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Purcellville Family Approaches 1-Year Anniversary Of Son's Police Shooting Death

Justifiable Homicide Findings Spurring Sierras To Challenge The System

Background

17-year old Loudoun Valley High School student Christian Sierra was shot and killed by Purcellville Police Officer Timothy Hood on May 24, 2014 as he responded to a call that a teenager was threatening suicide. Hood had been on the Purcellville Police Force for just 15 months prior to the incident. Records also show that Officer Hood's dashboard camera was not functioning at the time and that he was not equipped with a Taser or any other form of non-lethal force. A supervisor and officer were around the corner, but no other officers were on the immediate scene at the time of the shooting, and Officer Hood did not call for back up before exiting his police vehicle.

A four-month investigation lead by Loudoun County Commonwealth Attorney James E. Plowman and a special detail of Virginia State Police resulted in an official finding of justifiable homicide on the part of Officer Hood. The report was issued on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014. Said Plowman at the time: "The officer was justified in his use of lethal force ... He was faced with an immediate and



The Sierra family at their home.

real threat." Plowman also said that crisis-intervention training would not necessarily have been of help in a situation involving an "immediate threat of violence." The Purcellville police, however, had been to the Sierra home on numerous occasions, including one incident in

Continued on page 26

Sullivan Vineyard Square Ruling Facing Official Appeal

— By Andrea Gaines

On March 9, 2015, Purcellville Town Manager Rob Lohr received a letter from developer John Chapman asking the town manager, who has broad powers, to confirm that the Vineyard Square development project had "commenced" — thus eliminating the need for the developers to reapply for long-expired permits and start the project over. The project "... is well under way," according to the letter. Chapman asserted that because he had demolished three buildings under CDAs 13-13 and 13-14 — the project as a whole had started.

Prior to this letter, Vineyard Square, which is a planned 5-6 story mixed-use development on 21st Street, had a time limit for the Certificate of Design Approval (CDA) permits from the Board of Architectural Review to demolish certain buildings on 21st Street. Developers Chapman and Mark Nelis had to meet time limits on each CDA. At the time, zoning administrator Patrick Sullivan said in a memo dated May 29, 2014, "Each of the CDAs has a time limit of one year that is imposed by ordinance (Chapter 54 Section 54-78 F of the Town Code). The expiration dates laid out in Sullivan's memo were Nov. 14 2014, Dec. 16, 2014 — with a required approved site plan and

Continued on page 38

Scenic Virginia Kicks Off 2015 Virginia Vistas Photo Contest

— By Andrea Gaines

From mountains to historic farms to quiet, meandering rivers and meadows, Virginia has some of the most dramatic scenery in the country. Our state's grandeur is celebrated each year with a photo contest sponsored by Scenic Virginia, a conservation organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and enhancement of Virginia's scenic beauty, viewsheds and lands.

Scenic Virginia kicked off its 2015 photo contest on April 20, soliciting entries in the categories of Cities - Towns, Coastal and Chesapeake Bay, Farms - Open Space, Highways - Byways, Mountains - Valleys, Rivers - Waterways, Scenic Trees, Vistas With Wildlife, and, special to 2015, the Route 5 Corridor.

Scenic Virginia Photo Contest rules are available at



Peach Tree In The Fog by photographer Jennifer Luck of Ruther Glen. 2014 Honorable Mention.

www.ScenicVirginia.org. Entry is free. The deadline for submitting entries is Sunday, May 17 at 5 p.m.



Wild Loudoun Brook Trout, page 21

This Month In History



MAY 1929, Tornadoes Rip Through Waterford, page 17



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Ask Dr. Mike

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike,

What do you think about overnight or stay away camps for 11 year-old boys? Our son is sensitive and has struggled a lot this year socially, and my husband feels that a couple of weeks away from home and with other kids at camp will help him to be "less soft." My husband went away to camp at a young age and remembers it as being a great experience. I agree with my husband that our son is sensitive and that he lacks social skills for his age, but I'm afraid that the separation from us will be too upsetting for him. I also don't trust that my 11 year old boy will be safe after all the camp counselor abuse stories that I've heard about in my life. Unless you or my husband can convince me that sending our anxious and sensitive 11 year old away all at once is the right decision, I am against the idea. Middle school is going to be hard enough for him next year. Your thoughts on this are appreciated.
Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned Parent,

According to the American Camp Association, parents who send their children to camp reported that upon return from camp their children: Felt better about themselves, gained more self-confidence and self-esteem, showed an increase in independence and more leadership skills, showed an increase in their friendship skills and felt more socially comfortable and gained in their adventurousness and willingness to try new things. The ACA also cites: Confidence and self-esteem building, safety and building social skills and making friends as being the most important reasons for why parents to send their children to camp.

In my opinion as a child psychologist, over night camp can be a wonderful experience for an overly sensitive middle school age child, but you are not alone in your concerns regarding overnight camps as a parent. In Virginia, while background checks are required for day camp counselors, surprisingly, Virginia does not require or mandate criminal background checks for camp counselors at over night camps. This is a concerning fact when

Continued on page 35



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Purcellville Hires New Police Chief

— By Andrea Gaines

Purcellville has selected Cynthia A. McAlister as its new Chief of Police.

Selected from a very competitive candidate pool of over 54 officers representing the federal, state and local law enforcement agencies across the country, and chosen from a short list of ten extremely qualified candidates, McAlister will be the first woman to occupy the position. She will be confirmed at the town council's regular meeting on May 12, at 7 p.m.

McAlister and her family have lived in the Purcellville area for more than a decade. She has more than 33 years of law enforcement experience with the Fairfax County Police Department where she currently holds the rank of Major. During her sixteen years as a supervisor at the command level, she has worked as a detective, served as an aid in the office of the Chief, Station Commander, Director of the Criminal Justice Academy, and other positions. She currently serves as the Commander of the Patrol Bureau Division II. Her education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from George Mason University, the FBI National Academy at Quantico, and a Criminal Justice Certificate from the University of

Virginia, among other credentials.

Said Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser: "Cynthia McAlister brings to our great community 33 years of law enforcement experience, coupled with unparalleled enthusiasm and commitment to community engagement and partnership, [and] holds firm on the principle that community policing should be in the blood and heart of all officers. Under Chief McAlister's leadership, we can expect continuation of some of our successfully implemented community programs along with new and innovative programs developed through collaboration between our citizens and our police department. We look forward to working with and supporting Chief McAlister in her endeavors to ensure the safety and security of our town."

The Purcellville Police Department is comprised of 16 sworn officers and one civilian, and supplements its work with the Purcellville Citizen's Support Team.

Upon accepting her post as Police Chief McAlister said, "I am honored to have been selected to serve as the Town of Purcellville's Chief of Police. I look forward to working with the residents, businesses, and the men and women of the department to ensure the high quality of life that everyone enjoys in Purcellville."

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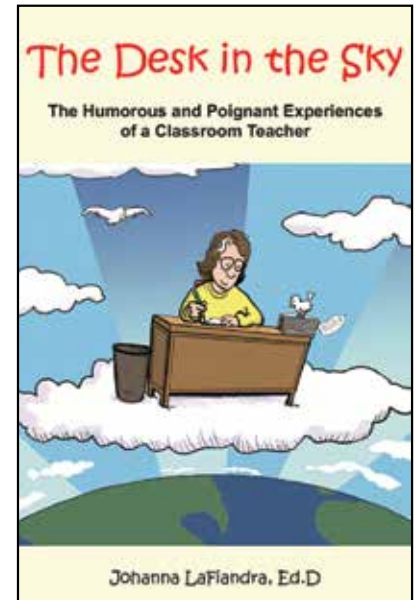
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Local Author Writes About Teaching Experiences

Recently a book entitled, *The Desk in the Sky*, was brought to our attention. After viewing the cover, several questions came to mind? Is this desk in an airplane or rocket? What prompted the name? And, what is this book all about? These questions and more are answered in the book.

"The Desk in the Sky," is a new book written by a Purcellville area resident, Dr. Johanna La Fiandra. It is both humorous and poignant in relating the real life experiences and philosophy of a special education teacher. It describes her solutions to the problems of developing self-esteem and a love of learning in students. It's also very uplifting and should be read by teachers, parents and anyone who has ever gone to school. Here are some of the highlights of the book:

Chapters 1 and 3, "The Desk in the Sky" describes where her desk was found during renovations of the school, after she returned from the summer recess. The amusing consequences of her predicament are explored in these chapters. Chapter 21, "The Work in the Toilet" shows how students learn from one another. Chapter 5, "The Declaration of Independence" touchingly relates how one student gave LaFiandra an understanding of what she needed to do to transform bored junior high school students into the curious learners they had once been. Chapter 7, "Creative Fundraising" describes how students sharpened their reading, math and communication skills, while learning



creative ways to raise money for exciting and educational field trips. A must read for parents and teachers who need to raise money for worthy causes. Chapter 21, "The Work in the Toilet" shows how students learn from one another.

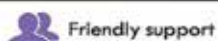
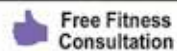
With graduation fast approaching, it is the perfect gift for those entering the field of education. The book is available for purchase in Purcellville at Everyday Elegance, 600 E. Main Street, or can be ordered by contacting deskinthesky@gmail.com for details. Mention the Blue Ridge Leader in your email for a 25 percent discount.



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Par Three In Purcellville

– By Nick Pelchar

The Town of Purcellville has a tremendous opportunity to provide recreation, the reclamation of used water, the recharge of town wells, increase revenue and to lessen environmental impacts on Catocin Creek with a par three golf course.

Proffers from the annexations of Locust Grove (1992) and Hirst Farm (2001) resulted in town ownership of 50.4 acres of land bounded by Route 611, including approximately 22 acres housing the Basham Simms Wastewater Plant and the maintenance facility. The remaining 28 acres and its topography lends itself to a great site for a 9 or 10-hole par three golf course.

Sometime in 2003, I walked this land with a golf course architect who told me there was plenty of space for this concept.

Over the past 10 years, municipalities in the American west and south have been using reclaimed water for reuse as irrigation for their own or private golf courses. Places in Texas are recycling their reclaimed water for potable use.

Because of the close proximity to our own reclaimed water, pond sites on the higher elevation of the 28 acres could be constructed, allowing for gravity-fed irrigation of the course and drain field recharging of town wells. Pumping our reclaimed water to the ponds could act as golf course hazards such as a sand trap, and

lessen the impact of releasing this water into Catocin Creek. Purcellville can begin its use of reclaimed water like Naples, Florida, which waters its golf courses and beautiful streetscapes in this way.

This would be the only par three course in Loudoun County, and it will get plenty of play – with revenue to help pay for the course and wastewater plant. This new amenity will raise the value of our homes in Purcellville, increase business activity and attract tourism. Purcellville could be the first place in Virginia to use reclaimed water for its golf course.

For fourteen years we have made no improvements on the 28 acres, and it produces no revenue or recreation. This project deserves serious consideration, and I hope the Purcellville Town Council will explore the request.

Perhaps a joint effort with Loudoun County or the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority would be a good solution. There might be grants available, or perhaps a public/private partnership. Revenue generated by could eventually help replace the need for available funds to hold down sewer/ water rates. More children will have the opportunity to discover golf and seniors can enjoy the sport. Purcellville's value as a community would be increased.

Nick Pelchar served on the Purcellville Town Council from 2002 to 2006.



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Special Needs Children vs Special Interests

– By Delegate Dave LaRock

This past week, I read that a Lynchburg, Virginia, middle school student with autism was found guilty of disorderly conduct and felony assault of a school resource officer— for knocking over a trash can and then pushing the officer who was trying to restrain him.



Delegate Dave LaRock

During this past session in Richmond, the legislature passed a bill that would require the Virginia Board of Education to adopt statewide regulations on seclusion and restraint of pupils. Legislators heard testimony from dozens of parents about harrowing examples of children being physically restrained for acting up. One parent told about how their autistic child was locked in a closet for hours for offenses like tearing paper and banging on the door. Another special needs child was literally locked in what the school called a “scream room,” a concrete room with metal doors

and a fan the staff would turn on to drown out the sound of screams. This child’s hand was broken when the staff slammed the door shut on him.

The truth is that many special needs children simply do not do well in the public school they are assigned, and even though they don’t do well, they are stuck there.

This past session, I proposed a bill that would give school choice in the form of a Parental Choice Savings Account to special needs kids in Virginia (and save the Commonwealth and school districts money at the same time). The bill proposed giving parents the option of taking control of their child’s education. It passed the House with bipartisan support and came within one vote of passing the Senate.

We cannot turn our backs on the kids who are stuck in a system that is failing them. Our lieutenant governor cast the deciding vote against school choice for special needs kids,

siding with special interest groups like the Virginia School Boards Association and the Virginia Education Association. These groups reject any proposal that allows dollars to follow a child. They see it as a direct threat to what they consider their turf.

The tug of war between parents and the education bureaucracy can leave special needs kids in a bad place, as with the 11-year-old from Lynchburg.

Recently, I met with a father from Purcellville who has tried every possible avenue to get his autistic daughter the education she needs before she ages out of the public school system. He and his wife have appealed at all levels and won, but little has changed as to how his daughter is treated. Litigation, which he cannot afford, is the only option left. I asked him what success for his daughter would look like and his answer was simple; success would simply be learning to be self-sufficient and avoid being institutionalized for her adult life; the latter would impose costs on the

public far beyond the cost of educating this child.

Christy, a mom from Frederick County, had this to say when asked if a Parental Choice Education Account would help her: “We are facing an epidemic of treating and educating children on the spectrum. The public schools cannot handle it and either they deny services, provide inadequate IEP’s (Individual Education Plan) to get the student through the system, or frustrate the parents enough that they seek alternative ways to educate their children.” Christy went on to say, “Having my son’s educational resources at my fingertips could allow me to seek a specialized private school setting.”

School choice for special needs children will help by opening up an alternative to dangerous, often violent cycles of behavior and response. School choice is a long-term solution to the real problem at hand. Next year, I hope we’ll succeed with this program and protect special needs kids, not special interests.

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Special Opinion: Should Loudoun Bring Back The Drug Court?

– By Robert Ohneiser

In 2012, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) eliminated funding for the Loudoun County Drug Court. Supervised and administered by Loudoun County Circuit Court judges, Drug Court gave serious drug offenders the option of entering an intensive rehabilitation program as an alternative to trial, under the condition that they submit to frequent drug testing, appear in court weekly for at least one year and meet other stringent financial and employment criteria. Drug Court detractors cited the program’s low graduation rate as the reason why funding should be eliminated, while proponents of the program, including judges Burke McCaHill and Thomas Horne described it as, not only the most intensive form of supervision in Virginia’s criminal justice system, but potentially life changing – even for repeat offenders who failed to complete the program.

So, should the Drug Court be brought back? And, if so, in what form?

The answer to the first question is yes. Loudoun County and its citizens should minimize the high cost of incarceration for all victimless crimes especially young adult drug possession offenders. We should no longer condone the waging of such an ineffective battle against the human toll that repeat offenders – including substance abusers – visit on themselves, our families and our roads.

On the second question, my vision is that the commonwealth attorney – our jurisdiction’s top legal officer – be put in charge of designing, managing and securing funding for a refocused and revitalized Drug Court, in cooperation our county’s sherriff’s and probation’s departments, judges, the clerk of the court and the public. The Drug Court should also be



Robert Ohneiser

reorganized to include alcohol-related addictions and victimless offenses.

When the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors eliminated funding for the Drug Court it made the proverbial mistake of “throwing the baby out with the bathwater;” going back to the old way of doing things without taking responsibility for the recidivism and enormous public safety problems the Drug Court was designed to address.

Criminality is a term loosely used to justify punishment. Those of us who have been wronged by others – including persons driving under the influence of alcohol – tend to have a harsher view of the punishment the person should receive. Both from a family perspective – my brother died due to an alcohol-related auto accident – and as a criminal defense lawyer, I understand both sides of the criminality and punishment debate.

Some of my clients are veterans with numerous military honors, yet the court system does little to assist them with drug and alcohol-related problems other than cutting down their punishment and forgiving a bit of jail time in exchange for participating in AA. When there is no victim, why do we choose to punish a Loudoun resident who is more an addict than a criminal? And, when there is a victim, why do we so easily trade away a just punishment?

And, let’s think outside the box. If we are serious about stopping drunk driving, why not consider having our Sheriff’s Department detain drunk drivers outside of bars ... rather than randomly pulling citizens over if they are driving a few miles over the speed limit? Isn’t that really where the issue of profiling is most obvious?

I believe we need to take drunk drivers

off the road, period – regardless of how we handle their rehabilitation or punishment. Wouldn’t Loudoun benefit by having a reputation that it has no tolerance for drunk driving? Does anyone believe we have that reputation now?

In addition to looking more closely at the issue of crime and punishment – and how to set up a system that rewards personal responsibility as a tool for encouraging recovery – I am looking for a Drug Court more focused on young adults. I think there is far more relevance and effectiveness in a program which helps an addicted person before it becomes their chosen way of life. How many times have we seen this prosecutor allow police charges against a young person to stand even though the evidence would never pass court muster? Do we really want to send messages to our young adults that the system is based on a “gotcha” mechanism followed by expensive plea bargaining instead of a caring community that expects responsibility yet understands reality - and is willing to help the individual address underlying conditions such as depression, for example.

Loudoun needs to address the related issue of negative budget impacts on mental health support services as well. Mental health support services and drug and alcohol offences are two sides of the same coin.

If the Nancy Reagan approach of “Just Say No” actually worked, we wouldn’t see so much addiction and associated crime, would we? Let’s reopen up the discussion and bring back a better Drug Court.

Robert Ohneiser is a former Loudoun County School Board member and current candidate for commonwealth attorney. He can be reached at ohneiserlaw@gmail.com, 703-729-3735. (ohneiserlaw.com.s3-website-us-east.1.amazonaws.com/)

View From The Ridge: An Open Letter To The Citizens Of Purcellville

Mark Your Calendar They've Asked For Our Input So Let's Give It To Them

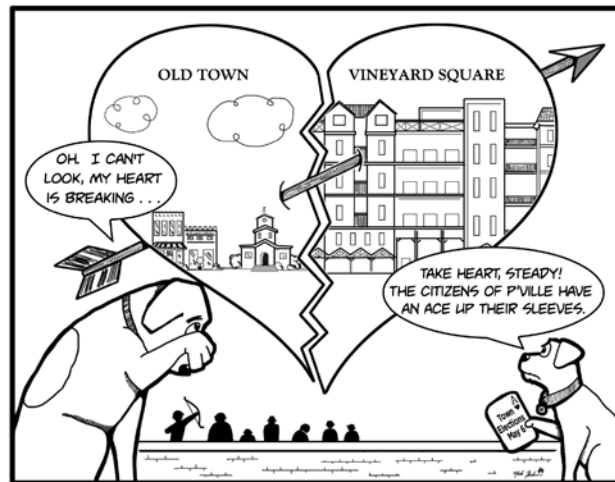
– By Steady and Nobull

The Purcellville Planning Commission has tentatively scheduled a series of public input sessions June 4, 11 and 18 at 7 p.m. at town hall for the proposed sweeping zoning changes. These major changes are similar to the changes that occurred in 2008 which gave us a six story project on 21st Street. By that we mean the town council at the time, based on developer input changed the height restrictions on 21st Street from 32 feet to 65 feet.

Will we, as a town, follow the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances developed in cooperation with the citizens, or will we liberalize our zoning regulations to the point that anything goes – a 55,000 square foot big box store next to a residential community, a high-density, multi-use, multi-story residential/commercial floating zone legal anywhere? Should 100 percent of the decisions be made by the developers?

In May of 2014, the voters in Purcellville spoke loud and clear, electing a new mayor and a citizen advocate and otherwise putting those in charge on notice.

- Over are the days when developers call the shots.
- Over are the days when a project such as Vineyard Square would be jammed through because of zoning use changes that citizens were not aware of.
- Over are the days when citizens are given a back seat to a town run by insiders, handing out special exceptions and



other zoning changes like they were candy and treating the citizen-inspired Comprehensive Plan like it wasn't worth the paper it was printed on.

While it is encouraging that citizens elected new leaders, the developer community has been just relentless. They want the Purcellville Planning Commission and Town Council to make an overwhelming amount of uses “by right” – this means that a developer can move forward on a project without public input.

- No need to apply for a special use permit. The developers say it costs too much money, they don't want any negative feedback from the public hearings either.
- No proffers – no financial contributions from developers for the new roads and other infrastructure -

kick that can down the road and let the taxpayers pony up.

- No more 10,000 square foot limitations on big box stores. Raise the limit to 55,000 or 75,000 or more. As developer Mark Nelis said, his clients want the size of big box stores increased, furthermore he wants limitations on restaurant sizes increased dramatically as well.

And, here's the kicker. Developers want to be able to put what are known as PDH Districts (planned developed housing) anywhere. And, they want to change PDH developments to include commercial – creating mini-town centers of sorts, combining high-density residential with commercial – on parcels as small as 5 acres. Drop a PDH District in the middle of nowhere, next to a working farm, or an established neighborhood. The district is proposed to have no firm definition, and according to the community development department this will give the developer a chance to be “creative.”

Chairman of the Planning Commission Gil Paist has said that he wants citizen input on what many see as extreme ideas that don't feel like small town Purcellville. This will change Purcellville forever. So, let's give it to them. Let's avoid Purcellville's impending by-right anything goes disaster.

What You Can Do

Attend the public input meetings in June and if you can't, email the town council as a whole at purcellvilleTC@purcellvilleva.gov and ask that your comments go into the record. Chairman of the Planning Commission Gil Paist has said that the commission will change the proposed uses based on citizen input.

Annexation Requests Move Forward Along The Proposed Northern Collector Road Corridor – And Beyond

– By Valerie Cury

Three new annexation requests are in process or will be submitted shortly to the Town of Purcellville. These include:

The Purcellville Crossroads Proposal

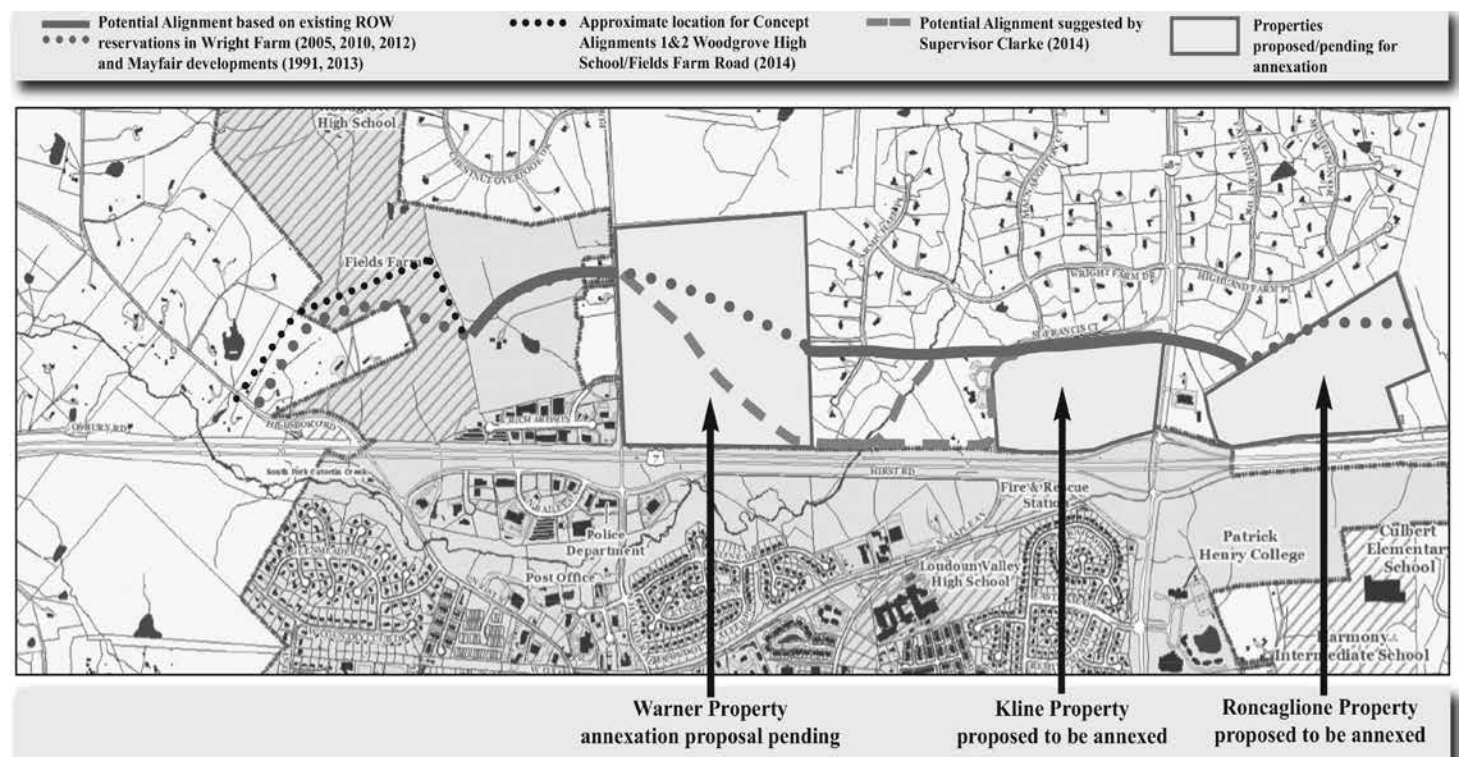
Pleasants Kline, along with three other property owners, is requesting the annexation of approximately 50.4 acres. It is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Berlin Turnpike (Route 287) and Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) and along St. Francis Court. The property is currently zoned JLMA-3 (one house per three acres).

Kline's proposal currently calls for 64 residential units, 75,000 square feet of commercial, an 80 room hotel, a park and ride lot for 260 spaces and Tilley's Entertainment center, which would include indoor and outdoor commercial recreational facilities. This would add approximately 3,054 daily car trips according to a study included with the annexation proposal.

RSR Gateway Farm Proposal

Across the street from the proposed annexation request of the Kline property is another proposed annexation of a 67 acre property known as RSR Gateway Farm (Roncaglione property). This property is located at 16932 Berlin Turnpike (Route 287). Joe Bane, the property's representative, several months ago attended a Town of Purcellville Work Session and stated that he was interested in putting a data center there.

RSR Gateway Farm is currently asking for 3 data centers, a cell tower, a nursing home, a hospice center and an independent living center. In addition, the developers want town homes, and single-family



homes and some commercial to include a restaurant and a Quick Lube. This request cannot be accomplished unless the Town of Purcellville annexes the property, which would give the developer access to public utilities. At the May 1 public input session, nearby homeowners defend Purcellville's small town feel against the density of the project, to which property owner J. “Ron” Roncaglione said, “We can do it the decent way or the hard way.” As of press time, the paperwork for this annexation had not been filed.

Purcellville West Proposal

Purcellville West – on Business Route 7 across from the Loudoun Golf & Country Club – is also asking for an annexation, although the paperwork has not yet been filed with the town. The property is approximately 84.07 acres. One of the principal owners, Joe Bane, said his vision for the property would include two data centers. He also wants 88 single-family detached homes and 75 attached residences for a total of 163. The current plan includes 200,000 square feet of office,

a 25,000 square foot restaurant, a 5,000 square foot bank and 90,000 square feet of mixed use – for a total of 520,000 square feet. The property is currently zoned in the county for 17 homes by-right. He is asking for annexation because, “This is the only way we can get the density,” said Bane. The public meeting is a required step in the annexation request process. If he doesn't get the annexation now Bane said, “It [the property] will stay as it is until the next town council approves it.”

Annual Catch And Count Event On The Chapman DeMary Trail

On May 3 more than 60 people gathered at the Chapman DeMary Trail in Purcellville to catch and count creek creatures, conduct tests to monitor the quality of the South Fork Catoctin Creek, and improve water quality by picking up trash along the trail and planting trees. Participants who came to The Nature Generation's event also enjoyed nature hikes and meeting Loudoun Valley High School student Sammy Iliff who had her award-winning water quality project on display. As a result of these efforts, volunteers picked up 5 bags of trash,



Sammy Iliff, far right, talking about her water quality project.

planted 8 native trees, and found that the quality of the South Fork Catoctin Creek still needs improvement.

This annual effort began in 2012 after The Nature Generation received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for a project called The Trail to Water Quality. Working with Loudoun Valley High School students and local experts, they monitored the creek, educated people about water quality, and created a plan to improve the quality of the water. The plan included recommendations to continue improving the health of the creek through efforts such as conducting regular stream monitoring, holding clean up days, and enhancing the riparian buffer of the creek.

Results from the May 3 testing was mixed. The stream was clear, the nitrate level was low, and the benthic macroinvertebrate samplings didn't yield high enough quality results to clearly indicate stream health. The urban impacts are still noticeable in the South Fork Catoctin Creek and more efforts can be made to improve it.

The annual water quality day at the Chapman DeMary Trail was hosted by The Nature Generation, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring environmental stewards, with support

from the organization's trail partners— Loudoun Valley High School, the Piedmont Environmental Council, and the Town of Purcellville. Other organizations that supported the annual water quality day included Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Loudoun Watershed Watch, and Keep Loudoun Beautiful. Additionally, a representative from Virginia Naturally also joined in the event. Several local scout troops and students participated in this important effort to monitor and improve the health of the South Fork Catoctin Creek which is within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Next year, The Nature Generation's annual water quality day at the Chapman DeMary Trail will be held on American Hiking Society's National Trails Day, which is the first Saturday in June. Members of the community can become more involved with the trail by becoming trail sponsor, and volunteering for its Weed and Waste Warriors effort that will be held the last Wednesday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. starting on May 27. These programs are made possible through grants and through donations from individuals and from NatGen's trail sponsors including Middleburg Bank, the Dominion Foundation, and Sev1Tech.

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Little League Opening Day Purcellville



Kerry Rice, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Purcellville Councilmember Karen Jimmerson, Mike Hughes, Spencer Nielson and Upper Loudoun Little League President Norris Beavers at Haske Field in Purcellville.

Photo by Michelle Small



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Little League Opening Day Around The Towns

- By Carri Michon

Spring is here and with it comes the crack of bats, the smell of leather and whoops of delight - it's baseball season. Under water colored skies, our local western Loudoun Little League teams recently opened their season having waited all winter for the spring thaw and the chance to play baseball.

Our towns celebrated Little League Opening Day in style with:

A parade. Lovettsville began the morning with their annual parade through town to Lovettsville Elementary with 13 teams riding on homemade floats and festive vehicles to begin the day. Once at the Lovettsville field, their ceremony included an official introduction of teams, coaches and sponsors after which the colors were presented by local Boy Scout troop 962. Local dignitaries including Senator Dick Black, Delegate Dave LaRock and Supervisor Geary Higgins attended the festivities. Lovettsville baseball legend, Larry Wenner, threw out the first pitch.

The "Running of the Tees." Over in Round Hill a full day of events began with their parade of teams onto the Round Hill Center field - all eleven of them from the Round Hill area. Pastor Rich Shipe blessed the season and Round Hill Mayor Scott Ramsey threw out the honorary first pitch to 12 year old Red Sox player JD Robinson. The 5th annual "Running of the Tees" had the T-ballers show off their base running skills. A group photo of the more than 150 players, coaches, and dignitaries in attendance captured the event for posterity. Six games completed the Round Hill opening day celebration ending with the Majors Red Sox playing their American League neighbor Phillies. Mike Morgan of the Phillies showed his hitting prowess by parking one long out of the park but the Sox bested their foes in part from Riley Smith throwing two shutout innings to close the game and seal the victory at 9-7. What a day it was.

A Legacy of service. The greater Purcellville area combined with Middleburg to welcome the start of Little League at Haske Field in Purcellville. A combined 27



teams paraded around the diamond. Local dignitaries including Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Town Council member Karen Jimmerson attended the festivities. Mayor Fraser spoke of the benefit of the now Town owned Haske Field. Norris Beavers, Upper Loudoun Little League president, was the keynote speaker and talked of the changes from the time he began on the ULLL Board 3 decades ago and today. "Back then less than 250 children played baseball for ULLL and today there are over 1000 players between the two seasons. There were very little funds to work with and now we have a legacy of lighting a field, Haske Field." Norris Beavers shared his story regarding the catalyst for his quest to light a field in western Loudoun for our local kids to play baseball finishing by saying, "I consider this my greatest accomplishment during my time with Little League, lighting Haske Field, as we will never have a game moved again because of darkness." Beavers announced he will be retiring from Little League at the end of this year after 30 years of service. Said Beavers, "I thank the parents, managers, coaches, sponsors, Board of Directors and the Town of Purcellville for your support. But most of all I thank the kids for playing baseball."

All around the towns from Hamilton to Purcellville to Round Hill to Lovettsville to Middleburg there were boys and girls playing baseball. It was a beautiful day to be at the diamond.



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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Telegraph Springs Road

– By Tim Jon



JON

There's one guy out here who proudly informs all visitors arriving at his locked gate (at the end of a short driveway) that he owns a firearm and a backhoe; I've got a mental note to avoid this address at all costs after the sun goes down. Speaking of which, there are any number of places along this little lane where you can stand transfixed by that circular yellow orb and the splashes of light created by the not-so-random intervening objects. Warnings, and sunlight: Two key components of a journey up or down Telegraph Springs Road – which runs from Purcellville down to its junction with Snickersville Turnpike a half-dozen miles or so to the South.

Route 611 runs through some varied surroundings along the way: Tree-enshrouded river-bottom, open horse country, stretches of 'no-man's land' extending as far as the dictates of vision, spots where you might want to pull over and set for a spell to just enjoy the serenity – and other places in which your vehicle has just barely enough space to clear that oncoming panel truck (and not slip off the narrow edge of blacktop so parsimoniously laid out by the highway crews). Yeah – it's not the kind of road where you want to let your eye stray too far from whatever's in front of you. The gravel portion (the Southern end) widens out more in places, but you still come upon some tight turns and unexpectedly close trees that - if you're not careful - could stop you in your tracks.



The journey has its rewards, though. I always get a kick out of the names of the little tangent roads that spin off of Telegraph Springs: Guinea Bridge Road, Bolyn Road, Whitacre, Curle, Stonemeadow and Teahouse Lanes, and then the more familiar (to me, at least), like Colchester, Greggsville, North Fork and Shoemaker School. And speaking of names, I learned that there really is a Telegraph Spring itself- quite close to the intersection with Hughsville and Chappelle Hill Roads. With the aforementioned combined conditions including narrow blacktop, tight turns and crowding trees along this little stretch, I've yet to get a visual on the exact location of the small metal pipe trickling water; it's emblematic, though, of one of the first things I noticed about this locality (in comparison to my native

Land of 10,000 Lakes): When you see water in Loudoun County, it's usually in motion.

And, speaking of tangents, I need to get back to my story. There's a rural mail route out of Purcellville (one of my favorites, after learning it the hard way) that heads South out of town along Telegraph Springs Road, then cuts off on one of the first junctions to head seemingly to the ends of the earth on all kinds of little dirt roads, then makes a return up to its starting point: Every time I reached a certain notch on that circuitous trip I always had the same, distinct sensation that I'd really been somewhere (traveling up to 60 miles on little country roads, stopping at every mailbox, and heading up and down the odd driveway for a dismount, can make for a pretty full afternoon – even on the most hospitable day). Add to these vicissitudes the enjoyment of trying to get an ungainly mail truck around a road grader on a narrow dirt road, glancing up and wondering, “Are those storm clouds?” then meeting an oncoming horse trailer (barreling down the middle of that same little gravel path), and stumbling on the uneven sidewalk at one of your customer's houses – after encountering a stealthy canine whose low growl may mean, “Leave me alone, I'm just in a bad mood today,” or, “Say your prayers, I'm going to have part of you for lunch.” Most of my associates would shrug and say, “Well Tim- that's just another day at the office.” (In other words, just a normal day for a veteran delivery person) But even the most jaded, 30-year mail carrier will feel like he's 'done been somewhere' after that trip down (and back up) Telegraph Springs Road and all its tangents.

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Double Amputee Parachutes Into Lansdowne Golf Tournament

Participants in a charity golf tournament on April 17 got a special thrill as Dana Bowman, a member of Team Fastrax, America's Skydiving Team, parachuted into the Lansdowne Resort golf course with an American flag.

Bowman, a retired Special Forces soldier and former member of the U.S. Army's elite parachute team, the Golden Knights, has gained renown as a double amputee who continues to perform at high-profile events.

At 8:45 a.m. on Friday, April 17, Bowman flew into the Lansdowne Resort and landed on the driving range as part of the "Fore Our Troops" charity golf tournament.

Bowman descended from the sky on a special parachute bearing the logo of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, a leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding the lives of severely



wounded veterans of the global war on terror. The Lansdowne golf tournament is a fundraiser for the veterans group.

"I've been extremely impressed by the life-changing work done by the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes over the years," said Bowman. "That's why I wanted to fly their colors and bring more awareness to the organization and to the thousands of brave men and women that benefit from the emergency aid and other critical services they provide."

On Feb. 6, 1994, Bowman gained worldwide attention when he and his Golden Knights teammate, Sgt. Jose Aguillon, collided in midair during the team's annual training. Bowman and Aguillon were practicing a maneuver known as the Diamond Track. The maneuver calls for the jumpers to streak away from each other for about a mile

and then turn 180 degrees and fly back toward each other crisscrossing in the sky.

Bowman and Aguillon had demonstrated the Diamond Track more than 50 times without incident. But this time was different. Rather than crisscrossing, the two skydivers slammed into each other at a combined speed of 300 miles per hour. Aguillon died instantly. Bowman's legs were severed from his body, one above the knee and one below. Bowman's parachute opened on impact. He was taken to a hospital in Phoenix where doctors closed his leg wounds and stopped his internal bleeding.

Nine months later, Bowman turned this tragedy into a triumph when he became the first double amputee to re-enlist in the

United States Army. He later became the U.S. Parachute Team's lead speaker and recruiting commander.

"During my tenure at the Coalition, I've met hundreds of inspirational men and women who have overcome adversity and gone on to be a beacon of light to their fellow veterans," said David Walker, president and CEO of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes. "Dana has to be at the top of that list. He is truly an extraordinary man, and we are so proud that he took the time to parachute into our golf tournament today."

For more information on the Coalition, and to learn how you can support its mission, visit saluteheroes.org.

Relay For Life With The Hokies

— By Mary Rose Lunde

On April 24 Virginia Tech hosted their annual Relay for Life fundraising event that supports the American Cancer Society. The event lasted more than 12 hours from 5 at night to 5 in the morning. At the closing ceremony, it was announced that the event raised more than half a million dollars for cancer research. This alone is amazing and hopefully will bring scientists closer to finding a cure for cancer.

Virginia Tech is the No. 1 collegiate Relay For Life in the nation. I asked one of my friends how we came to be number one and her response: "We tend to go big or go home" made me laugh. Based on how packed the drill field was I'm not surprised. The oval track was always filled with people, from the beginning to the final lap at 5 a.m. So many people were there with many organizations.

The entertainment at the event included many performances from a cappella groups, dancers, bands, line dancing, zumba at 4 in the morning, and a D.J. to close out the night. Surrounding the track were many booths that housed raffles, food and activities. Knit and Crochet club, who I was there with, had a booth for pin the ribbon on the support person. We were going to do pin the radioisotope on the tumor, but that would have been a bit more complicated. We also gave out hand crocheted cancer ribbon pins. All of the proceeds of the events went to the cause and we were happy to support.

Perhaps the most emotional part of the night began as the sun was setting. Outlining the oval track were white paper bags decorated with names of members that have passed away from cancer. When it was dark enough, volunteers lit candles



LUNDE

inside the bags that illuminated the designs and lit up the drill field. At around 10 o'clock everyone gathered around the stage to hear testimonies from survivors and from those telling a journey and memory in honor of those lost.

The luminaire as it is termed was the most emotional ceremony of the night. Candles were lit and extinguished as each name came across the screen: Father, mother, daughter, son, sister, brother, wife, husband, step father, step mother, aunt, uncle, cousin, coworker and finally friend. By the end of the ceremony, the drill field was completely dark. There were no words exchanged as everyone moved to walk around the track in a lap of silence together. None of us walked alone anymore; we were all Hokies all fighting for a cure.

All in all, the night was one filled with much excitement and laughs. It wasn't that we forgot the past. We reminisced and supported each other as we honored those we remembered. We were there together as Hokies. We all had reasons for why we relayed. Personally, I relayed in memory of my grandma, who passed away four years ago from ovarian cancer. Cancer kills but we can fight to change that. In the final video there was a picture of the word hope outlined on the steps in front of Burruss Hall. It changed after a second to the word cure, which is worth the fight.

Mary Rose is about to complete her first year at Virginia Tech and looks forward to relaxing in the summer. She participated in Relay for Life for the entire 12 hours and looks forward to next year's event.

Mary Rose Lunde is a freshman at Virginia Tech. She was excited to join her community in the 3.2 for 32 mile run on April 16.



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Ryan Johnson with fresh Lost Corner Farm Asparagus. Left, Avis Renshaw, owner Mom's Apple Pie Hill High, offering fresh Wild Blueberry Pie.

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Photos by Sarah Huntington

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Expansive Views And Space In Leesburg

– By Hannah Hager

Expansive. Close your eyes and consider what that word means to you. Does it mean open skies? Does it mean rolling hills and mountains? Or does it mean sweeping ceilings, endless counter space and sprawling rooms?

This Leesburg home stands at the highest point of the county seat. From this vantage point you'll receive breathtaking, panoramic views of Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia. Let the sunrise drip through the 12 skylights throughout and give you a much needed jolt in the mornings. At night, watch the sun fall behind the hills in your front lawn.

It's not all about the outdoors in this sprawling home, however, that has been meticulously cared for by the current owners for more than 20 years. You'll see that this home was built with intention and purpose: you can enjoy a quiet

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moment in next to the brick fireplace in the den or hop on over to the conjoined 23-foot great room and dining to build family memories under the exposed beam cathedral ceilings.

Bright white accents are seen throughout the home, starting with the expansive white cabinetry in the kitchen to the wainscoting down the halls and in the vast bedrooms. The white plays nicely with the natural light that gives this large home a sense of warmth, purity and relaxation.

The master suite will recall elements of the "Ritz" and will not fail to disappoint. It would be difficult not to decompress here amongst the main area, in the bathroom or in the den off the suite with fireplace. Venture into the office, tea room, spend time in the finished basement or on the back deck. No matter where you find yourself in this home you'll be more than content.

This Month In History MAY 1929, Tornadoes Rip Through Waterford



1929 tornado damage to cornerrib and old oaks on the Phillips Farm.

In May of 1929 a series of deadly tornadoes hit multiple towns and villages in Virginia. In Woodville, 14-year-old Marshall Hawkins died when his school collapsed. In Weaversville, fifteen houses and several stores and churches were destroyed. In nearby Waterford, a twister tore the roof off a barn on the historic Phillips Farm and uprooted ancient oak trees. The farm and the village – having survived the Civil War – persevered, moving on from the tornados, too. The Waterford Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1969 and 144 acres of the Phillips Farm is today protected by conservation easement.



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Fields Of Atherny's Elaine Boland Wins Golden Plow Award

A farmer on a mission to heal chronic illness with food is nationally recognized for work at NYC gala.

Elaine Boland of Fields of Atherny Farm in Purcellville, took home The Golden Plow Award at the 2015 Women Chefs and Restaurateurs' Women Who Inspire Awards Gala in April. The Golden Plow Award recognizes excellence in growing or producing from nature's bounty and honoring a woman whose skill in farming or making artisanal products results in food that graces our plates while respecting the environment.

Fields of Atherny Farm was always a lifelong dream of Boland, a mother of five daughters who began her journey of providing nutrient dense meats and products over 13 years ago. Because of her daughter's Cushing's disease, Boland began to recognize the relationship between the foods we eat and chronic disease. Through this experience she developed delicious, nutrient dense bone broths that included organ meats as a way to help her daughter's failing organ functions. The WCR recognized those efforts on Monday night by awarding Boland with the coveted Golden Plow award.

Boland remarked, "We feel incredibly blessed to be recognized at this level. The WCR group of women has re-opened our eye's to see the importance of why it is we do what we do. There truly is power in the solidarity of these women and we are proud and humbled to now be in the WCR family."

As her family's health improved, the farm business grew. She quickly went from a personal source of healthy foods for family and friends, to a thriving farm store and home delivery business. More importantly, she became a resource for people looking for both knowledge and ways



Elaine Boland, far left, with the Gold Plow Award

to feed themselves in a healthy, holistic way. Her work and philosophy on food has been featured in Flavor Magazine, Inspired Magazine and the Washingtonian Magazine.

Co-owner Mary Teresa Boland said, "I remember when this journey started 13 years ago and learning of my sister's diagnosis. To have come so far and to have my mom recognized for all her hard work and passion was such an amazing moment. It's an honor to work beside her every day."

Today, Boland continues to sell her fresh, weekly butchered pasture raised hormone and antibiotic free beef, lamb, poultry and pork from her farm store and is shipping her nutrient dense broths across the country. She also sells raw milk cheese, prepared seasonal meals, butter, ghee and eggs at her farm on Snickersville Turnpike. Their website is fieldsofathenryfarm.com.

Art At The Purcellville Train Station

Loudoun Valley Arts (LVA) is bringing "Art in the Train Station" to the historic Train Station in downtown Purcellville at 200 N. 21st Street. Every weekend beginning May 9, a different western Loudoun artist will exhibit their artwork.

The series kicks off on Mother's Day weekend May 9-10, with Betty Wiley's three generations of painters show. Betty will be exhibiting with her daughter and her granddaughter. At the age of 84, she is an inspiring member of the Loudoun Sketch Club. "It seems to me, and others have commented, I paint with my heart. I fully believe all artists do or they could not possibly paint or create from clay or wood. I do paint for joy and that is my gold ribbon and personal reward," said Wiley.

Mary Litton, LVA Executive Director is excited by the concept of three generations of artists joining together for a Mother's Day show. She said, "It is a great way to start the series."

Later in the month on May 23-24, Sherry Long will exhibit at the station. Her paintings reflect familiar facets of life and represent a wide variety of subjects. She said, "I am focused on learning new things with each creation and vary my painting or drawing subjects with each project so that I present a fresh experience for myself and others with every painting." She is a trained draftsman and her college studies supplemented her desire to be precise and deal with details. "Art provides a wonderful outlet for my natural abilities to be shared with others and I hope they will enjoy my paintings," continued Long.

Artists will exhibit between 12-4 on Saturdays and Sundays in conjunction with Visit Loudoun Visitor Center hours.



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Two Kitchen Cousins
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Cod In Parchment With Citrus Butter

– By Lisa Wasson And Andrea Gaines

The key to success with any dish is picking a good recipe and then repeating it until it's second nature to you.

Cooking with parchment is one of the easiest ways to guarantee success, particularly when it comes to subtlety of flavor. It may feel intimidating at first, but it is simple, really – easy to prep, easy to cook, easy to serve. In the case of this dish – which translates to “Le Cabillaud dans le Parchemin Avec le Beurre d'Arrume” – it's also an opportunity to bone up on your French. Enjoy!



Ingredients (serves two)

4 tbsp. unsalted butter

1 tbsp. lemon zest

2 tbsp. lemon juice

2 thin slices of lemon

2 tsp. chopped fresh dill

1 cup julienne vegetables of your choice (choose fennel, carrot, zucchini and/or yellow squash)

Two 6-ounce cod filets (any mild white fish will do)

Sea salt and coarsely ground pepper

A splash of dry white wine

Directions: Preheat the oven to 400. Combine butter, zest, juice and dill in a small saucepan, melt the butter and set mixture aside. Prepare two large pieces of parchment paper. Place one fish filet in the center of each sheet and cover with the julienned vegetables. Pour the flavored butter over the vegetables and fish, add a splash of white wine, top with a slice of lemon and season with salt and pepper. Close up the parchment and either twist the ends or secure with string. Place the packages on a baking sheet and cook for about 20 minutes – the package puffs up when the meal is ready. Serve the still closed parchment just as it is on each dish – and take a moment to savor the lovely scent as the parchment is opened.

About Andrea & Lisa: Andrea and Lisa are cousins who grew up on Long Island together. Andrea is a well-know writer for the Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today. Lisa is a private chef who has been making people's mouths water ever since she started baking fresh muffins for her office mates in New York City.

Wild Loudoun

Brook Trout – Colorful Aquatic Gems

– By Andrea Gaines

In his 2006 book *The Road*, author Cormac McCarthy writes a beautiful passage about a lush, living landscape that once was, as a father tells his son about what had lived in a now spoiled waterway. “Once there were brook trout in the streams in the mountains ... You could see them standing in the amber current where the white edges of their fins wimpled softly in the flow. They smelled of moss in your hand ... On their backs were vermiculate patterns that were maps of the world in its becoming ...”

Brook trout are native to wide areas of eastern North America, including Virginia, and take three forms: a large lake form that inhabits the northern-most part of the fish’s range; a second lake-based form that migrates to salt water for short periods of time; and a smaller generalist form that evolved in small lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams.

The brook trout is the state fish of nine states, including Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Vermont, West Virginia ... and our very own Old Dominion.

Like many water-dependent species, however, brook trout are very sensitive to pollution and other aspects of environmental degradation, and have disappeared from 90% of their original range.

Brook trout require cold, clean, fast-moving water. And, it is against this crystal cool backdrop that the fish is at its most beautiful. Dark green in color, the brook trout has a dramatic marbled pattern to its body and fins, and an iridescent sprinkling of red, blue and yellow dots, some of which are encased in a blue halo. The brook trout’s fins have a distinct white edge and a bold black stripe which transitions to a beautiful orange red.

The belly of the male brook trout turns a bright reddish-orange as the fish spawn. In



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

the fall, female brook trout use their tails to create pebbly depressions in the streambed. Called a redd, the depressions will be filled with as many as 5,000 eggs, which are then fertilized by a cloud of sperm deposited by the male. Spawning takes place in October and November, and over several months the fertilized eggs will grow and mature from eyed egg, to sac fry or alevin, to fry, to adult fish.

In a jeweler’s terms, brook trout mimic the colors of the world’s most rare gemstones, including the most vibrant Burmese rubies, the beautiful royal blue gem known as tanzanite – mined in only one place in the world ... the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro – Imperial jadeite and the brilliant Mexican fire opal.

Over 400 streams or portions of streams in Virginia still contain this magnificent gem of a fish, and there is a concerted state, national and regional effort to return it to more of its original range. A very innovative Trout Unlimited program for example, helps students raise brook trout fry for release into the wild.

What child would not be thrilled to drop his or her very own aquatic gem – a brook trout fry – back into the local watershed, and watch as it hesitated, looked back and then wimpled its way upstream. It is nice to know that many people see the colorful brook trout this way ... worthy of any and every effort we can make to bring them home.

Catoctin Creek Owner Wins Golden Goblet

Becky Harris, co-owner and chief distiller at Catoctin Creek Distillery, received the Women Chefs and Restaurateur Golden Goblet service award April 20 in New York City. The award recognizes excellence in the beverage profession and honors a woman whose making or serving of beer, wine, spirits, coffee or tea enhances the dining experience.

Becky and husband and business partner, Scott Harris, launched the distillery – the first distillery to open in Loudoun since before prohibition – in 2009. She is one of less than a dozen female distiller-operators in the United States. A chemical engineer and graduate with honors from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, she has worked at companies like Amoco, YDK America and CIBA, specializing in industrial processes and production systems.



“It was such an honor not only attending the awards gala surrounded by some of the most talented and respected women in the food and beverage industry, but to receive the Golden Goblet award honoring my work in the spirits industry. I’m just so humbled and grateful to be recognized for such a prestigious award,” Harris said.



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Brand New Home For A Battle-Injured Soldier

Construction on a brand new home for a battle-injured soldier is well underway in western Loudoun County.

The home is a project of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation of New York City, with secondary funding by the actor Gary Sinise's foundation and the Building for America's Bravest Foundation. Crews from Fuog/Interbuild, Inc. located in Purcellville and sub-contractors from western Loudoun have passed the half-way point in construction with a July target date for completion of the project outside Lovettsville.

John Fuog said his firm was awarded the contract by the foundation, "And we're very happy to be a part of this historic project which honors a critically injured warrior, as well as a New York City fireman who lost his life trying to rescue people on 911 in the World Trade Center disaster."

The custom built home for Marine Cpl. Ronny (Tony) Porta will have specially designed and built kitchen, bathrooms, bedrooms, entrances and safety features to



accommodate the soldier who lost his right arm, four fingers on his left arm and suffered burns over 80 percent of his body due to a roadside bomb in Iraq.

"Loudoun is very distinguished in being the second of the first four such home-building projects in the nation," said David L. Eno, Chairman of the American Legion's Hometown Heroes Committee in Purcellville. "Cpl. Porta underwent 138 surgeries to save his life and heal his combat wounds after the Humvee he was driving struck the bomb. Two of his closest friends, Master Sgt. Kenneth Mack and Corporal Charles Palmer were killed in the explosion and fire. Thus, Porta and his wife, Deicy, chose to name their son, Kenneth Charles, in honor of his fallen colleagues."

Women's Shelter Joins Forces With Breaux Vineyards

Corks for a Cause on May 15 will support the Loudoun Child Advocacy Center, a program of Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter. The mission of the CAC is to support the continued development and implementation of a child-centered approach when investigating cases of child abuse and neglect. The event will include samples of wine and food and a raffle of prizes donated by area businesses including sports memorabilia, jewelry, car detailing, beauty packages and a case of wine.

The event is at Breaux Vineyard from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased online through Wednesday, May 13 at www.jcsj.org or by calling 703.771.3398.



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Franklin Park Arts Center Go Out Without Going Far!



Circle Unbroken, The Gullah Journey from Africa to America

Saturday, June 13 3:00 & 8:00 PM

Audiences nationwide have been mesmerized by South Carolina Sea Islands' Gullah Kinfolk, with their unique style, memorable performances and uplifting renditions of their historical repertoire. Borne of slavery, Gullah spiritual music transcends time and takes the listener on a journey through history. This Gold Star Performance is sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center.

Tickets: \$35 All Seats, Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Fizzical Fairytales presents: Far, Far, Far Away Tower

Wednesday, May 13 10:00AM

This Circus Theater Puppet Troupe will present a fairy tale like none other in an energetic and exciting way!

Tickets: \$5 per person For tickets call 540-338-7973

NEW! Gallery Coffeehouse: Little Sister, acoustic music

Sunday, May 10 6:30PM

Readers Theater-Almost Maine

Sunday, May 17 6:30PM

Poetry, Prose & Prompts

Sunday, May 31 6:30PM

Tickets: \$8 per person Purchase tickets at the door

Last Ham Standing

Friday, May 15 8:00PM

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

Tickets: \$12 Adult, \$10 Student, \$8 Child

www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Loudoun's Got Talent

Friday, May 17 2:00PM

Loudoun's Got Talent is an annual talent contest for solo performance by students in grades 9-12 who reside or attend school in Loudoun County. The top three finalists win scholarships of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 and the winner performs at a symphony concert during the following season.

Tickets: Call 703-723-8089 to Reserve and for Pricing

www.loudounsymphony.org

Joey and The Waitress Band

Saturday, May 23 7:30PM

Joey and The Waitress Band will perform music from their two CDs as well as some favorite covers. Loudoun360 says they are "a new local alternative acoustic band. Their sound has been described as Kings of Leon meets James Taylor."

Tickets: \$16 in advance/\$18 at door Call to Reserve 540-338-7973.

The Immortals

Saturday, May 30 8:00PM

This is a group made up of the best music students at Loudoun Music Instruction. Selections to include Rock, Soul, Contemporary, R&B, Jazz Standards and originals by the members.

Tickets: \$7 All Seats Call to Reserve 540-338-7973 or email FMKeim@aol.com

Harp Ensemble: Out of the Silence

Sunday, June 7 3:00PM

Evocative compositions for solo harp and harp and violin composed and performed by Astrid Walschot-Stapp with additional compositions for flute and harp by Hoothannes and Andres among others. Flute: Karen Johnson, Violin William Stapp.

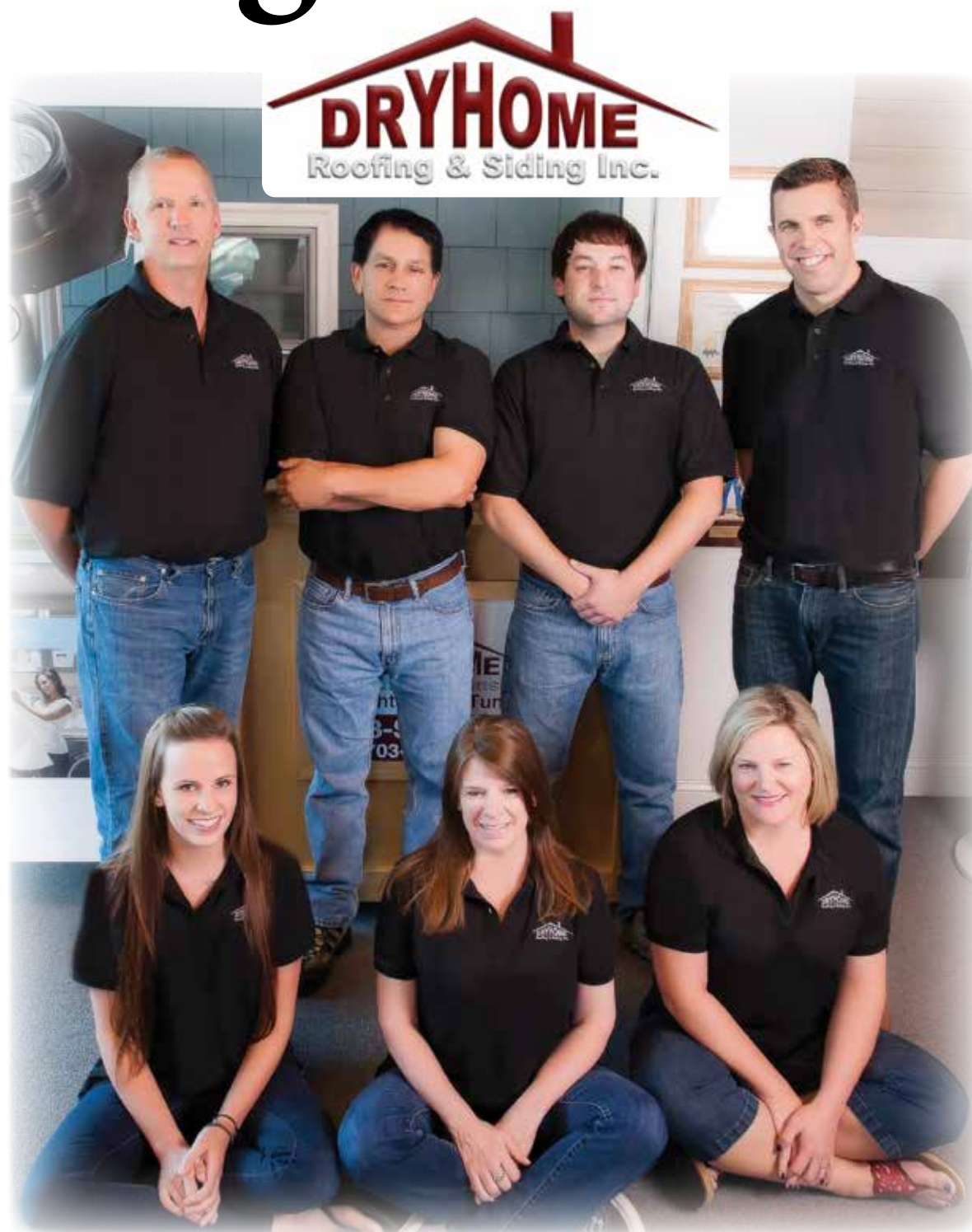
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www.dryhome.com

Shooting, continued from page 3

which Christian, accompanied by his parents, was taken to Leesburg for a mental health evaluation.

The Blue Ridge Leader conducted an interview with Eduardo and Sandra Sierra as the family approached the one-year anniversary of their son's death.

BRL: *When did you move to Purcellville and tell us about Christian and your family.*

Eduardo and Sandra: We moved from Florida in 2001 and were drawn to the beautiful landscapes and small town of Purcellville. Christian was 6 years old and started kindergarten at Emerick Elementary. His passion was soccer. A few years later, our daughter Gabriela was born, and we felt our family was complete.

As the years went by Christian and Gabby thrived and we made sure as parents that they had all the opportunities we could give them. At one point life became tough for us when my husband lost his job due to the economic downturn. I started driving a school bus and this gave me the opportunity to take my kids with me if I had to.

Christian joined the Loudoun Youth Wrestling Club while attending Blue Ridge Middle School and continued wrestling at Loudoun Valley High School. This was a tremendous outlet for him and was good for his self-esteem.

BRL: *Many families have experienced issues of suicide or mental health difficulties in their children. Would you tell us about Christian's struggles and how your family dealt with them?*

Eduardo and Sandra: It was around the last year of middle school that Christian began to experience some bullying, and was trying to deal with extremely mixed feelings, sometimes feeling very anxious and depressed. Our first thought was he was going through typical teenage rebelliousness. When we began to realize the issues were more than we could handle on our own, we sought professional help. We worked with counselors and therapists, and he was prescribed medication as the therapist tried to determine a specific diagnosis.

It was also very difficult for us that Christian did not manifest any of the negative behaviors away from home, and we had not discovered specific triggers. We have pages of writings from people and friends expressing Christian's kindness to others – how they remembered Christian as being the first person to say hi in the hallways as he greeted a new comer to make them feel at ease.

BRL: *Can you tell us what happened on the day of the shooting?*

Eduardo and Sandra: Christian got up that morning and as always, said good morning and proceeded to shower. I asked him if he wanted to go to Leesburg with us, to do a little shopping. He just replied, "No thanks."

While we were in Leesburg, I called Christian several times to check on him, but there was no answer. At around 2:30 p.m., I was having lunch with my daughter when I received a call from my mother. She said she saw police activity and yellow tape at the community across the street from our house and they were not letting anyone through. I called Christian again – and still no answer – so, I called the mother of one of Christian's friends. She told me that Christian was not there. I asked her what was going on in the area and she said a 17 year-old kid was trying to kill himself and the police came in and shot him. My heart dropped, and my immediate response was, how could they do that, and what about that poor child's mother? I called my husband, and he said he was going to call the police department.

"The first thing that hit us hard was the blatant character assassination of our son and our family. We could not understand the purpose of including in the report the specifics of prior visits by the Purcellville police to our home, as they had nothing to do with the shooting, although those reports did show that the Purcellville Police were aware of Christian's mental health struggles, and that he had a family working to help him."

I headed home immediately to find Christian. On Rt. 7, I received a call from Sgt. Smith from the Virginia State Police. I started to scream and say "No, no!" As I was entering our neighborhood I saw the unmarked police cars. I began crying. But, no one would tell me what was going on. One of my neighbors came and just hugged me. I got back into my car and drove to my house to call my sister to tell her something terrible had happened to Christian. The police were now in my house and I put the phone down so she could listen to what they had to say. They just kept telling me to calm down. I kept asking, "Where is my boy! Where is Christian?" They would not answer me.

My neighbors drove me to the hospital and tried to keep me calm. I called my husband to tell him to meet us at the hospital, all I could hear was my husband crying. A hospital clerk put us in a room and told us to wait. No one would give us any answers. We still had the hope that Christian was still alive and would be OK. We were never allowed to see Christian in the hospital. His body was transported to the Manassas Virginia Medical Examiner's office and we did not see him until his body had been released to the funeral home.

BRL: *Did the final report released by the Commonwealth Attorney, Jim Plowman help you understand what happened?*

Eduardo and Sandra: The first thing that hit us hard was the blatant character assassination of our son and our family. We could not understand the purpose of including in the report the specifics of prior visits by the Purcellville police to our home, as they had nothing to do with the shooting, although those reports did show that the Purcellville Police were aware of Christian's mental health struggles, and that he had a family working to help him. If someone were to ask for a copy of all police calls to a specific location, the law would prohibit the full narrative from being provided, and it should have been withheld because our son was a minor. It was cruel, with only a self-serving purpose that accompanied the justification of our son's killing. The report released by the Commonwealth Attorney left us with far more questions. But the law is not on the side of the victim. The Virginia State Police did meet with us and answered some questions but refused to release any additional documents or records, including the recordings of witness statements, on the grounds that they have full discretion to decide what to release.

We have asked to meet with the Commonwealth Attorney and hope he will provide answers to our outstanding questions and honor our request to listen to the recordings of all the interviews with witnesses including those of Officer Hood.

BRL: *What steps have you taken to get your questions answered, and what are some of the things you have discovered – what about the future?*

Eduardo & Sandra: We hired an attorney to assist us in the beginning because we had no idea what was ahead. We have made many Freedom of Information Act requests including for dispatcher recordings and other documents.

It took 4 minutes for this tragedy to occur. One of the

Purcellville police officers stated, "Pumped a few rounds in him, and we've got the knife."

This leaves us deeply concerned that either a lack of training, poor training, inexperience or failure to tactically retreat from someone who had not attacked the young man and woman nearby, resulted in Christian's death. This was a suicide attempt/mental health crisis – back up should have been called so non-lethal methods could have been utilized.

The definition of lethal force is "shoot to kill," and that is what happened in less than 4 minutes from the time two Purcellville police officers were dispatched at 2:13 p.m. The Purcellville police report says they came from the Loudoun Valley High School parking lot, and then that a supervisor followed them. By 2:17 p.m., the shots had been fired, three into our son's chest; and one in his armpit. Officer Hood's statement says, "... Once on Frazer Drive, I observed two subjects on the sidewalk, next to the woman who was waving at me. At that point I told dispatch I was with the subject at Frazer Drive and Heaton Court ... One male was seated on the sidewalk, with his legs out in front of him. The second male was kneeling behind him, and had him in a bear hug. I observed a large amount of blood on the right side of the neck of the first male. The first also had a knife in his right hand ... the subjects appeared to be exhausted. As I looked back towards the subjects, I observed that the first male had broken free of the bear hug, and was on his feet. The subject still had the knife in his right hand, and his arm was hanging down by his side. The subject began walking towards my police vehicle. I exited my police vehicle and immediately drew my department issued service weapon."

Why didn't Officer Hood call his back up around the corner for non-lethal options and assistance? All supervisors have beanbag shotguns, why move in so close despite the multiple warnings from dispatchers to stay at a distance. Why did Officer Hood choose to get out of the police car and immediately draw a gun? The report clearly states that there was a woman and a young man that were close to Christian and he did not show any violence towards them.

It was tough to read the Purcellville police report, which stated that when Officer Hood was asked by a Officer Dinkins if he was OK, he replied, "I'm fine, it was a good shoot." Dinkins then instructed Officer Hood not to make any more statements in reference to the shooting.

There are no explanations provided for why Officer Hood did not have a Taser. The dash cam in his car was not working on the day of the shooting. This was the only malfunction of a dash cam in all of 2014. His immediate supervisor, Sgt. Schroeck was just around the corner and should have had a beanbag shotgun and a Taser. The radio transmissions show that the dispatchers stated more than five times, "Scene not secure, suggest all units stage from far away."

We cannot allow our son's death to be in vain. We will work until every government agency hears citizen and parental requests to change how law enforcement deals with these types of crises. We must find out what really happened that day. It does no good to have dash cams in every car, and body cams if they do not work on the day there is a fatal event.

Editor's Note: The Sierras have begun to meet with nonprofit organizations to find ways they can partner together to honor the memory of their son, joining with groups that assist teens, and helping those with mental health issues. A time to remember Christian is planned for 5 p.m., on Sunday, May 24 at the clubhouse at Purcellville Ridge townhomes. Tie-dye T-shirts will be worn and balloons will be released with special messages in Christian's memory.

Western Loudoun Volleyball Club U14 Team Crush Wins The Silver Division



WLVBC Team Crush is: Front Row, Kneeling, Left to Right: Lauren McCloskey, Hailey Jones, Shelby Koons, Meghan Miklich, Madison Davis. Back Row, Standing, Left to Right: Coach Greg Fortunato, Gabriella Aziz, Mackenzie Ashby, Amelia Dodson, Emma Szabo, Lily Fortunato, Suzanne Tunder and Asst Coach Bryan Koons.

Western Loudoun Volleyball Club U14 Team Crush won the Silver Division at this year's Chesapeake Regional Volleyball Association Regional Tournament in the Club Division. CHRVA's Regionals were held Saturday, April 25 at the Discovery Center in Germantown, Md.. CHRVA Regionals included a Gold, Silver, Bronze and Four Flights of teams from the regions, with 58 teams competing in the tournament.

Western Loudoun Volleyball Club U13 "Intimidators" Win The Silver Bracket



Top Left to Right: Coach Sara Bolen, Amethyst Sturrock, Nicole Steigerwald, Kayla Bolen, Sarah Hickman, Madeline Mallory, Angie Sparbanie, Cassidy Neff and Assistant Coach Joanne Dekker. Front: Faith Nguyen, Taylor Breeden and Kate Hutton.

Western Loudoun Volleyball Club U13 "Intimidators" finished its club season winning the Silver Bracket at the Chesapeake Regional Volleyball Association's regional tournament. CHRVA's regionals were held Saturday, April 25 at the Community College of Baltimore County in Catonsville, Md. For the U13 program, regionals was split into Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Flight, with 34 teams competing. WLVBC's team won the silver bracket, enjoying wins over eight of the top teams in the region, and closing its season with a high note. WLVBC is a non-profit organization that focuses on providing local athletes from Purcellville, Round Hill, Lovettsville and Leesburg with opportunities to play competitive volleyball within the CHRVA region.

Valley Lady Laxers Off To A Strong Start

— By Mac Shuford

The Loudoun Valley Ladies' Lacrosse Team is off to a strong 5-2 start this year with their recent victories over district foes Dominion and Park View. After losing 7 starters to graduation off last year's state runner up campaign, Coach Tracey Albro has been busy rebuilding her team without having a "rebuilding year." Led by Captains Haley Shuford (senior goalie) and Haley Voell (junior defense), the defense has not lost a step this year. Offensively, rising stars Marguerite Keane (junior Midfield), Parrish Alto (junior Midfield), and Claire Ashworth (sophomore Attack) have consistently produced week after week.

The latest win against district leader Dominion High School has been the most impressive so far. Facing the Titans on their home turf, the Lady Vikings got off to a narrow early lead in a defensive battle in which both teams struggled to score. Valley quickly surrendered their 4-3 halftime advantage and fought to keep pace with Dominion as they each traded the lead until the Vikings finally clamped down and held out to win 7-6 in a game that went right down to the wire. Keane and Ashworth led all scorers with



Junior defender Haley Voell

3 goals apiece while Alto added a late goal to seal the win. Shuford was impressive in goal with 15 saves on the night.

After blanking Park View 18-0 last week, Valley has a challenging road ahead as they face five District opponents before playoffs begin in late May. While not a lock to return to their state playoff glory of the last two years, the Lady Vikings have shown incredible potential this year, sealing their status as a true perennial power.

Loudoun Valley Debate Team Wins State Championship



Samuel Burridge, Ariel Santikarma, Isabella Tucker, Noah Mussmon, Ian Gallagher

The Loudoun Valley Debate Team won the Virginia High School League state championship the weekend of April 24th at Liberty University. This is the team's second state championship; they won last year also. Their specialty is Lincoln Douglas and public forum debate. Their coach is Julie Hildbold who teaches English at LVHS. Hildbold said, "Debate requires teamwork and a strong work ethic. In debate students develop public speaking skills and critical thinking. It is definitely intellectually challenging."

The team covers world topics, philosophy, and all sorts of strategies for speaking and arguing. Valley freshmen and sophomores are encouraged to join the team.

Cycle Fundraiser Fights Cancer

The Anytime Fitness Purcellville family raised \$6,309 to help fight cancer recently through spinning.

The gym's members recently gathered to spin for anywhere from 1 to 4 hours each. Friends and family donated \$6,000 to Memorial Sloan Kettering for rare cancer research and members donated \$300 to Sara Willis, a local middle schooler battling cancer. The ride was personal for many AFTP members who have lost friends and family to cancer. The club would like to thank the members for their participation and every donor who contributed funds.

Anytime Fitness Purcellville opened last summer as the first 24-hour access fitness club in Purcellville. In addition to 24/7 convenience, the club offers free group exercise classes and two sessions with a certified personal trainer.

For membership information visit www.anytimefitness.com.

Purcellville Health, Safety Day May 16

The Purcellville Police will begin celebrating National Police Week and overall public safety by hosting the annual Health and Safety Day along with the fire and rescue teams. The celebration will be Saturday, May 16 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Fire and Rescue Building, 500 N. Maple Avenue.

There will be free child fingerprinting and an appearance by the Air Care Helicopter. The following police departments are part of the event: Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Winchester Police, Leesburg Police, Fairfax County Police, Loudoun Animal Control, Front Royal Police, Winchester City Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police. Come see the fire engines, rescue vehicles, police vehicles and all types of equipment displays. The Purcellville barrel train, a moon bounce, DJ and face painters will be on hand for the children.

In conjunction with Health and Safety Day, the town of Purcellville will host a free community shred event on Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Fire and Rescue Building. This is an opportunity to recycle old paper documents and confidential files safely and securely. All documents will be shredded onsite.

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ARTIST'S PROFILE

SIMON BLAND – A BEAUTIFULLY SOFT SOUL RENDERING BEAUTIFULLY SOFT OILS

– By Andrea Gaines

I get the same feeling every time I interview a real artist. The person has a distinct creative point of view ... even if it is to have no point of view. I asked the wonderful Loudoun artist Simon Bland if he had “a philosophy of sorts” for his work. He responded by saying that he is focused on finding “simplicity, harmony and unity” in his designs. And, that “there’s an abstract artistic idea” behind it, making painting about “something other than just the subject.”

A Bland painting called “Hay Bales At Furnace Mountain,” is, for example, about “values shapes against atmospheric” as Bland describes.

And, he is right. As I looked at that dreamy painting – a quiet and distant farm scene – I could feel the warmth of the late summer afternoon and see how a high sun had cast a pale yellow light on a scattering of bales, against a thin, almost misty, olive-colored tree line on the horizon. Another, “Jim At The Waterford Fair,” shows a 21st Century artist recreating a centuries old woodworking technique, taking you



“Grace” – An Australian Shepherd mix

back to that rarified time in American life. And, “Fall At Weatherlea Farm” – exquisite in its seasonal fall colors, including salmon and peach, gold and pale green, lavender and magenta – sets its small, 12-inch by 9-inch linen canvas on fire, seeming to scent the very canvas it was painted on. Of this painting Bland said, “I was trying to infuse the whole painting with the feeling of fall, rather than just painting some orange trees in a landscape.” And, at this he succeeded.

Bland has completed many, many oils – celebrating farm and estate animals, including Flash, Patrick, Morgan, Warlock and other beloved horses. But, it is Bland’s portraits of dogs that absolutely melted my heart.

There is Nikko - an Australian cattle dog – shown in a half profile, sitting quite still in his handsome doggie collar, but somehow alert to



“Hay Bales By Furnace Mountain”

something off to his left – one ear cocked, both eyes fixed. Nikko was Bland’s own beloved dog, who passed away last fall.

And then, there is the very proud Zeke, a medium-sized terrier mix – possibly part Shih Tzu – in a distinct “I stand my ground” pose.

There is Honey the Laborador-mix reclining on a grass lawn with a pretty red bandana on her neck, her front paws perfectly crossed.

And, there is Grace – my favorite, I must admit. She is a collie mix that looks very much like my



“Jim At The Waterford Fair”

own girl, Stella Luna. Grace’s golden brown eyes, too, are looking off to the side, recording the details of something in the distance. Her soft pink tongue resting on the bottom of which looks like a very contented smile.

All good animal portraits say something about both the breed and the animal itself – just as landscapes and human portraits have an ingredient of information that only the individual enjoying the image at the time sees.

Bland’s dog portraits, in particular, capture a third dimension of the living thing you see before you. The portraits seem to take on the dog’s breed, the dog’s name and the dog’s story, too. Who loves them and whom they love in return. Their favorite time of day, the things in the distance that put them on alert or put them at ease.

Thank you, Simon Bland, for showing us something but for you we might not see.

More examples of Simon Bland’s work can be seen www.portraitsbysimonbland.com. He will also be exhibiting at the Franklin Park Art Center in Purcellville during this year’s Western Loudoun Artist’s Studio Tour, June 20–21. See www.wlartstour.org for details.



Celebrate Town Of Hamilton May 30

The annual town of Hamilton parade and festivities will be Saturday, May 30.

The day will begin with the second running of a cross country race for the kids - the Hamilton Point to Point - beginning at 8 a.m. on the grounds of Hamilton Elementary School. All children in kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to register for the races - a ½ mile run for kindergarten through third grade and the second race for fourth and fifth graders. The final run will be a 2-mile race for middle school students.

Registration forms can be downloaded at www.town.hamilton.va.us.

The Hamilton Day Parade down W. Colonial Highway is at 11 a.m. starting at the Hamilton Safety Center, going through town and ending at the corner of Reid Street (by Lowry’s Crab Shack and the LDS church). All decorated bicycles, walking costumed children, 4H, ball teams, dance troupes, local businesses, antique cars etc. are called to join the parade.

After the parade come to Hamilton Elementary School where there will be food

to purchase from the Hamilton Ruritan, a bake sale and pizza by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hamilton Safety Center (Fire and Rescue), glitter tattoos for the kids, a 4H display area, a bounce house for the kids, local businesses, spring finery and more. Little League will be joining in with two ball games starting at 3 p.m. on the baseball fields at HES.

Interested participants for the parade can contact Cheryl Campbell at cbikowski@burkinc.com and race questions can be directed to Carri Michon at CLMichon@aol.com.

Middleburg Receives Donation, Grant For Streetlight Project

The town of Middleburg has received a \$50,000 donation from Middleburg Beautification & Preservation, Inc. to assist with the purchase and installation of new dark sky and pedestrian friendly streetlights along Washington Street. It has also received the proceeds of a Dark Sky Initiatives Fund, for \$13,273, from the Community Foundation for Loudoun & Northern Fauquier Counties, for the installation of dark sky lighting in Middleburg. The new street lights will replace the existing old cobra-head fixtures. The new lights will be installed as a part of the Washington Street Streetscape Project/VDOT Route 50 Traffic Calming Project, which is scheduled to start in the fall of 2015.

ONGOING

☉ **Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Purcellville Town Market** outside the Purcellville Marketplace, 130 East Main.

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Middleburg Community Farmers Market behind the Middleburg Community Center.

☉ **Wednesdays from June 24 to Aug. 19, Wildlife Discovery Camp** for 7-12 year olds at the Burwell-van Lennep Island Farms in Boyce. Go to blueridgewildlife.org.

MAY EVENTS

☉ **May 7, Thursday, Monarch Butterflies: Keeping the Magic Alive with You** from 7-8 p.m. at Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. www.loudounwildlife.org.

☉ **May 8, Friday, concert at the Middleburg Community Center**, 300 W. Washington St. Live Latin music. Free.

☉ **May 9, Saturday, Middleburg Library's used book sale** behind the Community Center, 300 W. Washington St., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

☉ **May 9, Saturday, Between the Hills Community Association** hosts a country breakfast from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Located at the old fire hall at 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd. (Rt. 671) Purcellville.

☉ **May 9 and 10, Saturday and Sunday, Mother's Day Tea** at Oatlands, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane. From 1-3 p.m. Call 703-777-3174.

☉ **May 9, Saturday, the 38th annual Hill School Auction, "That Night in Rio,"** at 5:30 p.m. to midnight at the school, 130 S Madison St, Middleburg. Tickets are \$150 each, call Vickie Ralph at 540-687-5897.

☉ **May 9, Saturday, Spring canning: Learn how to can veggies presented by Virginia Extension Office.** Purcellville Library, 220 East Main Street, at 2 p.m. Go to www.library.loudoun.gov.

☉ **May 9, Saturday, The Commodores** perform at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in Charles Town, Va., at 8 p.m. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com.

☉ **May 9, Saturday, Bakers' Market** from 8:30-11:30 a.m. behind Andy's Restaurant in Lovettsville. Support Lovettsville Co-op Market and sample fresh baked local goods.

☉ **May 12, Tuesday, The Secrets of Great Fiction Writing with David Hazard.** Purcellville Library, 7 p.m. Go to www.library.loudoun.gov.

☉ **May 14, Thursday, American Girl Book Club: Craft Circle.** A special 2-hour program to make historic crafts for Grades 2 - 5. Purcellville Library 4-6 p.m.

☉ **May 15, Friday, Coffee Hour Informational Q & A** from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Railroaders Coffee & Tea in Brunswick, Md. Brunswick Co-op members will be on-hand to talk about the planned grocery store in Lovettsville.

☉ **May 16, Saturday, Virginia Oaks**, 2 p.m. at Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy.

☉ **May 16, Saturday, milkweed plant sale** from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg.

☉ **May 16, Saturday, David Stewart Benefit Fundraiser** at Shiloh Baptist Church, 304 E Marshall Street in Middleburg. Starts at 12 p.m. All funds are to help with David's heart transplant. Fried and BBQ chicken, pork BBQ and more.

☉ **May 16, Saturday, Library Insiders:** A multi-sensory program for adults with intellectual impairment. Purcellville Library, 220 East Main Street at 2 p.m.

☉ **May 17, Sunday, the 5th annual Loudoun Lyme 5K/1K** at Brambleton Town Center, 22855 Brambleton Plaza in Ashburn. Go to www.loudounlyme.org.

☉ **May 19 Community Meeting 7 p.m.** Round Hill Elementary School. Topic to be discussed is water quality, water rates and solutions.

☉ **May 22, Friday, The Doobie Brothers** perform at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in Charles Town, Va., at 9 p.m. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com.

☉ **May 23, Saturday, Lovettsville's fourth annual Mayfest** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Kids' Fun Zone, live music, vendors, cornhole tournament, and more.

☉ **May 29, Friday, Bobby Collins perform at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races** in Charles Town, Va., at 9 p.m. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com.

☉ **May 30, Saturday, Strawberry Festival** at Oatlands, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

☉ **May 31, Sunday, Eat Local:** Learn about community-supported agriculture and farm-to-table foods in our area. Purcellville Library 2 p.m.

☉ **June 25-28, Thursday to Sunday, cooking class at Fields of Athenry Farm**, 38082 Snickersville Turnpike, Purcellville. Monica Corrado travels around the country teaching people how to cook nourishing traditional food, and has started her own Cooking for Well-Being Teacher Training program. Go to <http://www.cookingforwell-being.com/Teach.html>. Class cost is \$1,600.

Apply For July 4 Parade

Apply now to be part of the Purcellville 4th of July Parade on Saturday, July 4th at 12:30. The top three patriotic themed entries will receive a banner to carry during the parade. Winners will be selected by the July 4th Parade citizen volunteer group based on creative, musical, and patriotic decorations incorporating the 2015 theme, "You're a Grand Ol' Flag." Contact Donnie Embrey, parade chairman of the Purcellville Volunteer Fire Department at 703-727-7191 or FORESTFEMBREY@AOL.COM or visit www.purcellvilleva.gov.

CARVER CENTER MAY EVENTS

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

Mothers' Day Dance

May 8, Friday, from 1 to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$3. For ages 55 and older.

ONGOING EVENTS

Creative Writing for Beginners

Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2 p.m. For ages 18 and older. Non-members pay \$2. A weekly group for anyone interested in exploring the writing process.

Mindfulness

Tuesdays from 11 to 11:25 a.m. Non-members pay \$2. For ages 55 and older. Mindfulness is a technique which seeks to calm the mind and emotions through an intentional focus on sensations occurring in the present moment.

Tai Chi for 55 & Up

Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Non-members pay \$2. For ages 55 and older. Slow-motion routines practiced in a group to promote strength, balance and flexibility. New students welcome.

Qigong

Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., Mondays from 1 to 2 p.m. Non-members pay \$2. For ages 55 and older. Harold Bauch leads this weekly group, which is a gentle practice of aligning breath, movement and awareness during the practice of a series of standing movements.

Laugh Yoga

Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:50 a.m. Non-members pay \$2. For ages 55 and older.



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Espadrilles – A Breakfast, Lunch And Dinner Summer Favorite

– By Sarah Nearis

The beauty of espadrilles – a centuries-old shoe – is that they are made of our favorite fabrics and materials – silk shantung, jute, cotton, linen and leather – but are at the same time easy to wear ... taking us from breakfast to lunch to dinner in one easy motion.



Lauren Bacall's character in the film noir classic Key Largo wore them. Yet, Bacall herself said: "Put a ruffle on me and I'm finished," describing her fashion sense as "studied carelessness." The message there is, don't overthink fashion. And, that goes double for espadrilles. Wear them in a way that makes you feel comfortable in your own skin. Here's how:

The Pheasant's Espadrille: I once steered clear of these shoes because they were so bland, unfeminine – and often, not so nicely made. Now I see them as the slipper version of the shoe, with a great handmade history and a tremendous amount of chic – particularly in terms of color. Pair them with a favorite linen short and blouse, or boyfriend/husband jeans and a comfy tee.

The Fashion-Forward Espadrille: Designers have been very creative in how they translate the original espadrille into something fashionable, adding a wedge heel and new materials while staying true to bright, Mediterranean colors. When I see this kind of espadrille I think ladies-who-lunch and weekend brunches. I also hear a call from the shoe to pair it with a beautiful floral dress, or a colorful a-line midi skirt



and crisp cotton top.

The Dressed Up Espadrille: This shoe is the perfect combination of style and comfort. Usually a wedge, they are much easier to walk in and also lend more support to the arch of your foot. This makes hours of dancing and socializing a breeze (with no limp around the next morning). Still relatively casual, save these shoes for a late afternoon

brunch, a summer BBQ or a sunset cocktail party. Dressy, but not really enough for a 5-Star restaurant or black tie event.

Espadrilles! A shoe worthy of both the History Channel and the (casual) Red Carpet.

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Planting An Allergy-Free Garden

– By Donna Williamson

Tom Ogren has a long-time interest in allergy-inducing plants. He has written several books on the topic and in February released his latest *The Allergy Fighting Garden*.

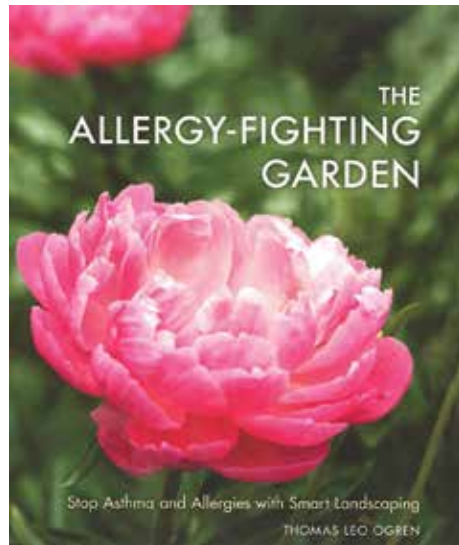
He explains why plants can stir up allergies and has included information about 3,000 different species that we plant in our landscapes and grow in seasonal gardens. His ranking system relates to the level, size, stickiness, and potency of pollen produced.

Many useful plants have male and female forms. Usually the males shed pollen; you could have the same species (and shape and color) in a female form that would not shed pollen close to your windows or patio.

People often planted male plants to avoid having to cope with fruit on female plants. For example, “fruitless” mulberry trees are males and produce lots of allergy causing pollen.

Each spring I notice that my neighbor’s white pines shed massive amounts of yellow pollen that coat my car. I expected to be sneezing like mad, but it didn’t happen. Now I know why. Tom says: “Pines shed enormous quantities of pollen but because the pollen grains are waxy and not highly irritating to mucous membranes, their potential for allergy is rather low and when it occurs, not usually severe.”

Tom lives in California so there are many plants included in his listing that will not



live here. But if I were highly allergic to pollen (other than a runny nose when the maples bloom) or if my child suffered from asthma, I would look through Tom’s ratings to see which trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals I could plant to avoid suffering.

Donna Williamson is a garden designer and coach. She has taught classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands and Shenandoah University. She has two e-books on Amazon. One is an updated version of her Virginia gardening book and her new perennials book. She can be reached at donnawilliamson2002@earthlink.net or 540 877-2002.

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Hunt Country Stable Tour Features New Properties

This year's 56th annual Hunt Country Stable Tour features more than a dozen stops in Virginia horse country where privately owned estates will open their gates to visitors on Memorial Day weekend, May 23-24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. New for this year, four properties, which had never before been open to the public, join the self-guided tour's line-up.

Stops on this year's tour include Rock Hill Farm, Belle Grey Farm, Fox Chase Farm, the Middleburg Agricultural Research Extension Center, Middleburg Training Track, Poplar Grange, Salamander Resort & Spa's Equestrian Center, Trappe Hill Farm and Wind Fields Farm. In addition, these new locations will also be on the tour this year: Foosaner Farm, The Oaks, Gap Run Farm and Orange Hill.

Many of the farms will host demonstrations throughout the weekend. On Saturday only, at the Middleburg Training Track, race horses will be out being exercised at 7 a.m. Another location where horses will be exercising is the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center, owned by Virginia Tech, where there will be a treadmill demonstration on Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m.

New on the tour, The Oaks, owned by John and Julie Coles, is the site

of two barns. The much larger barn includes stabling for show jumpers and an indoor arena. The Coles' daughter, Sloane, bases her business, Spring Ledge, out of The Oaks. Spring Ledge focuses on all aspects of Grand Prix show jumping, training young horses and instructing students. Sloane rose to national prominence during her junior career winning national championships in equitation, hunters and jumpers. Demonstrations will be held throughout both days of the stable tour.

Gap Run Farm, also new this year, features western riding. The owners of Gap Run have been long-time supporters of the Quarter Horse discipline known as "cutting." Cutting horses are highly trained competitive athletes and are judged in competitions on their ability to control cows that they first separate and herd. There will be a 10 a.m. roping demonstration on Saturday and Sunday.

Orange Hill dates back to the 1800s as a noted equestrian property and is also new on this year's tour. It has been the host to numerous hunt meets and has produced top quality Virginia-bred horses for over a century. Orange Hill is home to trainer Snowden Clarke, who is in charge of daily operations. Facilities include paddocks, a second barn, turnout sheds, all-weather outdoor

ring and an outside course all located in the region's Orange County Hunt territory. Farm operations also include breeding and showing cashmere goats, serama chickens and call ducks. Demonstrations will be held throughout both days of the stable tour.

Another new addition, Foosaner Farm, was designed by renowned architect John Blackburn and features a barn and riding arena situated purposely with a low profile on the farm to preserve its bucolic views. The emphasis in the stable, besides structural beauty, is on the abundance of healthy ventilation for the horses. The flexible design of the barn is currently configured for six stalls, but can easily be altered to accommodate 10 with an office and viewing level. Proceeds from the Hunt Country Stable Tour support Trinity Church and their many local, national and international charities and non-profit programs.

The tour is self-guided, and tickets can be purchased in advance or on the days of the event at any stop, including Trinity Episcopal Church (9018 John S. Mosby Hwy. Route 50, Upperville). Advance ticket sales are \$25/person, a group rate for 10 or more is \$20; after May 18 tickets are \$30. For children 12 and under, admission is free. For additional information call 540-592-3711.

Free Public Information Session On Historic Districts

– By Andrea Gaines

Property owners and members of the public are invited to a free historic districts and conservation easements information session scheduled for Sunday, May 17 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House in the village of Lincoln.

The event is sponsored by the Lincoln Preservation Foundation and The Lincoln Community League, in cooperation with the Loudoun County Department of Planning and Zoning. Loudoun County is home to six historic and cultural conservation districts – including Aldie, Bluemont, Goose Creek, Oatlands, Taylorstown and Waterford. A seventh historic roadways district – the Beaverdam Historic Roadways District – protects a network of 32 rural roads in the southwest corner of county. Separate historic districts in Leesburg, Middleburg and Purcellville come under the jurisdiction of their respective towns. All historic districts in Loudoun County, with the exception of the Beaverdam Historic Roadways District are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The May 17 information session will discuss the historical, cultural and natural significance of these areas and why preservation and conservation makes sense. Attorney and local preservation activist Paul Lawrence will discuss how conservation easements work and explore the economic and financial benefits to the community and individual landowners.

The Friends Meeting House is at 18204 Lincoln Road, Lincoln, VA 20160. For more information and/or to RSVP, contact Lincoln Preservation Foundation representative Jeanne Whitney Smith at (202)213-9263, cazjwsmith@gmail.com.

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Make College Work For You

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

The month of May is often consumed by graduations. As thousands of high school seniors are reaching this important milestone in their lives, many are faced with the prospect of an uncertain future. Some will choose to enter the workforce, while many will opt to endure more years of schooling. While many students are likely excited with the prospect of attending college, they may still harbor strong disappointments about where they landed at the end of the college application process.

In May of 2012, I found myself in a similar position. I had been rejected from the only school that I really wanted to attend, the College of William and Mary. At the time I believed that the college I attended would determine my future. I chose to go to the highest ranked university that I was accepted into largely because I foolishly believed that rank mattered more than the education itself.

With the benefit of hindsight, I realize my mistake. The value of an education cannot simply be reduced to an arbitrary ranking system. As with most things in life, colleges are more than a number. More importantly, students are more than the institution that they attend. After reading an article in The Washington Post entitled, “The Ivy League isn’t everything,” I soon realized that I was not the only one who once made the mistake of valuing rank above all else. The author of this article was reviewing a book whose title sums up the argument of this column. “Where You Go Is Not Who You’ll Be,” written by Frank Bruni. I carried that rejection of my college of choice with me for some time, feeling that because of where I went to school, somehow I wasn’t good enough. My future was



MOORE-SOBEL

not going to be as bright because I was not attending a more highly selective institution.

For students who may possess similar stories to mine, there might be some hope for us after all. Bruni argues that in fact where a student submits an application is more telling of future success than where they actually end up attending. Reading this reminded me of the job market signaling model by economist Michael Spence. While his model is far too complicated to fully dissect in this column, he essentially argued that obtaining a college degree does not have an effect upon a worker’s productivity, but instead sends a signal to employers that the worker possesses certain qualities such as intelligence. If attending college sends a signal, then attending Princeton can send a signal to the job market just as effectively as attending George Mason.

Malcolm Gladwell also tackles the issue of higher education in his book entitled, “David and Goliath.” He explores the “Big Fish-Little Pond Effect,” which is the idea that a smart student who would likely be at the top of their class at a good school ends up near the bottom of their class when they instead attend an Ivy League school. Gladwell argues that students at elite institutions who do not measure up to their peers feel worse about their own intellect. Students might do better to go to a good school in which they graduate at the top of their class instead of graduating at the bottom of their class at an Ivy League university.

I must concede that I may be biased in my thinking. If I had attended an Ivy League school I very likely would be making a different point. Nevertheless, I do find it hard to believe that there are only a handful of schools that are right for every student. America is a nation that prides itself on diversity and competition. There are thousands

of colleges in the nation, offering students an opportunity to pick which institution is best for them. Yet each year it seems that students long for acceptance into only a handful of schools that are considered selective.

As for me, my college journey took a few more unexpected turns. As I have detailed before, I transferred from Drexel University, opting to attend the less expensive George Mason. I realize now that this was the right place for me. I have had the opportunity to take classes and get to know professors such as Stephen Pearlstein, who also happens to be a writer for The Washington Post and as I have written before, a class with noted presidential historian Richard Norton Smith. These are just a few of the notable classes that enhanced my education taught by esteemed professors instead of classes instructed by a teaching assistant, a notorious occurrence at more selective universities.

If I had attended a selective institution I never could have interned the spring semester of my sophomore year with the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, nor could I have interned with the office of Sen. Marco Rubio last semester. So to all of those students out there worrying that they did not get into a good enough school to achieve their dreams, rest assured. The opportunities that you will create for yourself at your “lesser ranked” university may end up being far better than you ever could have imagined. Instead of relying upon the strength of the reputation of your institution, choose instead to rely on yourself. Graduate from the pressure to value rank above all else and find the pond that’s right for you.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a junior at George Mason University and is majoring in government and international politics.

Amy & Dan Smith’s Planning for Life: Planning for Lives after Death

– By Amy & Dan Smith

This past month I once again experienced life as prelude to practice. It started with an email 2 weeks ago from a hospice caregiver at my father’s request with words every child dreads: “Your Dad has asked me to write and tell you he thinks the end is near. He says you’ll know what to do.” What had been planned as a birthday celebration in Florida within 48 hours ended as a death vigil for my father. My immediate family members were gathered at my parents’ home to say good-bye. Dad died quickly and peacefully after struggling for years with chronic pulmonary dysfunction. Two of us were on either side of him holding his hands while he was sitting up on the couch, and we noticed that he had stopped breathing.

The following days were busy with funeral arrangements. Fortunately, my Dad had written out detailed instructions for his obituary, the funeral home, and church program, including specific hymns and names of those to deliver eulogies. He had purchased a “burial package” from a local funeral home including the rental of a casket for visitation and funeral, followed by cremation, all of which was so helpful to minimize our decision-making at such an unsettling time.

What about Mom?

After the funeral, our first concern was for our mother and how her needs would be met in our family’s “new normal.” Dad had always been the planner and decision-maker. How could six brothers and sisters reach consensus to move forward



AMY & DAN SMITH

and avoid the #1 problem encountered in the distribution of estate assets, money? We’d never been particularly close but now was the time to bond for Mom’s good. Mom is physically healthy, and we hope will live for many more years. However, she has some dementia and is unable to walk, requiring 24/7 skilled nursing care. Fortunately, my youngest sister and husband volunteered the spare bedroom in their home for Mom’s care. Mom was visibly pleased with this decision.

Next, came the preparation for my sister’s home to be fitted for Mom’s needs.

Three of us sat down with care-givers and proposed an annual budget for Mom’s continued care. This included in-home nursing care (the largest expense item, approximately 2/3 of total budget), personal items, compensation for my sister’s time, privacy and lost wages, and items needed to make her home handicap-friendly – including a light-weight wheel chair to fit through door frames, a hospital bed, shower stool and handle bars.

My siblings then advertised and interviewed qualified caregivers and gave them an in-home “test” to make sure each was a good fit not only for mom’s needs but also with my sister’s family. My sister called references provided by each applicant.

Mom moved in last week to her new home. Her name is on the waiting list of a nearby assisted living facility in the event care provided in my sister’s is not sufficient for her physical needs.

Finally, we’ve all agreed on a conservative, relatively low-risk annual average financial goal for the investment return on Mom’s assets to cover her on-going expenses.

Key Takeaways:

- **Conduct a family meeting** with all concerned parties before death or, if not possible, with the nominated executors and trustees, to review wishes in writing well in advance of need.
- **Review estate documents and assets** as soon as possible in order to assess how much is available for survivor’s needs.
- **Plan an annual budget** for lifetime living expenses of surviving spouse and agree so there are “no surprises” when estate proceeds are reviewed.
- **Consider purchasing long-term care insurance to offset cost of health care needs.** The cost of in-home health care is expected to be one of the greatest living expenses in retirement until end of life and can significantly deplete family inheritance.
- **Make time to grieve.** Consider enrolling in a grief counseling program. I’ve found the “Grief Share” (www.griefshare.org) program in local churches to be effective for those who have suffered significant loss.

The foregoing contains general information only and is not intended to convey investment advice. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, an independent firm, CFP, CIMA offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (Tel. 703-669-5022, www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com) Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James. Past performance may not be indicative of future results.

Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

considering that research conducted by the Center for Disease Control shows that approximately 1 and 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls are reportedly sexually abused before the age of 18 years.

But rather than fearing the worst and deciding against camp reactively, I recommend that you and your husband do you homework on camps for your son and assess his readiness and then decide. The following are some things you will want to know when considering camp for your child:

Is the camp accredited with the American Camp Association or another regulatory body?

How does the camp screen and select its camp counselors and do they conduct criminal background checks?

Can you speak to parents of children who have attended the camp as references?

What is the ratio of camp counselors to children attending the camp?

Have parents reported any complaints over the past two years, and if so, what was the nature of the complaints?

How does the camp handle homesickness or social/emotional struggles for children attending the camp?

What sort of safety or medical personnel or staff is available at the camp?

Do the camp's activities and schedule interest your son?

Understanding your child's readiness for camp is also important, and I appreciate your careful approach. While sensitive children can benefit from an over night

camp experience, if your son is overly sensitive or anxious or lacks important social skills, being away from home could be too much for him to handle.

After gathering information, and after discussing things with your son, if you and your husband feel that your son is not prepared for an over night camp, then perhaps gradual exposure to social moments and activities closer to home would be better for your son. There are a number of athletic, social and academic enrichment day camps your son could participate in within the area and without leaving home. The ACA is a great place to start: www.acacamps.org.

Lastly, and to your point, with middle school right around the corner for your son, life is only going to get more challenging for him to manage socially and emotionally. This summer will give your son the time he needs to work on his social skills so that he can enter the school year less anxious and more confident. Therapy, with a focus on social skills training, may be something you and your husband should consider for your son should your son continue to struggle emotionally and socially when he returns to school this fall.

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

Open Burning Now Prohibited In Loudoun County

Effective May 1, all open burning is prohibited within all areas of Loudoun County. This regulation is in effect through Sept. 30, 2015.

The only allowable open burning are campfires. Campfires can be no larger than 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet in height, used for cooking purposes, and cannot be closer than 50

feet to a structure. Portable fire pits and chimneas are not considered open burring if operated within the manufacturer's specifications.

On a year around basis, open burning (to include campfires) is always prohibited in the town limits of Leesburg, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville, Round Hill and subdivisions throughout the county.

Sounds Of Spring Remind Us To Enjoy Our Hearing

This spring, an estimated 28 million Americans may be missing the sounds of birds chirping or the gentle rustling of wind in the trees. That's because of the more than 36 million Americans with hearing loss, just 20 percent seek help.

During May, National Hearing Month, Dr. Linda Himler of Blue Ridge Speech & Hearing Center, offers practical advice to ensure you're not among those missing out on the many sounds that color our world.

"If you have difficulty hearing conversation or find yourself constantly turning up the volume on the TV, schedule an appointment for a hearing check-up. "Hearing evaluations are quick and painless. If a hearing loss is detected, there are a wide range of small and discreet hearing solutions that will allow you to hear more clearly whether you're in a noisy restaurant or enjoying a quiet stroll in the park," said Dr. Himler.

Taking care of your hearing health also means limiting the amount of time you expose your ears to loud noise. Over time, sounds that

are louder than 85 decibels, about the loudness of heavy traffic, can lead to noise induced hearing loss. At rock concerts, sound levels soar to more than 100 decibels. Typical spring cleaning chores like vacuuming or mowing the lawn can reach levels above 90 decibels.

Simple steps can make a difference. Stay as far away from the source of noise as possible and walk away when sounds get too loud. Turn down the volume on TVs, radios, and portable music players. Reduce the number of noisy appliances running at the same time. Buy quieter products, especially children's toys and appliances like blow dryers.

Dr. Himler noted, "My number-one tip is to use ear protection wherever possible. Invest in a set of inexpensive foam earplugs or visit a home or sporting goods store and purchase sound-reducing earmuffs."

Noise is everywhere. Find out how the sounds of spring clean-ups or everyday household chores may be impacting your hearing health. For more information go to www.speechhearing.org.

Dis and Dat By Myles Mellor and Sally York

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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59					60					61			
62					63					64			
65					66					67			

ACROSS

1. Habit
5. Ne plus ____
10. Vitreous substance
14. After-lunch sandwich
15. Sweet rice wine
16. Narrow street
17. Let-downs
20. Didn't straphang
21. Come-ons
22. Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"
23. Fish-fowl connection
24. ____ weight
26. 2005 Best Picture nominee
29. Blowhard
34. Available
35. Homegrown artifact
38. Martinets
41. Finnic people
42. ____ frog
43. Geometric figures: var.
44. African grazing areas
46. Many an office has one
49. Grp. involved in "the Troubles"
50. Adjust
54. Handles
56. Garden worker?
59. Decays
62. Steep
63. Stock
64. Cut short
65. Positive
66. Chances upon
67. Countercurrent

5. Jocko Conlan, for one
6. Rear half of a griffin
7. Prosecuted
8. Flush
9. Antenna holder
10. Split
11. Punjabi royal
12. Digging, so to speak
13. Feeler
18. Paranoiac's worry
19. Above ground level
23. Sarge, e.g.
25. Old Mogul capital
26. Computer programmer
27. Unoriginal
28. Marinara alternative
30. Old World plant
31. Bleated
32. City in Scotland
33. Short pants
35. ____ maison: Fr.
36. Time div.
37. Starfleet Academy grad.
39. Natural
40. Home to the Palazzo Gambacorti
44. Some organs
45. While lead-in
47. In ____ parts
48. It's located on Lake George
50. Annexes
51. In ____ of
52. Bygone despot
53. De Valera's land
55. Social group
56. Fearless
57. Children's author Blyton
58. Glimpse
60. Tease wool
61. Bump off

DOWN

1. Hephaestus and Demeter
2. Part of a score, maybe
3. Lie
4. Stole

Answers on page 38

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Answers to puzzle from page 35



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Kitchen Science Kids: The Elastic Express

– By Leah Enright



ENRIGHT

Elasticity is the ability to stretch, and return. Without elasticity we couldn't brush our hair without breaking it, move muscles, or blow bubbles. Whew, good thing we have it. There is much more to say about elasticity, but, as usual, I'd rather play.

You'll Need 5 Items:

- A balloon
- String or yarn
- Tape
- A clothespin or similar clip
- A drinking straw

Be sure to read through all of the directions before beginning, so you'll have a better idea of how this works. First, tie one end of the string to the top of a kitchen chair, and leave the other end free.

Then blow up the balloon, and secure the end with a clip, so air will not escape. Gently tape the straw to the bottom of the balloon, being sure not to block the holes in the straw. Make the straw snug, by taping toward each end. Next run the free end of the string through the straw, and tie that free end to another chair, of

equal height. (Be sure to tie it in such a way that it will be easy to un-tie). Or, have a friend hold it. Now, the fun part. Holding the balloon on your end, remove the clip.

You should see the balloon race across the line to your friend, or the other chair. Whoosh! Your once fat

balloon is now deflated and limp, giving us a perfect view of the stretch and return of elasticity. Oh, I love science-especially when I can make cool stuff to see it.

Now that you know how to create an elastic express, you can get fancy by crafting two different balloons and releasing them side-by-side to see which is faster. (Try round vs. hot-dog shaped, paper wing cut-outs vs. no cut-outs, or large vs. small.)

So, elasticity is the word of the day, and making an elastic express may just be the best way to spend it.

Leah Enright lives in Loudoun County, and has a deep interest in kids, and promoting the joys of simple science. Most days she can be found cutting hair in Purcellville.

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Appeal, continued from page 1

zoning permit, and Jan. 14, 2015 – again with an approved site plan and zoning permit.

Only the first deadline was met and thus the Chapman letter was written for a determination from the town manager asking him to decide if the project could be considered as a whole. In June of 2014, the previous town council, due to public pressure, left the decision to extend the dates of the CDAs to the new council. In July 2014, the newly-elected town council voted by a majority (4-3) not to extend the CDAs.

Lohr sent Chapman's letter to Sullivan who, reversing his previous statements, said that if the project was "diligently" pursued, it would be considered "commenced" – adding the definition of the word commence was based on dictionary.com – to "start or begin."

At the April town council meeting former councilmember Susie Windam said, "First thing ... no matter what Patrick Sullivan says, the town council will be held accountable for what happens on 21st Street. During elections last May we proved that we could hold the town council in this town accountable for their actions regarding projects demonstrably unwise and unwanted by the majority of the people of the town.

These seven constitutionally elected officers of the Town of Purcellville should be the ultimate lawmakers on this subject. They are the only people that we can hold accountable." Windam continued, "No matter what Patrick Sullivan says pulling up some rubble from old buildings behind the 21st Street façade does not demonstrate that the project is moving forward and that it has, in fact, begun...the accountability for what happens on 21st Street ... will belong to the Purcellville Town Council. It won't be because of what the BZA [Board of Zoning Appeals] wants to do or the Architectural Review Board or Patrick Sullivan or someone else on the town staff."

The date for the appeal to be heard by the BZA, filed by Purcellville town resident and 21st Street business owner Mary Ellen Stover, has as of press time not been determined. Stover has opened a Go Fund Me account (GoFundMe.com/SaveOldTownPville) to help pay for legal counsel for this appeal.

Because of Sullivan's reversal, the Purcellville Town Council as well as the BZA will be required to hire outside council regarding this matter.

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