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LEADER & Loudoun Today *Since 1984*

FEBRUARY 2016

An Interview With Ron Meyer, Broad Run Supervisor

– By Nathaniel Stephens

Ron Meyer is twenty-six years old. He graduated from Principia College in Illinois where he majored in Political Science and interned at national media outlets such as Fox News and Radio America. After his graduation from university, he began work for Young America's Foundation, a Herndon based non-profit, as their Media Spokesman. He lives with his wife Celia in their Ashburn home.



Ron Meyer

Blue Ridge Leader: You are twenty-six years old, work for one of the nation's largest non-profits, and are now supervisor for the Broad Run District. How did this success story begin? Your life story is touching and inspirational; can you please share it with us?

Ron Meyer: Well, I wouldn't call it a success story until we accomplish what I ran on. Winning an election means very little unless you achieve something impactful.

My story began in Arizona with my single mother, who as I grew older struggled more

Continued on page 13

The Lion King Comes To Loudoun

The Lion King roars into Purcellville on February 26. You won't want to miss this opportunity to see Simba become king of the jungle on the stage at Blue Ridge Middle School. The Blue Ridge drama department, under the direction of Dolly Stevens, has once again created an incredible, fantasy-filled production full of characters, songs and all of the Disney magic that accompanies this timeless tale.

Blue Ridge is the first middle school in Loudoun County to perform The Lion King, Jr. Dolly Stevens, professional actor/director, has run the after-school drama program at BRMS for the past eight years. She teaches acting and musical theatre classes and directs the annual school musical. Stevens also maintains an active performing life as well as a private instruction studio in voice and acting - The Spotlight Studio for Musical Theatre.

Blue Ridge Middle School is known for its award winning theater productions, having previously won National Youth Arts awards for CATS (2013) and Beauty and the Beast (2015). This year's group

Continued on page 13



Delaney Herr is being fitted for her giraffe headpiece, designed by Anne Stine, left, and sculpted by Bill Short, right.

An Invitation From The Mayor: Let's Plan Purcellville

– By Mayor Kwasi Fraser

Purcellville's current Comprehensive Plan has not been updated since December 19, 2006. A review was completed in 2011, but that review was not thorough and did not involve significant citizen participation. Currently, we are in the process of initiating our review and revision of the Comprehensive Plan, and I encourage all of our citizens to become engaged in this process.

Without a Comprehensive Plan, the canvas of zoning ordinance becomes an erasable white-board driven by short term decisions with little regard for the will of citizens or for careful analysis of intended and unintended consequences. With our significant financial investment in the

Comprehensive Plan review and revision, we will have the expertise of professionals leading the efforts of our planning staff to carefully extract and document the long and short term visions of Purcellville from our citizens. The result will be a guide, driven by the will of our citizens, for our zoning and development decisions.

I invite all citizens to attend one of the two sessions scheduled for Saturday, February 6, at the Carver Center from 10 a.m. – 12 noon and 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. This is our opportunity as a community to create the vision of Purcellville's future by gathering and assessing information, by identifying problems and possible solutions, and by taking action. (More details on page 8.)

LET'S PLAN PURCELLVILLE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016
at Historic Carver Center
200 E. Willie Palmer Way

- Session 1: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Session 1 Repeat: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- Zoning & Land Use
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- Borders & Boundaries
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Get engaged. Express your opinions and views about Purcellville's future and discuss updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Let your voice be heard!

For updates and more information visit: www.PlanPurcellville.com



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Snowmageddon III? Seven Survival Tips For Parents

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

“snOMG,” “snowmageddon,” “snowpocalypse,” and “kaisersnoze” are a few terms to describe what just happened in Northern Virginia. The storm was reported to be the second worst storm on record. And while many children and teens gladly anticipate more snow days, there is a sense of reservation for many parents that it’s over and their children will be returning to school on Monday.

with your children, especially if there are school snow days. But try to remember what a snow day felt like when you were a child. I grew up in a small town outside of Chicago, and some of my fondest childhood memories involved snow days and all the things I did for fun with my siblings and parents.

Scrambling to buy last minute food items, taking off work or managing a work schedule from home (with your kids home from school), keeping your child or children entertained, shoveling snow, driving on icy or snowy roads are but a few realities that many of us may have to deal with in winter. Is it possible that we may need to go through all of this again this winter? And if so, what’s the solution?

Create some snow day traditions. Making a snow man, snow angels, building a snow fort, making snow ice cream (there are plenty of recipes on-line), sledding, a snowball fight, etc. Simply bundle up your kids, open the door and let them play until their hearts are content. Maybe go ice-skating as a family. There is the Ashburn Ice House for indoor skating and the Reston Town Center for outdoor skating to consider nearby. After time in the snow, perhaps s’mores, hot chocolate or baking something delicious might be a fun family activity. Board games or maybe movies in PJ’s are nice ways to get cozy and keep it fun.

While you cannot control the weather, you can control how you manage yourself and your family. Consider these few tips as the snowflakes begin to fall:

Get out of your own head and see the positive of the moment. Yes, as a parent you may be overwhelmed, and you may also now need to balance more

Take advantage of the time you now

Continued on page 28

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Calling All Artists

Painted Wine Barrel Community Art Project

Michael Oaks, who is a member of the Purcellville Economic Development Committee, along with members of the Purcellville Art Council, is spearheading the wine barrel community art project. The proposal is to have local artists paint wooden wine barrels with Purcellville and western Loudoun themes.

Each barrel will have a paid sponsor and would be placed, when finished, in a public place for the length of the project. After the allotted time of the project the barrels would be auctioned off with monies raised to fund future community projects.

"It's been a project I have been thinking about for years," said Oaks. He continued, "Any artist from Loudoun County interested in participating in



the project can contact me." Artists can submit their ideas for a painted barrel and a jury will select the best submissions. Oaks can be reached at 540 751-0707 or reloveit@aol.com.



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Grief And Greed

– By Matthew Parse

What would drive a single individual to cause so much emotional stress and financial burden on hundreds, if not, thousands of families? What would drive the Town of Purcellville to do the same? The answer is simple and most likely you already know the answer; however, please keep reading.

The purpose of this editorial is to draw attention to proposed, multiple large-scale developments on the northern border of Purcellville; specifically, Purcellville Crossroads and Warner Brook. The need to draw attention to these developments is critical, as they will have a negative impact on the entire Northern Virginia region and beyond. The Town of Purcellville is making decisions that are irreversible – with no analysis of the impacts, positive or negative. The only report on the impacts is one based upon the developer's analysis ... the developer's point of view.

Negative Impacts – Financial Burden Existing Town businesses will be negatively impacted due to the limited number of potential customers in our geographic region. History has repeatedly shown, throughout the world, that development outside of a Central Business

The purpose of this editorial is to draw attention to proposed, multiple large-scale developments on the northern border of Purcellville; specifically, Purcellville Crossroads and Warner Brook. The need to draw attention to these developments is critical, as they will have a negative impact on the entire Northern Virginia region and beyond. The Town of Purcellville is making decisions that are irreversible – with no analysis of the impacts, positive or negative. The only report on the impacts is one based upon the developer's analysis ... the developer's point of view.

District has dire financial consequences to the original town. As a local example, downtown Leesburg businesses regularly struggle to keep pace with the surrounding developments.

Homes directly adjacent to these developments have and will lose substantial value. A good example of the impacts can be found within the town itself. The homes next to Chick-fil-A once looked out at a beautiful farm, now experience the loud speaker of a two lane drive-thru. Property values are difficult to calculate, but a quick check of assessments shows an almost 30 percent decrease in value from when the project changed to a drive through fast food restaurant.

Home values in the Town of Purcellville will also be negatively impacted because of the additional traffic. Wise potential buyers will quickly realize how bad the traffic is getting into town, which can exceed 15 minutes.

Quality of life. Purcellville is still a small town. Purcellville is still rural. Purcellville is still unique. We don't need another strip center like the ones we already have in the town's CBDs.

Negative Impacts – Traffic Purcellville Crossroads' proposed

plan has 74 homes, and 75,000 square feet of retail, entertainment, hotel space and more. There has been no traffic study, but the estimate that was provided is over 6,000 additional trips per day on St. Francis Court, which intersects with Rt. 287 directly across from the John Deere tractor facility. This intersection is already well beyond capacity with no land to expand the road. An additional constraint in this area is the W&OD trail, which has proven to have a powerful voice when the trail's route has needed to be modified.

No VDOT consultation. The Town of Purcellville has not consulted with VDOT about the impacts of these projects. I have personally worked with VDOT and can state with experience that VDOT has a lengthy and rigorous process for any road changes. Even the possibility of the developments is in question because of the road configuration at the aforementioned intersection might not meet VDOT standards.

Negative Impacts - School enrollment Loudoun Valley High School and Woodgrove High School are nearing maximum capacity. The Town has not even factored in the repercussions of the Mayfair development, which consists of 262 homes that range from 3-7 bedrooms. Parents that have children in middle and elementary

school should be very concerned.

Negative Impacts – Increased Taxes Statistics show that residential development and the taxes that are generated from new homes do not pay for the services needed. The demographic profile of families moving to Loudoun County/Purcellville is typically young, and the average cost to send one child through school is over \$12,000 per year. As an example, I have 5 children. The cost to Loudoun County is approximately \$60,000 per year, yet I pay less than \$7,000 in taxes.

Infrastructure needs. There has been no study analyzing the Town's ability to provide utilities to existing consumers, newly processed developments (Mayfair and Catocin Corner), the undeveloped land within the current Town's boundary, and the additional ones out of town now being contemplated. The cost of building the infrastructure to support these developments will be shared by all citizens of Purcellville.

Positive Impacts

The potential positive impacts of the developments have only been defined by the developers. The Town of Purcellville has absolutely no idea if there are any positive impacts to the citizenry because there has been no detailed financial analysis. This will grow the town – we all know, but will it benefit current residents? Do the current residents of the Town and Western Loudoun County want more development?

The answer to the questions ... Greed! Greed of several individuals and the Town. Why is it acceptable for several individuals and the Town to cause so much emotional stress and financial burden? Fortunately, I do not have an answer because I do not understand the complete lack of caring, research, planning, and common sense. I encourage the residents of Purcellville and beyond to ask this question to the Town Council of Purcellville and Loudoun County's Board of Supervisors.

Matthew Parse is a long-term resident of Loudoun County. He holds 2 degrees in Geography with Urban Planning and is a former member of the Hillsboro Town Council.

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Letter To The Editor

Job Well Done!

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Town Manager Rob Lohr and his awesome hard working staff. You did a fantastic job of snow removal throughout the Town of Purcellville this past week. Mr. Lohr had a crew on Monday working into the night clearing and even hauling the snow from

21st Street Downtown so we we're all able to open for business the next day. Maybe the Town can have you consult with some other municipalities on how to get it done!
Michael Oaks
Kim Patterson
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along with our fellow Downtown Merchants & the Citizens of Purcellville

We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor!

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CAMPAIGN CORNER

Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman Announces Bid For Town Council

Nedim Ogelman, a Purcellville Planning Commissioner, on February 1 launched his campaign for a seat on the Purcellville Town Council.

"I look forward to continuing to serve Purcellville and adding another voice of leadership and expertise to our Town Council," said Ogelman. "As a planning commissioner, I have gained an understanding of the complexities of our Town and its governance, including its capabilities and limitations."

"The issues before us continue to be balancing fiscal responsibility with sound judgment. Many important decisions face this next council, including annexations, capital improvements, and budget decisions needed to hold the line on taxes. I have the experience and fortitude required to lead this town into the future through hard work, dedication and



Nedim Ogelman

fiscally responsible economic decisions." Ogelman's background and service

on the Purcellville Planning Commission demonstrate his commitment to representing and responding to Purcellville citizens' interests. Ogelman stood out as the sole no vote when the Planning Commission pressed ahead with recommending changes to the town's zoning ordinance in spite of a clear signal from citizens that they wanted the process delayed until after a Comprehensive Plan review.

A lifelong student and practitioner of good democratic governance, Ogelman has a Ph.D. in Government from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School, and a Bachelor of Arts dual degree in Government and History from The Colorado College. He completed the Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner Program in 2015.

He is running because he believes citizens are best served by a Town Council responsive to the expressed will of the majority of citizens. His fundamental ideas for more responsive local governance in Purcellville are founded on five pillars: honesty, transparency, commitment, discipline, and patience.

"My children beam with pride when they tell people they live in Purcellville. They attend the local elementary and middle schools and we see how much they love them. I want the same pride from all of our children and grandchildren not only now, but twenty years from now, and I will work hard to preserve and protect the future of our community and families."

Ogelman lives in a 1933 colonial home on 32nd Street with his wife Laura and their two young sons. He can be reached at 540-338-2323 and at Nedim.Ogelman@gmail.com.

Chris Hamilton Announces Run For Purcellville Town Council

On January 16, Chris Hamilton launched his campaign for a seat on the Purcellville Town Council. Instead of holding a traditional kick-off rally, he walked door to door talking to residents about his message of helping Purcellville stay Purcellville for the next generation. "I'm focused on representing the people and guiding the town forward based on principles, not politics," said Hamilton.

Hamilton is currently a part time student at Patrick Henry College. He works full time for a fundraising consulting firm in Ashburn.

When asked about his principles, Hamilton said he believes "the Town Council needs to support Generational Growth, protect property rights, and stop harmful exceptions for special interests."

To Hamilton, supporting "Generational Growth" means allowing only growth that will keep the small town feel in Purcellville for generations to come – and preventing large development that will fundamentally change Purcellville. Hamilton gets passionate when he talks about protecting property rights and stopping harmful exceptions for special interests. "People invest a lot in their homes and businesses, and the Town Council should protect that investment. No one has the right to devalue your property, whether it's the government or a private developer. It's wrong. It hurts Purcellville. And it has to stop now," he said.

Hamilton says his principles are essential for evaluating growth. "Some growth is good. When Michael Oaks started Re-Love It a few years ago, that was good growth. Magnolias moved into the mill and brought growth to



Photo: Ester K Photography

Chris Hamilton

the town. Even Nichol's had a start date, back in 1914. I want to see more small businesses in Purcellville that will complement our small-town feel and make Purcellville better 20, 30, even 50 years from now. Growth becomes bad when we carve out special exceptions for developers, let them change our community, and trample on our property rights."

"Annexations are also a big issue. I believe the two annexation proposals currently being passed through the Town Council are examples of bad growth. They may look good on paper to some on the Town Council, but they're bad for residents. Annexations have to meet two criteria. First, we should only annex a part of Loudoun because it's a natural fit for the town. And second, residents need to support the annexation. The two annexations in the works don't qualify under either criterion. Not even close. That's why I strongly oppose them," said Hamilton.

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Snow, Snow And More Snow ...

Winter Storm Jonas hit Loudoun County hard ... really hard. Locally, Philomont, Winchester, Ashburn and Bluemont received more than 30 inches of snow. Philomont, in fact, led the state with over 40 inches, with many homeowners reporting it was much higher than that. Other totals include: **Leesburg, 34, Purcellville, 33, and Dulles Airport, 28+.**



Before his departure for Richmond on Monday January 25, Delegate Dave LaRock helped neighbors plow out of their driveways. Pictured here with Wright Farm resident Lydia Clark. "What a welcome offer from Virginia State Delegate Dave LaRock, to come help plow some Wright Farm residents stuck in the snow," said Clark. Young Thomas Clark even got a ride on the tractor!

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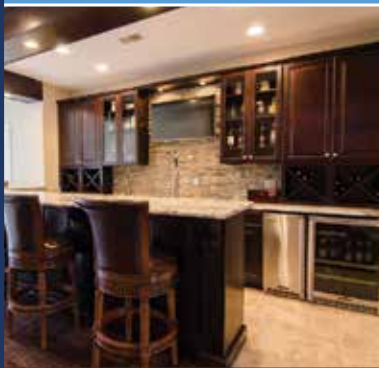
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Purcellville Comprehensive Plan Meeting Rescheduled

Sat., Feb. 6 – 10 A.M. & 2 P.M. Carver Center

The Town of Purcellville has rescheduled the comprehensive plan meetings from January 23 to February 6.

Residents of the Town of Purcellville and all other interested persons are invited to express their opinions about Purcellville's future and discuss updating the Town's comprehensive plan at two public meetings being held by the Purcellville Planning Commission on Saturday, February 6 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Carver Center located at 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville.. The meetings will be led by town staff and are expected to last approximately two hours each. Both meetings will cover the same topics with a focus on discussing the opportunities and constraints the Town may face over the next 20 years.

A comprehensive plan is an official public document adopted by the Town that articulates the community's vision for its future; it serves as a guide for decision-making and future development. The *Purcellville, Virginia 2025 Comprehensive Plan* was adopted by the Town in December 2006, and while many changes have occurred in Purcellville since its adoption, the comprehensive plan has

not been significantly updated during that time. Because of this, Town Council has made updating the comprehensive plan a top priority in an effort to ensure that the plan's goals and policies continue to accurately reflect the needs and desires of Purcellville residents.

In December 2015 the majority of the town council (Council Members Joan Lehr, Doug McCollum, Patrick McConville and Ben Packard) voted to pass sweeping zoning use changes. Mayor Fraser, Council Members Karen Jimmerson and John Nave voted against the zoning use changes. Dozens of citizens spoke at the public input sessions, public hearings and council meetings urging the council to wait until after the comprehensive plan review. Many of the changes enacted changed the purpose of some districts.

These two meetings are the first in a series of community engagement meetings that the Town will hold in 2016 as it works to update the Town's comprehensive plan. The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for March 19; the location has yet to be determined.

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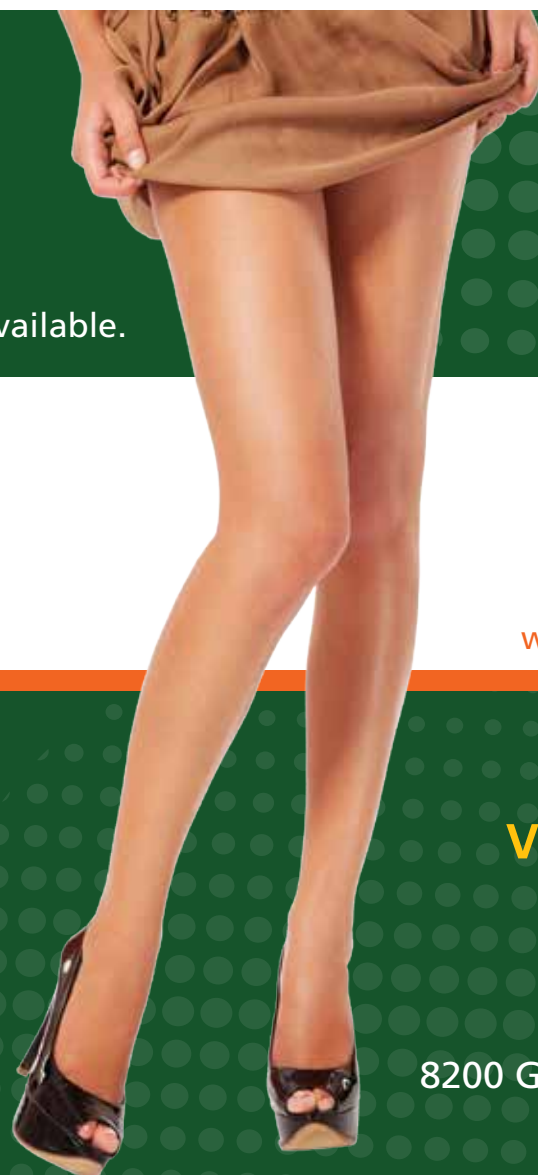
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Four Scouts Achieve Eagle Scout Rank



Left to right: Joel Gicker, Kyle Siecker, Sam Soltis and David Watson

Joel Gicker, Kyle Siecker, Sam Soltis and David Watson achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor conducted at Blue Ridge Bible Church in Purcellville on January 9.

The four Eagles are members of Troop 711 of the Goose Creek District, National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, led by Scoutmaster Scott King Walker.

Kicker's Eagle service project involved designing, building and installing a 349 foot-long barrier structure on the perimeter, of the BRBC playground in Purcellville, to maintain mulch that used to wash away and needed to be replaced every year. Joel also installed two balance beams for children to play on.

Sucker's Eagle project was called "Project Gethsemane" and consisted of deconstructing an old, wooden arbor and designing and building a prayer garden with a new bronze arbor at BRBC. The project added a pathway of stepping

stones, burning bushes, fresh flowers, hardwood mulch and benches for people to sit and relax.

Soltis' Eagle project was building a 12'x12' equipment storage shed for the Upper Loudoun Little League situated behind Kenneth Culbert Elementary School in Hamilton. His project seemed like a natural fit since Sam played baseball for six years, from t-ball through majors.

Watson's Eagle project involved designing, building and installing a beautiful fire pit surrounded by four heavy duty benches, two picnic tables, and a trash receptacle for all to enjoy at Camp Highroad in Middleburg.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program. The Eagle rank involves earning at least 21 merit badges and demonstrating service and leadership over several years — culminating in an Eagle Service Project. Less than 4 percent of all scouts attain the rank of Eagle.

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Students Discuss Loan Debt With Senators Warner And Kaine

Student leaders from 20 Virginia colleges recently traveled to Capitol Hill to discuss their challenges paying for college and the impact of rising student loan obligations during a roundtable conversation organized by U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA). The students represented a diverse cross-section of Virginia's public and private, two- and four-year colleges and universities.

An estimated 60 percent of Virginia college students graduate with student debt, and the average debt load in Virginia now tops \$26,000 per graduate. Nationwide, Americans owe more than \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt, outstripping credit cards and auto loans as the country's leading source of non-mortgage debt, according to the Federal Reserve.

The students shared their concerns about the rising costs of higher education with Warner and Kaine:

- Constance Garner, a senior at Longwood University, has worked two campus jobs to help cover the costs of room and board. "I am from a very small town in southern Virginia where students are lucky to receive any type of higher education, much less a bachelor's degree from a four-year institution," Garner said. She expects to graduate owing more than \$35,000 in student debt.
- William and Mary student Yohance



Whitaker recommended more transparency and consumer information for potential borrowers when they're filling-out their standardized financial aid form, called FAFSA. "I'd really like to see some kind of program where we're educating our students on what it means when they're looking at their FAFSA, what it means when they're looking at their loans. What are some of the ways we can educate our students so that when they're looking at their loans, they know what makes better sense for

their own financial situation?"

- Tralen Neal, a senior at Mary Baldwin College, discussed the physical and emotional impacts of financial stress felt by many students and their families as they struggle to pay for college. "My mother is a single parent and all financial responsibility fell on her," Neal said. "I was forced to miss the first couple of days because my mother did not have the funds to pay for the semester. The financial burden caused severe stress on me that caused me to become ill,"

said Neal, who expects to graduate with \$30,000 in student debt.

As the U.S. Senate begins consideration of the Higher Education Act, lawmakers will consider a proposal to allow borrowers to refinance existing loans to achieve lower interest rates. Both Virginia Senators have introduced specific proposals as well.

Warner introduced two pieces of legislation last week designed to help borrowers better manage their student loan debts: One would make income-based repayment the default option for borrowers, and the other would allow employers to apply pre-tax income to help their employees with student loan payments. Warner also is an original cosponsor of *The Student Right to Know Before You Go Act*, which will provide college-bound students powerful new tools for comparing colleges and universities on measures such as total cost, likelihood of graduating, and potential earnings by program.

Kaine has introduced legislation tackling college affordability concerns, including increased dual enrollment options for high school students and additional tools to help students and families better calculate college costs. Kaine has also introduced the *Jumpstart Our Businesses By Supporting Students Act*, legislation that would amend the Higher Education Act by expanding Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in short-term job training programs.

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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Second Bull Run

– By Tim Jon



JON

It may not have been a battle, but – seeing as how it was my second attempt at getting a good look at Bull Run Creek – coupled with the fact that I’m a native Northerner – I felt a bit skittish as I headed down that little dirt road to encounter the unknown. See – I’d looked as closely as I could at my computer mapping for the end of the line on Peach Tree Lane – way down on the Southern border of Loudoun County – and it looked as if the narrow gravel corridor just sort of dead-ended at the water line; driving to the spot that day, as I recognized some of the landmarks that signaled I was getting close, I slowed down to a crawl, and, as I rounded the last corner, my suspicions were confirmed: I’d found Bull Run Creek, alright – and I’d also found another location in our gnarly little locality where a roadway travels underwater.

Yep, I’d guess that the rocky bottom lay about a foot or foot and a half under the surface of the little waterway; I could have been wrong, though – maybe it was three feet at the deepest – and I wasn’t going to try to ford the 20 or 30 foot span with my vehicle – at least not unless somebody had a hefty check waiting for me on the other side. I did – however - take the opportunity to walk the few feet to the water’s edge, listen to the friendly little gurgle as the liquid slipped over the exposed roots, rocks and fallen branches, and imagine my way along as the famous little Creek made its way Southeastward – where – in just a few miles – it would join up with its historically important Sister – Little



Bull Run – which skirts the edges of Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The morning of my visit was quite pleasant: Cool and quiet, with a bit of mist on the surface of the Creek as the dawn started turning on the lights and waking up the neighborhood. I could hear the rattle of kingfishers as they waited for enough light to catch their breakfast, and a drowsy blue heron hoisted its stilt-like legs out of the water and navigated its way downstream. No busy commuters, however, followed my journey to the Creekside to judge the depth and current before making a run for the other side; I do reckon, though, that some of the ‘natives’ in their semi-domesticated ‘monster trucks’ make this crossing all the time – except, maybe, just after a visit from some

tropical-storm remnant passing up the East Coast. For my part, I – perhaps a bit ingloriously – beat my not-so-hasty retreat by backing out along the narrow stretch of Peach Tree Lane to the nearest driveway, turned around and returned to more civilized surroundings. I did, however, make another approach to Bull Run: In a right-hand sweeping drive that could have (in my dreams) made ol’ Stonewall Jackson proud, I actually crossed the little waterway a bit further downstream – by way of the one-lane bridge along Route 705 – better known as Lightridge Farm Road. This truly is a narrow span, and the traffic tends to move along here at a pretty good clip, so it’s not the best place stop and enjoy the scenery, but you do get a good glimpse at the little Creek – as it continues to the Southeast – to eventually cross Gum Spring Road – before leaving Loudoun’s border and joining her more famous sister.

And that’s where I’d tried to get a look at Bull Run in the first place – a couple of years back – along Route 659 – right about at the Southeastern tip of the County; my journey turned up little more, though, than busy commuter traffic, construction projects, abandoned properties, and all the other fruits of a genuine ‘snipe hunt.’ So – my second attempt at Bull Run – however anti-climactic, anti-heroic and undramatic – at least lacked the defeat, disorganization, tragedy and embarrassment of the two campaigns waged here some one hundred 60 years back by quite a number of my fellow Northerners. God rest their souls – and those of their at-that-time adversaries.

Bull Run Creek and her sibling – Little Bull Run – these days – run quiet and peaceful – and may this always be the case.

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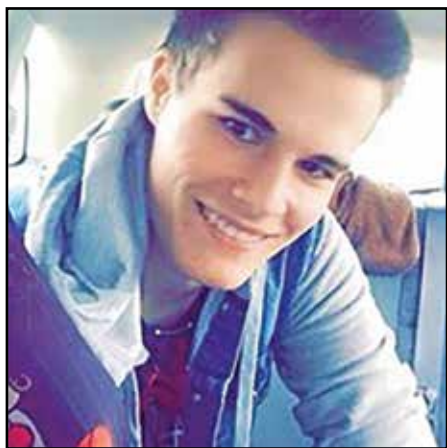
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Remembering William “Will” Robinson



William Carl-Johan Courtney Robinson

William Carl-Johan Courtney Robinson was born on April 16, 1998 in Leesburg, coming into the world in a rush. He just barely made it to the hospital and that was the way he lived his life. He was loving and fearless and often times reckless but he lived in the moment and he was always authentically himself. William passed away on January 14. He attended Wakefield School in The Plains through eighth grade and then Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, where he was a junior.

William leaves behind a large and close family: parents, Ann-Charlotte and Martin and brother, Nicholas of Upperville; grandparents,

Ann-Mari Horkan of Upperville, Tessa Robinson of Cheltenham, UK, Monty and Maggie Robinson of Shrewsbury, UK, and Ylva Lindgren of Washington, Virginia; aunts and uncles, Ann-Caroline Boram of Reston, VA; Ellie and David Simons of Stroud, UK; Carl and Vanessa Lindgren of Upperville, Tony Horkan and Maria Ottonello of Upperville, Lizzy Horkan of Annapolis, MD, Annie Horkan of Vero Beach, FL, Kathryn and Steve Wills on the road, Claes Nordin of Washington, VA; and a host of cousins, Erica Lindgren and her intended Allan Hoff of Sterling, Alison Campbell of San Antonio, TX, Emily Moody of Boulder, CO, Anthony

Horkan of Arlington, and Brittany Horkan of Denver, CO, Joshua and Megan Ryan and little Indigo of Upperville, James Ryan of Miami Beach, FL, and Bobby Nordin of Washington, VA.

William loved doing — from working backstage in theater to climbing rooftops to going to rallies in support of causes in which he believed. Perhaps what he loved most was meeting people and being with his huge circle of friends any chance he could get. Services were held Saturday January 30, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville. In lieu of flowers, those seeking to honor Will are asked to perform a random act of kindness in his honor.

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Lion King, continued from page 1

of 49 talented actors and actresses will not disappoint. They have been in character since early November and have spent countless hours perfecting every song, movement and ROAR. Their dedication, with Stevens' direction, to making this a little piece of Broadway here in Loudoun County is nothing short of astounding. Offstage is an army of volunteers including parents, grandparents, high school students and community members working to bring the magic to life through makeup, scenery, costumes and props.

Joining Stevens this year is Gretchen Lamb, a parent at BRMS, as choreographer. Ms. Lamb has studied the West African dance of The Lion King in New York City and Los Angeles and has also worked with Disney Entertainment. She studied The Lion King choreography with the original Broadway Lion King choreographer and is excited to be sharing her knowledge and expertise with the students at Blue Ridge.

Also joining Stevens and Lamb is Bill Short as part of the costume design team. He is a parent of a cast member and brings his expertise to designing

and sculpting the headpieces for all of the animals. Staff Sergeant Short started out working in scenic production for the entertainment industry. His work can be seen in Busch Gardens, Sea World, Orlando and Baltimore. He spent time working with Universal Studios Islands of Adventure and Hard Rock Café sculpting and designing, prior to joining the military.

We can't wait for you to join Simba as he "Can't Wait to be King," or Timon and Pumbaa as they take away your worries with "Hakuna Matata." We guarantee this production of The Lion King, Jr. will be a magical adventure for all ages! Blue Ridge MS Theatre productions have previously sold out in advance, so make plans to get your tickets early, online at brms.ticketleap.com/LK/.

The curtain opens on Friday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m. and continues for an additional 7 performances. Saturday, February 27 at 2:30 and 7:30 Sunday, February 28 at 2:30 Friday, March 4 at 7:30 Saturday, March 5 at 2:30 and 7:30 And Sunday, March 6 at 2:30 Blue Ridge Middle School, 551 E. A Street, Purcellville.

Education Savings Accounts Make Big Move In House

The Virginia House of Delegates gave a strong push to House Bill 389, Delegate Dave LaRock's (R-33rd District) innovative Education Savings Account legislation, as the House Education Committee voted 13-9 in favor of advancing the bill forward.

"This is definitely an exciting development for parents and students in the Commonwealth," LaRock said after the vote. "School choice has been a feature in other states for years now, and it's performed strongly in every way — improving education results for kids in and out of public schools, giving families more options, and saving money at the same time. We are on the lookout for innovative answers to our education challenges, and Education Savings Accounts have

proven that they can deliver what we're looking for."

The committee members were supportive of the bill overall, with several offering their own commendations. Also present to speak in favor of the bill was Gerard Robinson, former Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

The bill will go on to the House Appropriations Committee and then to the House floor.

"Children deserve an education that meets their unique needs. A one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work," LaRock said in his testimony. "ESAs are an innovative vehicle that can deliver the high quality education that all kids deserve. This bill will give us the opportunity to realize improved academic outcomes while saving precious state and local dollars."

Ron Meyers, continued from page 1

and more financially. We were evicted out of apartment buildings, lived in substandard trailer parks, and even lived in a tent for a few days.

Thankfully, I was rescued out of that tough situation when a lady from church sent me to a religious summer camp. There, a boarding school in St. Louis found out about my situation and offered to help pay for most of my schooling and housing. So, starting at age 12, I lived at the boarding school and learned a lot about independence — but also had some help. As you might have heard from my wife, my best man at my wedding actually bought me shoes in high school because I couldn't afford new ones to replace the ones — I had duct-taped to cover the holes.

At age 17, I finally reconnected with my grandparents whom I hadn't spoken with in years. They live in Caroline County, Virginia, and after graduating high school, I moved in with them. In college, I focused on writing and political activism, which led to my first appearance on Fox News and my first job working as the spokesman for Young America's Foundation in Herndon, VA.

While my upbringing was challenging, I learned invaluable lessons I wouldn't trade for anything; it taught me to be who I am. I also had help from a lot of surrogate parents, who stepped in to mentor me when no one else would. I have so much to be grateful for, and this perspective informs my current public service.

BRL: What made you run for the

supervisor's office? How did you like campaigning? What was the greatest challenge of your campaign?

RM: I wanted to serve in the Broad Run District because, when local leaders approached me, I realized we could make a greater impact on people's lives because of all the opportunities coming to this area. With Metro coming and the need for alternatives to the Greenway, I saw an opportunity to improve the quality of life for our district and our region. At the end of the day, successful public servants are always looking to do the most good for the largest amount of people.

I loved campaigning — especially door-knocking. It is so invigorating to talk with voters about real ways the county can improve their lives and to see their faces when they hear new, effective solutions.

The greatest challenge was the amount of time. Both campaigning and as Supervisor, almost all of us have normal full-time jobs outside of service. If I had my way, I would focus on my county position full-time, but it's simply not a financial option. Running and serving puts a strain on you and your family, but at the end of the day, we accept this challenge because we know we're making a difference.

BRL: What are some of your top priorities?

RM: I'm sure you saw the signs: Build Greenway Alternatives. My first motion as a Board member was to add a Greenway alternative, extending Shellhorn Road to Route 28, as part of the legislative priorities we ask the Commonwealth to fund.

This year, I will be working to fund this alternative and other options like extending Westwind Drive in our county plan. My goal is to give a toll-free local alternative — which would especially help Broadlands, Ashburn, and Brambleton. No one should have to choose between \$6 each way every day and being stuck on Waxpool Road.

My other priorities are to work on bringing a university campus to the forthcoming Ashburn Metro Station, and to finish the county's plan for the Metro area, called the CPAM. We need to make sure we attract more great businesses to Loudoun who can grow our tax base, enabling us to invest in roads and schools.

BRL: Your campaign had several key issues on which you ran. Greenway alternatives and more education spending were a portion of what you proposed. How do you envision the financing of these projects and what benefit will they provide to those who live in and outside your district?

RM: We will fund the Greenway alternative like we've funded countless road projects in the last four years: *A mixture of county and state funds dedicated to roads.* Specifically in our county plan, we will likely be switching the funding source from a nearby project (Prentice Drive) which doesn't come close to making the same impact as Shellhorn Road.

This road should be our county's new top transportation priority because it will save families thousands of dollars per year and increase the appeal of our Metro

corridor. Who wants to move their family or their business to an area where you have to pay \$6 tolls each way?

As I mentioned, this alternative provides help to areas outside my district, especially Brambleton, Ashburn Farm, and Goose Creek.

On education, I believe we need to increase our economic development to generate more revenue for both roads and schools. I also think we need to be more heavy-handed in demanding more from developers for capital to build schools and acquire school sites.

BRL: The issues in the east are somewhat different than western issues due to the different environments; the east being very urban and the west very rural. Do you plan on visiting the different towns in western Loudoun and familiarizing yourself with issues that are important to western Loudoun? Are you aware of its economic potential and current contributions to the County's GDP?

RM: Few people know this, but I actually worked in Purcellville for a few months a couple years ago before starting my own business. Market Street Cafe is one of our favorite coffee shops. My wife and I frequently hike and eat in western Loudoun, and many of my supporters live there as well.

While I tend to defer to Supervisor Buffington and Supervisor Higgins, I continue to meet with western Loudoun leaders to learn what we can do to improve their standard of living and their economic potential.

Loudoun Valley's Max McNerney Stringing His Way Up The Entrepreneurial Ladder



From left to right, Jamie Heuer, Max McNerney

— By Amanda Clark

Max McNerney, a senior at Loudoun Valley High School, has his own lacrosse stringing business titled MaxLaxStrings. Max started the business when he was in eighth grade. He strings all different types of pockets and sells a custom waxed mesh called MaxWax Mesh that makes the pocket of the lacrosse stick waterproof and adds durability. McNerney says: "On a personal level, MaxLaxStrings is so much more. It is the one thing I have poured my passion into throughout my whole high-school career and has taught me more than any business class could."

McNerney began playing lacrosse in the 7th grade and has since fallen in love with it. He says: "Lacrosse is a perfect blend of contact and finesse that creates a beautiful game." Once he fell in love, he learned anything and

everything there was to know about it. He began watching videos on YouTube on how to string sticks and soon some of his friends began to ask for him to string their sticks. "I've learned so many valuable business skills running MaxLaxStrings. I've learned how to manufacture and deal with suppliers, manage inventory, design a website, expand into new markets, manage employees, and deal with wholesale orders," said McNerney.

The most important thing he has learned from his own business is passion. "I'm extremely fortunate to have caught the entrepreneurship bug early," he said. His passion for lacrosse and his business is what got him to where he is today. McNerney continued, "I am the owner of MaxLaxStrings, but my two best employees are my parents. They have supported me from day one with my dad

helping me create my website and making MaxLaxStrings a reality and my mom becoming my marketing expert."

McNerney has recently hired a second stringer to help him string sticks and make mesh. When the business was first created he started a YouTube channel to make lacrosse gear reviews. He said: "I was hoping the videos would attract potential customers to my website." His channel has grown to 3,000 subscribers and almost 450,000 total video views. He has partnered with a popular lacrosse channel called "The Lacrosse Network" that has over 100,000 subscribers.

McNerney will be attending Virginia Tech this fall and will be majoring in Business and potentially a minor in Entrepreneurship. You can find McNerney on both YouTube and Instagram with the username MaxLaxStrings.

FEBRUARY 2016 SCHOOL EVENTS

WOODGROVE

- ☉ Monday, Feb. 1 time to be announced- Wrestling Super Regional at Skyline
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 5:45-6:45 pm- Girls Basketball game vs. Loudoun County HS, at 5:45-8:15 Boys Basketball game vs. Loudoun County HS
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 4 at 6 pm- Course Selection Night
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 5 at 6-7 pm- Gymnastics Conference Championship at Freedom HS, at 6-7:30 pm Girls Basketball game vs. Loudoun Valley HS, at 7:45-8:45 pm Boys Basketball vs. Loudoun Valley HS, at 7-9 pm Student-Directed play
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 6 time to be announced- Wrestling Conference 21 West at James Wood HS, at 7-9 pm Student-Directed play
- ☉ Monday, Feb. 8 at 5:45-8:15 pm- Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. John Champe
- ☉ Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 5:45-7 pm- Girls Basketball game vs. Millbrook, at 6:30-7:30 pm Gymnastics 5A Championship, at 7-8:30 pm Boys Basketball game v Millbrook
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 12 time to be announced- Wrestling Region 4A West at John Champe HS, at 7-9 pm Student-Directed play
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 13 time to be announced, Wrestling Region 4A West at John Champe HS, at 7-8:30 pm Boys Basketball Conference 21 1/4 Finals High Seed, at 7-9 pm Student-Directed play
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 7-8:30- Boys Basketball Conference 21 Semi-finals
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 18 at 6-8:30- Boys Basketball Conference 21 Finals
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 19 time to be announced- Wrestling VHSL 4A at Salem HS, at 7-9 pm "39 Steps" Student Play
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 20 at 7-9 pm- "39 Steps" Student Play
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 20 at 8-11 pm- Snowcoming Dance
- ☉ Monday, Feb. 22 at 7-8 pm- Boys Basketball Region 4A West 1st Round High Seed
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7-8:30- Boys Basketball Region 4A West 1st Round High Seed
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7-8:30- Boys Basketball Region 4A West Semi-Final High Seed
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 26 at 7-8:30- Boys Basketball Region 4A West Semi-Final High Seed
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 26 at 7-9 pm- "39 Steps" Student Play

- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7-9 pm- "39 Steps" Student Play
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7-8:30- Boys Basketball Region 4A West Semi-Final High Seed

VALLEY

- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 7 pm- Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Freedom HS
- ☉ Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 6:15 pm- Girls Basketball game vs. John Handley HS, at 7:45 pm Boys Basketball game vs. Riverside
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 5 at 11 am- Gymnastics Conference meet, at 6 pm Girls Basketball game vs. Woodgrove HS, at 7:45 pm Boys Basketball game vs. Woodgrove HS
- ☉ Monday, Feb. 8 at 7 pm- Girls/Boys Basketball game vs. Loudoun County HS
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7 pm- Girls/Boys Basketball game vs. Stone Bridge HS
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 12 time to be announced- Boys Basketball Conference Tournament
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 13 at 12 pm- Swimming Regionals
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 16 time to be announced- Boys Basketball Conference Tournament
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 18 time to be announced- Boys Basketball Conference Tournament
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 20 time to be announced- Swimming VHSL 4A Championship
- ☉ Monday, Feb. 22 time to be announced- Boys Basketball Regionals
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 23 time to be announced- Boys Basketball Regionals
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 25 time to be announced- Boys Basketball Regionals
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 27 time to be announced- Boys Basketball Regionals

TUSCARORA

- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 6 pm- Gymnastics Conference 14 Tournament at Stone Bridge HS
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 5 at 7:15 pm- Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Briar Woods HS
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 6 time to be announced- Swimming Region 5A Northern Championship, at 9 am Wrestling Conference 14 Championship
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7:45 pm- Girls Basketball vs. Wakefield HS
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 6-9 pm- Dance Team bake sale and 50/50 Raffle

- ☉ Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 6 pm- Gymnastics 5A Northern Championship, at 7:15 pm Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Potomac Falls HS
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 12 at 9 am- Wrestling Regional Tournament at Orange HS, at 6-9 pm Dance Team bake sale and 50/50 Raffle, at 6:15 pm Girls Basketball game vs. Broad Run HS, at 7:45 pm Boys Basketball game vs. Broad Run HS
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 16 time to be announced- Girls Basketball Conference 14 Tournament
- ☉ Wednesday, Feb. 17 time to be announced- Girls Basketball Conference 14 Tournament
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 18 at 7-9:30 pm- Rising 9th grade night
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 19 time to be announced- Girls Basketball Conference 14 Tournament Final
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 20 time to be announced- Swimming VHSL State Championship, at time to be announced Wrestling VHSL 5A State Championship
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 20 at 5:30-10:30 pm- Snowcoming Dance

LOUDOUN COUNTY

- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 7:15- Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Woodgrove HS
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 4 at 6 pm- Girls Basketball game vs. Garfield HS
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 5 at 6 pm- Gymnastics Conference Championship at Freedom HS, at 7:15 pm Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Heritage HS
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 6 at 9 am- Wrestling Championship
- ☉ Monday, Feb. 8 at 7:15 pm- Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Loudoun Valley HS
- ☉ Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 5 pm- Gymnastics Regional Championship at ParkView HS
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 11 at 7-9 pm- Fine Arts Showcase
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 12 at 12:30 pm- Wrestling Coed Regionals, at 7:15 pm Boys Basketball Conference 21 Tournament
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 13 at 12:30 pm- Wrestling Coed Regionals, at 5 pm Swim and Dive 4A Regional Meet
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 18 at 7 pm- Winter play/ Student Director Festival
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 19 at 12:30 pm- States Wrestling Meet, at 7 pm- Winter play/Student Director Festival
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 20 at 12:30 pm- States Wrestling Meet, at 7 pm- Winter play/Student Director Festival

JOHN CHAMPE HS

- ☉ Monday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 pm- AP Night/9th Grade night
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 7:15 pm- Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Riverside
- ☉ Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 7:15 pm- Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Kettle Run HS
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 4 at 6-9 pm- Gap Year Fair
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 5 at 10 am- Wrestling Meet, at 6 pm Gymnastic Meet, at 7:30 pm Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. South Riding HS
- ☉ Monday, Feb. 8 at 7:15- Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Woodgrove HS
- ☉ Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 6 pm- Gymnastics Meet
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 12 at 1 pm- Wrestling Meet
- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 7 pm- Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Opponent to be announced
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 18 at 7 pm- Boys/Girls Basketball game vs. Opponent to be announced
- ☉ Harmony MS
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 4 at 6-7 pm- Rising 9th grade night at Woodgrove HS
- ☉ Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7-8 pm- Orchestra Winter Concert

BLUE RIDGE MS

- ☉ Tuesday, Feb. 2 time to be announced- Black History Month presentation and Lion King play
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 5 time to be announced- Blue Ridge All District Band
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 6 time to be announced- Blue Ridge All District Band
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 13 at 8:30-10 pm- 7th grade Social at Ida Lee Drive
- ☉ Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 7-7:30 pm- Cornerstone Awards
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 19 time to be announced- Blue Ridge All District Chorus
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 20 time to be announced- Blue Ridge All District Chorus
- ☉ Friday, Feb. 26 at 7:30-9:30 pm- Lion King Play Opening Performance
- ☉ Saturday, Feb. 27 at 2:30-4:30 pm- Lion King Play Matinee Performance, at 7:30-9:30 pm Lion King Play Performance
- ☉ Sunday, Feb. 28 at 2:30-3:30- Lion King Play Performance

Lovin' Leesburg For All Its Beauty



- By Hannah Hager

We may be in the thick of winter, but this home on Cherry Spring Lane will melt your heart. Come spring you'll fully be able to enjoy this simple, yet elegant brick home and its surrounding green pastures enclosed by miles of black wooden fences. Beyond your immediate yard are sweeping views of the mountains and valleys and truly incomparable views.

Tasteful renovations to this Colonial home effectively bring the outdoors inside, not only so you can enjoy your property from all corners, but so that you can have subtle reminders of nature's surrounding beauty at all times. Hints of this include the reclaimed fence board floors, exposed-wood ceiling beams and a fireplace setting adorned with local stone in the family room.



The heart of the home - its kitchen, is light and bright with white cabinets, tan-colored marble countertops, an eat-in island and stainless steel appliances. You'll see this airiness throughout the home, including the light floorboards and recessed lighting. The master suite with large bathroom features his and hers sinks, vanity lighting and a large picture window.

You'll find your kids enjoying the entertainment area on the lower level, which has a door leading to the outside. Don't worry; you'll have your own space

42122 Cherry Spring Lane
Leesburg, VA 20176

Bedrooms: Five

Bathrooms: Three

Acreage: Ten acres

Price: \$749,000

Contact: Sam Rees, Middleburg Real Estate - Atoka Properties
703-408-4261

there, too. A multipurpose room with built-in bookcases makes for a perfect study if you're a professional worker — or an in-home gym, if you're a professional exerciser.

The cherry on top of this Cherry Spring Lane home, however, is its barn with attached shop. This expansive barn is in tip-top shape and boasts a center aisle, tack and wash station and a walkabout perfect for your equine friends to relax or take a turn around the riding ring. Once you see it, you'll be sure to be lovin' it.

Run And Walk To Your Nearest 5K Pregame Event Happening On Super Bowl Day In Leesburg



There is a new Running Company, the Pace Makers Running Company, in town and they are on a mission to help the local population with their health goals while raising money for selected charities. The race at The National Conference Center in Leesburg on February 7, is to help benefit the Riverside High School Athletic Department. The upcoming race on March 13 at Top Golf will benefit the cancer society.

The courses are USATF certified. There will be a free door raffle, free high resolution photos and SWAG bags that include a commemorative pregame 5K t-shirt and a free finishers beer at The Black Olive Bar. For more information on the rest of the year races go to www.Pregame5K.com click on 'Leesburg'.



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Vino 9 Market: A New Way To Wine And Dine

- By Amanda Clark

Donnie Walker, owner of the local restaurant Vino 9 Market says: "I really enjoy the clientele and they love our food and our unique atmosphere." Opened in June of 2013, Vino 9 Market sells wine, beer, artisan olive oil, organic basic grocery items, and good food. The market is located one block away from a bike trail and even sells food in to-go pint sizes for picnics.

You can carry out and much of the food served can be taken to other wineries and breweries in the area. Every light fixture found in the restaurant is hand-picked and restored by the owner himself and the building is part log-cabin structure. "My dad moved the log cabin to its current location in 1976 from Lovettsville," said Walker.

Also inside Vino 9 Market is a wine and beer area called the Blind Pig cellar or an "old fashioned speakeasy" as the regulars call it. Some of the brews sold are from Lost Rhino, Fat Cat Beer Company, Oskar Blues Brewery to name just a few. They even have Kombucha on draft from Barefoot Bucha in Charlottesville. There is Rhino Root Beer on draft and a collection of hard to find old fashioned sodas, coffee, soft drinks, teas, and water.

Vino 9 Markets' sandwiches that are the most popular



are the Carolina style pulled pork, brie apple and honey sandwich, and the pulled chicken barbecue. All sandwiches are served on fresh bread, such as sourdough, multi grain and brioche, which is delivered daily from Lyons Bakery located in Washington D.C. Other goodies are sold in the front room including homemade ice cream, homemade Key Lime pie, chocolates, and candies.

Vino 9 Market is open 11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily and is located at 40602 Charles Town Pike, Paeonian Springs. If you are looking for a cozy and convenient place to relax with friends and family and enjoy a great meal, Vino 9 Market is the place for you.

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What Do You Love About Loudoun?

Despite the sudden drop in temperatures and a historic winter storm that covered Loudoun in dizzying amounts of snow, Nathaniel Stephens (pictured left) for the *Blue Ridge Leader* went out to ask residents “What they love about Loudoun County?” Here is what they had to say:



Allyssa and Elizabeth Kerrigan’s father, Pete, (not pictured) said that he likes that there are always some activities available for the kids to do in Loudoun! They are from Sterling.



Anna Gordon from Lansdowne, pictured with her mother Mina and Allison, Nadia and Gordon said, “I like coming here with the family really just to have fun... its family friendly!”



“It’s the ‘Emerald County’ and that is pretty nice,” remarked Ethan Stephens from Lovettsville.



Julie Ott from Sterling loves Loudoun because it has everything! Pictured with her parents Terry and Margo Ott visiting from Vermont.



Gaylord Wargo (pictured taking a picture of ice carving) from Sterling says, “I have lived here [Loudoun county] since 1968, when route 7 was two lanes from Winchester to Tysons Corner with no stop lights. So, I like how the county grew, my kids went to school here. I like how it has grown and that I have been a part of that. I haven’t moved yet!”



Jessica Solis pictured here with Brayden, Devin, Brian and Luke from Leesburg said, “We like the free events like this [referencing the *Winter Ice Fest* at Loudoun One in Leesburg]. It provides a great family outing on a Saturday.”



“My husband and I have lived in Loudoun County all our lives. We moved from the eastern side of the county to western Loudoun and couldn’t think of a better place to raise our family. I love the snow days because it gives us a chance to slow down.” Kelley and Milee Partlow in front of her business It’s Bazaar in Purcellville.



“I love the people. The quality of life and the natural beauty of western Loudoun is why I moved here. P.S. But I hate the snow!”
Michael Oaks owner Re-Love It Consignment Shoppe.



Joseph “Joey” Ridolffi IV from Lovettsville loves Loudoun because “I have friends here and at school and I can ride my bike down the hills!”



(*Outside Of Tammy’s Diner Round Hill*)
Donald Anderegg:
“I like just about everything about it. Originally we are from Pittsburg, Pa. and we came here when I took a job with the FAA. We have enjoyed it here and our kids have enjoyed the school here. No complaints so far.”



Mary: “I like how there are horses everywhere and there is all sorts of art. I also like how it is sort of country-ish and sorta not. Oh, and there are lots of parks.”
Andrew: “I like how it’s not a big city with lots of gangs and that there is a diner right by our house that we can go to so we don’t have to drive far away. I like how the stores are close too”
Mary Ellen Tedrow-Wynn: “Loudoun County is a great place to live, to visit and to do business. There are wonderful little businesses, mom and pop shops. Western Loudoun, I suppose, is not crowded but Eastern Loudoun is definitely too crowded. So it’s sweet out this way by the diner. The people are very friendly; it’s a nice place to be!”



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Asterisk No More

— By Samuel Moore-Sobel

“Moods come and go, but greatness endures.” These prescient words were uttered by President George H.W. Bush, a man who knows firsthand the truth of his own saying. In 1992, President Bush garnered only 37 percent



MOORE-SOBEL

of the popular vote in his re-election bid, the lowest total received by an incumbent President since William Howard Taft in 1912. Yet his legacy has seen a sort of resurgence as of late, culminating in a new book written by the prolific Jon Meacham entitled, *Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush*.

Meacham’s sprawling work is one that does its subject justice. He examines the life of Bush with a microscope, uncovering the gems that can be found throughout this great American’s life. He traces the arc of this man’s career, a man who nobly fought for his country in World War II. As a naval aviator, he was shot down and nearly lost his life. Ever since, he has lived his life with a sense of purpose and a determination to make a difference in the lives of others. He built a successful oil business before serving as a Congressman, Ambassador to the United Nations, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, CIA Director and Vice President of the United States. In 1988, Bush fulfilled his burning passion by reaching the Presidency, becoming the first Vice President to succeed his predecessor since Martin Van Buren succeeded Andrew Jackson in 1836.

Bush ascended to power at a time unlike any other in American history. He artfully resided over the end of the Cold War, easing the Soviet Union to a bloodless, peaceful death. Bush’s handling of the Gulf War and the multilateral coalition he built to free Kuwait from the advances of Saddam Hussein’s Iraq culminated in an impressive victory. As a result, Bush’s approval rating hit 89 percent, the highest in the history of the Gallup Poll up to that point in time. It seemed that the President would surely coast to re-election in 1992.

Yet perhaps his re-election chances were dashed by the budget deal of 1990. Working with a mostly Democratic Congress, a deal was crafted that would raise taxes such as the alcohol and gas tax, yet would leave income taxes at then-current rates. Meacham records that at the last minute, before the deal was to be announced in the Rose Garden, Congressman Newt Gingrich retracted his support, noticeably leaving the White House while the President announced the deal. Gingrich’s opposition was rooted in the President’s apparent willingness to break his famous “no new taxes” campaign pledge.

When asked his greatest fear about right wing members of his party Bush responded, “I’m worried that sometimes your idealism will get in the way of what I think is sound governance.” Jeff Shesol wrote in an article for *The New Yorker* that Bush “deserves points for prescience - but not for courage.” He takes on Bush for not taking a stronger stand against the right-wing of his party, arguing that he tried “to go with the flow” instead of reversing the tide. Shesol’s analysis may be too harsh. Bush was unable to stop the fervor of the right-

wing of the party much like Speaker John Boehner and other Republican leaders have been unable to do so in the years following Bush’s untimely political demise. The lesson may lie in the result of Gingrich’s ideological stand. In the end, the 1990 deal resulted in an income tax increase, raising the rate from 28 percent to 31 percent on American top earners. In effect, Gingrich’s supposed noble stand resulted in more taxes than if he had instead chosen to stand with his President in the first place.

It seems that the undoing of George H.W. Bush, as Meacham so eloquently writes, is due to the reality that “he seemed a caretaker at a time when voters were in the market for a dreamer.” Yet after his approval rating dipped to 29 percent in July 1992 in the heat of his re-election campaign, it rose to 56 percent as he disembarked from the White House in 1993. It was almost as if the American people regretted their choice; perhaps, they had belatedly realized that they were in the market for a caretaker after all.

Bush’s place in history may still feel insecure to this man who has lived a uniquely American life. “I feel like an asterisk,” Bush told Meacham. “I am lost between the glory of Reagan-monuments everywhere, trumpets, the great hero-and the trials and tribulations of my sons.” Yet after decades filled with highly polarized politics, Americans may be finding themselves longing once again for a caretaker. Bush may not have been good at casting a vision, lacking the rhetorical skills of his predecessor and the display of empathy famously employed by his successor; however, Meacham argues, compared with the politics of today, people might “find the presidency of George H.W. Bush refreshing,

even quaint.” After the recent burnishing of his legacy, this President may have lived long enough to discover that he is considered an asterisk no more.

My own admiration for George Bush has been long in the making. In college, I wrote a paper which examined the ways in which Bush was overshadowed by his predecessor. I also wrote a letter to the editor that was published in *The Washington Post*, highlighting the impact Bush made on the 25th anniversary of his election to the office he loved. After I wrote it, I sent him a letter with my work included. He wrote back, filled with words that only can be described as vintage George Bush. He thanked me, writing that “...at age 90, kind words mean more to me than ever.”

The realist in me realizes that this letter was likely written by a young staffer in his office; yet, the idealist in me secretly hopes that the President wrote these words himself, looking out from his beautiful home in Kennebunkport. The message inherent in the life of George Bush, I believe, is to move forward with determination and courage, doing all with a strong dose of grace along with a hint of quiet strength. His advice to me applies to all, so I will let this beloved former President have the last word. “I have little doubt that you will succeed in every endeavor you undertake. Go get ‘em!”

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a recent college graduate whose love for Presidential history has not lessened since he graduated last December. He is determined to continue reading and learning all he can about all things Presidential.

What Is A Sport?

— By Mary Rose Lunde

On January 10, hundreds of talented dancers from across the East Coast competed at the Universal Dance Academy Regional Championship at West Springfield High School. Tensions were high and the stakes couldn’t have been greater. What team wouldn’t want to win the coveted trophy?



LUNDE

But let’s go back a second to before the winners are announced, before the glamour was applied, and before the competition began. Let’s look at how the teams got there. Many of the schools from Fairfax and further took some sort of bus paid for by either the county (such as Fairfax) or by sponsors. Loudoun County is not that

lucky. There is absolutely no funding provided for the dance teams to a majority of the classes. Why, you ask? Well, the fact of the matter is that Loudoun County does not consider dance a sport; therefore, there is zero funding provided. Every student part of the dance team is basically putting multiple hours of practice in for zero recognition. The choreographers and dance sponsors are considered volunteers and are never rewarded by the school.

This is outrageous! If the debate team is recognized as a sport, then the dance team should be recognized as a sport. There is absolutely no premise against the decision to provide funding to the dance team and consider them a sport. Dance is active and follows all of the criteria to be considered a legitimate sport. Dance requires poise, dedication, focus, perseverance, attitude, physical activity, and much more. Dance is no less of a sport than tennis. Even

participation in the marching band is considered a sport. If debate is considered a sport, then dance should be too.

These students go all out in chance to win the big trophy at competitions, they work just as hard as the prized football team, yet they receive no recognition or funding. Why is this? All sports should be given equal funding and a chance to shine. So why doesn’t dance? I unfortunately don’t have the answer. I do, however, see firsthand the dedication needed to be a dancer. My younger sister, Sofia, is on the Potomac Falls Dance Team. She has to be at the school by 7 a.m. four out of five days year round for dance practice. Doesn’t that deserve a round of applause? Her team hosts multiple fundraisers since there is no funding throughout the year and relies on parents and donations to stay funded. Next year, there may not even be a dance since the coach has decided that after fourteen years

of volunteering without any recognition not to do it. If they don’t get a coach willing to volunteer their time, Potomac Falls will no longer have a dance team.

Why does the richest county in the United States refuse to admit that they are flawed? Dance is a sport and deserves to be funded and supported by the schools just as any other sport or academic endeavor. It may be my personal bias, but I believe dance is more credible than a sport such as marching band, and I was in the marching band. I’m not sure what the next step will be in this consideration, but something needs to change.

Mary Rose Lunde is a sophomore at Virginia Tech who enjoys watching the joy on her sister’s face when she competes. She is proud of her sister’s dedication and will support her at all dance competitions she can attend.

Supervisor Matt Letourneau Elected Vice Chairman Of Regional Council Of Governments

Loudoun County Dulles District Supervisor Matthew F. Letourneau has been elected Vice Chairman of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors for 2016.



LETOURNEAU

Roger Berliner, Vice President of the Montgomery County Council, will serve as COG Board Chairman and Kenyan McDuffie of the Council of the District of Columbia will serve as the Board's other Vice Chairman. The Chair and Vice Chair positions rotate annually between Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland. The Board of Directors is COG's governing body and is responsible for its overall policies, functions, and funds.

Letourneau, along with Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall, represents Loudoun on the COG Board of Directors. Letourneau previously served as President of the COG Board in 2014 and as a Vice President in 2013. He has been a member of the COG Board of Directors since 2012.

"Loudoun County plays an increasingly

important role in the Metropolitan Washington region," said Letourneau. "I am honored to be selected by my colleagues to serve as Vice Chairman representing Virginia, and I look forward to working with all of the COG members on issues of regional importance such as ensuring a strong and safe Metro system and economic development."

Letourneau was elected to represent the Dulles District on the Board of Supervisors in November 2011 and re-elected in 2015. He serves as chair of the Board's Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee. In addition to serving on the COG Board, he represents Loudoun County on the COG Region Forward Coalition, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, as Chairman of the Route 28 Transportation Improvement District Commission, and the Dulles Area Transportation Association.

COG is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 22 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

Amy and Dan Smith's Planning For Life Six Things to Know to Weather a Market Downturn

It's natural to be nervous when the markets head for negative territory. Keep a positive perspective with these six investing reminders.



AMY & DAN SMITH

It can be very unsettling for investors when their portfolios and the markets start heading for the red and fear sets in that all you've worked for and set aside for retirement and other goals could be at risk. Here are six investing basics to keep in mind during volatile times:

- 1. Periods of volatility are normal** – All markets move in cycles and periods of steep contraction are completely normal. While the length of market contractions varies, periods of growth and expansion are usually waiting on the other side. Since 1973, stocks have fallen more than 10 percent and subsequently rebounded eight times.
- 2. Don't Panic** – Letting emotions dictate your investing strategy is a risk you should not take. Short-term decisions can have long-term consequences on your portfolio. Being patient can pay dividends.
- 3. Know your portfolio** – Understand your investments and how specific investments represent different goals and outcomes. Keep in mind your risk tolerance and investment timeline, and if either has changed, consider talking to your financial advisor about rebalancing your portfolio. Diversification can potentially help

balance risk during a downturn and mitigate extreme swings in value.

- 4. Stay the Course** – Remember your financial plan and long-term goals and stick to them. A disciplined investment approach is the best strategy for handling market downturns and will likely enable you to participate when the markets rebound.
- 5. Consider opportunities** – Working with your financial advisor, determine whether periods of volatility are a good time to take advantage of investment opportunities in line with your long-term plan.
- 6. You're not alone** – Your financial advisor is available to help you when you need it. He or she can guide you through difficult markets and be the independent voice and "information bodyguard" that helps you stay focused on your long-term goals.

Investing involves risk and investors may incur a profit or a loss. Past performance may not be indicative of future results. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against a 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. (703-669-5022, www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com) Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James.

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Loudoun Centre Theatre Brings Hairspray To Franklin Park Arts Center

Join Tracy Turnblad as she turns her passion for dancing into a spot on the local TV dance program. Transformed into an overnight teen celebrity, Tracy teaches 1962 Baltimore a thing or two about integration and fair play. Watch as a larger-than-life adolescent sings and dances her way to her true love - all without denting her do.

Actors from throughout Northern Virginia will perform this eight-time Tony Award winning Broadway musical. Weekend matinees and evening performances will be February 5 - 13 at Franklin Park Arts Center (36441 Blueridge View Ln. Purcellville, VA 20132). Tickets can be purchased online at www.thelct.org.

For more information, visit www.thelct.org or email info@thelct.org.



Barns Of Rose Hill Presents Quilts Inspired By Beatles Songs



The Barns of Rose Hill is presenting an exhibit of 150 quilts inspired by Beatles Songs. Fiber artists from around the world were challenged to each choose a different song by the Beatles and to depict it as a 24" by 24" quilt.

The exhibit runs through February 13. Admission is free. Barns of Rose Hill is located at 95 Chalmers Court in Berryville. Free parking is available next door at the Berryville-Clarke County Government Center Barns of Rose Hill parking lot.

It's been more than 50 years since the Beatles first performance on the Ed Sullivan show on February 9, 1964, a performance watched by 73 million men, women and children. The performance was viewed in over 23 million American homes by 45.3 percent of the households with television sets.



mellow yellow

Girls Night Out & Trunk Show
February 10, Wednesday, 6:00 - 9:00

Join us for the fun Night out with friends
Register at Eventbrite.com, It's FREE

River Creek Club
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703-779-2022

This will be the 1st trunk show hosted by Mellow Yellow, an upscale boutique that carries distinctive fashion, accessories and unique gifts. "We are very excited to feature our trunk shows and hope to make this an annual event in the spring and fall," said Meesook Han owner of Mellow Yellow.

Mellow Yellow carries Comfy USA, Lysee, Tulip, Flax and Kim Bernardin from Paris to name a few. To find out more go to www.mellowyellowstyle.com.

FEBRUARY 2016 EVENTS

- ☉ **February 3 (Wednesday) through February 27 (Saturday), Sunrise/Sunset**, a juried exhibit of regional artists, at the Byrne Gallery, Middleburg. See: www.middleburgarts.com.
- ☉ **February 6, Saturday at 10 a.m., Queen of Hearts Tea at the Middleburg Community Center.** Bring a favorite tea cup and tea bag; treats, finger sandwiches and tea and cocoa will be supplied to complete the table. Call 540-687-6375 to RSVP by February 2. \$5 per family.
- ☉ **February 12 (Friday) through February 14 (Sunday), Chocolate and Wine Pairings at Greenhill Winery and Vineyards.** Carriage rides from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For pricing and to book, please visit: www.greenhillvineyards.com.
- ☉ **February 12, Friday at 7 p.m., the Kennedys perform at the Old Stone School in Hillsboro.** Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. There will be light hors d'oeuvres, and beverages will be sold by the glass. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://givalike.org/Public/QuickGive.aspx?cid=368>.
- ☉ **February 12 (Friday) and February 13 (Saturday) at 7:30 p.m., Backwards Broadway Valentine's Cabaret and Dinner at Oatlands Historic House and Gardens in Leesburg.** Women sing songs usually sung by men and men try songs originally written for women. Tickets are \$85. Dinner is catered by Tuscarora Mills. Visit www.stagecoachctc.com for tickets. Oatlands is at 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane.
- ☉ **February 14, Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Valentine's Day Tea featuring a display of 19th Century valentine cards, at Oatlands Historic House and Gardens in Leesburg.** Attire for tea is casual. Tea includes sandwiches, scones and sweets. Price is \$29.95 plus tax per person age 3 and up. Please call 703-777-3174 to make a reservation. Oatlands is at 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane.
- ☉ **February 14, Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., traditional Irish jigs**, reels and hornpipes played on fiddles, whistles, banjos, guitars and bodhran at Corcoran Brewing Company, 205 Hirst Road, Purcellville.
- ☉ **February 20, Sunday at 2 p.m., Two Black History Month Lectures, at Oatlands Historic House and Gardens in Leesburg.** Freedom Seekers, Public Opinion and the Law, and the story of William Jordan Augustus, who escaped from Oatlands in 1809 to seek his freedom in the north. Event is free. Oatlands is at 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane.
- ☉ **February 28, Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., traditional Irish jigs**, reels and hornpipes played on fiddles, whistles, banjos, guitars and bodhran at Corcoran Brewing Company, 205 Hirst Road, Purcellville.

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Kolkata, India

My name is Meredith Hancock and I am excited to be traveling with some friends to work with a local church in Kolkata, India and with Freeset to help women and children caught up in the sex trade to learn a new trade while also trying to encourage orphans and those living with HIV.

Freeset is a fair trade business offering employment to women trapped in Kolkata's sex trade. (<http://freesetglobal.com>)

Their goal is to see the 10,000 sex workers in their neighborhood empowered with the choice of leaving a profession they never chose in the first place.

If you are interested in helping me with financial assistance to make this trip possible, please put my name, Meredith Hancock in the participant field with your tax deductible donation at: https://newlifecommunitychurch.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=68

CARVER CENTER EVENTS FEBRUARY 2016

Half-Price Memberships

Senior Center Memberships that last through June are now \$13 for Loudoun County residents and \$19.50 for non-residents.

New! Contemporary Line Dance (Ages 10 and up)

Mondays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., Non-members pay a \$2 facility drop-in fee

Handwork, Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (Ages 18 & up)

This weekly group meets to visit and relax in the Carver Library while working on knitting, crocheting, and any other kind of easily transported handwork.

Advanced Intermediate Bridge, Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Monthly Lunch & Movie: *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, February 5, Friday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. (Ages 55 & up)

Saturday Cards (Ages 18 & up), Come in and experience a relaxing afternoon in Carver's cozy library playing old favorites like canasta and euchre.

Introduction to Watercolor Workshop, Mondays from 2/8-2/28 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. \$10

Jerry's Jukebox, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. (Ages 14 & up)

AARP Foundation Tax Assistance (Ages 18 & up), AARP Foundation offers free tax help to taxpayers, especially those aged 60 or older. To reserve your time-slot, call 571-258-3400. Appointments will be scheduled for 9:30, 11:00 and 1:00 on the following dates: February 17, 19, 24, 26.

Hatha Yoga, Wednesdays from 2/17 through 3/23, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. \$90 (Ages 16 & up)

Hatha Yoga creates balance and unites opposites in our physical bodies so we develop both strength and flexibility

February Lunch Bunch: Jasmine's, Leesburg, February 17, Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Ages 55 & up). Transportation by bus is available to and from the restaurant from Carver Center for \$2.00.

Black History Month Celebration, February 19, Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Ages 55 and up). Local author and historian, Kevin Grigsby will share information on the important role that African-Americans from Loudoun County played in the Civil War, serving as soldiers, sailors, nurses, spies and scouts.

Throne of Grace School of Dance Performance: *Circles of Joy*, February 26, Friday, 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.

LOUDOUN COUNTY ADULT DAY CENTERS

For Seniors with Physical Limitations or Memory Loss



Our licensed adult day centers provide:

- ◆ A safe, social environment with therapeutic activities
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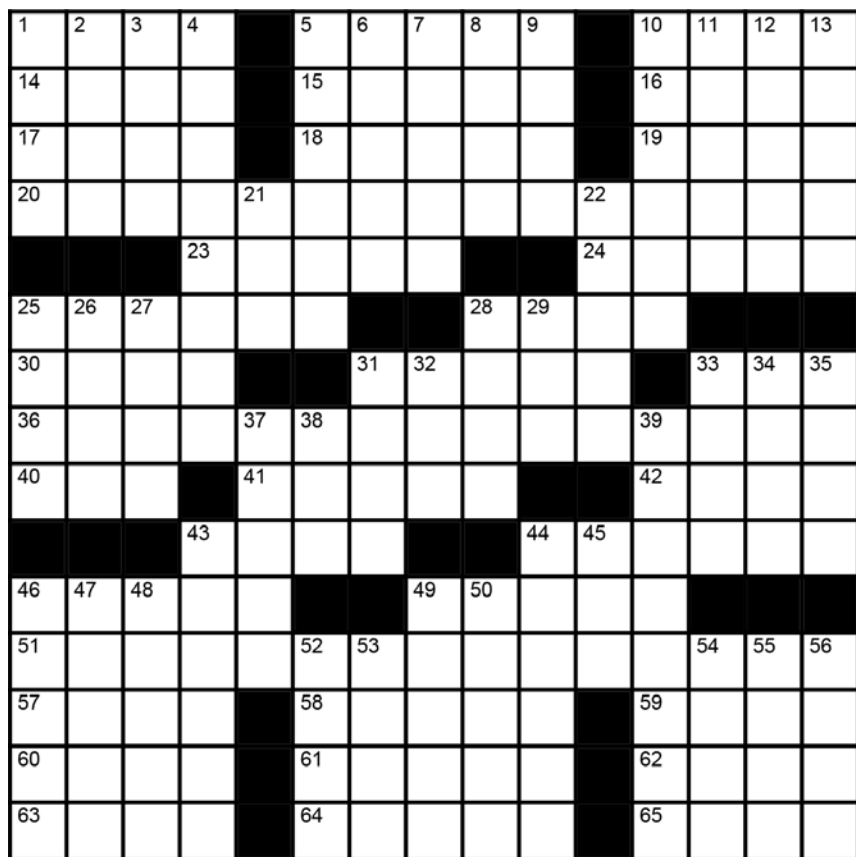
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This Way And That By Sally York

**ACROSS**

1. Classified information?
5. One way to be taken
10. Fly, e.g.
14. "It was ___ mistake!"
15. Parlor piece
16. Head or night starter
17. Film unit
18. Cockamamie
19. Battering wind
20. One way to move
23. Rock fracture
24. Gardener's soil
25. Whips
28. Astringent
30. Achieving Moksha is one of its goals
31. Rivera product
33. Elusive one
36. One way to move
40. Balancing pro
41. Order
42. Chills and fever
43. Hordeolum
44. Monovalent radicals
46. Île de la Cité locale
49. Free-for-all
51. Every which way
57. Boor
58. Showy flower
59. D.C. al ___ (musical direction)
60. Suffix with neur-
61. Hinder
62. Opposite of charge
63. Actor Green of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"
64. Fop's footwear
65. Wraps (up)

DOWN

1. Rattles
2. Promise, e.g.
3. Cheese variety
4. Playa
5. Farewells
6. Double
7. "Stop!"
8. Empty talk
9. Had down cold
10. Organized persecution
11. Duck
12. Goes (for)
13. Deuce toppers
21. Ate
22. "Be-Bop-___"
25. Accord
26. Campus store
27. Indian tourist stop
28. Chichi
29. Kind of partner
31. Just
32. G8 member
33. Provocative
34. Jewish month
35. Strong cleaners
37. More than unpopular
38. Crooked
39. Illegal shares of profits
43. Rat
44. Nuptial sites
45. Island ring
46. Flies alone
47. Chew the scenery
48. Indigenous Canadian
49. Peach ___
50. Pomp
52. Does in
53. Alternative to steps
54. "Blue" or "White" river
55. Avon anti-aging brand
56. Historic Virginia family

Answers on page 30

6th Annual Loudoun Grown Expo February 27

It's that exciting time of year again for the 6th Annual Loudoun Grown Expo. The yearly event will take place at the Bush Tabernacle 250 South Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, on February 27 with new expanded hours starting at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be wine and beer exhibitors, farm exhibitors, artisans and makers, restaurants and other rural economy entrepreneurs for all to enjoy. "We're thrilled to promote such a worthwhile event that showcases Loudoun growers, Virginia wines, as well as hand crafted beer and local artists," said Philip Message, co-sponsor of this 6th annual event. He continued, "People from all over Loudoun County as well as the



D.C. metro area enjoy this event every year."

Parking will be at the Fireman's Field parking lot, Emerick Elementary, Loudoun Valley Community Center and the Town of Purcellville's public parking areas.

Oh No, It's The Christians!

— By Nicholas Reid



In the hours and days following every massacre perpetrated by radical Muslims, there is one unifying theme across most news coverage of the massacre, wherever it may be. All manner of talking heads are invited on to warn the public about a possible "Christian backlash." However, there is something that isn't mentioned in these broadcasts. There never is a "Christian backlash," yet the tone of such media broadcasts makes it sound as if the world's Christians are just waiting for an excuse to start murdering Muslims in the streets. Sure, mosques and Islamic cultural centers will phone in reports of threats phoned in against them, but the validity of a vast majority of these claims is very often debunked through police investigation. In fact, the whole concept created by the media (and social media) of "Muslims as victims, Christians as aggressors" is flawed. According to FBI statistics for hate crimes in 2014, there were 1,140 victims of anti-religious hate crimes in 2014. Of these, 56.8 percent of those victims were the result of the perpetrator's anti-Jewish bias, while only 16.1 percent of those crimes were the result of the perpetrator's anti-Muslim bias. In 2014, according to the FBI, there were only 184 victims of Islamophobia. That's clearly not indicative of a wave of Islamophobia sweeping the nation, as the President has repeatedly implied in his speeches. However, this data does not stop politicians and journalists on the left from using Islamophobia as a cudgel to silence dissent on such issues as Syrian refugees and Islamic terrorism. Do you believe in screening refugees from Syria and giving priority to Christians, Jews,

Zoroastrians, and other religious minorities being exterminated by ISIS over Syrian Muslims? You're an Islamophobe. Do you express concern with the fact that Muslim populations in foreign countries refuse to assimilate into those countries' societies and cultures, oftentimes becoming hotbeds for home-grown terrorists? You're an Islamophobe. Do you think that ISIS, whose members quote Koranic scripture, shout "Allah Akbar" ("Allah is great") in battle, and enforce strict Sharia law, is Muslim? You're also an Islamophobe. And none of these politicians ever label a Muslim as a "Christophobe" or a "Judeophobe" when the entire Arab world, excluding Egypt, has never at any point recognized Israel's sovereignty or when ISIS commits genocides of Christians in their territory. It's a double standard that needs to end. Furthermore, the tide of anti-Christian bigotry needs to be abated. Oftentimes, criticism of Muslim terrorists will be countered by the claim that "the Christians were no better in the Crusades." The Crusades happened almost a millennium ago! There is no moral equivalence between atrocities committed by Christians in the 11th Century and atrocities committed by Muslims in the 21st Century. Christianity, as a religion, has matured to the point where its members no longer seek to slaughter those who do not follow their specific version of Christianity, yet its members are treated by the Left as a potential mob of hate-filled religious extremists. It's time for the Left to stop indicting Christians for the global problem of Islamic terrorism.

Nicholas Reid graduated from high school in Loudoun County and is studying geology at the South Dakota School of Mines. He plans to be a paleontologist.



Go Out Without Going Far! Franklin Park Arts Center

36441 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132
www.franklinparkartscenter.org 540-338-7973



CHINESE NEW YEAR EVENT Saturday, February 20 1:00-4:00PM

(All Ages) Choy Wun Dance Company will perform a traditional lion dance and martial arts demonstration in our theater and then invite audience members on stage to participate in the lion dance. Items from the Confucius Institute at George Mason University will be on display in the lobby, along with artwork from our Youth Art Show celebrating the Year of the Monkey! Simple crafts, refreshments also included in the celebration. Register on webtrac or call 540-338-7973

Tickets: Webtrac 263715-01 \$10 person 263715-02 \$35 family of 4 +



LOUDOUN CENTRE THEATRE: HAIRSPRAY

Friday & Saturday, Feb. 5, 6, 12, 13 7:30PM,
Saturday, Feb. 6, 13 2:30PM

The big musical hit, winner of eight Tony Awards, that will sweep you away to 1960's Baltimore where the '50s are "so out" and change is in the air. Transformed into an overnight teen celebrity, Tracy Turnblad teaches 1962 Baltimore a thing or two about integration and fair play.

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door www.thelct.org

MAD CAP PUPPETS: UNDER THE BONSAI TREE

Wednesday, Feb. 17 10:00AM

Welcome to the wonderful world of the bonsai tree! When it's time for Ko, a little beetle, to say goodbye to the safety and comfort under the bonsai, he must confront his fears of leaving the only home he has ever known.

Tickets: \$5 Pay at the door



LAST HAM STANDING COMEDY IMPROV

Friday, Feb. 19 8:00 PM

Don't miss this hilarious show full of laughs for the entire family. If you like Whose Line

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Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors, \$8 Kids

LOUDOUN SYMPHONY PRESENTS : A LITTLE CHAMBER MUSIC

Sunday, Feb. 21 3:00PM

Loudoun Symphony presents a chamber concert featuring small ensembles on a variety of pieces from Rossini to Hoagy Carmichael.

Tickets: \$30 Adults, \$25 Seniors,
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www.loudounsymphony.org or at the door



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Saturday, Feb. 27 7:00PM
Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$10 Child,
Call to reserve 703-723-8089

LOUDOUN SCHOOL OF BALLET WINTER SHOWCASE

Sunday, Feb. 28 3:00PM
Tickets: \$10 All Seats, Pay at the Door

GALLERY COFFEEHOUSE: "LOVE LETTERS"

Sunday, Feb. 14 6:30PM
Tickets: \$8 Pay at the door

GALLERY COFFEEHOUSE: THE COMEDY CULT IMPROV

Sunday, Feb. 21 6:30PM
Tickets: \$8 Pay at the door





Join us – at our 6th Annual

Loudoun Grown EXPO

February 27, 2016 10 am - 5 pm
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250 S. Nursery Ave., Purcellville, in the Fireman's Field complex.

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Western Loudon Volleyball Club “Hitmen” Team Finishes Second

The Western Loudon Volleyball Club U14 boys team, called the “Hitmen,” finished second in a tournament held January 17. This is the first ever boys team for the WLVCB (and only the second boys club in the area). Coach Allan Kotmel led the seven-member team.

WLVCB started 8 years ago, dedicated to its motto, “when we serve well, good things happen.” Over the years, the program has grown, adding resources and programs, and is at its largest participation levels in 2016 with more than 140 families from Purcellville, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Leesburg and parts of Clarke County involved. The WLVCB is also active by volunteering in the local community by supporting efforts with Interfaith Relief Services and Loudoun County Animal Services.



Back (left to right): Head Coach Allan Kotmel, Andrew Plowman, Spencer Holdridge, Alex Kotmel, Ethan O'Rourke
Front: (left to right): Parker Osoba, Tiernan Caulfield, Ryan Croson

Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

have with your children to get things done. If a snow storm causes school to be cancelled, snow days are an excellent time to get those doctor and dentist appointments for your children checked off your to-do list. There might be some family chores or tasks that everyone could do together. You might also pack the kids in the car to run the many errands you need to get done but haven't had the time for. Perhaps you could compromise with lunch or some frozen yogurt out to make the time doing errands more agreeable to your kids.

Extend your children's screen time. As we all know, most children and teens enjoy video games and social media. So, relax your rules and restrictions a little to let your children have extended fun with their screens. The more social and interactive you can make your children's screen time the better. Show some interest in your children's games, and maybe even grab a controller and jump in as a parent. You could also use this time and opportunity to introduce your children to educational apps and games. Family movie time is a great idea too.

Encourage down time. Snow days can be over stimulating for all involved – including parents! And too much excitement without enough structure can lead to fights, behavioral problems and punishments. Reading, draw, arts and crafts are a few quiet activities to consider in between the more active fun moments.

Set-up play dates. Encourage your older children to spend time with their friends both outside and inside, and use your parent network to set up play dates for your younger children. If you work from home (or just for your own piece of mind), there may be blocks of time where you will want the noise level lowered and the kids out of the house. Planning ahead with other parents for this can be a great help.

Get some schoolwork done. If your children are out of school for an extended period of time due to a storm, staying on top of homework, projects or assignments or review is a good thing to do.

So, with snow storms, try to remember to keep things in perspective and enjoy the extra time with your children. Most of us work very long hours in Northern Virginia, and we don't get to spend as much time with our children as we'd like. Whether we Snowmageddon III this winter, or just a few inches, embrace the moment.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. is the Founder and Director of Ashburn Psychological and Psychiatric Services. Dr. Oberschneider has been featured on Good Morning America, CNN and other popular media spots as a mental health expert. He has also received the Washington Magazine “Top Therapist” honor for his work with children and teens. Go to www.Ashburnpsych.com or call 703 723-2999 to learn more.

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Absentee Ballots For March Primary Now Available

Loudoun County officials remind voters that absentee ballots for the March 1 presidential primary election are now available to eligible voters.

In-person absentee voting will take place at the Loudoun County Voter Registration Office, 750 Miller Drive, S.E., Suite C, Leesburg, 20175. The hours for absentee voting will be Monday through Friday, January 15 through February 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, absentee voting will be conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, February 27, the last day to vote an absentee ballot in person.

The last day for voters to apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to them is Tuesday, February 23. Absentee ballot applications

may be mailed to the above address.

The election is open to all registered voters in Loudoun County. The Commonwealth of Virginia does not recognize party affiliation when registering citizens to vote. Voters will be asked to choose which primary – Democratic or Republican – they wish to vote in upon arrival. Please note that the Republican Party of Virginia has determined that voters opting to vote in the Republican primary will be asked to sign a “statement of affiliation.”

More information about voting in Loudoun County, including the criteria for voting absentee, is online at www.loudoun.gov/vote.

Lovettsville Invests In Its Future

– By Nathaniel Stephens

If you have not passed through Lovettsville lately then you may be surprised at the major facelift the town has received over the past year; and if you have, then you are more than acquainted with the traffic jams stemming from the work. That once sleepy little town, mere pit stop for commuters, is now busy with construction crews expanding roads.

The “V” formation, what all this commotion has been referred to, is the culmination of years of planning.

With the approval of the Virginia Department of Transportation, for they possesses the streets of Lovettsville until the town’s population grows to the mandated 3,500 mark, the East Broad Way streetscape plan includes measures to modernize and expand the existing fresh water and waste water infrastructure. And at this point, crews should be finishing up the final production of cement curbs, street lighting and sidewalks built into the easements that were purchased from property owners.

The Mayor’s office originally budgeted back in 2010 the amount of two million dollars for E. Broad Way, which was later revised to \$2,700,000 after the acquisition of a contractor. This amount was insufficient and cost overruns were encountered. Lovettsville had to spend an additional \$200,000 “due to the cost of reconstructing the road [E. Broad Way] to a greater degree than previously planned by the design engineers” as it was described by the Mayor’s office.

Now to the west of Lovettsville, coming from Purcellville, Phase 1 of the 287 multi-use path will provide a means for pedestrians to walk and bike north from around the firehouse to the town’s center which is soon slated to host a commercial district. Then in Phase 2, the MUP will snake further out past Bonnie’s Country Kitchen to the north most edge of town. Residents will be pleased to see improvements to the road like storm water drainage that will end chronic flooding. At this moment all major work to Phase 1 of the MUP project is complete.

Reaching out to VDOT about progress on the MUP, Project Engineer Jim Zeller informed us that, “...there will be some ongoing utility work where overhead power and telecommunication lines are being raised to provide more vertical clearance between the lines and the adjoining property owner’s driveways. That work is expected to take place over the winter, weather permitting.” He could not tell us when to expect work on Phase 2 though saying “there is no schedule for Phase 2 because there is no funding for construction”.

He went on to say that “[All] financing of the project is a combination of federal, state, county and town funds. The cost to design the whole project and construct Phase 1 is approximately \$2.2 million”. Construction on MUP’s Phase 2 shall begin when the appropriate amount funds are collected and set aside.

While there have been overruns and traffic congestion, Robert Zoldos, the current Mayor of Lovettsville, is hoping to achieve needed economic growth with the investment in both the MUP and E. Broad Way streetscape. “Our goals

with both projects were to develop a downtown that is accessible to those walking, biking and driving. This will help attract businesses to the Town which are needed by the residents and will help expand the tax base which will reduce taxes on residents. These projects also will help with parking in these areas and remove the threat of flooding with the storm sewer that was added during the project.”

Will the growth of Lovettsville threaten the local economy by detracting business from the traditional hubs of commerce in Purcellville and Leesburg? Given Lovettsville’s prime location on the state line, the town has the potential to pull not only from Purcellville and Leesburg, but also across the Potomac in Brunswick, Point of Rocks, and Knoxville. The Mayor said: “We want to be more attractive to businesses who want to serve Lovettsvillians, but I don’t believe that this will detract from other Towns. With Loudoun being one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, I believe that there is more than enough demand for businesses in every Town in Loudoun” and with these improvements the town will grow that number by attracting new residents, shoppers and businesses.

Lovettsvillians and commuters passing through should not expect traffic delays like those previously encountered which had drivers waiting for a half hour or more. As for VDOT, Mr. Zeller has explained that, “lane closures generally are allowed from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday. This practice avoids the more severe delays that drivers could experience if lanes are taken out of service during peak periods. If there is work that requires lanes to be closed for longer periods, or the road to be completely closed, VDOT will coordinate alternate routes with the community, which involves more extensive public outreach”.

For more information about the recorded sources for financing and where it can be found, see below for a list of resources and contacts:

Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), a Federal government social welfare initiative for states and counties through the Department of Housing and Urban Development to benefit low to moderate income persons through community investment. www.loudoun.gov/cdbg; www.hud.gov search: cdbg

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program, a state program created in response to a Federal mandate that dictates Virginia, as well as any other state, must budget a certain amount of its Surface Transportation Program funds to cover road system upgrades. www.virginiadot.org/business/prehancegrants.asp

Loudoun County Gas Tax (LCGT), one of the added costs we pay at the pump. www.loudoun.gov/treas

Town of Lovettsville, any revenue taken in by the town and appropriated to a budget by the Town Council. All budget information, for the town, can be found on its website. www.lovettsvilleva.gov; (540) 822. 5788

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), for general questions call: 1 (800) 367. 7623

Answers to puzzle from page 24

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