Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today MAY 2014

Old But Awesome – And For Now, Staying Open

School Board Votes 6-3 To Preserve Western Loudoun Elementary Schools



Supporters of western Loudoun schools

- By Andrea Gaines

"Old but awesome" is how Lincoln elementary student Finn Gustavson described his school at last week's Loudoun County Public School System public hearing. Gustavson, who lives just south of the village of Lincoln was one of the 400 parents, teachers, community members and youth who attended the LCPS public hearing on the possibility of closing western Loudoun's Lincoln, Hillsboro, Aldie and Hamilton elementary schools.

The controversy began about a month ago when, after looking at the school system's nearly \$1 billion budget for fiscal year 2015 the school board set about the heavy task of reconciling a shortfall of approximately \$38 million. The \$949.72 million LCPS budget had been adopted by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in early April.

As in past years, western Loudoun's small elementary schools were identified as sources of potential budget savings. These same schools had been on the chopping block many times over the past decade as the school system has struggled with rising enrollments and atcapacity or overcapacity schools of all kinds including elementary, middle school and high schools.

As the public hearing started and individual opponents of the closings began to speak, the audience responded with wildly loud cheers,

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Autumn Hill/Mayfair Developers – We Want More

New plans have been submitted to the Town of Purcellville by developers of the recently annexed and approved Mayfair/Autumn Hill project. The new, higher density plans request an up zoning from Transition X to PDH 8 on a 3.98 acre portion, which would allow an additional eight units per acre with the maximum of 32 additional residences and 64 parking spaces. This would bring the total number of units to nearly 300.

Another proposed plan is to rezone from Transition X to MI Limited Industrial 19.01 acres of the property which is owned by Brookfield Homes.

Mayfair/Autumn Hill is an approximately 75 - plus acre property located near the industrial park in the northwest portion of Purcellville. The property was given the zoning in 1991 for 492 quadraplexes if the Town of Purcellville would annex it and give it utilities. It changed hands several times over two decades because the owners could not get the town to annex the property.

The current owners were able to get a permit for an alternative septic system, but the permit was only for 531

bedrooms, which would have been 120 homes based of each unit having 3-4 bedrooms. At the same time the developer was suing the county to be allowed to use this alternative system (the proffers that went with the property only allowed the property to be developed if the Town of Purcellville annexed them and supplied them with utility hook ups).

The lawsuit was settled with the county before going to court even though the permit for the alternative system had expired and could not have been renewed because the developer could not get and did not have a building permit. At the time of the lawsuit the property was not in town. The Purcellville Town Council voted to annex the property in December 2013.

The settlement with the Town of Purcellville, dealt only with 52 acres of the property, allowing for 257 homes. The additional 3.98 acre parcel and the 19.01 acre parcel, although part of the property was left zoned Transition X which means it doesn't have a specific zoning yet.

Consequently, in effect the developer's new high density request would increase the 257 homes to nearly 300 – plus and additional 19.01 acres of industrial.

Candidate Debates Highlight Rivalry And Fact-Checking Issues

- May 6 Elections Turning Out To Be A Big One -

- By Andrea Gaines

Over 100 people attended the April 23 Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today-sponsored candidates debate/forum. The debate was held at the Carver Center and moderated by former ABC News anchor Bettina Gregory.

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Making Sure Your Teen Is Prepared For College

- By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Dr. Mike:

Our son was recently accepted into college (his #1 choice), and we are very proud of him. He's gets great grades; however, we are concerned about his ability to function



away from home. While we know that he is smart enough to succeed, my husband and I worry about his basic life skills. All he does is isolate and play video games, and he has only a few friendships or interests beyond that. Drugs and alcohol are not an issue. My husband and I know of several smart teens in our neighborhood that dropped out of college and then had to get back on track at NOVA. I am not judging the community college education, but my husband and I don't want our son to fail and return home to work on his associate's degree until he's 25! Thanks for your time. Concerned Parents

Concerned Parents:

Within a few short months, many high school seniors in our area (including your son) will be heading off to college. Most of these young ladies and young men will be ready to face the academic and social challenges ahead of them, but some will not. In my experience as a psychologist who works a lot with teens, the college

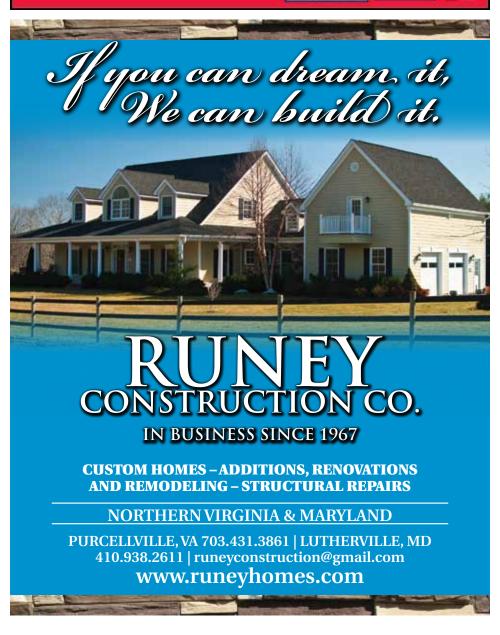
students who return home from school prematurely are usually smart enough to be in college, but for various reasons, they are not ready to be there.

Emotional immaturity and poor basic life skills, substance/alcohol use, psychological problems and financial problems are typically the main factors for teens returning home without a degree.

I do not know your son beyond what you have written, so my recommendations will be general. It seems that your main concern for your son has more to do with his emotional immaturity and poor life skills than anything more serious. I think you have good reason to be concerned about your son's transition from home to school; that your son may not yet be ready to live and thrive independently at college. Thus, I think you should use the next few months to help him to both stretch his social bandwidth and gain a greater sense of personal pride and responsibility. I offer you the following suggestions.

I would start by sitting down with your son to express your concerns and to come up with a game plan that will reassure you as parents that your son is ready to depart the family home. In my opinion, as a college freshman, your son should possess the ability to think and act independently across a number of areas. More specifically, he should be able to do laundry, manage money, cook basic meals

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Putting Citizens First



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Cut wasteful spending and debt burden, increase operational efficiency, invest in projects with positive economic value, and enable citizens to save, spend, and invest more of what they earn.

TRANSPARENCY

Promote open government, engage citizens in the process, and encourage continuous feedback and collaboration between town government, citizens, and other stakeholders.

WISE GROWTH

Approach growth in a fully assessed and managed fashion, weigh the risks and rewards and ensure the voice of the citizens of Purcellville direct our decisions.

VOTE MAY 6TH

at Emerick Elementary School 440 S. Nursery Ave, Purcellville, VA 20132.



FRASER FOR MAYOR

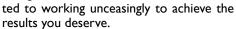


www.FraserForMayor.com

Paid for and authorized by Fraser For Mayor

Why You Should Vote For Me For Mayor

Fellow citizens, we have arrived at a critical juncture when overcrowded schools and unwanted zoning changes can still be prevented. But we must act now to balance new development with the needs of our "small town" community. As your mayor, I will implement plans to accomplish our goals, and I am commit-



Clearly, our town taxes are out of control. Last year alone, we saw our sewer rate increase by 20 percent and our water rate increase by 7 percent. Town property tax has increased by 17 percent with the addition of the Fireman's Field Tax. Although the 2015 budget calls for a reduction in fees and property taxes, it pales in comparison with the increases we have experienced over the past 4 years. We pay a combined state and local meals tax of II percent at restaurants in Purcellville - the highest in all of Loudoun County. My opponent believes he is the only conservative in this mayoral race and has voted side by side with our current mayor on all increases in taxes and fees during the past four years.

I believe local government should provide the best service for the least amount of cost to our taxpayers. Further, I have a plan for reducing our local taxes while both improving the quality of service to you and strengthening the financial wellbeing of our town. As stated by the credit rating agencies, the combined income of our citizens and the town's ability to tax without limitation significantly contributed to our AAA bond rating. As such, all we have is owed to you, the citizens.

I am confident that my experience in the



Kwasi Fraser

Blue Ridge Loudoun Today

corporate sector uniquely qualifies me to serve as your next mayor. As an Enterprise Risk and Project Management Professional and a Lean Six Sigma Blackbelt, I have led and managed strategic business operational for multiple organizations and industries. In fact, my multidimensional skills have

added value to the largest companies in the technology, hospitality, and retail sectors. I am a solution provider with the ability to define challenges, to identify root causes, to motivate and lead teams, and to develop and deploy solutions. Moreover, owing to my efforts, large organizations have increased their revenues by hundreds of millions of dollars. Town government is yet another organization which can benefit from my leadership and experience. In this respect, I will work with the town council to establish vision and strategy so as to enable the town manager to execute them.

Over the past few years, I have prepared for this challenge by meeting with former members of the Purcellville Town Council, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, business leaders, and citizens. In addition, I have researched and analyzed over ten years of Purcellville's financial and budget documents, the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan, council committee documents, and our Comprehensive Plan.

website (www.FraserForMayor. com) outlines the challenges we face, my solution approach, and my goals for the First 100 Days. I am confident that I will be ready to serve as your mayor from day one. We need to put citizens first, and I ask for your vote.

It's been an honor and pleasure serving you as Vice Mayor of Purcellville and on town council these past four years. My time spent as vice mayor has been invaluable preparation for a new role Additionally, I've as mayor. had the opportunity to serve on the Ways and Means,

Budget and Public Safety committees. My involvement on council has given me thorough knowledge on budget, legal, public safety, zoning, utility and transportation issues. I'll conservatively manage the town budget like I manage my home finances to ensure financial stability. Last fall our excellent fiscal position was independently verified when the town received a AAA credit rating. The rating is the highest rating a Virginia town of our size has ever received and proves our town's fiscal situation is strong. I have gone through the budget process several times and managed our town resources and I know how to be a good financial steward. The mayor must have the ability to lead an organization with nearly 80 employees and a proposed FY15 budget of over \$17 million and I have the experience and understanding to lead. Experience is a key qualification for mayor and the most significant difference



Keith Melton

between me and my opponent is experience and knowledge of town issues.

Our greatest challenge as a town going forward is the preservation of our small town character. As mayor, I will use my experience 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. Under Virginia law we also must allow property owners to have economic opportunity with respect to their land. I will work to make sure those opportunities fit, through proper planning and zoning, into a framework that's appropriate for Purcellville. Common sense growth to me is making sure new businesses fit with the character of our town and the growth allows our residents a greater range of retail, service and dining choices.

I'd like the opportunity to continue serving the Purcellville residents with my experience and common sense approach to town government. As mayor I will work to protect the unique character of Purcellville, its family focus and our small town feel.

Letters To The Editor

Dirty Campaign Tactics

Dear Editor:

We have noticed several illegal white signs with black lettering around Purcellville neither affiliated with nor authorized by my campaign which contain disparaging statements about my opponent. Such inappropriate tactics would never be sanctioned by me or any member of my team. The only bona fide signs from our campaign are red, white, and blue and include the words "FRASER FOR MAYOR" and "Paid for and authorized by Fraser For Mayor."

We have reported this matter to the Purcellville Police department and were told to contact the town. I have also notified the Chief of Police, the Office of the Commonwealth Attorney, and the Board of Supervisors to ensure all are aware of this situation to make sure it is addressed at the highest levels.

Further, we will not be engaging in robocalls or any other questionable actions. Should anyone observe any additional dirty tactics during the last few weeks of the campaign, please report them to us at fraser@fraserformayor.com.

Kwasi Fraser

Editors Note: Kwasi Fraser is running for Mayor of the Town of Purcellville

Let's Think Outside The Box

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sometimes it's necessary to think outside the box, and this is one of those times. Leaving emotion aside and dealing only with cold, hard facts, I'd like to make a couple of suggestions which might be helpful.

I. Closing two schools (Aldie and Lincoln) where the per-pupil cost appears to be less than the County average seems to me to be financially unwise. Why would the School Board close two cost-effective schools to send those particular students to schools where they will cost more to educate?

Suggestion: Instead of closing these two schools, the School Board should be studying them to see what they are doing right - why they are costing less but producing excellent results – and then applying the lessons learned from them to the other schools.

2. It is clear from looking at the maps and attendance figures that Kenneth W. Culbert Elementary should never have been built. There simply aren't currently Continued on page 5

Purcellville

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We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor!

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

Please include your name, address and telephone number.

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

Why You Should Vote For Me For Town Council

When I moved to Purcellville several years ago, my family and I felt an instant connection to the Town. The people and environment were warm and welcoming.



Karen Jimmerson

instantly became involved in the non-political town events. However, over the course of time, I became more and more interested and vocal about issues that arose, which I felt greatly affected the well-being of our town.

I have chosen to run as a candidate for the Town Council of Purcellville to offer real reform as opposed to business as usual. The status quo for Purcellville has resulted in overspending, excessive legal expenditures, loss of objectivity and consideration of opposing views, and a tenacity to overlook violations of the code of ethics.

My goal will be to strike a balance between the interests of tourism, businesses and their growth, and the preservation of our rural and small town heritage. While I believe it is important for our government to work closely with the business community, it is important that those businesses not be allowed to control and set policies for their own benefit and the detriment of the town residents. It is important that we pursue dynamic businesses with quality jobs that fill our empty storefronts while offering solid employment opportunities that truly stimulate our economy.

I believe that fostering an attitude of increased openness on the town council would result in transparency and trust by the town residents. I would like to apply the principles of a priority driven budget where we prioritize our services, do the important things well, spend within our means, and demand accountability.

As your representative on the town council, I will work with other members of the council to achieve the goals set forth above, with the promise to listen and consider all voices in our community.

Purcellville is a quaint town in western Loudoun where people are friendly and engaged. This is the vision I have for maintaining our town. It is for the love of our present community that I am running for town council. If elected, I would like to further this vision by



Ben Packard

assisting to update the Town Comprehensive Plan to reflect the current town interests and encourage better distribution of town information.

As a member of the Town Planning Commission, I have been involved in reviewing the current Town Zoning Ordinance to update the uses. This review is important because some requirements of the special use permits create financial blocks for small businesses. I would like to see the Town Comprehensive Plan, also considered the blue print for the future of the town, be updated to reflect the current vision of residents of the future town. I have a demonstrated history of listening to both sides of an issue, weighing the interests of the town against developer's interests, and voting for what I believe is in the best interest for the town. For example, after hearing the full presentations for the Catoctin Creek Apartments, I made the motion to deny the Comprehensive Plan amendment as it was not in alignment with the overall vision of the current Town Comprehensive Plan and interests of the residents.

As I walk the town, many of the complaints I hear from residents can be resolved by simple explanations. Many residents do not take the opportunity to visit the various commissions or attend council meetings to hear explanations for themselves. For example, the last Planning Commission hearing over a rezoning at Patrick Henry College had only three residents in attendance, other than the applicants, in comparison to the standing room only during the Catoctin Creek Apartment rezoning hearing. I understand that in a commuter community like ours that time is better spent with family and friends, but the decisions of every meeting can have a future effect on Purcellville. We should explore opportunities to expand the channels of communication to reduce concerns of residents.

Please vote for me, Ben Packard, to support a candidate who stands for the interests of our town and will encourage community outreach in all we do.

As I've walked our community introducing myself, I've heard your concerns, which have been principally about Purcellville's growth and the fear we will lose our small-town feel. I share your concerns about our town's future.

Together, we have a vested interest in balancing the need for growth with preserving the quality of life in a vibrant residential and commercial community. The size of Purcellville, however, is not as important to me as our ability to maintain the hometown feeling.



Doug McCollum

Addressing our future isn't the responsibility of the town council alone; it is the collective responsibility of our residents and businesses as well.

I want to address growth in two phases. First, I want to focus inwardly by sustaining the businesses that are already here, determining what products and services we need to complement our town, and then encouraging these businesses to come to Purcellville. If we patronize our existing businesses, make them feel welcome and financially stable, they will spread the word that Purcellville is a good place for small business, expanding our commercial base. I know from personal experience that starting, growing and managing a small business is a real challenge. Our businesses deserve all the help we can give.

Second, I want to hold town hall meetings where residents and businesses can help the council develop our collective vision of what we want our town to look like in the 21st century, a type of roadmap for our future. The results can be used to "kick start" an early review of the Comprehensive Plan. Because we are a small land area, economic development anywhere in town affects the entire economic ecosystem. We'll need to consider our future thoughtfully.

Personally, I'd like Purcellville to be a vibrant commercial hub for western Loudoun that brings in residents from outside the town limits as well as visitors to spend time in our small town, eat in our restaurants and spend money in our shops. One way to enhance the small town feel is to improve our infrastructure and our connectivity by repairing and improving our sidewalks and joining the county's efforts to extend the W&OD trail to Franklin Park. We need to make it safer to move about our community, whether by bicycle, foot or car. We need to continue our efforts to make our town environmentally sound by continuing our tree program, preserving open space, keeping our streets clean, and supporting effective recycling efforts.

Bottom line: I have more ideas but I need your vote on May 6 to represent the community on the council.

View From The Ridge - Will The Voter's Changing Mood Express Itself On May 6?

– By Andrea Gaines

Interesting ..

Businesses and homeowners in Purcellville took up the cause of parents to the east, west, north and south fighting to save their small schools.

If you drove through the village of Hamilton to the east and the village of Lincoln to the south you saw signs of every kind demanding to "Save Lincoln Elementary," "Vote For Kids," "Save Hamilton Elementary," and "Small Schools = No New Debt." And, then those same signs started popped up in Purcellville proper. And, then there was a very-well attended school board meeting on Monday, April 21, followed by a 6-3 vote on Tuesday, April 22 which settled, for now, whether these small community-based schools would close. And, the answer was, NO.

I don't know if the simmering sentiment that our elected officials plan other things with which we fervently disagree will spill over into Purcellville's town-wide elections on May 6. But, I hope that it does. At the very least, I hope there is a bang-up turnout at Purcellville's May 6 polling place ... ironically ... Emerick Elementary School.

- In recent months Purcellville expanded its town borders significantly by annexing the Autumn Hill/Mayfair development, which will add 257 residential units to the town, overcrowding our near-capacity schools and adding to the town taxpayer's ever expanding debt (now \$7,000 for every man woman and child). Late April papers filed by the developer indicate that the interests behind this development want even greater densities 32 additional homes and more industrial.
- The current town council also overruled the experts on its Board of Architectural Review approving, virtually unchanged, the massive 100,000 sq. ft. Vineyard Square project smack dab in the middle of Purcellville's

ind Square project – smack dab in the mic

Letters To The Editor continued from page 4 ...

enough students in that portion of the county to warrant having schools at Hamilton and Hillsboro, plus Mountain View and Culbert.

Suggestions:

I. Close Culbert and redraw the catchment areas for the remaining schools. As it is now, for example, children from Creamer Lane and that area (the south side of Rt. 9 northwest of Hillsboro) are passing right by Hillsboro Elementary and going five miles further to Mountain View. This makes sense only if you're trying to justify building a new building (which is exactly what past School Boards did). Send these children back to Hillsboro; make other adjustments in the Mountain View and former Culbert attendance boundaries to send the children now attending Culbert to Hamilton, Hillsboro, Lincoln, or Mountain View, thus more realistically

reflecting where the children actually live.

2. Repurpose Culbert. The County wants to create its own version of Fairfax's Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. It's a good idea, and it can be done immediately, saving the well over \$2,000,000 each year in tuition that Loudoun pays to Fairfax. Certain changes would have to be made to Culbert. For example, child-size toilets and sinks would have to be replaced and adult-size furniture would be required for the teenage students, but these costs possibly could come from the capital budget, not the operating budget and be relatively minimal.

While it may be desirable for Loudoun's "TJ" to be in a more central location, repurposing Culbert would permit getting the school up and operational immediately while a permanent site was selected

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_ On the web with daily updates at www.brleader.com ____

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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Shelburne Glebe Road

- By Tim Jon

I guess you could say I have a thing those sometimes overlooked, innocuous little roads that just kinda end someplace – for most of us in the middle of nowhere – but for some of us – just exactly where you'd want 'em to. I'm not sure how other travelers feel about coming to an abrupt halt at the southern end of Shelburne Glebe Road (County



Road 729), but I always like to know when I've come to the end of the line - so I can do a '180' and head in the opposite direction. It tells me that I've pursued this path as far as I can, and I may as well direct my energy into other destinations. Life can be like that.

And this southerly course has always been - for me - a quiet, soothing oasis in the midst of what can be - for most of us. I trust – a string of hectic, near-cataclysmic activities that make up the balance of our days, weeks and months. So – when I discover I've dead-ended myself again on a little, innocent-looking dirt road like Shelburne Glebe, I try to count my blessings in the fact that at least something's trying very hard to inform me that my forward movement is going to come to an end. If I'm lucky, I've got time to at least take five and enjoy the temporary stillness, silence and solitude before diving back into the often multi-tasks at hand. And, in the larger scheme of things, I hope – and usually trust – that whoever's telling me that I should stop, pivot and make tracks the other way has based their advice on good information.



But back to the reality of Shelburne Glebe - the hardcopy, if you will - it's quite picturesque in any direction, at either end, and in every season in which I've enjoyed it (although it'll test your patience and bravery in the winter); admittedly, it's not at the top of everyone's list of scenic drives through Loudoun County, but, isn't that kinda the point? If everyone's kicks were the same - if pleasant sensations were merely objective experiences we'd live in a much duller world than I choose to believe we currently inhabit. You'll see floodplain, dense wooded areas, sheltered streams, brambly undergrowth, scattered livestock herds, a very few fellow travelers, and lots of sky.

If you continue on its northerly course, just about

opposite Hunts End Place, you'll pass by the driveway to the historic Glebe of Shelburne Parish (a fancy name for a very fancy dwelling – overlooking one of those hidden lakes in Loudoun County) – this home having been constructed to attract a new minister to a local church at about the time George Washington and some other folks got this idea into their heads that the citizens could form their own country. And I'm willing to bet that, if this parson were worth his Anglican salt, he probably on more than one occasion felt the need to inform some of the more wayward members of his flock that they needed to make an abrupt halt in their life's activities and 'do' a spiritual '180' if they knew what was good for them. And I trust that on most occasions, they followed his sage advice.

The influences of Shelburne Glebe Road have been making their impressions on us mortals for some time. Yeah, and just about every stone impeding your path on Shelburne Glebe Road could probably tell you stories about the Civil War exploits of John Singleton Mosby and his Confederate Rangers - and some of them might even be true. Not sure if those guys were ever convinced to turn around, though.

And, if you keep traveling north on Shelburne Glebe Road you'll link up with another one of the most picturesque byways in Loudoun County - or anywhere else for that matter - Loudoun Orchard Road. This two-lane blacktop runs along the backbone of the local hills to connect to Mount Gilead Road in the south and Harmony Church Road in the north. But, those are lessons and stories for other days.

Vino 9 Expands Offerings

While traveling along Route 9 on your way out to Virginia Wine Country, you are sure to recognize a peculiar sight of an iron pig boasting barbeque outside of a country general store. What you are seeing is actually a multi purposed gourmet outpost boasting snacks, libation and grassroots entertainment.

Vino 9 is a family owned and operated gourmet bodega and speakeasy located on the trail through Loudoun's Wine country in Paenonian Springs. The building itself is surrounded in local history. Donnie Walker Sr. bought a civil war era cabin from Lovettsville and had it moved to its current location. Much of the additions to the building itself are rescued items from the property and surrounding community: The Vino 9 marquis on both sides of the building were constructed by Donnie Jr. after a torrential thunderstorm. The communal bar that lines one side of the Blind Pig speakeasy downstairs is vintage American Chestnut plank from an abandoned farm house that Donnie Sr. tackled as an afternoon project. Even the bar stools were constructed by hand by both Walker Sr. and Jr. out of beams from a turn of the 20th century barn, which were decorated by local artist Rene Dickerson. The amount of craftsmanship and pride is evident throughout the property.

The building started as a headquarters for Donnie Sr.'s contracting and construction company, but after several decades, the Walkers saw an opportunity to join the budding artisan wine and beer community. Paeonian Grocer was opened in 2004 and was operated as such until 2012, when the doors were closed for a conceptual regrouping and revitalization. After a year of crafting the concept, Donnie Jr. decided on May Day 2013 to reopen the doors with a fresh new name, adding the Blind Pig speakeasy to the basement and offering more a la carte

The menu expanded to include gourmet hot dogs topped with house smoked bbq, the popular brie pear and honey sandwich and ever changing daily specials. With consideration to the many folk who commute between Loudoun and Washington and may want to take the night off from cooking, Vino 9 also offers take and heat meals. Customers can still find artisan cheeses, beers, local wines, small batch olive oils and more.

Paint The County Purple For Relay For Life

Loudoun's Relay for Life plans to paint the county purple until Monday May 12 and they need your help.

The Relay event will be at Heritage High School from May 31-June 1. It will involve more than 1,250 community members, and they hope to raise over \$300,000.

They are asking local businesses and individuals to be involved in the fund-raising. For a minimum

\$25 donation, businesses will receive a donation bank and a flyer to display. Then the fund-raising can begin.

The mission of Relay for Life is to raise funds to improve cancer survival, decrease the incidence of cancer, and improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their caretakers.

Businesses and individuals should contact RFL. Loudoun.County@live.com to participate.

Farmer's Markets Sprouting Up Everywhere

- By Andrea Gaines

With its combination health conscious families, agriculturally productive land and long time business that make a living off of that land, Loudoun County, particularly western Loudoun County is a spring, summer and fall mecca for fresh fruits and vegetable lovers. We Berry picking is abundant at local farms. have all become accustomed to

the overwhelming plenty served up by local grocery stores - 12 months out of the year. But as the weather warms and greens start sprouting so do our local farmer's markets, and the variety of produce available is unbeatable.

There are several farmer's markets in Purcellville now, and in Leesburg. And, the Middleburg Community Farmer's Market will open for the season on Saturday, May 3, where shoppers will be treated to chips and lemonade in celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

Loudoun's farmer's markets and roadside stands



fruits and vegetables, but eggs, meats and cut flowers and other locally produced products. Think lettuce, radishes, greens and herbs, tomatoes, peppers, carrots, turnips and onions. Think freerange chicken, beef, pork and lamb. Think breads, cakes and cookies. Think honey, jam, cider and teas - just about anything you can coax and cook up from

are bursting with not just fresh

the ground.

Farmers markets operate in Ashburn, Brambleton, Cascades, Hillsboro, Leesburg, Lovettsville, Purcellville and South Riding.

You can find roadside stands in Leesburg, Philomont, Purcellville, Ashburn, Bluemont and Hillsboro.

And, then there is the fresh from the farm experience known as "pick-your-own," thrilling children and adults of all ages with strawberries, blackberries, apples, pumpkins and more.

For a full listing of these healthy treasures, including hours and locations, go to www.loudounfarms.org.

Cooper And His Friend

Cooper, a 5-year-old yellow lab owned by Debbie Crum, is a frequent site around Purcellville. He loves bringing a stuffed animal with him wherever he goes. As soon as you say the word walk, Cooper will run to get his favorite stuffed animal. Whether he is going for a walk, run or swim, he almost always brings one of his furry friends with him. Crum said his favorite is Super Chicken, which he got for his second birthday.

Cooper often visits local businesses around town such as the Shell Station, Middleburg Bank and Gruto's. He also visits the Farmers' Market on Saturdays. He won't leave without his stuffed animal in his mouth, and only drops it for treats from his friends. Currently, he is thrilled that Gruto's is open



for the season, and walks there with one of his stuffed animals in his mouth. He only drops his "stuffy" while he eats his ice cream.

Crum said, "I joke that Cooper is the town ambassador because so many people know him and he makes people smile all over town." He usually walks about five miles a day, and he likes to run around Fireman's Field and look for stray baseballs.

If you see Cooper around town perhaps he will give you a high five, like he gives the tellers at Middleburg Bank – for a treat – that is.

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New Orthodontist In Purcellville

Dr. Kurt Pierce is announcing the grand opening of his new Purcellville office, next to Loudoun Valley High School in the old firehouse on Maple Avenue.

Pierce is board certified and a diplomat of the American Board, caring for Virginia and Maryland patients for 26 years. He specializes in clear and invisible braces for adults and children, clear removable aligners and TMJ (jaw-joint) therapy for headaches and jaw pain.

"The adaptive use of this great old community service building, the old firehouse, adds a great dimension to excellent oral health care," Pierce said.

He is a former National Football League player with the Baltimore Colts, Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins. His interest include football, lacrosse and soccer.

"The athletic interests of my five children through high school and college have broadened my own enjoyment for many sports," Pierce said.

The office number is 540-579-0559 or visit www.Dr-Pierce.com.

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Mother's

Week at

View From The Ridge, continued from page 5

still-commercially vital historic downtown. Has the project's self-described Monticellolike style made citizens feel a little better about the impact this 4-5 story structure will have on the historic Nichols Hardware, Magnolia's at the Mill and other small businesses that operate there?

• Then, in a really out-there proposal, in March the town considered an entertainment center/apartment complex of sorts that would have included bumper boats, miniature golf, batting cages, a go cart track, a laser tag course, an arcade and more - right next to a private residential neighborhood and not far from a high school. Citizen opposition caused the developers to pull back and rethink their bumper boat strategy, but, for how long? Will it come back repackaged (a third time) right after the election?

One person commenting on the proposed closings of Lincoln, Hamilton, Hillsboro and Aldie elementary schools said, basically, shut'em down - they're old buildings, not "monuments."

Not so fast. Monuments represent something from our past we set aside for future generations to reflect upon. But, they are static. Not used in the way they were before. Symbols.

However, places such as our small village elementary schools, our historic downtown commercial areas, and the operating farms and vineyards that ring old but growing towns such as Purcellville, these are not monuments.

These are choices. These are American ways of life we want to preserve, perpetuate and hold out as ongoing working models of May 6.

our best selves.

We accept change, but we don't bow to it as if we didn't have a voice in what change should look like.

We are also becoming more sophisticated about the fiscal choices put to us.

We heard that some of the small schools the Loudoun County Public School System suggested we close had higher per-pupil costs that our larger, newer schools. But, we knew that some of these small schools were operating at a lower cost per-pupil and that building new and bigger elementary schools in the west will require taking on more public debt.

We heard that the additional residential water and sewer hookups that come with increased residential development would bring in more utility fees to places like Purcellville. But, we also knew that residential development requires \$1.62 in infrastructure costs for every \$1 it returns in taxes.

We heard that the development of historic downtown Purcellville inevitable because the developers had the zoning. But, we also knew that our public officials determine what the zoning on a particular parcel should be. And, we knew that our elected officials set that debacle in motion in 2008 when they gave the developers the zoning for Vineyard Square.

Maybe that's why the voter's point of view is changing on these issues.

Maybe we're taking on a different mood. Maybe we're getting just a little but smarter. Maybe Purcellville will vote that way on

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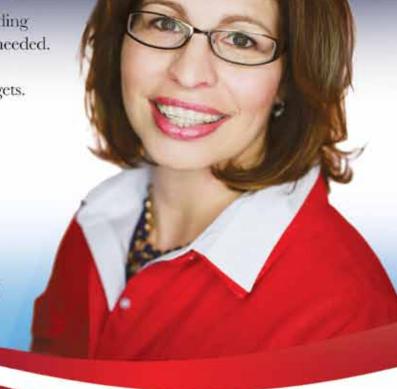
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Each year at the Upperville Colt and Horse Show more than 1,500 horse and rider combinations compete in hunter and jumper classes throughout the week. The show raises funds for the Churches of Upperville Outreach and the Upperville Volunteer Fire Department, among other area charities. Highlights for the 161st show this year include the leadline divisions on Saturday morning, during which children ages 1-6 try to win the competitive class; the \$20,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby on Saturday at 5 p.m., and the week culminates with the \$75,000 Upperville Jumper Classic, which draws top riders from across the nation. The Jumper Classic will be held on Sunday, June 8 at 2:30 p.m.

Gates open daily at 8 a.m. during the show June 2-8 at 8600 John Mosby Highway in Upperville.

Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased upon arrival. Children under 12 are free with an adult. Food is permitted on the grounds. Bring your own, or purchase from vendors on site. For complete schedules and up-to-the-minute results, visit the web site at www.upperville.com.



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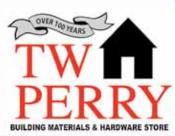
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Remembering Hal Douglas

A Majestic Voice Among Us

- By Drew Babb

Hal Douglas died at his Lovettsville farm March 7. He was 89.

If you didn't know Hal, I can assure you: you've heard Hal.

Hal Douglas had one of the most memorable and successful voices on the planet. He voiced thousands of commercials, network promos (for A&E and The History Channel) and countless feature film trailers for such blockbusters as Forrest Gump, "Philadelphia" and "Lethal Weapon". My personal favorite was his trailer for "Con Air," a not-particularly



Photo credit: Photo by Sarah Douglas

great 1997 film, but Hal was at the top of his game as he punched out, "This summer – check your weapons – take your seat – and say your prayers."

If voice-overs got Oscars or Emmys or Tonys, Hal's walls would have been covered floor to ceiling with gold.

As an advertising man, I had the pleasure (and honor) of working with Hal a few times over the years. When I had a TV spot or documentary ready to produce and I was able to say, "We've got Hal Douglas doing the voice-over." I knew the piece was going to be good. (Here's a dirty little advertising secret even Don Draper won't admit: You can pump your C plus copy up to an A plus with a world-class voice-over behind the mic.)

There have only been a couple dozen artists during the last several decades that could deliver the distinctiveness Hal could. Mason Adams (Charles Hume in "Lou Grant:" Smucker's jams) had a crunch along the edge of his voice that oozed authenticity. Burgess Meredith (Henry Bemis in the celebrated Twilight Zone "Time Enough at Last" episode; United Airlines) gave you sparkle plenty. Sally Kellerman (HotLips Houlihan in the film M*A*S*H) comes across with sophisticated smarts. John Fiedler (Vinnie in "The Odd Couple;" Piglet) was as sweet as the honey Pooh craved. And, Blythe Danner (Martha Jefferson in 1776; Ben Stiller's mother-in-law in "Meet the Fockers") voices with a Philadelphia mainline smokiness.

Hal Douglas got pegged with being the voice of God, with thunderbolts attached to his vocal chords. I always thought that thin characterization didn't do him justice. To me he added majesty to a message. Not a faux British hauteur, rather a strong American baritone. He could growl a bit. And, communicate disdain. And, when it was called for, a whiff of irony came across.

If you want to hear some of Hal's greatest hits, go to Google and type in "Hal Douglas voice over reel." There's also a funny video featuring Jerry Seinfeld in which Hal plays an important part. Hal steals the show with his deadpan delivery.

When Hal moved to Lovettsville from New York with his wife Ruth and daughter Sarah, he kept working. Thanks to the digital age, he set up a "phone patch" studio where you could call him, and he'd read your copy and email you an electronic file.

The last two times I worked with Hal, he worked gratis. One was to voice a fund-raising video for Loudoun's Habitat for Humanity. The other was a gracious gift to me. I have a one-man show called "The 100 Greatest TV Spots of All Time." My number one greatest is the very first TV spot, for Bulova watches, that ran July 3, 1941 on an experimental TV station in Manhattan.

Naturally, there was no way to record or save that original commercial. No film or tape exists. So we had to recreate the spot. There's only one line, five words – "America runs on Bulova time." There's only one voice that could've done that line proud. The voice of Hal Douglas.

Drew Babb runs an advertising creative consultancy in the village of Lincoln. He's an adjunct professor at American University. And, he's the curator and host of a one-man show, "The 100 Greatest TV Spots of All Time." You can reach him at drew@drewbabb.com.



Email: Advertise@BRLeader.com

Remembering Maxine Bean:

Celebrating A Life Filled With Community Service And The Arts

On Saturday, May 24, from 10 a.m. to noon, the family and friends of Maxine Bean will gather at Franklin Park Arts Center in Purcellville to remember and celebrate a life filled with community service, generosity, and kindness. Maxine passed away in February at age 89 after a brief illness, and all who wish to join in the May 24 remembrance are welcome to attend (a potluck lunch will follow at a nearby location).

Born and raised in St. Louis, MO, Bean's natural acting talent led her to work as a child radio star, playing the role of "Petunia" for a live weekly radio theatre show on Station KMOX. As a student at Grinnell College in Iowa, Bean majored in Zoology, worked as a teaching assistant, and served as class president of the student body but still found time to take to the stage and take



Maxine Bean

home an "Actress of the Year" award. Soon after graduation, she met and fell in love with a young attorney named L. Lee Bean, Jr. In 1949, Lee and Maxine married and moved to Arlington, where they raised their three children: Rebecca, Lorenzo and Meredith.

After Lee's passing in 1989, Bean came to live with her youngest daughter, Meredith, in Hillsboro and became a member of the Loudoun Sketch Club and the Master Gardener program, served on the boards of several nonprofits and supported the arts as a costumer, producer and actor. She costumed dozens of plays for local theatre groups and schools, and served as head costumer for Very Special Arts – Loudoun for more than ten years. She also produced live radio theatre shows for the former WTRI and WAGE Radio stations and senior centers. But she'll best be remembered as an actor in roles such as Aunt March in "Little Women", School Marm in "The Musical Adventures of Tom Sawyer", and the starring role of Miss Violet in "PORCHES: An American Musical". Bean last performed on the stage at Franklin Park Arts Center as the grandmother in the 2008 VSA-Loudoun production of "The Old Homeplace". Through a gift from her oldest daughter, a chair will be dedicated in Bean's name during the May 24 celebration.

In honor of Bean's belief in the transformative power of the arts, the family asks that tax-deductible donations toward student scholarships may be made in her name and mailed to "A Place To Be" in Middleburg, 15 South Madison Street, P.O. Box 1472, Middleburg, Virginia, 20118. All those who wish to celebrate and remember Bean's life are welcome to attend the May 24 program at Franklin Park Arts Center.

Transitioning From A Spring To Summer Vegetable Garden:

Saturday, May 3 Free Presentation By Loudoun County Master Gardeners

Come on out for free expert advice on how to prepare for summertime vegetable gardening at the Loudoun County Master Gardeners' "Saturday in the Garden" program on May 3. The presentation will be held outside at the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at Ida Lee Park, Leesburg, 10 a.m. to noon. A Q and A in the vegetable area to ask general questions will be held after the talk. Master Gardeners will also be on hand to answer questions concerning the ornamental areas of the garden.

The award winning Loudoun County Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden is a practical organic garden that is open to the public to visit and learn about chemical-free gardening. The approximately 1/3 acre garden includes raised beds and small space vegetable areas, a heritage garden highlighting some plants from Virginia's past, a children's garden featuring child-friendly plants and activities, a shade garden created under beautiful pine trees, a butterfly garden and a fruit tree area. All produce grown is donated to Interfaith Relief Food Pantry.

For more information about the Loudoun County Master Gardener program, visit www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org or call 703-777-0373.

School continued from page 1

clapping and waving. Board Chairman Eric Hornberger called for a quick break, and, upon reconvening the proceedings warned the crowd that if order was not restored the hearing could not go forward.

From that point on the comments of school closing opponents were – while passionate and supported by lots of silent sign waving - distinctly orderly if not stern in their criticism of the board's suggestion that the four schools might be closed.

Lincoln resident Colleen Gustavson called the possibility of closing the schools "penny wise and pound foolish." And, in a hallway interview with the Blue Ridge Leader former Aldie Elementary student Charlotte Hill remarked, "By the third grade I could name every person in the school by name," continuing, "Aldie has made me into a better person."

The movement seeking to keep these four schools open was a distinctly grassroots, well-coordinated effort, with homemade yard signs stretching from Hamilton to points west, including many in the town of Purcellville and a multitude of red T-shirts demanding "Save Our Schools." Student Kat Livingston told the Blue Ridge Leader: "Over spring break I stood outside my local library in Purcellville and asked people to sign my petition to keep Hillsboro Elementary open. I gathered 225 signatures. Tonight I asked the members of the school board 'How did you

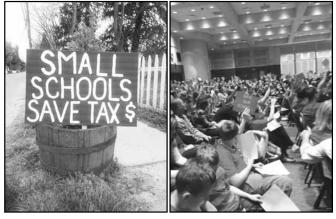
spend your spring break?""

There were also plenty of very well thought out presentations and comments on the financial end of things, with opponents of the school closings questioning what they saw as the school board's unsound budgetary logic. Signs in Lincoln reinforced this point reading "Small Schools Save Tax \$."

In a working session that took place the following night the school board adopted a budget that kept these four smalls funded for another year, preserved freshman sports, reduced elementary school class sizes and saved other specific programs that had also been on the chopping block.

In that 6-3 vote, Eric Hornberger (Chairman, Ashburn Signs and supporters of Save Our Schools at School Board Public Hearing. District), Kevin Kuesters (Broad Run District) and Brenda Sheridan (Sterling District) voted to close the small schools, while Jill Turgen, (Vice Chairman, Blue Ridge District), Debbie Rose (Algonkian District), Thomas E. Reed (At Large Member), Jennifer K. Bergel (Catoctin District), Jeff Morse (Dulles District) and Bill Fox (Leesburg District) voted to keep them open.

LCPS ranks as one of fastest growing school systems in the county and the fastest in Virginia. The system includes thirteen high schools, fourteen middle schools, 1 intermediate school, and over fifty elementary schools. Approximately one-half of the elementary schools in the county were built in the last 10 years.





Lincoln Elementary - early days

- Gardening Tips, April 2014 -**In Love With Cut Flowers**

- By Andrea Gaines

One of the rewards of gardening is bringing cut specimens inside, arranging them in your perfect vase and waiting for the compliments. If you don't consider yourself an expert at flower arranging, don't worry. The process of choosing the color, the flowers and the container is as much fun as looking at the final product. And, it's easy one you've learned a few basics.

The Basics ...

What you'll need: 1) a watertight vase or container deep enough to keep stems from flopping over; 2) a vase or container that will fits the length of the material you are using and will both complement the flowers and the spot where you plan to put the arrangement; and, 3) something to anchor the stems so they stay in place.

In terms of materials, I consider the color combinations I want in the vase, the shape I'm looking for, the things that provide structure (branches and thick stems, for example) and the things I want to dominate and/or serve as the supporting cast. Here are some combinations I like ...

• Classic English: First, give your arrangement some structure with some shapely bare branches or something attractive in bud/early leaf at the time. With that in place, add peonies, small mums, and a blooming vine such as clematis, colorful sweet peas or jasmine. I see English style arrangements as the perfect combination of formal and informal.

• Romance: I think the most romantic arrangements rely heavily on roses. I like roses in families of color; deep reds with pinks, pale yellows with creamy whites, and more exotic color combinations such as coral and lavender. Rose arrangements don't need to be large. Some of the most



beautiful ones are tight and low - in small containers where just the rose head shows.

• Wild By Nature: Wildflowers and the natives you grow in own your garden might not last as long as those you purchase at the grocery store, but they inspire the creativity. Cornflowers are wonderful, as are wild poppies. Queen Anne's lace, with its creamy whiteness and tiny, purpleblack center is a star, and I love using wild grasses with interesting seedpods or the remnants of bushes I'm trimming back to allow for new growth. Try wild clover, too ...

Some spend their lives arranging beautiful bouquets and perfecting the craft. But, again, for me it's the joy of the process that makes it worth your while.

Andrea Gaines is a feature writer and editor for the Blue Ridge Leader and runs her own freelance writing and design business, Concolour Creative. www.andreagaines.com, andrea@andreagaines.com.

Debates continued from page 1

The candidates participating in the BRL forum/debate included Kwasi Fraser, who is running for Purcellville mayor against current Purcellville Vice Mayor Keith Melton and three candidates for town council, including Karen Jimmerson, Doug McCollum and Ben Packard.

Candidates invited but not participating in the BRL's event included Melton and Jim Rust, running for town council. The BRL spoke to Melton in mid-February and March about the debate, but it was not until a week before that Melton cited a family obligation as the reason he would not attend.

The Contentious Nature Of The Election

A Purcellville Gazette debate, which took place five days after the BRL debate, was attended by Keith Melton and Kwasi Fraser (mayoral candidates), and Karen Jimmerson, Doug McCollum, Ben Packard and Jim Rust (town council candidates).

This second debate highlighted the contentious nature of the mayoral race as Melton accused Fraser of wanting to solve Purcellville's water treatment plant over-capacity problem by supplying water and sewer to Round Hill, Hamilton and Lincoln, something that Fraser had never actually promoted.

In the first session of the BRL debate, for example, each candidate was invited to make a brief opening statement outlining their policies with respect to the key issues facing the town, including the water treatment plant.

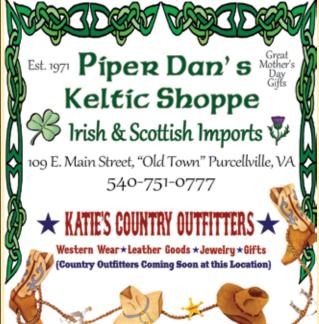
Moderator Bettina Gregory then asked a series of questions focusing on a series of issues, which included taxes, recently approved development projects inside and outside of Purcellville, the town's debt and the town's wastewater treatment plant – a source of controversy given the rising water and sewer rates town residents have seen in the last several years. But, while privatization of the plant was discussed, it was not in the context of pursuing that avenue, but, rather, in the context of the wisdom of looking at all options.

In a second session in the BRL debate, members of the audience were invited to submit their own questions. These topics mirrored the issues touched upon by the candidates, but also addressed what many citizens see as the hostile attitude of the current mayor and town council toward citizen participation in town council meetings and important zoning decisions being made by the town, including the 100,000 sq. ft. Vineyard Square project in historic downtown.

The meals tax was a hot topic in both debates, as was the issue of recent annexations of land by the town. Melton defended both his record of raising the meals tax to 5 percent, and the annexations, both of which he supported while on town council.













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From left to right: Cecilia Condie, Gwyneth McGrath, Cadence McGrath, Madison Burget, Scarlett Daly, Eden Reck, Katie Van Eck, Natalie Ellerman, Elena Greene, Bailey Carter, Piper Torres and Layla Davis.

Brownie Troop 5108 Second Annual Trash Cleanup

Brownie Troop 5108 of Lovettsville had another successful second annual trash cleanup service project. The Brownies walked around the New Town Meadows community in Lovettsville picking up trash blown into the brush along the bike path, storm water management pond and around the neighborhood. While picking up trash Cecilia Condie exclaimed, "Why do people litter? Don't they see what it does to the neighborhood?" The girls filled seven trash bags full of garbage. Madison Burget was slightly injured by some thorns while foraging into the brush for litter. Although she said, "It was worth it because we made a difference by picking up. The path looks much better now."

This is the Troop's second year cleaning this community and the impact of their service could be seen in the reduction of debris from the previous year. Troop 5108 would like this to become an annual event and plans to spread their cleanup to other communities in Lovettsville as well.



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Purcellville Library Book Sale

The Purcellville Library Advisory Board held its annual meeting Thursday, April 17.

Officers for the coming fiscal year are from left to right: Vice President Randy Baer, President Priscilla Martinez, Secretary Sharon Hershey, and Treasurer Bob Thompson.

The Board will hold its Spring Book Sale, Saturday, May 3rd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Purcellville Library.



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Letter continued from page 5

and a new school built. (At least the children would have a reverse commute instead of the long trek to Fairfax in rush hour traffic!)

Once the new school is built, convert Culbert to the Arts and Theater academy which some parents have recently suggested the county needs.

That would eventually give the county three specialty high schools: Arts and Music in Western Loudoun, C.S. Monroe Technology Center in Leesburg, and Loudoun's new "TJ" at the new site.

Once you stop thinking within the box and focusing on closing small schools, I think you will agree that this entire affair presents an excellent opportunity to move forward with something really exciting – an opportunity to, in essence, have our educational cake and eat it too.

Best regards, Lina Burton Aldie,Virginia

Whose Boss?

Dear Editor:

I have a concern about Lt. Rust running for town council.

Lt. Rust works for the Purcellville Police. His boss is Chief Smith. Chief Smith's boss is Mr. Rob Lohr, the town manager. Mr Lohr's boss is the town council. If Lt. Rust gets elected to the town council, then he will become the boss of his boss's boss. Does that make sense?

Sam Brown Purcellville

Don't Hold Schools Hostage

Dear Editor:

What our state government is doing is wrong, and they need to hear it. By holding up things like funding for schools, police, and public health the governor is using the people of Virginia as bargaining chips to get what he wants. He agreed during his campaign that he would never use a shutdown to get an Obamacare Medicaid expansion, but now he's doing just that.

Is this the new normal? Whenever the liberals in our legislature want to pass another entitlement expansion, are they going to threaten to shut down everything else until they get what they want?

If Medicaid is so wonderful why do they have to put the screws to ordinary citizens just to get it passed?

There's no reason schools should have to wait on funding until Medicaid passes. The two aren't related, and don't need to be treated like they are.

David Siecker Purcellville

Mr. Print congratulates Carol Frye on 20 years as our Graphic Designer



Thank you Carol, for your dedication to the Mr. Print team and to our customers for the past 20 years.



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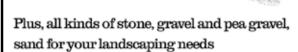
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What Does She Want? Breakfast In Bed, Of Course

The United States has over 80 million moms, and over 95 percent of Americans mark the day in some way. Mother's Day is the busiest day of the year for most restaurants and retailers say it is the second biggest gift-giving day of the year. Together, we'll spend an astonishing \$671 million dollars on Mother's Day cards and \$1.9 billion on flowers – almost \$15 billion in all when the nation's cash registers total out for the day.

Often though, the most meaningful way to mark Mother's Day is with a simple practice you can put in place at home: Serving mom breakfast in bed.

So start brewing the coffee or tea, and, may we suggest building mom's breakfast around a favorite of kids from 1 to 99 ... pancakes. Our recipe is a version of classic buttermilk pancakes.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups unbleached white flour, or gluten-free mix
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1-1/2 cups buttermilk
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter melted
- 2 large eggs
- Assorted toppings such as fruit or whipped cream

Directions:

- In a small bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt; set aside. Separate the yokes from the egg whites.
- In a medium bowl, whisk together egg yolks and melted cooled butter.
 Add buttermilk to the dry ingredients and stir until just moistened.
- Stir yolk and butter mixture in with the pancake mixture.





- Beat the egg whites until they form loose peaks and fold into the pancake mix.
- Heat a large skillet or griddle over medium flame. Fold a sheet of paper towel in half, and moisten with oil and carefully rub skillet with oiled paper towel.
- For each pancake, spoon 2 to 3 tablespoons of batter onto skillet and cook yum. Serve with a garnish of fruit and a sprig of mint and maybe a dab of whipped cream.



P.S. For the more savvory eaters in your household: 1) make a 1-2 inch wide line of pancake batter in your skillet; 2) just before you flip the pancake, place a piece of fully cooked nitrate-free bacon on top; 3) flip the pancake and finish off as usual. Bacon pancakes are particularly delicious dipped in real maple syrup ... (save some for me!).

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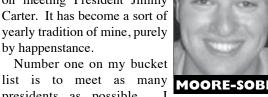
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Meeting Jimmy Carter

- By Samuel Moore-Sobel

Have you ever met a former president? Over the past few weeks I have been reflecting on meeting President Jimmy Carter. It has become a sort of yearly tradition of mine, purely by happenstance.



presidents as possible.

am an equal opportunist when it comes to this. It doesn't matter what party they belong to, I will gladly shake the hand of any man who has sat behind the desk in the Oval Office. So last spring my mother, brother and I piled into a car and drove 13 hours straight to Plains, GA. On a Palm Sunday morning we arrived at Maranatha Baptist Church, went through security, and took our seats. A woman who introduced herself as Ms. Jan was in the front of the room telling everyone the rules for meeting this president. "You are not to call him ex-president, because that sounds like a divorce," she said in her Southern accent. She instructed us to refer to him either as "Mr. Jimmy," or "President Carter." Then it was time to pray, and in he walked. Instantly he won me over with his famous smile. He talked for 50 straight minutes without any notes while pacing around the front of the room. He teaches Sunday school every Sunday that he is in town. His schedule is posted on the church website, and anyone is welcome to attend. People from all over the world come to see our most accessible President speak and on that day there were visitors from most of the states as well as Germany, Poland and Ukraine.

President Carter demands punctuality. Everything runs like a well-oiled machine. Church service ends

not at 11:59 or 12:01, but exactly at 12, and you better believe the pastor was watching the clock throughout his sermon in order to ensure that he ended right at noon. After the church service, we stood in line to get our picture. A feeling of nervousness swept over me as I approached. Smiling in front of the camera, I suddenly felt the sweetest sensation as his hand rested lightly on my back. I thanked him for his service to our country, and off I went. I left in awe of a man whose presidency many, including myself, have deemed a failure.

Yet the story does not end there. President Carter returned to Washington a few weeks ago to promote his new book, "A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power." He held a book signing in McLean, and of course, I couldn't resist attending. I stood in line for an hour waiting for the man I had met almost exactly a year ago to arrive. As I approached the table he was seated behind, everything began to slow down just as it had before in Plains. It was amazing to see how many people had shown up to get a glimpse of our 39th president. I talked to the mother standing in front of me, who had brought her two children to see the man that she had met 35 years ago in Iowa when he was president of the United States. Before my turn came, I had already contemplated what I was going to say. I could have said how much I admired him, or that I had seen him almost a year before in Plains. I figured he had heard it all, so instead I simply said, "President Carter, thank you for coming." He shot me that irresistible grin and said, "Well, thank you very much for coming." And with that simple and humble greeting from a great man, I cannot help but hope a new yearly tradition of seeing President Carter has begun.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a sophomore at George Mason University and a development assistant at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.



Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

Tax Court Says One Tax-Free Rollover Per Year Means Just That

- By Amy V. Smith



The Internal Revenue Code says that if you receive a distribution from an IRA, you can't make a tax-free (60-day) rollover into another IRA if you've already completed a tax-free rollover within the previous 12 months.

The long-standing position of the IRS, reflected in Publication 590 and proposed regulations, is that this rule applies separately to each IRA you

own. Publication 590 provides the following example: "You have two traditional IRAs,* IRA-1 and iRA-2. You make a tax-free rollover of a distribution from IRA-1 into a new traditional IRA (IRA-3). You cannot, within 1 year of the distribution from IRA-1, make a tax-free rollover of any distribution from either IRA-1 or IRA-3 into another traditional IRA. However, the rollover from IRA-1 into IRA-3 does not prevent you from making a tax-free rollover from IRA-2 into another traditional IRA. This is because you have not, within the last year, rolled over, tax free, any distribution from IRA-2 or made a tax-free rollover into IRA-2."

Very clear. Clear, that is, until earlier this year, when the Tax Court considered the one-rollover-per-year-rule in the case of Bobrow v. Commissioner.

Bobrow v. Commissioner

In this case, Mr. Bobrow (anecdotally, a tax lawyer) did the following:

- On April 14, 2008, he withdrew \$65,064 from IRA
- #1. On June 10, 2008, he repaid the full amount into IRA #1; and
- On June 6, 2008, he withdrew \$65,064 from IRA #2.
- On August 4, 2008, he repaid the full amount into IRA #2.

Mr. Bobrow completed each rollover within 60 days. He made only one rollover from each IRA. So, according to Publication 590 and the proposed regulations, this should have been perfectly fine. However, the IRS served Mr. Bobrow with a tax deficiency notice and the case went to the Tax Court. The IRS argued to the Court that Mr. Bobrow violated the one nontaxable rollover within each 12-month period.

The Tax Court agreed with the IRS, relying on its previous ruling, the language of the statute, and the legislative history. The Court held that regardless of how many IRA's he or she maintains a taxpayer may make only one nontaxable rollover within each 12-month period.

Strangely, neither the IRS nor Mr. Bobrow appear to have cited the Service's long-standing contrary position in Publication 590 and the proposed regulations.

So What's The Rule Now?

It's not clear, but taxpayers who rely on the proposed regulations or Publication 590 to make multiples tax-free rollovers within a 12-month period do so at their own risk. It's hoped that the IRS will clarify its position in the near future.

And, don't forget – you can make unlimited direct transfers (as opposed to 60-day rollovers) between IRA's. Direct transfers between IRA trustees and custodians aren't subject to the one-rollover -per-year rule.

*The one-rollover-per-year rule also applies -separately-to your Roth IRA's. Roth conversions don't count as a rollover for this purpose.

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.amysmithwealthmaangement.com. Any opinions are those of Amy V. Smith and not necessarily those of RJFS or Raymond James. Expressions of opinion are as of this date and are subject to change without notice. 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. Prepared by Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc. Copyright 2013.

Hunt Country Stable Tour Features Horse Country Estates

This year's 55th annual Hunt Country Stable Tour features numerous estates in Virginia horse country that are opening their gates to visitors on Memorial Day weekend, May 24-25. New for this year are six properties which had never before been open to the public. They join the self-guided tour's line-up of the homes of some of Virginia's most famous equines. The Hunt Country Stable Tour provides the chance to visit private estates, famous breeding farms, competition farms and more.

The tour is self-guided, and tickets can be purchased at any stop. This year the Hunt Country Stable Tour newly features Caliburn, the equestrian facility at the recently opened Salamander Resort and Spa, Wind Fields, Poplar Grange, Belle Grey Farm and Fox Chase Farm.

Caliburn Farm is located on Atoka Road between Middleburg and Marshall. There will be a jumping demonstration at 12 p.m. and farrier demonstration by Marc van der Rest at 1 p.m. on Saturday. On Sunday they will give a free style jumping demonstration at noon.

Salamander Resort & Spa boasts a 14,000-square-foot stable with 22 stalls and an indoor arena with ThorTurf footing. Stop by the property at 4 p.m. on Sunday for an exhibition of equestrian sport.

Poplar Grange Farm houses young show horses, steeplechase horses and retired horses that now enjoy relaxing trail rides through the estate. On Saturday at 2 p.m., guests are invited to a show jumping demonstration with Pablo II, who competed in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Belle Grey Farm, an international combined and pleasure driving training facility, with will host demonstrations both days. Saturday at 11 a.m., there will be a children's



driving presentation; Saturday at 3 p.m., stop by for tandem ponies and single horse cones, obstacles and dressage presentation. Sunday at 11 a.m., will feature four-in-hand of ponies demonstration driven dressage presentation and Sunday at 2 p.m., there will be more children's driving.

Banbury Cross Farm, located east of Middleburg, will show a polo demonstration at 4 p.m., on Saturday.

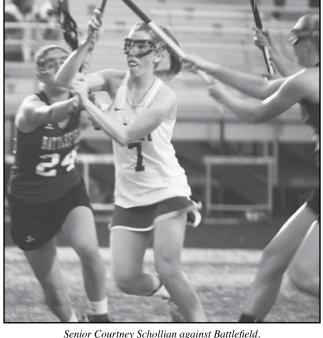
Fox Chase Farm is giving carriage rides from 12 to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Hickory House Farm will demonstrate eventing, show jumping and hunter/jumpers on Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

The Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center will give a treadmill demonstration on Saturday at 10 a.m.

At Trappe Hill Farm, horse manager Wayne VanSant will swim horses in the pond at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. Proceeds from the Hunt Country Stable Tour support Trinity Church and their many local, national and international charities and non-profit programs.

For more information, visit http://www.trinityupperville.org or call 540-592-3711.



Senior Courtney Schollian against Battlefield.
Photo: John Ashworth

Loudoun Valley Lady Laxers off to Blistering Start

- By Mac Shuford

The Loudoun Valley Girls' Lacrosse Team is on fire this year. With recent wins over powerhouses Broad Run and Battlefield, the team is off to a 7-1 start with the sole loss being to last year's state runner up and 6A stalwart, Langley HS. Led by seniors Corley Simons, Ashlyn DiLoreto, and Courtney Schollian, the Lady Vikings are in the hunt for a state title this time around after bowing out in the semifinals last June. With the Loudoun Valley construction project in full swing and multiple injuries to key starters, it has been a tough road this year, but Coaches Tracey Albro and Amy Rollins have their girls in fine form for what should be their best season.

On April 4 Valley traveled to Ashburn to face the Lady Spartans of Broad Run High School. The Vikes polished them off handily 13-7 as seniors Simons and Schollian led the way notching 3 goals apiece, while DiLoreto tossed in 2, and five others added one each. Junior Haley Shuford started in goal with 7 saves in the first half and senior Kelsey Greene closed out the game with 5 saves of her own in the second.

In a rematch of last year's state quarterfinal game, April 14 contest against Battlefield High School proved to be a nail biter from beginning to the end. While Valley scored first and led most of the way, the Lady Bobcats kept it close by tying and even leading multiple times throughout the game. Valley maintained a narrow 6-5 lead at the half, but Battlefield refused to go away tying the score at 10 in the final two minutes. Senior Corley Simons came through in the final minute, however, tossing in the game-winning goal while Schollian and sophomore Hailey Voell both won criticial jump balls in the final seconds to seal the victory. Senior Courtney Schollian led all scorers with 5 goals, followed by sophomore Marguerite Keane with 3, Simons with 2, and DiLoreto with 1. Shuford and Greene split goaltending duties again with seven saves between them.

As the season and the weather heats up, keep an eye on the Lady Vikings this year as they face rivals Loudoun County and Woodgrove on May 5 and 12 respectively before beginning the playoffs soon after on May 15.

Spring Cleaning For Safety

As warmer weather approaches, so begins the annual task of spring cleaning inside and outside the home. Loudoun County's Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management reminds residents of important safety considerations as spring draws near.

Around the house:

- Check and clean smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. We recommend that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are tested monthly and batteries changed regularly.
- Make sure all exits and escape routes are clear from debris and are easily accessible.
- Reduce clutter in and around your home. Clear at least a 3-foot space around your furnace, hot water heater, fireplace, space heaters and dryer.
- Have furnaces, chimneys and air conditioning units inspected by a licensed professional.
- Check electrical outlets, extension cords and power strips to ensure they are not overloaded.
- Be sure all cleaning products, household chemicals, paints and poisons are properly marked and safely stored out of children's reach.
- If you smoke, clean out the cigarette butt container frequently. Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away. Hot ashes can smolder for days.

In the yard:

• Trim bushes, plants and trees surrounding your home and keep vegetation at least 10-feet from the structure.

Keep gutters and roofs clear of debris. If using a

ladder, be sure the rungs are dry and the ladder is securely positioned on a flat surface.

- When operating a lawn mower, rake before you mow to prevent stones or loose debris from flying into the air. Never start a mower indoors, and when refueling, make sure the engine is turned off and cool.
- Gasoline and cleaning fluids should be well marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of the reach of children. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Spread mulch at least a foot away from the house with a non-combustible barrier in between, such as rock or gravel
- Discard smoking materials in an appropriate container, such as a metal or ceramic pot filled with sand. Never use a container filled with soil/plants or one made of plastic. Mulch is also combustible.
- Place cigarette butt containers away from the house. Never place containers on the porch, deck or just outside the door.

In addition to these safety tips, remember all Loudoun County residents must adhere to the current open burning guidelines. In areas where burning is permitted, the "4 p.m. law" is in effect from Feb. 15 until April 30. Beginning May 1 there will be no open burning permitted anywhere within the county until Oct. 1, 2014. For information regarding the 2014 open burning guidelines, visit the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's website at www.loudoun.gov/firemarshal or call 703-737-8600.



Hurry Up - Plant Something

- By Donna Williamson

Spring is here and while it's possible there might be a few more chilly moments, the worst is over. What is more likely is that we will heat up and be in full summer before too long.

In an average year, the rains are plentiful in the spring and seem to disappear around the end of May. So get some planting done soon so the gentle rains can do the watering for you.

New plants need to be established – lots of plant professionals talk about that. It means that you cannot count on Mother Nature to care for your perennials, shrubs, trees, or even that basil plant until the roots have had time to dig into your soil and drink up ground water. So you need to shepherd your new plants, sometimes for months, to make sure they get enough water.

An easy way to handle this is a 5-gallon bucket with holes in the bottom next to your new tree, shrub, or rose bush.

Fill it with water once a week through the summer dry periods and let the water drip slowly into the ground around the roots of your new plants. You can paint the bucket if the color offends you but it is an easy and inexpensive way to do this important task.

Put out a little rain gauge to check on rainfall when you are busy or not at home. An inch or so per week is perfect for most plants to establish. If you need to set up a sprinkler, set the rain gauge inside the watering pattern and check on how long it takes to fill up one inch. Then you can set your sprinkler once a week for that time period. No need to water longer.

Deep soaking is better than a little splash once per day. Plants need water and air to grow well. Water well once per week and relax the other days. Once your plants have established, you can reduce the watering to those very hot and dry periods.

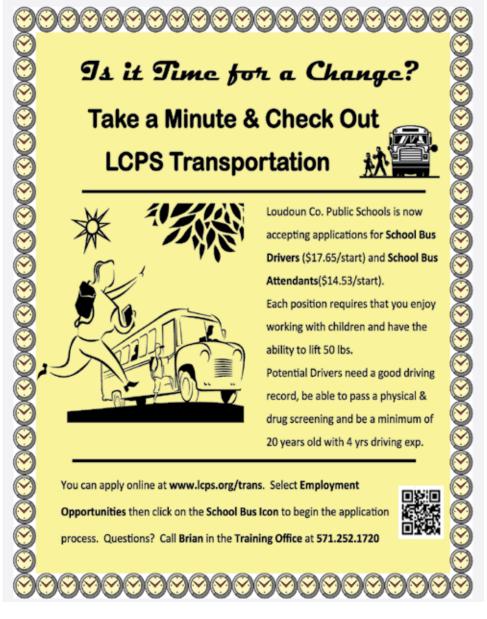
And, while we are talking about hot and dry, consider adding a ninebark to your landscape. This amazing native blooms in the late spring and is a great pollinator plant.

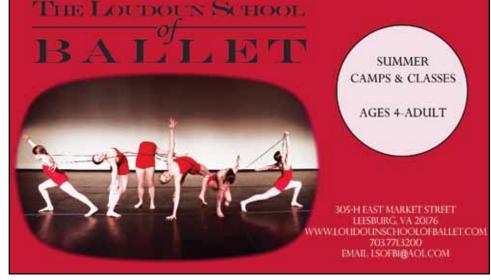


Golden Ninebark Flowers

More than that it comes in several very attractive colors and is the toughest plant for hot and dry areas. When other plants struggle and wither, ninebark shines. Look for Physocarpus at your local nursery and choose several. Of course, it will have to be established before it shows off heat tolerance. So get planting.

Donna Williamson is a garden designer and coach. She has taught classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands and Shenandoah University. She can be reached at donnawilliamson2002@earthlink.net or 540 877-2002.







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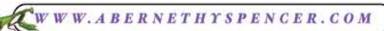


AND THE FUN BEGINS

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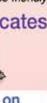
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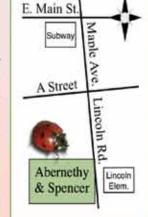
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- ARTIST'S PROFILE -

Betty Wiley - An Artistic Gift To All of Us, Full Of Sparkle And Life

What a lovely lady.

Smiling. Engaging. The perfect hostess. Asking constantly "Are you comfortable? ... Can I get your some water? ... It is so nice of you to come over!'

Local artist Betty Wiley has lived in Purcellville since 1958, for more than Karen and her mom, Betty. half a century.

She says that when she moved here she was "one of 3 newcomers."

Today, she stands out as one of the (young at heart) old guard, having established many of western Loudoun's most treasured places and traditions, including Blue Ridge Speech and Hearing, the Loudoun

Valley Community Center, the Loudoun Coral and more.

In addition to being an accomplished painter, Betty has many, many credits to her name. But, she is not the kind of person who seeks attention and recognition. In fact, she shuns it. Why? Well, because, as she says, "It's all about the joy of it!" – the joy of family, the joy of music and arts and the joy of community. In other words, awards, praise and certificates are just not her style.

On Mother's Day weekend, Betty, her daughter and grand daughterwill treat the public to a Three Generations Art Exhibit – wonderful oil paintings and graphite drawings created by herself, her daughter Karen Wiley-Eberle and her granddaughter Meg Eberle. The show will be held at the Purcellville Train Station, May 10 & 11, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

The origin of the show lies in the fact that Betty is essentially a very enduring and community-mindedcreative soul. Even having met her just once I know that she has







Original artwork by Betty Wiley

been on a very special journey.

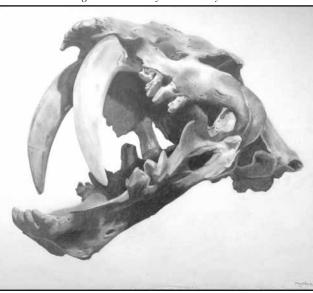
Wiley was born in York County, Pennsylvania and attended college in Tennessee where she focused on the art of music. "Music was my life," as Betty, describes it.

She sang opera and pursued a musical life. Then came marriage and a very rich and enduring family life that also included music. But, that life changed dramatically when in her mid-life Betty learned she suffered from a serious inner ear condition. Almost over night a life built around music was no longer an option. Her love of music, and family and community endured - and she contributed mightily to all. But the artistic itch never left Betty, and, in her late 70s she picked up a paintbrush, taking art classes at Northern Virginia Community College, pursuing painting with the same zeal with which she had pursued music.

Over time, Betty developed as a painter, grabbing one



Original artwork by Karen Wiley-Eberle.

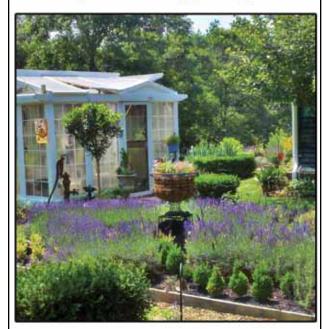


Original drawing by Meg Eberle.

On Mother's Day weekend, Betty, her daughter and grand daughter will present to the public a Three Generations Art Exhibit - wonderful oil paintings and graphite drawings created by herself, her daughter Karen Wiley-Eberle and her granddaughter Meg Eberle. Two paintings will be auctioned off to benefit The Very Special Arts program, another effort very close to Betty's heart. The show will be held at the Purcellville Train Station, May 10 and 11, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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challenge and opportunity after the other. In short, she never looked back - smiling and sharing all the way.

Not even the very "new" artistic experiences she was having fazed her. She was so open to wherever her artistic pursuits take her. At one point, for example, she found herself in a class where, for the first time, students were working from a live (nude) male model. "Oops," she thought to herself, this is not an exercise in painting "a box and a bottle," referring to her earlier work with still life paintings. But, again, as she did when she lost most of her hearing she jumped in, her attitude being ... "let's see where this takes me."

It was Betty's idea do this very special Three Generations Art exhibit and sale. And, two paintings will be auctioned off to benefit The Very Special Arts program, another effort very close to Betty's heart.

At the show, from Betty you will see lush landscapes, still life paintings and sweet and colorful farm animals. "moments in time" that Betty says she waits to appear and then paints furiously! From her daughter Karen, who will travel up from North Carolina for the show you'll see more landscapes with beautifully rendered trees and flowers - a reflection of her work as a botanist. From Meg, who lives in Chicago you'll see detailed graphite sketches of ancient saber tooth tiger skulls and other fascinating things. Meg works as an anthropologist and has a strong interest in the Jurassic period.

Can't wait to go to the show. Three ladies brimming with creativity and connected by their love for each other and, as Betty says, the joy of it all.



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New Musical At Valley

Loudoun Valley High School's drama department, the Viking Players, presents its spring musical production, "Legally Blonde: The Musical."

The show follows the story of Elle Woods, a UCLA sorority sister turned Harvard law student. When she attempts to regain the love of her college sweetheart Warner (also newly enrolled at Harvard), Elle realizes her independence and strength as a modern woman is more

important than the puppy love she once had for the Kennedy-esque Warner. Elle breaks the stereotype of the "dumb blonde" and serves as an inspiration to her friends. Alie Campbell, a junior, playing Elle Woods and music director said, "Seeing everyone's confidence grow throughout this process has been most rewarding." Alexandra Poirier who plays Kate added, "It's important to see this show because, though it starts off fluffy and shallow, by the end you'll see the underlying message is 'be yourself, for you can achieve greatness'."

The Viking Players will present "Legally Blonde: The Musical" May 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. and May 4 at 2 p.m. All tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door, or online

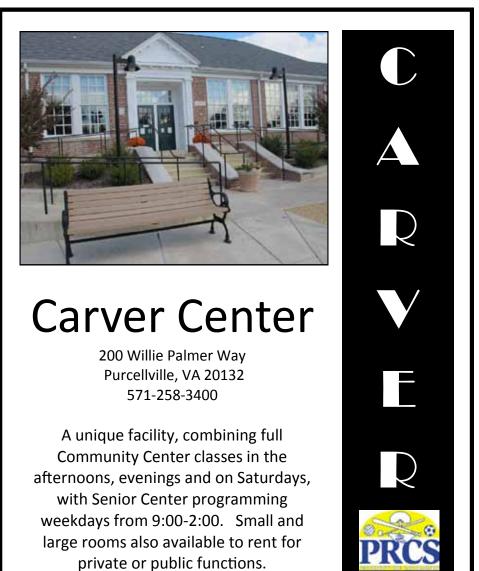


at http://lvhs-legally-blonde.ticketleap.com/lvhs-legally-blonde/.

All performances will be held in the Loudoun Valley High School Auditorium at 340 North Maple Ave. in Purcellville.

"As a new teacher at Valley, I am consistently amazed by the level of talent, dedication, and positive drive these students bring to every process. "Legally Blonde" is no exception. As with all theatrical processes, the

students meet challenges-- creatively and technically, through their schedule, etc. And these students have risen above those challenges. This show is a must see for everyone. This year, we have themed our season of performances," said director Russ Staggs. "'A Season of Timeless Theatre' focuses on the idea that all theatre, in one way or another lives through the ages and has an impact on our current culture. Stories that have been passed down from generation to generation speak to children and adults alike. We form, in part, our moral and ethical systems based on the lessons passed down through oral tradition, and those lessons continue to spread through print and presentation."







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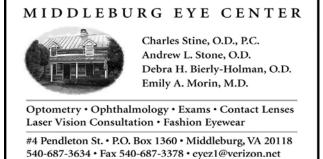








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Hope For The Realist

- By Mary Rose Lunde

I can't count how many times I've been told to have hope. It is just one of the many attributes we all carry with us in times of triumph and tragedy. Yet, we take it so lightly. We never really know how powerful hope is, until we see its effects. I see hope in everyone. And every time I see someone hoping my hope strengthens. Not for myself, but

that their hope does not turn false. This worry about false hope is termed realism expressed in logic.

It seems that both cancel each other out. But which perspective is right? To hope and try hard and then fail or be let down by the fortunes of life, or to have little hope and stay realistic and thus trying less than expected just to free themselves from hurting after failure? Which is a worse fate?

"I think hoping so much and trying hard only to fail because you're basically putting yourself out there only to get let down. It's like with any sport or taking an important test in school," said freshmen Tamara Gonzalez. I agree, this mentality is hard and one that many people find themselves dealing with, including me. It hurts just as much to try and hope and then fail. Speaking from experience, I can validate that what Tamara speaks is the truth, it hurts to hope sometimes, but it is the risk of hope that allows hope to thrive. What is life without a little risk? Though hope doesn't carry us the full journey, a little hard work never hurt anyone.

"I think if you really try and work hard, you don't need hope and anything can be possible. You just have to put your mind to it," junior Hayley Dietel said. In a way she



is right. Hope, though mostly present even in the tiniest amount isn't always necessary. Nor, in that case is it always helpful. Working hard and trying your best is always helpful and a good attitude, attributed to both sides. Having a balance in respect to both working hard and having the right mentality toward achieving a goal is helpful.

"Being hopeful about a situation requires being real about it. You can't just build up your goals

on something that is unachievable," said sophomore Julia Thomas. Such is the argument that hope cannot exist without realism. In many situations this belief is true. It is the balance of the two that humans struggle with. When one appears more powerful than the other is when true chaos erupts and the balance is broken, allowing for one side to cause distress to the person. However, this short burst of disappointment may just be temporary; it all depends on the situation.

No matter what perspective you find yourself taking, it is true that both hope and realism are prevalent in a person's life. Neither can exist without the other, both balanced in a person's mind. It is the person's actions based on this balance that can tip the scale allowing for a shift in perspective, whether full of hope, or torn by facts. Just like looking at a mirror of your life, what do you see? Is it the hope that shows you what could be hiding beneath, or is it realism that shows you what truly lies on the surface?

Mary Rose Lunde is a senior at Potomac Falls High School and is a member of the marching band and varsity tennis team. She will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall.

Kitchen Science Kids: Roots, Stems And Leaves

Please join me - I'm having lunch. On the menu are crunchy red roots, stringy stems, and tender green leaves. I'll even add some flowers and creamy dressing. No thank you, you say? Well, I admit that dish doesn't sound very good, unless I explain that this perfectly describes my favorite salad: Lettuce greens with radishes, celery, and broccoli. People eat plant parts every day, without thinking about the fact that that broccoli heads are actually flowers, carrots and radishes are roots, and celery and spring onions are stems. Of course lettuce, spinach and other greens are leaves, and mighty tasty, if you ask me.

Plants have three parts: Roots that burrow beneath the surface of the soil to draw water through the stems, which act as drinking straws to pull water to the leaves, and leaves which use energy from the sun to make food for the plant and release gases. All three of these parts are useful and tasty for people and animals.

Let's try an activity to see how these parts work. You'll need:

- A clear plastic drinking cup
- Soil, to fill the cup
- Two uncooked lima or other large bean, (from the dried bean section of the supermarket)

Fill the plastic cup with soil, and insert the beans into the cup, against the inside of the plastic cup, so you can clearly see each bean. Place one with the little dent or mark facing up, and one with that little mark facing down. Water the soil so that the soil is moist, but not very wet, and set the cup in a warm place. (I suggest the kitchen, so you will remember to water it.) Add a little water each day, being sure the soil is damp, not very wet. After a few days, look for progress every



day. What happened? What you should see are roots and shoots-roots growing down, (no matter which way the seed was planted), and shoots rising up to become leaves.

Let your new little friend grow, and take care of it. We'll use it again in next month's Kitchen Science Kids activity. Until then, remember to stay healthy by eating your roots, stems and leaves.

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

Hair Color 101

- By Tony Salahi

Thinking of coloring your hair? You're not alone – more than 75% of American women do (and plenty of men, too). It can be a very daunting decision to make if you've never done it before. Do you color it yourself, ask a friend to do it, or go to a salon? Permanent or semi-permanent color? Organic or ammoniafree color? What color will



look best on you – platinum blond, mocha brown or auburn red? The colors are endless!

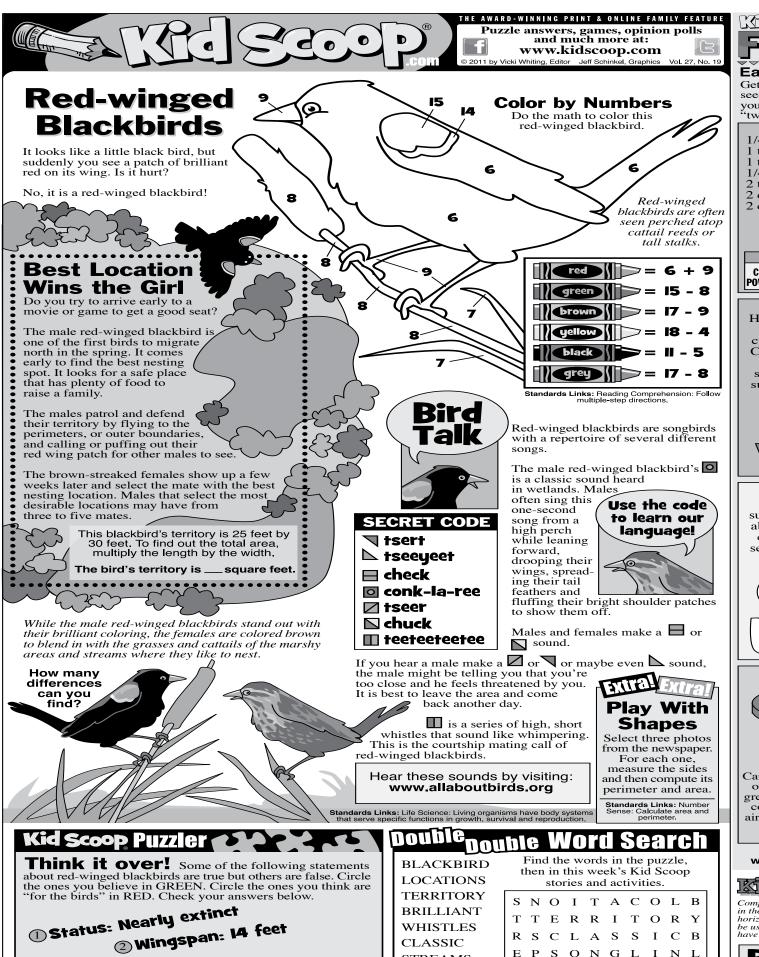
How about a little hair color history first? Around 1500 B.C., the Egyptians used henna as a hair coloring agent. Chamomile, indigo, berries and plants were also commonly used. Lemon and citrus juices, black sulphur, alum, and honey mixtures were used to encourage bleaching of the hair to lighten it. These "natural" hair colors were all that was available. Hairstyling services were introduced in Rome around 300 B.C. and women used hair color to indicate their class in society. Noblewomen tinted their hair red, middleclass women colored their hair blond and poor women colored it black. In the Dark Ages, red hair was thought to be a sign of witchcraft and during the Renaissance, women favored golden and blond hair because it carried an angelic connotation. In 1859, a German student created a purple dye while experimenting with coal tar and alcohol. This led to the creation of synthetic dye for fabrics and hair. L'Oreal was the first hair color company and was founded in 1909. Today there are over 100 different hair color companies worldwide, offering all shades of colors. Your style and personality will help you decide (along with a few celebrities, too).

Made your decision? If coloring your hair at home, make sure you are prepared with all the supplies you need before starting. When choosing your color, it's a good idea not to go more than 2 shades lighter or darker from your natural color. Follow the directions on the box exactly!!! If you're looking for a completely different color from your natural color, then you should definitely go to a salon for professional help. Highlights and two-toned hair should also be done at a salon to avoid hair disasters. A consultation with your stylist is the key to successful color – don't hesitate to share what you do and don't like.

Before coloring your hair, make sure your hair is in good condition. Healthy hair will take and keep color longer. Treat your hair kindly, using professional shampoo, conditioner, and styling products. Using a hair treatment or masque at least once a month will keep your locks happy. Don't wash your hair the day you color your hair – the natural oils in your hair will help the color go on evenly.

So your new hair color looks great!!! Now what? Wait 24-48 hours before washing your hair to guarantee optimum color absorption. Using sulfate-free shampoo and conditioner for color treated hair will help to retain the color and reduce fading. The sun can fade your hair, too, so use products that have UV filters. Treating your hair to a deep conditioner weekly will also help keep color vibrant. Eventually your hair color will fade and/or your roots will start to show. Remember that coloring your hair is a commitment and should be done regularly. The Hair Mill offers complimentary consultations for all hair services.

Tony Salahi owns the Hair Mill Salon in the Purcellville Plaza at 201-G North Maple. Go to www.hairmillsalon.com for more info.



4 Length: 8 inches

Saverage number of eggs: 4

③Life span: 2 years

6 Habitat: Antarctica

Find and circle at least 10 numbers on the front page of the newspaper. What do each of these numbers describe? Create math problems using the 10 numbers. Give your math problems to a friend to solve.

Standards Links: Math Reasoning: Create problems using basic math operations.



STREAMS

PATROL

PATCH

PERCH BLEND

WING

SONG

TINY

What do you give to a bird who isn't feeling well?

AEARSLGGPE

MINTINYNEN

SBLACKBIRD

GBNPIHRWCD

STSELTSIHW

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

ANSWER: Medical tweetment.

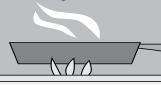
FIT&FUN Eat Like a Bird

Get adult help and try this tasty, seed-packed recipe next time you're in the mood for a healthy "tweet."

1/4 cup olive oil
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp chili powder
1/4 cup sugar
2 tbsps honey
2 cups pumpkin seeds
2 cups sunflower seeds

CHILI
POWDER
HONEY
OIL

Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet until hot; add cumin and chili powder. Cook over medium-high heat for 30 seconds, stirring constantly. Add sugar and honey and stir until sugar dissolves.



Stir in pumpkin and sunflower seeds. Cook for about 8 minutes, stirring constantly, or until the seeds are toasted and the mixture smells good.





Carefully spoon seed mixture onto a big piece of lightly greased aluminum foil. Cool completely. Store seeds in airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

Recipe from www.southernliving.com



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

В		Δ	
			U
R			
D	R		
S			B

Write On!

How did the red-winged blackbird get the red on its wings? Create a legend or story about how this happened and why.

Mother's Day Weekend art exhibit and silent auction to benefit The Very Special Arts – join local artist Betty Wiley, her daughter Karen Wiley-Eberle and grand daughter Meg Eberle for a *Three Generations Art Exhibit*. Wonderful oil paintings and graphite drawings. The Purcellville Train Station, May 10 & 11, 11 a.m. – 8 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 and 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.

May Events At Carver Center

The Carver Center is at 200 Willie Palmer Way in Purcellville. For questions, call 571-258-3400.

Monday, May 5, AARP Driver Safety Course from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For ages 50 and older. Participants learn how to navigate road features, including the now-common roundabouts, and adjust rear-view mirrors to reduce blind spots. Instructors provide tips on safe driving when dealing with age-related vision and hearing loss and slower reaction times. Under Virginia law, drivers 55 and older, who have good driving records and complete the course, are eligible for a discount on auto insurance rates. Fee: \$15/AARP members, \$20/non-AARP. Advance registration required.

Friday, May 9, Mother's Day celebration from 10:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Begin your day with a guided tour of Maggie Malick Wine Caves in Purcellville and learn more about the wine making process. You will also have the opportunity to taste 11 wines for \$7. Transportation will be provided by Carver bus. Return to Carver for a special luncheon and afternoon entertainment. Seniors are encouraged to bring their adult children and grandchildren (ages 18 and up). Sign



Andrew Bergner

up at the front desk # 330735-01 to reserve your spot on the bus.

Friday, May 2, Monthly Movie Matinee from 12:30-2:30 p.m. See the movie "Quartet." Cost is \$1 for movie and popcorn. Sign up for activity #330645-03.

Saturday, May 10, Health For Life Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Loudoun Health Council and Loudoun County Health Department are holding an annual Health for Life Day at the Gum Springs Public Library, 24600 Millstream Drive in Stone Ridge. Free shingles vaccinations will be available.

Tuesdays, May 13 and 27, Jerry's Jukebox from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Join

volunteer instructor Jerry Smith for an opportunity to practice your dancing skills and get a little bit of help with your moves. Non-members pay a \$2 facility drop-in fee. For ages 18 and older.

Wednesday, May 14, Ken's Excursion from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Go to the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester. Among the many exhibits there is one on Patsy Cline. Sign up with Ken to reserve your spot on the bus. Entrance fee to the museum and gardens is \$8 for seniors.

May 22, Town Hall Meeting, 1-2 p.m. This Town Hall format is designed to be an open discussion between staff and members. The purpose of holding a Town Hall meeting is to enable dialogue and discussion to address any ideas and recommendations that ultimately enhance the overall success of Carver.

Friday, May 23, Ballroom Dance Social from 7 to 10 p.m. Couples and singles are invited for one hour of instruction, followed by two hours of dancing in a night club atmosphere. This month, learn to Salsa. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door for ages 16 and older.



MAY

○ Friday May 2-Sunday May 4, Willy Wonka at Franklin Park Arts Center in Purcellville. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and senior citizens. Call 540-338-7973.

Sunday, May 4, guided trail ride by the Mosby Heritage Area Association at 10 a.m. beginning at Claybrook, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Higginson, in Rectortown. Tickets are \$45 for MHAA members and past riders and \$50 for non-members. Tickets may be purchased at www.mosbyheritagearea.org or 540-687-6681.

Monday, May 5, third annual "Fore the Wolverines" Charity Golf Classic, 8:30 a.m. at Stoneleigh Golf and Country Club in Round Hill. All proceeds of the event go directly to senior student-athlete scholarships for Woodgrove High School. For more information, contact H. B. Kilgour at hb@rstarmail.com.

Thursday, May 8, Relay for Life spaghetti dinner fund-raiser from 6-9 p.m. at Harmony Hall at Hamilton Safety Center, at the corner of Hamilton Station Road (704) and E Colonial Hwy. Tickets are \$10, children under 10 are free. Includes a silent auction.

Saturday, May 10, fifth annual Loudoun Bluegrass Festival from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds west of Leesburg. Go to www. bluegrassloudoun.com for more information. Proceeds go to the Dulles Rotary Club's scholarship fund, local non-profits and Cops For Kids.

Saturday, May 10, Hill School's 37th annual auction, "Rock the Kasbah...A Night in Morocco" from 5:30 p.m. until midnight in the Middleburg school's Athletic Center. Includes dinner, open bar, bidding on three different auctions—live, board and silent—live entertainment and dancing. Cost is \$150 per person. For information call 540-687-5897 or email at cjohnson@thehillschool.org.

Saturday, May 17, pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. − noon. Sponsored by Roszell Chapel United Methodist Church at Hunter Oaks Farm, 19530 Silcott Springs Road, free-will offering. Pancake breakfast includes sausage, biscuits, gravy and more. Call 540-338-5861 or 540-338-5862 for more information.

♦ Sunday, May 18, DryHome's Loudoun Lyme 5K/1K at Brambleton Town Center, 42395 Ryan Road in Ashburn. Race starts at 8 a.m., registration at 6 a.m. Fair runs until 11 a.m. Race costs \$30 for adults/\$20 for children 17 and under. Following May 13, adults cost \$35/children \$20. The fair is free. Proceeds benefit the National Capital Lyme Disease Association. To learn more about the race or to register, visit www.LoudounLyme.org.

Thursday, May 29, 350 Loudoun Film Festival, at Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road in Ashburn, at 7 p.m. Watch a movie and join in a discussion about creating a sustainable environment.

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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

and know how to fix and take care of simple things in his life and himself. As parents, I would roll up my sleeves with your son then to make sure he is solid in these important areas.

As an immediate solution, your son should be expected to both get a job and volunteer this summer. You can all decide on a reasonable schedule at the job and volunteer site, but the exposure to these environments is what is most important. With your assistance and support, your son could also cook the family meal once a week. Your son could also start doing his own laundry if he is not already doing it. If your son does not have his own bank account, he should get one and learn how to use an ATM card and know how to balance a checking account. You might throw in a

few chores for increased participation with others (e.g., keeping his room reasonably organized and loading or unloading dishes); he is part of a family now, and he will likely be living with roommates soon.

By keeping your son busy and active outside of the home this summer, the time he spends gaming and isolating will lessen, and you can address any concerns that come up in the process. Ultimately, with a few important changes and some hard work, it is my hope that your son will learn to become more social and personally responsible, making his transition from life at home to life at college a successful one.

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. To learn more go to www.ashburnpsych.com or call 703 723-2900.



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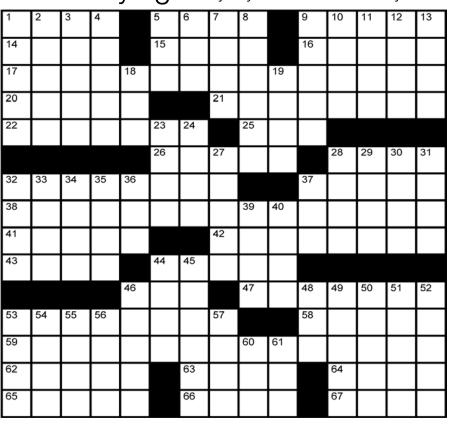




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Avian Sayings - By Myles Mellor and Sally York



ACROSS

- 1. Stopping point
- 5. Mischievous god
- 9. Regional flora and fauna
- 14. Accomplished
- 15. Masculine side
- 16. ___ management
- 17. Gain wealth wrongfully
- 20. UK soft drink
- 21. Perennial plants
- 22. Refines
- 25. Clear
- 26. Provided relief
- 28. Back talk
- 32. Conelike structures
- 37. Window alternative
- 38. Subject of parent-child talk
- 41. Alleviated
- 42. Some eyes and teeth
- 43. "Isn't it a _____," Harrison song
- 44. Old Faithful, e.g.
- 46. Other side
- 47. Italian city
- 53. Pristine
- 58. Mexican bread
- 59. Confess
- 62. New World lizard
- 63. Gulf leader
- 64. Fill beyond full
- 65. Less
- 66. Fishing site
- 67. Genuine

DOWN

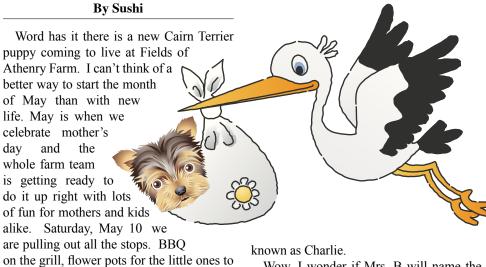
- 1. Drifts
- 2. Crosswise, on deck
- 3. Grassy plain
- 4. Surrender
- 5. Burn cause
- 6. Galley tool

- 7. Turning point?
- 8. Slight, in a way
- 9. Established
- 10. ___ of Court
- 11. S-shaped molding
- 12. Check
- 13. Fine things?
- 18. Radioactive
- 19. Chisholm Trail town
- 23. It grows on you
- 24. Young herring
- 27. "Rock the Boat" music
- 28. Bronx cheer
- 29. Brings into play
- 30. Bug out
- 31. German historian Joachim
- 32. Dance bit
- *33. Pad* ____ (noodle dish)
- 34. Leftovers
- 35. Mind
- 36. Nod, maybe
- 37. Pop-ups
- 39. Astringent substance
- 40. Perceive
- $44.\,Arias,\,usually$
- 45. Looked secretly
- 46. Manicurist, at times 48. Place for sweaters?
- 49. Perspicacity
- 50. Bartender on TV's Pacific Princess
- 51. Needle point?
- 52. Still
- 53. One of seven branches
- 54. Supreme Court count
- 55. Singer Phoebe
- 56. Rake's look
- 57. It's just for show
- 60. Melody
- 61. Blubber

answers on page 38

Sushi – "Tails" From The Barnyard

Capital W, Capital O, Capital R, Capital D - WORD



glorious day of celebrating life. Mrs. B lost her Dad recently and she has been down in the dumps. When we lose people we cherish and treasure it sure can send the atmosphere around the farm into a tail spin faster than the damage done by

those nasty coyotes.

hand paint for their dear mama's, it will be a

I tried cheering Mrs. B up by howling the tune to the song "Loves the Only House Big Enough for All the Pain in the World," by some lady named Martina McBride. The family has a blast singing this song at the top of their lungs so I thought it might do some good. I'm not too sure Mrs. B picked up on the tune I tried to howl. Oh Well, I meant well. She reached down to hug me and pulled me right into her lap. She whispered in my ear and gently stroked my head.

"Sushi my dear little man, we are going to have a new friend come live with us on the farm. He is the great grandson of Ch. Cairnhoe Highlander of Wolfpit."

I tried my best to hold still and not wiggle off Mrs. B's lap in utter delight. The great grandson of Charlie. I remember my mother and father telling me stories about the great Cairnhoe Highlander of Wolfpit - better

G

L I K

Wow, I wonder if Mrs. B will name the new puppy after Charlie as that was also her father's name. Charlie, Charlie, Charlie oh the wonder of it all - I had better put on my best fatherly hat and make sure I live up to the great personalities that befall the name Charlie. I certainly have my work cut out for me in training this young pup to be the very best version of the greatest of the

And so we begin a new May, 2014 with the circle of life as we continue on in our

Wishing all journeys. mothers a blessed and glorious mother's day – one to remember and cherish one to dream upon for many years to come.

Love. 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 www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com or 703.926.8444

Answers to crossword puzzle from page 37 T 18 H E R O N 19 S N E °в о ³³T | ³⁴R | ³⁵0 | ³⁶B В В Е ိဂ ⁵⁷D Ε 0

Ε

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Ν Α R

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Wild Loudoun

Saving Lives In Vernal Pools

- By Andrea Gaines

As winter surrenders its stubborn cold and spring gathers the sun's warmth around us, vernal pools explode with the wonderful frogs and other amphibians that but for them would simply not exist.

"Vernal pools" known as otherwise ephemeral or temporary pools – are large or small watery areas that appear in late winter to early spring.

They take many forms, from small woodland depressions, to larger areas that look like a typical wetland, to collections of water occurring around special geological features such as underground limestone formations. You might have a vernal pool on your property or have seen one ... not really knowing you were looking at something very special and very important to nature - a patch of woodland that holds water as winter snows melt and early spring rains come our way, or a soggy, grassy area

in a low spot on your lawn. Or, perhaps you walked by a place that despite the still chilly air had a haze of green life on it, even as winter had not yet fully departed. Or, a place that, as you drive by just after nightfall is filled with the sound of spring peepers – tiny, very vocal frogs sending out their calls to attract a mate.

You see these watery areas, but because their standing water does not extend into the warmer summer months they somehow seem insignificant. But, they are not. Vernal pools are legally protected waterways, and for good reason. Many of the amphibians we love, including some of our most common and cherished frogs and salamanders are 100 percent dependent on vernal pools for their survival "obligate species" as they are known. No vernal pool no frog ... no salamander.

90 percent of Virginia's vernal pools have been lost to development and other factors, including things as seemingly harmless as installing a drain in that soggy patch of lawn. That is a concern, because nature has a lot to teach us and offer us if we will let her.

One of those teachings is that certain water dependent species – including frogs and salamanders - do not need just any kind of water-based habitat, but waterbased habitat that allows them to hibernate

over the winter undisturbed and lay spring eggs in these watery areas, free from one of their most common predators - fish. Vernal pools provide that water-

based habitat. despite being dry at times, once filled with water vernal pools do, literally, explode with life.

According to Virginia vernal pools experts: "Vernal pool wetlands are distinguished by

the presence of certain indicator species of wildlife know as 'obligates.' The vernal pool obligates in Virginia are the Spotted Salamander, Marbled

Salamander, Wood Frog, Jefferson Salamander. Mole Salamander, Mabee's Salamander, Tiger Salamander, and several species of Fairy Shrimp (small fresh water crustaceans). The breeding presence of any of these obligates can be used to ver-

ify a true vernal pool habitat." The Tiger Salamader is an Endangered Species. Mabee's Salamander is a Threatened Species. And, the Mole Salamander and Fairy Shrimp are categorized as "Special Concern" species. Vernal pools also support some of Virginia's most rare wetland plants. Whether in a secluded forest area or on the side of a road, they are incredibly important habitat.

Driving down one of western Loudoun's roads on a rainy late winter or early spring night you're apt to see small and large frogs and toads hopping across your path. These creatures are very well making their way to a vernal pool area; traveling back to where they were born (hatched) having spent the winter in leaf litter or moist soil in a nearby woodland or grassy area.

If there is a seasonal watery area on your property, even if it is a small body of water, let it be. It supplies you with the frogs, salamanders and toads your children and grandchildren love. And, it's the law to leave these areas undisturbed.

If less cultivated damp areas of your property feature leaf littler, piles of logs or downed trees, let those things be, too. The frogs, toads, salamanders and other obligate species that overwinter nearby and wait for water to collect in the spring will be in your debt – and your family's life will be richer for it.



