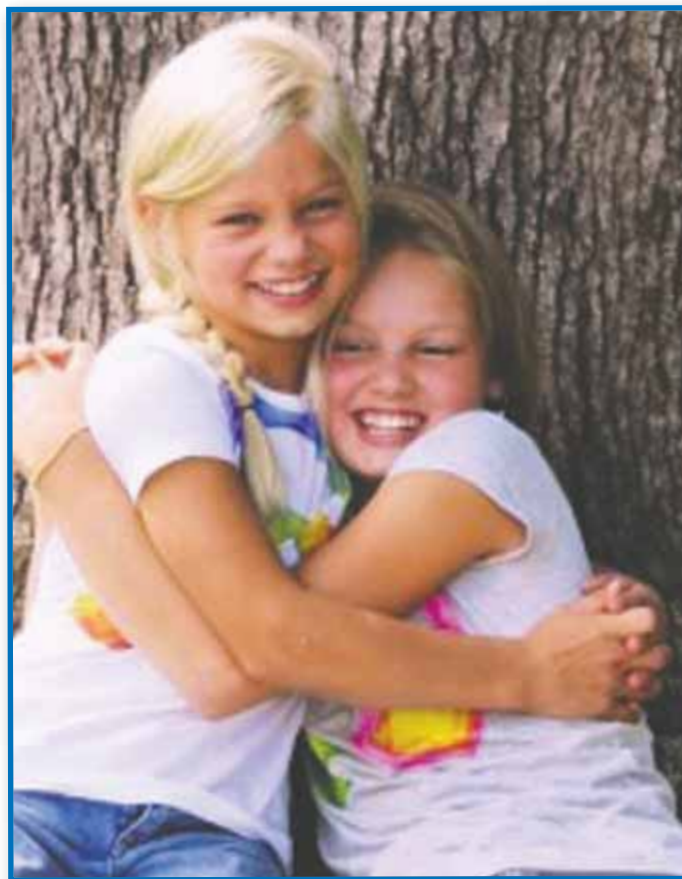
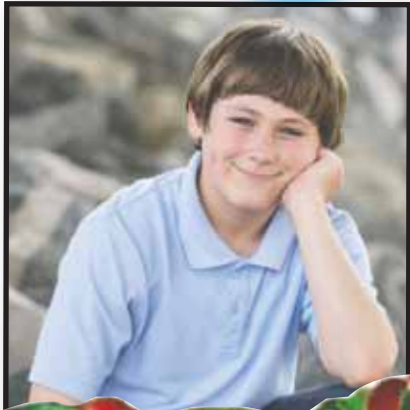


OC★Magazine

Fostering Children



Brings Christmas Joy



Horticulturist Sandy Mudrinich tucks greenery into a planter at the visitor center.
All photos by Pat LaLand.

ing the races. I dried them and dyed them with a pink spray then used the clear spray to hold them.”

The containers used vary widely. They range from an elegant figured pair of slender vases used at the visitor center desk to an antique rustic basket holding an arrangement for Mother Madison’s room. Non-floral materials used include pheasant feathers and a pair of deer antlers, the latter on view in the room known as Mr. Madison’s library.

Assistant Curator Grant Quartermous comments that, “Although contemporary sources suggest that no decorations were used in homes in the 18th and 19th centuries, it was celebrated with fellowship and festive entertainments with family and friends. In a letter written by Dolley from Montpelier to her friend Cornelia Roosevelt in 1842, she says, ‘Christmas arrives and with it a lively train of visitors and a brilliant snow.’”

Montpelier welcomed hundreds of visitors to enjoy what are now traditional seasonal decorations along with wine, wassail and light refreshments embellished by music and carols at the Holiday Open House and candlelight tours held the first two weekends in December. Arrangements in the mansion were taken down after December 15.



A pine swag is on the mantle in the dining room.



Pheasant feathers and a deer antler are part of the arrangement in Mr. Madison's library.



By Annette Daly

THE PEACOCKAT: *Look Good – Stay Warm*

Brad Pitt, Usher, and Robert Redford wear them. Style icons Nicole Ritchie and Gweneth Paltro have been spotted wearing them too. If you want to look sophisticated, intelligent, and stylish, then it's time to wear a peacoat.

The peacoat is an overcoat that is double breasted, hip length, broad lapels, and made of wool. It is nappy on the outside with slash pockets, and never has zippers. The buttons signify the Navy sailor with insignia such as an anchor wrapped in rope. The coat is a classic and the design style has not changed much since its beginning history. The peacoat is worth the investment because of the classic style, versatility, and durability. It is not something you throw on the couch and let your dog sleep on.

Today, the coat comes in all colors and is worn by both men and women. It was originally worn by sailors of European navies in the 19th century. The U.S. Navy began wearing the overcoat in the early 20th century, and the color was only dark blue or black. It was designed for sailors climbing up and down ropes. Coats that are authentic and produced by the U.S. Navy contract, are special family heirlooms and get passed down from generation to generation.

The peacoat name comes from the word "pij" for the type of cloth it is made from. It was known as the "P-Coat" because of the type of cloth of the jacket that many pilots wore. Britain called the garment a reefer jacket and was only worn by officers. This coat is a perfect



choice in rain, wind, and snow. Pull up the wide lapels around your neck to stay dry and warm in bad weather.

The peacoats come in all price points. Most of the peacoats you see on the streets now are manufactured, however, if you can find one in a thrift store, snag it. The originals were well made. I am wearing the modern officer's version of the coat because of the epaulets on the shoulders. The modern hem line is rounded where as the originals are more boxy and straight. It sells for \$158. At Belk Ralph Lauren's for men it is on sale for \$350.

When choosing a peacoat to purchase, the fit is important. The coat is designed to wear buttoned. It should fit snug but not tight. The length of the coat is very important because of its boxy shape. If you are on the short side, then don't make the mistake of buying it too long. This will only make you look more petite and heavier in weight.

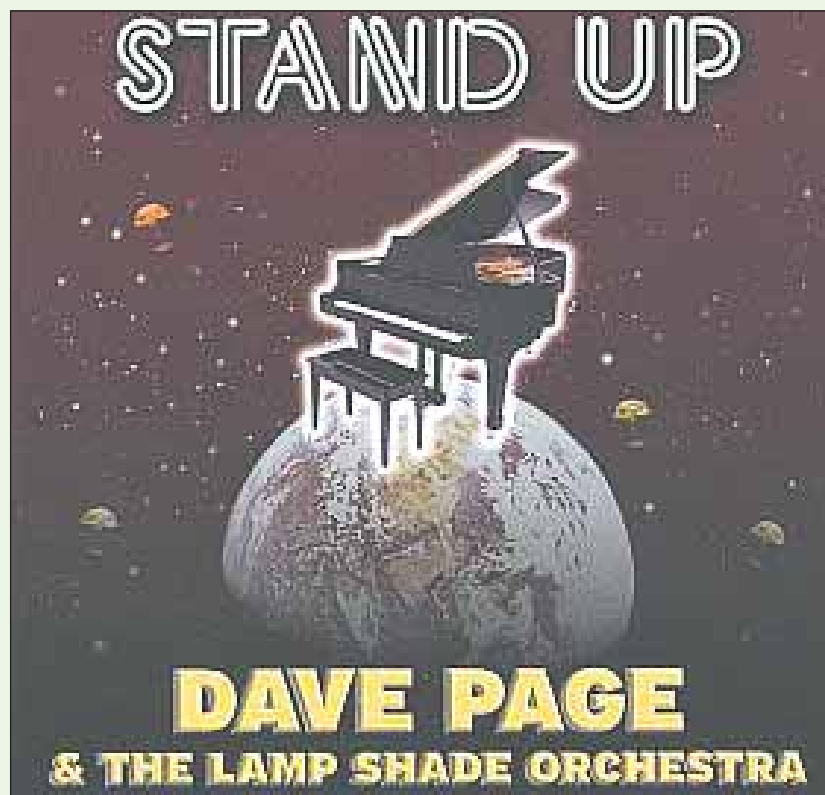
The peacoat makes a perfect gift for those who are active, stylish, and who needs to stay warm in the cold winter months. They are the most affordable if you can find them in thrift stores. They are still worth a bigger investment because it is a coat that never goes out of style and can be worn for years and years. The nostalgia and history of the design makes the peacoat even more special. This present under the tree is sure to please.

Annette Daly –Your Wardrobe Wizard is a Fluvanna County image consultant, speaker, and columnist specializing in teaching women of influence fashion and wardrobe skills that convey confidence and authentic style.



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Rising rock artist unveils new album

This week, independent record label Tate Music Group is happy to announce the official release of Dave Page and the Lampshade Orchestra's new album titled "Stand Up."

Released by Tate Music Group, the album offers 9 tracks and is readily available for purchase nationwide at the iTunes Store, Amazon.com, or directly from TateMusicGroup.com.

Dave Page is one passionate artist who dreams of sharing his music to the rest of the world. As a teenager, he began exploring his own songwriting skills and he was also actively involved in a number of bands before deciding to pursue a solo career. He never gave up and now his dreams are slowly becoming a reality. He believes that with dedication and hard work, everything will fall into place.

The album "Stand Up" will entice listeners with its awesome collection of rock tunes such as "Impossible Things," "Waiting For A Dream" and "Grass Jam." Be sure to check out this album and don't miss out on Dave Page and the Lampshade Orchestra.

Notes from Opie



Donation Drop-off

Just in case you don't know every **Saturday from Noon til 2 pm we have a donation drop-off** here at Rikki's Refuge Education Center at 21410 Constitution Hwy. in Rapidan. We are really in need of bleach, canned cat food, dry cat food, dog food canned and dry, paper towels, fabulosso floor cleaner and laundry detergent.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME TO SAVE SO MANY LIVES during this year of 2013. With your support we're able to help so many into their new furrever happy homes and to give that life long home to those not quite so fortunate ... Thank you for your sup-

port <http://rikkisrefuge.org/donate.php>

Without YOU none of us would be looking forward to Christmas this year.

I want to give every cat a can of their very own, and every doggy a nice big bone to chew on and every cow some delicious hay and every piggy ... well a whole bucket of slop !!!!

I can't do it without your help. Please don't let anyone go hungry ...

Will YOU help me feed everybody? Please donate what you can go to: <http://rikkisrefuge.org/donate.php> Love always, Opie

Christmas Tour

Also Christmas Tour at **noon on the 25th. This is ONE tour and is not an open house. Tickets are required in advance.** Email to mail@rikkisrefuge.org for your ticket application, please mention which day in your request !! Complimentary tickets to Rikki's Family Members and to those who have visited on Christmas Day before. You can also reserve for our traditional New Years Day Nature Hike now: mail@rikkisrefuge.org

I still need wrapping help!

Opie is looking for helpers to wrap gifts for donations for the Refuge. Rikki's volunteers will be at Barnes & Noble in Fredericksburg VA (USA) on Saturday, December 21, 2013; Sunday, December 22, 2013; and Monday, December 23, 2013. This is at 1220 Carl D. Silver Pwky, in Central Park.

We would be delighted to have you come help. You don't need to bring anything - Barnes & Noble supplies everything! If so, please sign up for one of the following time shifts. If you can't do a full shift, let us know any hours you can help out. We have to have two people there at all times, so we need several helpers.

Saturday, December 21 -- noon to 4pm and 4pm to 9pm or possibly 10 pm - the store closes at ten and we can stay that late if we want.) What a chance for night owls to help!

Sunday, December 22 -- noon to 4pm

Monday, December 23 -- 4pm to 6:30pm and -- 6:30pm to 9pm (or 10pm)

All you need to do is send an e-mail to Mary at Oliverequine@aol.com or to mail@RikkisRefuge.org Please put "B&N gift wrap" in the subject spot, so we don't miss you.

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*Central
Virginia Gardening
By Sunny Lenz*

Holly and Ivy

The lyric goes, 'the holly and the ivy when they are both full grown, of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown'. The song goes on with the holly as metaphor but I'm interested in the wonderful holly tree itself. The native American holly can reach 50' and has a lot of berries this season. Some say that predicts a cold winter; of course, it has to do with flower production last spring. Holly flowers are wonderfully fragrant but the berries are the show.



A mixture of holly, ivy and pine cones.


Few people have yards big enough for the American holly and the clean up of prickly leaves is daunting. They can be pruned to make a hedge as hollies take cutting well. They need male plants to make berries but there are many in the woods so you really don't have to plant for cross pollination. For smaller trees, Nellie Stevens holly has become popular. They can take pruning for shape though they form a natural pyramid and make a nice specimen or screen. The Blue hollies stay smaller and wider and many cultivars have been developed. Be sure to choose a female cultivar like 'Blue Princess' for the best berries. English holly is the traditional Christmas holly with its striking berries and shiny leaves.

As an alternative to the prickles, there are Burford hollies with rounder less painful leaves and dwarf Burford for a smaller yard. Yaupon holly, grown as a beautiful hedge around the parterres at the Westover plantation, has a drooping shape and a friendly leaf as well with very nice berry production. All these berries will feed birds and provide cover in winter. There are really painless Inkberry holly or Japanese holly, which make very good screens and are used like boxwood but with no significant berry.

I really like the deciduous hollies with soft lance shape leaves which drop in winter to reveal a stem covered with berries. I first noticed the Possumhaw holly outside the Longwood College library. On a snowy day, the red berries glow through the winter white and outline the shape of the tree trucks. There are winterberry hollies newly developed to produce clusters of berries on a bare stem. They grow into groves making a haze of red in the winter landscape. Several new varieties come out every year as their popularity grows; try 'sparkle berry' or 'winter red' for the brightest red or 'sundrop' with yellow berries.


We have so many evergreens with which to 'deck the halls'. To make a door swag, use a nice full bow of white pine, a branch of cedar with blue berries, a branch of boxwood or Inkberry, some rosemary branches and a nice berry filled holly branch. I don't recommend hemlock as they drop needles as soon as they dry out. Fasten at the top with wire and fix a red bow over the wire. Stick a few sprigs over the branches at the top and hang as a welcome on the lamp post or on either side of the door or on a railing.

Sunny Lenz is a professional gardener and landscape painter working in and around central Virginia.




FOUR COUNTY PLAYERS
PRESENTS


Songs in The Cellar



BACKWARDS BROADWAY



A New Musical Revue
THE CELLAR
Directed by Edward Warwick
Musical Direction & Accompaniment by Greg Harris



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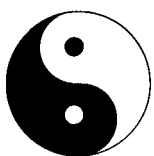
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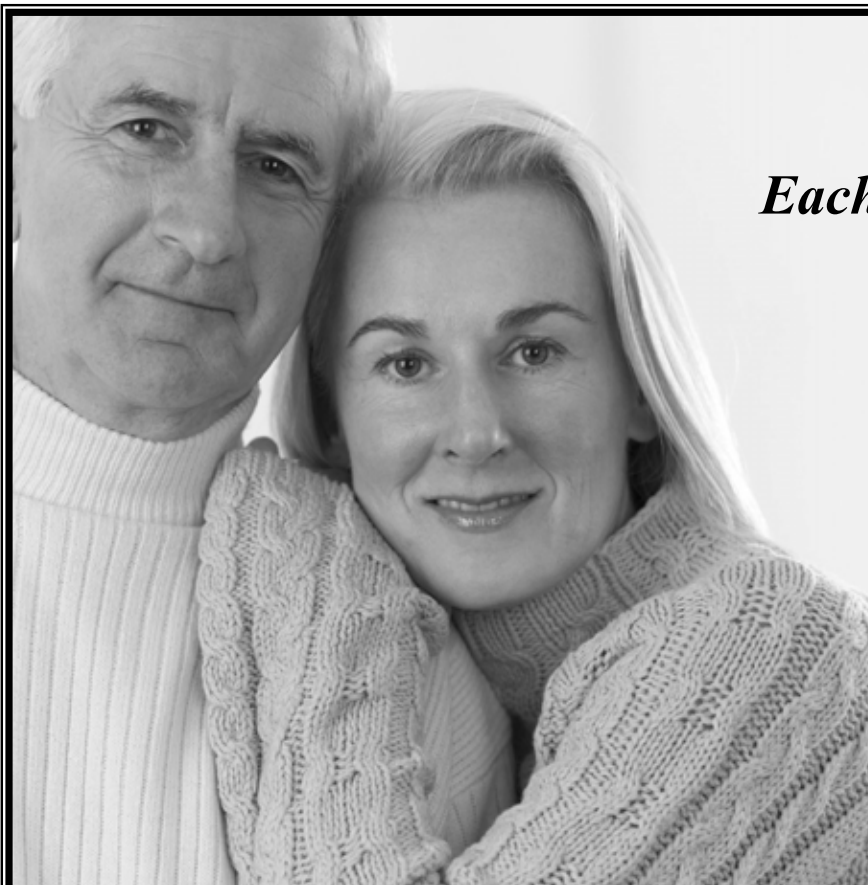
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Post-Emancipation Exhibit

On permanent exhibit at the James Madison Museum in Orange is Post-Emancipation in Orange, Virginia, one of the three segments of the growing African-American history exhibit that also includes the Forgotten Patriots of the American Revolution, and Slavery in the Rappahannock District.



Hugh Gildea made this replica of an early form of banjo brought to America by African slaves. Photos by Pat LaLand.



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THE ORANGE SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS:
Ailey Bus Trip
February 8, 2014 – Kennedy Center



Demetia Hopkins performing "The River". Photo by Paul Kolnik.

The Orange School of Performing Arts will be taking it's 3rd Annual bus trip to Washington DC (The Kennedy Center) on Saturday, February 8, 2014 (Matinee Performance) to see former student and Instructor Demetia Hopkins as she performs with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Demetia Hopkins of Orange, VA began her dance training at OSPA under the direction of her uncle Ricardo Porter and Heather Powell. She attended Orange County High School then furthered her education at Fordham University where she graduated with honors in 2009 from the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A program in Dance.



Demetia Hopkins.

If you would like to join OSPA in celebrating Demetia's outstanding accomplishments by seeing her dance with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, designated by U.S. Congressional resolution as "A vital American Cultural Ambassador to the World," please contact us using the information below!

ONLY A FEW TICKETS ARE LEFT - WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!!!

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Next Advertising deadline: Wed. January 15 for the January 24-February 21, 2014 issue.

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What ELSE.....



Staying warm
with a Peacoat
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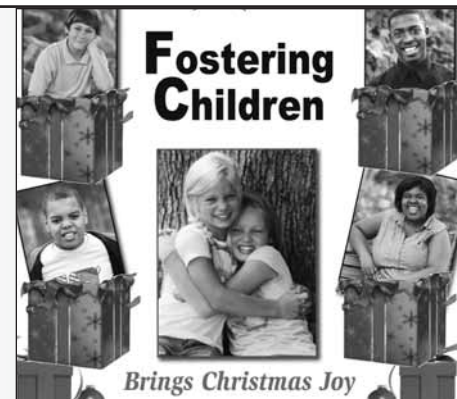
Holly and Ivy
Page 13



Rikki's Opie
Still needs help
wrapping presents
Page 12



New album
release
Page 12



Children in foster care from around the world and Virginia are sharing Christmas with foster families. Photos courtesy of P143 and CHSVA.

Cover Designed by Marilyn Ellinger

In the Spotlight

Lilly selected for Tech marching band

Megan Lilly, a sophomore from Barboursville majoring in physics in the College of Science, was selected to be a member of the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech as a piccolo musician.

Commonly known as The Spirit of Tech, The Marching Virginians celebrate their 40th season with entertaining performances and lively music to support the Hokies during the 2013-2014 football season. Under the direction of David McKee and Polly Middleton, the band will feature great American music throughout the season.

Founded in 1974, The Marching Virginians have performed for hundreds of football games and parades. The band

has also received numerous compliments for outstanding performances at Virginia Tech's recent bowl games including the 2012 Russell Athletic Bowl in Orlando, Fl., 2012 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, 2010 Chick-fil-A Bowl in Atlanta, Ga. and the 2008, 2009 and 2011 Orange Bowls in south Florida.

This group volunteers their time and energy toward service projects both locally and nationally. The band has led the demolition parade for Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, performed at Craig County and Narrows High Schools, and performed during a fundraiser at Dick's Sporting Goods to help a local elementary school raise money for a new playground.

Hospice of the Rapidan Names New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Hospice of the Rapidan is pleased to announce the appointment of Melissa Jenkins Mills, RN, BSN, CHPN, as Executive Director of their community-based, non-profit hospice organization, which is currently celebrating its 30th anniversary year.

Ms. Mills was promoted from her position as Patient & Family Care Coordinator, a position she held for 4 years. She has an extensive working knowledge of the area's healthcare community and the Federal and state regulations governing hospice care. Ms. Mills is a graduate of Old Dominion University and resides in Culpeper with her husband and son.

Hospice of the Rapidan pro-



Melissa Jenkins Mills, RN, BSN, CHPN
New Executive Director

vides compassionate and dignified hospice care for terminally ill patients and their families. Unparalleled medical care coupled with emotional, social, spiritual and grief support focuses on caring, when curing is medically determined to be unlikely. Hospice of the Rapidan supports each patient in achieving their choice to die free from pain, with dignity, surrounded by family and loved ones, and attended by caring professionals who understand this natural process.

Hospice of the Rapidan is the only non-profit community hospice serving Fauquier, Rappahannock, Culpeper, Madison and Orange counties and has been providing service to the citizens in these communities for 30 years.

To learn more about hospice care, grief support or volunteer opportunities call Hospice of the Rapidan at 540.825.4840 or visit us online at www.hotr.org

Changing a child's life through Foster Care

BY MEGHANN MCKNIGHT
CORRESPONDENT

Kenneth Purcell sits with his and Maureen's host daughters. The Purcell's will be hosting the girls for the third time this Christmas. Photo courtesy Maureen Purcell.



*you know, christmas comes but once a year for every girl and boy,
The laughter and the joy they find in each brand new toy.
I'll tell you of a little boy that lives across the way...
This little fella's christmas is just another day.
He's the little boy that santa claus forgot,*

*And goodness knows, he didn't want a lot
I'm so sorry for that laddie,
He hasn't got a daddy,
The little boy that santa claus forgot.*



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Maureen and Kenneth Purcell have fun with their two host daughters. "When you switch it from being a statistic or a number to an actual child, it changes your viewpoint," says Maureen.



at King Cole's version of the 1937 Christmas song is haunting because, while beautiful, it looks at a reality most of us have a hard time facing.

The Hiltons are a local family that have taken an honest look at both the domestic and international reality for children in orphanages or foster homes.

Tim and Tracy Hilton first considered domestic fostering when they met a Louisa County family that have adopted close to twenty children.

"I used to watch them at the church we attended. I would volunteer [with different ministries]. She didn't volunteer, but I would watch her sit with these boys, these kids and think, she is ministering every single day!" shared Tracy Hilton.

Challenged and inspired by this family, the Hiltons started the classes that they needed in order to become foster parents.

"When we got to the end of training, we didn't get a certificate, we got a child. That's when our Emily came to stay with us. Emily was about to turn seven."

Emily was the first of 5 foster children that the Hilton's had in their home. When the last two foster children became available for adoption, the Hiltons took that step. In addition to two older biological daughters, the Hiltons now have two preschoolers.

"I love foster care because you are doing something in your community, you are giving to kids, and possibly helping reunite a family," explains Hilton. "We met a mom [of a child we were fostering] and she thanked us. She said, 'I know you are doing

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more for my kids than I could have done'and it was said in a way that she saw a different way and wanted to make those changes. She wanted to be a better parent and we were a part of that."

The need for foster and adoptive families in Virginia is great. There are currently over 6,000 children in the foster care system and 1,350 are available for adoption. Virginia has the lowest adoption rate for foster children of any state or commonwealth in the United States.

"These are wards of the state, they are orphans. They are not delinquents, they are kids. They just need a family," Nadine Marsh-Carter, President and CEO of Children's Home Society of Virginia (chsva.org), an organization that works with Virginia Department of Social Services to find homes for children waiting for families.

"When they don't have a family, they don't have that support. Someone to cheer at their soccer games, to give them morals and values, to provide a safe haven, and teach them confidence."

This is exactly what the Hiltons and many other foster and adoptive families seek to do for children whose lives have been disrupted.

Marsh-Carter sees both sides of the story. "I am blown away by what some of the biological parents have done to their children. But, adoptive families change the trajectory of these kids' lives."

Organizations like Children's Home Society of VA work with families to provide homes for waiting children. Training and adoption costs are completely covered. CHSV also provides post-adoptive support for as long as the family needs it.

"Our mission is that every child in Virginia have a family so we provide everything free of charge," says Marsh-Carter. "There is no cost, you don't have to be married, you don't have to own a home, or be a certain age. You just have to have the capacity to love and help them heal."

"These are wonderful children. They've been hurt, they need support. But we have seen the gift of family and how it helps them transform and do so well," she shares.

And the success stories are real.

"We had one couple with no kids adopt a sibling group of four kids. They went from a sports car to a minivan. These kids have really thrived with their adoptive family. We had another woman who adopted a 13-year-old girl. Elena would dive in dumpsters to provide food for her and her siblings. Now she is with a woman who has become her mom. She is a leader in her class and has even published some poems. It is a very positive experience and now the mom is adopting twin 10 year olds."

The Hiltons have seen the successes. They have kept in contact with some of their former foster children and continue to be a positive influence in their lives. And the preschoolers they adopted have progressed quickly and are overcoming the physical and emotional effects from their past.



Tim and Tracy Hilton with their daughters and their host daughter this summer. "Meeting her put a face on poverty in another country and orphans in another country," says Tracy Hilton



Host children from Eastern Europe arrive to spend weeks with American families. Photo courtesy Project 143.

But, Tim and Tracy's lives were not to stay focused only on children in the States.

When Tracy Hilton was asked to photograph Ukrainian orphans arriving in the States last Christmas to be hosted through the organization New Horizons for Children (newhorizonsforchildren.org), she became more aware of the need in every country.

"Kids are kids," says Hilton. "Poverty is poverty."

So, after meeting other "Host Families" the Hiltons decided to host a teenage girl from Eastern Europe in their home during the summer. They hosted through the organization Project One Forty-Three (p143.org), which has programs in Latvia and

Ukraine and is working with China.

Due to her age, their host daughter was not available for adoption so the Hiltons showed her as much love as they could and made sure she had fun.

"Meeting her put a face on poverty in another country and orphans in another country," shares Hilton. "We knew she was going back because she wasn't available for adoption. We now have a daughter in another country that we still correspond with and we send cards and gifts. We would love to visit her someday."

The Hilton family has not stopped there. This Christmas they are hosting another child through Project One Forty-Three, a boy this time.

"We did not plan on hosting again over Christmas since we had just finished the adoption of our two and we were in the middle of a move. But I was looking at the kids pictures and reading their biographies and there was our kid. Tim and I read his bio and my husband said, bring him for Christmas."

Maureen Purcell, regional coordinator with Project One Forty-Three, started as a host mom and now volunteers at the organization. Like the Hiltons, she sees the importance of reaching out to children in need in every country.

Growing up, Purcell's family became very involved reaching out to two boys that were caught in a tragic situation. She saw both the damage an unsafe environment can create and the healing solid family can offer.

"We watched the destruction as it unrolled and how much it affected the children. Then, when the boys were 17 and 15, they came to live with my parents forever," says Purcell. "So. that is where it all started for me."

"When you switch it from being a statistic or a number to an actual child, it changes your viewpoint," she shares.

Project One Forty-Three is bring 105 children from Latvia this holiday season. They will spend four weeks in December and January with families. Not all children are available for adoption and that is not the main goal of the organization. The purpose is to provide the experience of a loving family and for orphans to see that they have options in life, whether they find a permanent family or not.

"An older orphan told me that hosting helped him to see he had choices. He didn't have to do what everyone else did around him. He could choose to study for

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school and focus on sports instead of drinking and smoking. He say a different way and he chose it. Without it, he would have been a different child,” shares Project One Forty-Three’s Lisa Kroemer.

Kroemer, who has also hosted several children explains, “These children will have the opportunity to see what a loving family looks like and that they are valuable and lovable. I believe it is a life-changing experience for the families and the orphans.”

The Hiltons agree.

“I hear so many people that say ‘oh I could never give them back.’ If you have a love for a child why won’t you help just because you don’t think you can give them back?” asks Tracy Hilton.

“I think that any time that you open your house up to someone else and let some-

one into your life, and you come into theirs, you will receive a blessing. Open yourself up to the blessing.”

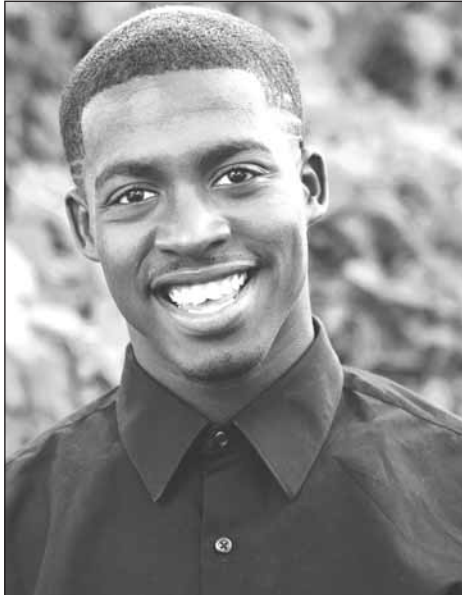
Even those who do not adopt, foster, or host can have an amazing impact on children’s lives this year.

“There are so many ways we can support. Volunteering or financial support are just two,” says Nadine Marsh-Carter.

Both Children’s Home Society of Virginia and Project One Forty-Three are non-profits who need financial support to keep changing and impacting lives.

For more information on Waiting Children in Virginia, to view some of the children available, or to find ways to help visit www.chsva.org. For information on international hosting or to help support children and host families, visit p143.org.

Let Me Introduce Myself....

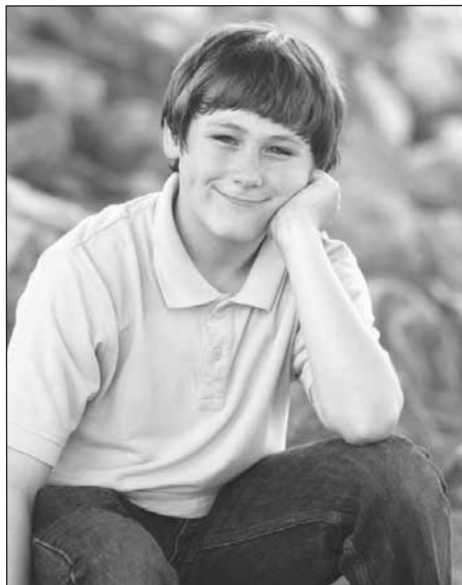


Mark: Mark came into foster care in 2008, and loves the idea of being adopted—but doesn’t think it will happen for him because of his age. He is described as having a sweet spirit, loves to sing, and enjoys basketball, church, and any social gathering. Mark’s full bio and a video can be found on chsva.org

Deashia: Deashia loves to laugh and has a contagious smile. She thrives in an orderly environment and enjoys having a routine. She needs the love and support of a family so that she can succeed long-term. Deashia’s full bio and a video can be found on chsva.org.



All photos courtesy of chsva.org



Ashton: Ashton is an active 12-year-old boy who loves football and other sports. He need a family that will love him and hopes they will teach him things and take him to church. Ashton’s full bio and a video can be found on chsva.org



Makiah: Makiah can play acoustic guitar, electric guitar, piano, and the organ. Makiah loves playing football, basketball, tennis, and baseball. He loves to help others and always offers to lend a hand. Makiah is in fifth grade and hopes to find an active family that enjoys traveling and going to church.

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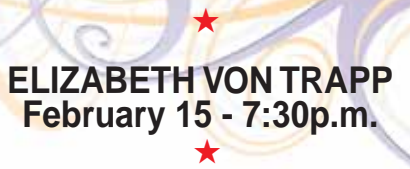
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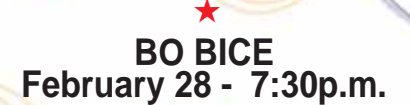
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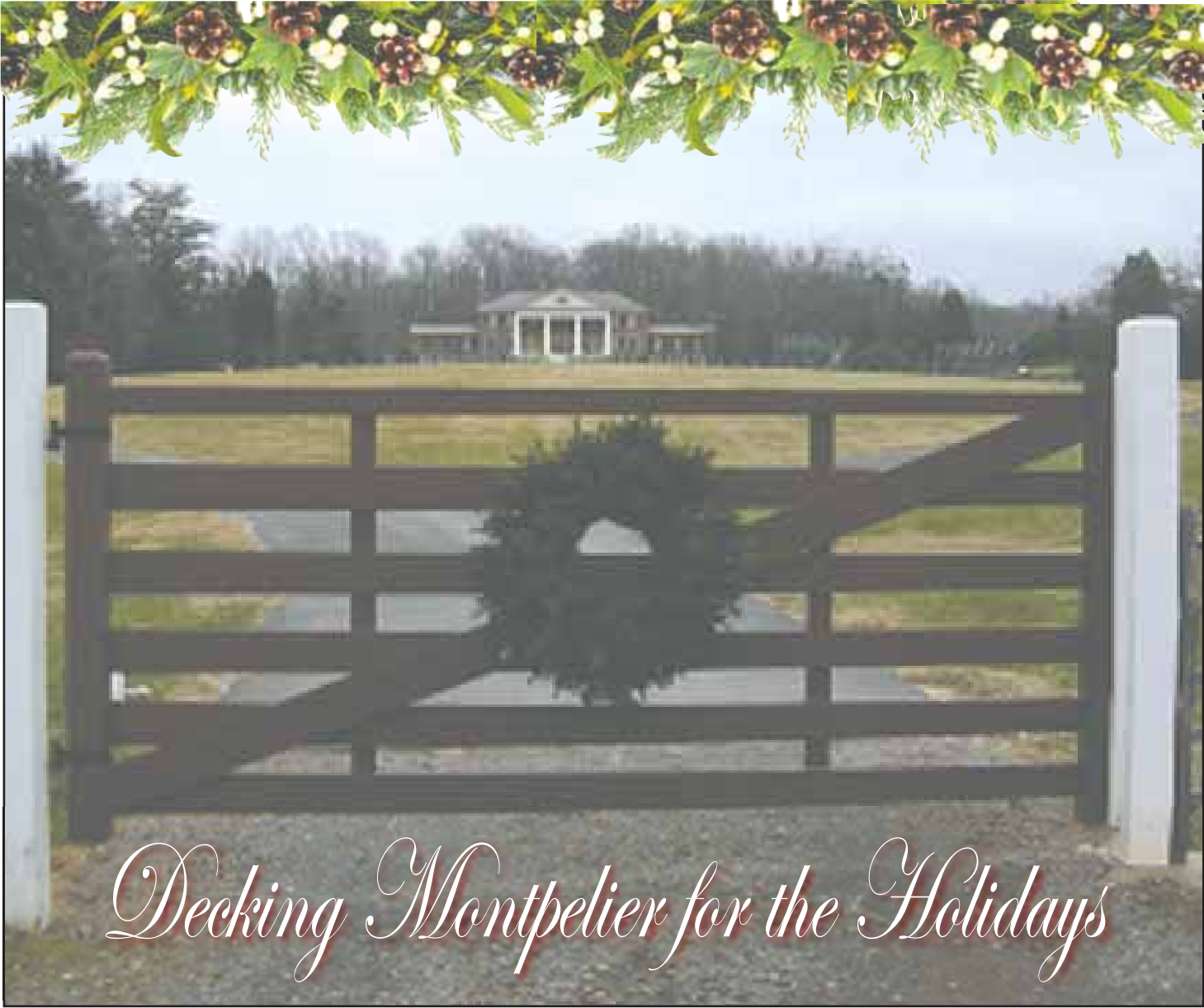


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The Holidays



Decking Montpelier for the Holidays

Montpelier used natural materials to decorate for the holidays. All photos by Pat LaLand.

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By Pat LaLand
Correspondent

Soon after Thanksgiving, Montpelier's chief horticulturist, Sandy Mudrinich, has members of her crew trimming some of the many varieties of plant materials that grow on the property's 2,650 acres and turning them over to volunteers who create stunning seasonal arrangements in containers as well as topiaries, swags and wreaths.

"Most of these materials are those that the DuPonts intro-

duced to the property," says Sandy. "They include Southern Magnolia, Sawara, False Cypress, Golden Arbor Vitae and American Holly."

Under the organization of Bobbye Davies, also a volunteer, nine members from five garden clubs worked from that collection to create elegant and original displays to embellish the mansion, indoors and out, including the visitor center. Participants are members of Rapidan, Spottswood,

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Ruckersville, Lake Anna and Dolley Madison garden clubs who convened to work together, enjoying fellowship and the experience.

"The challenge is to make these materials last," says Bobbye. "I spray them all with a clear Krylon glaze that holds them so they won't dry out and droop or fade. The pink roses in the arrangement for the desk in the visitor center were the white ones that were used at the Hunt Breakfast during the races. I dried them

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Bobbye Davies selects magnolia leaves for the tree at the visitors' center.



Topiaries embellish the front door of the Montpelier mansion.

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