. Brann wrote a 37-page ruling upholding the Nov. 3rd election in Pennsylvania, signaling that Joe Biden, with 81,000 votes more than Trump, won that State's election fair and square.

This will likely be the final word on all the bogus Trump-Giuliani challenges in all the battleground states, brought by outgoing President Trump and his "personal lawyer," Rogue Rudy Giuliani.

Judge Brann, an active Republican before taking the bench, and a member of the Federalist Society and the National Rifle Association, cannot be dismissed as a partisan.

Rudy Giuliani took over the case though he had not appeared in a federal court in thirty years and, when he did appear before Judge Brann, he did so without any preparation as to the pertinent facts or the law.

Judge Brann characterized the papers Rudy presented as "strained legal arguments without merit and speculative accusations."

Judge Brann said that Trump's attorneys had haphazardly stitched this allegation together "like Frankenstein's Monster" in an effort to avoid unfavorable legal precedent.

Judge Brann explained that Plaintiffs were "trying to mix and match claims to bypass contrary precedent," and that was "not lost on the court."

Plaintiff Trump and several voters claimed they were denied "equal protection."



Of course, there was no unequal protection between what the republicans and democrats were permitted to do – when observing the count.

Sure, the Secretary of State told all counties they could notice voters they could cure mail-in ballots if an error was noted in the ballot. Several voters said, however, they were not allowed to do this – to have errors cured.

The Court, however, said they could have asked that their votes be allowed. Instead, these voters only wanted to deny everyone else's ballot. The Court said that was not the remedy, that is, to deny others the right to vote.

The Court found the Secretary of State and the Counties "impose[d] no burden" on the Individual Plaintiffs' right to vote, disputing the equal protection argument.

When Rudy was asked in Court whether he claimed any fraud, he said he did not make such a claim. But Rudy said something quite different when not in Court.

What happened in Pennsylvania follows upon 30 or more other cases lost or withdrawn that Trump brought in battleground states challenging the election results.

Former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie said, "The conduct of the president's legal team has been a national embarrassment,"

Outside Court, Rudy Giuliani and others were holding press conferences claiming there was fraud and conspiracies that reached around the world, to Venezuela, involving a deadhead of State, Hugo Chavez, coming close to sedition, sans violence, transparently calculated to undermine our electoral process.

Trump also reached out to party leaders in Michigan and Pennsylvania to defy the voters cast ballots and overthrow those states' certifications, confirming Biden as the winner of those State's electoral votes. That didn't work.

More and more Republicans are presently pushing back on Trump.

The wind is at our back. We may have to squirm and fight. But that day is coming when we can grab old glory and plant the flag of the united states in a newly restored republic. We're talking January 20, 2021.

Welcome to the New Venezuela

RED

Brian Vella

America has for over 200 years been that shining city on the hill, the envy of the world where the freedom to speak and think for oneself was the birthright of American citizens and the peaceful resolution of our differences was achieved through the political process as opposed to the mob in the street. Sadly, we are no longer that country. It is clear that violence by the Left to achieve their political goals is now a part of the American political process. Since President Trump was elected in 2016, the Left has taken to the streets to resist the outcome of that election, often with violence and always with the support and encouragement of the Democrat party, whose response to the looting, burning, rioting, murders, and assaults is to defund the police. American citizens who do not bow to the Democrats and their paramilitary allies such as Antifa and BLM are brazenly attacked. Their Democrat mayors tell the police to stand down. Even if arrested, the Left-wing zealots who do the strong-arm work for the Democrats have little to fear from Democrat prosecutors at the state and federal level who quickly return them to the streets to do more violence. Who could imagine that citizens who gathered recently in Washington, D.C. to peacefully exercise their right to free speech in support of the President would be harassed and assaulted with the silent approval of Democrats from the mayor to the highest levels of Congress? The media failed to even report on this most recent violence by Biden supporters. If they did report, it was to insinuate that the attacks were justified since those who were assaulted were deserving of a good beating for President Trump's supporters. Welcome to the new normal; the Venezuelanization of America is underway at full speed.

The media and the Democrats, who never accepted the election of Donald Trump, now lecture us that we must all accept that Joe Biden won the election, even before the results are certified, just as in any other third world nation. Pay no attention to the report just weeks ago on PBS detailing the potential for fraud stemming from "troubling irregularities" with the Dominion Electronic Voting System and the many affidavits of witnesses who attest to a myriad of other voting improprieties in 2020. Now we are told that any investigation into these irregularities and improprieties concerning the 2020 election is a "threat to democracy" (not the irregularities and improprieties themselves, but investigating those irregularities and improprieties we are told is the threat). We are instructed to shut up about investigations and accept the results of the 2020 election as legitimate by the same gaggle of Democrats and media hypocrites who for three years promoted the narrative that the 2016 election was illegitimate because Russians had colluded with the Trump campaign to defeat Hillary, a story they knew to be a lie. Even former President Obama has now come out to accuse anyone asking legitimate questions about the 2020 electoral process of being a threat to our democratic institutions. The chutzpah of this man is limitless, and as a threat to America's democratic institutions, Mr. Obama set a standard without equal. It was Obama who unleashed the IRS on his political opponents and was eventually forced to settle lawsuits with conservative groups who were victimized (not to worry, he settled these abuses using taxpayer money). It was Obama who spied on members of the media. It was Obama who authorized the assassination of U.S. citizens overseas without due process. Obama used lies about negotiating with Iranian "moderates" as cover for his nuclear "deal" with the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. It was Obama who defiantly announced that he would simply use executive orders to bypass Congress when he could not get political support for his policies. Most recently, it was Obama who weaponized U.S intelligence agencies to conduct a domestic spy operation against the Republican presidential candidate, an action that makes Watergate pale by comparison. We know this happened; we have the handwritten notes of Obama's CIA chief, who memorialized his meeting in the Oval Office with Obama, Biden, and other co-conspirators within their administration to discuss these actions. Each of the individuals involved should be facing criminal charges for such blatant wrongdoing. Instead, Obama lives the life of a multi-millionaire potentate, Biden pretends to be President, and the deep state minions who collaborated in the threats to our democratic institutions and lied to Congress are now on the payroll of CNN and MSNBC or faculty at Georgetown and William and Mary. All this while corrupt actors in the Obama Justice Department targeted and prosecuted General Michael Flynn for political advantage on charges that not even the FBI believed he was guilty of, and Roger Stone was prosecuted and given what amounted to a life sentence essentially for the crime of being a friend of the President. Justice is no longer blind, and the Left in America has now embraced the practice of using the judicial system to excuse their friends and jail their political enemies like any other totalitarian regime.

Now Democrats have announced that if there is a Biden administration, not only do they plan to continue to abuse the judicial system to hound President Trump, but they intend to track down even those who worked for the Trump administration so they can be ostracized socially, punished and denied employment. (Keep in mind these are the same Democrats who tell us they are the great healers and uniters). Knowing it is sometimes difficult to spot "these people" (conservatives who worked for the Trump administration), maybe the Democrats can learn from the past and require ex-Trump administration personnel to wear a gold star on their jacket, or perhaps give each a numerical tattoo on their forearm? Once the Democrats have identified these supposed enemies of the state, who shall the Democrats start within their anti-Trump jihad? Should they target for retribution those in the Trump administration who worked on Operation Warp Speed to deliver the covid vaccine in record time? Maybe those who worked on the peace accords between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain? What about those who worked to crush Isis, or those who worked on trade agreements and economic policies that delivered record levels of economic growth and opportunity? How about those in the administration and the Trump family who pushed through criminal justice reform, or those who worked successfully to accomplish record levels of funding for historically black colleges and universities? I could go on, but you get the idea. As the party of the Klan, bigotry, and intolerance, Democrats have a proven record of punishing those who do not think as they do. Old habits die hard, and we have much to fear from vengeful Democrats as a civil society.

Although the use of mob violence and the misuse of the judicial system and the intelligence agencies for political purposes are antithetical to the American Constitution and American traditions, these tactics fit an age-old pattern by leftist regimes worldwide. From the old Soviet Union to those in eastern Europe, China, Southeast Asia, and Latin America, if one should dare to disagree with the socialist agenda or choose to show support for individual freedoms and the rule of law, the consequences were predictable: physical intimidation and violence, domestic spying by intelligence agencies, selective prosecutions and political show trials, imprisonment and social isolation. The Democrats are now fully on board with these third-world tactics as they work to "fundamentally transform" what was once the land of free speech and free thought into a country where the Left alone decides what thoughts, words, and actions are "politically correct." Hugo Chavez must be beaming with pride from his perch in the underworld to see that his political views have replaced those of Jefferson and Madison as guiding the Democrat party. It is now America that follows the leadership of Venezuela into the brave new world.

Letter From the Plains

Anthony Wells

Eccentric readers do not need to be reminded that Tuesday, November 3, is a "Moment in Time," not just for American citizens, but for the rest of the Planet, and in particular for our closest and long-standing Allies. The world will await the result with bated breath. I am certainly not going to indulge in more analysis paralysis of the kind to which our media have subjected us. Let us rather reflect on some nonpartisan first principles, ones that have stood the test of time and may help us keep our sense of balance and perspective as we move forward. When I was a young boy at Bablake School in Coventry, England, (founded in 1344, 676 years ago), I was fortunate to win a prize at the end of my first, what was colloquially called, "Fuzzer," year, something that I was not able to repeat until my very last year, in 1961. There were a lot of brilliant boys with whom I was competing! "Speech Day," as we called it in the UK, was a moment in time that I have never forgotten all these decades later. I received my prize from Professor Sir Alexander Todd (born October 2, 1907, in Glasgow, Scotland, died January 10, 1997, in Cambridge), Professor of Organic Chemistry, and Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge University. In 1957 he won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and became Lord Todd in 1962. I have never forgotten Alexander Todd shaking my hand and handing me my book prize, and his speech. He inspired all my fellow schoolboys and me. He reflected on the Parable of the Talents that we are all different and have many things to offer and in different ways. Winning prizes is not the "Be all and end all," he said, and everyone should follow where their talents lie. Lord Todd saw the potential in all of us, whatever our gifts may be. So what may a Nobel Laureate in Chemistry have in common with one of the great founders of the United States, and a Virginian, Thomas Jefferson? Like Lord Todd, Jefferson believed in "Collective Wisdom." Together we all make a difference, and it does not matter who wins the prizes. The "Collective Good" is the sum of all of us, each and every citizen. Remember one of our Founder's famous sayings, "A Nation's best defense is an educated citizenry." Let me quote one of Thomas Jefferson's memorable, and I believe immortal lines: "State a moral case to a ploughman and a professor, the former will decide it as well and often better than the latter because he has not been led astray by artificial rules." Jefferson argued that a crowd of plough persons is thus wiser than a plurality of professors. Do dwell on these words, please. Fast forward now to 1982 and the Falklands Conflict between Britain and Argentina. I was in the middle of this war, working for British Intelligence. The Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, resigned almost immediately after the invasion for ignoring all the signs that we had provided to the Foreign Office. Not so the Secretary of State for Defense, John Nott (Member of Parliament for St. Ives, born 1933). Nott had begun the process of emasculating the Royal Navy before the invasion on April 2, 1982. A very fine First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Henry Leach, immediately marched across Whitehall from the Ministry of Defense and convinced Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that the Royal Navy and the Third Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, could retake the Falklands. The rest is history. John Nott became an onlooker, a passenger, in a fast-moving action that culminated at 2100 on June 14, 1982, in the Argentine surrender by General Mario Menendez to the Royal Marines Commanding General, Major General Jeremy Moore. Much later, Secretary Nott was interviewed by the legendary BBC correspondent, Sir Robin Day, on television, in October 1982. Sir Robin described Nott, to his face, as "A transient, here today and, if I may so, gone-tomorrow politician." Nott retorted, "I'm fed up with this interview." He rose and left in a resentful pique, a tantrum no less, in front of millions of TV viewers. Nott was the quintessential combination of arrogance and ignorance. Despite the significant naval victory that President Regan applauded, the Soviet Union observed with dismay, and Margaret Thatcher garnered popularity, Nott had continued in his heedless, headlong, and reckless reduction in Britain's naval strength in the face of hardcore facts presented to him in front of the British public, on television. What is the message of this story? It is very simple. At some level, politicians are all, without any doubt, even the most revered and distinguished, transitory. We, the electorate, go on, but all politicians fade into the history books. As November 3, 2020 approaches do reflect on Thomas Jefferson's words, that ploughmen, and plough women, are the wise arbiters of our great Nation's future, not "Here today, and gone tomorrow, politicians." Be well, and whatever your political persuasion, go mail your vote, or be there on the day. We are still the greatest Democracy on Carl Sagan's "Pale Blue Dot." Readers may ask where my vote will go. I believe in a modern application of the philosopher, legal, and social reformer Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) who advocated, "The greatest Happiness of the greatest number." I would like to see equilibrium restored between a large majority of the electorate, not the extremism of either end of the political spectrum. Restoration will include re-engaging in positive and productive ways with our crucial allies, and restoring America's role as a respected leader in the Free World, as an influence for good, whether it is climate change, controlling Chinese hegemonic ambitions and Iranian nuclear programs, health care, racial equality, education, and preserving and protecting not just the spirit of the Constitution but the clear and unequivocal daily application of its meaning. For me, only one man, and his fine and accomplished female running mate, can do all the above successfully.

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Fox Flight

5+ Acres **$899,000**

Marshall – Renovated by the owner, a well known local kitchen and bath designer, the interiors are sure to delight! Charming c. 1840's 2 bedroom, 2 bath home has been 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.

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Parker Street

3.9 Acres **$695,000**

Upperville – Spacious brick home, updated and expanded to create ideal spaces for everyday living. Main level offers an eat-it kitchen with island, tile flooring, updated appliances and custom cabinetry, living rm, dining rm, the primary BR, a guest BR and a full BA. Lower level is the family rm w/fireplace, guest BR, a full BA, laundry rm/mudroom, bonus rm and separate office with custom built-ins. Fenced in swimming pool w/small pool house. Detached brick 2-car garage and separate storage shed. Wonderful commuter location. Parcel may be subdivided.

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Old Post Office

1 Acre **$595,000**

Paris – Charming!!! This single family home served as the Post Office from the 1800's to the 1980's in the historic village of Paris. Offered on 1 Acre with beautiful lawn and mature trees. Extensive renovations include NEW: separate HVAC system for the second level, kitchen, bathrooms, thermopane windows, gutters and shutters. The antique wood floors have been refinished. Easy access to Rt. 50, I-66 and I-81, convenient to Dulles International Airport and Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Poston | 540-771-7520



205 Sycamore

.26 Acre **$585,000**

Middleburg – Charming, fully renovated 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath house on quiet street in the village. Updated kitchen and bath on main level. Hardwood floors. New Recreation Room, full bath, laundry room and storage area in the walk out lower level. Spacious fenced in back yard with rear deck ideal for entertaining. Walk to downtown amenities.

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Pool House

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Middleburg – Furnished 2 BR pool house for rent on a private property. Open kitchen/living room with Cathedral ceiling. 2 small bedrooms each with their private bath. All amenities: dishes, cutlery, linens etc. included. Solarium. Washer/dryer room. Outdoor shower and separate half bath for pool guests. Use of pool negotiable with some extra cost for pool maintenance. Very private. Ideal for one responsible professional, or weekend house.

Rein du Pont | 540-454-3355

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