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Sheila C. Johnson and Chariman-at-Large Scott York Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Salamander Resort Opens In Middleburg

With a snip of her scissors, Sheila C. Johnson cut through the equestrian-inspired ribbon before her on Aug. 29 and consigned a decade of planning into memory. Middleburg's Salamander Resort & Spa was open.

"I am so extraordinarily thankful for everyone's patience, perseverance, and fortitude," said Johnson, the resort's owner,

and founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts. "In addition to its courageous traits, the salamander serves as a symbol of renewal, which is especially meaningful to me today."

"I want people to feel at home," Mayor Betsy Davis of Middleburg said. "I thank you Sheila for your love of our town."

Continued on page 7

Purcellville Crossroads Development Seeks Annexation

– By Valerie Cury

In late July/August the developers of Purcellville Crossroads submitted paperwork serving as a continuation of an annexation application filed on March 1, 2008, with the Town of Purcellville for approximately 50 acres located at Berlin Turnpike (287) and St. Francis Court. This property is currently in the county, and outside of the town limits. The developers of this property have been communicating with the town since September 2012, and waited until the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP) was eliminated on July 1, 2013, to proceed with their application process.

The 2008 application requested an "Out-Of-Phase" annexation. According to PUGAMP in force at the time: "Applications for out of phase development (development in the areas outside the 10 year preferred development area) will be evaluated by the Joint UGA Policies Review Committee. The Joint UGA Committee will determine if an application to develop out of phase is to be forwarded to the Town and the County for review and processing. Applications for out of phase

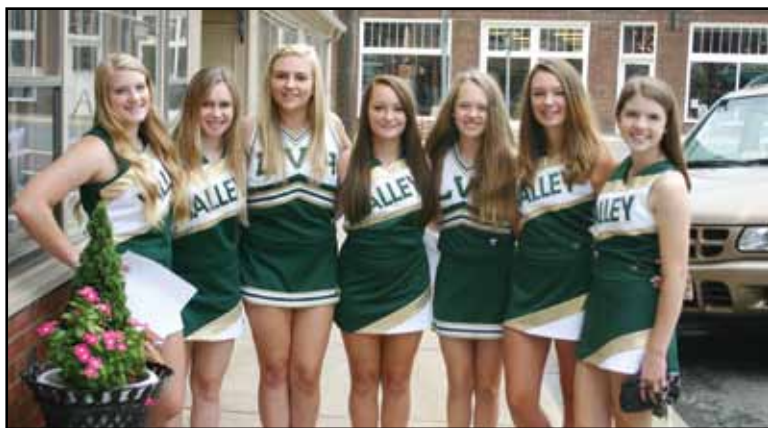
development will be evaluated one time a year and accepted for review on March 1 or the first business day thereafter." However, at the time the town and the county chose not to proceed with the application for various reasons - not the least of which was an additional burden on the town's water supply.

In the 2008 proposed annexation application the applicant, quoting page 10 of PUGAMP noted "Growth will be planned and orderly to ensure that essential [town] services and utilities are not overburdened. Public facility, utility and service improvements such as the addition of new schools, parks, police personnel and roads will be timed to keep pace with growth." At the time of the 2008 application the owners were not proposing residential growth, noting: "Since we are proposing no residential component, our development will not burden the school or park systems." The Purcellville Town Council and the county eliminated PUGAMP this year.

The current application calls for multi-family campus style apartments or

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Loudoun Valley High School cheerleaders selling ads around town for the Loudoun Valley High School athletic programs. From left to right: Olivia Smith, Marysia Gerafin, Ollvia McDade, Julie Petty, Emilie Peterson, Madison Moseley, Emily Griffith.



BOS Aides – At-Will or Employees?

– See Pages 4 and 5



Harvest Moon

Wild Loudoun, page 27





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Back to School and Mindfulness

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Mindfulness is the concept of being present 100 percent in the moment while accepting all aspects of what that moment is or what it brings. With open houses, shopping for supplies and getting back into a schedule and routine, returning to school can be chaotic. Emotionally, the return to school can also come with a host of positive and negative emotions for our children and teens. Then there is the school year itself and all of the challenges posed to your child or teen and you as parent. Practicing mindfulness as parents as we gear up for the coming academic year can serve to restore calm in your home and personal success for your child or teen.



Dr. Mike

As a psychologist who has spent the last few weeks assisting parents and kids with the back to school transition, I've put together a list of DO's and DON'T's in preparation for the coming year.

Do:

Incentivize your child's academic success. It's human nature to want to be rewarded for a job well done. The internal

reward of feeling good about grades or academic performance is important and it will become more important as your child or teen matures. But keep in mind that children and teens respond well to external rewards. I recommend setting up a reward system where your child or teen can receive reasonable but attractive short-term rewards (e.g., weekend rewards) for a great academic week. Children or teens who are more self-motivated will not need a reward system to do well.

Remain positive...even when you are disappointed or upset. Your child should know that you are always there for them. Reacting negatively to a low grade or a poor academic performance will likely only make things worse for all involved. Instead, identify problems early and work with your child or teen toward a solution. Disorganization, the homework routine, forgetfulness, focus, the morning routine, bedtime, gaming (and other distractions) and follow through are common problems that can contribute to academic struggles. Be proactive and positive to remedy problems as soon as you become aware of them.

Create balance. Research studies

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Six Special Exception Applications Push For More Houses

— By Andrea Gaines

With the housing market down over the last several years, proposals that include new residential units — including single-family homes, townhouses, apartments and age-restricted communities — have also been down. Based on six new special exception applications before the Board of supervisors, that may be changing.

Loudoun's comprehensive plan zones specific land parcels as eligible for residential, industrial, office park, retail, etc., or a combination thereof by right. The county then bases its long term needs for roads and the delivery of county services such as fire and rescue, new schools and utilities on that zoning designation.

In the case of a special exception application, the owner or developer seeks a zoning change so that different uses will be allowed.

In the case of six recently submitted special exception applications, owners/developers are asking the Board of Supervisors to approve over 2,800 new residential units.

Akridge has submitted a special exception request to rezone land designated for office and industrial parks to allow for 915 residential units, 75,000 sq. ft. of retail space, 800,000 sq. ft. of office/civic buildings and a 150,000 sq. ft. hotel.

Brambleton has applied to change a previously approved plan for an age-restricted community to a development of 522 unrestricted residential units.

Corbellis Development's application seeks to rezone land in the comprehensive plan's transition zone to allow for 802 residential units. (The comprehensive plan's transition zone is intended to provide a buffer between the rural/agricultural west of the county and the more densely developed east.)

Keller has applied to redevelop Leesburg's Goose Creek Golf Course, on the south side of Route 7 east of the Villages of Leesburg (Wegman's shopping center). The land is currently zoned for low-density residential development; Keller is requesting approval for a 132-room hotel, a 36,000 sq. ft. office building, a 6,000 sq. ft. restaurant and 158 residential units.

Toll Brothers has submitted a special exception application to rezone a 26-acre parcel from office park to residential, with 450 units.

Pulte seeks to rezone 103 acres designated as a low-density transition zone to age-restricted residential.

One of the issues often discussed in the special exception process is the cost to the

Continued on page 17

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Virginia Retirement System Stiffs BOS Board Aides

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

County staff has long relied on support from the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) in upholding Board of Supervisor aides' "non-employment" status. In a 2009 email to an aide inquiring about the process, VRS Legal Affairs and Compliance Coordinator Brian J. Goodman wrote, "Based on a review of your email and the Staff Aide Policies ... it appears that these staff aide positions do not function as employees of Loudoun County. In fact, it appears from the underlined portions of the FLSA [Fair Labor Standards Act] ... that the staff aides would not qualify for their exclusion from FLSA coverage if they were indeed employees of Loudoun County."

VRS manages retirement, life insurance, and disability plans for the state's civil servants, a select group of state-level political appointees, public school teachers, and many local government employees. Virginia law requires local governments participating in the plan, as Loudoun County does, to enroll all eligible employees and defines eligible employees as "officers and employees of the political subdivision who are regularly employed full time on a salaried basis and whose tenure is not restricted as to temporary or provisional

appointment." In addition, "officers and employees of an organization other than a public school board that functions solely within the boundaries of a county, city, or town shall be deemed to be officers and employees of the county, city, or town, and not of the organization." Either dimension would seem to encompass the Loudoun County Board of Supervisor's (BOS) aides.

Yet, Goodman reiterated his position in 2011, explaining, "I do not conclude from reading the 2008 policy that staff aides were actual employees of Loudoun County ... Your description of the method of payment for staff aides is consistent with Loudoun County agreeing to be the fiscal agent for each member of the board of supervisors for purposes of compensating the staff aides."

Goodman's conclusion had serious financial implications for the county and the aides. First, it absolved the county from any past failure to enroll the aides in VRS. Second, it denied the aides, once employed and enrolled in August 2011, the ability to purchase prior service credit.

The purchase of prior service allows VRS members to apply time employed in other public sector positions towards the five years necessary to become vested in VRS. Such purchase may also allow enrollees to increase their future benefit and to qualify for an earlier retirement. Examples of eligible prior service include military service, employment by another state government, or by a county in Virginia that

does not participate in VRS.

Goodman's conclusions were also problematic. First, VRS had already allowed a former Loudoun Board Aide to purchase prior service, crediting his several years' employment as an aide. Confronted with this inconsistency, Goodman responded in an internal email that the aides' status wasn't an issue then.

Second, the county and Goodman, while relying on a fiscal agent model in describing the method of paying the aides, had omitted some key requirements.

A fiscal agent is a third party, who undertakes employee payroll and tax withholding processing for an employer. While such outsourcing is common, the Internal Revenue Service requires that the employer obtain an employer identification number under which the fiscal agent files the necessary forms. According to a public records request, neither past nor present board members obtained EINs.

Further, the IRS requires that an employer submit an authorization form and receive approval for use of a fiscal agent. Again, according to a public records request, it appears neither past nor present board members have submitted these forms.

Finally, a fiscal agent is a processor – the employer actually pays the wages and taxes owed. However, as Leesburg lawyer John Flannery notes, the source of the aides' wages are neither campaign contributions

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A Double Standard?

Staff explained away any inconsistencies between the structure of the chairman's aide and the district aide positions in January 2003: "The Aide to the Chairman position was created before the other staff aide jobs and has always been treated differently from them. The job was and is full-time. It was created in the County personnel system as a long-term temporary position so that it would receive most County fringe benefits, as well as the salary increases that are authorized for other County staff. The Aide to the Chairman functions as the primary advisor and assistant to the Chairman regarding Board and constituent issues. Staff believes the position is classified and paid accordingly. If and when the Supervisors' staff aide positions become full-time, staff will likely recommend that they also be treated as long-term temporary positions."

When the staff aide positions became full-time, staff offered no such recommendation. They remained mute as members of the 2004 board, in a political attack on Chairman Scott York, instead applied the district aide policies to his aide. Ironically, York did not protest the demotion of his aide, Bob Lazaro now the Purcellville mayor. Instead, the loudest opposition came from then-supervisor, Jim Burton (I-Blue Ridge)

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Letters To The Editor

Thanks To The Loudoun Babe Ruth Baseball Team

Dear Editor:

As many already know, there was an unfortunate and accidental collision at home plate during the World Series Game between Loudoun and Twin Cities, WA. The accident seriously injured Loudoun player Hank Biggs. The Twin Cities players (whom several Loudoun families were playing host to for the series) and their families were deeply concerned about Hank, especially their catcher, Kolby Steen. Out of care and concern, the Twin Cities players signed one of their ball caps for Hank along with a card. Loudoun followed later with a team-signed ball for Kolby. Kolby's mother requested this note be forwarded onto the Loudoun Team. "The ball they signed really meant a lot to him (Kolby) and was such a special thing to do for him. We continue to think about Hank and pray for a complete speedy recovery. Thank you from the Steen family." More than playing baseball, these boys were learning life lessons and forming bonds that stretch from Coast to Coast!

Mark Donofrio
Hamilton, VA

We Need A Leader

Dear Editor:

For over 20 years Joe May represented the people of the 33 district with commitment and dedication.

Joe and I may not have agreed on everything, but I know we both wanted to do what's best for our community. Most importantly, I always knew where he stood on the issues.

For these same reasons I am supporting Dave LaRock to represent us in Richmond. Like Joe May, I always know where Dave stands. He's not afraid to take the tough stances needed to create jobs, grow our economy, and improve our children's education.

In stark contrast, I have no idea what Dave's opponent Mary Daniel stands for. Some people may be impressed by her uncanny ability to make statements that are devoid of any substance, but not I. We don't need to elect another slick politician afraid to take a stand. We need a leader. We need Dave LaRock.

Carolyn Leeds
Berryville



Recent accident on Purcellville Road

Another Year, No More Excuses

Dear Supervisor Clark:

I would like to direct your attention once again to three pressing issues which remain unresolved for the citizens of Purcellville North whom you represent. These issues are the negative impact of poorly routed traffic, unbridled noise and unabated lighting upon public safety and the general well being of our community.

The majority of these issues revolve around the Woodgrove High School complex. In general, there is a lack of enforcement of existing traffic regulations including speed which poses a danger to the public.

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We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor!

Submissions may be sent to Editor@BRLeader.com, or via mail to PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325.

Please include your name, address and telephone number.

We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary. Deadline for print edition is the third week of each month, or, online any time.

Mateer Victim Of Poor County Practices

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

The offer of a board aide position with Loudoun County Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio (R-Sterling) couldn't have come at a better moment for Donna Mateer. An unemployed single mother, Mateer needed a job. She didn't pay much attention to language in the written offer stating that the job was an at-will position; most jobs in Virginia are at-will. Mateer didn't expect to have any trouble with her new boss. If issues arose, the county's Human Resources Office would help. Seven months later, worried that her assignments were illegal and frustrated with Delgaudio's hostile management style, Mateer tested that assumption.

In an interview, Mateer recalled that the HR staff person with whom she spoke was very nice, but offered no assistance. "She told me, 'You're hired on their whim and fired on their whim.' I remember going back upstairs thinking that can't be right." Immediately afterwards, Delgaudio fired Mateer.

Mateer then sought out Jeannette Green, who heads the county's HR office. "She was very nice, she took the information I gave her and said she would forward it to [County Attorney] Jack Roberts and [Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chairman] Scott York." What Green did not tell Mateer was that her termination might be illegal. Why not?

The answer lies in the history of the board aides program. Since 2001, Loudoun County Supervisors, under the advisement of county staff, have maintained an alternative non-employment system for the aides who provide constituent services, strategic advice and administrative support. They have avoided paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in mandatory benefits, enabled hostile work environments and created the potential for continued misuse of taxpayer funds.

A Legal Circumvention

Staff made no secret that their intent was to avoid lawsuits. As the board discussed the position's establishment in 2001, staff continually returned to one question: How to legally ensure aides left quietly at the end of a board member's term. Regular employees, they said, were protected by the county's grievance policies, making termination without cause problematic, while "courts are increasingly viewing extended temporary employment as a way

for employers to avoid paying for benefits."

Staff's solution relied on language in the Fair Labor Standards Act, a depression-era law that instituted the minimum wage, established overtime compensation rules, and regulated child labor. Subject to certain guidelines, staff explained, "The FLSA excludes personal staff of elected public officials from the Act's coverage ... Exercise of this exemption ... ends the question of whether the employment status of these positions should be temporary or regular. They are neither. The positions are political appointments."

As such, "[It] enables the Board member to employ an aide for the length of his/her term. Since the aide works purely at the discretion of the Board member, it also allows for termination of the appointment at the discretion of the Board member." So long as they adhered to the FLSA guidelines, the county had a solid legal defense.

The Board followed staff's recommendations, but the legal contortions were unnecessary. State law already exempted "appointees of elected groups or individuals" from the grievance policies covering other local government employees. Further, the legal underpinnings of staff's recommendation may be suspect. In a 2011 email to a board aide Phyllis Katz, the state's former director of employee relations and now an attorney with Sands Anderson PC, wrote, "Being exempt from the FLSA does not mean that the appointee is not an employee of the county – it only means that the county is free to pay that person as little per hour as it wants for the work performed. Such an employee is exempt under the grievance procedure by operation of state law ... Political appointees are employees." J. H. Verkerke, a professor of employment law at the University of Virginia agrees, "The [FLSA] exemption doesn't have any status outside the Act."

Sticking To Their Story

Three separate boards reviewed the positions. Staff never presented the relevant state code, although public documents demonstrate they were aware of it. Instead, they warned, as then-Deputy Director of Management and Financial Services Ben Mays did in 2008, "If you want your Staff Aides to be permanent employees of the county, they can be ... What that would mean is, boards turn over and you would inherit the aides from the previous Board."

Staff's position remained unchallenged until aides undertook their own research in 2010. The aides discovered the Virginia Code exclusion, that most localities recognized board aides as county employees, and that the first Loudoun aide position – an assistant to the chairman – was created as a county employee [see *Sidebar I*]. Five supervisors reacted by initiating an effort to recognize aides as county employees. Despite staff resistance and fierce opposition from several supervisors, including York, their initiative passed in 2011. The current board reverted to the original policy in June 2012.

Yet, according to an email from September 2011, Katz' observations were passed on to staff in County Administration, Human Resources, and the County Attorney's office. Comments during a private meeting best summarize their reaction: "I am not going to be the one who tells this Board of Supervisors we've been wrong all along." It does not appear anyone told the 2012 board either.

Whose Employee?

So, if the aides aren't county employees, whose employees are they? According to Verkerke, the "common law control test" summarizes a substantial body of case law defining the employment relationship: essentially, if you have the right to direct someone's work, then you are their employer.

According to county policy, the aides are subject solely and exclusively to their supervisors' direction. Yet the same policy subjects them to county rules regarding computers, benefits, and payroll processes. John Flannery, who practices employment law in Leesburg, questioned how the county could claim the aides were political appointees when the county pays them and regulates their activities.

Another commonly used test, according to several lawyers, is the Internal Revenue Service's twelve-factor test. Virginia's tax code specifically defers to this test for determining "whether the relationship of employer and employee exists." Board aides appear to fall under the employee category [see accompanying table] and several attorneys expressed surprise or consternation at the structure created by Loudoun County. Verkerke stated unequivocally, "Under the IRS Test, these

Continued on page 26

Committees At A Glance

Purcellville Town Council Work Session – Aug. 27

Topic: Town Committee Vacancies

The August Purcellville Town Council Work Session began with closed session interviews for appointments to vacancies on various town committees. In the past, when the Blue Ridge Leader started attending the open interview process, the Purcellville Town Council changed the interviews to a closed session process. On this day from 6:30 to 7:15 council members interviewed Steven Webber, Philip Rohrer and Melanie Fuller for the committee vacancies.

Topic: Services For O Street Project

The council voted to conduct preliminary engineering design and right of way survey services for the O Street project for an initial amount of \$67,855.39. The town has already spent approximately \$17,000 on a feasibility study for this area. This project, according to council, will provide for another entrance/exit for the 21 Street corridor. Staff said that this will allow for an alternate path to downtown when the town does work in the area. Councilman Tom Priscilla said that everyone supports the O Street push through [to Hatcher Street]. Currently, O Street is not a through street and dead ends at the parking lot of the Eagles Lodge behind Magnolias. If the street is taken all the way to Hatcher, committee members noted, two houses in the historic overlay district will have to be torn down. Council members at the meeting said that one of the houses is owned by the same person that has a contract on the other house. In fact, the .40 - acre property at 151 Hatcher Ave. is registered to Martinsburg Plaza LLC, operated by John Chapman and he has a contract on the other house at 161 Hatcher. Developers Chapman and Nelis own approximately 2 ½ acres from 21st Street to O Street and need infrastructure put in place to proceed with a condominium apartment/retail project (Vineyard Square). However, there is not the infrastructure to support the five story project they envision. This property is in the newly created tourism district specific to their property only. Chapman attended the meeting, but did not speak, waiting until the meeting concluded to speak in private to staff and councilmembers about the project.

Letters To The Editor continued from page 4

Additionally, the considerable number of school buses, large trucks and motor coaches using Purcellville Road as a short cut rather than using the intended Rt. 690 are causing costly damage to our narrow road and creating a hazardous situation.

Specifically, the high noise level created by both traffic and school events has become a constant day and night time occurrence throughout the school year and the summer months as well. The noise problem can be resolved by adding outdoor sound absorbing

materials, such as sound curtains, or sound barriers with noise absorbing materials to the complex; or with the use of natural barriers such as a berm built around the stadium similar to other schools.

Lighting is another major problem generated by the school complex. Recent photographs document the fact that the parking lots there are so bright you can cut your car lights off and easily drive around at 11 p.m., midnight or even 1 a.m. I believe that there is a lighting agreement which states

the lights must be off by a specific hour. This agreement needs to be enforced and the number of lights used for security purposes reduced. The stadium lights and the street lights at the entrance to the school complex need to have additional shielding. Many of the numerous ball fields are lit when they are not in use and many are lit when it is clear and sunny creating a costly, needless expense for taxpayers, for which there is an immediate solution. The blinding glare after dark can be seen for several hundred acres. The lights

shine undesirably across Alder School Road and into many private homes.

Supervisor Clark, as we go into the second year of your term, these school complex related issues for which we have provided documented proof and solid suggestions for remedies, remain unresolved. I ask that you do the job you were entrusted by the citizens to do and see to it that these issues are satisfactorily resolved.

William Baker
Purcellville

Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

13 Financial Planning Strategies for 2013 – Part Six of a Series

Congress passed the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA) on New Year's Day. A number of changes came out of the act that will affect your tax bill. In this month's column, I will be offering financial planning strategies for you to consider in 2013 that by taking appropriate action may help you avoid an unexpected tax bill next April.



SMITH

11. Review Your Estate Plan – All Investors

Estate planning means ensuring your assets will be used according to your wishes, both now and in the future. ATRA raised the maximum estate tax rate to 40 percent and made permanent the \$5,000,000 estate tax exemption amount (indexed for inflation going forward; \$5,250,000 in 2013.) Portability of this exemption between spouses was also made permanent.

Even if your taxable estate is not in excess of the \$5,250,000 (\$10,500,000 for couples), there are important steps everyone should take to ensure a smooth and effective transfer of their estate:

Review Your Documents Regularly:

An estate plan is based on the available information when it is developed, and once the plan is created, the work is not over. Your life is constantly changing. Take time in 2013 to review your estate plan and related documents and ensure they're up to date.

Essential Estate Planning Documents:

Living Will, Power of Attorney, Healthcare Power of Attorney, Revocable Living Trust, and Last Will and Testament are essential estate planning documents.

Review Your Beneficiary Designations:

Making sure your beneficiary designations are accurate and up to date

can help make asset transfer a smooth and easy process for your loved ones, while ensuring distribution is completed as intended. Remember to review beneficiary designations after major life events such as birth, death, marriage, divorce, job changes or inheritance, to avoid transfer of assets to unintended beneficiaries.

Consider wealth transfer strategies

Transferring or gifting assets to a trust while living for the benefit of an heir allows you to ensure distribution goes according to your desires and offers several advantages:

- * Future appreciation of these assets is removed from your estate;

- * Income may be shifted to beneficiaries in a lower income tax bracket; and

- * Transferred assets may be protected from potential creditors, lawsuits or divorce proceedings.

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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Claude Moore Park



– By Tim Jon

“Wow! Did you know that George Washington used to play here too, Daddy?”

“That’s right, son. But that was a long time ago – well over 200 years – way before we had baseball.”

Yup, that familiar face on the dollar bills – that white-haired guy we call the Father of our Country – well, he used to traverse a line between Alexandria and the Shenandoah Valley on a pretty regular basis, so we’re told; the name we attach to that little path has kind of a magic ring to it, too – right out of the pages of history: Vestal’s Gap Road. It ran out to a ‘low’ point, or pass, in the Blue Ridge – pretty much where Rt. 9 currently crosses ‘the Mountain.’

Early settlers, military troops and others with business out in the hinterlands used this onetime gateway to the west, which essentially gave way to the multi-lane highway we now call Rt. 7 in the eastern part of the county – as well as Charles Town Pike. So, I guess the ‘way of the Vestals’ still sort of exists, in the memory of some of the more historic-minded among us, as we roll on down the road from Sterling to West Virginia and beyond.

We, with our hundred-horses-under-the-hood and MP3 players keeping us company. Hurry, hurry, hurry, hurry.

But hold on there, Bubba-Louie - there’s a little chunk of that old, original cart-path that still remains – that somehow evaded the road builders and housing developers, and it lies in one of our more popular outdoor recreational facilities in Eastern Loudoun – Claude Moore Park. And, that small portion of Vestal’s Gap Road also happens to run right through some of the oldest remaining structures in that part of the County – appropriately named Lanesmoore – part of the settlement of Lanesville – which dates back to the late 1700’s.

Kind of hard to believe sometimes, as we speed through our days, months, years – and lives – that enough foresight and diligence actually formulated and persevered to preserve the old homestead of the family who’s last remaining daughter sold the property to the iconic Claude Moore back

in the early 1940’s. And after Doc Moore passed it (and the vast surrounding acreage) on to the National Wildlife Federation, that organization actually sold it to developers – and, from what I hear, it took quite a bit of intestinal fortitude and red-tape-cutting - from lots of folks - to swing the tides of time in favor of what’s now one of Loudoun County’s most treasured recreational areas.

So – yes, we can play here too – maybe in not quite the same way as President Washington – but he may, somehow, approve of the present-day activities at Claude Moore; his sense of martial training might actually appreciate all the organized sports – like baseball, softball and soccer – as well as some of the more ‘passive’ activities – such as hiking, bird-watching, or touring the Heritage Farm Museum. And, from what I understand, this is all pretty much what Doctor Moore wanted to have happen with the place: you can exercise inside the Claude Moore Recreation Center (or outside on the many fields, for that matter), or just admire the Creator’s handiwork all around you.

So, what do I do when I come here? Well, my last visit was just to take a quick drive through the more accessible areas and snap a few photos: the Farm Museum, the Rec Center, Vestal’s Gap Road, a few of the ball fields and some of the more eye-catching landscapes. And I recalled the previous visits: groundbreaking and progress inspections on the aforementioned facilities, and still hearing the voice of former Agricultural Extension Agent Bill Harrison talk about his dream of creating a place where visitors and residents could gather and learn more about the history of farming in this once-thriving farming community. And I thought, and felt, and still believe, that it’s a good thing to have the dreams of some far-sighted individuals – like the Father of our Country, and Doctor Claude Moore, and Bill Harrison – take root and grow in the very fertile soil in which they germinated.

It made me remember that I’ve had some pretty good ones, too – and some have grown up quite well. How about you – and yours?



JON

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My Hope Renewed

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

A common refrain I hear from others is, "America's best days are behind us." Pessimism is rampant, and dissatisfaction with the government and politicians is at an all-time high. Is our future really so dull? The refrain above may sound compelling, but history tells us otherwise.

I recently visited Fort McHenry, the site commemorating the writing of the Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key. Seeing this site reminded me that America has faced far greater uncertainty than in our day and age. How much more uncertain was the War of 1812, when the British marched on Washington and burned the White House?

If you fast-forward 48 years, you will find that circumstances did not improve much during President Lincoln's time. The North and the South were turned against each other, and there was no guarantee that the country would be reunited. What if the South had won the war? Would the United States have been able to rise to greatness in the 20th century?

I wonder what Americans were predicting during the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Were most people optimistic, or were there many voices predicting the doom of America? It seems logical that there were people in 1812 and the 1860's who, after looking at what they were up against, were predicting the death of this nation even before it had had much time to be born.

Now this is not to say that we have no problems today. I believe that we do have pressing issues facing our nation that in some ways are unique to our time, and in other ways are similar to those of the past. This is true of every time period, and in



MOORE-SOBEL

the past 237 years there were plenty of moments when our country could have completely unraveled. The United States of America is no stranger to problems. If we look at the past,

what makes us resilient is our ability to confront them.

It is challenging to draw out all of the intricacies of history in a short column, but I hope this encourages you to go back and take a look at the history of our nation. There are many predicting that America is doomed. Yet since the birth of our nation we have proven over and over again our ability to beat the odds. What are the odds that a small inexperienced American military could beat Great Britain's strongest military in the world, not once, but twice? What are the odds that a man who was born in a log cabin and was without much formal education would come to lead Americans through some of the toughest moments in our nation's history?

We are a nation that was built on the idea that we could beat the odds. Because of this, I have hope. I have hope that we too can solve the problems facing our nation. I am confident that we will remain a great and powerful nation that provides freedom to all of its citizens for many generations to come. I believe that America's best days still lie far ahead into the future. I hope you will join me in this belief, and help our nation overcome the odds once again.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a rising sophomore at George Mason University.

Salamander Resort continued from page 1

The resort features equestrian, spa, culinary, winery, nature and historic experiences for its visitors.

Designed to blend into the surrounding rolling countryside and respect the traditions of Johnson's own nearby Virginia farm, which served as the architectural inspiration, Salamander Resort & Spa features 168 rooms and suites. With a full-service equestrian center and an array of programming that includes riding instruction and clinics from the area's world-class riders, Salamander Resort & Spa embraces the region's geographic culture, including jumping and polo. Just a short trot from the property's 22-stall stable, ThorTurf riding ring and nine paddocks are miles of trails on which riders can spend a day. Guests also have the opportunity to board their own horses.

The Salamander Spa features 14 treatment rooms with private stone treatment terraces and fireplaces, while the locker rooms include whirlpools, aromatic steam rooms,

stone Tepidarium chairs and experiential showers. Capping the spa's offerings is an outdoor courtyard, featuring an infinity pool, private cabanas, whirlpool, fire pit and dining café.

Salamander Resort & Spa's culinary program is overseen by a collection of chefs: Culinary Director Todd Gray, Executive Chef Sean McKee, Chef de Cuisine Chris Edwards and Pastry Chef Jason Reaves. At Harrimans Grill the cuisine celebrates Virginia's Piedmont region, including a selection of steaks, chops, fruits and vegetables. The Gold Cup Wine Bar, designed like a winery tasting room with brick floor and wood-beamed ceiling, features wines from around the world and a menu that offers small plates. The resort also features a state-of-the-art cooking studio with a retractable wall affording a view into the resort's working kitchen.

For more information visit www.SalamanderResort.com or call 866-938-7370.

Cancer Survivor Completes Inaugural Cross Country Bicycle Ride.

Endurance cyclist, cancer survivor and Purcellville resident, Fred Vlcek completed a 5-week cross country bicycle trip. Along the trip he has been raising funds to help others struggling in their battle with cancer. He will ceremoniously dip his bicycle tire into the water of the Chesapeake Bay at the City Dock in Annapolis, MD to mark the end pilgrimage across the United States from the Pacific Ocean.

Beginning on July 26th in Oceanside, California, Vlcek's route has taken him across 12 states reaching elevations over 11,000 feet. Throughout the last 38 days he has travelled over 3,200 miles alone on his

bicycle. Although this has been a solo ride, he has relied heavily on the support of the local Knights of Columbus councils along the journey.

The goal of this pilgrimage is to raise funds for Fred's Difference, an organization Vlcek founded, to help increase cancer awareness and support for those who cannot afford costly cancer treatments. Fred's Difference has been raising funds to support the journey through individual and corporate sponsorships.

Donors and supporters can follow Fred's progress and make contributions at www.fredsdifference.com

Boss Board Aides continued from page 4

nor a supervisor's private income, but county tax revenues. "I think they're county employees," he said. "The county pays them to provide services to county residents. If they are board members' employees, why are taxpayers paying?"

Ultimately, neither the source of revenue nor the federal regulations matter in Virginia, according to Joel Davison of the Virginia Tax Commissioner's Office. Virginia bars the use of fiscal agents for the filing of employee state tax withholding. Thus, Loudoun County's filing of the aides' state withholding violated Virginia tax regulations.

So, should VRS have required that the

county enroll the board aides in the Virginia Retirement Plan? University of Virginia Professor J. H. Verkerke commented, "Ordinarily, you would need a specific statutory exemption to rule someone out of coverage." Phyllis Katz, the state's former director of employee relations, seemed to share this conclusion, writing in a 2011 email, "I do not know of a VRS exclusion for [political appointees]. Goodman could not be reached prior to deadline for a response.

Mary M. Bathory Vidaver served as Staff Aide to Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton from 2003-2011.

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5th Annual Dog Swim At A.V. Symington Aquatic Center - Leesburg

Proceeds to benefit the Leesburg Dog Park at Olde Izaak Walton Park

Leesburg Dogs, Inc. will present the 5th annual Dog Swim, Saturday Sept. 7, at the A.V. Symington Aquatic Center in Leesburg's Ida Lee Park. The swim starts at 10a.m. and will last until 2p.m. Admission is \$5 cash per dog, with a limit of two dogs per handler.

Children under 8 years of age will not be allowed on the pool deck during the Dog Swim, for their own safety, due to the exuberance and rambunctious play of the dogs. Children will be restricted to the enclosed area by the snack bar and must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult.

Since 2009, members of Leesburg Dogs, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports the Leesburg Dog Park, have partnered with the Leesburg Parks and Recreation Department to host an annual dog swim, after the pool closes for the season and before the pool is winterized. Each year, about 400 dogs attend the dog swim.

Proceeds from the dog swim will be used to benefit the Leesburg Dog Park at Olde Izaak Walton Park. Proceeds from previous Dog Swims were used to install benches outside the dog park fence and a water line and spigot inside the dog park fence. For more information call Mary Harper at 703-777-7334.



Photo: Jennifer Eaton Photography

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Race For 87th House Of Delegates

Interview With Democratic Candidate John Bell

- By Tim Jon

The election for the 87th House of Delegates District is November 5th. Democratic challenger John Bell served as Finance Officer for the US Air Force – retiring as Major after more than two- ½ decades of service. He currently works as a budget consultant in the private sector. John and his wife Margaret, who is also retired from the US Air Force, live in South Riding.



John and his wife Margaret have five children, one of whom is shown here.

Tim Jon: How has your life experience qualified you for service in the House of Delegates?

John Bell: I served in the Air Force for twenty-six years, retiring in 2007 with the rank of Major. As an Air Force Budget Officer, I received commendations and awards for cutting waste and making things run more efficiently, including eliminating a two hundred million dollar budget deficit. As Delegate, I will use my expertise to streamline government, cut waste, and save taxpayer dollars so we can focus on what matters to Northern Virginia – strong schools that ensure our kids are prepared for the jobs of the future, a sustainable long-term transportation plan that gets Northern Virginia its fair share, and a strong economy that encourages job creation and growth.

TJ: What do you see as the top issues for the 87th District, and on which side do you stand on each?

JB: The most important issues facing the 87th are developing long-term transportation solutions and maintaining our high quality education so we can keep our economy growing. We need to continue to develop and implement transportation plans that focus on completing the most impactful projects first. We need to be thoughtful and aggressive about making the best use of transportation dollars and fully fund both expansion of infrastructure and maintenance of current infrastructure. Implementing cost saving programs, such as Practical Design, and looking for efficiencies, and using LEDs rather than standard lights, is key. I'll also be sure to hold VDOT and other agencies accountable for finishing projects on time and on budget to get critical projects completed to ease the worst traffic. I, unlike my opponent David Ramadan, supported the historic bipartisan transportation bill that passed the legislature last session. While not perfect, it made positive steps in helping address our transportation issues in Northern Virginia and provided funding for much needed projects.

Making sure we manage our state budget well to protect education funding is a top priority. All too often the legislature raids education funds to pay for other projects at the expense of our teachers and students – we can't let that happen any longer. As the father of five children and a high school coach, I know education is the key to future economic success and the success of our

entire region. I'll work to make sure teachers are qualified and push for improved teacher training, especially in science and math, so our children are prepared to succeed in the 21st century economy.

TJ: Voters want their Delegate to champion local causes at the state level. How do you accomplish that with 99 other elected leaders – mostly from other areas of Virginia – or do you?

JB: In the Air Force I traveled the world working with people from all backgrounds to accomplish our missions. By putting what is best for the Commonwealth ahead of my own personal or political ambitions I know we can find common ground on the issues most important to us. The bipartisan transportation bill passed last legislature serves as a great example. Like all compromise legislation, it wasn't perfect but showed that we can come together to start addressing important issues. Those few that voted against it, like my opponent David Ramadan, did so because of strict partisan ideology and that kind of governing has to end.

TJ: Can you give us some examples of times you've had to stand strong for a cause – even though you may have been outnumbered, and other times when you've compromised for – what you saw as – the right reasons?

JB: My time in the military was inspired by my desire to stand up for the principles that we all share. I have always and will continue to stand up to protect and further the causes of freedom, justice and equality for all.

As a Budget Officer in the Air Force my work regularly involved working with stakeholders with differing priorities to reach compromise. The harsh reality of today's fiscal environment is that budget shortfalls are the norm versus the exception and today's leaders must be skilled at and willing to work together at creating efficiencies and reaching compromise for the benefit of the Commonwealth.

TJ: Campaign contributions seem to grow in importance with each election. How carefully do you weigh the source of each dollar – and have you ever returned a check, on political principles?

JB: I have never had to return a check to a contributor. We are proud to have received hundreds of donations from supporters across the Commonwealth. Most of our

Continued on page 27

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Stray Thoughts – For September

– By Donna Williamson



September is one of the most beautiful months of the year in Northern Virginia. Humidity is reduced and skies are bright blue and often cloudless. As the temperatures get more comfortable, we can take long, easy walks with the dog and relax a bit.

Cloudless September skies remind me of Sept. 11 and that reminds me that people seem to want to return to nature when terrible things happen. Thousands of daffodils were planted in lower Manhattan in late fall that year, knowing spring would come and healing could begin.

Start thinking about spring bulbs – it’s a great time to add a nice patch of daffodils and some muscari and chionodoxa. You might seek out the catalog of John Scheepers/Van Englen (same company). The Scheepers catalog has the photos; the Van Engelen catalog has wholesale prices in lots of 50, 100, 500 (and no photos) but the prices are very

reasonable – even for hundreds.

Planting is easy – not 100 holes, but several large, shallow depressions. If that is too much work, I’m told you can even lay out the bulbs above ground and cover them well with leaf compost – shocking, I know. It is certainly easier for the squirrels if you plant something delicious like crocus. You will have to tell me how that works out next spring. (www.vanengelen.com)

Order them now so you can get those you love, but not to worry - bulbs won’t be shipped until mid-October.

Because spring will come...

Donna Williamson is a garden designer and coach. She has taught gardening and design classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands, and Shenandoah University; she continues to hold classes in Waterford each winter. She is working on a revision of her book The Virginia Gardener’s Companion. Contact her at 540-877-2002.



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The Lovettsville Co-op Story

— By Jeanne Carlson

The Lovettsville Cooperative Market began in a local barn on a hot August night in 2010, when 30 people gathered to discuss how to bring fresh and local foods to Lovettsville. Most who attended had despaired of the town's prospects for attracting a chain grocery store to the future Lovettsville Town Center development. They concluded that to have a grocery store in Lovettsville, they needed to start one themselves, using the cooperative business model. About 25 people committed that night to chip in \$100 each to get things started, and by January 2011 the Lovettsville Cooperative Market was incorporated.

Community surveys conducted by the co-op organizers revealed strong demand for a grocery store in Lovettsville, with about 75 percent of respondents driving a 20-mile round trip at least weekly to buy food. There was particularly strong interest in healthy, organic and local food. While recognizing that the co-op could never carry the full range of brand, size and flavor choices of a big supermarket, residents indicated their preference for quality and convenience.

Like cooperatives all over the world, the Lovettsville Co-op needed to create a broad base of member-owners who would contribute much of the start-up capital by buying \$200 memberships. For a store sized appropriately for Lovettsville, the



co-op needed to aim for 500-600 members by opening day. As of August 2013, membership stands at just over 250 – almost halfway to the opening day goal.

In 2011, the board received a \$10,000 Food Co-op Initiative grant, which has paid for market and financial viability studies conducted by national consultants from the Cooperative Development Service Consulting co-op. Both studies projected potential viability, despite Lovettsville's particular challenges due to its small population and the absence of a commercial downtown.

The biggest question the co-op organizers were unable to answer in the early days was,

“Where will the market be?” Discussions with the Town Center developers revealed future rental prices that were clearly out of range for the Co-op, and exploration of several existing commercial properties in town also failed to produce anything viable.

What was needed, the market consultants said, was a location on Berlin Turnpike close to the future shopping center, where the store could capture commuters as well as local residents. Since no existing commercial spaces fit that description, the solution eventually turned out to be an in-town residential property on Berlin Pike that had been identified in the Town's Comprehensive

Plan as suitable for commercial use. Two co-op members purchased the property for future resale or lease and had the property rezoned, with subdivision into two lots now pending to permit both the Co-op market and a separate coffee shop to operate there.

The very challenging food co-op development process takes most communities upwards of five years to complete. The Lovettsville group takes inspiration from the success of others -- including the recently opened Friendly City Food co-op in Harrisonburg Virginia and the well-established Common Market in Frederick Maryland. And already, the co-op has become a prominent town institution through its weekly summer farm market, annual barn dance, canning workshops, Adopt-a-Highway sponsorship on Berlin Pike, and regular donations of \$50 to local food banks for every 50 new “Likes” the co-op receives on Facebook.

The Lovettsville co-op's timeline for opening depends on continued robust membership growth and community support. Joining is easy at www.lovettsville-grocery.com, with payment plans as low as \$25 every other month. It's an investment that will reward its investors for many years to come.

Jeanne Carlson is board chair of the Lovettsville Cooperative Market.

The Horseshoe Curve Benevolent Association, Local People Supporting Their Community

The members of the Horseshoe Curve Benevolent Association are a unique group of people living in the Blue Ridge Mountain area. The members come from different backgrounds, education levels, philosophies and talents, but they blend together for the good of their community.

“I like the group because it is an outlet to give and return the blessings I have been given to those who need it,” member Cletus Black Jr. said. The HSCBA formed in February of 1997 as an outgrowth from yearly fundraisers for Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue and Christmas aid to families and seniors. It all started with the patrons and friends of the Horseshoe Curve Restaurant in Pine Grove, Va.

To date, members have provided thousands of hours of service to many different community organizations including serving of meals at various fundraisers and award banquets (fire department, school and police).

“The fundraiser for Blue Ridge is my baby. It is the biggest one that needs the most manpower,” Tracee Wink said. Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue member Mike Sprenger called the group a “great organization that gives back to the community.”

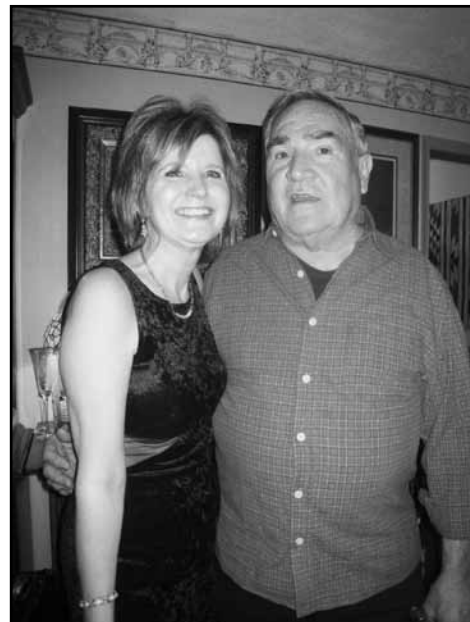
Thousands of dollars have been raised to aid local needs. Causes include families



Polar Plunge: Horse Shoe Curve Benevolent Association members at the 2013 Polar Plunge

in need, senior citizens, local volunteer fire and rescue companies, animal shelters, restoration of a local graveyard and programs for children. Last January they supported a camp for children at risk with a Polar Plunge in the Shenandoah River. There are plans to repeat this adventure again in January 2014. Their new goal is 12 children. They sent eight to camp this year.

One rule the organization has is that the members need to have fun. No one is paid, and no one is required to do anything. After surviving the Polar Plunge in January they went on to hold a Valentine's Dance, then they cooked and served Company 8's banquet and a fundraiser for the Clarke County Little



Christmas Parade: Founders of the Horse Shoe Curve Benevolent Association and owners of The Horse Shoe Curve, Tracee and Jim Wink.

League. June brought their largest event, the annual fundraiser for Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue which includes a BBQ, live and silent auction, raffles, fire truck rides, live music and more. The HSCBA has given more than \$165,000 to Company 8.

“I enjoy being in the association because

of the looks on people's faces when they receive our support. I love putting our dances together,” Jerry Smith said.

The year will continue with more fundraising for Company 8 to help purchase a new ambulance. Nov. 16 they host another dance and draw two raffles: A sapphire/diamond ring and the helicopter tour donated by Del. Joe T. May. October brings the annual Police Appreciation Awards Dinner. The year wraps up with a fundraiser for 40 senior citizens on Dec. 14. The Christmas raffle will be a doll with a wardrobe of handmade clothes. The HSCBA will deliver boxes of food and goodies our senior citizens and then serve a Christmas luncheon to them on Dec. 21.

The HSCBA is always looking for new members and donations. All donations will go to local causes. To join just drop by the Curve with \$10 and fill out an application. Monthly meetings are the last Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the Horseshoe Curve Restaurant. Donations can be sent to HSCBA, 1162 Pine Grove Road, Bluemont, Virginia, 20135.

“I like being in the group because I get to spend time with my friends doing something good,” member Cathy Loy said.

Dulles Plane Pull Benefits Special Olympics

Whether you're pulling the plane, cheering from the sidelines or racing down the runway in tennis shoes at this year's first-ever 5K, there's something for everyone at the Dulles Day Festival and Plane Pull Sept. 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Dulles International Airport.

This year runners, joggers and stroller-pushers alike will have the chance to run on the airport's center runway, which will be closed to aircraft during the run. Register online now. Registration is \$35 until Sept. 11 (unless all spots are full beforehand). All participants who register by Aug. 23 will be guaranteed a technical T-shirt. The top male and top female finisher will receive two round-trip tickets on United Airlines, good for any United destination in the continental United States.

In the Plane Pull, teams of 25 will compete to see who can pull the 164,000 pound plane 12 feet the fastest. Teams must raise a minimum of \$1,250 to participate. Prizes also will be awarded to the teams who raise the most money, teams who show the most enthusiasm, the lightest and the heaviest teams

The Kids Truck Pull provides a challenge for our youngest fans to test their strength. Teams of eight will compete to see who can pull the big, red 123JUNK truck 12 feet the fastest. To participate, you must raise or donate a minimum of \$10/person. All participants will receive a Plane Pull T-shirt; a prize also will be awarded to the



person who raises the most money.

Since the first-ever Plane Pull was held in 1993 at Dulles International Airport, Special Olympics Virginia has raised more than \$1.5 million for athletes with intellectual disabilities throughout the state, and also started a worldwide plane-pulling phenomenon. Today, similar Plane Pulls are held throughout the year in Colorado, Maryland, Hawaii, Tennessee and Texas.

For more information, to register your team, sign up to run the 5K, exhibit or volunteer or for sponsorship details, visit www.planepull.com or call 703-359-4301.

Wayside Farm Fun Opens Its Barn Doors Sept. 21

If you've driven on Rt. 7 this summer, chances are you have spotted the gigantic red angry bird aimed at the pigs and pumpkins in the towers. Visitors will soon get the chance to get up close and personal with the angry bird as Wayside Farm Fun opens its doors to the public Sept. 21. The central piece to the farm is a 10-acre angry-bird designed corn maze featuring an intricate network of twists and turns carved into the 12-foot tall corn field. It is a series of two interactive mazes with maps, check points and questions throughout the maze to create adventure for all ages.

Wegmeyer Farms, operated by Tyler and Harriet Wegmeyer in Hamilton, have expanded their farm operation to include Wayside Farm Fun. While Wegmeyer Farms is tucked in off the beaten path, Wayside Farm Fun is located right on Rt. 7 and offers 125-acres of farm fun, entertainment and production agriculture.

"We want to give people a chance to come out and enjoy the thrill of getting lost in the cornfield and having fun in the country," said Tyler Wegmeyer, co-owner of Wayside Farm Fun with his wife Harriet and brother Philip and Mark Shenk. "Our three young boys love to play Angry Birds. When deciding on the theme for the maze this year, they insisted on Angry Birds – we are so glad they did because we love it!"

The Angry Bird is theoretically being launched at Wayside Farm Fun and landing at Dan-D Farms (<http://www.dandfarms.com>) in Knoxville, Iowa. The two mazes are tied together to make the first-ever multi-state maze. Visitors that show up with an ID bracelet from one farm will receive free admittance to the second farm.



The farm features a 9-acre u-pick pumpkin field with more than 40 varieties of pumpkins to pick right from the vine. Visitors can also enjoy hayrides, pig races and many more farm-themed fun activities. In addition, the farm is big on agriculture education, with learning activities and games inside in the old red barn.

Wayside Farm Fun will be open Sept. 21 through Nov. 3. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Columbus Day. The farm is located on Harry Byrd Highway just 2 miles east of Berryville (just look for the angry bird and pigs).

Wegmeyer Farms opens to the public on Saturday, Sept. 28 and operates Fridays-Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tyler and Harriet Wegmeyer have been featured with Chef Emeril Lagasse on Emeril Green's Thanksgiving special with their pumpkins. The Wegmeyers' pumpkins have also set the backdrop at The White House for the national turkey pardoning. More information can be found on www.waysidefarmfun.com and www.wegmeyerfarms.org, or on Facebook or Twitter.

Carver Center September Activities

AARP Safe Driving Class, Thursday, Sept. 5th from 9a.m.-5p.m.

AARP is offering a driver safety program being held at the Carver Center. This class will cover a variety of topics to ensure you continue to arrive at your destination safely. Topics such as the effects of medication on driving, how to manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time, proper use of safety belts, air bags, anti-lock brakes, and new technologies used in cars will be covered during this full day class. In addition to making you a safer driver, completion of the class may reduce insurance costs.

Plant and Seed Exchange, Saturday, Sept. 14th 10a.m.-1p.m.

(All Ages) Bring your plants and/or seeds to the exchange and trade with those from the plots of other local gardeners. Diversify your plantings while making new friends with a shared interest. This event will be a great opportunity to show off your gardening abilities and share your techniques and tricks with your fellow gardeners.

Carver Volunteer Luncheon, Friday, Sept. 13th 12p.m.-1:45p.m.

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Join us in honoring our many dedicated and hard working volunteers who keep Carver up and running. Our volunteers generously give time out of their day to share their energy and passion with the Carver Center.

Ballroom Dance Social, Friday, Sept. 27th 7a.m.-10a.m.

\$10.00 (if pre-registered), or \$15.00

Rumba Lesson from 7p.m.-8p.m.

Learning to social dance gives you a skill that will serve you well for the rest of your life. We all know that dancing can improve your mood, and that it helps you to stay physically fit.



Linda Wilson and Pat Pearson, volunteer for Home Delivered Meals

Middleburg Group Submits Charter School Application

The Middleburg Charter School Committee has moved ahead with submitting an application to the Loudoun County School Board for charter status for Middleburg Elementary School. This is the first step to becoming a charter school beginning with the 2014 school year. Charter status means that the small school will be more autonomous in curriculum, length of school day and school year.

Middleburg Charter School would remain a public school and would receive county funding. The school would also be free to pursue private or corporate funding.

The proposed curriculum for the school is modeled on the Da Vinci Project. Barcroft Elementary in Arlington has been using the Da Vinci Project model for years. Barcroft's retired principal, Miriam Hughey-Guy, is consulting with the Middleburg Charter School Committee on curriculum development and school administration.

The application proposes that students who are registered at Middleburg Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year be given first preference if the school becomes Middleburg Charter School. This would guarantee admission to current students. Applications for the charter school would be countywide.

Middleburg Elementary is currently accepting special permission applications for the 2013-2014 school year until Sept. 15. Loudoun County Public School's special permission policy allows any student in the county to be considered for enrollment in another Loudoun school based on space available in the school. For more information, go to www.lcps.org.

Call the Middleburg Charter School Committee at 540-505-0456 with questions about the school.

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Remembering Dr. Dorothy Jane Pratt

Dr. Dorothy Jane Pratt, 70, died Monday, Aug. 12, in her home in Purcellville. She was surrounded by her husband of 43 years, John "Jed" Shilling, and her two daughters, Kaile and Kaitlin.



She was born the second of two daughters to the late Alice E. Palmer, M.D., and Lawrence Pratt, M.D., in Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. Pratt, known as Jane, spent more than 35 years in the field of global and domestic sustainable, equitable development and environmental stewardship.

Dr. Pratt moved to Washington, D.C., in 1973 where she began her career at MITRE, one of the few companies at the time hiring women for professional, rather than secretarial roles. At MITRE, she was involved in developing the process for environmental impact assessments, newly required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

In 1979, Dr. Pratt was hired by the World Bank, where she served in various executive positions, including chief of strategic planning and personal assistant to the senior vice president, operations chief, country operations for Rwanda, Burundi, and Zaire; chief, Environmental Operations

and Strategy Division, senior advisor to the vice president for environment and sustainable development; and leader of the World Bank Office of UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, Rio de Janeiro, June 1992). She contributed to bank projects promoting sustainable public health, water, energy, agriculture and transportation development in South and Southeast Asia and Africa.

In 1994 Dr. Pratt left the World Bank to become president and CEO of The Mountain Institute, which she led for eight years. The Mountain Institute is an international NGO devoted to conservation of mountain ecosystems and sustainable development for mountain people that respects their unique cultures with focus on the highest, longest, and oldest mountain ranges around the world (Himalayas, Andes and Appalachians). Under Dr. Pratt's leadership, TMI founded The Mountain Forum, a global network of individuals and organizations concerned with the well-being of mountain people, their environments and cultures.

Continued on page 18



Crossroads continued from page 1

according to an email dated March 20, 2013 from Robert W. Lohr Purcellville town manager for "student housing for PHC" [Patrick Henry College]. Additionally the plan calls for approximately 70 townhouses, a hotel, seven commercial buildings surrounding a double-sized bowling alley and an indoor/outdoor market with an outdoor seating area. The Properties annexed by the town have access to town utilities (water and sewer).

In the past, before applications like this were filed, applicants typically came to committee meetings to discuss their plans and get feedback from committee members in a public setting. As the Purcellville Town Council has changed the previously open process, these



Artist's rendering of proposed multi-family campus style apartments

discussions are now limited to the town staff level in private rather than public meetings.

Patrick Henry College has on their campus property 65.52 acres of newly annexed undeveloped land. At an informational community meeting a few years ago they said that they were thinking of putting a chapel to seat 2,000 and numerous other buildings to house the future growing campus. They also talked about family, student and teacher housing. The college and their attorney have been working with town staff on the possibility of changing the Purcellville Zoning Ordinance to make future buildings on their campus by-right, which would mean no public hearings.

Six Special Exceptions continued from page 3

taxpayer of the various kinds of rezonings proposed. This factor, along with the public need for various kinds of development – be it residential, industrial, commercial, retail, etc. – is an important consideration.

Residential development costs the county \$1.70 in infrastructure and services such as water and sewer, fire and rescue, etc., for every \$1 paid in taxes.

Changes to the original zoning plan – developed carefully over many years with

extensive public input – adds to the increasing tax burden when additional residential units are proposed.

Even to accommodate existing and pre-planned residential growth, the county and county taxpayers are required to build approximately three new schools yearly. Adding more houses through rezoning brings the need for even more new schools, more traffic, higher taxes and the need for more county services.



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Pratt continued from page 17

The forum shares information, research, and experiential learning on electronic platforms as well as professional meetings. She was on the organizing committee for the United Nations International Year of Mountains Bishkek, Kirghizstan conference in 2002. She was recognized as a distinguished contributor to the Mountain Ecosystems World Meeting, Mountains Towards 2020 in Juarez, Peru in 2002.

While leading the Mountain Institute, Dr. Pratt also actively served on the board of United Religions Initiative, a group based in San Francisco that promotes cooperation among different religious groups around the world, and on the board of the Millennium Institute, an NGO promoting an integrated approach to development planning that took account of the relations of economic, social, and environmental factors over time. She was a contributing author of the World Bank's 2002 World Development Report on Sustainable Development.

After leaving The Mountain Institute, Dr. Pratt founded EcoLogica, LLC, a consulting firm whose mission is to promote economic and ecologic sustainability. Clients include the World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, UNDP, UNEP, Aga Khan Foundation, Centennial Group, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Transparency International, the Water Integrity Network and Millennium Water Alliance. She was one of the lead authors of the chapter on mountain systems in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, launched by the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2001 and published in

2005. Dr. Pratt was later the president of the U.S. chapter of United in Diversity, an Indonesian based non-profit established with Indonesian leaders from business, government and civil society who are working together to improve their nation's democratic government and economic and social well-being. Their flagship program is the IDEAS Leadership program, with MIT, about which Dr. Pratt had recently finished writing a book.

She was a founding board member of Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a group striving to protect the Blue Ridge Mountains and Appalachian Trail in western Virginia. She served as president of the Virginia Cooperative Master Gardener Volunteer Association serving Loudoun County, and she had recently passed her black belt pre-test in aikido. She was a member of the Goose Creek Friends Meeting.

Dr. Pratt graduated from Grosse Pointe High in 1960. She received her bachelor of science from the University of Michigan, a Certificate in Southeast Asian Studies from Yale University and her Ph.D. in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is survived by her husband John "Jed" Shilling, daughter Kaile Shilling and son-in-law Vince Beiser of Los Angeles, daughter Kaitlin Shilling and sweetheart Lars Oleson of Jakarta, grandchildren Adara and Isaiah Beiser Shilling, sister Lawrence "Lawrie" Porter of Scottsdale, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to The Mountain Institute, Friends of the Blue Ridge or the Goose Creek Meeting.

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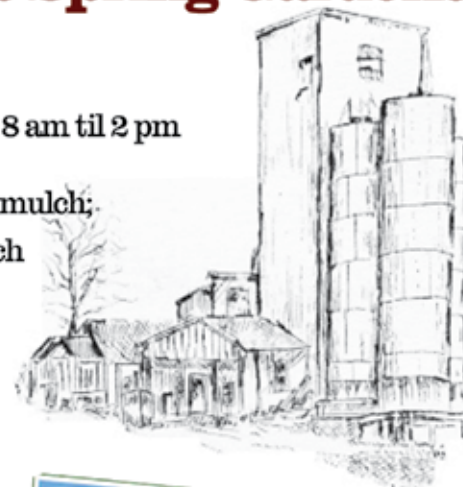
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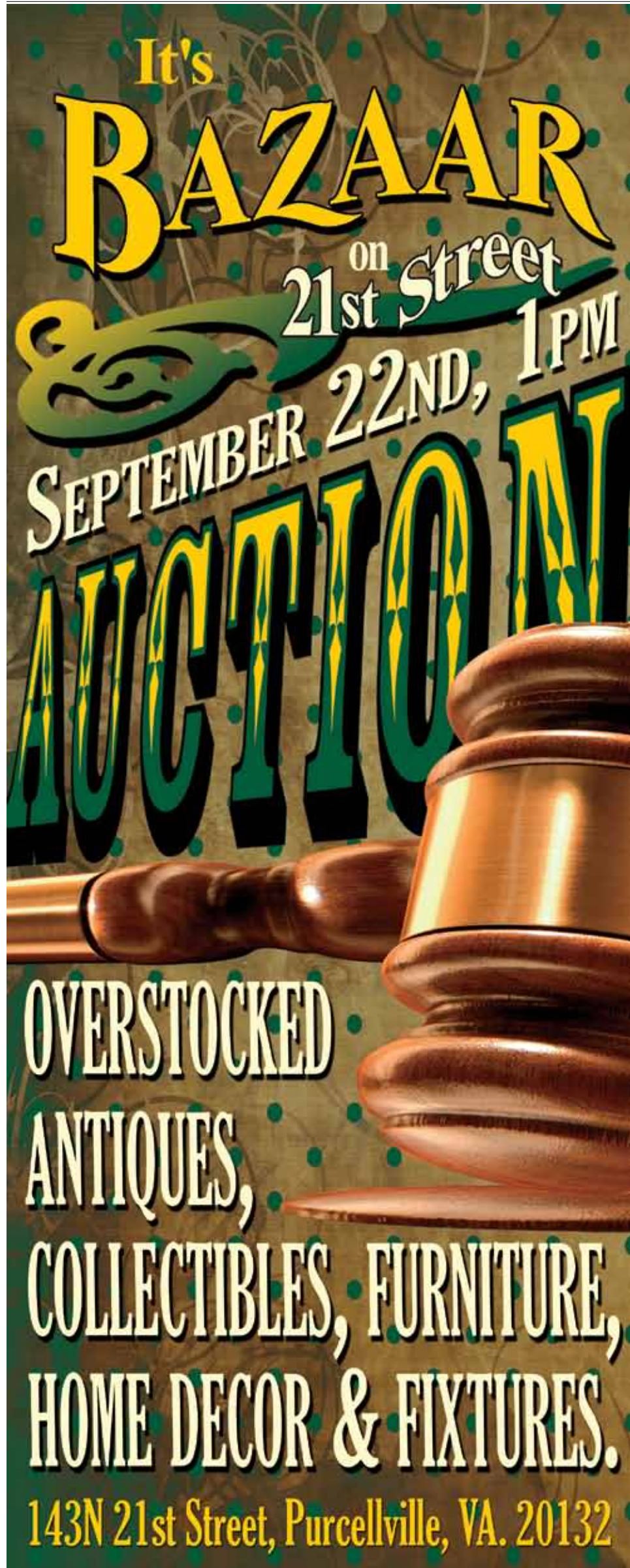
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Our Pertly Watchman



Loudoun Wins Babe Ruth World Series



The Greater Loudoun Lions won the Babe Ruth World Series, and became the first host team to win the 13-15 year old title. The Lions defeated Westchester, California 8-3 to win the championship in August.

In the fourth inning the Lions scored six runs to take the commanding lead. Previously, the best performance by a Loudoun host team was fourth place. Austin Rader was named the most outstanding player for the series.

The team included coaches Mike Lockhart and Glenn Graves, and the manager was Tim Owen. The players on the Lions were: Kaleb Bowman, Hunter Gore, Hank Biggs, Christian McDowell, Adam Lockhart, Sam White, Jack Howard, Zack Costello, Ryan Hanvey, Trey McDyre, Griffin Buscavage Austin Rader, Nick Lemanski, Clayton Baine and Kyle Bowles.

Photos courtesy of
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FOCUS ON: IT'S BAZAAR



Kelley Partlow, Store Manager and Lorallye Partlow, her helper for the day, outside It's Bazaar on 21st Street owned by Bill and Rebecca Yeatts. Its Bazaar has an eclectic array of Antiques, Vintage Collectibles, Furniture, Handmade Jewelry and Pottery and also includes the largest Music and Memorabilia selection in the area.

Photo by Sarah Huntington, 540 338-7809

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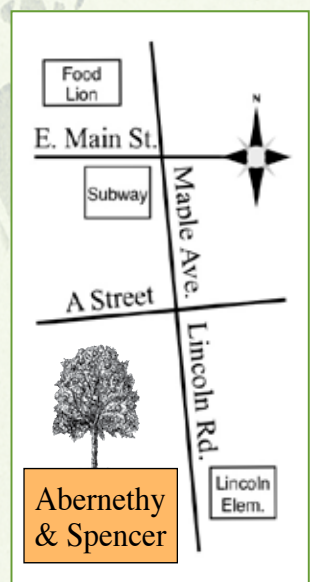
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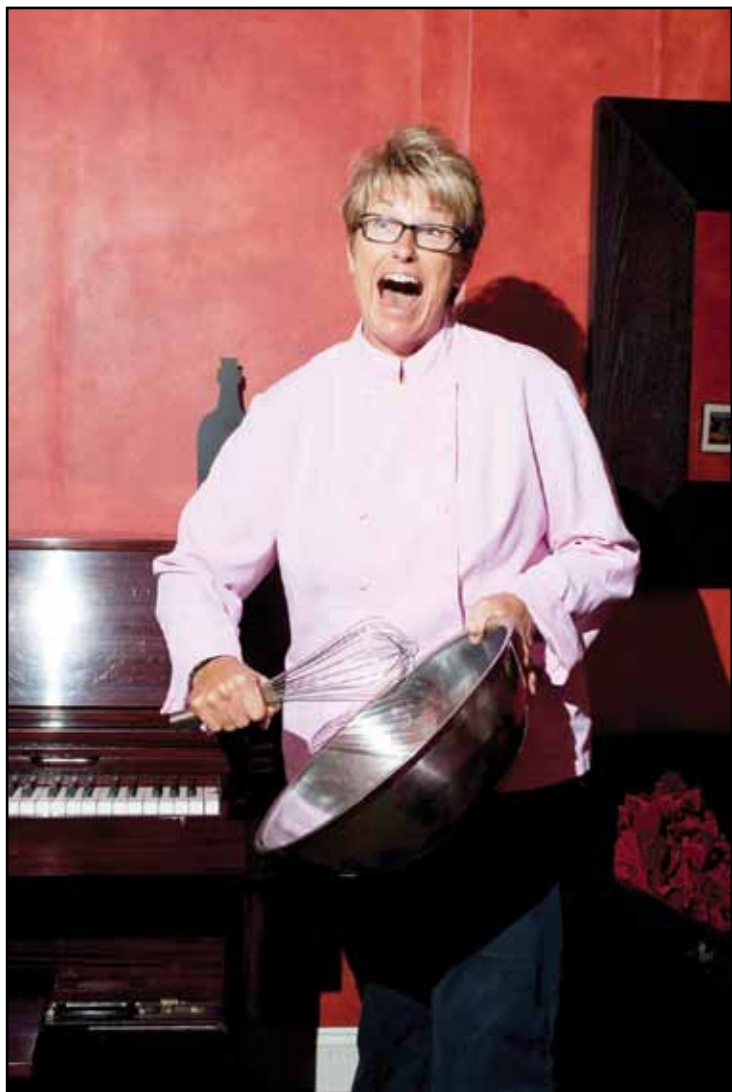


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FOCUS ON: SAVOIR FARE



You won't be disappointed with your dining experience at Savoir Faire. The menu changes weekly and is French influenced. Joan Wolford's love of eating started her passion for finely prepared food. Joan also has a Broadway past and if you are lucky, you might get to see her perform at the piano. Savoir Faire is in the Patterson Building in Round Hill and open Wed.-Sat. 5-9, Sunday brunch 11-3 starting Oct.20th.

Photo by Sarah Huntington, 540 338-7809

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Dr. Mike continued from page 2

have shown that students with multiple activities and well-rounded schedules do better academically than students that are less involved. While studying is important, so too is your child or teen's involvement in social, athletic and other intellectual pursuits.

Consequence when needed. When your child or teen is purposely not applying himself, consequences can be an effective way to turn things around. Whether it's the car keys, the gaming system, the computer or simply playing outside, your child or teen will not want to lose his or her privileges. Be mindful of your emotions and behaviors while sharing the consequence and remain positive. Following a consequence, calmly discuss the issue and your expectations, give your child or teen a chance to then improve upon his or her errors and reintroduce the privilege once the issue is resolved.

Utilize your resources. If your child or teen continues to struggle after you've tried everything, consider getting some outside help. As a psychologist, I provided consultation for a very smart child last year whose parents and teachers described as being "lazy" and "depressed." Historically, the boy had always received high academic marks, but more recently, he was failing a few of his courses. I recommended a neuropsychological evaluation, and after the boy was assessed, he was diagnosed with Orthographic Dyslexia, which was negatively impacting his ability to learn and adequately get his work done. Because he was a very smart child he was able to compensate throughout much of his schooling, but the material had become too hard for him as a preteen, and he was no longer able to push through his learning disability. That child did very well again academically once the school provided him with academic accommodations and supports. ADHD, learning problems, behavior and/or emotional struggles, are things you do want to address ASAP. There is also no shame in turning to a private tutor should you discover that your child or teen struggling in a certain subject area.

Don't:

Promote unhealthy competition. Comparing your child or teen to his or her sibling or a friend or neighbor to motivate academically could lead to negative feelings and problems. Instead, motivate your child or teen based on their abilities. Foster a strong work ethic in getting your child or teen to do his or her personal best.

Anticipate problems. Negatively reminding your child or teen of their problems from last year is a poor way to start out the school year. Last year was last year, and your child or teen need to see that you believe in them to do well this year.

Wait too long to address a problem. Don't wait until the second or third quarter to address a problem that you identified as a parent during the first quarter. The longer you wait, the harder the problem may be to correct. Whether the problem is related to academic content, organization, turning things in, etc., you may want to also involve your child or teen's teachers to increase action and accountability. If your child or teen is not accessing the curriculum or is struggling beyond what you feel is normal, the school should be contacted immediately. Involved school personnel may wish to take a closer look at your child or teen, or even assess your child or teen, to determine if there is a learning problem that needs to be dealt with more formally at school.

Nag your child or teen. You shouldn't have to nag your child or teen or repeat yourself if you have agreed upon expectations at the start of the school year. If there is a problem, calmly reiterate your concerns and positively and proactively problem solve with your child or teen.

React. Reacting, arguing or fighting with your child or teen about his or her academics is a poor way to get your point across of to bring about change. Instead, always remain calm (even when sharing consequences), communicate your concerns clearly and offer supportive steps to correct the problem at hand.

You don't need to be a Buddhist or a Psychologist to practice mindfulness in parenting toward a successful school year for your child or teen. But with just a few small changes and some discipline to bring mindful awareness to your moment-to-moment experiences with your child, I am hopeful that you will correct problems sooner and more calmly when they arise.

Michael Oberschneider "Dr. Mike" is the founder and Director of Ashburn Psychological Services, a private mental health clinic comprised of 12 MD and PhD level mental health clinician. To learn more go to www.ashburnpsych.com or call 703 723-2999.

Victim continued from page 5

people are employees of the County."

Staff's interpretation has significant implications.

Virginia law governing misuse of public funds applies to "any full-time [government] officer, agent, or employee." The aides do not appear to meet legal definitions for officer or agent and staff's contention, that the aides are not employees, seemingly provides a "Get Out of Jail Free" card.

Did the General Assembly intend to exclude elected officials' aides? Probably not. Virginia Code includes political appointees in a list of local government employees exempt from grievance policies. But until an aide tests the county's interpretation by getting caught, the question remains open.

Staff's interpretation of the aide position also circumvented the aides' enrollment into the Virginia Retirement System (VRS), thereby saving the county at least half a million dollars in pension contributions so far. Virginia Code requires any county which participates in VRS to enroll all eligible employees and contribute to their retirement costs. Non-employees, as the county considers the aides, are ineligible.

To date, the VRS Legal Affairs and Compliance Coordinator has supported the county's interpretation. However, employment attorneys questioned his logic [see accompanying story]. If they are correct, then the county violated the rights of as many as thirty-three individuals who provided direct, meaningful service to county taxpayers.

Harry Hutchison, who teaches employment law at George Mason University's School of Law, suggested, "Ultimately, it would have to be decided by a judge or a jury or both. They may have rights the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors haven't discovered, but until there is a court order enforcing those rights, they have to live with [their current status]."

"Are the aides prepared to hire an attorney? Are they prepared to pursue the case vigorously?" he asked, noting that the county will have far more financial resources upon which to draw. Even a simple case might cost upwards of \$8,000 to

\$10,000 to litigate plus an additional \$10,000 to cover any appeal. And, there is no sure outcome. "I tell my students that litigation is often like playing the lottery," he said.

Some former aides discussed retaining a lawyer, but did not pursue it. "We talked to an attorney back in 2011. He wanted \$18,000 upfront. We were about to lose our jobs and couldn't afford it; still can't."

And What About That At-Will Status?

Whether or not the aides are county employees, all agree they are at-will employees. As former Delgaudio aide Mateer learned, the county interprets at-will employment to mean aides have no rights or protections whatsoever. Not so, according to articles written by Virginia employment attorneys. Virginia Supreme Court decisions have created a few protections for at-will employees. These decisions protect employees from termination for reasons contrary to public policy, such as revealing criminal activity, or for refusing to engage in an illegal act. More than one case has resulted in a financial award to the former employee.

Was Delgaudio aware of these decisions before he fired Mateer? Was staff? Neither Delgaudio nor county staff responded to questions prior to deadline.

Based on the Special Grand Jury report investigating the incident, Mateer may fall under these protections. Will she file a lawsuit? Mateer, who is represented by former Supervisor Stevens Miller (D-Dulles), said they discussed the possibility. According to Mateer, their conversation focused on reinstatement. Concerned about retribution, Mateer declined to pursue such a course. She did not recall discussion of a possible monetary award.

A lawsuit might determine who was actually Mateer's employer – the county or the supervisor. Or it might not. A 2012 Virginia Supreme Court decision held that an employee can claim wrongful discharge not just against the actual employer, but also against non-employers who actively participate in the discharge. Under this decision Mateer might have an action against both the County and Delgaudio, making the question irrelevant.

	Employee Classification	Contractor Classification	Loudoun Board Aide
Behavioral Control			
Who controls how, what, where, and in what order instructions are given?	Employer	Worker	Board of Supervisors, individual Supervisors, and the County
Who supplies tools & equipment?	Employer	Worker	County
Who trains the worker?	Employer	Other	County
Financial Control			
Does the worker maintain a separate office or business location?	No	Yes	No
Does the worker advertise his/her services?	No	Yes	No
Does the worker hire and pay assistants?	No	Yes	No
Does the worker provide or offer services to others?	No	Yes	No
How is the worker paid?	Regular wage	Flat fee	Regular wage
Does the worker have the ability to make a profit or suffer a loss?	No	Yes	No
Relationship of Parties			
What was the intent of the parties?	Employment	Specific engagement	Appointment
Is the worker provided benefits?	Yes	No	Some, but not all
Is the worker financially liable for non-performance of work?	No	Yes	No
Documentation			
Does the employer withhold state & federal taxes, social security, Medicare, and unemployment?	Yes	No	County does
Tax Form	W-2	1099	W-2

Wild Loudoun

Harvest Moon

– By Andrea Gaines

We've all heard the term "harvest moon." But, what exactly is a harvest moon, when does it occur and what are the wild residents of Loudoun County doing during this time?

A harvest moon starts with what's known as an "equinox." Derived from the Latin term *aequus*, meaning equal, an equinox marks two times during the year when night and day are approximately equal in length. A vernal equinox occurs in the spring and an autumn equinox in the fall, marking the beginning of that season in the northern hemisphere.

A harvest moon occurs when there is a full moon on the same day as the autumn equinox. The 2013 harvest moon for the northern hemisphere comes on the night of Sept. 18-19.

A harvest moon has special significance to those fascinated by such celestial events, particularly if they also live in a rural place like western Loudoun County. As the website www.EarthSky.com describes: "In the days before tractor lights, the lamp of the Harvest Moon helped farmers to gather their crops, despite the diminishing daylight hours. As the sun's light faded in the west, the moon would soon rise in the east to illuminate the fields throughout the night."

Now, that can be a quietly moving event for humans – watching the sun go down and the full moon rise – however distant we are from the days when there were no tractor lights ...

But, equally moving is the fact that wild Loudoun marking the harvest moon, too, as all living things prepare for the winter.

In Loudoun County butterflies are migrating or preparing to migrate. And, this includes not just the well-known Monarch butterfly, but also, other species such as the Painted Lady, the Common Buckeye and the Cloudless Sulphur ... all heading south on the tails of the sun.

Many birds are migrating, too – the Ruby-Throated hummingbird is one example. And some birds, including species that we might only see in the fall and/or winter are passing through from points north on their way to a more southerly location. One of these is the Golden Eagle, which can be seen in Loudoun County only during this time, having left its spring and summer home in Canada, Labrador and the Hudson Bay region.



Other animals and amphibians, including frogs, are also responding to the changes in light and temperature that accompany harvest moon time. They find cracks in logs or rock areas. They dig holes and seek shelter (and warmth) under ground and under water. Frogs, in particular, undergo significant change. Over the winter, secure in a safe place, their heart and breathing slows down and their body temperature approaches outside temperatures. The glucose in their bodies literally keeps them from freezing.

As summer turns to fall turns to winter trees and plants have completed their temperature and sun-driven growth cycle. But, while one cycle is ending another equally brilliant one is starting. A maple tree's green leaves are turning red or bright orange in response to the harvest moon's arrival. Fall and winter's decrease in light halts photosynthesis, and that stops the production of chlorophyll – the substance that gives leaves their green color. As the green color fades the yellows and oranges present in the tree's leaves the whole time are revealed.

Yes, just as we set our behavior patterns to the harvest moon, wild Loudoun is doing the same. We travel through this time together – warmed by the same sun and chilled by the same wind.

Think about that. Take note of the temperatures outside ... the lowering light ... the sounds of nature ... and watch for September's harvest moon.

Candidate David Ramadan For 87th House of Delegates

Republican Incumbent David Ramadan serves as Founding Chief Officer for global consulting firm, RAMA International. He won election to the 87th Delegate Seat in 2011, with two committee assignments: Privileges and Election, and Science and Technology. David and his wife Christie have lived in Loudoun for 11 years.

"I recently received your request for an interview. I appreciate your interest in obtaining accurate information from all of the candidates. However, I have a general policy of not responding to such interviews."

Sushi – "Tails" From The Barnyard

Country Roads Take Me Home...

– By Sushi

Country Roads take me home ... it is the start of another school year and I am happy, sad, and nervous, but also excited for the grand adventures that will take my sweet farm girls into the unknown journeys of a new school year. Knowing these next couple years are nearing the end of many satisfying and simple carefree walks back to home at the end of long school days I must ask: What are these journeys? Why must they be? My girls leaving home – dreading leaving home, yet wanting to leave home, yet the comforts of home, yet not needing home because they want to be grown up – why oh why so many emotions? I the brave and mighty Cairn Terrier must be there for them to nurture and teach the values of leaving one's home nest! I know – I remember a dark cold night going to some new family – wondering why oh why did I have to enter into the world of some other warm being besides the comfort of my own mother?

Ha, and here I am now fathering more than I am probably wanted, these children of mine – well of Mr. and Mrs. B. but as far as I'm concerned these girls are just as much mine as Mr. and Mrs. B. It is my born and bred duty to protect and defend at all cost these young ladies. So it is with much fatherly attitude I share with you my Cairn Terrier parental concerns as my girls enter a new school year:

1. My girls need to study hard and keep their noses in books and out of everything and anything else other

than horses and hard work.

2. My girls should always have about them their saddle bag and a foot in the stirrup. A saddlebag to carry necessities not more.
3. They must have two coats; one for warmth when it is needed, and a coat to give a friend in need.
4. My girls should never have a worry or a care that some son of a gun, lights up like a Tennessee mountain moon and sees my treasures, my girls in the light of a hillbilly moon and thinks to ask them out on a date! Unacceptable.

Oh and four phrases that will be heard over and over from me as my girls journey on further on their way; I forgive you ... I miss you ... I understand ... I love you.

Oh and maybe one more Hurry home to me. Love Sushi, Your Brave and Mighty Cairn Terrier.



My master, Elaine Boland lives with her husband and five daughters in Purcellville at Fields of Athenry Farm. She cherishes farm life and the joy of providing her customers with fine fresh meats and products. She can be reached at www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com or 703 926-8444.

Candidate John Bell continued from page 11

donors are individuals giving less than \$200 and I am honored by their support. People give to this campaign because they believe in what we stand for and are willing to give a little bit of their hard earned money to make sure they have a delegate that works hard for the best interests of the community, not for an extreme partisan ideology.

TJ: How much time and energy do you feel a Delegate from the 87th District should place on social issues – equal opportunity, reproductive rights, marriage, etcetera?

JB: Virginia needs to be a place that welcomes all people from all backgrounds and I will continue to champion the cause of equality and justice if elected. If we want to continue to attract businesses, educators, students, entrepreneurs, and a talented workforce everyone needs to know that they will not be discriminated against or treated like second-class citizens.

The extreme focus by politicians on legislating private health care decisions is shameful. My opponent David Ramadan said it was one of the main reasons he ran for office, voted for the mandatory ultrasound bill, and supports Personhood laws that

could ban common form of birth control. These attacks are harmful to women, their families and the Commonwealth and they have to stop.

TJ: Virginians seem to want to alleviate all traffic problems without increasing taxes; how do you address that?

JB: In my career as a budget officer in the Air Force it was my job to manage our limited budget to get the mission completed; in doing so we had to cut waste, find efficiencies and focus our budget on the highest priorities. We can do that here in Virginia. Adopting programs like Practical Design which will let us save money by cutting down on over building and investing in efficiencies like LED lighting, are just two examples on how we can better manage our transportation budget. We also need to be disciplined on how we spend every dollar to make sure we are focusing on the most important projects that have the most direct impact on improving our transportation issues. I'll be sure to hold VDOT and other agencies accountable for finishing projects on time and on budget to get critical projects completed to ease the worst traffic.

September

☉ **Aug. 23 – Sept. 16, “Anything Goes,” art exhibit.** Franklin Park Arts Center Gallery. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and during evening and weekend performances.

☉ **Wednesday, Sept. 4, “Brown Bag with Books,”** 12 p.m. at the Barns of Rose Hill. The book is “Joseph Anton-A Memoir” by Salman Rushdie. For more information call 540-955-5144.

☉ **Thursday, Sept. 5, Understanding Local Government,** free lecture series presented by James H. Hershman at the Thomas Balch Library, 208 W. Market Street, Leesburg. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Call (703) 737-7195 for information.

☉ **Thursday, Sept. 5, Master Gardeners** lecture on meadowscaping. Rust Library in Leesburg, 7 p.m. Rethink pesticide-ridden, manicured lawns; learn how to return the land to natural habitats. For more information go to www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org.

☉ **Friday, Sept. 6 and Friday, Oct. 4, Leesburg’s First Friday,** 6-9 p.m. Live music and wine tastings. Details at www.leesburgfirstfriday.com.

☉ **Friday, Sept. 6, “Raider’s of the Lost Ark”** outdoor movie at Oatlands Historic House and Gardens, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under. Advanced tickets

at www.oatlands.org.

☉ **Saturday, Sept. 7, monthly meeting of the Women’s Club of Loudoun** at 2 p.m. Heather Laupin of the Leesburg Police Department will speak on crime prevention; Leesburg Community Church, 835 Lee Avenue, Leesburg. Call 703-609-6111 for information.

☉ **Saturday, Sept. 7 and Sunday, Sept. 8, Stage Coach Theatre Company presents “Little Red” at Oatlands,** 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and the show starts at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children 2-12 in advance and \$15 for adults and \$13 for children at the door. Details at www.stagecoachtc.com.

☉ **Tuesday, Sept. 10, first meeting of Wild Ones,** 10 a.m. at Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia in Boyce. The meeting will highlight some of the less well-known native dogwoods that can bring more birds into your landscape. For more information, contact blueridgewildones@earthlink.net.

☉ **Thursday, Sept. 12, dance from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Loudoun Jazz Ensemble** will be performing live music for dancing at the Senior Center of Leesburg, 102 North Street, NW, Leesburg. Tickets before Sept. 12 are \$5 per adult, tickets at the door are \$10. Call 703-737-8039 for details.

☉ **Thursday, Sept 12, Tea at the Marshall House,** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Master Gardener Leslie Solitario will discuss the restoration of the Marshall House gardens located at 217 Edwards Ferry Rd. in Leesburg. Limited seating advance \$25 payment required. Call (703) 777-1301 or visit www.georgemarshall.org for details.

☉ **Thursday, Sept. 12, Meet the Artists Reception** at 6 p.m. The artists from the Senior Center of Leesburg, 102 North Street in Leesburg, will be hosting their annual art exhibition. Questions call 703-737-8039.

☉ **Saturday Sept. 14, Berryville town wide yard sale** from 8 a.m. to 3

p.m. For info about setting up call (540) 313-7467 (Jay) or (540) 955-5501 (Sherry) or email info@bvmerchants.com.

☉ **Saturday, Sept 14, Birding at Banshee Reeks bird walk** with the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks, 8 a.m. Bring binoculars. Free. 21085 The Woods Rd., Leesburg. (540) 554-2542.

☉ **Saturday Sept. 14, “Sheila Macqueen Garden Celebration: A Tribute to Martha Cook,”** 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Historic Long Branch, 830 Long Branch Lane, Millwood. Price is \$95 and includes all activities, lunch and tea. For more information email cward@visitlongbranch.org.

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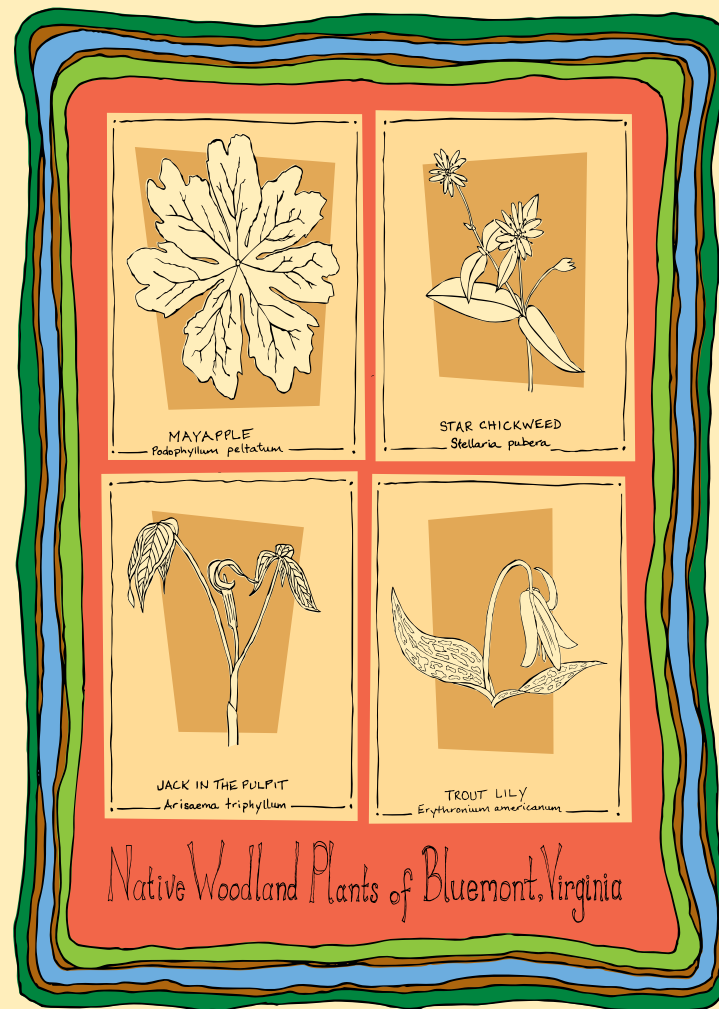
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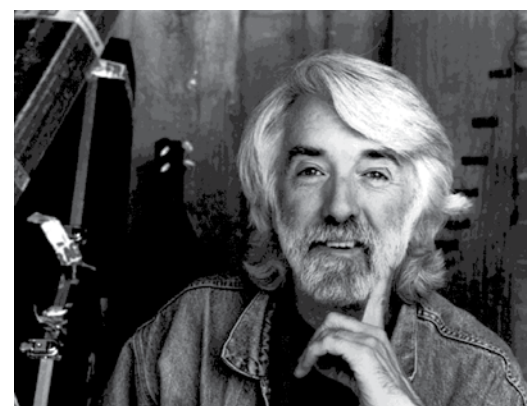
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Cuong Hung Van: The Virtuosity Chopin

September 21st at 8PM September 22nd at 3PM

The Complete Challenging Chopin's Etudes op. 10 and op. 25 will be performed on a Steinway concert grand piano, for the first time at Franklin Park Arts Center.

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M.S.G Acoustic Blues Trio and Gary Smallwood

September 27th at 8PM

M.S.G. - The Acoustic Blues Trio Performs traditional Piedmont blues. Their style of music has been influenced by the likes of Archie Edwards, Etta Baker and Cephas & Wiggins. Gary Smallwood has been wowing local crowds with his amazing guitar skills in a wide range of styles-- including prowess with the blues.

Tickets: \$15 Adult, \$12 Student. www.franklinparkartscenter.org



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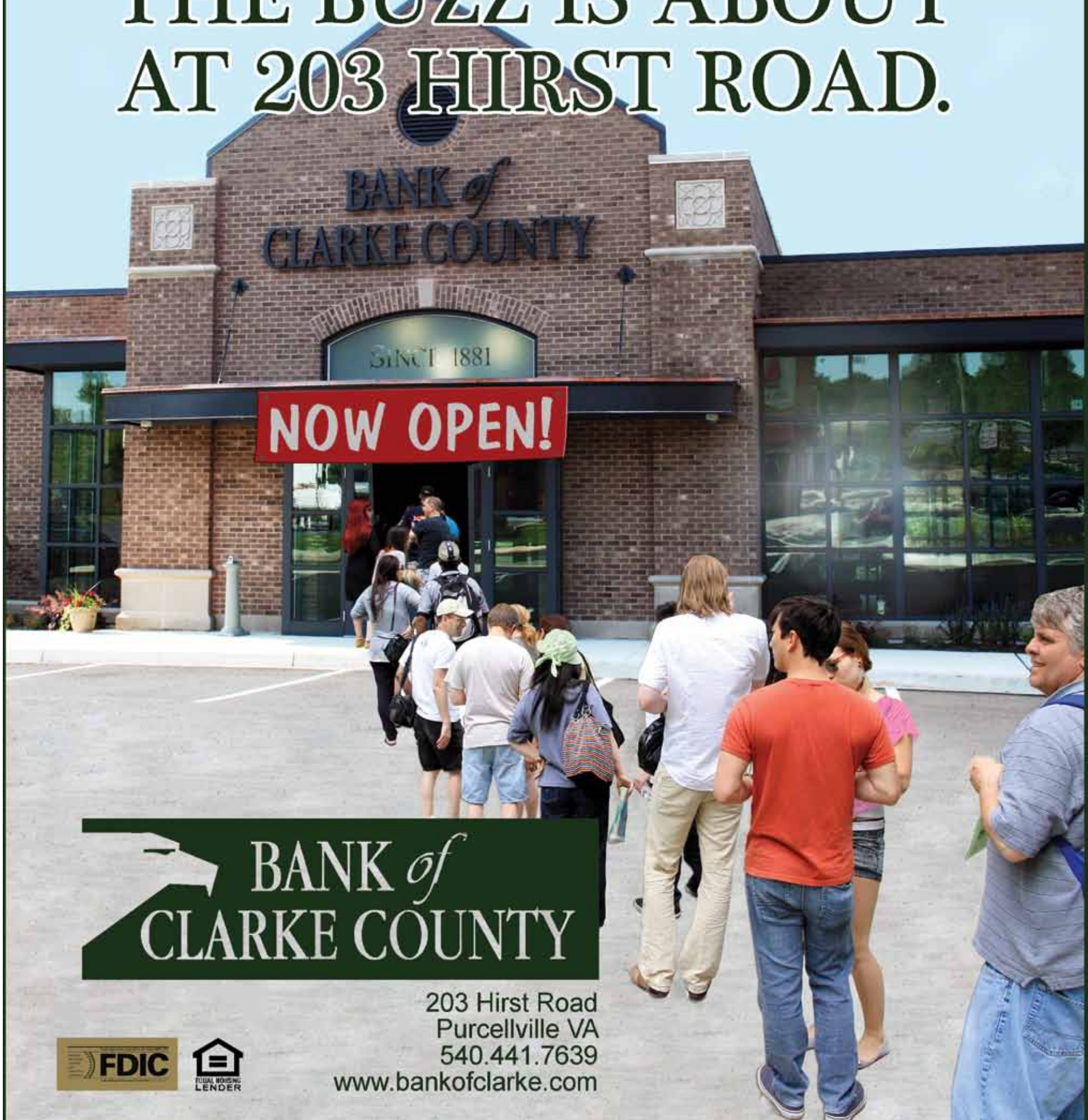
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ARTIST'S PROFILE

Martin Fair – The Quiet And Perfectly Tuned Craftsman

– By Andrea Gaines

If you asked Marty Fair what he did for a living he might just say, “I make guitars.”

An insider might respond, “Ahhh ... you’re a luthier?” And, “Yes” Marty would say, “Yes, that’s right.”

The term “luthier,” derived from the word “lute” is the formal name given to professionals who make or repair lutes and other string instruments. You’d think a luthier might study and work in a place such as Paris or Venice. But, Marty learned his fine craft right here in the United States, and, he also has a good market for his work right here in our area, a place filled with budding, longtime, and amateur musicians, as well as collectors and the fortunate few who bought an old farm and found a trunk full of beautiful old string instruments in a long-forgotten closet ...

Marty works alongside good friend and fellow luthier Stuart Orser – and the smiles and accolades flow when they talk about each other’s work. (Marty and Stuart also play in a band named The Spruce Brothers). Marty’s Fairbuilt Guitar Company workshop is tucked away up a long gravel drive on Short Hill Mountain near Hillsboro. At the end of the drive you’re met by an orange and white cat and a friendly black lab named Ethel who seems to know you’re there to see Marty and, turning slowly seems to say, “Com’on, let me show you the way.”

The workshop tells you everything you need to know about the quality of the instruments that come out of here, the precision with which repairs are made and the unique skill and experience that make both possible. A line of perfectly polished guitars, violins and at least one mandolin line the walls – either awaiting purchase or awaiting repair/pick up. It is a really beautiful sight: one of a kind combinations of curved wood, tight strings and finely honed metal waiting to be played or tended to.

Someone who knows how to play string instruments might feel comfortable picking up a guitar, for example, and easing into a few strums. I just look around and marvel at the craftsmanship in each – functional pieces of art, really, fine enough to grace a wall of a crafts museum and comfortable enough to rest on the knee of old guy down the road who has played them all of his life.

Marty always played guitar and was also in a band. One day, not liking how his instrument sounded, he did a little work on it only to find it sounded even worse. So, he read up on the subject and getting more and more interested in making and working on guitars found a school in Phoenix where he could learn to become a luthier.

Marty’s brother is a talented furniture



Marty on the left and Stuart on the right.



One of the Fairbuilt Guitar Company's handcrafted instruments.

maker and woodworker – and his work has provided much inspiration to Marty. For, today his world is filled with exquisite guitars, mandolins, banjos, violins and basses, the wood for which is selected for the tone it produces, its strength, and its visual appeal. Imagine the thought and talent that goes into making a handcrafted instrument that produces just the sound a professional musician – or even the casual strummer – was looking for.

Intrigued by the journey this craftsman is on I asked Marty, “What’s the oldest instrument you’ve ever worked on?” He thought for a moment and then said, “A violin. A pre-Civil War guitar and violins made in the 1700s.”

Given the rich history in the area I have to say... that’s exactly what I hoped his answer would be. Here is a 21st Century Furnace Mountain craftsman carefully retooling something made with equal care two centuries earlier. It fits.

P.S. Three very special boys were really excited that the Blue Ridge Leader was interviewing their dad for this article. So, let me acknowledge the well-placed enthusiasm of Marty’s sons: Avery 13, Silas 11, and Atticus 7. Hello, too, to Marty’s apprentice, Susan Keeney. She certainly has found great teachers in Marty and Stuart!

Pickin’, Dancin’ And Just Having Some Good ‘Ole Fun On The River

The Watermelon Park Fest, September 26-29



“The Masters of Bluegrass”

– By Andrea Gaines

It’s almost here ... Shepherds Ford Productions’ 10th Annual Watermelon Park Fest.

The Watermelon Park Fest is a family-friendly music festival created by Shepherds Ford Productions, held at beautiful Watermelon Park – on the Shenandoah River just outside of Berryville.

This year’s fest begins on Thursday, Sept. 26 and ends on the morning of Sunday, Sept. 29. A great family event, festivities include concerts, dances, workshops, band & pickin’ contests, kid’s activities, open jams, food and craft vendors, and more.

Watermelon Park has an incredible history with the country and bluegrass music crowd, having seen performances by Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, the Statler Brothers, Dolly Parton, Porter Wagoner,

Loretta Lynn and George Jones.

Performers for this year’s event include The Masters of Bluegrass (Del McCoury, Bobby Osborne, J.D. Crowe, Bobby Hicks and Jerry McCoury), Larry Keel and Natural Bridge with Danny Barnes, The Quebe Sisters Band, Furnace Mountain Band, Taakra, Danny Barnes’ Barnyard Electronics, The Woodshedders, The Stray Birds, David Via, Locust Honey String Band and others.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at **Watermelon Park Campground Store & JV Music** in Berryville, **Guitar Studio** in Winchester, **Melodee Music** in Leesburg, and **Shamrock Music** in Purcellville. Or, go by your tickets online at www.watermelonparkfest.com. The park is located at 3322 Lockes Mill Road, Berryville, VA 22611.

Franklin Park Visual & Performing Arts Center, September 2013

For reservations/tickets call 540-338-7973 or visit www.franklinparkartscenter.org.

Thurs., Sept. 19, 8 p.m. – Will The Circle Be Unbroken, With John McEuen and John Carter Cash. This unique evening celebrates the music and creation of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band’s landmark ‘Circle’ album. Concert will also feature the Arts Center’s own Les Thompson. (Special Gold Star Performance). Tickets: \$45 Adult, \$35 Student Senior.

Fri., Sept. 20, 8 p.m. – Last Ham Standing. Don’t miss this hilarious show full of laughs for the entire family. If you like *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* you’ll love Last Ham Standing, the other comedy meat! Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$10 Students, \$8 Children.

Sat., Sept. 21, 8 p.m. & Sun. Sept. 22, 3 p.m. – Cung Hung Van – Piano. Pianist Cung Hung Van has performed throughout the U.S., Asia, Australia and Europe. Recent concert engagements include Lin-

coln Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Smithsonian Institution. Tickets: \$25 Adult, \$20 Senior, \$15 Student.

Fri., Sept. 27, 8 p.m. – M.S.G. Acoustic Blue Trio & Gary Smallwood. M.S.G. – The Acoustic Blues Trio Performs traditional Piedmont blues. Gary Smallwood has been wowing local crowds in a wide range of styles – including prowess with the blues. Tickets: \$15 Adult, \$12 Student.

Sat., Sept. 28, 8 p.m. – An Evening of Barbershop Harmony. Don’t miss an evening with the Fairfax Jubil-Aires and the Chorus of the Old Dominion as they celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Barbershop Harmony Society. They will be joined by some great

quartets, including the Queens of Harmony, Inc. Epic. Tickets: \$12 All Seats.

Great performances coming up in September, and, the Capitol Steps are coming to Franklin Park for two shows on Nov. 9 – details/tickets on website.



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Kitchen Science Kids: Bleaching Hair From The Inside Out

- By Leah Enright

When I was a kid, many of my friends' mothers spent hours at the beauty salon, bleaching their hair blonde. It was fun for them, and seemed like a mysterious practice to me. How did that dark hair go light?



Well, it turns out that lightening hair with chemicals, and the natural gray grandparents wear, have much in common. What is the chemical responsible for this de-colorization? Hydrogen peroxide-the same stuff used on cuts and poured on laundry stains, is also manufactured naturally inside our bodies, inside of our cells.

How can this be? Cells are living things, so they perform work and create waste. When they create waste, in this case hydrogen peroxide, they can't just throw it in the trash, it must be recycled into something harmless. Enter **Catalase!** Catalase is a special protein inside our bodies that is attracted to hydrogen peroxide, and changes it from a harmful toxin, to a harmless blend of salt and water. This works perfectly for many, many years while the catalase in our bodies is in supply, but when we are well into adulthood, we begin to run low on catalase, and our bodies can't make more. That means that the peroxide swishes around, without catalase to make it harmless. When the peroxide swishes around the place where our hair forms before it grows out through our skin, it does what peroxide is known for-it takes the color out, and voila. Gray hair. (A color that many wear proudly).

So peroxide "bleaches" the hair while it is still being formed, when there is not enough catalase to blend with the peroxide and change it into non-bleaching salt and water. We know that chemical reactions can be easy to see-can we see the battle between peroxide and catalase? Grab some safety goggles and a parent, and let's find out.

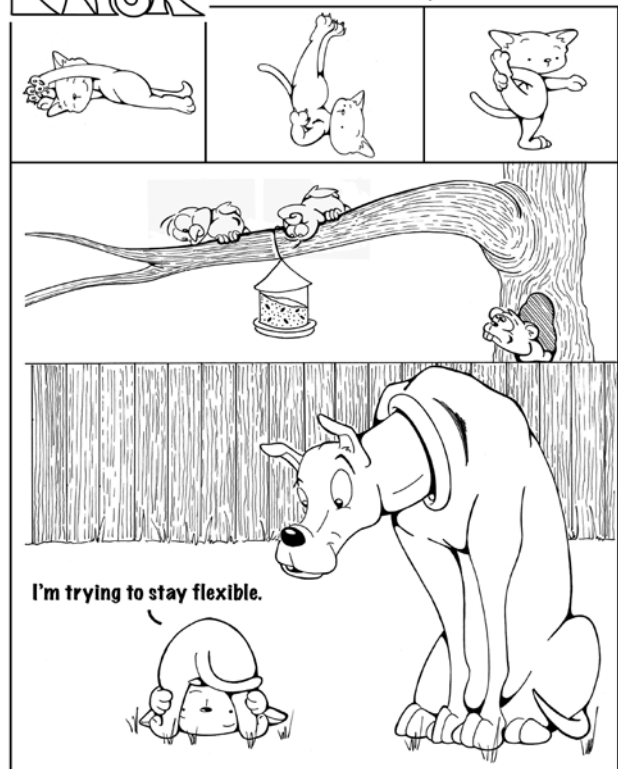
Liver and Potato Race

1. Place a small chunk of raw potato in a cup.

continued on page 35



by T. Michelle Thoburn



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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

"Like" Kid Scoop on Facebook!

© 2012 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 26, No. 42

Kid Scoop Together: Sports Savings Bank

Start saving new words you collect from the sports pages of your newspaper or from your newspaper's website.

Find and "deposit" four new words and write each of them on the lines below.

Write a definition or draw a picture to show what each word means.

ROSTER

An orderly list of people belonging to a group or team

Riverton Rockets

- #4 Darrin Garcia
- #23 Howard Clarke
- #6 Phillip Gerston
- #21 Eddie Calderon
- #28 Vincent Douglas

Big League Fun!

Step up to the plate for some baseball-themed brain teasers with Kid Scoop!

ACROSS

2. The ground adjacent to first and third base bordering the field is called foul _____
3. Making it all the way around the bases on a hit.
6. The area a pitch has to be inside for the batter to hit.
8. Color of stitching on a baseball.
9. Number of feet bases are apart.
11. This happens if there are four balls pitched.

DOWN

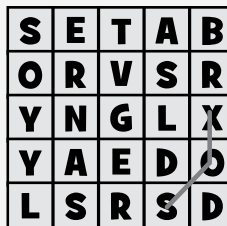
1. Name of player positioned between second and third base.
4. The number of players on a baseball team.
5. Which team bats at the "bottom" of an inning.
6. Batter is called this if he reaches the base before the ball.
7. Part of the field closest to the bases.
10. If a runner in between bases is touched by a ball or a glove with the ball in it, it is called this.

How many baseballs can you find on this page?

Name Game

The names of nine Major League teams are hidden in the grid. The letters in each word connect but not in a straight line. Can you find them all?

- Boston Red **SOX**
- Los Angeles _____
- Cincinnati _____
- Tampa Bay _____
- Atlanta _____
- Texas _____
- Houston _____
- Kansas City _____



Grand Slam Snacks

Look for a pattern. Circle what comes next in each row of baseball stadium snacks.



Standards Link: Geometry: Recognize and extend simple and complex patterns.

Extra! Extra!

Action!

Look at the sports pages of the newspaper. Try to hold the pose of an athlete shown in one of the photos for at least 60 seconds.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Follow directions for movement.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The names of some Major League Baseball teams are scrambled on these pennants. Can you unscramble them?



If you get stuck, look in the sports section of your newspaper.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level appropriate words.

Double Double Word Search

- SLAM
- STADIUM
- BASEBALL
- LEAGUE
- SPORTS
- PHOTO
- PITCHER
- BOSTON
- FOUL
- HIT
- TEAM
- THIRD
- RED
- FIND
- BATS

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Baseball Chatter

Baseball terms have become part of everyday language. We say "step up to the plate," "bat around ideas," and "come from left-field." Look through the newspaper for baseball terms and write what they mean in everyday life.

Standards Link: Vocabulary Development: Understand the meaning of words and phrases.



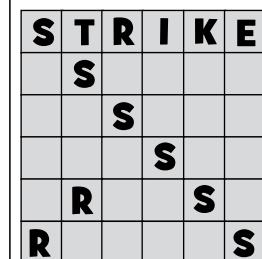
Why was night baseball started?

ANSWER: Because bats like to sleep in the daytime.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word STRIKE in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.



Write On! BATTER UP!

It was my turn at bat and the fans were going crazy ... Finish this story.

► Real Estate Ticker ►
Too Much Too Soon

– By Carl Fischer

We have all been encouraged by the return of market activity in housing here in Northern Virginia. But it is beginning to seem that too much has happened in the past 18 months in too many areas of the process in too short a period of time for anyone to feel comfortable about it.



FISCHER

First, buyers returned

After years of limited activity, buyers slowly began to re-appear. For many, the first steps were very tentative, with few folks qualifying for new loans, and most having little real comfort in heading back to new ownership, or upgrading what they already had. Initially greeted with bloated inventories, the “picking” was good, so early buyers were able to get great value when they finally signed a purchase agreement.

As inventories shrank, new home builders appeared

It didn't take long for distressed property inventories to run down. Soon, even the number of re-sale properties available for purchase began to shrink. New home builders had the glitz and pizzazz and they also had financing... at great rates. All over the area, especially in close-in locations, the bulldozers once again began to carve and shape the land to ready it for the wave of new homes soon to be built.

Then, lenders began to run out of “re-fi”s... So they started making acquisition loans again, in earnest. Once lenders began to open the gates to acquisition lending, the pace of new and existing home sales began to shoot upwards. And inventories shrank. The laws of supply and demand kicked in, and seemingly overnight, there just weren't enough “affordable” homes available for the re-invigorated buyer hoards.

Sellers understood what was happening

No longer out-of-control and feeling they needed to be “abused” by buyers, sellers watched as inventories shrank, prices rose, and all of a sudden, they were back in control... No longer feeling the need to “give their homes away”, they responded to less-than-full-priced offers the same way they did back in 2005-2006: “Show me the money.”

Prices for resale houses rose. Then, interest rates skyrocket. Yes, I know what you're thinking: “4.7 percent APR is really not that bad... but compared to 3.2 percent just a few months earlier, the increase was a whopping 47 percent. So if you're buying a \$400,000 house with little down, that amounts to about \$330 more per month just to buy the same house. And keep in mind, house prices are going up.

FHA takes a little, too

FHA adds to the mix on June 3, 2013, by increasing the Private Mortgage Insurance by 10 basis points for loans of under 78 percent Loan To Value and this payment runs for 11 years.

Now, an all-to-familiar cycle in Northern Virginia reappears

Sellers can't ask enough; after all, this is what they have been waiting “forever” for. Buyer's feel they have few choices and once again experiencing multiple-offers or “escalator clause” contracts, and they don't like it.

Lenders are struggling with appraisal values since the great recession took its toll on “liberal” appraisal figures.

And finally, the costs of houses buyers like are rising faster than their incomes; they have no comfort level with where interest rates are going. Once again, buyers are afraid of “over-paying” for their next home.

The last time we experienced this...

was in 2005-2006. But then, we had lived through many years of incremental escalation in prices, rates, and shrinking inventories which “conditioned” us to accept the routine. When the market reached its frothy peak just before the great recession, we were all caught off guard (myself included), because the “run-up” period had taken so long. This time, it has happened in less than two years.

“Prudence” and “Caution” are the watch words for the day!

Carl Fischer is the broker/owner of United Country Real Estate, which specializes in commercial, investment, and unique residential properties in Northern Virginia, the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and Northern Neck waterfront homes. He is licensed in Virginia and West Virginia, and is a member of the Dulles Area Association of Realtor as well as the Northern Neck Association of Realtors.

Kitchen Science Kids continued from page 34

2. Place a small chunk of raw beef liver in a different cup.

3. Cover each with a small amount of hydrogen peroxide, and watch what happens

If all went well, you should have seen bubbles (scientists would say that bubbles mean that the sample is “catalase positive”). Those bubbles are evidence that catalase found peroxide, and through a chemical reaction changed that peroxide into salt and water.

Did the liver or potato foam more?

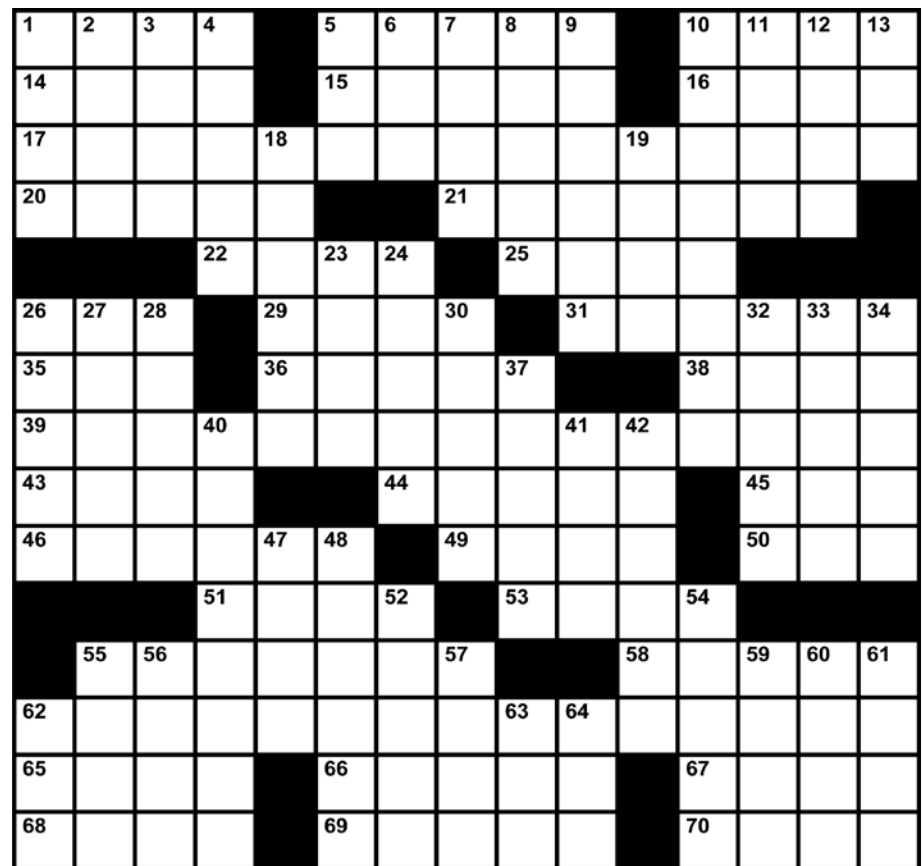
Liver will foam more, because the liver of a person or animal contains lots of catalase.

So, hair is bleached by peroxide. Sometimes that peroxide is applied to hair in the salon, and sometimes that peroxide mixes with hair before it grows and we can see it. Either way, the battle between catalase and peroxide is an interesting one.

Leah Enright plays with color and peroxide as a hairstylist at Hair Cuttery in Purcellville, where she continues to cover over her grays.

Money Makes The World Go Round

– By Myles Mellor and Sally York



ACROSS

- 1. Besides
- 5. Sludge-like
- 10. Glitch
- 14. Continue
- 15. Tic or synthesis starters
- 16. Corn bread
- 17. Executive's preferred exit
- 20. Ribbon holder
- 21. It's used to make chemicals and dyes
- 22. Palm tree
- 25. Brand
- 26. Global finance grp.
- 29. Small islands
- 31. Legal claims
- 35. Content of some barrels
- 36. Asinine
- 38. Bright thought
- 39. Rely on management
- 43. Bit of physics
- 44. Red cedar
- 45. Burro
- 46. Bubba Gump's forte
- 49. Enterprise captain
- 50. ESPN sportscaster
- 51. Portuguese navigator
- 53. Notary stamp
- 55. Small generator
- 58. Worker's demand
- 62. Give too much compensation
- 65. Fall setting
- 66. Alicia Keys hit
- 67. This is one
- 68. Bitter end?
- 69. Shell out cash for
- 70. Classic street liners

- 3. Chewbacca's buddy
- 4. Finish at
- 5. Fashion's Taylor
- 6. Notebook, with top
- 7. Seize
- 8. Lots of land
- 9. Advanced
- 10. Football, in shape
- 11. It may be proper
- 12. Some chips, maybe
- 13. “How about that!”
- 18. Draw out
- 19. Industry big shot
- 23. Huff and puff
- 24. Maids of India
- 26. Specks
- 27. Jollity
- 28. A soft mineral
- 30. Kind of preview
- 32. Archetype
- 33. Brusque
- 34. Flip, in a way
- 37. “The King”
- 40. Little bits
- 41. Cork's place
- 42. Turkey city
- 47. Coquette
- 48. Poetic syllable arrangements
- 52. Sharpener
- 54. Charging weapon
- 55. Earned
- 56. Some votes
- 57. Cousin of a bassoon
- 59. “___ cost you!”
- 60. Where Jamal Malik grew up
- 61. Regards
- 62. Signature piece?
- 63. Bed-and-breakfast
- 64. Guitarist Nugent

DOWN

- 1. Baker's dozen?
- 2. Historical center of Chicago, with The

answers on page 36

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REWARD

Answers to crossword puzzle from page 35 ...

ELSE	ALGAL	SNAG
GOON	NARCO	PONE
GOLDEN	PARACHUTE	
SPOOL	BENZENE	
	NIPA	SEAR
IMF	CAYS	DROITS
OIL	INANE	IDEA
TRUST	THELEADERS	
ATOM	SAVIN	ASS
SHRIMP	KIRK	LEY
	DIAS	SEAL
MAGNETO	RAISE	
PAYEXORBITANTLY		
EDEN	NOONE	CLUE
NESS	SPEND	ELMS



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LOUDOUN HERITAGE FARM MUSEUM

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SUNDAY, 11:30AM - 4:30PM

Enjoy hands-on children's activities, heirloom apple tasting, cider pressing, and demonstrations of historic orchard tools. Free with paid Museum admission.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5
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"Vote" in our antique voting booth and explore hands-on activities for voters of all ages! Free with paid Museum admission.

LET'S TALK TURKEY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
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Straight talk about the turkey and its lore. Hands-on children's activities, crafts, stories and games. Free with paid Museum admission.

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