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Catesby Proposal Strikes Deep Into The Heart Of Western Loudoun



– By Andrea Gaines

In December 2004, tech giant Robert E. LaRose and his wife Gail put their 160-acre historic gem – Catesby Farm – into a permanent open space easement. The

majority of the properties around Catesby are also under easement, protecting thousands of acres of rare Virginia piedmont. The area is rich in Civil War and African-American history, and is part of the Beaverdam Creek Historic Roadways District. Three

nearby properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places – Crednal 1814, Welbourne 1770-1830, and Rose Hill 1820.

Catesby was used as a personal retreat occasionally until LaRose's death in 2010

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Chapman Appeals State Decision; Easement Overvalued By 95 Percent

– By Valerie Cury

In 2008, Purcellville developer John Chapman, of Chapman Brothers LLC and Valley Medical Center LLC, placed approximately 10 acres of vacant land located near the intersection of Hatcher Avenue and Hirst Road in conservation easement. Known as the Chapman DeMary Trail, the long, narrow parcel is in a FEMA flood plain, with South Fork Catoclin Creek winding through the property.

A pre-donation appraisal is required to put a property in conservation easement. The higher the development value of land in question, the larger the tax benefit afforded the donor. The appraisal Chapman submitted to the state valued the property at \$4.3 million dollars. The C-1 commercial office zoning that ran with the property would have allowed nearly 400 parking spaces, and commercial buildings of 112,000 square feet.

In December of 2008 – the Virginia Department of Taxation verified the conservation easement, and provided land preservation tax credits in the amount of \$1,945,600 to Chapman. Property owners may use the tax credits themselves, or sell them to individuals who can claim the credits on their federal and state tax returns. At the time the easement was approved, however, VDT also stated – in a letter dated Dec. 31, 2008 – that, “Any value of the donation on which the credit is claimed is subject to review, audit, and challenge by all appropriate tax authorities.”

In June 2011, VDT notified Chapman Brothers LLC and Valley Medical Center LLC that, based on its review, original and subsequent appraisals were not satisfactory,

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First Annual Turkey Pardoning In Purcellville

– By Andrea Gaines

This one got away ...

In the 1860s, a White House reporter noted that a live turkey had been brought home for the Christmas dinner, but President Lincoln's son, Tad “interceded in behalf of its life ... [wherein] the plea was admitted and the turkey's life spared.”

More modern presidents have followed suit, with some naming the bird, as the gift of a continued life was bestowed. Reagan pardoned a turkey named Charlie, and Obama gave one lucky bird the name Courage. Ironically, for many years the pardoned birds were sent to Frying Pan Park in Fairfax County (under protest, I'm sure!). Other times, they lived out their natural lives at Mount Vernon or Disneyland ...

Joining in the tradition, at noon on Saturday, Nov. 5, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, members of Town Council and Chair Phyllis Randall will pardon Lord Percy, a



Elaine Boland owner of Fields of Athenry Farm, and Side Saddle Café in Middleburg, in Purcellville with some of her turkeys. Not pictured is Lord Percy, her lucky turkey!

heritage breed representative from Fields of Athenry Farm south of Purcellville on Snickersville Turnpike. Join us at Town Hall for the ceremony.

Shopping Guide – Take A Drive And Spruce Up Your Holidays

Years ago, I made a rare appearance as the chef for my family's Thanksgiving dinner.

I had finger foods lined up for the pre-dinner nibbles. I had ordered my turkey, planned out my vegetable dishes, and knew who was bringing what in terms of beverages and dessert.

Thinking about my seating plan – and whether I had enough chairs for everyone – I looked down at my box of so-called “holiday linens” and thought, “How boring!”

That day turned into an afternoon of poking around my favorite shops to find that perfect accent for my Thanksgiving table. What I found was an old \$6 wicker cornucopia basket. I filled it with fresh oranges and apples – and decorated it with a scattering of gold painted acorns, autumn leaves, and a dramatic ribbon. It made a really lovely centerpiece.

Area shops, markets, country stores, museums, and fairs, in fact, have everything you need for your holiday table and your

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The Task Force strongly encourages the Board to preserve the entire Transition Policy Area as part of the Comprehensive Plan. Changes in density to this area are tantamount to a mega-rezoning without the benefit of developer accountability, future citizen input and the oversight from subsequent elected Loudoun County Boards.

NoRt50on620.com

ASK DR. MIKE

– By Michael Oberschenider, Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

I am approaching the one-year anniversary of my dad's death, and I'm still very angry with him for how he left his remaining money to my older brother, my younger brother and me. My husband and I have two daughters and my older brother has two sons. My younger brother is single and doesn't have any children. My father had \$900,000 when he passed away, and he left my older brother \$800,000, which included trust funds for my brother's two sons' colleges. My younger brother and me got the remaining \$50,000 each.

I was assuming that my dad would just split the family's inheritance equally. Our parents paid for our colleges, they gave my older brother and me money for our weddings, and they were pretty much always even steven with us as adults. So, imagine how shocked my younger brother and I were to learn that that because in the Will I am "wealthy" and because my



Dr. Mike

younger brother doesn't have children, my dad decided to give the majority of his inheritance to my older brother and his children to make things "fair."

My younger brother and I have tried to talk to my older brother about splitting things equally, but my older brother refuses to and all we have done is fight. My younger brother and I decided to terminate our relationship with him this past summer.

My aunt recently told me that our "Italian family history" and name meant a lot to my dad and that is also what led to the uneven distribution of money in his Will. I guess my dad thought it was best to double down on my brother and his two grandsons to continue his progeny and the family's name because I meant so much less being a daughter?

I've wanted to fly out to visit the cemetery and his grave site but I'm too upset. I also want to get over my anger and I want to remember my dad in good ways, but every time I try I just go back to feeling less loved and less important.

Concerned Parent in Loudoun County

Continued on page 15







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Swiiiish! Virginia Storm Trounces Vulcans

175-121 In Home Game Opener

– By Andrea Gaines

The Virginia Storm Basketball Team burst on the south east's competitive sports scene with a gigantic, over-the-top win – 175 to 121 – against the RDC Vulcans at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville Oct. 29.

VA Storm – part of the American Basketball Association, which just signed the group on as their 100th team for the 2016-2017 season – is a sports and family entertainment organization. It is designed to give players opportunities to advance their careers in post collegiate play with the potential to move them up in the basketball world, be it with overseas play, in association with the NBA D League, or with the NBA.

The team itself is a sister team to the Winchester Storm, which represented that city for over 6 years. As VA Storm – and with Winchester's strength as its foundation – the team is now participating in the ABA to step up into a more competitive and tenured league.

Professional basketball kingpins Norman Blowe, Jr. and his wife, Mardesky are the guys and gals behind the VA Storm



Head Coach Harvey Grant

effort. Former Washington Wizards and Washington Bullets NBA Player Harvey Grant – who also played for the Portland Trailblazers, Orlando Magic and the Philadelphia 76ers – recently signed on as VA Storm's 2016-2017 Head Basketball Coach.

Getting to games couldn't be more convenient for the basketball lovers in our area – VA Storm's home court is Patrick

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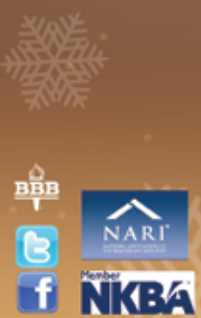
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Lowering High Utility Rates – New Town Council’s Priority

– By Valerie Cury

In late October, the Purcellville Town Council held an open meeting with the Municipal & Financial Services Group President Edward J. Donahue III and manager Eric Callocchia. The town’s financial advisor Kyle Laux from the Davenport Group was also in attendance. The town council is looking for ways to reduce utility rates for citizens. One of the ways the town council is trying to accomplish this is by exploring ways to generate new revenue that can help reduce utility cost.

Callocchia described the challenges towns and cities have throughout the country. He pointed out that utility rates keep rising because the infrastructure needed to support the utilities keep getting more and more expensive.

The town council is concerned with utility rates in part due to the utility debt inherited from decisions made during Robert Lazaro’s tenure as mayor. Nearly a decade ago the Lazaro council chose to upgrade Purcellville’s water treatment plant beyond what was mandated. The plant at the time was operating at 40 percent of capacity. There was a funded mandate of 6 million dollars to complete

Ogelman asserted that the town cannot grow its way into cheaper utility rates because growth requires evermore complex and costly utility infrastructure. Callocchia responded, “That’s absolutely correct.”

required infrastructure improvements. The Lazaro council chose to invest excess funds beyond the mandate because they wanted the town to have infrastructure in place to attract growth, thus saddling Purcellville with the current utility debt.

Council Member Ryan Cool suggested creative thinking – new ideas for revenue options, and said he didn’t want to see modeling the system based on yearly rate increases of 3 percent for water and 5 percent waste water. He suggested simplifying the rate tiers – something that Callocchia pointed out as well, suggesting that the town reduce them. Cool suggested the town should expand revenue options. Cool also recommended the town go to a monthly utility billing system to make the

cost more manageable for customers.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser said the current utility system is broken and needs to be changed. He said the council consistently hears complaints from citizens with unmanageable \$300 utility bills. Since his first term as mayor, he has been pushing for bulk water sale of the town’s excess water as a means of reducing utility bill pressure. Fraser has also suggested using revenue from the town’s meal tax to reduce the utility debt. Council Member Kelli Grim said she wants to see as many options as possible. After the meeting, Grim confirmed with the consultants that the town’s bond rating would not be effected if the council would establish financial policies that put in place criteria to use a portion of the meals

tax or other town revenue to pay toward the utility debt or future upkeep of water and sewer facilities.

Town Manager Rob Lohr focused on the use of availability fees (growth) as a means of avoiding rate increases. Council Member Nedim Ogelman questioned the assumption that the town could avoid rate increases through the water availability fees that would come with increased growth. Ogelman asserted that the town cannot grow its way into cheaper utility rates because growth requires evermore complex and costly utility infrastructure. Callocchia responded, “That’s absolutely correct.” Cool echoed this sentiment saying that building is not a solution for getting rid of utility rate hikes.

After the meeting, Director of Public Works, Alex Vanegas addressed creative ways of mitigating utility rate increases saying, “The Town of Purcellville has many ways to generate revenue and support the utility fund. For example, opportunities exist for redevelopment and buildout of existing parcels. There are also other revenue opportunities such as bulk water sales, selective timbering and administrative cost savings – such as online utility billing and payment as opposed to mailing out the bills.”

Letters To The Editor

Comstock Supports School Choice

Dear Editor:

As a mother, I support school choice. I believe in unique educational opportunities for all children. No two children are the same, so they shouldn’t be forced into a one-size-fits-all education box. Parents should be given the opportunity to craft an approach to education that works for their child. For some, that may mean public schools with a specialized after school program. For others, that might mean a charter or parochial school. For other still, that might mean homeschooling.

Congresswoman Barbara Comstock understands the needs of parents because she is a mom. She’s watched her children grow up and she understands the difficult choices parents have to make when it comes to their child’s education.

In Congress, Comstock supported the “Every Student Achieves Act,” a landmark piece of legislation that expands school choice and supports high-quality charter schools. This legislation will empower local leaders to create the opportunities that their children need to succeed.

Congresswoman Comstock understands that one-size-fits-all education solutions aren’t solutions at all. She’s been a strong support of choice for parents and students – and that’s why she’s my choice on November 8.

Jamie Gahun
Aldie

A New Location – But No Notification To The Neighborhood

Dear Editor:

It wasn’t until reading the latest issue of Loudoun Now that I found out Marty Dougherty has purchased 64 acres near my home with the intention of building his B Chord Brewery enterprise there. Unfortunately, I did not receive this information until after the hearing held on Oct. 20.

As I was not present at this hearing, my question is whether the “people living ... near the property” who “have expressed support for his plans to build a farm brewery growing hops or grain on the property for use in the brewery” are aware that, at least as regards to his failed attempt to build his B Chord Brewery in Bluemont, Mr. Dougherty’s business plan also included daytime and nighttime festivals and outdoor concerts.

Perhaps Mr. Dougherty has now modified his ambitions for B Chord Brewery and truly does intend to build it as a ‘farm brewery’ this time – but there’s also the chance that, as with the Bluemont location, nothing is being said openly about the business plan including lighted, amplified, heavily-attended planned events. By omitting to openly mention this bit of information, perhaps Mr. Dougherty is hoping that the various applications and permits needed to proceed will go forth without neighborhood conflict – without the need for future hearings and proceedings regarding restrictions as to the

accompanying heavy traffic, large crowds, loud music and annoying and intrusive nighttime lighting ... perhaps.

There are still a great many individuals who believe in the honor of a handshake; with Mr. Dougherty and his ilk, I would strongly suggest bringing your salt shaker.
Sherrie Sidman
Round Hill

Bennett Will Move Congress Forward

Dear Editor:

Next January, a new President and a new Congress will be sworn into office. Over the last several years, the lack of cooperation between the President and the Congress has led to gridlock, with nothing getting done.

Whoever we elect to represent the 10th Congressional District must be able to help move Congress forward and take the necessary steps to make our government function again. Congress is facing issues, such as repair of the nation’s infrastructure, that are going to require bipartisan cooperation to resolve. What we need is fewer partisan warriors and more collaboration.

Our current Congressman, Barbara Comstock, is a well-known partisan, who walks in lock step with the Republican hierarchy. We cannot count on her to take any actions that might endanger her place in the party’s firmament.

We need a pragmatic newcomer. LuAnn

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Purcellville October Town Council Meetings



– By Valerie Cury

Town Council Meeting Oct. 11 Zoning Text Amendment:

In early October, the Purcellville Town Council voted to send zoning text amendments to the Planning Commission for review. The motion, initiated by Council Member Kelli Grim passed 5-2 with Council Members Doug McCollum and Chris Bledsoe voting no. The zoning text amendments include the following:

- Change the zoning ordinance back to lower the maximum building heights allowed in the C-4 District. This includes 21st Street, Hatcher and parts of Main Street – the Downtown Central Commercial District. In 2008, the Lazaro Council raised the building heights allowed in this district from 35 ft. to 65 ft. – six stories – based on the advocacy of developers John Chapman and Mark Nelis and the Vineyard Square development. This review, if passed, would keep building heights in line with the original purpose of the district.
- Change the ordinance to add tree preservation requirements on non-residential properties, and to increase the required tree and vegetative plantings within the stream and creek buffer.
- Added screening and buffering requirements – this would provide buffers and screening between commercial and residential properties to minimize harmful impacts.
- Change the ordinance to add civil financial penalties for violations to the zoning ordinance related to signage, landscaping, starting a

building project without a permit, outside storage of vehicles on commercial property to name a few.

Grim, who is also the council liaison to the planning commission, said that the review was based on the Comprehensive Plan and issues that had been on the Planning Commission priority list for quite some time. Grim pointed out that Catocin Corner (Main Street and 287) was a perfect example, noting that if there had been an updated zoning text amendment at that time, some mature trees could have been saved. She noted that the residents have expressed their concern about these issues. “At the time in 2008 when the changes occurred, they were in direct conflict with the Comprehensive Plan.”

Council Member Nedim Ogelman said, “As members of the Town Council what we do is we express and represent the values of our citizens. This is a value that has been expressed by the citizens of the town and by the Planning Commission – we are saying yes we want you to pursue these things.”

Other Topics:

- The Council voted unanimously not to raise the business tax rates for the next year.
- The Town Council also voted to pass the sports grant funding program, supports sports organizations and provides \$5,200 in funding. Started in 2008, this has been managed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to help various teams from around Loudoun County come to the Town Council asking for money. Said Grim, “We want to help first and foremost the children in our community.” Council Member Karen Jimmerson said, “I would like

to see it go to kids who can’t afford to play sports – so that they can and that they are residents of Town because it is their tax money.” She continued, “My biggest problem with this is that it doesn’t go to the kids who need it. Most of the teams that have gotten the money in prior years have not been Purcellville based teams – they are from all over.”

Town Council Meeting Oct. 25 Local Control Over Annexations

- Council Member Nedim Ogelman raised the issue of two resolutions passed by a majority on previous council.
- One resolution considers the annexation wishes of Loudoun County land owners as a part of Purcellville’s Comprehensive Plan Review.

The other resolution requests that the County Board of Supervisors collaborate with the Town to consider the annexation proposal from Pleasants Kline – Purcellville Crossroads.

Ogelman said he would like to revise part of the first resolution and repeal the second resolution. Ogelman said he wants to take action on these resolutions because they do not represent the values that most Purcellville citizens expressed during the election. All of the newly-elected members of the Town Council campaigned on not expanding Purcellville’s borders, unless there was widespread citizen demand. These two resolutions as written don’t “reflect what we’re doing and why we are having a Comprehensive Plan,” said Ogelman.

Town staff has been using the two resolutions as a guide to the Planning Commission during the review.

Chapman Challenges Citizens/Local Farmers On Facebook

The social media world lit up recently with, Sam Chapman’s Facebook claim that Sam and Uta Brown, owners of Crooked Run Orchard in Purcellville, were seeking new commercial zoning for their property. Chapman also suggested that the rezoning might be connected to the current Comprehensive Plan Review, citing the website developed to keep citizens updated on the process: www.planpurcellville.com. The post was also marketed as an advertisement for greater coverage.

Chapman, son of developer John Chapman, was defeated early this year in his quest to join the Purcellville Town Council, but is still maintaining his Facebook page for that purpose.

Referring to the comp plan review, Sam Chapman’s Oct. 22 message urged readers to “Attend these meetings and see first hand [sic] how the crooked ran orchard will get their property ‘upzoned’ to commercial FREE of charge.” The message and challenging tone of Chapman’s post continued, “The Browns are the most clever developers in Purcellville. More details coming soon. Who’s in whose pocket?” and finished with the hashtag #scheme #factcheck.

This is a baseless statement and the Browns continue with their long-term goal of placing their entire farm in a conservation easement to protect and preserve it for future generations.

Sam and Uta Brown have been working to hold on to their farm and protect it from development for many decades, despite the town taking 8 acres by quick take condemnation that split their farm in two. A post on the citizen-member Facebook page called Purcellville Matters described Chapman’s post as “sour grapes” referring, perhaps, to Chapman’s electoral defeat.

The farm, in fact, has been in Sam Brown’s family for 250 years, and part of the property is already under conservation easement. Citizens attending Comprehensive Plan meetings have continued to express their desire to see the farm remain open space.

Polco Goes Online In Purcellville Get Involved In Your Local Government

Polco, a civic engagement platform to help people get involved in their local government is now live and ready for citizens of Purcellville to get engaged in issues relating to the town. There are many ways to interact with the Polco program – including by voting, by commenting and by sharing. Everyone can “vote,” and votes and will be cross-referenced with the voter file, so only registered voters of a particular town can vote on an issue. This also limits

everyone to one vote.

The program was initiated by Council Member Nedim Ogelman and passed unanimously by the town council. Ogelman said, “We need your ideas, thoughts and concerns related to issues [in] Purcellville.” He continued, “We need broad citizen input to make the smart decisions citizens want.”

Polco was formed in May 2015 and founded by military vets who love

technology. Their love of technology is combined with their love of public policy. “We like to give citizens a voice in their local government. We want to foster more citizen involvement. Polco helps busy citizens have a venue to know the issues and weigh in on them,” said Nick Mastronardi, Founder and CEO of the company.

Citizens can comment after they vote, and Polco keeps track so citizens can see all comments on the same side of how

they voted. They can only interact with comments for the positions which match their own. The questions have yes, no or multiple choice answers.

To participate, go to www.Polco.us and locate the dedicated page for Purcellville. The first thing they ask is for your zip code. There is also a “read more” link – and there the opportunity to learn more about it. All you need to do is sign up.

LuAnn
Bennett
FOR CONGRESS



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To Pave Or Not To Pave

The Strange Saga Of Greggsville Road



– By Andrea Gaines

Some things seem to move really slow here in western Loudoun County – that hay-hauling tractor in front of you on Snickersville Turnpike, or the gang of wild turkeys trying to make it to the other side, for example. And, some things seem to happen virtually overnight.

For Madeline Skinner and her husband Mark – owners of the Philomont General Store – things moved way too fast with the recent VDOT/Loudoun County decision to pave all 2.8 miles of Greggsville Road (end to end), from Jeb Stuart Road to Telegraph Springs Road – which are both also gravel roads.

First, neighbors saw engineers taking readings and measurements, and placing red stakes at various points in the road. Inquiries were made to find out what was going on with Greggsville Road. But, at that point the public hearing had already taken place, and the Board of Supervisors had already voted to approve the secondary roads six-year plan including the paving of Greggsville Road.

In a strange twist, the funding for the work on Greggsville will come, not through VDOT to the county, but via funding secured by Senator Dick Black (R-13th District). Black first submitted earmark legislation to fund the paving project. That earmark did not make it into the final state budget, so Black requested funding as part of a “pilot program.” Opponents of the paving say that this was approved despite the fact that Greggsville did not meet the required pilot project criteria. To qualify, Greggsville would need to intersect with “existing paved roads” at both ends. Greggsville Road meets gravel roads on both ends – Telegraph Springs and Jeb Stuart Roads are both gravel. Greggsville Road is also a very low traffic road.

The twisty-turny way the road ended up on a list to be paved was further complicated by the fact that Senator Black’s third highest campaign donor – who contributed \$101,400 to Black – lives on Greggsville Road, leading several citizens to question the motivation behind what one called this

“road to nowhere.”

In fact, Senator Black has been clear in his support of paving Greggsville saying: “Please pave the road ... I’m not for many of them, but this is one we ought to do.”

Although not suggesting any impropriety, neighbors claimed that it is very rare for a Virginia state official to get involved in the paving of a little known rural road.

“I respect Senator Black’s stand on issues of importance to the State of Virginia,” said a nearby neighbor. “But, I’m surprised he would have his hands in this kind of thing. Locals should make these decisions.”

Many of those in favor of the paving live in the nearby newer subdivisions of Hunting Hill and Willowin. And, although records show that supporters of the Greggsville project have voiced their concerns about the condition of the road going back to 2014, there are questions about those activities, too.

Said Skinner, “I have the [2014] letter to Janet Clark ... from the Hunting Hill/Willowin HOA and their petition, also a letter to the Board of Supervisors by a concerned individual who worked very hard to share all these facts. To be clear, my husband’s and my name appear as signing the petition, it was an error on their part, we did not sign it. We DO NOT WANT Greggsville Rd. paved. The community’s safety is at risk. Speeds will increase, there is no question. Reconsider the decision.”

Further muddying the recent decision is a Rural Roads Update provided by Supervisor Geary Higgins (R-Catoctin) in his “Catoctin District Update” from October 2014.

In that update Higgins discusses a “Rural Road Ride” with Senator Black, Delegate Randy Minchew (R-10th District), Delegate Dave LaRock (R-33rd District), Henry Plaster of a local preservation group’s rural road committee and VDOT representatives. The purpose of the ride “focused on observing the progress of eleven rural roads selected by VDOT for additional maintenance this year ... to bring lasting maintenance solutions to the highest traveled and most resource-demanding

Continued on page 10



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- › Advance breakthroughs in 21st century cures for chronic disease such as cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes.
- › A 5 year Transportation Bill, signed into law, which will help relieve traffic congestion, provide more transportation funds, and make Metro safer and more accountable.
- › A \$600 billion tax relief package, signed into law, for families, small businesses and our technology and defense businesses.
- › Increased defense and cyber funding to protect us from terrorism.
- › Human Trafficking legislation, signed into law, that cracks down on this growing crime and protects women and children.
- › Started two Heroin Task Forces to battle the heroin scourge in our communities and advancing legislation to increase education, treatment and prevention.
- › Started the "10th Congressional District Young Women Leadership Program" for junior high and high school young women.

"I ask for your vote on Tuesday, November 8th."



As your Congresswoman, I will continue to work tirelessly to strengthen our national security and protect us from terrorism; advance breakthroughs in 21st century cures for chronic diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes; promote a 21st century economy with more opportunity and higher wage jobs; provide transportation funding and solutions; and fight the growing problem of human trafficking and heroin abuse in our community."

Barbara Comstock



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Greggsville Road, continued from page 8

gravel roads.” Higgins’ updated continued: “[the] Tour observed great improvements to the drainage and surface quality of the roads ... as of October 2014, all eleven roads identified as the Top 11 Priority Roads in Loudoun have been completed ... including Route 622 Greggsville Road between routes 611 [Telegraph Springs Road] & 630 [Jeb Stuart Road] – 2.81 miles.”

Although a paved, impervious surface is necessary for high traffic roads, dirt and gravel works just as well for low-traffic roads – as long their surfaces and basic features are well maintained. Specific maintenance techniques include keeping roadside ditches and drainage pipes in good working order, rounding out road edges to

facilitate water runoff, filling potholes in with gravel, treatments that reduce dust, etc. The photos shown here reflect the current condition on Greggsville Road between Jeb Stuart Road and North Fork Road, shortly after the road surface was dragged with basic road maintenance equipment.

Paved roads invite greater speeds and, by default, tend to favor car travel over uses such as walking, horseback riding and cycling, whereas well-maintained dirt roads accommodate all on a more equal basis.

The Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition represents some 30 organizations working to protect the county’s historic and environmental assets, including its outstanding network of rural roads. The organization’s Rural Roads



Committee has been working side-by-side with county officials and VDOT to protect historically significant roads, with Greggsville at the top of its list, along with Williams Gap Road, Nixon Road, Lakefield Road and Rocky Lane. “Almost all the rural roads we use today,” notes the LCPCC, “appear on Yardley Taylor’s 1854 map of Loudoun County ... Greggsville Road, also clearly visible on the 1854 map was named for the Greggs who owned and farmed property nearby in the early 19th Century ... This road was very likely used by the huge Federal Army of the Potomac as it came through Loudoun in late 1862 in pursuit of General Robert E. Lee after the terrible battle at Antietam.” According to LCPCC testimony, the rural road plan developed in by VDOT and the county “will do far more damage to our rural road network that is necessary to address [specifically] identified issues.”

LCPCC and the Loudoun County Equine Association, which also opposes the paving of Greggsville notes that while rural dirt roads can make automobile traffic

“Paved roads invite greater speeds and, by default, tend to favor car travel over uses such as walking, horseback riding and cycling, whereas well-maintained dirt roads accommodate all on a more equal basis.”

a little less convenient at times, they are irreplaceable assets to the mainstays of our rural economy and tourism industry. The equine industry alone – which includes horse events, horseback riding and training, as well as horse breeding and veterinary businesses – contributes \$180 million

annually to our economy (excluding property taxes). The industry also supports some 3,000 jobs and brings over 75,000 spectators and participants to Loudoun every year, one-third of them from out of state.

Supporters of the paving cite safety concerns. Records from the Loudoun County Sheriff’s office show just five incidents occurred on this stretch of road in the last five years (Jan. 2011 to Oct. 2016). Most involved driver error and one involved a car colliding with an animal.

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Nov 14 (Mon.) 6:30-8:00pm
Washington Dulles Airport Marriott
45020 Aviation Drive

Nov 15 (Tues.) 6:30-8:00pm
Clarion Inn Historic Leesburg
1500 E Market Street

Nov 16 (Weds.) 6:30-8:00pm
J Michael Lunsford Middle School
26020 Ticonderoga Rd.

Remembering Su Webb – Dedicated Preservationist



Photo by Sarah Huntington

One of Loudoun's strongest conservation and parks advocates, Su Webb, has died. Webb was found dead in her home on Oct. 18, by Loudoun County deputies sent to check on her after being alerted by family and friends that she had missed several regular meetings.

Webb was one of Loudoun County's most well-known preservationists and activists, working with organizations such as the Northern Virginia Parks Association – which she also headed for a time, the Piedmont Environmental

Council, the Aldie Heritage Association and the Lovettsville Park Advisory Board.

She was also worked as a journalist and was the founder of the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum and the Farm Museum at Claude Moore Park in Sterling, two of the county's most successful educational and recreational institutions.

Devotees of the historic Mt. Zion Church and the Aldie Mill Park owed Webb a great deal of gratitude and showed it on many, many occasions. Webb was instrumental in getting both transferred to the protective arms

of NOVA Parks. Webb was also recognized as a Loudoun Laurel – which identifies individuals who exemplify the very best of the traditions of public service, stewardship, and personal contributions to the life and history of Loudoun County.

Webb was also named the 2012 Heritage Hero by the Mosby Heritage Association.

Awards, accolades and praise followed her throughout her life, but friends and family say that she was most known for was her modesty, wisdom, her strength and her influence on the county we share.

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In Search Of An Author's Soul

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

Attending the National Book Festival has become a tradition for my mother and me. Attending the very first one, we heard Robert Caro speak on his latest tome about...you guessed it...LBJ. He was wooing the crowd with deep insights and strange tales of our flawed yet consequential 36th President.

Fourteen years later we return for a man wearing a distinctive black hat, his tall and lanky form betraying youth, despite his 59 years. He begins talking about his most recent work, *Kill 'em and Leave, In Search of James Brown and the American Soul*, but promises to speak about *The Color of Water*, since “that is what everyone wants to hear about...” Unlike that unexpected *New York Times* bestseller, his new book was written under a bit of duress. “My wife...now ex-wife...decided she no longer wanted to be married to me,” he says, which was quite “costly financially.” The divorce came on the heels of his beloved mother’s death, making it one of the hardest years of his life.

Writing is a method commonly employed to overcome wounds of the past. Putting words on paper is a way to process emotions and events. This project gave author James McBride a chance to escape, spending years in South Carolina, chasing after the mystery of James Brown. Focusing on someone else’s story, he catalogues the flaws in Brown’s character and the qualities that may serve to redeem his memory. He references the mess left behind by Brown, his \$100 million estate locked in the hands of lawyers and scorned family members, despite Brown’s wishes that it be left to educate children. McBride admits writing the book was not a pleasurable experience.

When *The Color of Water* “starting doing well, I bought my mother a car,” he explains, his voice softening by the mere mention of this woman. “She had this child-like wonder about it...about everything,” a trait she passed on to her children. In writing this book, “I lost it for a little bit,” he says with a tinge of regret. “I’m slowly getting it back now.”

Perhaps that “child-like wonder” is what makes *The Color of Water* so appealing. The book is about Ruth McBride, a woman born to an Orthodox Jewish family in Poland, who find their way to Suffolk, Virginia, where her father opens a grocery store. He was abusive, leading her to view Judaism “through the prism of her father’s brutality.” She chose to embrace Christianity, and married an African-American man. McBride’s own story is mixed in with hers, a story of a man trying to find himself in a world offering few answers.

“I don’t know anyone who wasn’t touched by this book,” a speaker stated during the question and answer portion of the event.



MOORE-SOBEL

Despite this fact, the book was not an “instant success.” One gets the sense that this was not unexpected. Perhaps this is why McBride has retained his “child-like wonder” over its success. His deep love of both music and writing serve as vehicles in which he can share the deep musings of his soul.

His desire to write books was born while writing his first story as a reporter about a house fire. Watching the house burn to the ground, he dutifully records the details. Upon reaching the office, he comes to a realization: “I felt like I couldn’t tell the full story.” With each succeeding story, he found himself having more to say, more than could be condensed in a mere thousand words. This is a problem I have been running into as of late. Maybe a book is in store.

“We both share a great love of our mothers,” I tell him after the event, and “this is my favorite book.” At the risk of giving too much away, I tell him that a similar story played out to the one described in the epilogue, sharing the story of the time my father went back to his childhood synagogue, after more than 25 years, with family in tow. How McBride springs to life, flawlessly reciting Mourner’s Kaddish in memory of the man for whom I am named, as if he has been transported back in time. This caused me to wonder: if my great-grandfather had remained alive, would my father have become a Christian...or married my mother? Much like McBride, I was left asking where I belonged in my father’s story. He laughed knowingly, and asked, “So it’s your father who is Jewish?”

We tell him of the possibility that my great-grandparents attended the same synagogue as his mother. He asks for their names, and they appear in blue ink right in the middle of the page. “I’m gonna check into that.” As he signs my book, I guess “I bet you miss your mother.” “Oh, with every breath...what I wouldn’t give for five more minutes with that woman,” he sighs. “Now ten...that might be too much...” This is the power of McBride, bringing us nearly to tears one moment, guiding us to the edge of laughter in the next.

Perhaps this book touched me because I saw shades of myself within McBride’s journey of self-discovery. In the book, he asks his mother, “Am I black or white?” She responds, “You are a human being. Educate yourself, or you’ll be a nobody!” I relate, albeit differently. Growing up with a Jewish father and a Christian mother, I wondered if I was Jewish or Gentile. The power of this book may be in the role it plays in freeing readers from identifying their humanity narrowly. As writers, we plumb the depths of our souls to rediscover the child-like wonder that inspires the color of hope.

Samuel Moore-Sobel found his favorite book around the age of ten. He has been working on a book of his own, even though he is certain he is not nearly as mesmerizing as James McBride.

Loudoun County Kicks Off Envision Loudoun Public Participation Needed In New Comprehensive Plan

Loudoun County is kicking off an 18-month initiative called Envision Loudoun, which will result in a new Comprehensive Plan. The plan will serve as the county government's guiding document for land use and development in the foreseeable future.

Members of the public are invited to attend one of four Listening and Learning workshops in November. Each meeting will follow the same format where participants are provided with an opportunity to discuss Loudoun County's future and to share ideas

through interactive activities in casual, small-group settings. All workshops are scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

- **Monday, Nov. 7:** National Conference Center, 18980 Upper Belmont Place, Leesburg
- **Monday, Nov. 14:** Washington Dulles Airport Marriott, 45020 Aviation Drive, Sterling
- **Tuesday, Nov. 15:** Clarion Inn Historic Leesburg, 1500 East Market Street, Leesburg
- **Wednesday, Nov. 16:** J. Michael

Lunsford Middle School, 26020 Ticonderoga Road

The November meetings are the first of several rounds of community engagement opportunities. Input from the community during these meetings will be used by a 26-member Stakeholders Comprehensive Plan Committee and county staff to form the foundation of Envision Loudoun. Subsequent phases include developing a new vision to guide and effectively manage future growth and development and adopting a New Comprehensive Plan.

"This is a truly exciting opportunity," said Department of Planning and Zoning Director Ricky Barker. "Envision Loudoun is an open, inclusive process that connects and engages people to provide meaningful opportunities to influence the future of our county."

Envision Loudoun will address growth, land use, transportation, community facilities and amenities, economic development, and fiscal management, and will have a lasting impact on the community.

Find out more at www.envision-loudoun.org.

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Dear Elaine, Goodbye For Now, I'll See You In The Watchfires

– By Andrea Gaines

The newly opened Museum of African-American of History and Culture in Washington has many, many precious things within its walls – tens of thousands of artifacts, mementos, and symbols of dreams-come-true that tell the African-American journey from slave ship to President of the United States.

The items range from the profoundly sad to the impossibly proud. A shard of glass from the 16th Street Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama where four little girls lost their lives in a Sunday morning bombing in 1963. A Gold Medal won by Carl Lewis at the 1984 Olympics.

There among them is a gift to America from a remarkable woman named Elaine Thompson, a long-time resident of Hamilton who passed from this life to the next on Sunday, Oct. 9.

The gift is a small tin box that belonged to Elaine's great-great-grandfather, Joseph Trammel. Inside the box are Joseph's 1852 freedom papers. "Certification" that the then-21-year-old was a freeman. Not bound to any man except himself.

Elaine Thompson dedicated her life to telling the African-American story through family members like Trammell – and everyone she met along the way. That was her life. That was her job. Whether teaching high school English, or volunteering at



Elaine Thompson with nephew, Jason Nichols

a bake sale to benefit black history, or working on her many, many history and research projects, that was her mission.

Elaine never stopped. She chaired the Emancipation Day in Purcellville. She secured a highway marker for the Emancipation grounds. She accepted speaking engagements every chance she got, and said something really worth thinking about each time she did. She helped found the Balch Library's Black History Committee. And, she was a mentor that the young and old went to, to learn how to excel at celebrating and living your best values.



I knew Elaine only briefly in this life. But, every time she shared an article with me, worked with me to plan an event, waved at me from across the room and gave me a warm smile, or simply poured me a glass of iced tea at her kitchen table, she made an impression on me. Upbeat ... then quiet ... but always with her eye on the cause. Always looking for an opportunity to share a story or listen to one of mine. Always wanting to know if I'd seen any of our mutual friends recently ... and how they were. She always made an impression on me.

Jason Nichols, Elaine's nephew, posted the picture you see here on her Facebook

page on Oct. 10, the day after she had moved on to her next life. Next to the picture he wrote six simple words, "My beautiful, brilliant aunt, Elaine Thompson." Beautiful. Brilliant. Yes, I agree.

In my favorite of Elaine's books, "In The Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association 1890-1971," she tells the story of how local African-Americans stuck by each other, protected each other, and all arrived at a better place, the safety of the watchfires, together.

I don't want to say goodbye to Elaine. I'll simply say, "Goodbye, for now. I'll see you in the watchfires."

Amy and Dan Smith's Planning For Life Guns And Estate Planning "Gun Trusts"

Due to the growth of gun ownership in the United States, there is the increased likelihood that estates will include guns. A thorough discussion of the application of federal and state gun laws is not possible in this article. However, responsible estate administrators can unknowingly violate gun laws, leading to "accidental felonies." Thus, some information may be helpful.



AMY & DAN SMITH

There are two categories of weapons as to which different restrictions apply. The highly regulated category is referred to as "NFA Weapons." These include short-barreled rifles and shot guns, fully automatic machine guns, silencers and components to build them, any other weapon (eg, pen and cane guns), and destructive devices (eg, grenades and missiles). All transfers of an NFA weapon must be approved by the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives). Thus, if an executor innocently delivers an NFA weapon (or even loans such a weapon) without ATF approval, he/she has committed a felony which carries possible imprisonment and

significant fines.

All NFA weapons must be registered. An unregistered NFA weapon (eg, a German machine gun grandfather brought back from WWII) is contraband and cannot be registered by the estate. The local ATF office should be contacted to arrange for abandonment.

Virtually all household guns, such as hunting rifles, sporting shotguns, revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, are non-NFA weapons. However, regulations still apply and can be traps for the unwary. For example, it is unlawful for certain persons, known collectively as "prohibited persons," to possess firearms, and it is a felony to transfer a firearm to a person who the transferor knows or "has reasonable cause to believe" is a "prohibited person." The prohibited person list includes anyone who has ever been convicted of a crime punishable for more than a year; is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance; has been adjudicated as a mental defective or committed to any mental institution; has ever renounced his/her US citizenship; is subject to a court order restraining the person from harassing stalking or threatening an intimate partner

or child of the intimate partner; or who has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

As an example, assume that Dad's estate contains some non-NFA shotguns which Dad used for hunting. The transfer of these shotguns does not need to be registered with the ATF because they are not NFA weapons. However, the estate administrator, one of Dad's sons, gives one of the guns to his brother who the administrator has reason to believe is abusing a controlled substance. In such case, the administrator is guilty of a felony.

The Gun Trust is a trust created to purchase and hold firearms. Usually a Gun Trust is used for NFA weapons, although it can hold non-NFA weapons as well. The Gun Trust is designed to prevent inadvertent violation of gun laws. It will include requirements for Trustee conduct specifically to conform to existing state and federal laws and will contain directions for the transfer of weapons following the death of the grantor of the trust.

An ATF official stated to your writer recently that, in his estimation, it is likely that only 4-6 percent of all weapons privately possessed in the US are NFA weapons. The vast majority of guns are

of the household type. Accordingly, the need for Gun Trusts is rather limited. He also stated that there is a proliferation of Gun Trust forms being downloaded and submitted with applications for transfers of NFA weapons. The forms are the same, even to the point of having the same *fictitious* beneficiaries. (See this column, *Do It Yourself Legal Products – Bargain or Trap*, June 1, 2016)

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From L to R: Council Member Nedim Ogelman, Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Council Member Ryan Cool. Three members of the Purcellville Town Council, along with others, played against the Virginia Storm in late October. The proceeds from the fundraising game went to the Storm's non-profit program, the Junior Storm. The score was Storm 112 to 33.

Storm, continued from page 3

Henry College in Purcellville.

Active in fundraisers, charity games, clinics and camps, VA Storm has lots to offer the Loudoun Community – starting with a very successful late October event for Generosity Feeds in Leesburg. Said Norman Blowe, “From travel ball to our player development, the Junior Storm Program will give Loudoun youth the opportunity to work towards current and future basketball goals, while teaching the importance of education, hard work to achieve life goals, strong interpersonal skills and individual responsibilities to follow through on the path of adulthood with a sense of pride and accomplishment. We are excited to not only bring professional basketball to Loudoun County but to become part of the community.” A Junior Storm youth program,



Opening tipoff... all eyes on the ball.

and professional dance team – The Stormettes – rounds out the VA Storm family provides learning opportunities, entertainment and great community spirit for everyone.

For more information, visit the team on Facebook at [facebook.com/VirginiaStormBasketball](https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaStormBasketball), or go to www.VirginiaStormBasketball.com. The next home game is Saturday, Nov.5

at 7 p.m. at PHC. The Storm home games are always at 7 p.m. on Saturdays and the schedule is as follows: Nov. 26, Dec.1, Jan 14, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 25, and March 4.

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

Concerned Parent,

As a psychologist, I've seen many adult children hurt and sibling relationships strained and even destroyed over a parent or grandparent or aunt or uncle attempting to make things “fair” by leaving disproportionate amounts of money to their offspring or family members.

There are times when equal inheritance may not be fair. For example, if a child or grandchild has a disability or medical condition with associated excessive medical or self-care expenses, a parent or parents may wish to leave more to that family member. But based on what you've written, there are no real hardships or problems for your two brothers or you. Your parents raised all three of you to be self-sufficient and responsible. They paid for your three college tuitions and even helped you as much as they could in adulthood.

If you want me to agree with you, I do. Had your father simply split his inheritance equally and three ways, you and your two brothers would've received \$300,000 each to do with as you wish for yourselves and/or your children. Your siblings and you would've accepted that and the hurt and resentment you and your younger brother feel

and the disharmony that now exists between you all would've been entirely avoided.

I don't agree with you, however, that your older brother is better off or that you should be upset with him. Sure, your father left him more money than he did your younger brother or you, but your father also put him in a tough situation. For your older brother, more money has come at the high cost of now being estranged from his hurt and angry siblings. And how do you think he might feel about himself as a man in the world knowing that his father viewed his career path and earnings to be so inadequate compared to his siblings that he needed extra help from him to be whole as a provider?

The real issue here though is not money but rather what the uneven amount means or represents to you as your father's daughter. Every child wants and needs their parents' love and approval; whether we're 4, 14 or 54 knowing that our parents are proud of us for our accomplishments and having their support will always matter. I get it, your father's Will challenges how you understand yourself in relation to him and your family and you are angry and hurt about it.

And while I understand your hurt and

anger, I would like to believe that your father's intentions in his Will came from a place of love, even if he got it wrong. If he could've foreseen the heartache his Will was going to cause your brothers and you, he likely would've been more even in his distribution of money.

Regarding your aunt's statements to you about your family's name and progeny, I don't know why she felt the need to tell you those things. Whether that information is correct or not, she likely knows how upset you already are, and it doesn't help for you to know those things.

At the end of the day, your father did what he did, and it seems to me that you still have quite a bit of work ahead of you in order to fully understand, accept and let go of what happened. I recommend that you start by making a conscious decision to let go of your pain. While your pain won't suddenly disappear, your commitment to moving on can finally begin. I think you might also find it helpful to begin to release your pain in relation to your father. You can do this by writing him letters or journaling or by visiting with him at his grave site and by having conversations with him there in thought and/or prayer.

In time, it's also my hope that you can

move away from your current angry position of being wronged by your father for what happened to a position of forgiveness.

I also hope that you are eventually able to heal your hurt and upset with your older brother and his family since he (and they) did nothing wrong. Your children and your nephews also did nothing wrong, and they shouldn't all have to suffer from being estranged because of your father's Will.

The author Oscar Wilde once said, “Children begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them; sometimes they forgive them.”

I hope your brothers and you are able to grasp the true meaning of Wilde's message, and I hope the points I've made here also serve to correct things for your family. Trust me, your moving toward a place of forgiveness in order to come together again as a family is much better for all involved than your remaining painfully stuck and isolated in a place of hurt and anger.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D., is a clinical psychologist in private practice. His new children's book on screen and media time management, 'Ollie Outside,' is released through Free Spirit Publishing. Go to AshburnPsych.com or call 703 723-2999.



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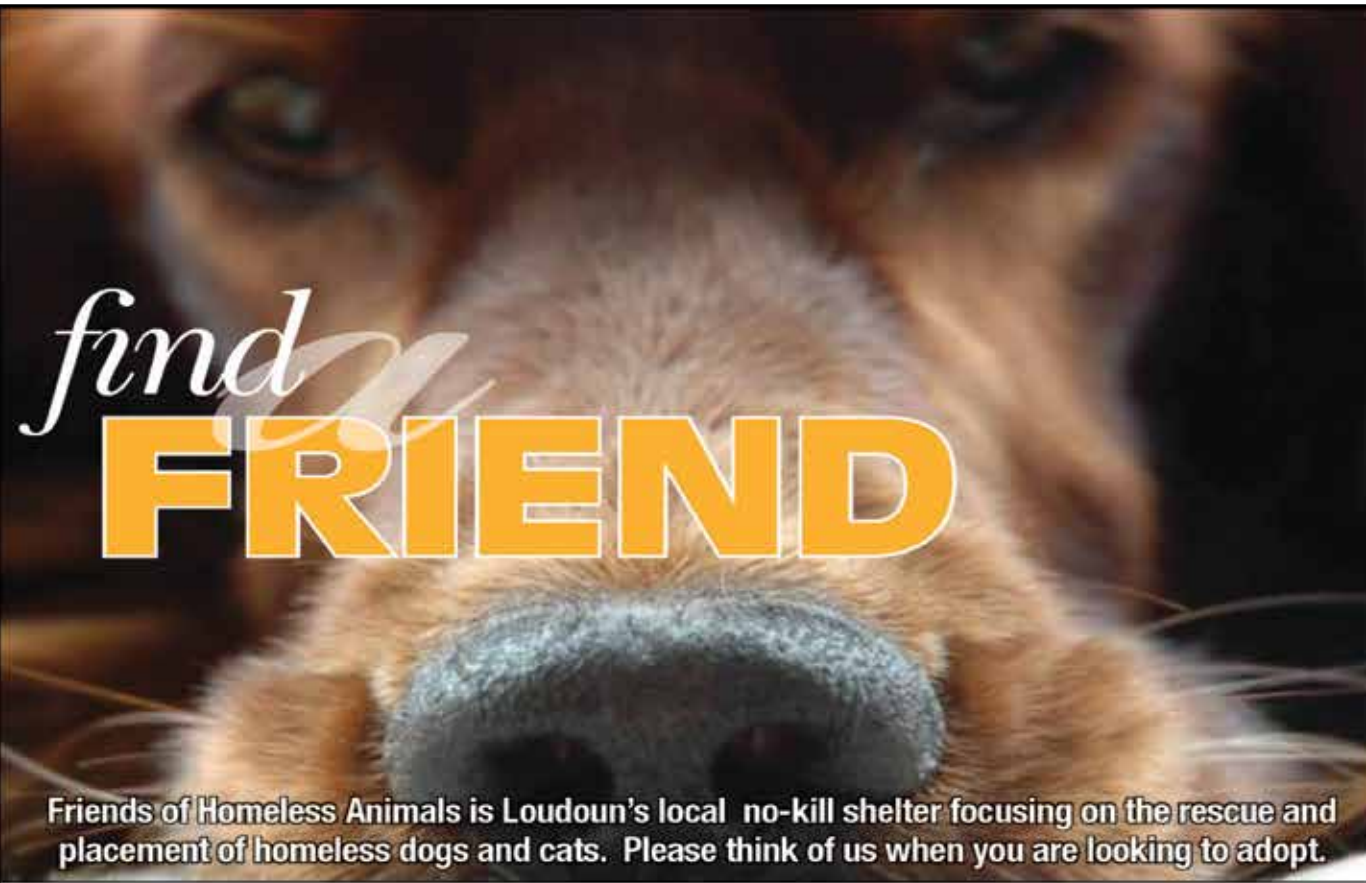
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The Truth About Teachers

— By Mary Rose Lunde

People underestimate teachers. Most commonly, people put teachers in categories such as: teachers that are horrible at teaching their subjects but are great people; “nightmare” teachers that no one likes; the hard graders who teach you a lot; the teachers that are nice but you don’t learn anything from, and still get good grades; and then the rarest of them all, the all-around great teachers. It is a rarity to find the perfect teacher because people are not perfect; however, they can sure try to be.

It is unfortunate that most people think about teaching as a curse. Some people may see it as a curse because students are exhausting; however, some see it as a way to encourage students. I recently read a book entitled *True Notebooks: A Writer’s Year in Juvenile Hall* by Mark Salzman.



LUNDE

It was inspiring to a class of ten who were about to embark on a journey to teach seventh graders how to enjoy English. Salzman’s final remarks encourage readers to get involved in people’s lives, by describing the experience he had with the boys in juvenile hall. Although Salzman’s experience was not something that many will go through, it reminds us that teachers are indeed influencing their students. The best teachers make the best students.

Teachers deserve more respect for what they do, shaping the lives of every student they encounter. Most people know that the “good” teachers and the “bad” teachers leave their mark and influence their kids. I speak from experience when I say the teacher makes the class. What fun is it to

learn a subject if teachers aren’t engaged and don’t enjoy what they teach?

The thing is, though, that there is such a shortage of teachers right now in America because of the reputation they have. Since many people think teaching is a “backup” of a job, most students in college will rarely consider teaching as their primary goal, unless they are truly passionate for their future students and the subject matter they intend to teach.

Personally, I have decided to become a teacher within the last month or so, and have already met a lot of backlash from people who think I won’t have the patience or won’t be able to succeed. As an English major, I already face the stigma of “not having a job” because the only thing to do with an English major is teach. I hate that mentality because there is so much to do with an English major. I just so happen

to enjoy teaching, and hopefully will be successful.

Teachers deserve more respect. From the many classes I’ve sat through, I’ve seen how much teachers work. As a student teacher this semester, I go into class after planning for a few hours, and teach 11 seventh graders for an hour. After that hour, I am overwhelmed by so many thoughts and emotions, most of which are positive. I can’t imagine right now what being a full-time teacher must be like, but based on my experiences, mostly good and some bad, I am inspired by teachers. They are the most influential people in a person’s lives. It’s time we realized and respected that.

Mary Rose Lunde is a Senior, double-majoring in Literature/Language and Creative Writing at Virginia Tech. She is excited to work hard to become an English teacher.

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The Cult of "Science"

— By Nicholas Reid

There is a disturbing trend developing within science, one which I have been exposed to more than most as a student in a scientific discipline. This trend is harmful to science because it is making scientists seem aloof and elitist, neither of which lend themselves to a positive relationship between scientists and the general public. To put it simply, this trend is pushing science in the direction of becoming a religious cult.



REID

There is one key difference between this proposed "cult of science" and other religious cults, however. Members of the "cult of science" are fiercely secular, oftentimes to the point of atheism. Because of this, they scorn people who are religious, mocking and belittling them for their "antiscientific" beliefs. This is an irony that is lost on many members of this "cult of science:" they are vociferously antireligious, but don't realize that they're creating a religion of their own. There are many similarities between this "cult of

science" and traditional religions. They have founders whose teachings are written down in books, which members of the religion consider sacred. Many members of this "cult of science" revere Charles Darwin and Isaac Newton as much as many Christians revere Jesus Christ. They have religious leaders who spread their beliefs to the masses. Although the "cult of science" is not an organized group (because they don't realize they exist), figures such as Dr. Neil Degrasse Tyson and Bill Nye "the Science Guy" are the most public proponents of the beliefs that make up the "cult." They have religious dogma, and will punish those who violate it. From the age of the universe to climate change, there is no room for doubt amongst the members of the "cult of science." Take the recent example of a class at the University of Colorado- Colorado Springs, where the professors sent out an email to the students in the class instructing them that "Opening up a debate that 98% of climate scientists unequivocally agree to be a non-debate would detract from the central concerns of environment and health addressed in this course...

If you believe this premise to be an issue for you, we respectfully ask that you do not take this course, as there are options within the Humanities program for face to face this semester and online next."

Passages like these express the greatest irony about the "cult of science:" they are inherently antiscientific. Science is predicated on the concept of a free and open exchange of theories and ideas, as well as the constant testing and retesting of hypotheses. Science is, therefore, constantly in a state of flux and change, nothing is ever "settled." Members of the "cult of science" reject these ideas, insisting that their interpretation of science is correct and that all others are wrong. The "97 percent consensus" argument in the debate about man-made catastrophic global warming is a perfect example of this. Due to trends in science such as those aforementioned, there is no denying that science is in trouble and that the danger comes from within.

Nicholas Reid is studying geology at the South Dakota School of Mines. He plans to be a paleontologist.

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Turkeys continued from page 1

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- For more antique shops, galleries, and museums go to Waterford, Round Hill, and Leesburg.
- Don't forget wineries, breweries, and out of the way restaurants.
- For new discoveries, go to Paeonian Springs and Lovettsville, or take a turn along major scenic byways such as Rt. 15, Rt. 50, Snickersville Turnpike, Rt. 340, Lincoln Rd., and Rt. 17.

Turkey Stuffing To Die For

Really good stuffing is kind of like a really good pastrami sandwich: you know it when you taste it, but making it is something else. Here is a hearty and nutty – sweet but not-too-sweet recipe for turkey stuffing. With rice, instead of bread as its base.

Ingredients:

- Equal parts of brown basmati rice and wild rice
- Chicken broth
- Chestnuts (fresh or canned), apricots, and cumquats
- Vidalia onion, finely minced
- Minced mushrooms: 4 regular size
- Herbs & spices: sage, rosemary, thyme, nutmeg, salt, and pepper
- Celery (thinly sliced)
- Pine nuts
- Butter
- Thin string beans

Directions: Cook and prepare two groups of ingredients, let them cool, and then combine them before filling the cavity of your nearly cooked turkey, or serve it as a side dish.

First ... cook your rice, onion, herbs, and thinly sliced celery: 1) Prepare your rice, cooking it in chicken broth and seasoning it lightly with salt and pepper. 2) Sauté your diced onion, mushrooms, and thinly sliced celery in butter at low heat; and at the same time, toast the pine nuts in the oven or in a dry sauté pan. 3) When the rice is cooked and still warm, combine it with the onion/mushroom/celery mixture, and the pine nuts, finely minced sage, 1/2 sprig of rosemary (de-stemmed), and a pinch of thyme. Set the mixture aside to cool. The herbs, celery, and onions will flavor the rice.

Chestnuts, apricots and cumquats (small citrus-type fruit): Use fresh or canned chestnuts, dried apricots, and fresh cumquats. 6 of each, washed/drained and towel-dried. The cumquats are used with the skin on – just remember to remove the seeds. Give the ingredients a rough chop, and sauté in butter, nutmeg, and a pinch of sugar until soft. Cook the string beans separately in boiling water, and add to the mixture.

Combine the two mixtures. If you are stuffing your bird, add the mixture when the bird is nearly cooked; or, simply warm the dish when ready, and serve as a side.



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Bringing The Outdoors In For The Holidays

– By Andrea Gaines

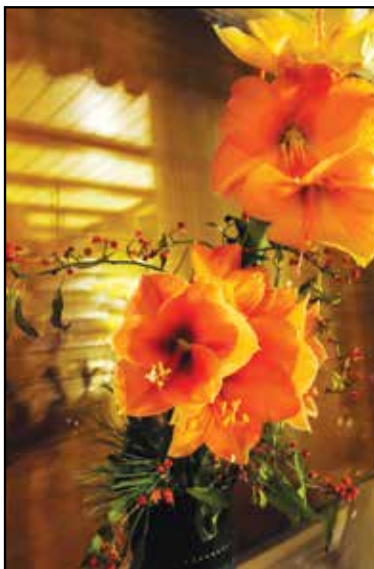
This time of year I bring in my plant containers and find them a sunny window. Most will bloom only sparsely. So, before long I'm craving indoor color and my thoughts turn to bulbs for indoor forcing.

Some bulbs require a chilling period to bloom – cold temperatures that mimic what the bulb would experience outdoors over the winter – and some do not.

I first pot up some Paperwhite Narcissus and Amaryllis and get them in a bright, cool window – their bulbs don't need to be chilled. And then, I decide on the bulb forcing experiments I'm going to try myself over the winter.

Chilling Required ... But It's Worth It

Bulbs that require chilling include our favorite spring flowers – tulips, daffodils and hyacinth, for example. They need a consistent storage temperature of 30 to 45 degrees and relative darkness. Put these bulbs unplanted in a brown bag in your refrigerator, unheated basement, ventilated crawl space or cold frame. Plant them in pots and store outside under cover of straw or light mulch, or chill them inside. Just keep the soil moist so the bulb can develop roots as it chills. Chill small bulbs for 6 to 10 weeks and larger bulbs for 10 to 14 weeks. Other tips:



- **Be patient.** Mark your bulbs with the date you set them to chill and the date they will be ready to warm up/ bloom. Then, sit back and wait.
- **Put different varieties of bulbs in separate containers and don't be afraid to crowd them.** Densely packed bulbs provide drama when blooming. And, planting/ grouping different bulbs in separate containers will ensure that you can easily take each out when ready.
- **When the bulbs have chilled for the appropriate amount of time,** plant them if you've not done so already (or put them in a container with pebbles), and move them into a cool, 60-degree place with light.
- **Follow the 1/3 and 2-inch rule.** 1/3 of the bulb shows above the soil, the middle 1/3 has mostly dry soil around it, and 1/3 is in dampish soil where it can access water for root growth. Allow for 2 inches of soil/pebbles below the bulb for the roots to spread. Too much water rots the bulb, too little will dry it out.

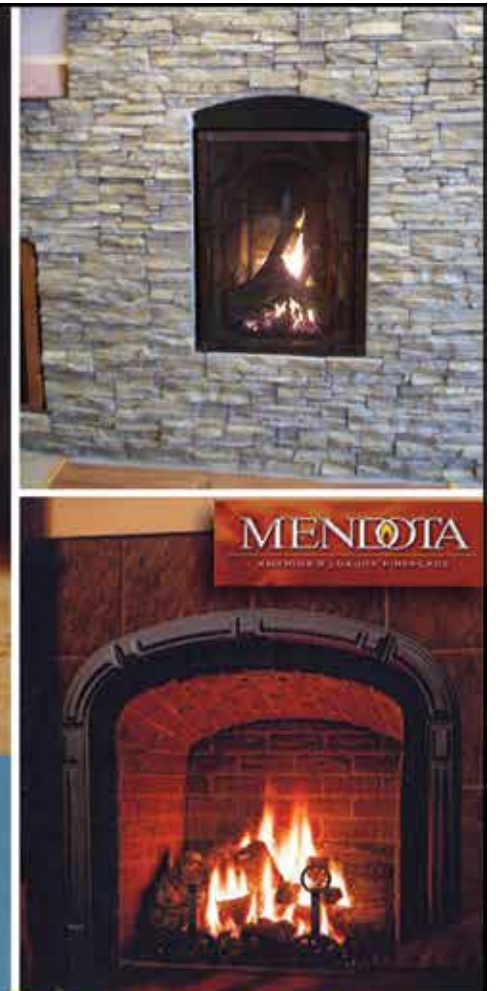
My Winter Bulb Experiments

- **This winter I've started chilling Dutch Iris bulbs.** I put them in small plastic pots with soil and pebbles for drainage, and stored them in my basement. My plan is to combine them in a larger container with some creamy white Paperwhites and sphagnum moss.
- **I'm trying Freesia this year – no chilling required.** These are planted in soil with five bulbs to a pot, and will produce 3 to 5 stems per bulb. As sprays emerge I'll tie them to stakes or pretty branches for support.
- **This is the big experiment – Mediterranean Bells.** I have not been able to find specific references that discuss how to force this bulb. But, it is in a flower family whose bulbs sprout freely, and, when blooming it is so beautiful. I'm going to try it!

Lots of websites can walk you through different forcing strategies for different blooms. Good luck!



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Sharon Affinito and Judy Galen, Loudoun County Commuter Services



Photo: Sarah Huntington

Loudoun County Commuter Services connects individuals, employers and visitors with transportation solutions. Carpools, vanpools, transit and biking lessen rush hour traffic on area roads. Telework and compressed work weeks allow individuals to reduce or adjust their travel time.

Could a vanpool work for you or your business? Find out at a Vanpool Open House on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 801 Sycolin Road in Leesburg between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tour a commuter vehicle, meet others interested in vanpools and see if it is right for you. For more information, send an email to LCCS@loudoun.gov or call 703 771-5665.

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Catesby continued from page 1

when it was passed on – along with his great fortune – to his children, Michelle LaRose and her brother, Scott, both of whom live out of state. Wanting to keep the property, while earning income for maintenance costs, the heirs asked the county for a change in use – approval of a Minor Special Exception (SPMI-2015-0018) to turn the property into an events and banquets facility. Neighbors, are in shock.

The Proposal

The LaRoses' attorney, Frank Sterns, has called the Special Exception "a rather straightforward application without complications." The application proposes up to 20 events per year, with 200 people each. The events would be held in temporary tents from noon to midnight. The estimated 110 guest car-trips each way, plus vehicles for staff, caterers, musical groups, and setup/breakdown crews would travel over local roads and internal farm roads. Onsite parking, overflow parking and shuttle bus service as needed are also in the plan. Other details, such as emergency vehicles and bathroom facilities, remain to be worked out. Once the use is fixed and in place, it's always the owners prerogative to apply for expanded use.

Active on county records since 2015 – as paperwork flew between the applicant, Planning and Zoning staff, engineers, VDOT, and the Board of Supervisors over the past year – the proposal has turned out to be anything but a straightforward application, unleashing a flood of concern from neighbors.

Over 30 people spoke and many more stood in opposition to the Special Exception at a hearing in mid-October. And, the area's strongest voices for preservation – including The Goose Creek Association, the Mosby Heritage Area, The Loudoun County Equine Association, The Unison Preservation Society, The Land Trust of Virginia, and others agreed.

The Property

Catesby is located north of Rt. 50 about 5 miles from Middleburg, and includes numerous structures related to its prior use as a racehorse training property: a 1930s-manor house, three cottages/houses, an old hunting lodge and apartment, greenhouses, a 30-stall horse barn, and several miles of fencing and interior farm roads.

Catesby sits, not just in western Loudoun, but in deep western Loudoun, off Welbourne Road, a narrow unpaved road with ditches, steep banks, and stone fences. At places, vehicles must pull over to allow others to pass. Tree lines, hedgerows, and a person's knowledge of the area mark property lines. A tributary of Panther Skin Creek meanders through the property. People ride their horses and walk their dogs freely on and across nearby farms.

The property is in Loudoun County's AR-2 Agricultural District, and the conservation easement on the property mirrors the district's expectations. No subdividing. Timber may be harvested, but stream buffers must be maintained. No

The application proposes up to 20 events per year, with 200 people each. The events would be held in temporary tents from noon to midnight. The estimated 110 guest car-trips each way, plus vehicles for staff, caterers, musical groups, and setup/breakdown crews would travel over local roads and internal farm roads. Onsite parking, overflow parking and shuttle bus service as needed are also in the plan. Other details, such as emergency vehicles and bathroom facilities, remain to be worked out. Once the use is fixed and in place, it's always the owners prerogative to apply for expanded use.



earth moving, except to support agriculture. Maintenance and minor expansion of structures is allowed, but no permanent or temporary farm building or structure can be added except by prior approval. No permanent use outside of agriculture.

Catesby Owners Thread The Zoning/Easement Needle

The community surrounding Catesby features horse farms, cattle and sheep operations, a grain and hay farm, a nursery, a vineyard, and some B&B businesses. The community recognizes that B&Bs are traditional in western Loudoun.

In discussions about using Catesby for a B&B instead of an events and banquet locale, Supervisor Geary Higgins (R-Catoctin) said that not doing the events center "defies logic," arguing that a B&B – allowed in the area by-right – would be a more intensive use.

The community has explained that while the B&B country inn would allow as many events, it would require more on-site management, as well as more permits. While the Catesby conservation easement envisions that future income-producing activities will relate to agriculture or traditional country activities such as B&Bs, it also provides a thread of flexibility for other activities. And, that thread, combined with the county's drive to boost the "rural economy," are what the Catesby heirs are

hanging their hat on.

Section 7 (i) of the easement prohibits "industrial or commercial activities" not related to agriculture. It allows, however, "(ii) temporary or seasonal activities that do not permanently alter the appearance of the Property ..."

The Catesby proposal tries to thread both needles – county zoning regulations allowing country hospitality type activities, and easement language related to seasonal events.

Making Accommodations Or Pursuing A Defective Proposal?

The LaRoses recently reduced the number of annual events from 24 to 20, proposed green buffers to screen neighbors' properties, and limited the use of Catesby Farm Lane.

They have also purchased two adjacent parcels to allow for the possible use of Willisville Road for access to events. But, the use of Welbourne Road and waste disposal issues are causing ongoing friction.

In a letter to the county on June 30, 2016, Sterns said, "... The Applicants ... are desirous of establishing a low impact but revenue generating business by leasing the property out for private parties ... [and] have intentionally kept the [number of events] low given the nature of the roads in the area ... roads of long standing existence that neither the Applicants nor the neighbors

care to see paved or widened. Yet Staff continues to point this out as a deficiency in the application. A position that is carried to its logical conclusion is that the site is unusable."

Neighbor Bill Ferster's comments echo this problem from an opponent's point of view: "If they were really worried about making money, there are a lot of other ways to make money off the place ... I don't know what they're up to ... but it's an inappropriate use."

Some also speculate that the heirs, not living in the area, do not want the responsibility of a B&B or an agricultural operation, opting instead for turnkey events that come and go with temporary everything – tents, dance floors, staff, guests, equipment, waste disposal, work crews, food and music – making the heirs' only role leasing out the site.

The Mounting Pressure On The "Rural Economy"

The Catesby proposal demonstrates the problems Loudoun is running into as developers run out of space in the Suburban and Transition Policy Areas and look for opportunities in the magical, rural west.

Strategies designed to generate new kinds of income in old places – on land historically dedicated to agriculture, open space and preservation – sometimes conflict with the things that make these places so valuable from an economic point of view. The community contends that large outdoor events with music and lights are inappropriate on a site that lies on two nationally recognized battlefields, and in an area used for historical tourism with thriving agricultural and equine businesses

Kevin Grigsby, author of "Howardsville: The Journey of an African-American Community in Loudoun County, Virginia" and "From Loudoun to Glory," spoke out against the Catesby proposal. Grigsby, who traces his ancestors back to Willisville said:

"I can stand there and know that the blood, sweat, and tears of many people who endured the hardship of slavery, they initiated and bore fruit there ... I know that that ancestor who was a slave, couldn't read, couldn't write, that they started their journey there, in a place like Willisville."

Board Action Expected In December

Several members of the Board have expressed open dismay that the community has not welcomed the events facility proposal. Supervisor Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) has said that the choice is between the by-right uses already available to Catesby or the special exception, which would be a banquet facility. Attorney Steve Price, working with neighbors who also oppose the application said, "... an approval of a special exception for a Banquet/Special Event Facility will not preempt the right of the applicant land owner to use Catesby Farm for a Bed and Breakfast or Country Inn, or any other by-right use ... Consequently, the approval of the requested special exceptions would only increase the possible commercial uses available to Catesby's owner, not limit them."

The issue is scheduled for a vote Dec. 6.

Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Oatlands Plantation

– By Tim Jon

It was one of those warm evenings in mid to late July – when the air feels almost as thick as honey, but you don't even mind, because you're in a beautiful place, enjoying a unique cultural event in about the coolest setting in the world. My first visit to Oatlands – in the summer of 1997 – I checked out a performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by one of the local theatre troupes; they used the front of the Greek Revival mansion for the opening sequence- appropriately set at the Athenian Capitol, and some of the later forest scenes utilized the surrounding greenery. If there were a better way to charm a famous local landmark into one's heart, I'm unaware of it; Oatlands Plantation became – and has since remained, for me – synonymous with grace, character – and maybe even a little magic and fantasy thrown in for good measure.

Now – I realize that there are a myriad of perspectives on this historic site – including its challenge to remain pure and intact in the face of the developers' bulldozers, its coming to terms with the past (including acknowledgement of the use of slave labor), and the never-ending effort to offer its guests a one-of-a-kind experience in tourism that will spread by word of mouth and keep its visitors returning for more. I heard, saw and read about all of the above – at great length – during my 10 years in the little newsroom at Wage Radio in Leesburg; our owner at the time – Jerry Emmet's family had donated Oatlands – in the mid-1960's - to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I remember thinking, "What could be better than having a direct family tie to one of my favorite places in Northern Virginia – or anywhere else, for that matter?" I gradually learned more about the extended history of Oatlands – dating back to the opening years of the 19th Century – its immense size at the time (over 3,400 acres during homesteader George Carter's day),



JON



the variety of structures on the property (including an 1810 greenhouse – one of the oldest in the country) and the importance of Oatlands in regional tourism (to the tune of over 60,000 annual visitors from one of my tallies in the old newsroom). Its image even made its way – some years back - onto the 'Greetings From Virginia' stamp.

I made new discoveries about the place – and its history - with each assignment. I was utterly charmed by the stories of how the Carter family children spent their Christmas times at the mansion and the surrounding grounds. I attended events at the site devoted to historic land preservation, local tourism, and even a real, live auction in which the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce sold an entire herd of life-sized, decorated horses (some of which still grace various

parts of our area). I witnessed – with some concern – the tug of war between the will to develop the adjacent lands around Oatlands, and the protective defense set up by its Board of Directors. The story of this Plantation – over its many years - has not always been light or easy.

But – for – me – the continuous, virtual onslaught of historical information and overwhelming, ongoing popularity never tainted the original charm of the place; I always kind of felt like my emotional connections to the site granted me some sort of honorary, personal ownership – even if only in the heart. Through the process of becoming better acquainted with Oatlands' images, grounds and deeper story the grandeur remained; the soul of the place always retained its mysterious spell for me.

So- I have, indeed, to paraphrase the Bard- had a most rare vision. That warm night in July – now years gone – began with a scene from one of Shakespeare's most famous plays – with lovers' anticipation, jarring conflict, mortal threat, and finally – escape into a magical world. In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, imagination eventually prevails over the harsher confinements of governmental and societal will and expediency; likewise, the archetypal- but to us, familiar – mansion of Oatlands rises above and survives the varied travails of its ongoing history. May it always remain a frequent visitor to my nights' – and days' – dreams – of all seasons. Not for an age, but for all time. Lord, what (beautiful) fools (we) mortals (can sometimes) be!

Letters To The Editor continued from page 6

Bennett has lived and worked in Northern Virginia for three decades. She understands our community's values and priorities. She doesn't think of compromise as a sign of weakness. We need LuAnn Bennett!

Sarah O'Neil
Middleburg

Thank You From The Ladies Board Of Inova

Dear Editor:

Thank you, Loudoun County and beyond, for making the 78th Annual Ladies Board Rummage Sale another record-setting success. With over \$282,000 in gross sales, we are so grateful for the generosity of

spirit and gifts from Loudoun County and throughout the region.

A volunteer described this event at Morven Park Equestrian Center as the "ultimate team effort." A happy shopper wrote that this was "more fun than a day at Disney!" A single mother who spoke of living on a tight budget said, "I was in heaven in the children's area. Not only does this help your charity, but it helps folks like me." So how did we manage to raise this amount to support patient services at Inova Loudoun Hospital and our Nursing Scholarship fund?

Gently used (and often new) items were given in record quantity this year, from art and antiques to clothing and sports equipment. Four "Donation Days" at the Cornwall and

Lansdowne trailers brought so many donors that volunteers were happily challenged to keep up with the steady flow.

Over 600 volunteers worked throughout the week at Morven Park, transforming the arena and adjacent buildings into the various Rummage Sale departments. They worked tirelessly to sort, price, and organize the donations, then warmly welcomed the thousands of shoppers to the sale. We were touched that so many students used their Columbus Day holiday from school to come and help with the setup. Special thanks to the Boy Scouts, Woodgrove High School football team, the Interact Clubs from Loudoun County and Heritage High Schools, and the Leesburg

Daybreak Rotary Club for their assistance.

Local businesses and individuals contributed many gifts to the Silent Auction – Redskins tickets, a grandfather clock, golf certificates, and over 100 other items.

The items remaining late on Sunday afternoon were given to various nonprofit groups, such as Women Giving Back, Blue Ridge Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, and Blossom and Bloom. Loudoun County is blessed with so many worthy causes serving others.

Please mark your calendars for the 79th Annual Ladies Board Rummage Sale: Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15, 2017. Again, our thanks!

The Ladies Board of
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Second Annual Fundraising Barn Dance By Young Life Western Loudoun



Nov. 12, Saturday 7-11 p.m. Second Annual Fundraising barn dance by Young Life Western Loudoun. Live bluegrass music just outside Lincoln at the Lincoln Equestrian Center. Contact Aledra Hollenbach at aledra@comcast.net – 540 270-4396, or go to WeLoCoYLBarnDance.EVENTBRITE.COM

Purcellville Plans Christmas Parade And Market

Applications are now available for those wishing to participate in the Christmas Parade sponsored by the Town of Purcellville or in the Christmas Market hosted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

The 13th Annual Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10 at Noon. Companies, organizations, clubs, individuals, and families are invited to be a part of the parade. Floats and walkers are welcome. The application deadline is Dec. 2.

The Christmas Market is an event to showcase local artisans and to offer

them the opportunity to sell their hand-crafted items to the public. The market coincides with the Christmas Lights Trolley Tours beside the Bush Tabernacle Skating rink.

The Christmas Market has been expanded to include two days and will take place in the evening during the trolley tours on Friday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 11. The fee to participate is \$35 and the application deadline is Nov. 30.

Applications may be downloaded at www.purcellvilleva.gov.

Nov. 5 Last Comp Plan Workshop For Purcellville

The Town of Purcellville will hold its last Comprehensive Plan Update Workshops on Saturday, Nov. 5, at Town Hall (221 S. Nursery Avenue). The first session will be from 10 a.m. to noon, and the second session from 2 to 4 p.m. You will be able to discuss and respond to specific questions that will help determine the final content of the updated comprehensive plan.

These workshops will be the last community events for 2016, and the last opportunity to provide input before drafting the updated comprehensive plan. Please plan to attend – your feedback is vital to the project's success.

Calling All Artists



Calling all Loudoun County artists or want to be artists. You are invited to take part in a fun community project to paint large holiday ornaments that will be used yearly and that will be displayed throughout Purcellville this November and December. Discover Purcellville, a non-profit organization handling fun events in town, is excited to provide the opportunity for local artists of all ages to showcase their talents in support of the Town of Purcellville

and its citizens. They still need about 15 people to help paint them. Deadline has been extended to Nov. 15.

The purpose of this fun project is to bring a Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanzaa feel to the town of Purcellville this Holiday season.

Submission forms are available by emailing Michael Oaks at ReLoveIt@aol.com or stop by Re-Love It, 138 N. 21st Street. (540) 751-0707.

Sweats For Vets In Full Swing

The Town of Purcellville is proud to announce the Annual Sweats for Vets Program. Guidelines for the program are simple:

- New sweat sets (tops and bottoms)
- Sizes needed are XL, 2XL and 3X
- Tie each sweat set (top and bottom) together with a ribbon only (do not gift wrap)

Drop sweat sets at the Purcellville Town Hall, 221 South Nursery Avenue, during normal business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. by Friday, Dec. 16.

Your contributions and support sends the community's gratitude and warmth directly to our nation's military heroes at the Martinsburg VA Hospital.



Turkey Trot – Nov. 13, 8 a.m. At The Loudoun Valley Community Center

The Turkey Trot 5k is a fundraiser for the advisory board of the Loudoun Valley Community Center, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Funds raised benefit the center's ongoing effort to provide scholarships and financial aid to those in need in western Loudoun for pre-school, after/before school care and day care programs. Funds also support programming benefiting the community including college scholarships to former students.

Western Loudoun Sheriff's Station Opens In Round Hill

– By Amanda Clark

On Saturday, Oct. 22 there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Western Loudoun Sheriff's Office that has opened in Round Hill.

Speakers at the ceremony included Sheriff Mike Chapman, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock, Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall, Supervisors Geary Higgins and Tony Buffington, Town of Round Hill Mayor Scott Ramsey and Captain Greg Ahlemann (the station's commander). Mayors Kwasi Fraser from Purcellville, Roger Vance from Hillsboro, David Butler from Leesburg and Robert Zoldos from Lovettsville were also in attendance. Others attending included LCSO command staff, some council members from the towns in Western Loudoun, and local business and community leaders as well as residents.

Sheriff Chapman said, "The new station in Round Hill will provide a myriad of services to the community (fingerprinting, records checks, etc.), but also has an ample community room - something that was lacking in the previous location. Our quarterly community meetings have grown in size there (from a handful to over 20 on average), so this room will be a tremendous



benefit. Also, the station will provide our deputies the tools they need to do their jobs professionally, including holding cells, adequate offices, an exercise facility, and evidence storage."

Kraig Troxell, of the Sheriff's Office of Media Relations and Communications, said that the average response time for Western Loudoun is "approximately 13 minutes. The [station's area] is divided into five sectors, and covers approximately two thirds of the county, more than 300 square miles, including most of the area west of Rt. 15, excluding some areas near Middleburg. The large coverage area, along with traffic, factor into the average response time compared to the more densely populated

station areas in the eastern portion of the county."

Chapman said, "Western Loudoun, because it is more rural than the rest of the County, does not have the call volume that other areas experience. However, it has a great community ('hometown') feel in each of our towns and surrounding areas out west, which provides wonderful opportunities for our deputies to really get to know the citizens and community leaders they serve."

There are 38 authorized sworn positions for the Western Loudoun Station, not including deputies from other divisions such as School Resource Officers and members of the Traffic Safety Section, who also work in the area.



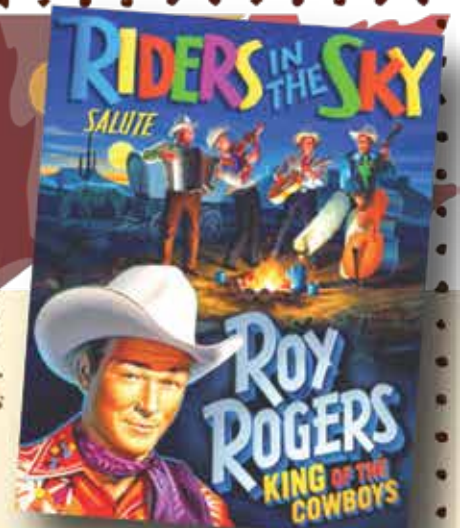
Go Out Without Going Far! Franklin Park Arts Center

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RIDERS IN THE SKY SALUTE ROY ROGERS, KING OF THE COWBOYS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17 8:00PM

Join Riders In The Sky in a thrilling ride to yesteryear as they salute iconic western movie, music and TV star Roy Rogers, undisputed "King of the Cowboys." The evening features family-friendly favorites from Roy's long career that include "Don't Fence Me In," "Pecos Bill," "Happy Trails" and more wrapped up in the Riders' two-time Grammy-winning high yodeling style. Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center Gold Star Performance.

Tickets: \$40 ticket only \$70 ticket and post concert reception www.franklinparkartscenter.org



MAIN STREET THEATER PRODUCTIONS: THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE

Nov. 4, 5 & Nov. 11, 12 7:30PM Nov. 6 & 13 2:00PM
Be transported back to the height of the Jazz Age in New York City, when a flapper named Millie Dillmount rewrites the rules of love in this high-spirited musical.

Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$15 Seniors, Students & Children
mainstreettheaterproductions.org

VSA OF LOUDOUN MUSICAL: PARADE TRAIN

Fri, Sat, Nov. 18 & 19 7:00PM Sun, Nov 20 3:00PM
The Parade Train welcomes Thanksgiving with stops along the W&OD Railroad towns with plenty of singing, dancing and a few surprise guests!

Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors & Students
vsaloudoun.org

LAST HAM STANDING COMEDY IMPROV Fri, Nov. 25 8:00PM

Laugh off the turkey and pumpkin pie at this hilarious show for the entire family. If you like Whose Line Is It Anyway? you'll love Last Ham Standing!

Tickets: \$14 Adults, \$12 Seniors, \$10 Kids lastham.com

LOUDOUN LYRIC OPERA: AM AHL & THE NIGHT VISITORS

Sat, Dec. 3 3:00 & 8:00PM
Sun, Dec. 4 3:00PM

Travel with a boy who meets the three wise men on their way to Bethlehem and encounters a miracle.

Tickets: \$25 Adults, \$20 Seniors & College Students (with ID), \$15.00 Youth (under 18) loudonlyricopera.com

And There's MORE!

GALLERY COFFEEHOUSE:
Paul McCray,
History of the W&OD
11/6 6:30pm \$8/person

GALLERY COFFEEHOUSE:
Readers Theater,
One Slight Hitch
12/4 6:30pm \$8/person

Carver Center Events For November 2016

☉ Lyme Support Group (Ages 18 and up)

Tuesday, November 1 (and all first Tuesdays), 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

☉ Blue Ridge Speech and Hearing (Ages 18 and up) (Must pre-register by calling 571-258-3400)

Wednesday November 2, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Audiologist available for cleaning and testing hearing aids.

☉ Balance, Balance and More Balance — Fall Prevention Workshop and Screening

Wednesday, November 2, 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Ages 55 and up)

☉ Monthly Lunch & a Movie – The Suffragette

Friday, November 4, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pre-register by noon on November 3 by calling 571-258-3459.

☉ Holiday Tree Making (Ages 55 and up)

Tuesday 11/8, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

☉ Food Nutrition Seminar - Fueling the Mind (Ages 55 and up)

Wednesday, November 9, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

☉ Parade Train Performance (All ages)

Monday, November 14, 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 PM

☉ Decluttering Revisited (Ages 55 and up)

Wednesday, November 16 and Wednesday, November 30, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Reviews progress made by students of earlier classes and offers new insights to continue the process.

☉ Advanced Beginner Watercolor (Ages 55 and up) (Enrollment starts November 16)

Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 PM, December 27 through January 11. \$20.

☉ Intermediate Watercolor (Ages 55 and up) (Enrollment starts November 16)

Mondays, December 12 through February 6, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. \$30

☉ Thanksgiving and Volunteer Recognition (Ages 55 and up) (\$4 for those 55 to 59; by donation 60 and older)

Thursday, November 17, 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

☉ Carver Center Advisory Board's Annual Holiday Bazaar (All ages)

Friday, November 18, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 19, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

☉ Pickleball (Tuesdays are beginner level, Wednesdays are mixed levels and Thursdays focus on scored games)

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 PM on-going (Ages 18 and up)

☉ Jerry's Jukebox (Ages 14 and up) Second and Fourth Tuesdays from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 pm

November Events

☉ **November 3, Thursday, 11 a.m. to Noon, Blood Pressure Screenings**, Lovettsville Community Center at 57 East Broad Way.

☉ **November 3, Thursday, through November 5, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Emmanuel Church in Middleburg Christmas Shop.** \$5. Please visit www.emmanuelmiddleburg.org/christmas-shop.

☉ **Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Purcellville Farmers Market**, 717 E. Main Street.

☉ **November 5, Saturday, and November 6, Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Glenfiddich Farm Pottery Holiday Sale.** 17642 Canby Road, Leesburg.

☉ **November 5, Saturday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Country Ham and Turkey Dinner**, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 13266 Taylortown Road, Leesburg. Free-will offering. Call 703 431-4091.

☉ **November 5, Saturday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner**, Unison Methodist Church, 21148 Unison Road, Middleburg. Free. Donations of unwrapped toys and can goods appreciated.

☉ **November 6, 8 a.m. to Noon. Blood Pressure Screenings**, 21164 Steptoe Hill Road, Middleburg.

☉ **November 6, Sunday, 9:30 a.m., Contemplative Yoga in Nature Class.** \$25. 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg. \$25. To register, e-mail Denise Moore at dtsukumki@aol.com.

☉ **November 6, Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Scout Day** at Oatlands Historic House and Gardens, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane in Leesburg. Scavenger hunt, Oatlands Fun Patch. \$5 for scouts, \$8 for adults. Call 703-777-3174.

☉ **November 10, 10 a.m. to Noon, Blood Pressure Screenings**, Carver Center, 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville.

☉ **November 12, Saturday, 8 a.m., Monthly Bird Walk** at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve (South of Leesburg). See www.bansheereeksnp.org. or Contact Joe Coleman at 540 554-2542 or at jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

☉ **November 12, Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Breast Cancer Tea for Survivors and Friends.** Guest speaker, fashion show, raffle baskets. Carver Center, 200 E. Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville. \$20. Visit www.lbhn.org.

☉ **November 12, Saturday, An Evening with John Muir, Father of Our National Parks.** Lee Stetson brings his one-man show to Hillsboro's Old Stone School. To purchase tickets, please visit oldstoneschool.org/eventsactivities/aneightwithjohnmuiratheoldstoneschool/.

☉ **November 13, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Family Friendly Walk for a Hands-On Science Workshop** Led by Geologist Joe East. Register at www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm. or see info@loudounwildlife.org.

☉ **November 26, Saturday, 8 a.m., Monthly Bird Walk** at Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship. See www.loudounwildlife.org/Great_Places_BRCES.htm.

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Video online at: www.loudoun.gov/adultday

Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services.

Veteran's Day 10k Raises Funds For Veteran Causes

On Nov. 6, the Loudoun County Road Runners Club will conduct the annual Loudoun 10K Trail Race in order to raise funds for veteran causes. Since its origin in 2011, the trail race has generated more than \$90,000 with 100 percent of proceeds going directly to Boulder Crest Retreat and Pets for Vets.

Boulder Crest Retreat, a local privately funded rural wellness center located in Bluemont, exclusively dedicates its services to improving the physical, emotional, and economic wellbeing of veterans. It provides military veterans and active-duty military personnel with a peaceful and supportive environment in which they can recuperate

from the traumas of war.

Pets for Vets, a nationwide nonprofit with more than 25 chapters through the United States, trains and donates service dogs to veterans for the purpose of assisting with physical or psychological trauma.

Persons or organizations wishing to provide sponsorship or offer charitable donations can do so by contacting Jim Schatz at schtred@aol.com. The race will take place at Camp Highroad, 21164 Steptoe Hill Road in Middleburg. Registration is \$40.

The field is limited to the first 200 runners who register and begins at 9 a.m. To learn more go to www.trailrun.loudounroadrunners.org.

Teen Suicide Prevention Forum

Phyllis J. Randall, Chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, will host her first community forum on teen suicide prevention on Monday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. The goal of this community forum is to continue the conversation, as a county, on what can be done to prevent teen suicide.

The community forum will take place at the INOVA Loudoun Hospital Conference Center, 44045 Riverside Parkway, in Leesburg. There will be a panel of authorities, parents, students and concerned community members.

Nov. 5 Last Comp Plan Workshop For Purcellville

The Town of Purcellville will hold its last Comprehensive Plan Update Workshops on Saturday, Nov. 5, at Town Hall (221 S. Nursery Avenue). The first session will be from 10 a.m. to noon, and the second session from 2 to 4 p.m. You will be able to discuss and respond to specific questions

that will help determine the final content of the updated comprehensive plan. These workshops will be the last community events for 2016, and the last opportunity to provide input before drafting the updated comprehensive plan. Please plan to attend – your feedback is vital to the project's success.

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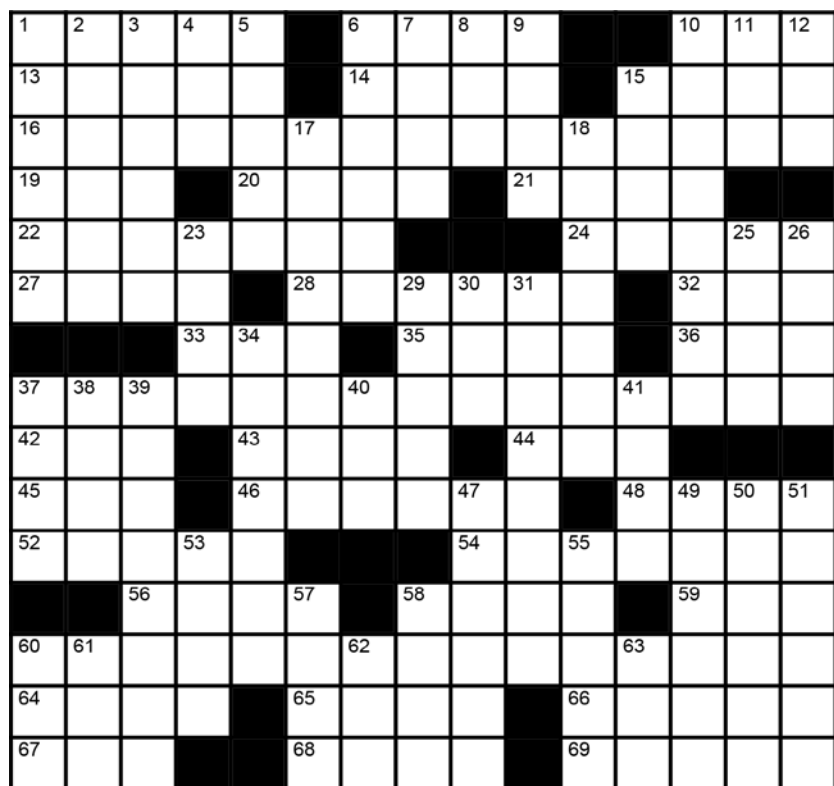


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Getting Even

By Miles Meller and Sally York



ACROSS

1. Culture media
6. H.S. subject
10. Buck
13. Back, in a way
14. Case
15. Piece
16. Try hard
19. Evil spirit
20. Regard
21. New Look designer
22. Of a river in Hades
24. Denotes
27. Finnish river
28. Tenant
32. "Tush!"
33. Poet Swenson
35. Phyla
36. Alkaline liquid
37. Even thinking
42. Neruda poem, e.g.
43. "The Alienist" author
44. Turn
45. ___ Huon (1906 Kentucky Derby winner)
46. Punish with an arbitrary penalty
48. Had taken the plunge
52. Barn part
54. Heavy hydrogen, e.g.
56. Conclusion
58. Seed coat
59. Kind of trip
60. Building tool
64. Millstone
65. 10 C-notes
66. Sharp spur
67. Commerce, slangily
68. Some progenies
69. Fresh

DOWN

1. Ancient official
2. Pithy sayings
3. Embraces
4. 1980's White House nickname
5. Jenny Lind, e.g.
6. Saturn satellite
7. Detail
8. Blazer, e.g.
9. Seven up, e.g.
10. Like some tumors
11. Fraternity letters
12. Body shop fig.
15. "O" in old radio lingo
17. Village in southwestern Wales
18. Citrus cooler
23. Blood pigment
25. Those opposed
26. The Beatles' "___ Leaving Home"
29. First Super Bowl M.V.P.
30. Kind of story
31. Critical analysis
34. Spanish mayor
37. Casualty
38. Polish writing?
39. Mexican state
40. "Maid of Athens, ___ we part": Byron
41. Branch headquarters?
47. Cloud type
49. These may be lone
50. Surprise outcomes
51. Pastiche
53. Excises
55. Stewpots
57. Colony members
58. Big time?
60. Cygnet's father
61. Singer DiFranco
62. Nevertheless
63. Hurler's stat.

Answers on page 38

Kid Scoop THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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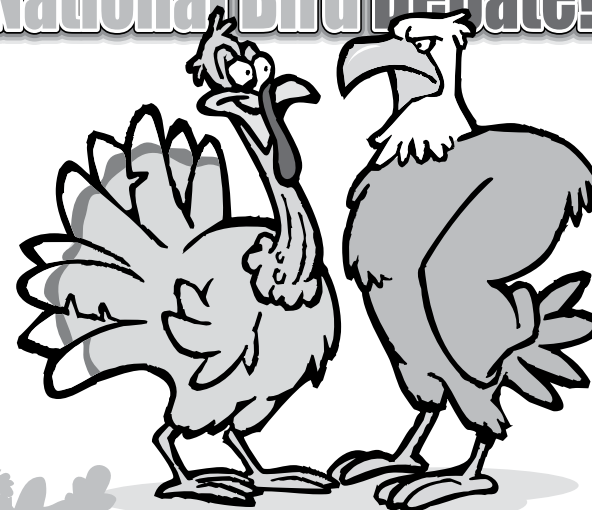
The Great National Bird Debate!

Eagle or Turkey? What do you think?

Which would make a better _____ of the United States – a bald eagle or a turkey?

More than 200 years ago, the Founding Fathers wanted to choose an animal for the great seal of the United States. They wanted an animal that would _____ what the newly formed United States of America was all about.

For six years, _____ bitterly debated which animal would be the country's symbol. Finally in 1782 the bald eagle was selected.



Vote for the turkey!

Not everyone thought the bald eagle was the right animal. Benjamin Franklin thought the turkey was a better symbol. Franklin wrote to his daughter, referring to the eagle's "bad moral character," saying, "I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country! The turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America."

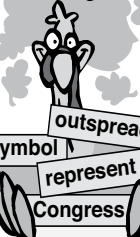
Vote for the bald eagle!

The bald eagle supporters finally had their way and it has been the national bird of the United States since 1782, when it was placed with _____ wings on the great seal of our country.

But, Ben Franklin's words remind us that the turkey is also a special creature. In truth, if someone calls you a turkey, take it as a compliment!

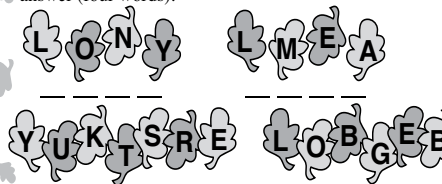
Standards Link: History: Students recognize national symbols such as the bald eagle.

Tim Turkey removed some of the words in this story. Can you figure out where each one belongs?



Do all turkeys gobble?

Unscramble the letters in each leaf pile to discover the answer (four words).



What does a national bird do?

As the national symbol of the United States, the bald eagle appears in many government buildings and on official documents, making it the most pictured bird in all of America. The eagle also appears on the President's flag and billions of bills and coins.

Nice try, turkey!

Look at these quarters. Find each matching pair. Which ones do not belong?



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Sort objects that are similar and different.

Extra! Extra!

Thanksgiving Hunt

Look through today's newspaper to find:

- the word **Thanksgiving**
- something you are thankful for
- the word **turkey** or a picture of one
- an interesting news story to discuss at Thanksgiving dinner

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Turkey Tidbits

Turkey Puzzle

In 2011, about 272 million turkeys were raised. About 46 million of those turkeys were eaten at Thanksgiving, 22 million at Christmas and 19 million at Easter. How many were eaten during the rest of the year?

Space Turkey

When Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin sat down to eat their first meal on the moon, their foil food packets contained roasted turkey and all of the trimmings.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences to millions.

Turkey Puzzle Answer: 185 million.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

TURKEY	T	N	S	L	L	I	B	N	E	D
EAGLE	S	H	S	Y	S	E	A	L	L	O
NATIONAL	G	M	A	N	E	T	A	A	G	E
COINS	N	D	O	N	I	K	B	T	A	L
SYMBOL	I	E	I	O	K	O	R	N	E	B
ROASTED	W	B	N	A	N	F	C	U	L	B
BILLS	T	A	E	R	G	B	U	I	T	O
GREAT	L	T	S	Y	M	B	O	L	R	G
GOBBLE	D	E	T	S	A	O	R	S	O	F
WINGS										
SEAL										
BALD										
MOON										
DEBATE										
THANKFUL										

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

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Giving Time

Look in the newspaper for information about people helping others in your community. Is there something you and your friends can do to help others?

Standards Link: Social Science: Students recognize the importance of public virtue and the role of citizens.

What has feathers and webbed feet?

ANSWER: A turkey in scuba gear.

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Easement continued from page 1

and considered to be unreliable. VDT also noted that because of the inconsistency of the information and lack of support or explanation in both appraisal reports, it had contacted an independent appraiser. That new appraisal put the fair market value for the conservation easement on the 10 acres at \$216,000, a reduction of 95.56 percent from the \$4.3 million submitted by Chapman

Brothers and Valley Medical.

Chapman Brothers and Valley Medical sold tax credits to 77 taxpayers. Loudoun County court records show four lawsuits – filed individually or as groups – from people trying to recover tax losses resulting from the faulty appraisals, including penalties and interest. As of press time, Chapman’s conservation easement appeal date has been set for Nov. 7, 2016.

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Answers to puzzle from page 32

1	A	G	A	R	S	6	H	I	S	10	O	N	E						
13	E	N	D	O	W	14	E	T	U	I	15	O	P	U	S				
16	D	O	O	N	E	17	S	L	E	V	E	L	B	E	S	T			
19	I	M	P	20	D	E	E	M	21	D	I	O	R						
22	L	E	T	H	E	A	N	24	M	E	A	25	S						
27	E	S	S	E	28	L	E	S	29	S	S	E	E	32	B	A	H		
37	L	E	V	E	L	H	E	A	D	E	D	N	E	S	S				
42	O	D	E	C	A	R	R	44	G	E	E								
45	S	I	R	46	A	M	E	R	C	E	48	S	W	U	M				
50	S	T	A	53	L						54	I	S	55	O	T	O	P	E
60	C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R	S	L	E	V	E	L				
64	O	N	U	S	65	T	H	O	U	66	A	R	E	T	E				
67	B	I	Z	68	S	O	N	S	69	S	A	S	S	Y					

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