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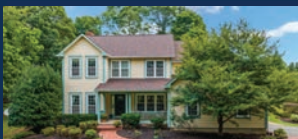
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84+ acres \$2,300,000

Equestrian estate with an exquisite manor house boasting 10,000 SF of spectacular living space, all in pristine condition. Randleston Farm includes a fabulous 20 stall stable of stone & stucco, board fenced paddocks, borders the Shenandoah River with easy access to Route 7.



344 PROVIDENCE LANE

42 acres \$1,030,000

Incredible custom built 3 BR / 4 BA log home offers soaring ceilings, stunning 2 story fireplace, hand hewn logs, fabulous decking in a magical setting! New roof, new HVAC and grand sun filled rooms. 2 story barn, whole house generator and a workshop on walk-out level.



811 RANDLESTON

32 acres \$950,000

Beautiful equine property includes contemporary 3 bedroom residence, with decks and spectacular views. Very private off Ebenezer Road in Bluemont. Two large run-in sheds, exercise pen, garage with apartment.



BELL LANE

25 acres \$895,000

Berryville – Towering trees and lush open fields lead to this charming 4 BR colonial, sited on a gently sloping hillside. Mountain views are the backdrop to this lovely residence. This wonderful country home is an absolute treasure.



2869 PARSHALL RD.

5+ acres \$800,000

Berryville – Absolutely charming 4 BR residence, surrounded by sweeping lawns and towering trees. This is a splendid country property in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, meticulously maintained and in an idyllic setting.



2964 PARSHALL RD.

17+ acres 795,000

A stunning custom 4 BR / 4 BA residence on 17+ park-like acres. Manicured grounds and brilliant gardens surround this open and sun filled home. A separate in-law apartment with a separate entrance, a fabulous enclosed porch, extensive decks and a workshop.



SUMMER SPRINGS

45+ acres \$625,000

Views of the Shenandoah Valley from multiple ridge-top potential house site locations This secluded parcel directly borders 2,000 ft. of the Shenandoah National Forest (very private) and provides easy access to the Appalachian Trail and ATV trails located throughout property.



342 PROVIDENCE LANE

21 acres \$345,000

Located on the western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains, this land is an extraordinary parcel encompassing 21 acres. Sweeping lawns and towering trees which lead to Morgan Mill Stream that runs along the property perimeter.

Offers subject to errors, omissions, change of price or withdrawal without notice. Information contained herein is deemed reliable, but is not so warranted nor is it otherwise guaranteed.



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Blue Ridge Hunt opening meet.
Saturday October 29, 2022. Carter Hall in Millwood.

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Jennifer Welliver, 540-398-1450

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Clarke prints signed letters-to-the-editor of uniquely local interest. Letters containing personal attacks or polarizing language will not be published. Letters may be edited. Send letters to the editor of 300 or fewer words to: editor@clarkeva.com.

CLARKE MONTHLY

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Spotlight on regional environment and science

Virginia Working Landscapes

Virginia Working Landscapes (VWL), a program of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal, Virginia promotes the conservation of native biodiversity and sustainable land use through research, education, and community engagement.

VWL began in 2010 in response to a strong grass-roots demand from private landowners, conservation NGOs, and citizens for leadership from the Smithsonian on native plant and wildlife conservation in the region, especially on working lands.

VWL conducts scientific research to inform and inspire conservation action across our region, prioritizing the increase and diffusion of knowledge to understand and sustain a biodiverse planet.

Biodiversity: the foundation of working landscapes

VWL frames research, education, and outreach programs around topics relevant to our community and those who are making conservation decisions — whether in their backyard,

in county planning meetings, or anywhere in between. The goal is serve as a bridge between the Smithsonian and a local movement of landowners, conservation organizations, and citizens all working together to explore the complex ecological relationships that sustain Virginia's landscapes and biodiversity.

Research

While part of a global institution, VWL anchors research regionally by conducting rigorous on-the-ground biodiversity monitoring throughout a 16-county region in northern Virginia. Their team of scientists leads ecological surveys to reveal how land-use practices impact native biodiversity and how these impacts might influence ecosystem function.

Engagement

VWL engages with the community through citizen science, education and outreach. Each year, they train and nurture a core of citizen scientists to help conduct biodiversity surveys on private and public lands. They then share findings

of these surveys with landowners to demonstrate the diversity of species that working lands support. They facilitate information sharing between landowners, conservation managers and other community members to encourage best management practices for promoting and sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem services on working lands.

Education

VWL prioritizes education and training at all levels and shares scientific research that informs conservation practices on local and global scales. They regularly host expert-led workshops, trainings, and lectures that are open to the public at their Front Royal campus and participating farms. These programs aim to disseminate knowledge to those who have the capacity to implement conservation practices on their own properties.

For information, visit www.vaworkinglandscapes.org, and be sure to watch the short film on the homepage.

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Library Welcomes New Branch Manager

By Cathy Kuehner

The Clarke County Library — part of the Handley Regional Library System — has a new branch manager. Todd Strader, who has worked for the library system for more than a decade,

began his new position in early October. The library's previous manager, Laurine Kennedy, retired in September after 16 years.

"My vision is to offer a contemporary library experience embracing new technologies, resources, and materials while maintaining a healthy respect for the history of the library and heritage of this beautiful area," Strader said.

Strader works with three part-time employees — Mackenzie Collins, Bonnie Lentile, and Alison Waddell — as well as seven library volunteers.

Clarke County Library is a great resource for books, audio books, CDs, and DVDs for kids, teens, and adults. The library



New Clarke County Library branch manager Todd Strader works with part-time employees (from left) Mackenzie Collins, Bonnie Lentile, and Alison Waddell as well as seven library volunteers. Photo provided by Clarke County.

also has meeting rooms and public Wi-Fi. It hosts engaging

programs, too, such as weekly storytimes and Lego club for children and trivia nights for adults. All its resources are free to anyone with a library card.

"The people here are so wonderful. I am truly enjoying getting to know everyone," said Strader. "It's clear the Clarke County Library staff provides excellent service and cares about the residents who come in for our services. I will do well to simply not get in their way."

Clarke County Library is located on the first floor of the Berryville-Clarke County Government Center (101 Chalmers Ct., Berryville). Its hours are 10am to 8pm Monday through Thursday, and 10am to 5pm Friday and Saturday. Contact the library at (540) 955-5144 or ccl@handleyregional.org. Follow "Clarke County Library Branch of the Handley Regional Library System" on Facebook.

Make a Toy Workshop

See this month's Clarke calendar for information on Santa's toymaking workshop December 17 at the library!

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The Farm, October 2022

By Diana Kincannon

First, light and trees.
Old pecan, walnut, maple
laying shadows across the lawn
layered now with fallen leaves.
I saw them dance down in a zephyred waltz,
like so many russet-breasted birds.

Then stone. Scattered outcroppings
thick on the south pasture hill,
Merlin's Hill, where once turned up
a black-tarnished Spanish doubloon,
1775 Carlos III Rey.

Stone up wherever it will,
oblivious, rough, beautiful,

a long wall rising out of the ground
like a memorial.

Cottage and house, limestone
shaped by enslaved hands.

One January morning in the dining room
a Confederate soldier suddenly beside me,
real as my husband, physical as I myself.
Uniformed, leather boots, clean shaven,
gazing into the dark fireplace as at a lit fire.

Outside, the lane sun-warmed, color-strewn,
the massive ginkgo by the barn nearing
its golden peak, autumn light softer
than summer, saying Linger. Linger here.



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Thanks to the Bank of Clarke
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**THE BANK OF CLARKE COUNTY
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**Find a full list of holiday programs at
 BarnsofRoseHill.org**
 95 Chalmers Court | Berryville, VA | 22611 | P: 540.955.2004

Celebrate Berryville's Upcoming Anniversary with Commemorative "Swag"

By Cathy Kuehner

As Berryville's 225th birthday on Jan. 15 approaches, this might be a good time to pick up some commemorative merchandise. All of it is available for purchase at the Barns of Rose Hill.

When Berryville marked its 200th anniversary in 1998, commemorative merchandise included a book about the Town's history called "Berryville Celebrates: 1798-1998." The seven-member Berryville 225th Anniversary Committee that is organizing special events and commemorative souvenirs for the Town's upcoming anniversary year decided that "Berryville Celebrates" still perfectly suits the town and the people who call it home.

So it is that "Berryville Celebrates" is the theme for all events in 2023 and "Berryville Celebrates" is emblazoned on all merchandise. It is also the name of the Town's anniversary Facebook page.

"Berryville Celebrates" T-shirts are 100 percent cotton and available in

men's and women's styles in all sizes. Shirts are \$20 each, including tax. "Berryville Celebrates" pint glasses and stemless wine glasses are \$10 each, including tax.

Members of the Apple Valley Needle Threaders quilting club are generously donating their time and talents to create a queen-size "Berryville Celebrates" commemorative quilt that will be raffled to raise funds for "Berryville Celebrates" community events in 2023. The club expects to complete the quilt before Jan. 1, when it will be placed on display at the Barns of Rose Hill.

Quilt raffle tickets are \$5 each and are available at the Barns of Rose Hill. The winning ticket will be drawn during the final anniversary year community event on Sept. 17, 2023.

The Barns of Rose Hill performing arts and community center, located at 95 Chalmers Ct., is open noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and during evening and weekend events. Contact



"Berryville Celebrates" T-shirts, pint glasses, and stemless wine glasses are available for purchase at the Barns of Rose Hill. Berryville "1798" oval stickers are free and available at the Barns and next door at Town offices in the Berryville-Clarke County Government Center. Look for more commemorative merchandise in 2023.



The Apple Valley Needle Threaders quilting club is creating a beautiful, queen-sized quilt that reflects Berryville's official colors for its upcoming anniversary year. AVNT members (from left) Helen Kardos, Pam Lakin, Kathleen Hintz, president Barbara Corey, and Brenda Goodwin display some of the squares that will become the "Berryville Celebrates" quilt. Raffle tickets for the quilt are available at the Barns of Rose Hill. Photo by Cathy Kuehner.

the Barns at (540) 955-2004 or info@borh.org. Find more information at barnsofrosehills.org.

If you like things that are free, Berryville "1798" oval stickers are free and available at Town offices in the Berryville-Clarke County Government Center located at 101 Chalmers Ct. as well as next door at the Barns.

In mid-October, "Berryville Celebrates" 100 commemorative coins went on sale for \$50 each at the Bank of Clarke County in Berryville. Each are one Troy ounce .999 fine silver. One side is the official Town seal, and one side says, "This coin commemorates the Town of Berryville, Virginia, and its 225th anniversary in 2023."

As this edition of Clarke Monthly goes to press, less than 15 coins are available. The Berryville 225th Anniversary Committee has not decided if more coins will be minted.

The ephemeral nature of the 225th anniversary commemorative coins is not unlike the bicentennial book, "Berryville Celebrates: 1798-1998."

Back in 1998, pre-orders for "Berryville Celebrates: 1798-

1998" began in October and continued through the holiday season. Then, on Jan. 20, 1999, Berryville Graphics printed 2,300 copies. Herman Lloyd, who spearheaded the bicentennial book project, and photog-

If you would like to participate in "Berryville Celebrates" events, share your photos and memorabilia, or volunteer, please contact Berryville1798@gmail.com or message "Berryville Celebrates" on Facebook.

rapher Guy Shackelford, who contributed many of the images, were there to sign copies as they came off the press.

Today, you may occasionally find a copy on eBay or at a used bookstore. A signed book is rarer still.

Such is the nature of commemorative merchandise. Best to buy it when it is available – or hope to find it online years from now.

The Berryville 225th Anniversary Committee, chaired by lifelong Clarke County resident John Hudson, has been meeting since February 2022 to plan special events in 2023 that celebrate Berryville, share its history, and engage the community, beginning with a community gathering on Jan. 15, the day the Town was officially chartered in 1798.

The "Berryville Celebrates" birthday party is on Sunday, Jan. 15, at Johnson-Williams Middle School. The afternoon program will include activities, presentations, and guest speakers. Opportunities exist for school and community groups that want to participate with Berryville-themed performances or displays.

If you would like to participate in "Berryville Celebrates" events, share old photos and memorabilia for display, or volunteer, contact Berryville1798@gmail.com or message "Berryville Celebrates" on Facebook.



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Around Clarke County

November

19 Turkey Trot 5K & Kids Fun Run

Chet Hobert Park. 225 Al Smith Circle. Berryville. Awards for each age group and door prizes after the race. For insurance purposes and everyone's safety, no dogs on leashes, baby strollers or headphones. 5K at 9am and Fun Run at 10am. Cost for 5K \$30, Fun Run \$20. Registration at Runsignup.com; search "Berryville Turkey Trot 5K" and sign up before Nov. 4 to guarantee race T-shirt. smiller@endersfire.com.

19 FISH Community Table Event

Shiloh Baptist Church. 1983 Millwood Rd.. Thanksgiving food to fix, cooked rotisserie chickens, pie, dairy products, personal care items and snack packs, and food to take home "from our community

table to your family table." Find out what benefits may be available to you from the Department of Social Services. Free. 9-11am. 540-955-1823. www.fishofclarkecounty.org.

19 Dunlap and Mabe Concert

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Ct. Berryville. With Dunlap on mandolin and Mabe on banjo, the duo collaborates with other musicians to play a mix of original tunes, classic bluegrass numbers, jazz favorites and recognizable covers. \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. 7-9pm. www.barnsofrosehill.org.

20 Pancake Day

John Enders Fire Hall. 9 S. Buckmarsh St., Berryville. Enjoy a great, home cooked breakfast, meet neighbors, and support your local fire department. Adults \$10.

Children \$5. Under 6 free. 540-955-1110. www.endersfire.com.

25 Thanksgiving Detox and Recovery

Sanctuary Wellness Center. 208 N. Buckmarsh St. Berryville. Come release unwanted toxins and cleanse the body after that turkey dinner. 10-11:15am. \$25. amyhopegentry@aol.com.

26 Holiday Market

317 W. Main St. Berryville. Hot chocolate, Christmas caroling by the Goldberg School of Music, children's craft table and many vendors. Sponsored by Clarke County Farmers Market. Free admission. 9am-1pm. clarkecountyfarmersmarket.com.

26 Small Business Saturday

Support small businesses

throughout Clarke County. berryvillemainstreet.com.

26 Sanctuary Wellness Open House

Sanctuary Wellness Center. 208 N. Buckmarsh St. Berryville. Come join us for hot cider, teas and treats, meet our practitioners, purchase wellness gift certificates for classes and treatments and your favorite Geo's Joy Herbal Medicines, teas, vinegars, salves, homeopathic and essential oil products. 11am-3pm. Free. www.sanctuaryberryville.com.

December

2 Berryville Christmas Tree Lighting

Rose Hill Park. 35 E. Main St. Berryville. Free event inviting the public to enjoy a time of fellowship and fun in the community park, including a visit from

Santa's elves, caroling, holiday music, cookies and hot chocolate, and horse drawn carriage rides. Dixie Rhythm concert will follow the tree lighting. 4-8pm. berryvillemainstreet.com.

2 Boyce Tree Lighting Ceremony

1 S. Greenway Ave. Boyce Volunteer Fire Company invites all residents, family and friends of all religious faiths to come out and celebrate the Season. Share your family traditions and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Bring an ornament to hang on the tree (all ornaments will be returned if desired). Free. 6:30-8pm. www.boycefire.org.

3 "A Charlie Brown Christmas" Movie and Concert

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Ct. Berryville. Following a showing of the beloved holiday



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3 Christmas Parade

Downtown Berryville. Rose Hill Park activities include face painting, ornament decorating and letters to Santa. Festive music will be played from the master of ceremonies stage in front of Bank of Clarke County. Parade starts at 12pm down Main Street (please note Main Street will close for approximately one hour starting at 11:55), and concludes with the arrival of Santa. berryvillemainstreet.com.

3 Community Caroling and Tree Lighting

Boyce United Methodist Church. 8 Old Chapel Ave. 6pm. 540-336-3584.

3 Historic Long Branch Christmas Gala

Historic Long Branch. 830 Long Branch Lane. Boyce. Please Join Us For "A Dickens of a Christmas" Celebration. Fine cuisine, open bar, holiday music, carols by Shenandoah University Conservatory choir and more. 6-9pm. visitlongbranch.org.

4 Millwood Christmas Tree Lighting

Burwell-Morgan Mill. 15 Tannery Lane. Millwood. Musical Program at 5:45pm, tree lighting at 6:30pm. The South Singers from South Hagerstown High School will present a musical program and lead the group in Christmas carols. Santa Claus will be on hand giving goody bags out of his pack. Hot chocolate and cider along with cookies will be served. Free. 540-837-1790.

7 Holiday Paint & Sip Night

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Court, Berryville. Follow along with Carol Erickson, of Starfish Paint & Create, as she provides step-by-step instruction so you can paint your own holiday-themed masterpiece, using acrylic on canvas. \$40 (includes materials and one drink ticket). 6-8pm. barnsofrosehills.org.

9 Caleb Nei Sextet Concert

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Ct. Berryville. Swingin' jazz concert including Christmas tunes, love songs and originals. \$5 in advance, \$10 at door. 7-9pm. www.barnsofrosehills.org.

10 Meditation Walk

Cool Spring Battlefield, Shenandoah River Campus. 1400 Parker Lane. Bluemont. Good Shepherd Episcopal Church will host "Walking Towards Peace," a free meditation walk. Meet by the pavilion next to the parking lot. The

walk will be about 45 minutes, starting with a greeting from Rev. Martha Clark and ending with a blessing. Walk with us towards peace in our hearts as we address the busyness of the holidays and the blues that can accompany the season. Info and weather updates by phone or on website. 10am. 540-252-5825. goodshepherdbluemont.com.

10 Family Ornament Making

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Ct. Berryville. Craft supplies provided. Three 45 minute slots from 12-3pm. Free. www.barnsofrosehills.org.

10 Holiday Concert

Main Street Chamber Orchestra. Grace Episcopal Church. 110 N. Church Street, Berryville. "The Night Before Christmas" with narrator and holiday music sing along. Free Admission. 4pm. Mainstreetchamberorchestra.org.

10 The Valley Chorale Concert

"Night of Wonder", a choral celebration of Christmas. Winchester's Handley Library (Robinson Auditorium). 100



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Ongoing

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3rd Annual Holiday Bundles of Joy Raffle. Selling chances on five baskets filled with a wide variety of gift cards and gift certificates. Baskets range in value from \$750, \$500, \$350 and \$250. Tickets are \$10 per ticket



or 3 for \$20. (maximum of 550 tickets will be sold) and can be purchased at Family Antiques located at 116 North Buckmarsh Street in Berryville or by calling Dale Coumes at (540) 955-2722 or Lisa Cooke at (540) 539-3712. Drawing will be held on December 14.

Mindful Meditations and Musings

Sanctuary Wellness Center. 208 N Buckmarsh St. Berryville. Weekly meditation class held Fridays for beginners with a focus on mindfulness. Typical class will consist of 30-45 minute lightly guided meditation followed by a brief discussion. Wear comfortable clothing

and bring whatever you need to sit comfortably. Yoga mats and chairs available to borrow. \$25 for individual class, \$100 for five classes. 10:30-11:30am. Email to register. tmgeorge126@gmail.com.

Fall Art Show

Long Branch Historic House and Farm. 830 Long Branch Lane. Boyce. Features work by Jane Casper and Barbara Batterton and runs now through November 20. Gallery is open 10am to 4pm. Monday through Friday and 12 to 4pm Saturday and Sunday. Donations accepted. Contact Long Branch at 540-837-1856 or info@visitlongbranch.org.

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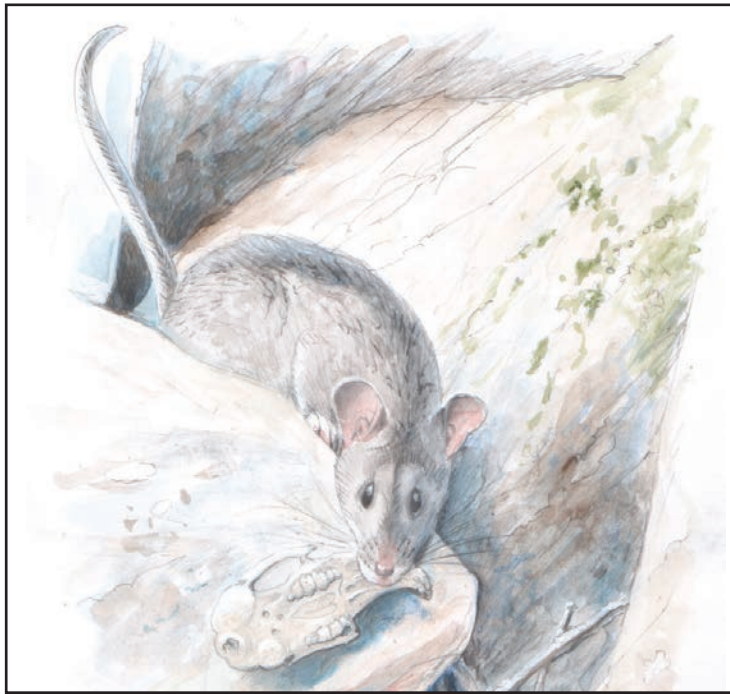
Story and illustration by Doug Pifer

Wildlife biologist Bill McShea trapped, tagged and released an Allegheny woodrat in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in 2001. It was remarkable to find such a rare species still occupying its ancestral range. For the next 20 years no more woodrats were found there. It looked as if that might have been the last surviving woodrat in the area. But this past summer a team of wildlife biologists trapped, ear-tagged and released several Allegheny woodrats in two locations within the park, one in Virginia and one in West Virginia.

The Allegheny woodrat, *Neotoma magister*, a sleek, handsome animal, is no ordinary rat. Its tail is covered with hair, not bare and scaly. Its underparts are whitish, which makes it look like a giant white-footed mouse. And unlike invasive Norway and black rats, woodrats are wild and reclusive. They are native to the United States.

Closely associated with mountainous, forested areas like those surrounding Harpers Ferry, woodrats build nests deep in the clefts of rockslides and cliffs. Like squirrels, they gather acorns, beechnuts and other seeds during the fall to eat during the winter. Biologists describe the Allegheny woodrat as an “indicator species” because its populations can be monitored to determine the health of its habitat.

Woodrats build nests of sticks with an opening in the top like a bird’s nest. And they often hide trinkets — bits of bone and antler, bright colored leaves, bottle caps, bits of leather and other objects — in their nests. Several years ago, I wrote about finding a woodrat’s nest on the mantel inside an abandoned house deep in the woods. It contained colored leaves, a candy wrapper, and a perfectly cleaned rabbit skull. I described the woodrat as the Martha Stewart of animals, in reference to its home decorating



Allegheny woodrat carries a rabbit skull to its stick nest in a rock crevice. Illustration by Doug Pifer courtesy the Pennsylvania Game Commission

habits. Out West, where they’re more common, woodrats earned the name “trade rat” and “pack rat,” owing to their hoarding habits and their tendency to pick up any small prize they might find, leaving in its place any treasure they might have been carrying.

Scott Bates, regional wildlife biologist with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR), said five woodrats were live trapped this past summer. They were ear tagged and released in the same area where they were found in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The group consisted of an adult male, an adult female and three juvenile males, evidence of a successful breeding season. Bates said woodrats are trapped in summer when they are most active. Although they do not hibernate, they don’t move around as much in winter.

Another woodrat was trapped and photographed in the Virginia section of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park as a cooperative

research effort by the National Park Service, Radford University, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, and the West Virginia DNR. According to Karen Powers, Ph.D., a biology professor at Radford University, “Given the Allegheny woodrats’ rarity across their historical range, collaborative efforts like this can go a long way in conserving the species.”

Biologists hope woodrats will continue to live here. “It’s good to know that despite disease, predation by great horned owls, and loss of forested lands to development, these animals still can thrive so close to the Washington DC area,” Bates said.

I’m encouraged to see certain species once considered rare or almost extinct— bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and Allegheny woodrats — returning to our immediate locale. Despite the damage we’ve done to their habitat, their continued presence offers a glimmer of hope that humans and wildlife can successfully coexist.



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Bug Lady

Praying for Prey

Story and photos by Claire Stuart

I was surprised to find a praying mantis on my window a few days ago. They usually die by late October, but it's hard to assume anything in this mild weather. Regardless, once they have laid their eggs, they do not live much longer. People have taken mantises indoors and tried to keep them in terrariums, but they have a natural life span and when it's over, they die.

We can easily recognize this common predatory insect by the way it holds its large front legs in a position that looks like it's praying. In fact, those legs are spiny and are used for grabbing prey and holding it while eating.

The name mantis comes from a Greek word for "soothsayer." They were regarded by many cultures as having mystical powers, probably because they look like they are thinking — and maybe they are! They are the only insects that can turn their heads 180 degrees in either direction, so they seem to be looking intently right at you — and maybe they are!

We have three mantis species in our area. Only one is native — the Carolina mantis, *Stagmomantis Carolina*, the smallest at 2 to 2 1/2 inches long when fully grown. *Mantis religiosa*, the European mantis (2 to 3 inches), and the Chinese mantis, *Tenodera sinensis*, (largest at 4 to 5 inches) were introduced in the 1800s and have thrived. Our mantises are green, brown or gray, but some tropical mantises are brightly colored with body extensions that look like flower petals.

Mantises are ambush hunters, well-camouflaged as they sit still and wait for prey. Like a stalking cat, the mantis creeps forward til the prey is



within reach. Then the mantis pounces, grabs the prey with its front legs, and bites its head off before starting to eat. Mantises usually hunt large insects like grasshoppers and crickets, and will grab insects larger than themselves, and biting the head off prevents an extended battle.

Large mantises have been known to kill small reptiles and amphibians and even hummingbirds. I was doubtful until someone gave me a photo of a mantis eating a hummingbird. Shortly after, I spotted a mantis sitting on my hummingbird feeder, so I evicted it. And I recently read a scientific article confirming that mantises have been seen eating small birds in countries around the world.

Although mantises are considered beneficial in the garden, they really are not very efficient predators — so I wouldn't send off to buy mantis egg cases! Mantises don't scurry around the garden gobbling up insect pests. They simply sit quietly for hours or even days, waiting for prey to wander within reach. You aren't likely to find more than one mantis in close proximity to another because they will kill and eat each other as readily as they'd kill

any other prey.

You've probably heard that the female mantis kills the male during the mating act, biting his head off and eating him. This is true only if she is hungry and he is not able to get away! This story started in a lab with captive mantises when males simply couldn't get away fast enough and far enough. Once I saw someone throw a katydid in with a caged mantis who immediately grabbed and beheaded it.

Ordinarily, female mantises that are ready to mate send out a pheromone to attract males and sometimes do a little dance. The male also has a dance to tell the female that he is not supper, and mating proceeds without incident. I once witnessed a male mating with a female who was simultaneously eating a large grasshopper.

Mantises do not have a metamorphosis, so the young (called nymphs) look just like small adults but without wings. Nymphs are voracious predators and will eat each other, so as soon as they hatch they get as far from their siblings as possible.

The female mantis deposits her eggs in fall, protected by a grayish egg case about the

size and shape of a marshmallow and made of a Styrofoam-like material. It is attached to shrubs, trees, and tall vegetation. If you find a mantis egg case and want to save it to put it in next year's garden, keep it in your garage or other unheated area. If you bring it inside, the heat will cause the eggs to hatch and you'll have hundreds of hungry baby mantises that will eat each other unless you separate them and feed them live prey.

You've probably heard of Cyclops, the one-eyed giant of Greek myth. A very unusual feature of the mantis is its "cyclopean ear," a single ear in the middle of the underside of the thorax. While mantis nymphs can't fly to find improved feeding spots, adults will fly to find better hunting. Their size makes them easy targets for birds, so they fly by night. Of course, bats are airborne at night, hunting with their echolocating radar. The mantis ear can detect bat radar and the



Mantis baby.

mantis will quickly dive to safety. This is the only thing known so far that the cyclopean ear is used for. Some other night-fly-

ing insects can hear bat sounds but they all have two ears.

Any insect questions? Email me at hg_ady@wvnet.com.

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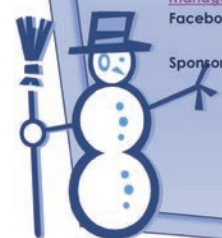
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Ten Tips to Avoid Legal Problems During the Winter Holidays

By Brenda Waugh

Are you a gift purchaser, gift card purchaser, or employer? Perhaps you are an employee, government worker, airline traveler, automobile driver, HOA resident, government official, or separated parent? Believe it or not, your winter holiday may be impacted by the law. Here are some tips on best addressing potential legal issues during the holidays.

1. Gift purchasers: When purchasing gifts in Virginia, be aware that the merchants must notify the customers of their return policy. The notice should be a conspicuous sign in a pub-

lic area. A sign is not required if the merchant provides a cash or credit refund within twenty days of purchase.

2. Gift Card Purchasers: There are countless class actions about gift cards, but Virginia's laws don't provide much protection. The card has to have a statement of the expiration date or a location where the date can be obtained. The statement also has to give a contact where the holder can get information regarding the diminution of the value of the certificate. Unfortunately, there is little legal protection

if the business goes bankrupt. Gift cards are usually treated as an unsecured debt of the bankrupt retailer. So, the consumer may be out of luck.

3. Employers: Are you planning a holiday party? Conduct a risk assessment and detail appropriate safety measures/steps to reduce the risks posed by excessive drinking before the party. Be aware of the potential for unwanted advances, sexual harassment, or acts of violence that may create a future claim for compensation against the employer. If your best efforts to prevent these



actions fail, be prepared to take appropriate action, including reporting the accident to the

employer's liability insurer.

4. Government Employees: Government employees can plan on having a few days to celebrate during the holidays. The Commonwealth of Virginia recognizes November 24 and 25 as Thanksgiving Day and Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, December 26, and New Year's Day. The federal government recognizes January 2, November 24 and December 26 in 2022.

5. Other Workers: Even if employers don't offer overtime pay for holidays, they must comply with the requirements of FLSA. Employers must pay covered non-exempt overtime premiums for every extra hour if they work more than 40 hours in a workweek. This rule applies whether the worker is paid an hourly rate, salary, piece rate, commission, or any other compensation method. Exchanging paid time off for overtime hours is not permitted under the law. You can report infractions to federal and state labor boards or request that your employer mediate your dispute to arrive at a resolution.

6. Divorced or Single Parents: Create a child-centered parenting plan that will provide your children with the types of values you treasure

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during your holiday celebrations. Try to preserve the most important traditions of your immediate and extended families, even when the parents are living in separate households. To avoid conflict, create a detailed plan well before the holidays and share it with everyone involved. Mediation may provide an excellent place to meet and discuss details if you need help negotiating the terms.

7. Domestic airline travelers: Since 2020, flying has been full of challenges, including delayed and cancelled flights. In the United States, airlines are not required to compensate passengers when a flight is delayed or canceled. However, it is required if a passenger is bumped from an oversold flight. However, when traveling in Europe or outside of the United States, passengers may be entitled to reimbursements or compensation.

8. Drivers: While enjoying a cup of eggnog or glass of champagne may be part of many winter holiday celebrations, drivers may want to pass. In Virginia, a first DUI/DWI offense is a misdemeanor with a penalty of up to \$25,000. Mandatory jail time is required when the BAC is a certain level or if there are other factors present, such as a collision or prior infractions. Additionally, the conviction (or refusal to take a BAC) often results in a one-year driver's license suspension. A conviction may also cause an increase in insurance premiums or make it challenging to maintain auto insurance. Some counties provide restorative justice options to be considered in some DUI cases.

9. Government Officials: When deciding on holiday decorations, government officials should check with their counsel to determine the constitutionality of the decorations. While this is a complex issue, the Supreme Court has permitted the state to erect holiday decorations when they: have a secular purpose, have principal effects that neither advance nor inhibit religion, and do not



foster excessive government entanglement with religion. Community disputes over holiday displays can be addressed in court but are often better resolved through mediation, where a mutually acceptable resolution for all community members can be explored.

10. HOA residents: Many homeowners associations limit

or prohibit specific holiday decorations. The rules may pertain to restrictions on when decorations may be displayed, location, safety issues, and preventing a nuisance. Residents may want to meet with their board to discuss concerns. Additionally, to comply with the Fair Housing Act, the HOA's restrictions should be drafted so as not to single out any religion. A better practice is for rules to ally to "all holiday decorations" to be sure that no religion is being singled out. When a disagreement arises, the HOA and resident should consider mediating the conflict before incurring the time and expense of litigation.

If, despite your best efforts, you find yourself in a legal conflict due to activities during the holidays, consider speaking with a lawyer or determining the state agency that is charged

with enforcement of a law to protect your rights. Also, consider whether or not the conflict may be resolved with an alternative dispute resolution process, such as mediation. With careful, thoughtful planning, we can minimize risks and en-

joy our families, co-workers, neighbors and friends during this special time of the year.

Brenda Waugh is a lawyer/mediator with Waugh Law & Mediation, serving clients in the Blue Ridge region of Virginia and Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.



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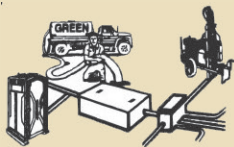


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Community Dispatch

Honor Flight – Top of Virginia Has Unique Way Of Thanking Veterans

By Jeanette Shable



While we can never repay our nation's veterans for their bravery, sacrifice, and service, the Honor Flight Network is doing their best to honor and show our gratitude. The mission of Honor Flight is to celebrate America's oldest veterans by giving them a day of honor at their memorials. Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the chance to share this trip with other veterans, to remember friends and comrades, and share their stories and experiences with each other.

Honor Flight was formed in 2005 by Jeff Miller and Earl Morse after the opening of the World War II Memorial inspired them to fly twelve World War II veterans from Ohio to Washington D.C. to visit the newly opened memorial erected in their honor. Since then, 131 hubs have formed across

the nation, and expanded their reach to include veterans who served through 1975 and veterans from all eras who are terminally ill or injured. Honor Flight provides these veterans with an all-expenses-paid day of honor visiting the various memorials to their service including the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam memorials, and the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

One of those hubs, Honor Flight – Top of Virginia, honors veterans in the Shenandoah Valley and beyond with the motto "Serving Our Heroes, Inspiring Our Youth". Since 2016, Honor Flight – Top of Virginia has made 15 Missions to Washington D.C., honoring 640 veterans, including 67 World War II veterans. While most hubs bring their veterans to D.C. on airplanes, Honor Flight – Top of Virginia is close enough to

make the trip by bus. They currently take three trips a year, one each from Winchester, Loudoun, and Harrisonburg.

The trip is about so much more than visiting the memorials. It is a day of honor. From the moment the veterans check in in the morning, until they leave in the evening, they are treated as heroes. Honor Flight buses are given special access to the various memorials to limit the amount of walking required. For veterans with mobility issues, a wheelchair is provided, along with a volunteer to push it.

These trips are truly remarkable. Here is what some of the veterans have said about their experience on an Honor Flight – Top of Virginia Mission:

"On my return from Vietnam in 1970 I experienced a nation

that was hostile to veterans. I did not feel welcome home.

"September 8, 2018 - I participated in the Honor Flight with Top of Virginia and with other veterans of the Shenandoah Valley. It was an amazing trip and experience for all . . . for the first time in 48 years I had my welcome home. Yes, the happy tears did flow. Thank you Honor Flight - Top of Virginia!"

David Reichert,
1st. Sgt USMC Ret.

"Thank you for one of the most memorable days of my life. From the moment we met you made us feel so special. The organization of this event was flawless . . . Being a Vietnam Vet, the escort was unbelievable. It was a welcome home we did not receive in the day and one I will never forget. For myself and all Vets, thank you so much."

R.W., Army, Vietnam Veteran

Recommend a Veteran for the trip. If you know a Veteran who served prior to 1976, who has not gone on an Honor Flight trip, encourage them to complete an application to



participate in the next mission near them. The next trip from Winchester will be Saturday, June 3, 2023.

When offered the opportunity to participate in a mission, many local veterans decline, stating they have seen the me-

morials already. Encourage them to sign up anyway. Participating in an Honor Flight trip allows the veterans to share the experience with other veterans who know what they are thinking and feeling, and in many cases, providing healing

that they may not even know they needed. Vietnam veterans will receive their long overdue "welcome home."

Applications can be submitted on the Honor Flight - Top of Virginia website www.honorflight-tov.org. You can

also sign up to be a volunteer, or come out and welcome our veterans home at the end of their day. Reach out to them at honorflighttov@gmail.com or 540-692-9197.



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Another True Account

Pockets Full of Rats

Story and illustration by Keith Patterson

It was the beginning of summer after first grade. I'd gotten mixed reviews, with a trend towards improvement, and had acquired a reasonable amount of autonomy and the responsibility that comes with it. The responsibility was in the fine form of my fat little brother, Booboo, who had only recently been let out of the house without a tether. And it was my job to keep him alive outside of our driveway.

We had just moved into a new house in a new neighborhood. Our mother was often occupied with our baby sister, Amy, and Dad was usually working or doing the dozens, and Booboo and I had a new license to roam, at least as far as the eye could see from our front door — I recall those parameters being described to me by my father, Nathan. "Keith, you and Booboo have to stay in the neighborhood, right here on our street."

We had been standing in the front yard of our little house on Ogden Street. My father pointed to his right towards the dark, old-growth, hardwood forest where Ogden Street dead-ended and disappeared into decades of fallen oak leaves. "Do NOT go into the woods." My father switched hands and pointed to his left towards the stop sign where Ogden Street T-boned into Shreve Road, which led to our school, Columbia Elementary. "And do NOT go past that stop sign at the end of the street."

My dad took my shoulders, looked me hard in the eyes, leaned in and said, "And if you let anything happen to Booboo, I'll KICK YOUR BUTT!"

Keeping Booboo alive wasn't as easy as you might think. He

was a natural target. Plump cheeked. Well-tanned with big, dark eyes and an adorable smile. He was also mostly obnoxious as heck because he knew that I'd protect him in accordance with our father's stated rules for maintaining the status quo. Every kid we encountered wanted to smack him. Some DID smack him. Booboo was so cute and obnoxious that even I wanted to smack him. And I did. But if anybody *else* smacked him, I had to respond. Nathan's rules.

I like rules. Rules let you know what lines you're stepping over. Booboo and I quickly stepped over and expanded our boundary lines, and after a couple weeks we had ventured into and explored a vast amount of the deep woods where Ogden ended, and had danced in the street on the far side of the stop sign at Ogden's other end, just to make sure that we didn't leave any taboos unbroken. Booboo and I bonded over our ever-increasing pile of shared indiscretions.

We made new friends. And some new enemies. My little brother knew that I had his back, so he usually acted like he *wanted* to get his rear kicked, and I had to defend him relentlessly. I was taking my share of lumps while doing battle in Booboo's defense, and realized that I needed to develop a strategy to save us both some skin.

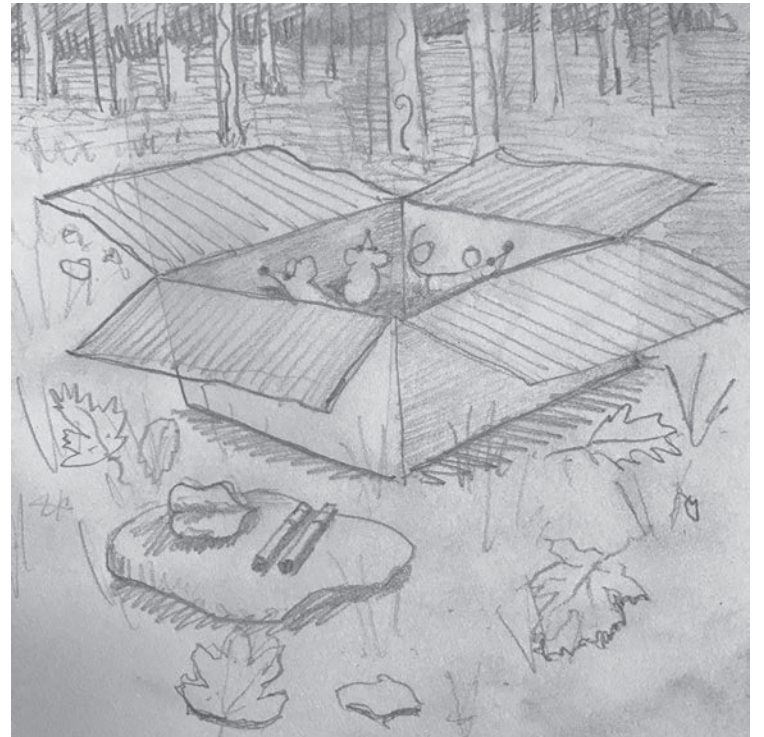
"Son," my father once enjoined me, while describing the finer points of shotgun diplomacy. "If it's just you, and you think you might get your tail hammered, you don't have to fight. Get the hell out of there! But if somebody is picking on a weaker person, like

your little brother, then Son, that's what we call a 'freebie from God', and you're allowed to defend the weaker person, no questions asked."

So, as Booboo and I made the rounds of our ever-increasing range, I began letting my little brother walk several paces up in front of me, trolling him out like a fat, brown, grinning piece of bait. It worked like a charm. No bully could resist. Booboo took some cheap shots. But I usually got a running start and exacted some instant karma on the perpetrators. Sometimes, the plan went slightly awry, like the time I was trolling Booboo a little too far out and Kenny Kuhn, a large kid with a mean streak, pounced on Booboo and started smacking him around. I got a running start and delivered a haymaker with my shoulder to Kenny's head, but because I started from too far out, Kenny saw me coming and turned to absorb the blow and I bounced off of him like he was made of granite with my shoulder burning *and* numb! Luckily, Kenny wanted to be friends after that collision. But I never trolled Booboo out that far ever again. Lesson learned. Our brotherly relationship was evolving. My protection bought with Booboo's complicity and discretion concerning my schemes.

Into the woods

One fine summers' day, after Vacation Bible School had let out, Booboo and I had a peanut-butter sandwich and Kool Aid lunch, then journeyed deeper into the woods than ever before and found the other end of it. We exited the forest onto a quiet lane next to



a small, country store. We had never seen this place before. Having some loose change in our pockets, we climbed-up the wooden steps and went inside the country store to have a look around. BINGO! On a low rack in front of the cash register was everything a kid could ever want in this life! Wax lips with colored sugar-water inside and candy cigarettes!

The prices were reasonable so we emptied the change from our cargo pants pockets and filled them up with forbidden delights. Then we plunged back into the woods and slowly wandered back towards home, sampling our wares and grinning at each other from behind our wax lips. The afternoon summer sun dappling the leaves with light, feeling glorious in the knowledge that we would have to eat ourselves sick in order to finish all of our sweet treasures before leaving the woods, as their possession was strictly forbidden.

We were casting shadows ten feet tall as we glided home on a sugar rush growing bigger than our shrinking pockets. It was difficult to imagine any moment feeling better than this one. We were understandably distracted and got a little off-course and ended-up coming upon a kid that we'd never seen before.

The new kid was bent over a cardboard box, gently jostling it around and yelling into it. "RUN, YALLER! RUN!" The new kid looked a little older than me. He did not immediately look up as Booboo and I warily approached. He jostled the cardboard box and yelled into it some more. "RUN, YALLER! RUN, OLD BLUE!"

The new kid became aware of me and Booboo's approaching and looked-up from his box. He eyed us warily and said "You goonies like to gamble?"

"Gamble?" I'd heard of it, but had no earthly clue what it was. "Sure!" I said.

“Got any money?” asked the kid with the box.

I only had a few pennies left, but I didn’t tell him right off. “Whatcha got in the box?” I asked.

“Lissen-up, punk. You got a dime’n I’ll make it yore bizness what’s in this box. You’ll like it. GAY RON TEED!” This kid was a salesman. I could hear some scrambling and scurrying of little feet coming from inside of the cardboard box. Booboo’s eyes got huge with excitement! His face was lit up like an angel! “Lemme see in the box!!” yelled me and Booboo together!

The new kid put the box down on the ground and stepped back. Me and Booboo closed in and looked inside. BABY RATS!

What a glorious sight! A dozen or so baby white rats were scurrying and tussling at

the bottom of the cardboard box. One had a drop of blue paint on its back. One had a drop of yellow. Another had a drop of red on its head and another a blob of black. All of the others were just plain white and nearly identical.

“Put yer nickels on the rock.” The new kid pointed to a flat rock at our feet. “And then pick a color. Red, yellow, blue or black.”

All I had was a few pennies. I knew that Booboo was flat broke. But we both had deep cargo pants pockets pockets filled with sugary googas! I reached down deep and produced a pair of pink-water wax lips. Booboo removed a candy cigarette from the pack that he was working on and put it down on the flat rock beside my wax lips.

“Make it two.” Said the new kid to Booboo. Booboo turned

to me. I nodded in approval. Booboo carefully placed another candy cigarette on the flat rock.

“Now pick yer colors.” Said the new kid.

“Blue.” I said. “

“Red.” Said Booboo.

The new kid used a piece of cardboard as wide as the box to push all of the rats to one end of the box. He put a small piece of food in the far end of the box. “If yer rat gets to the cheese first, you win.” Said the new kid.

“What do we win?” I asked.

The new kid blinked his eyes and said, “You win a rat.”

Booboo and I looked at each other in utter glee! This day just kept getting better and better.

I kept betting on blue and won ten straight races. I don’t really understand gambling but that new kid ended-up with

all of our sugar treasures and we ended up with a box full of rats, minus the box. That new kid kept the cardboard box to carry all of the sugar treats. Booboo and I had to put all of the baby rats into our cargo pockets. It was a giggle-fest of a walk home through those summertime woods.

When we arrived back at home some of our friends were gathered on our back stoop. We produced our squiggling throng of gambling booty with no clear plan of action. A wild melee ensued! Baby rats were everywhere. Kids were gleefully screaming and chasing them down. “Where’s Old Blue!” I shouted above the din. I couldn’t find him. I’d only known that rat for a couple of hours but there was a real bond.

“AAAAH! THERE’S RATS EVERYWHERE!” My mother came

out of the back-door wielding a broom like a demon! Kenny Kuhn got up heavily from his seat on the back stoop. A smushed rat was stuck in the butt-crack of his Husky jeans. It was Old Blue.

Sometimes you think things couldn’t possibly get any better, and they get better. And then, other times, it seems like things couldn’t possibly get any worse and then you hear your mother explaining to your father over the phone why he needed to discipline me and Booboo severely when he got home. “They both had... POCKETS FULL OF RATS!”

Post Script Analysis: This tale obviously has no plot or moral. This is the burden of the naked truth.

Not Just Anywhere

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Clarke's Historic Balclutha For Sale

By Rebecca Maynard

If walls could talk, the ones at Balclutha in Clarke County would certainly have many interesting stories to tell.

The 125-acre property is for sale, including the main house and a guest house renovated from what is thought to be the property's original smokehouse.

According to a research paper by Mildred Leedy Armao, who holds a Bachelor's degree in architectural history from the University of Virginia, the property was very likely the home of George Washington's brother, Warner Washington II. The land upon which Balclutha sits was part of the Northern Neck Proprietary, five million acres in the colony of Virginia appropriated by England's King Charles II in 1649 and inherited by Thomas, Lord Fairfax, in 1719.

Armao writes that Warner Washington II moved to Frederick (now Clarke) County shortly after the death of his first wife, Elizabeth Macon, in 1763. After the death of his second wife in 1795, Warner II moved to "Audley" and in 1801 sold "Clifton"

to his first cousin by marriage, Griffin Taylor. This information, the paper says, clearly indicates that a residence existed on the property by 1771, long before the home currently known as Clifton was built.

While today Balclutha and Clifton are recognized as two separate properties, they have been intertwined for 241 years and are an example of generational land ownership that illustrates the extended familial relationships of 18th and 19th century Virginia. The evidence suggests that Balclutha was the first residence on the property known as "Clifton."

Balclutha was built in the Philadelphia Federal style and contains architectural elements of varying periods of construction.

"It's a really, really cool house," said Rachael Duvall, sales associate for TTR Sotheby's International Realty in The Plains. "There are still a lot of original elements in the home, which is really neat, like some of the windows and the hard pine floors."

The random-width wide plank pine flooring on the first



floor reveals evidence of a trap door, which according to Armao's paper was used to hide silver and/or soldiers during Clifton/Balclutha's occupation by federal troops during the Civil War.

"98 years ago, Gen. U.S. Grant turned off the Charles Town-Berryville road at Gaylord and rode up a lane toward a house sitting back on a knoll," reads a 1962 newspaper account Armao quotes in her research. "Union troops were posted atop the roof, where they had a commanding view of the countryside. Reports persist that they had danced on the piano and shot all the stock on the land except for one blind cow. After a brief conference with [Sheridan] the Union commander returned to Washington after his only wartime trip to the valley. The land and the house are still there...Balclutha."

Most of the house has been updated, Duvall said, but the original rafters, made of stripped timber and put together with pegs, are another striking element that speaks to the house's rich history.

Balclutha was "modernized" in the 1930s, Armao writes, and purchased by John A. Chew in

1940. Chew rented and later sold the property to his brother-in-law, James M. Thomson, who married Genevieve Clark, the daughter of Missouri Congressman, House Minority Leader, and Speaker of the House, Champ Clark. Genevieve Clark Thomson campaigned actively for women's rights and ran for Congress in the 2nd district of Louisiana in 1924.

In 1945, Thomson hosted the wedding of her brother, former Senator Bennett Champ Clark, with President Harry S. Truman serving as Best Man. Residents of Clarke County lined up along Route 7 to catch a glimpse of the President on his way to Grace Episcopal Church in Berryville.

The Thomsons lived at Balclutha for the remainder of their lives, and the current owners purchased the property from the Thomson family in 1981.

The 3,264 square foot house includes three bedrooms, four





bathrooms, multiple fireplaces, a library with fireplace and built-in bookcases, elegant dining room, pool, tennis court, and more. The two bedroom guest house includes a kitchenette, sleeping loft and handicapped accessible bathroom.

"One of the things added in the 1900s that prospective buyers might be really interested in is the enclosed sleeping porch that runs the full length of the house," said Duvall. "It's really unique and the sellers have it set up with four twin beds. You don't see a lot of sleeping porches!"

The property is convenient to Route 7, Duvall said, and has some beautiful old magnolia, boxwood and oak trees.

"People have commented on those trees and at this time of year they look beautiful," she said. "There are really lovely views out to the western side of the property."

For more information, contact Rachael Duvall at Sotheby's International Realty at 703-431-0656 or rduvall@ttrsir.com.

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Shop Local This Season with a Chance to Win \$1500 Berryville Bucks

By Rebecca Maynard

Clarke County's small businesses are beloved members of the community, and they need our support this holiday season — and all year. By committing to shopping locally and supporting small businesses, we all cycle money back into our community.

The tax revenue made through sales from local businesses support the local government. This is then used to reinvest in the community. By choosing to invest money into a large big box chain elsewhere, local communities won't reap any of the benefits.

Sherry Craig, owner of Sweet Pea's Children's Shop and Ladies' Gifts in Berryville, had an idea years ago that has since become an annual Clarke County tradition — a \$1,500 "Berryville Bucks" cash giveaway during the holiday shopping season.

"Because the economy was going down, I felt like if businesses grouped together, we could do something for our customers at Christmas," Craig said. "It's a win-win situation because customers like going to shops during the Christmas shopping season, so it helps local businesses and also blesses the winners."

Participating businesses will have a ballot box in their shop or restaurant now through December 8 with a drawing on December 10. Business patrons can fill out one entry form per day for free at each par-

ticipating business, with extra entries granted when making purchases.

The "Berryville Bucks" are as good as cash at any of the approximately 30 participating businesses, and there will be 12 winners total, with one grand prize of \$400, two prizes of \$200 each, five prizes of \$100, and four prizes of \$50.

Participating businesses include:

- Althouse Pottery
- Annabelle Beauty Salon
- Audley Farm
- Barns of Rose Hill
- Berryville Auto Parts/ Radio Shack
- Berryville Treasures
- Berryville Family Chiropractic
- Berryville Service Center
- Blue Ridge Hospice Thrift Store
- Brazen Sheep
- Cabinet and Appliance Center
- Camino Real of Berryville
- Furnish and Drape
- Greenway Auto
- Jane's Lunch
- Mario's Pizza
- My Neighbor and Me
- Santorini Grill
- Northern Virginia Doctors of Optometry
- Split Ends
- Sponseller's Flower Shop

- Sweet Basil Thai
- Sweet Pea's Children's Shop
- Unique Creations Studios
- The Family Trust Numismatics
- Zen Ramen

According to Forbes.com, small businesses play a significant role in supporting local community charities and causes. It's clear that local businesses benefit from a strong community, therefore the owners tend to be more engaged members of the community themselves. Small businesses donate 250 percent more than large businesses to local nonprofits and community causes, creating a positive cycle of giving back locally. This includes local charities, youth organizations, local first responders, local service groups and more.

Small Business Saturday is November 26, the day after Black Friday. Even if you must brave the crowds in search of the latest electronics at a big box on Friday, consider making a commitment to shop local as much as possible this year. And don't forget to frequent all of our county's wonderful businesses all year!

For more information, visit the Sweet Pea Facebook page or berryvillemainstreet.com.



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-Shop Small Saturday
-Berryville Bucks Double Entry Day
-Clarke County Farmer's Market Holiday Market

November 28
-Annual Parking Meter Decorating Contest Begins

December 2
-Christmas Tree Lighting @ Rose Hill Park
-Old Time Christmas Open House @ CCHA

December 3
-18th Annual Clarke County Christmas Parade
-Historic Long Branch Christmas Gala, 6-9 pm

December 10
-Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

December 11
-Historic Rosemont Manor Holiday Open House

December 17
-Christmas Market at Audley Farm and Enders Fire House Fundraiser

for more information, visit
www.BerryvilleMainStreet.com

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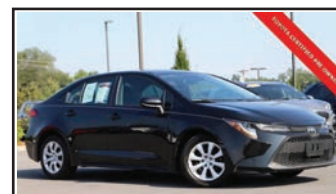
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