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Loudoun Students Win VA Mock Trial State Championship - Head To Nationals

Two local homeschool students were part of the Virginia High School Mock Trial State Championship team. Logan Kirkpatrick from Waterford and Cooper Millhouse from Purcellville joined four other teammates to win a third consecutive title for the ETHOS-C4 Mock Trial Team. Kirkpatrick and Millhouse were also awarded individual awards for Outstanding Attorney and Outstanding Witness respectively.

ETHOS-C4, a collection of homeschooled students from Northern Virginia, defeated Ad Fontes Academy from Centerville, and other schools from Oakton, Arlington, and Fairfax. Under the direction of coaches and Patrick Henry graduates Tim Snyder and Mackenzi Siebert, the team will now represent Virginia at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Madison, WI, May 8-10. Kirkpatrick said, "I could not imagine a team of more amazing students or brilliant coaches. I am so excited to share new memories, and hopefully trophies, with them at Nationals."

The Virginia High School Mock Trial Association held its 2014 Virginia State Championship Tournament in Williamsburg March 22-23. The two-day state competition involved teams responsible for presenting both the prosecution and defense sides of a fictitious cyber bullying case from opening statements to closing arguments.

"The experience of working closely with a team for the months leading up to a tournament was an irreplaceable one. Being pushed to achieve alongside my team mates through a tense competition created experiences and friendships I wouldn't trade away," said Millhouse.

The team was sponsored by the Law Offices of Christopher Leibig. Additional funds are needed to cover the cost of travel to the national competition. Those willing to help in their fund-raising efforts can contact Kimberly Millhouse at pkmillhouse@gmail.com. All donations are tax-deductible.



Back row from left to right: Cooper Millhouse, Logan Kirkpatrick, Justin Lorence. Middle row left to right: Matthew Defrank, Carolyn Koehnke, Kathleen Koehnke, Lily Davis. Front Row left to right: Coaches Mackenzi Siebert and Tim Snyder

Virginia At Its Most Beautiful

- By Andrea Gaines

Virginia Garden Week takes place from April 26 to May 3 this year. It is one of the most legendary events in the state, treating visitors to over 250 of Virginia's most beautiful garden, homes and historic landmarks.

In addition to beautiful gardens and homes, people on the tour can see hundreds and hundreds of spectacular flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members. The tour helps fund the preservation and restoration of the state's historic gardens.

Sites local to our area include five properties in Middleburg and Upperville - Deerfield Farm, Gum Tree Farm, Glenbrook, Hickory House Farm and the National



Sporting Library & Museum. The tour runs from Sunday, April 27, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday, April 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The headquarters for this local tour is Buchanan Hall, on Route 50 between Middleburg and Upperville. Full details, including how to purchase tickets and box lunches can be found at www.vagardenweek.org. (Photos by Missy James)

ELECTIONS ARE ON

MAY 6

Turn to page 4 for candidate interviews.



Deviled Egg Recipe, see page 31



Eastern Cottontail Or Easter Bunny? Wild Loudoun, see page 38

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Understanding Teen Suicide

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

Northern Virginia has recently experienced several teen suicides. Last month, two Langley High School students took their own lives just a day apart from one another, and this month it appears two students at Woodson High School also committed suicide. Fairfax County alone has had 15 suicides over the past 3 years, and the surrounding counties, including Loudoun County, have also had a number of teen suicides in recent years.

Suicide is tragic, and it seems to be even more so when it involves our young. As the director of a private mental health practice, I can report first hand that the recent suicides in Fairfax County have had a profound impact on parents across Northern Virginia. Over the past month, I have received a number of calls from upset and worried parents, with the majority of them asking the same question, “How do I know if my teen is suicidal?”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is currently the third leading cause of death among young adults and adolescents 10 to 24 years of age, following unintentional injuries and homicide. And, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, scientific evidence has shown that almost all people who take their own lives have

a diagnosable mental or substance abuse disorder. This makes sense if you consider that those who suffer from depression and/or other mental health disorders would be less


capable of coping with difficult situations or strong, negative feelings than those who are free of such problems.

But not all suicidal teens are depressed. Teens in crisis, for instance, may impulsively act out and some might even go to the extreme of suicide with several factors contributing to that final decision -- personality style, identity struggles, access to external resources and relationships (perceived or real) and developmental immaturity to name a few of the important ones. Research on the teen brain, specifically the prefrontal cortex, in recent years has led to some interesting findings on teen risk taking and impulsiveness. The general conclusion being that teens do not possess the cognitive maturity of adults and thus are vulnerable to exercising extremely poor judgment and poor impulse control at times and especially when emotions are strong.


Recent research on the topic of teen suicide has also found that teens that are exposed to a peer who has committed

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Jim Burton's Book - The Pentagon Wars Re-Issued

Jim Burton's 1993 book, *The Pentagon Wars*, has recently been reissued in e-book format by Naval Institute Press and is now available at Amazon.com for Kindle users and Barnes & Noble for Nook users as well as in other e-book formats. Print on Demand paper copies will also be available shortly, as soon as the publisher corrects a technical problem with their equipment.

The Pentagon Wars won *The Washington Monthly* Political Book of the Year award for 1993 and was favorably reviewed in a number of publications, including *The New York Times* (October 3, 1993). It was made into an HBO movie in which Cary Elwes starred as Colonel Burton and Kelsey Grammar played a combination of four or five senior army generals. Over the last 20 years the book (and the movie, when the book was unavailable) has been used as a case study in ethics classes at the Air Force Academy and other institutions as well as military seminars.

As an Air Force Colonel, Col. Burton was involved in a battle with senior Army leadership over realistic testing of the Army's Bradley Fighting Vehicle to



Jim Burton

see how vulnerable it was to enemy fire. The Army did not want to test the vehicle because they knew that the test results would probably lead to cancellation of the production contract. Billions of dollars and many careers were at stake, not to mention the lives of the 70,000 enlisted men who would ride into battle in the vehicle. The battle over the Bradley spilled out into the public domain every three months or so for about three years, including

stories on the front pages of every major newspaper in the country, Congressional Hearings, and a double length segment on 60 Minutes. Eventually, because of Col. Burton's investigations and the ensuing fight, the Army was forced to change the design of the vehicle to make it safer in combat. As a result, many young soldiers' lives were saved during the 1991 Gulf War.

Following his involvement with the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, Col. Burton retired from the Air Force, moved to Loudoun County, and later won a seat on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, first for the Mercer District (8 years) and then for the Blue Ridge District (8 years).

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Mayoral Candidate Interviews

Kwasi Fraser

Kwasi Fraser, a businessman and entrepreneur, settled in the Town of Purcellville because his family liked its balance of old and new and its small town warmth. Career-wise, he has significantly contributed to the bottom line at AT&T, Sprint Nextel, Marriott International and Verizon. He brings to his campaign an MBA in Finance from Rutgers University, an Executive Education certificate from Harvard Business School, a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Stony Brook University, and a Project Management Professional (PMP) certificate from the Project Management Institute. He is also certified in and has a working knowledge of Lean Six Sigma – a framework highly recognized for its ability to drive efficiency, improve cost savings and increase revenue. Fraser, and his wife Angela, and their three children live in Locust Grove.

BRL: Why are you running for mayor, and what do you consider are your qualifications for the job?

Fraser: I am running for mayor to place our citizens first by enabling them to keep more of their hard earned money,



to make wise investment and growth decisions, to preserve what we love most about Purcellville, to make allowances for necessary changes, and to provide a transparent and open government. I am qualified for the job based on my 19-plus years of business development, financial, and project management experience as well as, leading efforts to drive profitability at some of the world's largest enterprises such as Verizon, AT&T, Sprint and Marriott. I have deployed a nationwide wireless long distance network, negotiated major enterprise agreements with value exceeding \$250 million dollars and evaluated risks at product and enterprise-wide levels to ensure operational controls

are implemented to achieve cost savings and profitability.

Purcellville is at a critical juncture, and the decisions made at this point will have major impact on our future. As such, we cannot risk our future being led by wasteful spending (a \$40 million wastewater plant that is 60 percent underutilized) and dependency on tax increases (17 percent increase in property tax and over 50 percent increase in water and sewer fees over the past four years) to drive revenue.

BRL: Are you in favor of more boundary line adjustments or annexations similar to the Mayfair/Autumn Hill residential and commercial park project that was recently approved?

Fraser: I am not in favor of more boundary line adjustments or annexations similar to the Mayfair/Autumn Hill residential and commercial park project. A boundary line adjustment has its place, but to apply it to the Mayfair/Autumn Hill residential and commercial park project was a bad strategy employed only to quickly obtain approval without the proper due diligence and risk assessment. As it stands, we have added residential housing that, according to studies, will require more than \$1.62 in services for every \$1 in tax revenue.

BRL: On a more specific growth issue, do you think the recent annexation of the Mayfair/Autumn Hill development, which will add 257 homes plus a commercial industrial park, was justified, and why?

Fraser: It was not justified because there was no evidence presented that the developers had a high probability of winning the lawsuit against the county. In addition, the homes will place further burden on our infrastructure and service capacity as study shows for every \$1 in tax revenue we will be required to spend more than \$1.62 in services. Further, I requested copies of the sewer and water study from the town and to date have not been provided with any, so it remains unclear what impact these homes will have on the utility enterprise from a service quality and

operational efficiency perspective.

BRL: What is your view on last year's 17 percent tax increase that enacted the Fireman's Field tax district?

Fraser: It's a property tax increase, 3.5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, disguised as something else. This further illustrates that the current administration's answer for generating revenue is to levy more taxes on the citizens. As mayor, I would research other options for generating revenue such as seeking partnerships with businesses to drive revenue via leasing, advertising, sponsorship (naming rights), and promotions at Fireman's Field.

For example instead of the taxpayers paying approximately \$70,000 for a ticket booth at Fireman's Field, I would have had a business pay for the ticket booth from their marketing budget.

BRL: How a property is zoned determines how intensely it can be developed. As mayor would you be in favor of approving higher density of current properties in the town limits through comprehensive plan amendments and re-zonings?

Fraser: Approving higher density of current properties in the town limits will significantly change the character of Purcellville. Under my administration, my preference is not to make such changes; however, in the event such a need arises, I will take this to the citizens of Purcellville to obtain their views.

BRL: Historic downtown Purcellville is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. What is the mayor's role in ensuring that it stays there?

Fraser: The mayor's role to ensure Purcellville's historic downtown remains on the National Register of Historic Places is to establish and to reinforce with the town council and Board of Architectural Review that any development proposal for the downtown area must adhere to the design guidelines and architectural requirements.

BRL: In recent years, Purcellville "streamlined" the process for review

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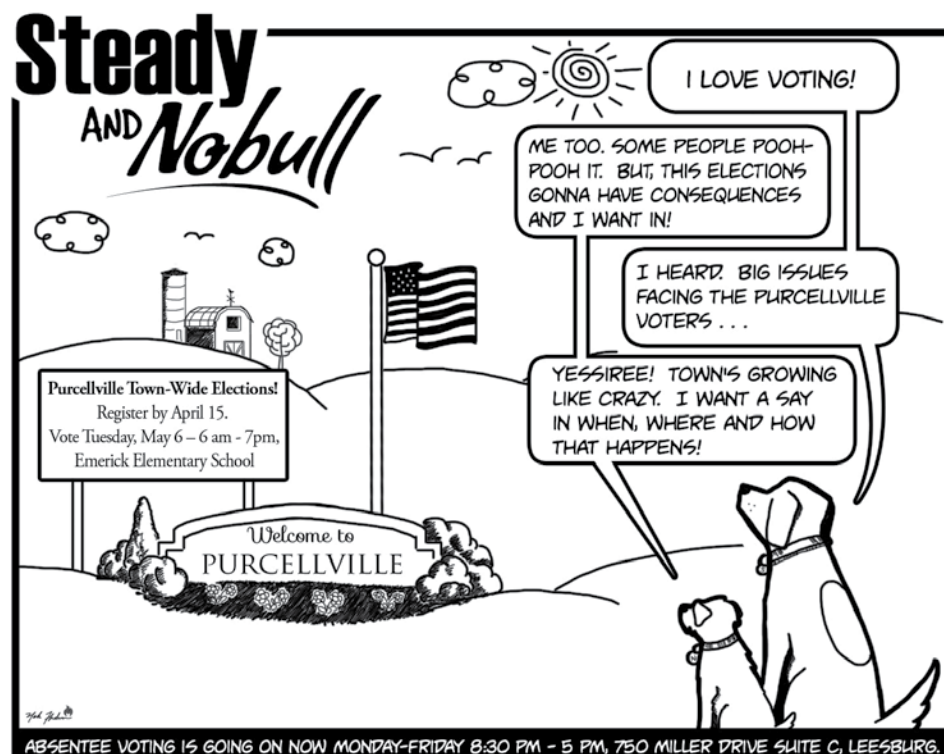
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Mayoral Candidate Interviews

Keith Melton

Keith Melton has been on Town Council for nearly four years and is the Vice Mayor of Purcellville. He has also served on the Budget, Ways and Means and Public Safety committees. He has 21 years business experience in finance, telecommunications, networking and government consulting. He has been involved with many church and community activities. He is a member of Purcellville Baptist Church where he has been a second and third grade Sunday school teacher for several years and has led numerous church and neighbor small groups. His college education includes two bachelor degrees from Clemson University and a Master of Science degree from George Mason University. In 2000, he married Karen Brown and they have three girls, Katie, Madelyn and Rachel. The Meltons reside in the Villages of Purcellville neighborhood.

BRL: Why are you running for mayor, and what do you consider are your qualifications for the job?

Melton: Like many residents, Karen and I were drawn to the Town of Purcellville because of the community's distinctive small town feel and family value focus. We moved our young family here and have watched our daughters Katie, Madelyn and Rachel grow and flourish in this safe and wholesome place. As mayor, I will work to preserve and enhance the Purcellville lifestyle for all our families. My mission will be to bring to the role of mayor the same independent voice and balanced, common sense, community-minded approach that I have brought to town government for the past four years. During my years of service, I've focused on keeping Purcellville family-friendly and on creating an entrepreneurial environment that allows our residents a greater range of retail, service, and dining choices.

BRL: Are you in favor of more boundary line



adjustments or annexations similar to the Mayfair/Autumn Hill residential and commercial park project that was recently approved?

Melton: The Mayfair/Autumn Hill had a unique set of circumstances, which led to a boundary line adjustment. I cannot foresee a similar scenario looming on our town's border.

BRL: On a more specific growth issue, do you think the recent annexation of the Mayfair/Autumn Hill development, which will add 257 homes plus a commercial industrial park, was justified, and why?

Melton: The problem started 25 years ago with the county's approval of 492 units on the town's border. If the Mayfair/Autumn Hill developer won their court case against the county they could build 492 units and an alternative spray field on our town's border by-right. In my opinion, and my fellow councilmen's opinions, they had a very strong case. Many spray fields fail over time and we could not jeopardize our water supply with a pending environmental disaster on our border. With the court case outcome in doubt working for settlement that was beneficial to our town was the best course of action. We reduced the number of units from 492 to 257, and kept our water supply safe by eliminating the alternative spray field.

BRL: What is your view on last year's 17 percent tax increase that enacted the Fireman's Field tax district?

Melton: The 3.5 cent Parks and Recreation Fund assessment was needed to pay for the purchase of Fireman's Field prior to my joining town council and for investments made to preserve it while I've served on council.

BRL: How a property is zoned determines how intensely it can be developed. As mayor would you be in favor of approving higher density of current properties in the

town limits through comprehensive plan amendments and rezonings?

Melton: No. I don't see a need or scenario, in which, I would support approving higher density in town.

BRL: Historic downtown Purcellville is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. What's the mayor's role in ensuring that it stays there?

Melton: The Mayor should ensure the town complies with all regulations.

BRL: In recent years, Purcellville "streamlined" the process for review of proposed development and infrastructure projects, eliminating, for example, the Infrastructure and Ways and Means Committees. Do you think the new process allows for thorough vetting and public input?

Melton: Yes, during every regularly scheduled meeting residents get an opportunity to interact with the council and I welcome that time. We now meet under a Committee of the Whole model. I was the Chairman of the Ways and Means when we went to the Committee of the Whole format. I have found it a more efficient model for council and the public. This July, the next council will decide which model is best. However, with three brand new councilmen joining the next council a Committee of the Whole framework is the better option. The new members can work side-by-side with the existing members while they gain experience.

BRL: Town water bills have increased by double digits for the past five years. Purcellville's current debt is now over \$64 million. Why has this happened and what are some solutions you would propose?

Melton: As a town councilman and vice mayor, I'm accountable to manage our debt regardless of when it occurred and have made the tough decisions on how best to handle it. The majority of this debt occurred before I joined council. However, I did support the SCR and some recent improvements to Fireman's Field. In 10 years, under our current plan, the debt will be cut in half. With respected to utility rates, we developed a blueprint to address the problem. Due to our strong fiscal standing and policies we received

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View From The Ridge - Speak Your Mind On May 6

— By Andrea Gaines

If you climbed up to the top of Short Hill Mountain, which overlooks Purcellville and parts of the Loudoun Valley, you'd see something very different from what was there just a few years ago. You'd see the big new high school and the new roundabout on Rt. 690 heading into Hillsboro. You'd see new subdivisions filling in on what used to be the outskirts of Purcellville — huge annexations of land that have added significantly to the size of what was once truly a small town. You'd see fewer farms and more commercial development. If you had binoculars with you, you might be able to pinpoint one of the last dairy farms in the county, and just south of that the 18th Century village of Lincoln, both of which look more like parts of Purcellville today than the very distinct Loudoun County icons that they are. You'd see how the town of Round Hill is filling in, too, approaching Purcellville from the north. And, you'd see how a small cross roads that once defined Round Hill is nothing more than a spec compared to the very large subdivisions that are now a part of it. Little Hamilton would look more like the eastern

extension of Purcellville, instead of a small town between Purcellville and Leesburg.

When I write about what I personally see as runaway growth in Purcellville, I sometimes feel people think I'm also suggesting that the families who've moved to this area recently shouldn't have come. But, that's the furthest thing from my mind, because, in truth, they came here for the same reason I did. And, the older families who've been here for, literally generations make me look like the interloper ...

The point I'm trying to make is that if the growth we see around us here in Purcellville — the "gateway" to western Loudoun — isn't entirely acceptable to the voters, or at least too much, too soon and in the wrong places, than why is it happening in such a seemingly inevitable way?

I think it's because most people see it as unstoppable and bigger than they are. But, is it?

The Blue Ridge Leader is sponsoring a candidate's debate/forum on Wednesday, April 23 at the Carver Center, moderated by former ABC News anchor Bettina Gregory.

On May 6 Purcellville will hold town-

Continued on page 30

Letters To The Editor

Kwasi Fraser Responds to Melton's Inaccuracies

Dear Editor:

I am baffled by how out of touch my opponent, incumbent Keith Melton, is with the operations at Purcellville's most expensive and debt laden asset and with the primary reasons for the town's having achieved AAA status. As echoed by the three rating agencies, the primary reasons are the strong median family incomes of our citizens and the ability of the town to tax without limitation. Regarding the wastewater treatment plant's operation, the key issue is its system. In my opponent's March 21 letter to the editor, he proudly boasts that the system produces and treats over 200 million gallons of water per year but fails to mention that this figure illustrates that the system is 60 percent underutilized. Seemingly, my opponent is unaware of the operational inefficiencies and increasing costs of Purcellville's most expensive and debt laden asset, which, according to Fitch Ratings, has cash flow deficits averaging about \$1 million per year.

The wastewater treatment plant was built to treat over 500 million gallons of

water per year and not a mere 200 million gallons of water per year. Further, a simple analysis of our town's budget document shows that, under my opponent's watch, the wastewater system has had more than a 60 percent increase in repair costs over the past four years and electricity bills of more than \$140,000 per year on average. Under my watch, I will work with the town manager to complete benchmark studies and leverage my Lean Six Sigma expertise to guide the plant's staff to identify root causes and then to implement measurable plans and solutions.

For the record, as a certified Project Management Professional and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt with 19 years of experience, I do not simply espouse plans. Rather, I identify challenges and associated risks and then implement plans to create and to preserve value. I am looking forward to the debate on April 23 because this election is about the future of Purcellville, and its citizens need to know where we both stand to enable them to make informed decisions on May 6, 2014.

Editor's Note: Kwasi Fraser is running for Purcellville Mayor

Dr. Rogers Left Legacy Of Service, Country Living

Dr. Joseph Megeath Rogers, 90, died March 8 at his Hillbrook Farm near Hamilton following a stroke.

Physician, farmer, businessman, rural land conservationist, philanthropist and expert horseman, Rogers was a tireless advocate and practitioner of country living with a broad range of interests.

His public persona was most closely connected with success as an owner, trainer and rider of some of Virginia's most successful steeplechase horses running under his familiar red with white cross sash silks. He was a founder of the Oatlands Point-To-Point of the Loudoun Hunt, as well as of the Morven Park Steeplechase.

A long time member of the board of directors of the Westmoreland Davis Foundation, Rogers was also a founder of the Morven Park Equestrian Institute, founder of the Loudoun County Pony Club, a founding director of the Museum of Hounds and Hunting and a founding director of the American Academy of Equine Artists.

A 1947 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Rogers returned to Loudoun and set up a private practice that included among his patients both the prominent and the indigent. He often said of his medical practice that it was the way he chose to give back to a community where his family roots ran deep. That sense of obligation led him at one point to become chief of staff and chief of the emergency room at Loudoun Memorial Hospital. He was vice chairman of the Founders Committee of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Veterinary College at Morven Park.

The 1,200-acre Hillbrook Farm located on Harmony Church Road south of Hamilton was both a thriving agricultural business and a personal haven for Rogers, preserved forever by conservation easements.

Dr. Rogers is survived by his wife Donna Truslow Rogers, brothers Samuel Hamilton Rogers, Jr. and Richard Alexander Rogers; his children Marilyn Ashby Rogers Renner, Joseph Megeath Rogers, Jr., and Elizabeth Rogers Villeda; and his granddaughter Hannah Megeath Rogers Tucker. His brother Howard Cochran Rogers predeceased him.

Contributions may be made to Land Trust of Virginia, Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center and Museum of Hounds and Hunting, Morven Park.



Dr. Joseph Rogers

Remembering Joseph Leonard Mauck

Joseph Leonard "Joe" Mauck, Jr., 69, of Lincoln, died at Spring Arbor Assisted Living on March 13, 2014, with his daughters at his bedside.

He was born Sept. 20, 1944, in Saltville, Va., to the late Joseph Leonard Mauck, Sr. and Anna James McSpadden Mauck.

Mauck grew up in Marion, Va., with his four sisters. He attended Virginia Tech, where he was in the Corps of Cadets and graduated with an undergraduate degree in Vocational Agriculture and later a graduate degree in education.

He relocated to Loudoun County in 1967, employed by Loudoun County Public Schools until his retirement on July 1, 2009 – a total of 42 years. He first taught vocational agriculture at Loudoun Valley High School and then became one of the last principals at the old Lucketts Elementary School. Throughout his career with Loudoun County Public Schools he was assistant principal at Blue Ridge Middle School, then principal at Sterling Middle School, eventually returning to Blue Ridge Middle School as the principal. He is remembered as an educator who supported his teachers and allowed them the autonomy to teach their own way, and as a supervisor who always took an interest in the lives of his staff. He had a passion for local Civil War history and enjoyed teaching this to his middle school students.

Mauck also loved nature and being outdoors. He was an avid bird watcher and could identify every tree, insect and animal in the forest. In younger years he loved taking hikes and biking with his twin daughters and teaching them all he knew about nature.

He was preceded in death by his parents and oldest sister, Betty Ritter. He is survived by his daughters Sara Mauck and her partner Jessica Ebersole, of Kearneysville, W.Va.; and Molly Mauck Aitken and husband George "Duc" Aitken, of Woodsboro, Md.; his sisters, Mary Inman, of Williamsburg, Va.; Nancy Johnson, of Hampton, Va.; and Sally Mauck, of Reston, Va.; his former wife, Sandy Mauck of Round Hill; and former wife, Betty Jo Martin of Charles Town, W.Va.; He is also survived by his nieces Megan Samonds and Kelly Inman and nephews Mark Ritter and Matthew Inman; and his five young granddaughters Reily, Brooke, Elise, Brigi, and Madison Aitken.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Joseph Mauck's name to Capital Caring Hospice, 209 Gibson St., NW, Suite 202, Leesburg, VA 20176.

Remembering Zora M. "Mac" Brownell

Zora M. "Mac" McCall Brownell, 94, died March 12 at the Rose Hill Nursing Home in Berryville.

She was born in Baltimore, Md., in 1919. She married Jim Brownell in 1945, and she and Jim moved to Bluemont in 1959.

She threw herself into many endeavors – dairy farming, family nurturing and volunteering. She was the first hired coordinator of volunteers at Loudoun Memorial Hospital, served as chairwoman of the Loudoun County Red Cross, raised funds for the county's adult day care respite centers and helped lead the push to convert the former Carver School to the present-day Carver Senior Center.

She was appointed by Gov. Charles Robb to the Virginia Advisory Committee for Volunteerism in 1983, and served on the county's Advisory Committee to establish a Loudoun Volunteer Services Program.

She helped organize the first Bluemont Fair, served on the Advisory Board of Loudoun Valley Community Center, was chair and vice chair of the Friends of Carver Center. She was a charter member of the Loudoun Library Foundation and she volunteered with Loudoun Parks and Recreation's Very Special Arts Program. She was a longtime member of the Purcellville Preservation Association.

Brownell was chair of Loudoun County Multiple Sclerosis for four years, an honorary life member of the American Cancer Society, and a bereavement counselor for Loudoun County Hospice. She served with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the Commission on Aging, and Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers.

Out of her work for seniors came Mac's last big public achievement – the successful conversion of the former George Washington Carver Elementary School to the Carver Senior Center in 2007.

Mac Brownell is survived by her husband Jim; son Jimmy and his wife Patty, son Mark and his wife Jackie, and her son Scott; seven grandsons and five great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her son Bruce and her daughter Susan.

Memorial contributions may be made in support of the Adult Day Care Center program at The Carver Center to the Mac Brownell Memorial Fund, c/o Wells Fargo Bank, 611 E. Main St., Purcellville, VA 20132. A celebration of Mac Brownell's life will be held at the Carver Center on April 26 at 3 p.m.

Project Livestock Will Help Animal Owners

The Loudoun Sheriff's Office is launching a new program in partnership with the Loudoun County Department of Animal Services and the Loudoun Cooperative Extension. The purpose of the program, Operation: Protect Livestock, is to quickly and safely reunite Loudoun County livestock owners with their lost or wayward animals.

"One night I was dispatched to the area of Harpers Ferry road for a report of cattle in the roadway. When I arrived, two Texas Longhorn Bulls were fighting in the middle of the roadway. Not being able to leave them in the roadway alone as they were a traffic hazard, I asked dispatch for emergency contact information for a residence I thought they belonged to. When dispatch said they did not have any information, I had to sit in the middle of the road with my lights and siren on in the hopes of waking up the homeowner. Eventually the homeowner woke up and the cattle were safely returned home. From this incident came



Photo by Sarah Huntington

the idea of having emergency contact information of homeowners who own livestock that may get out," said Deputy Tim James.

Over the years, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Loudoun County Department of Animal Services, have received reports that livestock are loose on or near area roadways or on private property. In many cases it is difficult for Sheriff's Deputies and Animal Control Officers to identify or locate their owners. This can create a challenge to safely re-secure the livestock.

Livestock owners will now have the ability to provide contact information and details about the type and number of animals they have. This information will be collected and maintained by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. If an animal is found in a roadway or on another person's property, the owner can easily be contacted and the animal can be returned home safely. Additionally, in the event of an emergency or natural disaster, having livestock owner

information on hand will help emergency responders to better plan and assist animals in need. Participation in the program is free. "This is an ongoing problem that surfaces periodically. I am pleased that Deputy James, who lives in the western end of the county and is very familiar with this issue, took initiative to help resolve it. The Sheriff's Office and Animal Services' Project Livestock outreach provides farm animal owners a mechanism for the quick and safe return of their animals," said Sheriff Mike Chapman.

Livestock owners may enroll in the program by emailing ProtectLivestock@loudoun.gov or by phone message at 703-771-5670, ext. 6440. Please be sure to include the following information:

- Owner name, street address, home phone, emergency contact phone number (for when away from home), livestock location and any distinguishing information about your livestock

The Sheriff's Office and Loudoun County Animal Services will be hosting information sessions for Loudoun citizens interested in learning more about Operation: Protect Livestock. Visit www.loudoun.gov/animals or www.sheriff.loudoun.gov/protectlivestock for more information.

Candidates for Council Interviews

Karen Jimmerson

Karen Jimmerson was raised in Tampa, FL and after graduating from the University of South Florida she relocated to Virginia in 1992 where she worked as a general manager for a national store brand until she settled in Loudoun to raise her family and be a stay-at-home mom. She is the current secretary of her homeowners association, an active volunteer with the PTA, and a community activist who



Karen Jimmerson

spearheaded the successful opposition to the Catoctin Creek Towne Center, a development which threatened the small town character of Purcellville. Through that work, she has learned to listen carefully to what residents want, worked hard to become informed by attending countless town meetings, and is committed to making careful, thoughtful decisions that benefit the entire community. Karen has been married for 22 years and has three daughters.

BRL: Why are you running for town council?

Jimmerson: After attending many town meetings, I witnessed some of our town leaders treating concerned citizens with contempt and their input being ignored and it became clear the residents of Purcellville were not being represented. By nature, I am an advocate, and I want to champion for greater community participation and respect towards residents. I will bring my strong critical thinking skills, integrity, and a sense of fairness and responsibility to all of my actions and votes. Our town council shouldn't be known for catering to businesses and developers and being part of a 'good ole boy' network.

BRL: What do you see as the three most important issues facing Purcellville?

Jimmerson: Purcellville has an imbalance right now with insufficient roads for our population and an underutilized water/sewer system. We are also at a crossroads with regards to development and the potential loss of our community character. We need to move forward on smart, innovative planning, smarter and better development, and revitalization of existing retail before more is built. We must strike a balance as we try and widen our tax base to increase the town's economic vitality so that we remain a desirable place to live.

BRL: Purcellville is growing really fast. What is your vision for how big it should get?

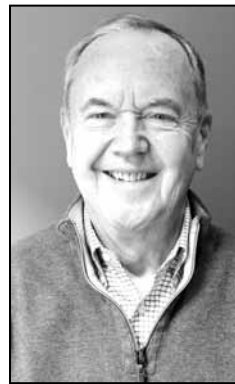
Jimmerson: According to our Comprehensive plan we are already at the planned build out for the town. Previous town council actions have put our finances in a position of being reliant on new growth to create revenue. Purcellville needs to avoid scattered commercial development, which fragments the landscape and undermines the business districts. We need to focus on helping existing places thrive by taking care of assets and investments such as downtown, Main Street, and places that the community values. We need to let our residents also be the driver of our growth, not just developers and the town's fiscal needs.

BRL: Zoning determines how a property can be used and how intense the development/use can be. Would you make any changes to town zoning and/or the town's comprehensive plan?

Jimmerson: Zoning was developed to protect communities because homeowners have no means of insuring their assets against new development threats. A low tax rate raises area home values and we can use zoning to promote the tax base by encouraging increased commerce while making sure it doesn't negatively affect home values. The Comprehensive plan needs to be updated to integrate

Doug McCollum

McCollum, an 8-year resident of Purcellville, and a life-long resident of the greater Washington area, first discovered Purcellville in the 70's while visiting his in-laws who were Loudoun County residents. He admired the small-town feel of Purcellville, the rolling farmland of the surrounding area and the blue-green hues of the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains. He knew that when the time was right, he would move west to Purcellville. Doug and his wife,



Doug McCollum

Sue of 45 years live in the Courts of St. Francis. As a member of the Town Council, McCollum says he would work hard to preserve the quality of life that attracted him to Purcellville.

BRL: Why are you running for town council?

McCollum: I believe in citizen participation and public service. I have a proven record of community activity since moving here in 2006, including chair of the Purcellville Planning Commission since 2012 and president of my HOA since 2009. During my tenure in these positions, I have responsibly represented my community by listening to citizen comments, working as team member and leading the group toward consensus. Additionally, because I am retired, I intend to devote whatever time and energy are needed in service to the residents and businesses of Purcellville.

BRL: What do you see as the three most important issues facing Purcellville?

McCollum: (1) Short-term and long-term growth: We need to manage growth to achieve our financial objective of 70 percent 30 percent tax revenues from residential and commercial properties respectively while at the same time striving to preserve the quality and hometown feel of life in Purcellville. (2) Communication: Residents need to feel heard. Too often I have heard residents and business representatives say that they do not sense the council listens to their views. I'd like to work to change this perception by meeting with citizens' groups and HOAs outside of the council's regular meetings and work sessions to discuss their concerns. We need to work together to create the town we can all be proud of. (3) Conservation: We need to protect the community's natural resources by enhancing our parks and recreation (including an indoor swimming pool), our community connectivity (sidewalks and bike paths) and our transportation safety (for example, additional crosswalks). All of these are vital to the quality of our lives here in Purcellville.

BRL: Purcellville is growing really fast. What is your vision for how big it should get?

McCollum: I don't see that the size of Purcellville is as important as our town's ability to maintain the hometown feel that drew all of us to this community. Because our recent growth has been so rapid and we are nearing the limits of property yet to be developed, I believe we need to catch our collective breaths and determine as a community how we want our future to look. Purcellville needs a road map that reduces the inconsistent development priorities we've seen in the past years and manages development with a town-wide perspective, with special emphasis on the downtown area. I would like to see the town reach its goal of 30 percent tax revenue from business before it considers whether it should grow its residential base. My goal is to have the community define a vision of the 21st century small town we want Purcellville to be, a vision that includes an emphasis on our youth and senior citizens.

BRL: Zoning determines how a property can be used and how intense the development use can be. Would you make any changes to town zoning and/or the town's comprehensive plan?

McCollum: The planning commission is currently

Ben Packard

Ben Packard grew up in the San Francisco region of California. He attended University of Utah and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry. While there, he met and married his wife, Tiffany Packard. After finishing law school, he moved to Virginia to pursue a career in intellectual property law. Ever the student, he then earned a masters degree in chemistry at George Mason University, while working on the Hill and various law firms in Washington, D.C.,



Benjamin Packard

and now works at a patent examining attorney for the United States Patent and Trademark office, specializing in small molecule bio-affected drugs. He resides in Hirst Farm with his wife and three children: Jacqueline, Spencer and Morgan.

BRL: Why are you running for town council?

Packard: I believe many residents have a strong interest in what happens in Purcellville but lack the time or energy to actively participate. I want to represent those residents to make sure all points of view are heard and considered.

BRL: What do you see as the three most important issues facing Purcellville?

Packard: First, water/sewer rates have gone up substantially over the last few years. We need to plan a long term pay off strategy that minimizes large increases at any one given time.

Second, I hear residents ask for more small local businesses. We need to find ways to encourage increasing foot traffic at the various commercial locations to support entrepreneurs wanting to establish themselves in Purcellville.

Third, we need to encourage a mix of commercial growth to provide a greater variety of services for residents and provide additional revenue to the town.

BRL: Purcellville is growing really fast. What is your vision for how big it should get?

Packard: "Big" is an ambiguous term. If the question is how many acres should be within the town limits of Purcellville, then I would say we are near the maximum for now. There are only a limited number of empty lots which could and would want to be incorporated into town. If the question is how much more density and/or commercial can be built out, then we have to consider the fact that there is land within town limits which can be developed by right. As I commented at the planning commission meeting last month, I believe we need to retain the commercial zones and encourage commercial growth over residential. The comprehensive plan discusses that Purcellville's goal is to be the economic center of western Loudoun. Rezoning commercial to residential would go contrary to that goal as the available land to develop commercial interests is limited.

BRL: Zoning determines how a property can be used and how intense the development/use can be. Would you make any changes to town zoning and/or the town's comprehensive plan?

Packard: The Planning Commission is in the midst of reviewing the town zoning ordinances and comprehensive plan, so many of my thoughts are already incorporated into changes being drafted. Our goal has been to simplify the ordinance to make clear what uses are appropriate for a given area.

BRL: The mayor and town council recently voted to overturn the Board of Architectural Review's recommendations on the Vineyard Square development. Would you have voted the same way?

Packard: I was not privy to the specifics of the plan, nor did I hear the comments of either the Board of Architectural Review or the applicants. That said, as a member of a town commission, I believe a great deal of deference should be giv-



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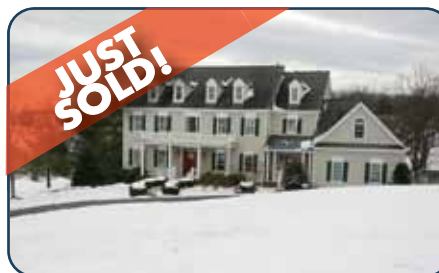
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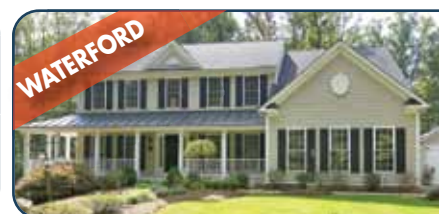


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Richards Brings Fashion To Customer

Alessandra Richards of Delaplaine is now representing the Worth clothing line. Founded in 1991, Worth is a New York City based, multi-million dollar company built on one simple idea: providing intrinsic value through the luxury clothing brands, Worth New York and W by Worth. The Worth lines are uniquely sold in the homes of a national network of professional sales associates. Through exclusive one-on-one appointments, the individual sales team offers effortless and personalized luxury experiences that enhance clients' lifestyles.



Alessandra Richards



Optic Garden

Richards graduated from Foxcroft in 2009 then University of Mississippi in 2013 with a degree in print journalism and an emphasis on public relations. She became involved in representing the Worth line because of her love of fashion. She said that with everyone's busy schedule it makes life easier to look at the collections in the home. Women can shop privately and pick a wardrobe. The pieces are timeless and one can build and add to their wardrobe season after season.

"My favorite part is helping women look and feel their best," Richards said. "I can make life easier for the busy mom or the professional woman by being a one stop shop."

Clients can also go with Richards to New York and order from the showroom. There is also a select customer site with a virtual closet. Richards can send her clients an email that is through the company, allowing the customer to order online anytime. She also hand picks pieces and sends

an email to her clients when a new fashion comes on the market that she thinks her client might like. "People like the customer service I give. I love helping women make the best of their style," she said. Richards continued, "What would be good for clients is that this is hands on to have a personal shopper, and I am that young girl in fashion who reads every blog and every magazine and just can't get enough."

The Worth line has a large selection of skirts, tops, shirts, pants coat, jackets and dresses. The line also includes handbags, clutches and scarfs. "My favorite part is helping women look and feel their best," said Richards.

Spring and summer trends include a lot of jewel tones like emerald, rich greens and blues, safari jackets, nautical theme and of course white. There is always a mix of textures, such as a wonderfully soft and high quality leather, summer eyelet and lace. Don't forget the floral motif, also. There is also the theme of urban paradise, tropical colors, and urbanized shades of black and brown. The Worth line doesn't go out of style.

Alessandra is the youngest woman to ever work with Worth. "It's really exciting to be working with such nice women," said Richards.

More and more people are shopping this way because it is hassle free, personalized and by appointment.

Richards can be reached at arichards@worthnewyork.com.

Spring Is In The Hair

– By Tony Salahi



This spring, what's old is new.

"What's new?" Is the first question most clients ask when they sit in any stylists chair. They expect us to know (and we do) everything from new styles, new color, new trends to new products.

This spring all over the country, we're seeing the classics being reinvented - from big and sexy Hollywood hair to short and sassy pixie cuts. The ever popular flat-ironed, straight hair is beginning to show more volume, height and texture. This can be accomplished with braiding, crimping, curling rolling and salon products. A great product to use for volume is Hair Mill's no nonsense mousse.

Not ready for a big change? Not ready for the short Twiggy look? Then start your spring with a bang, literally. Bangs are an easy way to change your look without going too dramatic. Bangs can be short or long, side-swept or straight, choppy or smooth. Any way you cut it, they look fabulous and fun. Even by simply changing where you part your hair, your old style will look new again. Change sides! Try a middle or zigzag part.

We all can agree it's been a long, cold winter. What better way to welcome spring than with a new look? Begin your new look with an intense hydrating masque. Your hair is begging for relief from the dryness of Old Man Winter. You can do this at a salon or at home. Just remember to use a professional product bought at a salon - it really does make a difference. Masques are available for all hair types, and one of the products I like is J Beverly Hills intensive treatment mask.

You will feel refreshed and energized. Regardless of your stylist, remember to communicate exactly what you want, what your expectations are for your old new look. A good stylist will listen.

Tony Salahi owns the Hair Mill Salon in the Purcellville Plaza at 201 – G North Maple. For more information go to www.hairmillsalon.com.



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Mayoral Candidates Debate/Forum: 7:15 – 8:15

Break: 8:15 – 8:30

Town Council Candidates Debate/Forum: 8:30 – 9:30





Parents, students and staff from Blue Ridge Middle School received recognition as a "Schools to Watch" school at the Feb. 25 Loudoun County School Board meeting. From left, Michael Calloway, Kim Jackson, Bran Hanselman, Matt Bolen, Nancy Griffith-Cochran, Brion Bell, Marnie Hawk, Karyn Clark, Sarah Weller, Amy Sheffer and Cole Sheffer.

Blue Ridge Middle School - A School To Watch

Blue Ridge Middle School has earned recognition for the third time as a School to Watch. Initially earning this status in 2008 and re-designated in 2011 and again in 2014, BRMS is one of 32 schools in Virginia to have achieved this honor and is one of only six schools statewide to achieve re-designation twice.

"Our sustained success rests on our ability to create positive relationships with the students. Our staff always puts kids first," said Principal Brion Bell when he accepted the award for BRMS at the Loudoun County School Board meeting on Feb. 25. Parents,

students and staff members were on hand to celebrate as the school was recognized.

Schools to Watch, an initiative launched by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, identifies schools across the United States that are well on their way to meeting the forum's criteria for high performance. In order to achieve this designation, BRMS underwent an extensive application process to demonstrate excellence in the following areas identified by the National Forum: Academic excellence, developmental responsiveness and social equity.

Loudoun Christian High School To Open In Purcellville

A new high school will be opening in Purcellville in the fall.

Loudoun Christian High School, beginning this fall with grades 9 and 10, is the new school. LCH will be the only independent, non-denominational private Christian high school in Loudoun County.

Head of School Debbie Daniel said the school will be able to address the spiritual growth and development of students.

"Loudoun Christian High can [address spiritual growth] by employing teachers who love the Lord and desire to teach and mentor each student, by teaching the students about different worldviews and what the Bible says about every topic, by challenging the students to decide what they believe and to explain why they believe it, and by providing the students with a smaller environment in which they can flourish with more individualized attention," Daniel said.

Run by a Board of Directors, currently consisting of seven members representing four different churches in the county, Loudoun Christian High is located at Purcellville Baptist Church on Yaxley Drive in Purcellville.

In addition to offering academics that will prepare students for their future educational or occupational goals, the program will



Debbie Daniel

include community service opportunities, job exploration trips and extended field trips.

Loudoun Christian High is currently accepting applications for enrollment for grades 9 and 10 for the 2014-2015 school year. Additional grades will be added in following years until a full high school offering is available. To learn more go to www.loudounchristianhigh.org.

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Ketocin Baptist Asks For Help

— By Becky Fleming

Ketocin Baptist Church, located outside of Purcellville, is asking for the community's help.

Since the erection of the current church building in 1854, not much has changed including the modern amenities such as indoor plumbing. By 2006, the members had saved and accumulated more than \$15,000 to install indoor plumbing. Then Hurricane Katrina hit. At a service in the fall of 2006 the church's treasurer suggested sending money to help with the relief.

Someone asked how much and he said, "We have the money saved for the bathroom and many of those people have no bathroom so let's send the bathroom money," said David Sweet, pastor. "No one batted an eye; in fact, one person suggested we take up an offering to add to the money and in the end it was a bit more than \$17,000. It just didn't seem right to have all that money sitting around when there were people going without food and water and having so many other basic needs, besides."

Laughter and greetings fill the sanctuary on a recent Sunday as about 20 people sat down and pulled out their hymnals. Beneath the slave gallery, which now houses Christmas decorations and little American flags, Ketocin Baptist gathers each Sunday to worship in a traditional



style. They still don't have a bathroom. As the offering basket was passed around, one child emptied a bag of coins into it.

The congregation has saved another \$15,000 and has begun the process of installing indoor plumbing. In February 2014, one of their own members, Randy Burleson & crew (KCB Handyman Services) began construction of a bathroom and kitchenette in the rear of the church. Unfortunately, the \$15,000 saved is not anywhere near enough to complete this project. The Ketocin congregation is now reaching out to anyone that can help them reach their goal (i.e. funding, supply donations, skills and prayers). They ask anyone who would like to help to please Pastor David Sweet 703-209-9138 or visit the website www.ketocinchurch.com.

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Let's Celebrate Hamilton Day

— By Carri Michon

Mark your calendars to celebrate together at the annual town of Hamilton parade and festivities. This year Hamilton Day will be held Saturday April 26. The day begins with the new offering of a cross country run - the Hamilton Point to Point for children with the races beginning at 8 a.m. on the grounds of Hamilton Elementary School. All children grades kindergarten through eighth are invited to register for the races - a half-mile run for kindergarten through third grades with the second half mile race for grades four and five. The final race will be a 2-mile run for middle school students. Registration forms can be downloaded after April 2 from the Hamilton web site at www.town.hamilton.va.us. Questions can be directed to Carri Michon at CLMichon@aol.com.

The annual parade will begin at 11 a.m. at the Hamilton Safety Center through town and end at the corner of Reid Street and

W. Colonial Highway (by Lowry's Crab Shack and the LDS church). Welcomed are all decorated bicycles, walking costumed children, 4H, ball teams, local businesses, antique cars and tractors, etc. Any interested participants for the parade can contact Cheryl Campbell at cbikowski@burkinc.com.

The Celebrate the Town of Hamilton Day will commence once again after the parade at Hamilton Elementary School to include food to purchase from the Hamilton Rurians, a bake sale by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hamilton Safety Center (Fire and Rescue), glitter tattoos for the kids, a 4H display area and Fire and Rescue vehicles. A flag ceremony on the baseball field with the announcing of players from the local Hamilton sports teams as well as the Hamilton Point to Point race winners will be at noon. Winding up the day will be two ball games starting at 2 p.m. on the baseball fields at Hamilton Elementary School.

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Fishing With The Right Lure Makes A Big Difference

Mark White lives in Hawaii on the island of Kauai and makes fishing lures that can be used all over the world.

The lures are for deep sea, near shore and fresh water. He designs and manufactures a variety of shapes and sizes of trolling heads and surface plugs. Each lure is made with great care and attention to detail--from the mixing of materials for the ceramic body and glazes to the several firings necessary to complete each piece.

He and his wife, Nancy, have also been operating a pottery studio for over 30 years.

"The lure is a small sculpture that I can add color to and the ideas I get from making them are endless," White said. "They are small art work, and the format provides infinite possibilities."

It all started about 18 years ago when White's then 4-year-old son wanted to start fishing. They got bamboo poles and headed to their local streams and reservoirs with earth worms for bait. They had a lot of fun until they started hooking up Peacock Bass using baby Tilapias for bait.

On one occasion, while battling a large



Mark White with one of his catches

Peacock Bass, his son was nearly pulled in. Fortunately for him White didn't know much about knots at the time. He discovered you really need a spinning gear to effectively fight those kinds of fish. Their passion for fishing grew, and they started reading everything they could about fishing.

As White honed his skills, he started salt water fishing for Trevally under and over 10 pounds and Ulua, and other near shore species. He became very interested in top water plugs and started

making some out of his porcelain clay body for fun. He said he quickly realized some of the benefits of using a ceramic material over plastic or wood. The ceramic lures produced increased casting distance, because of the weight to mass ratio which gave him more territory to attract the attention of predatory species. He got friends to work as early test team members. Over the past six years he has been testing different formulas to improve the fracture toughness rating of the ceramic body. The lures can handle the stress of both fish and fisherman, he said. These lures are nearly indestructible and come with a lifetime warranty.



Mark teaching kids to fish



Happy customer on Oahu



Close up of a Yellowfin Tuna with Mark White Lure

"Because we are potters by trade, for over 30 years, we really enjoy making objects that are useful - a fishing lure that can put food on someone's table as well as produce the excitement of hooking up a great fish - this is a huge use. The things we make have to look

nice, but if they are not functional, we aren't interested in making them," said White.

More information is at www.markwhitelures.com or email Mark at info@markwhitelures.com.

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From left to right, back row: Don Younker, Paul LaPointe, Chris Carr, Jeff Foresha; Front Row: Leslie Solitario, Carol Snow, Becky LaPointe, Jackie Miller.

Photo: Sarah Huntington 540-338-7809



Landscape Photography Show At Leesburg Town Hall

The first floor of Leesburg Town Hall is now the place to see landscape photography of Loudoun County. The show was hung by Dave Levinson, a local artist and photographer. The exhibit features scenes of local pastures, farms, mountains and streams. The show will be on display through the end of May 2014.

Levinson has shown his Loudoun County landscape photography since 2004. He enjoys exploring his surroundings and seeking out the natural beauty that Loudoun has to offer.

For more information about Levinson and his Loudoun photographs, visit LoudounLandscapes.com or contact him at LandscapePhotos@gmail.com.

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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Jeb Stuart Road

– By Tim Jon

It's not like I need an excuse for writing about Jeb Stuart Road; I mean, I know I've shared my experiences of Snickersville Turnpike as it passes through Philomont either to or from the Mountains to the west – but I figure I've paid my dues over the past several years along this little split corridor of gravel.



JON

Yeah- and that's a good thing to keep in mind if you ever head down there – say – after dark or during a really wet period: Jeb Stuart doesn't cross that little stretch of water down at the bottom – or, wait a minute – yeah, it does – but the road goes under Butchers Branch instead of riding safe and dry over the top. I've heard tales of folks crossing over during dry spells, but you won't catch me giving that a try. The last time I came in from the east side – down to where the water meets the road – I barely got out of there with an all-wheel drive Subaru. It gets pretty soupy down there.

And the rest of the road isn't much better, either: There's a little hilly section – coming in from the west – where you'd better watch your speed – like 15 miles an hour or so – or you just might bounce your way all the way



off the road into the brambles. And there you'd be. I mean, not a lot of people travel Jeb Stuart Road: I see about as many riders on horseback as I do motor vehicles – and if you do meet a car or truck – or God forbid, a horse trailer – you'd better be prepared to make as much room as possible for that other guy – which may mean scraping your floorboards against the rocks or taking off a mirror on the encroaching foliage – or even straddling that log that just fell across the roadway in the last day or two.

So – just why would you decide to travel down this little, mostly forsaken non-creek-crossing path you could barely call a road? Well, I've been down (and up, thankfully) Jeb Stuart hundreds of times in the line of duty – in rain, snow, sleet and hail – and a hurricane or two. I've mostly covered the western portion – from Saint Louis Road to the end of State Maintenance and back – but I've had to acquaint myself with the eastern section a time or two as



well. They're each just about as wild and wooly as the other. Apart from living down there, or getting paid for it, I'm not sure I'd recommend spending much time along this little road; and I'm sure the few residents scattered along either side would tell you the same thing.

Sure – there is a safer, more civilized section of Jeb Stuart as it crosses over Snickersville Turnpike and semi-circles around to catch it on the eastern side of Philomont – and that's a nice enough little drive, (it even connects with Colcheser and Greggsville Roads and at their terminal points in the community – and these are both rewarding to the intrepid traveler, as well).

But for me – for true adventure – you just can't beat a road that goes under water to get to the other side. I guess – to me – it fits in with a lot of my other much-loved little foibles about this locality: In a place with facilities like Orbital Sciences, AOL and Dulles Airport, you also have features



such as Jeb Stuart Road – which, like its namesake – bravely forges ahead where few others would possess the heart or the intestinal fortitude to make the attempt.

And in reviewing my thoughts and feelings about these familiar sections of gravel, it comes to mind that I may have neglected to place enough stress on the perhaps-surprising realization that I really enjoy traveling up and down Jeb Stuart Road – even in one of the most ungainly of vehicles – a mail truck, of all things. I like the rocky bumps, the narrowness of the corridors, the rude elevation changes, and the fact that you may just meet a rider on horseback around any corner. To me, those are the interesting features that come with the territory. Not to mention that unseen portion of the road – the mysterious little section which travels under the mercurial Butchers Branch. But that's an adventure for a braver traveler than I.

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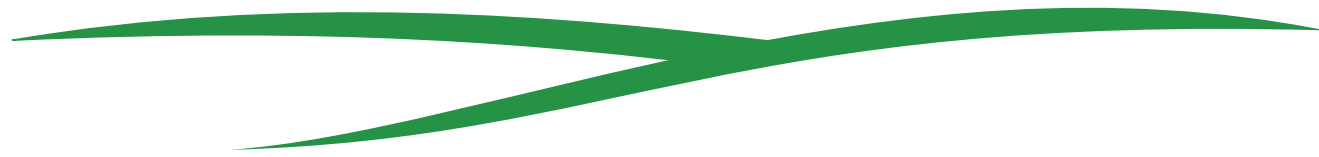
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| Sun, Apr 13 | 3PM |

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Last Ham Standing

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Don't miss this hilarious show full of laughs for the entire family. A group of talented performers take suggestions from the audience to create wacky scenes and funny improv games. If you like *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, you'll love *Last Ham Standing*, the other comedy meat! Reserved Seating

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Main Street Theater: Willy Wonka

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
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Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka* follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka as he stages a contest by hiding five golden tickets in his scrumptious candy bars. Whoever comes up with these tickets will win a free tour of the Wonka factory, as well as a lifetime supply of candy. The children must learn to follow Mr. Wonka's rules in the factory--or suffer the consequences. This scumdidilyumptious musical is guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth. This production features Tom Sweitzer in the title role of Willy Wonka.

Tickets \$20. Students/seniors/groups of 10 or more \$15 Reserve by calling 540-571-9588 or Karlalouis@aol.com

Art Exhibits and Classes

Heart Marks Art Therapy is sponsoring an art exhibit in the gallery at Franklin Park Arts Center from April 12—May 7, 2014 with the theme *"Feelings that have left marks on your heart"*. This exhibit is open to all artists in all mediums. The judged exhibit will begin with an opening reception on Saturday, April 12th from 1:00—3:00 pm. Artists entry fee is \$20; opening reception is free to the public.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/HeartMarksArtTherapy

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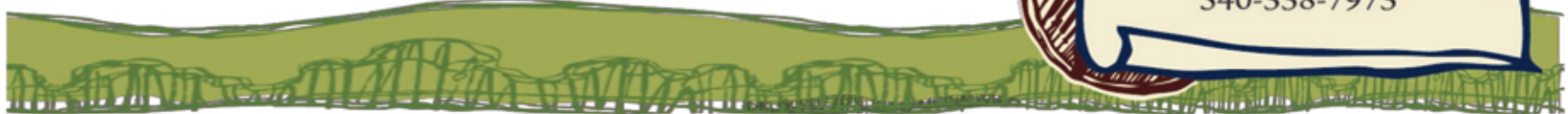
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Contact Franklin Park Arts Center for more information 540-338-7973 on these and other performances, classes and activities.



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April Is A Time For Daffodils

- By Donna Williamson

April is a great time to think about daffodils. While you are enjoying the current crop of spring delights, look around and think about places where bulbs might enhance the gardens. Be sure to look out your windows at views that would be more cheery with daffodils and at your driveway area so you can welcome yourself home with them too.

There are many kinds of daffodils: dainty white ones, miniatures, classic early big yellow flowers, pheasant eye species, and heirloom varieties. Be careful with the double flowering varieties as they often fail to flower due to our wildly fluctuating temperatures in spring. They almost get there and then the bud fails to escape from its papery covering – called “blasting.”

You may want to think twice about the pink varieties. They are really more of an apricot color and fade too quickly. White varieties are nice in mixed plantings with other perennials and yellow flowers are good for seeing from a distance.

Daffodils are great in our area – they naturalize well and flower beautifully as long as you don’t shear their curing foliage too early. Give the leaves about 6 weeks after the flowers fade to build next springs flower.



If you cut daffodil flowers for the house, let them be alone in the vase. They excrete a substance that will clog the stems of other flowers and prevent them from taking up water.

One way to bring added beauty to daffodils is to add the minor bulbs to your planting. Muscari or grape hyacinth is a tough little bulb that blooms in a variety of blue shades. Another tiny blue bulb is scilla. In shades of cobalt blue, this bulb is predator proof. Often I add pale blue wind anemone and the perky mid-blue chionodoxa to the mix. All of these little blue bulbs perennialize well at the feet of your daffodils.

All the spring bulbs are valuable since they provide early pollen for the bees. Make a few notes this month so you can remember where to plant more daffodils

in October. They are usually not costly and it’s fun to have a daffodil extravaganza each spring. Treat yourself.

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. Email donnawilliamson2002@earthlink.net or call her at 540-877-2002.

Welcome Friends! Spring Starts Here!



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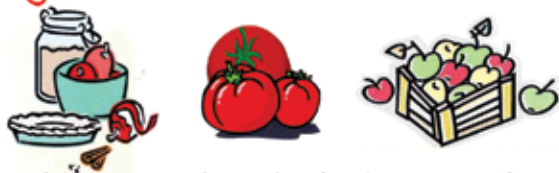
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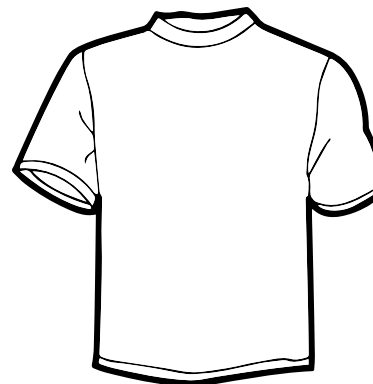


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Jimmersen, continued from page 7

the numerous changes that have taken place and it should reflect the new economy and perceptions of the community to what any future development should look like.

BRL: The mayor and town council recently voted to overturn the Board of Architectural review's recommendations on the Vineyard Square development. Would you have voted the same way?

Jimmerson: Many others and myself spoke up at the public hearing against such a drastic change to the 21st Street landscape. Our Board of Architectural Review and the Planning Commission exist to bring balance to our government and help businesses and property owners articulate and achieve a vision for how they want our community to function, now and into the future. Purcellville welcomes investments in our community, but we need to seek out and retain the balance between the wishes of a developer and the wants of the community. I am concerned about efforts by local developers and business leaders to diminish the Board of Architectural Review Board after they voted against the approval of the Vineyard Square project. Actions like this are why we need to fight to retain checks and balances in our local government.

BRL: As a member of the town council, how would you keep in touch with the needs and points of view of the citizens of Purcellville?

What we desire as a community shouldn't come up for discussion solely at public hearings and during elections. The town must create an environment of involvement and ownership by its residents through Town generated surveys and informal gatherings to generate open discussion on a regular and continuing basis. Town Meetings should be a welcoming place where citizens are respected and encouraged to attend and participate. The town and its leaders must take a more proactive approach to social media with more innovative and transparent ways of gathering input. Residents currently have access to updates via email press releases and quarterly updates.

BRL: What are some of the things you would like to change or implement for the Town of Purcellville to benefit the current residents?

Jimmerson: I would like to see a town council that manages the taxpayers' money as if it were their own. Spending over \$40 million for a water/sewer system that was too large for the current population to support financially and over \$8 million towards a dilapidated church building are main factors in the enormous debt that Purcellville currently has. Our Town Council cannot continue to make bad decisions that border on intentional misconduct and gross negligence. We need to reassess what expenditures are critical, which are desirable, and which can be put off until our fiscal house is in order.

BRL: What are some things you would do to protect our small town – how would you balance the need for economic growth and the desires of the community to retain the small town character?

Jimmerson: PUGAMP was eliminated in 2013 and we no longer have the strong say in what development will occur just beyond our town limits. Any and all development around Purcellville must be managed together with the county since they add to the congestion and maintenance of our roads. We have an unsustainable system that has the town residents being overburdened with the high taxes

in Loudoun County and left to rely solely on new development and annexation to pay off old debt with new funds. If developers are not able to pay more upfront costs toward infrastructure costs, house prices will fall due to these high taxes, putting Purcellville into a downward financial spiral. We need to explore special tax districts for new developments to help alleviate the tax burden from just town residents.

BRL: What are some of the biggest challenges Purcellville faces in the next four years?

Jimmerson: Recovering from a cycle of governance that solves fiscal debt with short-term stimulation from projects that have long-term costs that far exceed any initial benefit. This is an unsustainable cycle and if growth were the way out of debt, Purcellville wouldn't have any. The next council must make every effort to realize savings, cut costs, and adjust expenditures. I believe I can provide the kind of forward thinking, open-minded leadership that the town needs.

BRL: Would you support additional boundary line adjustments or annexations for Purcellville? Why?

Jimmerson: It would depend on several factors; the main one being whether the community seems amenable to it, it makes fiscal sense for the town to commit to the annexation, and the impact on the town would be balanced with responsible planning and placement.

BRL: List your three top priorities, if elected.

Jimmerson:

1. Ethics transparency, and creating an open and inviting environment.
2. Reviewing financial support for any operations that do not make money and look at ways they could. Fireman's Field is a wonderful resource for the town, but the cost to residents is grossly disproportionate to the number of town residents that are currently utilizing it. We should focus on small ways to create efficiency and cost cutting so that we are not forced to cut expenses on the larger, necessary projects.
3. Prioritizing Projects. The Phase II sidewalk plan is being done at a time when our debt per capita is nearly unsustainable. Instead of using funds for needed projects, our current town council chose to divert funds to wish list items that many businesses and residents are against. The brunt of failed financial decisions falls to the town residents, where we are spending too much money on unnecessary projects instead of needed infrastructure and is clearly why taxes/costs/expenses in the town have increased so much for residents.

BRL: What was a significant obstacle in your life and how did you overcome it?

Jimmerson: Obstacles not only exist for us to overcome, they exist so we can know who we are and having a child with autism taught me that I am capable of anything and I was stronger than I knew. My husband and I were told they couldn't be sure our daughter would talk or attend school. With determination and a lot of stubbornness, today our daughter is thriving in school and sometimes even talks too much. Today it is hard to believe she was our shrieking toddler that hated when people looked at her, screamed when she was bathed, and didn't like to be touched. Her first five years were the most difficult time in my life, but it was also a gift. It has made me who I am and I am grateful that God trusted me to be her mom.

McCollum, continued from page 7

reviewing zoning ordinances with particular attention to outdated, duplicative and vague special use regulations. I want the planning commission to continue this difficult task and make recommendations to the town council. The planning commission has also discussed whether one or more zoning districts continue to have any vitality today and whether others may be combined to simplify our zoning code. The current Comprehensive Plan (adopted in 2006) needs to be reviewed in light of these recommendations as well as our rapid growth. The planning commission last reviewed the Comprehensive Plan in 2011 but made only minor changes. I think we need to begin our review soon rather than wait until 2016, when the next review is scheduled. This will be a major task involving time and valuable resources, but as a community we can achieve a successful result using time-tested project management tools. I'd like to be part of these processes as a member of the town council. It is likely that many of the upcoming developments will involve re-zoning, where compliance with the comprehensive plan is an important factor.

BRL: The mayor and town council recently voted to overturn the Board of Architectural review's recommendations on the Vineyard Square development. Would you have voted the same way?

McCollum: I cannot tell you how I would have voted without a detailed review of the specifics of the plans, careful review of the staff report and hearing from both the developers and the public. I can tell you that based on the illustrations printed in local publications I found the design of Vineyard Square to be out of character for our 21st Street downtown, the heart of our community. I hope the developers will consider the comments about their project and make the appropriate modifications.

BRL: As a member of the town council, how would you keep in touch with the needs and points of view of the citizens of Purcellville?

McCollum: Communication, in particular listening, is an important part of leadership. Clearly, the opportunities the council provides at each regular meeting for speakers to address matters both on and off of the agenda are considered by some to be insufficient. I want to experiment with alternatives for effective communication and dialogue that will require some initiative by me and other council members. I want to meet with citizens' groups and HOAs outside of the council's regular meetings and work sessions to discuss their concerns. I also want to consider arranging additional opportunities for the residents and businesses to address one or more council members in the council chambers at times other than regular meetings or work sessions. I am optimistic that these will help improve communications but I am open to other suggestions.

BRL: What are some things you would like to change or implement for the town of Purcellville to benefit the current residents?

McCollum: (1) Our town is a small land area, where economic development anywhere in town affects our entire economic ecosystem. I expect applicants who come before the council to demonstrate how their plans will best protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the entire town. This has not been a prominent focus in the past. (2) I would like to see Purcellville become active in the Virginia Main Street program. This program will provide short-term and long-term guidance to revitalize our downtown commercial district, using an incremental approach that builds around the community's unique heritage and attributes. (3) I would like to see the council support the lobbying efforts of Loudoun Board of Supervisors to secure Virginia Department of Transportation funding for Route 690 access to Route 7. (4) I would like to support efforts to extend the W&OD trail to Franklin Park. (5) I would like to improve the sidewalks along Main and Maple so that walkers have a safe path to walk along on the west side of Maple.

BRL: What are some things you would do to protect our small town-how would you balance the need for economic growth and the desires of the community to retain the small town character?

McCollum: In my view, the need for economic growth and the retention of small town character are not mutually exclusive. My immediate goal is to focus on commercial rather than residential development until we reach our financial objective of 30 percent tax revenue from businesses. Since Purcellville is near the limits of development within the current town boundaries, whether it be "in-fill" of existing properties or proposals for undeveloped property, it is important that we attract businesses that support our vision of a small town, the needs of our community and would use current vacant commercial space. I would like to see Purcellville participate in the Main Street program, focusing our attention on development of the 21st street corridor. Although there will be an expense if we become a part of this program, I believe this program represents a financially prudent way to promote and attract new business to our town. The program's structure - marketing and design improvements, a board of directors that

Continued on page 27

McCollum, continued from page 26

includes representation from businesses, property owners, and residents - has been successful in other towns in the commonwealth. I believe we should commit to investing in implementation of this program.

BRL: What are some of the biggest challenges Purcellville faces in the next four years?

McCollum: In addition to the challenges I have identified in my previous answers, I'd add the need to protect our environment, our need for additional parks and recreation areas for our youth and seniors such as an indoor swimming pool, and promotion of the arts. All of these contribute to the small town feeling mentioned repeatedly in the 2006 Comprehensive Plan.

BRL: Would you support additional boundary line adjustments or annexations for Purcellville? Why?

McCollum: Because I believe our town needs to continue to consider opportunities for beneficial growth, I remain open to proposals for boundary line adjustments or annexations. My support of any such proposal will depend on its merits and whether the proponents demonstrate how their plans would promote the orderly development of Purcellville and our environs and that the requested applications will best promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the entire town. All requests for annexation or boundary line adjustments should be evaluated with at least these 3 factors in mind: the health of the whole town; the impact on the 70/30 tax revenue ratios; and the impact on our water supply, an often overlooked vital natural resource, and our infrastructure.

BRL: List your top three priorities, if elected.

McCollum: My three top priorities are as follows: (1) Addressing the evolving needs for growth; (2) listening effectively to our residents and business; and (3) conserving, protecting and maintaining our environment and infrastructure. Additionally, as a member of a 7-person council, I am committed to considering the priorities of the other council members.

BRL: What was a significant obstacle in your life and how did you overcome it?

McCollum: I prefer to use the term "challenge" rather than "obstacle." My father suffered from a heart condition, and unless he underwent an experimental open-heart surgery he would die in a short period of time. Because the surgery was radical for the time, he was reluctant to consent to the operation. I initiated several emotional and difficult discussions with him and convinced him that it was better to fight to live, even if taking that risk could mean dying on the operating table. The lesson I learned from this situation is that it is important to take the initiative and engage in discussions even where they may be difficult and stressful. Where possible it is better to be proactive rather than reactive when facing challenging issues. I carry this lesson with me as a guiding principle and will apply it if I am elected to a seat on the council.

Fraser Interview, continued from page 4

of proposed development and infrastructure projects, eliminating, for example, the Infrastructure and Ways and Means Committees. Do you think the new process allows for thorough vetting and public input?

Fraser: The Ways and Means Committee plays a critical role in that they evaluate and locate the ways and means with which to raise revenue to support proposed projects. Such a committee may collectively identify other revenue sources and reduce the reliance on taxes. Without this committee, we lack that crucial vetting and due diligence in evaluating proposed development and most importantly the financing aspects of such proposals.

BRL: Town water bills have increased by double digits for the past five years. Purcellville's current debt is now over \$64 million. Why has this happened and what are some solutions you propose?

Fraser: Just to clarify both the water and wastewater bills have had multi-year double digit increases, and the debt is now \$65 million for the utility enterprise, following our recent refinancing. The reason for this significant debt burden is primarily based on the decision to increase capacity at the renovated wastewater plant to 1.5 million gallons per day. As mayor, I will ensure that such an expensive investment be supported by detailed statistical analysis and contingency plans should the anticipated growth not materialize within a targeted time frame. A modular solution for the wastewater treatment plant should have been pursued for it to grow as the town's population has grown. My solution to this major issue will include:

- Leveraging my training as a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt to

Packard, continued from page 6

en to the opinion of the Board members. Absent a clear misapplication of the code or recommendation without factual basis, I would support the Board's decision.

BRL: As a member of the town council, how would you keep in touch with the needs and points of view of the citizens of Purcellville?

Packard: I am old school when it comes to keeping in touch with residents. I telework with a flexible schedule, and as a result I am often at the various schools, library, local stores or sporting events. I talk regularly with residents about what the planning commission is doing and what their ideas are with regards to the various proposals which have come before us. I will continue to encourage personal contact. Further, as a teleworker, I am always in constant contact via e-mail, and believe in responding quickly.

BRL: What are some of the things you would like to change or implement for the Town of Purcellville to benefit the current residents?

Packard: I believe Purcellville is moving in the right direction. I have no major changes I would implement but would encourage green initiatives such as Trees USA certification by trying to preserve and plant additional canopy. I would also like to encourage more local events to draw people in to support our local commercial base.

BRL: What are some things you would do to protect our small town - how would you balance the need for economic growth and the desires of the community to retain the small town character?

Packard: I believe our "small town character" is largely due to the residents. When people wave while driving, it adds charm that I didn't feel living in Fairfax. To support the residents, we need services that are in-line with our needs, providing activities for families, locations for outdoor activities and consumer focused commercial venues.

BRL: What are some of the biggest challenges Purcellville faces in the next four years?

Packard: The greatest concern I have seen in many communities I have lived in is aging infrastructure. We saw in Country Club evidence that some of the infrastructure was getting old and needed to be addressed.

Jim Rust Candidate Jim Rust did not respond as of press time.

work with the town manager and staff to identify operational inefficiencies and waste at the plant and implement cost cutting measures with specific measurable targets.

- Identifying opportunities to generate revenue from the excess processing capacity and the effluent stream by conducting benchmark studies and working with other industry experts.

- Forming alliances with leading legacy and new technology companies in the \$600 billion wastewater plant industry to identify solutions that will enable our plant to be self-supporting, efficient, and best in class.

BRL: Purcellville has a "big box" ordinance (special exception on anything over 10,000 sq. ft.) as well as restrictions on things such as drive-thrus. Yet, many people feel we are losing our small town character despite them. How strictly do those ordinances need to be enforced?

Fraser: This speaks to lack of governance and oversight to prevent the exception from becoming the rule. There is a need for balance, and this big-box ordinance ensures this, so the ordinance needs to be enforced.

BRL: For the past three years, the Purcellville Town Council has interviewed all candidates for appointed positions in closed session. Will you still continue to support this?

Fraser: This will depend on the position. There must be some degree of trust that our council members will select the best-suited candidate to carry out the business of the people. But, it should not be done in executive session, which basically has no public oversight.

BRL: Name three things you would like to see changed or implemented that would benefit the quality of life of the residents of Purcellville.

I would encourage town staff to continue to address the infrastructure so we are not saddled with an unexpected substantial debt burden due to lack of planning. Town staff currently does this, as demonstrated by their forethought in doing both sewer and paving work in tandem in Country Club, so I would encourage them to continue doing their jobs effectively.

BRL: Would you support additional boundary line adjustments or annexations for Purcellville? Why?

Packard: The benefit of additional land within town would either be for increased commercial tax revenue or additional water/sewer connections to decrease the per capita burden. I don't believe I can make a blanket statement as to whether I would or would not support a given adjustment as many factors are taken into account for such a proposal. But absent a clear showing of significant financial benefit coupled with local interest, I would not support additional land within town boundaries.

BRL: List your three top priorities, if elected.

Packard: First, continue to work with the Planning Commission to review and revise the planning code and comprehensive plan. Those documents define the future of the community and what a property owner can and cannot do. They should be clear and up to date with the current town priorities.

Second, encourage local events to increase foot traffic as a means of increasing local customer base. With Amazon and other convenient delivery services taking market share, we need to find ways to bring residents near the stores to make buying local just as convenient.

Third, I would encourage public input for more than just the most controversial projects. The zoning ordinance defines uses and land owners can develop by right based on the defined uses. Encouraging participation early in the process allows those uses to be vetted by the public, limiting the surprise later when the land use is changed.

BRL: What was a significant obstacle in your life and how did you overcome it?

Packard: The biggest obstacle in my life so far has been sitting for the law bar in California and Virginia. Like all struggles, it was because I was blessed as I focused in my studies and worked hard to learn the material. I will apply that same focus and work ethic to helping guide the town for the next four years.

Fraser:

1. Implement projects to reduce costs and waste from existing town operations and use those gains to offset tax burden on citizens and businesses.

2. Conduct more surveys of the citizens and businesses to determine if their needs are being met, identify areas for improvement, and obtain solution ideas for some of our major challenges. Given that our last survey was in 2010, I recommend going forward at least two times per year and have council members hold feedback sessions with citizens in their assigned areas of Purcellville. In addition, I will work with the schools to form a Student Advisory Board to make sure we consider the needs of our young people.

3. Encourage and attract technology businesses to make Purcellville their home or satellite offices to offer our citizens higher paying jobs and to prepare our young people for technology jobs of the future.

BRL: How will you balance the need for economic growth and the desires of the community to retain the small town character?

Fraser: I will promote a culture that ensures all proposed economic initiatives be vetted to determine their positive and negative impacts to the small town character, our agricultural heritage, and managed growth. This approach will ensure we take a balanced perspective of economic growth, balancing the old and the new.

BRL: Ok, here's an easy one. Western Loudoun is a gem of a place. What do you do in your free time to enjoy it?

Fraser: Taking a brisk walk through the neighborhood, taking in the scenery at Franklin Park, hiking at Bear's Den trail, or playing basketball or volleyball.



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Anytime Fitness To Open

Anytime Fitness is coming to Purcellville.

Owner Lori Parsons confirmed that she has signed a lease for an approximately 5,000 square-foot space and plans to build a gym in The Shoppes at Main & Maple located at 120 N. Maple Avenue. Construction will start in a few weeks, with an estimated opening in the early part of summer.

“What differentiates Anytime Fitness from other clubs is our dedication to our members, our commitment to quality and our dedication to our community,” Parsons said. “Our fitness club is perfectly sized so that we can provide personalized attention to all of our members. Whether weight-loss is your goal or increased strength or improved balanced and flexibility – or a combination – we’re committed to helping you achieve those goals through getting to know you personally and helping you develop a customized approach.”

Parsons also stresses the importance of her franchise’s role in the community – something she says is near and dear to her heart.

“My husband and I have lived in Purcellville for ten years, and in Hamilton for two years before that,” she said. Our kids are involved in a number of western


Loudoun little leagues and organizations. Opening this club in our hometown allows us to give back to our community. Our Anytime Fitness club is committed to supporting our area sports programs, PTO’s, schools and other organizations in the interest of improving our community’s health and fitness.”

“One of the biggest obstacles people face when pursuing their fitness goals is finding time to workout. We want to remove that obstacle,” Parsons said. “Our Anytime Fitness club will make it easy for our members to exercise whenever and however they like. We’ll have personal trainers available to help you learn how to use all of the equipment and to develop an individualized workout plan, if you like. We’ll also have group exercise classes.” Parsons explains further, “However, if your schedule makes it hard for you to take advantage of those in-person services, don’t worry! We are really excited to offer the Fitness on Request system that allows members to choose from dozens of pre-programmed video classes whenever it’s most convenient for them – it’s like having a virtual instructor available to you 24/7.”

More information is available by emailing purcellvilleva@anytimefitness.com.




From left to right: Lori Parsons and her daughter Callie, her husband Matt and son Sam at their lease signing.




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Melton Interview, continued from page 5

an AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's last fall. This allowed us to lower our debt service. There's a budget plan before council now to lower utility rates 6 percent. I support this plan to provide some relief to our residents.

BRL: Purcellville has a "big box" ordinance (special exception on anything over 10,000 sq. ft.), as well as restrictions on things such as drive-thrus. Yet, many people feel we are losing our small town character despite them. How strictly do those ordinances need to be enforced?

Melton: All ordinances have been enforced and if I'm elected Mayor they will continue to be enforced. These ordinances are in place to protect our community and allow citizen input if an applicant requests a special exception. I do not support the addition of a Walmart, Target or similar size store to our town.

BRL: For the past three years, the Purcellville Town Council has interviewed all candidates for appointed positions in closed session. Will you still continue to support this?

Melton: Yes, this allows council members to discuss applicant's strengths and weakness freely to find the best candidate to serve our community while protecting the applicant's privacy.

BRL: Name three things you would like to see changed or implemented that would benefit the quality of life of the residents of Purcellville.

Melton: We have a special town, I

have three items I'd like to emphasize to enhance and preserve it. First, I'll manage town fiscal resources conservatively to ensure financial stability. Second, Safewise.com just named Purcellville one of the top 3 safest towns in Virginia. I've supported our Police Department while on council and will continue to work to keep our town safe. Thirdly, I'll promote common sense growth and support family friendly events to maintain our community's small town feel.

BRL: How will you balance the need for economic growth and the desires of the community to retain the small town character?

Melton: We need a common sense approach to growth to preserve our town. Under Virginia law we also must allow property owners to have economic opportunity with respect to their land and I will work to make sure those opportunities fit into a framework that's appropriate for Purcellville. For example, I did not support the recent Catocin Creek Apartments and Tilley Entertainment applications as they did not fit in the character of the town.

BRL: Ok, here's an easy one. Western Loudoun is a gem of a place. What do you do in your free time to enjoy it?

Melton: I try to order my life around my faith, family and work, which includes my service to the town. Those three foundational items take up most of my time. However, my family and I do like weekend WO&D bike rides and hikes at Bear's Den.

89th Gold Cup On May 3



One of the nation's largest steeplechase race meets celebrates its 89th anniversary this year on Saturday, May 3. After success with last year's launch of pari-mutuel betting, the perk returns for race goers to enjoy at Great Meadow in The Plains.

Since the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association elected not to extend their contract with Colonial Downs, a race track in New Kent, Va., the Virginia Gold Cup (and the International Gold Cup in October) has now become the only venue in Virginia to offer sanctioned betting.

About 50,000 people come out for the Gold Cup. Gates open at 10 a.m. with pre-race entertainment starting at 11:30 a.m. including the Jack Russell Terrier Races. The first of seven horse races starts at 1 p.m. General admission car passes are \$85 (allows entry of car and up to 6 occupants). Tickets are available at area Harris Teeter stores and discounted with a Harris Teeter VIC card.

For more information, go to www.vagoldcup.com.

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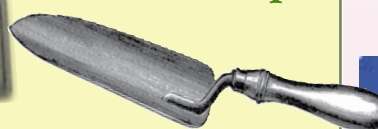


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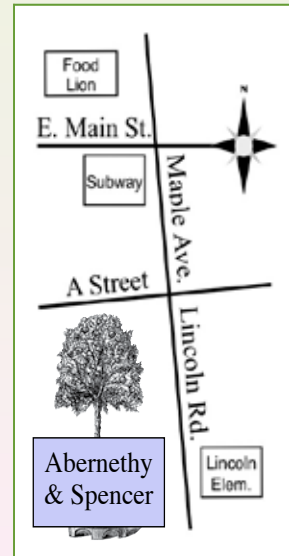
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– ARTIST'S PROFILE –

Found Object Sculptor John Raymond: Whimsy With A Good Dose Of Engineering

– By Andrea Gaines

Old water main plungers. Blacksmith tongs. Scallop net hardware. Bicycle sprockets. Wagon wheel rims. Tractor seats. Shovels and rakes. Lawn mower blades.

They were once used in one person's profession or trade. Now they are brought back to life in the found object sculpture of Lincoln resident John Raymond.

As John describes it, "I grew up in the house you don't want to live next to, but I loved it. Dad was a junk collector, so growing up I was surrounded by metal 'art supply.'"

As we walked around Raymond's studio/shop (Lincoln Smithy) he introduced me to the kinds of machinery one needs to cut, shape, torch, melt and manipulate metal, including an old 1920s milling machine and a broad wood and metal table (purchased at a Loudoun County public school system sale) complete with tools and slots that hold metal objects in place so they can be honed and shaped.

We also strolled around in the snow outside, taking some photos of Raymond in front of one of his favorite creations – a fish with lawn mower blades for ribs and a rusty shovel for a face. Other sculptures use rakes for eyelashes, shovels for flower petals, tractor seats for heads and giant metal



Tools and sprockets



Upright wrenches



Raymond with his fish

chains for hair. And there are more modern looking pieces, too, including a series of large wrenches, mounted straight up on a simple base. As an art history friend of mine exclaimed, "That's beautiful – stately, sinuous ... looks like an Alberto Giacometti!" (A famous Swiss metal sculptor who came to be regarded as one of the leading surrealist sculptors worldwide.)

Raymond uses simple, commonplace objects in his craft. He's modest, too, speaking about what he does in commonplace terms. "I find an object, store it and look at it for a while, bring it out and move it around, and there it

is, a new idea for a sculpture."

But, there is nothing commonplace about the results Raymond pulls out of these stately and decorative found objects – perfectly engineered in their original time and for their original purpose, and now, perfectly engineered into truly unique sculptures.

Raymond participates in local art tours and has also exhibited his work in places like Gallery 222, ArtSquare and Millwood. Go to <http://lincolsmithy.wordpress.com> for examples of his work and style.

View From Ridge, continued from page 5

wide elections, selecting a new mayor and a new town council – elections for which there is still ample time to register to vote.

If you don't like what you see – or even if you do – plan to come to the Blue Ridge Leader's candidate's debate/forum. Meet the candidates who have agreed to appear, hear what they have to say about

their vision for Purcellville and ask them the most pointed questions that you can. Register to vote if you haven't already done so, and, show up to cast your vote for the candidates of your choice on May 6.

Our newspaper has been diligent in covering and writing about the nitty-gritty of what's happening on the town council

level in Purcellville and how that effects you, your neighbors and all of western Loudoun. It's important, this coverage – absolutely critical. And, so are your participation and your vote.

When I reached voting age my mother was absolutely aghast that I hadn't registered to vote. It took me a long time

to figure it out what she was saying, but now, I can't wait to get in that voting booth. Not so much because things always go my way in the end, but because I spoke my mind. I spoke my mind about what was going on. If you are entitled to vote in the Purcellville town-wide elections, do it. Speak your mind.



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See website for displays and exhibits in the Franklin Park Gallery and for performance schedule details.

Friday, April 4, 8 p.m., Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m., Sunday, April 6, 3 p.m., Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., Saturday, April 12, 8 p.m., Sunday, April 13, 3 p.m. – Norton: A Civil War Opera. This new work follows the unusual true story of Oliver Willcox Norton, a Union soldier who was present at some of the most pivotal moments of the Civil War. Commissioned by Loudoun Lyric Opera (LLO) and supported in part by a Project Grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, NORTON features music by David E. Chávez, concept and libretto by Meredith Bean McMath. Purchase advance tickets at www.loudounlyricopera.com and save \$2 per seat. Advance: \$20 Adult, \$15 Senior, \$10 Student (at the Door: \$22 / \$17 / \$12).

Friday, April 18, 8 p.m. – Last Ham Standing. A group of talented performers take suggestions from the audience to create wacky scenes and funny improv games. If you like Whose Line Is It Anyway?, you'll love Last Ham Standing, the other comedy meat! Tickets: \$12 adult, \$10 student, \$8 child. Reserve seating. Visit www.lastham.com, or go to the Franklin Park website.

Saturday, April 19, 8 p.m. – Andrew McKnight & Beyond Borders. Andrew McKnight's musical journey has traced nearly half a million miles of blue highways nationwide, and earned him a wealth of critical ac-



claim. Together with original Nitty Gritty Dirt Band member Les Thompson and his wife, Stephanie Thompson, along with award-winning singer/songwriter Lisa Taylor, Beyond Borders blends McKnight's charming tenor voice and acoustic and electric guitars with upright bass, drums, banjo, percussion and more. Visit AndrewMcKnight.net for information about advanced sale tickets. Tickets: \$15 adult, \$12 student/senior in advance, \$17 and \$14 at the door.

Friday, April 25, 8 p.m., Saturday, April 26, 8 p.m., Sunday, April 27, 2 p.m., Friday, May 2, 8 p.m., Saturday, May 3, 8 p.m., Sunday, May 4, 2 p.m. –

Main Street Theatre: Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka. Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir comes to life in this stage adaptation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, which features the songs from the classic family film *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. Our production features Tom Sweitzer, director of *A Place To Be*, in the title role of Willy Wonka. Tickets: \$20 adult, \$15 senior/ student. To reserve, contact karlahlouis@aol.com.





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For more information contact Kristen at lsbdanceco@aol.com
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Classic Deviled Egg Recipe

Before we start ... how the heck do you easily “shell” a hardboiled egg without the shell breaking into little bits and taking part of the egg with it? Well, boil your eggs as you normally do, and when they are cooked, spoon them out and add them to a bowl of ice water. Then, run them under cold water so they cool completely. When they are cool, roll each egg in your hands to loosen the egg’s shell. Make sure to pop the top and bottom off of the egg’s shell as you do this - breaking the suction here will make the rest of the shell peel off more easily. Wrap your eggs in a towel and refrigerate until you are ready to make your deviled eggs.

Deviled Eggs

- Ingredients**
- 12 eggs
 - 1/4 cup mayonnaise
 - 1 teaspoon lemon juice
 - 1 teaspoon yellow mustard
 - 1/2 + teaspoon of dry mustard
 - 1/8 teaspoon sea salt
 - Freshly ground black pepper
 - Smoked Spanish paprika, for garnish
 - 6 kalamata olives diced
 - 2 tsp finely chopped parsley



Directions

Place eggs in a single layer in a saucepan and cover with enough water that there’s 1 1/2 inches of water above the eggs. Heat on high until water begins to boil, then cover, turn the heat to low, and cook for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and leave covered for 14 minutes, then rinse under cold water continuously for 1 minute (see above for further shelling instructions).

When ready, slice the eggs in half lengthwise, removing yolks to a medium bowl, and placing the whites on a serving platter. Mash the yolks into a fine crumble using a fork. Add ingredients, and mix well.

Evenly disperse heaping teaspoons of the yolk mixture into the egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika, garnish with parsley and serve.

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The World Has Gone Mad

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

We are truly living in a historic time. Between Russia invading Crimea and the Malaysian airliner's mysterious disappearance, it appears that the world has gone mad. Not to mention the fact that Northern Virginia has had a string of heavy snowstorms. It truly is hard to imagine what is going to happen next.



MOORE-SOBEL

Everyone I talk to is sick of the snow. They are tired of shoveling it, looking at it, even watching it fall onto the ground hour after hour. I have probably shoveled more snow this winter than in all of the other winters in my short lifetime combined. But before you go out and spend your hard earned money on a snow blower, just remember that this most likely won't happen again for another decade. So if you time it right, you can have a snow blower just in time for the next big winter.

Speaking of predictions, in last month's column I predicted that after the Winter Olympics the world would not experience a cooling of tensions. It turns out I was right. I guess this means I can add foreign policy predictor to my resume. Russian President Vladimir Putin decided to bask in the afterglow of the Sochi Games by invading Crimea. He claims to be concerned for the safety of Russians living in the region. Pictures were released of a serious looking Putin (does his facial expression ever change?), conferring with his generals, seemingly in complete control. At least this time he kept his shirt on in front of the cameras.

The media has not just been focused on President Putin but also the mysterious disappearance of a Malaysian airliner. The American public has been absolutely captivated

by the story. We all have heard every theory in the book, some completely outlandish and others less so. Some claim it was a terrorist attack, others that it crashed into the Indian Ocean. What amazes me is how many people now consider themselves experts on the subject. Even my dad has been swept up into the prediction game, keeping me apprised each night after I have come home of the new developments in the never ending saga. I still do not understand how we could we lose a plane in the 21st century. It seems like such a 20th century problem.

In addition to these astonishing world events, the ceaseless snowstorms have wreaked havoc on my schedule. Unlike the students in Loudoun County who seemingly have zero repercussions for missing school, having a snow day doesn't really exist in college. You just have more work to complete and more deadlines to meet in a shorter period of time. I can't help but wish that this had happened my senior year of high school or any year of high school for that matter. I do have some remaining questions about Loudoun County's snow day situation. Apparently, they build in extra time to each school day to prepare for snow days. I read that a problem arises only if more than 20 snow days are awarded (which the way this winter is unfolding could very well happen). I am wondering why Loudoun County doesn't just cancel school for 20 days every year? Does this mean that I was forced to attend 20 extra days of school each year that I spent in the Loudoun County school system? Where is the justice in that?

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a sophomore at George Mason University, and a donor relations intern at the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

The Other 'B' Word

– By Mary Rose Lunde

We all heard growing up never to call someone names, and yet the adjectives we use to describe people have turned to the worst. As I walk around Potomac Falls I hear people call their friends names that little children have now taken to calling others. It's not right to call anyone names, yet alone the name I, myself have been called a few times. Yes, I'm talking about the other "b" word, bossy. But should the word bossy be banned? When the COO of Facebook, Sheryl Sandberg, and the CEO of the Girl Scouts of America, Anna Maria Chavez, stated their opinion to the public last month, it sparked a nationwide debate.

Growing up, my parents taught me that I shouldn't be a follower, but instead to always voice my thoughts. No matter what, I should stand up for something I believe in, despite what others may believe. I often enjoyed taking leadership roles and thus may have been seen as bossing other people around. But, did I deserve to be negatively labeled "bossy?" In my opinion, no. If you called a little boy bossy, he would more than likely take it as a compliment; however, if you called a little girl bossy, she may reform back into a shell just to be accepted by her peers, forgetting that being a leader sometimes involves giving others orders.

Potomac Falls' student Jocci Hawk said, "You need to be somewhat bossy to be a good leader." Jocci's point is that the only way to lead people who don't want to be led requires a little ordering around. But if taking charge means being "bossy," why is there no negative connotation to being a leader? And why do people believe the word



LUNDE

bossy should be banned? If we are such good leaders while being "bossy" why is this attribute so unbalanced? Is it because of human ignorance? Or is it because having a leader with this quality is perceived as negative?

"The word bossy is very specific. No one really wants to be called bossy because it's been said to be a bad personality trait to have. It makes it seem like the person is uptight and controlling," said student Selin Ekmeci. Banned or not, when used inappropriately, this word has caused many girls' confidence to decline – girls who someday could make great leaders. This personality trait is misunderstood, and its undertone is now associated with negative images which is not how it should be used.

"I think the word bossy is a really negative and degrading word. I have been called bossy, and it made me feel like I was doing something wrong, even though I wasn't. I do think the word has a negative connotation and I think the word should be banned because it is improperly used most of the time and it makes people feel bad about themselves," said student Marisa Lemma.

I find that being called bossy doesn't change who I am, but just reminds me how to better state things. I'm firm when I need to be, much like a leader should be, but I don't lead just to boss people around. I believe the word bossy should not be banned. It just has to be used the correctly, as any other adjective is used.

Mary Rose Lunde is a senior at Potomac Falls High School and will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall. She hopes to major in biology and creative writing in college.

Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

What Baseball Can Teach You About Financial Planning

– By Amy V. Smith



SMITH

Spring training is a tradition that baseball teams and baseball fans look forward to every year. No matter how they did last year, teams in spring training are full of hope that a new season will bring a fresh start. As this year's baseball season gets under way, here are a few lessons from America's pastime that

might help you reevaluate your finances.

Sometimes You Need To Proceed One Base At A Time

There's nothing like seeing a home run light up the scoreboard, but games are often won by singles and doubles that get runners in scoring position through a series of base hits. The one base at a time approach takes discipline, something that you can apply to your finances by putting together a financial plan. What are your financial goals? Do you know how much money comes in, and how much goes out? Are you saving regularly for retirement or for a child's college education? A financial plan will help you understand where you are now and help you decide where you want to go.

You Can Strike Out Looking Or Strike Out Swinging

Fans may have trouble seeing strikeouts in a positive light, but every baseball player knows that striking out is a big part of the game. In fact, striking out is much more common than getting hits. The record for the highest career batting average record is .366, held by Ty Cobb. Or, as Ted Williams once said, "Baseball is the only field of endeavor where a man can succeed three times out of ten and be considered a good performer."

In baseball, there's even more than one way to strike out. A batter can strike out looking by not swinging at a pitch, or strike out swinging by attempting, but failing, to hit a pitch. In both cases, the batter likely waited for the right pitch, which is sometimes the best course of action, even if it means striking out occasionally. So how does this apply to your finances? First, accept the fact that you're going to have hits and misses, but that doesn't mean you should stop looking for financial opportunities. For example, when investing, you have no control over how the market is going to perform, but you can decide what to invest in and when to buy and sell, according to your investment goals and tolerance for risk.

Warren Buffet, who is a big fan of Ted Williams, strongly believes in waiting for the right pitch. "What's nice about investing is you don't have to swing at pitches," Buffet said. "You can watch pitches come in one inch above or one inch below your navel, and you don't have to swing. No umpire is going to call you out. You can wait for the pitch you want." Note: *All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal.*

Every day is a brand-new ball game

When the trailing team ties the score (often unexpectedly), the announcer shouts, "It's a whole new ball game!" Or, as Yogi Berra famously put it, "It ain't over 'til it's over." Whether your investments haven't performed as expected, or you've spent too much money, or you haven't saved enough, there's always hope if you're willing to learn both from what you've done right and from what you've done wrong. Pitcher and hall-of-famer Bob Feller may have said it best. "Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. "That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is."

Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, is an independent firm. Amy V. Smith, CFP, CIMA offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/ SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (Tel: 703-669-5022). www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com. The information contained in this report does not purport to be a complete description of the securities, markets or developments referred to in this material. The information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable but we do not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete. Any information is not a complete summary or statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision and does not constitute a recommendation. You should discuss any tax or legal issues with the appropriate professional. Content prepared by Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc.



Andrew McAlister



Charlee Schulte



Jenna Wyly



Sarah Wyly

Four Local Students Ski In Alpine Racing Championships

The Eastern High School Alpine Ski Racing Championships were held at Attitash Mountain in New Hampshire March 7 to 9. The EHSC is an annual event that highlights the end of the ski season with competitive racing against the top high school skiers in the east. It is the only race of its kind in the United States.

Loudoun County residents Andrew McAlister, a junior at Loudoun Valley High School, Sarah Wyly, a junior from Tuscarora High School and her sister, Jenna Wyly, a freshman, and Charlee Schulte, a freshman from Briar Woods High School were all members of the Southern Alpine Racing Association Eastern High School Championship Team. The SARA team was made up of 18 high school racers from Virginia and West Virginia race teams, nine girls and nine boys. Sarah and Jenna Wyly and Charlee Schulte train and race for the Wintergreen Resort Race Team while McAlister trains and races for the Bryce

Resort Race Team. The SARA racers competed against 10 teams from the Mid-Atlantic, the Northeast and a team from Wisconsin. The team was coached by Wintergreen Race Team coaches Paul Given, Robert Sandy and Henry Fonvielle.

At the competition the field was comprised of 250 racers, half girls and half boys. The event started on Friday with a training day at Attitash Mountain, practicing slalom and giant slalom courses. On Saturday, the racers competed in the giant slalom race. Because of conditions, 23 boys and 14 girls crashed and did not finish their races. Overall, McAlister finished 56th among the boys. Sarah Wyly finished 81st, Jenna Wyly finished 105th and Charlee Schulte finished 85th among the girls.

On Sunday, the slalom race was held with a very technical course set on a challenging pitch. With the difficult conditions, there were numerous crashes and disqualifications. Overall,

44 boys did not successfully complete the race and 34 girls failed to complete their race. Sarah Wyly finished 73th, Jenna Wyly crashed and did not finish her first run, but had a solid second run and Charlee Schulte finished 49th. McAlister finished 53rd among the boys.

The Southern Alpine Racing Association is a member of the United States Ski Association and has teams from mountains in Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina. When not training at their home mountains with their respective teams, the three racing families travel to races at one of eight mountains in the region during a 12-week season which starts with training in late November.

At the SARA Regional Championships held at the Snowshoe Ski Resort, among the girls Charlee finished first overall for the U-16 girls and Jenna finished sixth. Sarah was second overall for the U-18 girls and Andrew was second for the U-18 men.

Kitchen Science Kids: Feathery Friends

— By Leah Enright

Winter can be quiet, but with spring comes . . . birds! After spending winter in warmer places, birds return to our area looking to set up new homes, and create nests for their little ones. Making those tiny homes can be hard work for such a tiny animal. Some birds have to search for, and gather, tiny bits of useful materials to form into a safe place for keeping their eggs warm and protected from hungry animals. They use feathers, small sticks, leaves, dried grass, animal fur, pine needles and moss—or even bits of paper to create these cup-like creations. This kind of “shopping” can be tough for birds. Can we make their job a little easier? Yes we can.

Creating a “Nest-Building Super Store”:

You’ll need:

1. An adult to approve this project, and help with cutting.
2. A container that can hang in a tree. Three possibilities are a suet basket, empty mesh vegetable bag, or a clean strawberry basket with strings along the top for tying to a branch. If you can’t find a container, try making a nice pile in a wooded area. They’ll find it.
3. An assortment of safe materials.
Try these:
 - Yarn or string cut into 4 to 8 inch pieces
 - Human hair clippings, (ask at your local hair salon)
 - Animal hair, (especially horse hair!)
 - Shredded paper



- Cotton balls
- Dead leaves
- Thin strips of cloth, about 1 inch wide and 6 inches long
- Moss

Create your Super Store by stuffing your container with these goodies, and hang it in a tree that is not out in the open - birds are afraid of larger birds, so they prefer to “shop” in places with a little privacy. It may be a few weeks before feathery friends discover this supply. Once they do, they’ll work hard to make safe places for their families, and if they could, they’d thank you for being such a curious and helpful Kitchen Science Kid.

Leah Enright loves birds, and nature. She will be hanging her basket from a tree in her yard in Round Hill.

ART AT THE MILL

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April Events At Carver Center

The Carver Center is at 200 Willie Palmer Way in Purcellville. Call 571-258-3400 to sign up for the following programs.

Tuesdays April 1 to May 6, Gardening Seminar from 7-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$48 for ages 18 and older.

This is a series of six presentations by area horticultural leaders, providing information for backyard gardeners and niche farmers alike. All presenters are volunteers and proceeds benefit Carver Center.

Wednesday, April 9, Arthritis, Aches and Pains from 12:30-1:30 p.m. For ages 55 and older. Non-members pay \$2 facility drop-in fee. It is common to experience arthritis and pain as we age. Come learn more about what arthritis means, how to better cope with it. Learn some simple and helpful exercises. Presented by Jenna Siracuse from Loudoun Sports Therapy.

Thursday April 10, Summer Supper Club, at Ashby Inn and Restaurant in Paris. Transportation fee \$6, and each diner pays for own meal and tip. Open to anyone over 18, they leave Carver at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22, Earth Day celebration from 10:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m. for ages 55 and older. Non-members pay \$2 facility drop-in fee. Includes a presentation by Master Gardener Peggy Maio on flower gardening and a special themed lunch (lunch donation requested).



Summer Supper Club at Carver Center

Wednesday, April 23, Mystery Novels from 10:45-11:45 a.m. for ages 55 and older. Non-members pay \$2 facility drop-in fee. Purcellville Library Services will visit Carver Center to provide a Mystery Novels program. Librarian Jessica Moore will introduce participants to the genre, its authors and famous titles.



Save The Date: April 26 And 27

It's almost here ... the 24th Annual Flower and Garden Festival, held on the beautiful historic streets of downtown Leesburg.

The festival is all about gardens and landscapes, featuring approximately 150 vendors promoting their landscape design skills and selling everything from gardening supplies to patio and porch items, gifts and a wide variety of plants

and trees, including vegetables, flowers, herbs and fruit trees. With great music, great food and drink, fun games for the kids and more, there's something for everyone.

The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information on tickets, parking, and activities go to www.leesburgva.gov.

Local Artists To Display Their Work

The historic Hawthorne Building, on the corner of Main Street (intersection of Routes 7 and 340) in Berryville, Virginia, is now the gallery space for two award-winning regional artists, Susan Carney and Sarah Huntington.

Huntington of Lincoln, Virginia, a long-time winner of "Best Photographer in Loudoun County," is known for her portraits and fine-art photography.

Carney of Shepherdstown, West Virginia has received awards for her drawings, paintings, prints, and monotypes.

Carney and Huntington are hosting an open house with light refreshments on Saturday, April 12 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. will be open on Sunday, April 13 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Hawthorne Gallery.

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APRIL

☉ **Tuesday, April 1 to Wednesday, April 30, Living Colors art exhibit** at Arts in the Village Gallery, 1601 Village Market Blvd, Suite 116 in Leesburg. Featuring abstract painter Evelyn Lopez de Guzman and contemporary painter Sandra lafrate. Meet the artists at a free, open to the public reception on Saturday, April 12, from 5 – 8 p.m. Go to <http://www.artsinthevillage.com/>

☉ **Saturday, April 5, Master Gardeners' Saturday in the Garden program** at the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at Ida Lee Park, Leesburg from 10 a.m. to noon. The talk is titled "Get Started on a Great Vegetable Garden." For more information go to www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org.

☉ **Saturday, April 12, Heart Marks Grand Opening** from 1-3 p.m. at the Franklin Park Arts Center, 36441 Blueridge View Lane in Purcellville. Heart Marks is a new art therapy organization providing therapeutic art activities, classes and events to trauma survivors. Call 540-338-7973.

☉ **Saturday, April 12, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Country Ham & Turkey Dinner**, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 13266 Taylorstown Rd., Lovettsville (Taylorstown). Served Family Style. Community invited to attend. Free-will offering to benefit missions of the church. Questions call 540-822-5331.

☉ **Saturday, April 19, Easter Extravaganza** from 10 – 2 p.m. at the Neersville Fire Hall, 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd Purcellville. Egg hunts, games, crafts, and more. All activities free. Lunch available for purchase to support the youth ministry of Ebenezer UMC. Contact eumcprogram@gmail.com or 703-346-4439.

☉ Ongoing

Registration for Loudoun County Parks and Recreation Summer Camps is now open. Camp registration is on-going. The 2014 Summer Camp Guide is available online at loudoun.gov/camps. Copies are available at PRCS centers and parks (and county libraries). You can search for camps or request your household account number and password online with WebTrac. For more information, please call 703-777-0343.

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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

suicide are significantly more likely to think about or attempt suicide. “Suicide contagion” is the term for this phenomenon. Suicides can also then occur and spread (e.g., throughout a school system), and this is termed, “suicide cluster.” Interestingly, this latter phenomenon is known to occur in response to celebrity suicides. For example, the number of suicides reportedly skyrocketed nationally in the month of August following the suicide of Marilyn Monroe in 1962.

Researchers have estimated that there are between 8-25 attempted suicides for each teen suicide death and that four out of five teens who attempt suicide have given clear warnings. While knowing if a teen is truly suicidal is not always simple to determine, there are many factors and behavioral indicators that can help parents or friends recognize the threat of suicide in a loved one. Since mental and substance-related disorders so frequently accompany suicidal behavior, many of the cues to look for are the actual symptoms associated with such disorders as depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, alcohol and/or drug use, disruptive behavior disorders, borderline personality disorder, and schizophrenia.

Some common signs or symptoms of these disorders include:

- Extreme personality changes
 - Loss of interest in activities that used to be enjoyable
 - Significant loss or gain in appetite
 - Difficulty falling asleep or wanting to sleep all day
 - Fatigue or loss of energy
 - Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
 - Withdrawal from family and friends
 - Neglect of personal appearance or hygiene
 - Sadness, irritability, or indifference
 - Extreme anxiety or panic
 - Self-destructive behavior (e.g., drinking alcohol, taking drugs or cutting)
 - Poor school performance
 - Difficulty paying attention and concentrating
 - Other factors to consider include:
 - Having a history of abuse
 - Having a close family member who has tried or committed suicide
 - Having access to guns
 - Having significant relationship or social problems
- Tragically, many of these signs and/or

factors can go unrecognized, and while suffering from one of these symptoms certainly does not necessarily mean that one is suicidal, it is always best to communicate openly with a loved one who has one or more of these problems, especially if the problems are unusual for that person.

There are also more obvious signs indicating a higher potential for committing suicide. Putting one’s affairs in order, such as giving or throwing away favorite belongings, is a strong clue. And it cannot be stressed more strongly that any talk of death or suicide should be taken seriously and paid close attention to. It is a sad fact that while many of those who commit suicide talked about it beforehand, only 33 percent to 50 percent were identified by their doctors as having a mental illness at the time of their death, and only 15 percent of suicide victims were in treatment at the time of their death, according to the National Institute for Mental Health. Moreover, approximately one-third of teens who die by suicide have made a previous suicide attempt, so a history of suicide attempts is a cause for careful monitoring of behavior.

While these most recent teen suicides are tragedies to our community, it is important to keep things in perspective. Yes, suicide rates have increased in Virginia in recent years, however, statistics show that Virginia’s suicide rate is only slightly above the national average, and Northern Virginia reportedly has the lowest suicide rate in the State.

If you, or is someone you know, exhibits any of the warning signs of suicide listed above, please get help right away. Talk to someone you trust as soon as you can, such as a parent, teacher or school counselor. If you are uncomfortable talking about your feelings with someone you know, please call a suicide crisis line (such as: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or 911. Northern Virginia has many well trained mental health professionals for your teen to meet with privately should you have concerns regarding your teen’s safety and wellbeing.

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 clinicians. Go to www.ashburnpsych.com or call 703 723-2999 to learn more.

Meet The Beatles – By Myles Mellor and Sally York

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| 62 | | | | | 63 | | | | | 64 | | | |

ACROSS

1. Rapids transit
6. ___ print
10. Arizona’s governor, to friends
13. Toothpick fruit
14. Defiant one
15. Arapaho foe
16. 1966 Beatles hit
19. Alexei’s father, for one
20. Times to call, in classifieds
21. Sweet drink
22. Blue eyes or baldness, e.g.
24. Endings for ecto- and proto-
26. Zesty
29. Hollywood pole
30. Nymph
31. Almanac tidbit
32. Latin “I”
35. 1963 Beatles tune
39. Nonclerical
40. Squander
41. ___ the moment
42. Splendor
43. Ridges
45. Wets
48. Analyze, in a way
49. Neurotransmission site
50. Commend
51. 100 paisa
55. Songwriting partnership
59. College frat.
60. Newspaper chain
61. Skip off
62. Put away
63. Watering holes
64. Garment slits

DOWN

1. Egyptian Christian
2. Wistful word
3. Mangrove palm
4. Upset
5. Ballad’s end?
6. Side
7. Exasperates
8. ___ Age
9. Bobble
10. Asian plants
11. Special Forces unit
12. Uncool candies?
14. Lifeboat support
17. Vetch or lupin
18. Prayer leader
23. Optical phenomenon
24. Somewhat, in music
25. Mythological plants
26. “Murphy Brown” bar owner
27. Part of the Corn Belt
28. Jetty
29. Aircraft compartment
31. Elite group
32. Broadcast
33. Palestinian city
34. Half of binary code
36. Offering
37. Some jazz
38. Move
42. Ivy League team
43. Trick
44. Organic compound
45. Model material
46. College leave
47. Gift recipient
48. They remained undefeated by the Romans
50. “Time’s a-wastin’!”
52. Bartlett’s abbr.
53. Set aside
54. Roll call calls
56. It’s a wrap
57. Prefix with profit
58. King’s title: abbr.

answers on page 38

Sushi – “Tails” From The Barnyard An Easter Swim

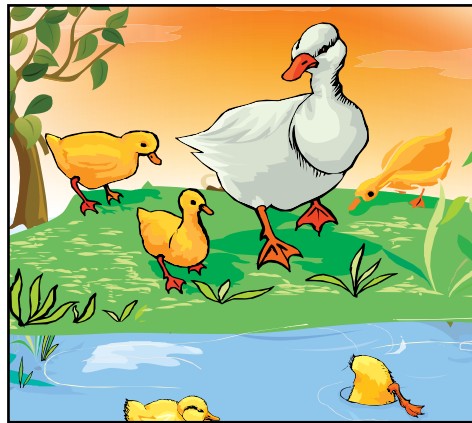
– By Sushi

I felt like a silly nim “cow” poop with these Easter bows in our hair. Okay Nelly, maybe you didn’t because you’re a girl. But me, a Mighty Cairn Terrier male? – PLEASE! Pleasing Mrs. B for Easter pictures was a little more than I could handle – but remembering doggy dungeon I kept a smile on my face through it all. Maybe I didn’t like it but I could tell Laino and Bernie loved having us all dogged up for the family photos.

It was clear those two ornery barn cat’s Hokie and Mountie were quite jealous, as they did not rank high enough to be included in the family photos. Sammy the Bull and his favorite lady cow, Miss Ashley, could have cared less as they mooed softly together and munched their way across the green pastures towards the creek bed. Upon their arrival they were greeted by old Gnarly Gander and the Goose Gang.

Mrs. Zaza was busy cleaning, ruffling and fluffing her long Sabastapol curly goose feathers. The only thing she was missing by the creek bed was a full-length mirror in which she could see herself. Her three baby goslings floated nearby admiring how gorgeous their Mama was.

As soon as the family photos were over, Bernie, Laino, Nelly and I bee-lined for the creek. Laino seeing how beautiful Mrs. Zaza looked decided to take the bow out of my hair and put it on Mrs. Zaza’s long goosey neck. Whew, what a relief, I finally had that silly girly bow off of me. Just at that moment stingy Nettle Nelly took her long needle nose and gave Bernie a good push right into the creek. Bernie screamed as she and Nelly hit the cold water. Laino and I jumped in after them. The splashing and springtime fun began! Mrs. Zaza and her babies were quite disrupted and upset. Gnarly Gander became furious when he saw his beautiful Mrs. Zaza flustered. Scolding and honking Gnarly lifted his



long white goosey wings and flew across the water chasing us all. Laino screeched in fear as she remembered the last time Old Gnarly gave her a good goose beating. We all swam for dear life. Up the mud bank we climbed and sprinted as fast as we could. Gnarly turned and rejoined Mrs. Zaza and her babies. Sammy the Bull and Miss Ashley absorbed in one another, munched on green grass and acted as if nothing had gone on around them.

The girls, Nelly and I lay down at the top of the hill near the barn and snuggled one another as we caught our breath after our narrow escape. The ornery barn cats winked at each other and snickered at us from the safety of the barn loft doors. They were high and dry and not in trouble this time.

There’s nothing like spring weather and a cold creek swim. Until next time study hard – school is almost out!

Yours truly – Sushi



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 (703) 926-8444 or visit www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com.

Wild Loudoun Eastern Cottontail Or Easter Bunny?

– By Andrea Gaines

The eastern cottontail is a darling little thing. With a white spot on the forehead, a reddish brown and white body and, of course, those distinctive upright ears – it’s hard not to smile as you see one darting to safety from the side of the road, or disappearing into the underbrush. Sometimes they freeze in place and move not a muscle. How do they not even blink an eye or bat an eyelash?

Cottontails are found all over Loudoun County and, indeed, the eastern United States. They are ubiquitous, occurring in every county in Virginia, and for two good reasons.

First, they are not picky eaters. In the spring, summer and fall when things are growing, they take advantage of everything from clovers to grasses to broad-leafed weeds and crops, as well as anything edible in your garden. As the weather gets colder, they eat buds, twigs, bark (sumac bark is a favorite) and leftover grains from farmers’ fields.

Second, cottontails are very successful breeders. Between them a “doe” (a female rabbit) and a “buck” (a male rabbit) can produce three to six litters and 25 offspring per year. Most breeding takes place from March through July. And, the animal’s gestation period is just 30 days or so.

The flip side of the success of this species is how popular they are as a meal for many predators. A cottontail packs a big shot of protein for foxes, bobcats, barred owls, broad-winged hawks, great-horned owls, red-shouldered hawks and red-tailed hawks. They are also preyed upon by crows and snakes; both of which have a significant impact on the survival rates of young cottontails. Foxes depend heavily on cottontails for food, too. Adult cottontails make up to 50 percent of the animal’s diet.

Speaking Of Bunnies

Do you know the term “Eastertide?” Eastertide is to Easter as Yuletide is to Christmas, the time of year when wild rabbits, including cottontails, play the role of a spring Santa, delivering Easter baskets to all the children who had been behaving well at the start of the Eastertide season. The practice dates back to the late 1600s and may have originated in Germany.

Eggs and rabbits, both associated with spring and earth’s rebirth were symbols of the coming March or spring equinox, one of the two times during the year when night and day are approximately equal in length, the fall equinox being the other.

It’s really not known why rabbits started loading baskets up with eggs, dressing up in human clothes and delivering their baskets on the equivalent of Easter Eve. Nor is it known why the eggs are so painstakingly decorated and so beautifully colored. Maybe it was the rabbit’s own way to mark the spring colors that were about to burst forth. Maybe the rabbit was hoping that, once the basket was delivered, their human neighbors would look the other way if they ventured into the family garden



Eastern Cottontail Or Easter Bunny ... Who Knows? for an evening or early morning meal. An exchange of sorts.

History tells us that many small children develop a very personal relationship with their Easter Bunny, the boys packing their caps with bird nests and the girls packing their bonnets to entice the Easter Bunny to leave them some eggs and treats. In Sweden, surprisingly, the Easter Bunny has been out competed by a creature known as the Easter Wizard. This country combines Easter with Halloween. There, children dress up as witches to mark the Easter holiday.

When I was growing up my Easter basket appeared on the steps of our front porch, filled with jellybeans, marsh mellow chicks, hard candy and other treats. My mom would first pack the basket with dried salt hay from the harbor in front of my grandmother’s house. Sometimes the jellybeans – which tended to shift down to the bottom of the basket – tasted of the salt hay. Sweet and salty. I loved it.

But, the most coveted item in my basket was a finely decorated sugar egg. It had candied swirls and flowers on the outside, along with a crystal clear window, also made of sugar. When you looked inside there was an Easter scene – often a little bunny romping through a field of sugar flowers. I used to imagine that as soon as the Easter Bunny dropped my basket off on the porch, he or she turned into sugar, got really small, jumped into the egg and closed the tiny window. I had no other explanation for how that wee sugar rabbit got inside.

How To Keep Eastern Cottontails, And Easter Bunnies, Around

There are still lots of Cottontails where there is good habitat, but they have declined in number over the last half-century. Cottontails, like most rabbits, prefer a grassy field with small shrubs and bushes – they need cover and they need escape routes should they sense a predator soaring overhead or hiding nearby. Examples of good cover/escape routes are dense thickets, fencerows, hedgerows, berry thickets, and piles of wood and branches. It’s best if the grassy field or cover is close to a food source. Areas where there is winter wheat, clover and rye are good examples of food sources.

When your meadows and grassy areas begin to be taken over by small trees and taller bushes, it’s time to clear some of that out and allow native grasses, wildflowers and legumes to reassume their dominance. A safe, controlled burn is one way to do this.

Next time you see an Eastern Cottontail, tip your hat to it. You might just get an extra measure of jellybeans in your next Easter Basket.

Answers to crossword puzzle from page 37

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|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|
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| 35 | I | W | A | N | N | 36 | A | 37 | B | E | Y | O | U | R | 38 | M | A | N | 39 | L | A | Y | 40 | B | L | O | W | 41 | S | E | I | Z | E |
| 45 | B | E | D | E | W | S | 46 | 47 | 48 | P | A | R | S | E | 49 | A | X | O | N | 50 | C | I | T | E | 51 | T | A | 52 | 53 | 54 | K | A | |
| 55 | L | E | N | N | 56 | O | N | M | C | C | A | 58 | R | T | N | E | Y | 59 | S | A | E | 60 | B | O | O | T | H | 61 | E | L | O | P | E |
| 62 | A | T | E | 63 | I | N | N | S | 64 | V | E | N | T | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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05.10.14

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