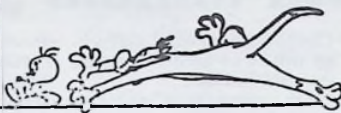


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Augusta Country



Sylvester and Tweety take over at the Post Office -- Story on page 3

June 1998 Vol. 5, Issue 6

P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459

A job well done...



A special Memorial Day feature...

A world war shattered the tranquility of their Shenandoah Valley lives. Youth and innocence were the first casualties. For those who survived, the memories are still clear. Four World War II veterans tell their stories beginning on page 4.



Augusta County 4-H and FFA members put on a class act at the 53rd annual Market Animal Show. Stories, photos and results begin on page 10

Nancy Sorrells checks in from Sapporo, Japan
Pages 8-9

...and much, much more!
What are you waiting for? Turn the page and get started!!!



Bethel Presbyterian Church hosting fifth annual Jubilee

BETHEL GREEN — Bethel Presbyterian Church will hold its fifth annual Jubilee and Community Picnic beginning at 4 p.m. June 27 on the church grounds.

Musical entertainment this year will be provided by the Stonewall Brigade Band, the Harmony Praise Band, and Danny & Friends. Face painting for children and volleyball, croquet, and horseshoes also will be part of the festivities.

Clowns Apple Dumplin' and Pock-ets will be on hand to entertain the young at heart.

The community is invited to join Bethel for a picnic beginning about 5 p.m. Barbecue and beverages will be provided. Participants are asked to bring baked beans, vegetable or fruit trays, or brownies. It is requested that mayonnaise- or egg-based foods not be brought to the picnic due

to refrigeration limitations.

Participants also may want to bring along lawn chairs to enjoy the outdoor musical entertainment.

In the event of rain, the Jubilee and picnic will be held in the church's fellowship hall.

Bethel Presbyterian Church is located on Va. 701, two miles west of Riverheads High School. For information, call the church at 886-6041. —

Middlebrook Carnival, June 11-13

MIDDLEBROOK — The Middlebrook Volunteer Firemen's Carnival will be held June 11-13 on the community grounds in Middlebrook.

Thursday night will be family night with rides for children discounted. The annual Firemen's Parade will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday night.

Dinners will be served by the volunteer firemen on both Friday and Saturday nights beginning at 4

p.m. Friday night's dinner will include barbecued beef and Saturday night's dinner will include barbe-

cued chicken. Games, rides and concessions on the grounds will be featured each night of the carnival.

Middlebrook is located on Va. 252, 11 miles south of Staunton. The community grounds are located on Cherry Grove Road adjacent to the firehouse in the village. —

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Publisher & editor
Sales associate
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RHS News editor

Betty Jo Hamilton
Chris Marrs
Leslie Scheffel
Cherie Taylor
Jennifer Haltli

Staff writers

Vera Hailey
Betty Jo Hamilton
Roberta Hamlin
Jeff Ishee

Penny Plemmons
Deborah Sensabaugh
Sue Simmons
Nancy Sorrells

Contributing writers

Katharine Brown

Roy Howard

Student writers

David Bolin
Julie Grimm

Ruth Jones
Seth Plemmons

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Craigsville station celebrates release of stamp



Claudette Wilcher, acting postmaster of the Craigsville station, joins Ashleigh, 6, and Clayton Burnette, 4, in celebrating the release of the commemorative Sylvester and Tweety stamp.

Photo by Penny Plemmons

By PENNY PLEMMONS

CRAIGSVILLE — Sufferin' succotash! Customer after customer filed into the Craigsville United States Post Office on May 2 to buy the newly released Warner Bros. Looney Tune postage stamp. The collector's stamp features that famous pudgy-tat, Sylvester, in hot pursuit of the mail toting Tweety Bird. On that Saturday only, all outgoing mail received a commemorative Sylvester & Tweety Station cancellation postmark.

The local festivity was part of the larger United States Postal Service millennium observance, Celebrating the Century. The USPO is releasing the largest commemorative stamp collection in its history. Selected stamps due for publication are representative of the influence of America in the 20th century. New laser printing technology has enhanced color and image rendering and, according to acting Craigsville station postmaster Claudette Wilcher, "The stamps are just gorgeous."

The Craigsville, Staunton, Sengers Glen and Stuarts Draft

stations were the four area offices selected to promote and sell the original stamp. Wilcher described the local event as a "big birthday party" complete with cookies and punch.

"Our purpose is to be a good neighbor," Wilcher commented. "We want to make the community aware of all the services we provide. Because we are a small town, our postal workers have the time to go the extra mile, to assist our customers in a variety of ways."

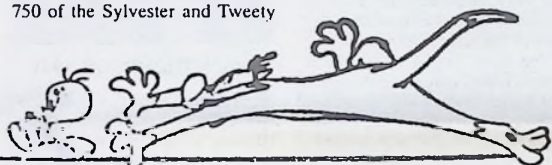
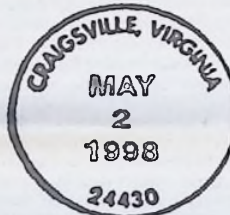
Goshen postal clerk Jean Via and Augusta Springs clerk Ann Burke managed the office window while Wilcher planted Sylvester and Tweety stickers on shirt lapels and handed out cartoon coloring sheets to children. Wilcher mused that just as many adults as children posed to have their pictures taken with the life-size stand-up cat and bird poster. Elementary school children received bubbles and pencils as prizes and participated in a drawing with Jessica Cox winning the stuffed Sylvester and Erin Painter claiming the stuffed Tweety Bird.

In just two hours, the Craigsville Post office sold a record number 750 of the Sylvester and Tweety

Bird stamps, plus gave away numerous envelopes pre-stamped with the keepsake cancellation postmark. Although the Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee has pre-selected images depicting American history for the first four decades, they want customers to select the rest. Until August 1998 patrons may visit local post offices and vote for the stamps to choose those which best characterize the decade of the 60s. There are 30 choices for the 1960-1969 years due out in June 1999. Among the selection are titles such as, *I Have a Dream*, the Vietnam War, the Peace Corps, the Motown Sound, Roger Maris breaks the homerun record, *Man Walks on the Moon* and *Barbie Doll Steps Out*.

So watch your mail carefully and maybe you'll be able to chime in with the words of Tweety Bird. "I taut I taw a pudgy-tat. I did! I did! I did see a pudgy-tat!"

To find out more about the USPO educational opportunities and upcoming stamp releases visit your local post office or the website <http://stampvote.msn.com> —



SYLVESTER & TWEETY STATION

Convention draws square, round toe tappers from across the state

By SUE SIMMONS

VERONA — "The only other place this many people can get together and love each other is church," Bill Claytor declared as tens of dozens of couples decked out in brightly colored attire swirled around him. "The difference is that here we can touch each other."

He was referring to the nearly 600 square dancers gathered at the 10th annual Virginia Square and Round Dance Association Convention held recently. This year's theme, "Circulate with an Angel in '98," attracted a quarter of the association's membership to Ingleside for three days of line, round, contra and Western square dancing.

"Contra dancing is the European dancing brought to America which the country improved on," Claytor explained peering into the hall where couples danced the old style.

"Believe it or not, we have Henry Ford to thank for modern western square dancing," Claytor continued. "He felt that the people who worked at his plant in Detroit needed a wholesome activity. He had a huge dance hall built with a teak floor and Ford workers attended dances there."

"Pappy Shaw became one of the favorite callers. He eventually wrote down calls and these spread across the country," Claytor said.

It is the beat of this heritage of American culture which keeps toes tapping for members of the Virginia Square and Round Dance Association. This year marked the last year the association will gather locally for some time. Next year the association heads to Williamsburg for its convention. —



Lindsay Dury of Mt. Sidney and Byron Phillips of Waynesboro swing to the music at the Virginia Square and Round Dance Convention held recently at Ingleside.

Photo by Sue Simmons

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Yesterday once more

Greenville natives recall service in World War II

By NANCY SORRELLS

GREENVILLE—It was 1940 when the cozy little world that was rural Augusta County began to shatter. Back then, Greenville, was the center of the universe to the Thompson family. Robert and Ella Thompson and their 10 children lived in a neat white farmhouse a mile or so from the village. Robert worked on the railroad as did one of the 10 children, 28-year-old Ervin.

The railroad had taken Robert and Ervin further abroad than most in the community —after all, Ervin had been all the way to Philadelphia, but for the younger children the very unoccasional trips to Staunton were the most they had seen of the rest of the world.

The news began to trickle in around 1940. Names like Mussolini and Hitler and strange-sounding places in Greece and Africa popped up in the newspapers. Some Americans began to be worried, but the calm of the countryside was little disturbed in late 1940.

ERVIN THOMPSON

Ervin Thompson was the first of the family to be affected by those global events, but it took happenings in even stranger sounding places like Pearl Harbor and the South Pacific to finally punch a hole in the neat cocoon of Augusta County.

"I registered (for the draft) on Oct. 16, 1940 in Greenville at the old schoolhouse. My orders came in on the 11th of April (1941). I will never forget, because I went to see the Cleveland Indians and the New York Giants play in Richmond and when I went to the post office I found that I had to come in for an exam," he remembers.

Ervin went to the old Waynesboro Hospital (it is now a funeral home) on main street for his physical and in May was shipped



ERVIN THOMPSON, 1941

off to Camp Lee just south of Richmond. There was no basic training because an urgency of war had overtaken the country. Instead he bounced back and forth for a week of maneuvers here and there, finally winding up in Ft. Bragg, N.C., for three months of training.

While at Ft. Bragg, his country upbringing was put to good use, he remembers. The new recruits were issued empty mattress sacks and told to stuff them full of straw to make ticks to sleep on. "Most of those boys had never heard of such a thing," Ervin recalled. "They

just put a little straw in theirs. I stuffed mine good and full. In a few weeks I had a good tick and theirs was just as flat as could be."

As 1941 evaporated and the U.S. continued to sidestep full-scale involvement in war, the urgency of their military maneuvers faded, recalls Ervin. Word was circulated that all men picked in the initial draft who were over 28 would be released.

"I came back in late November, early December thinking I'd be getting out. I had all the intentions in the world of being a free man. Then the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and I was back at Ft. Meade on Dec. 15 and inside of 15 minutes I had put on a uniform and was on guard duty!" he remembered of the about-face he executed in December 1941.

As the country took its war machinery up another notch, Ervin spent Christmas 1941 on the Virginia barrier island of Chinco-teague watching for German U-boats. By February, however, he had been placed in the 41st Division out of Portland, Ore., and joined several thousand other soldiers on a ship leaving New York harbor. Soon they were chugging south and sitting at the gates of

the Panama Canal. The accelerated traffic through the region meant that the 41st Division had to sit and wait for several days before they could go through the canal.

The next few weeks were a blur of rocky, barren islands as the action in the South Pacific was now in full swing. "I don't know where we were. We put in at one island during the Coral Sea Battle and those were the heathenest people I ever saw. Crooked faces and crooked arms," he recalls.

The long journey to the other side of the world came to an end near New Zealand when the ship he was on sank a Japanese sub at such close range that the resulting percussion put a hole in their ship and forced a repair stop in New Zealand.

"When we got there we asked a sailor boy where we were going and he told us, 'You're going to the best place in the world — Australia.'" The next three or four months were spent in training there, and then the entire contingent was moved across the continent by ancient, coal-smoke

belching trains. "I swear to goodness the coal smoke was so strong, it'd strangle you. We stopped every five to six hours and they would give us something to eat."

They arrived in Rockhampton in Queensland and were called into battle. "Talk about some sad boys. We heard we were going to New Guinea. But then McArthur came and inspected us and saw we didn't have no jungle gear. Well, he called us everything in the world but it wasn't our fault. We sent some others instead. That was the best thing that ever happened to me because not many came back from there," recalls Ervin.

Within three or four months, near the end of 1942, Ervin's outfit had their jungle gear and were landing in New Guinea. Their arrival was marked by a week's walk of 20 to 25 miles through a swamp. "Our first action was at Salamaua. It took us 61 or 62 days and I never had my shoes off," he said in describing the type of fighting that took place in the Pacific.

See **BROTHERS**, page 5

"I wrote a letter to Mama telling her I would be home soon, then all hell broke loose one night. Ships started firing and guns were going off. You never heard such a carrying on! We found out that the Japanese had surrendered and everybody was celebrating. We got no sleep that night, everybody stayed up drinking rice wine."

Ervin Thompson
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•Brothers

Continued from page 4

From there he went back to Australia and, unbeknownst to him, passed within 100 yards of a ship in the harbor carrying his brother James. The next engagement was Leyte near the Philippines. "There was a little bit of fighting, but the Japanese moved off and we had a lot of sake and rice wine and not much fighting," he said.

Things got a little fierier on Biak Island just off the coast of New Guinea. He swears that the fighting was so fierce there that without God on their side he would have died. "Biak Island was the worst, but wasn't none of it good. You'd better believe I was lucky. That man up yonder was fighting for us!" he recalled of those days.

From there it was on to the Philippines where he saw places like Zamboanga where an old Spanish fort housed a school, and Mindanao Island where they relieved an outfit fighting the Japanese. On the island they headed toward Davao City as they chased the Japanese. He remembers the whole 2nd Battalion of 1,500 men having to cross into the city across a narrow cable bridge. "We chased the Japanese for a week carrying whatever we could to fight, but they went way back into the jungle."

Finally, in August 1945, Ervin remembers that all of the "old men" — those who had been in the South Pacific since the beginning — were brought together and told that they were to be shipped home — relieved by fresh recruits.

"I wrote a letter to Mama telling her I would be home soon, then all hell broke loose one night. Ships started firing and guns were going off," he said. Ervin and his buddies

thought the Japanese were landing and attacking, so they grabbed their guns. "You never heard such a carrying on! We found out that the Japanese had surrendered and everybody was celebrating. We got no sleep that night, everybody stayed up drinking rice wine."

Ervin's trip home was vastly different than the long ship ride through the Pacific. He volunteered to fly back on a C-47 transport plane to Washington, D.C. In an interesting irony, his military service was marked on both ends by baseball. "You see, I thought Washington was going to get the World Series and if I flew back I'd get to see the World Series, but Detroit knocked them out of it," he explained.

And so, he arrived back at Ft. Meade, Va., eager to hear the words granting his release from the military. Finally on Oct. 9, 1945, an officer told his group of soldiers: "This is what you've been waiting for, get ready and go home."

SAM THOMPSON

Next in line for patriotic service was Sam, who will be 78 in a few weeks. After being drafted in 1942 he traveled to Massachusetts and Tennessee for training and maneuvers before shipping out of New York. Unlike his older brother, Ervin, who shipped out of the same city, Sam was heading east to England with the 474th Anti-Aircraft Battalion.



SAM THOMPSON, 1942

"It wasn't no jolly time in any of it, but we would take breaks. I remember one day in France we were looking down this hill and saw a haystack two or three miles away in a field. It turned out later it was a German tank under the hay!"

Sam Thompson
Greenville



Brothers James, far left, Ervin, center, and Sam Thompson of Greenville discuss the turn of fate which took them from their valley home

in the 1940s and sent them across the globe in military service to their country.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

bombed out their barracks.

"We didn't have any barracks so we stayed anywhere we could find. Our motor pool was a converted stock yard," he said. Sam and the rest of the American boys in England were there in preparation for D-Day. And when that day came in June 1944 he and the rest of his battalion hit Omaha Beach in a massive Allied assault against the entrenched Germans.

"D-day was like everybody had gone crazy. I went in there with a machine gun. We moved inland as

quickly as possible and tried to get a shot at them before they got a shot at you," he remembered.

He was part of a crew that drove an anti-aircraft machine called a half track. The vehicles have wheels and tracks and are manned by six men including one on a machine gun. "That day (D-day) I was the gunner," he said.

"We were about the first in everything," he said of the fighting that marched them through Europe. "We were fighting on the Seine

See WAR, page 6



Japanese currency which James Thompson of Greenville brought home with him from World War II.



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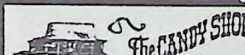
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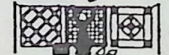
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Sam Thompson of Greenville ready to move out as a new recruit in 1942.

• War

Continued from page 5

River and were about 40 miles away and they called us and said they wanted us there the next morning. We fought all day and couldn't hardly get through because we were right behind the front line and stuff was all over the road where they had knocked everything out the day before," he said. "We even pulled the first stones out of the Siegfried (a German defensive line)."

He saw action in the battle of Ardennes and campaigns in northern France, central Europe and the Rhineland. He has memories other than fighting, however. "In France and Germany if you needed something to eat, the people in the farm-

houses would get it for you. Even in Germany, the people were just glad it was over.

"It wasn't no jolly time in any of it, but we would take breaks. I remember one day in France we were looking down this hill and saw a haystack two or three miles away in a field. It turned out later it was a German tank under the hay!"

He saw the end come to the German army and to the war. "While we were in France they began bombing the German line where it was four miles thick. Planes started coming in and came for 3 1/2 to 4 hours straight all the time dropping bombs. When it was over, they said you couldn't find a man able to hold a gun."

Finally it was over and Sam shipped home, parting from the comrades he had come to trust and a few European women who had become very interested in him! Shortly before Christmas in 1945 he completed the journey back to Greenville.

JAMES THOMPSON

James was the last of the Thompson boys to be caught up in the global conflict of World War II. Now 73 years old, he was barely 18 in February 1943 when he went to Charlottesville for his physical. Two of his older brothers had already been swept away, one was in England and one was in the South Pacific.

"I'll be completely honest with you. I tried to forget everything," he said of the impressionable young man he once was. "I left and was gone three years. The world has changed so much since then it is not even the same place."

After his physical, he spent a month or so in Ft. Lee and then had five weeks of basic training and eight weeks of schooling at Ft. Wood in Missouri. From there it was on to Camp Stoneman in San Francisco, Calif., for three months.

By August of 1943, more than a month before his 19th birthday, he was shipped to Australia as part of the 622nd Ordnance Ammunition Supply. Two weeks in Australia ended quickly and the soldiers began hopping from place to place in New Guinea and the Philippines.

"I went through six invasions up there and most of the places were nothing but jungle. You would dig a foxhole and the water would fill it up. It is hard to separate it all. It was all rough. You were just waiting for the bullet that had your name on it," he recalled.

Because his unit supplied ammunition to the front lines, they were always within a short distance of the heaviest action. On more than one occasion he was covered up from the dirt of a shell exploding nearby. The memories that he has tried to block out are not good ones: big guns shooting right over their heads, catching malaria in the jungles of New Guinea, watching a kamikaze pilot dive into the ship right next to him and seeing a Japanese sub sunk in the Luzon harbor in the Philippines.

Two of his memories are not so much of combat against the Japanese as against Mother Nature. He was on a ship that ran into a typhoon that sent the ship reeling. "We would go up 200 feet and down 200 feet. I stood with my head



JAMES THOMPSON, 1943

over the side rail!" he recalled.

Yet another time, he and his fellow soldiers were dug into a South Pacific Island that was a volcano. "The volcano went off and rocked the whole island. Everything was black with soot and the trees were rocking back and forth," he remembered.

Although he was able to have a brief reunion with his brother Ervin and he kept a constant stream of letters going back to Greenville, James recalls that thoughts of home had to be few and far between. "You had to put it out of your mind. Home was the furthestest place away. A lot of boys went berserk thinking about home," he said.

In August 1945, James was on a ship in a convoy with 1,000 other vessels waiting to invade Japan when the word came: "Japan had surrendered!" Historians estimate that had the U.S. invaded, the casualty rates of the soldiers in that waiting convoy would have been staggering.

As it was, the convoy steamed to Japan anyway but it was with peaceful intentions. He spent a couple of weeks in Japan and then was shipped home to Ft. Bragg, N.C. The last of the three Thompson brothers to exit the military, James received his discharge at midnight Dec. 18, 1945.

"I went through six invasions up there and most of the places were nothing but jungle. You would dig a foxhole and the water would fill it up. It is hard to separate it all. It was all rough."

James Thompson
Greenville

COMING HOME

The years of family separation had been tough on the remaining Thompson family as well. Alene (Thompson) Sorrells remembers her mother holding onto each letter from her boys as a lifeline for their return.

"Mama saved every letter she got from one of you boys," she told her brothers recently. "And she would read it over and over and would cry like her heart would break. Then she pinned them in the pocket of her apron and kept them there until she got more. Each time she would pin a letter there she would say 'This might be the last one I'll ever get.'"

All of the brothers remember letter writing as being a chance to get a little closer to home and the white farmhouse that seemed so far away. "If possible, I wrote Mama a letter every day and I looked forward to getting letters," said Sam.

All three tried to write in "code" in order to tell their loved ones where they were, but those letters often arrived with holes cut in the paper where security personnel had removed the secret information of where the soldiers were stationed.

"I was staying in Bridgewater, England, so I wrote Mama about the new plant in Bridgewater (Vir-
See HOME, page 7



Sam Thompson, right, of Greenville, in 1942 with an Army buddy.

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Military service carries with it memories of a lifetime

By NANCY SORRELLS

GREENVILLE — When Bill Sorrells was drafted as a junior out of high school in 1943, he was just a teen-aged boy who had never been out of Rockbridge County (except maybe to Augusta County, he admits). Within two years he had fought in the Battle of the Bulge, received a purple heart, had a movie star sit on his lap and had talked to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The change in his life came on July 17, 1943, the day he was mustered into the army. "I went to Roanoke for a physical and to Camp Lee for shots and a GI haircut — that's a skibald. Three or four days later I was on a troop train and in five days we were at Camp Haan in California ready for our basic

training in the Mojave Desert."

There is a faded photograph from that time that Bill sent back to his family. It features a skinny country boy dressed to kill in the uniform of the U.S. Army. On the boy's lap is a movie star, dressed in a scanty hula outfit. "She and some other stars were there entertaining the troops," he quickly explained.

Soon training was complete and Bill was sent to Germany as part of the Third Army, 567th AAA Battalion, an anti-aircraft unit. He soon saw more than enough action for a Fairfield boy, as he marched through France and Germany. "We guarded the artillery from aircraft and sometimes we knocked out bunkers," he explained of his job. "One day our convoy was moving from one position to another and a German plane strafed us and killed six or eight people in headquarters company," he said.

Another time he remembers kicking up a landmine. "I caught my foot on the landmine and kicked it up, but both sides of the trip wire were frozen to the ground," he says indicating with his hands the size of the unexploded mine that rolled in front of him.

Much of the action he saw was in the Battle of the Bulge, a last-ditch offensive by the Germans in December 1944. During the battle,

the Germans launched 38 divisions at the Allies and nearly surrounded a portion of their lines in the Ardennes Forest. The Allies launched a successful counter attack that recovered all lost territory and even gained some by January 1945. The Battle of the Bulge was called just that because of the bulging shape of the battlelines when drawn on a map.

"I saw combat all the time during the Battle (of the Bulge). We got shelled a lot. At one point I was driving a truck and everybody was piling on the truck to get out (during the German offensive)," he recalled.

And what was it like for the Fairfield teen who had been a high schooler a little more than a year before? "I was scared all the time practically. Somebody 18 or 19 years old is still wet behind the ears and it's scary," he said.

When the Allies and the Germans found themselves on opposite sides of the Rhine River shortly after the Battle of the Bulge, Bill found himself on guard duty at a bridge that crossed the river. "A bunch of guys came up and I was on guard duty so I halted them and asked them to make themselves known. It was Eisenhower and he looked at me and said, 'Carry on, soldier.' That



Bill Sorrells, right, of Greenville, poses in 1943 with a friend for a photo taken to be sent to family back home.

was one of the highlights I guess."

One of the lowlights of his service also occurred near the Rhine River. Although the river separated the war's opponents at the time, there was still a great deal of sniping going back and forth. Bill and his unit had just left the safety of their foxholes and were standing in the chow line when the Germans launched an attack.

"It felt something like a live wire in my leg and my knee buckled," remembers Bill. "Then a guy pulled

me back to the foxhole." The live wire was a bullet that had passed completely through his thigh.

The wound meant a purple heart and the end of combat. He was flown to England where he spent a couple of weeks in a hospital and then was shipped back to the states for recuperation, first at Ft. Thomasville, Ga., then Ft. Story, Va., and finally Ft. Butler, N.C. After he got off crutches, his physical therapy consisted of running in the

See COMBAT, page 24



Bill Sorrells of Greenville holds the Purple Heart he earned for service during World War II.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

•Home

Continued from page 6

ginia) to try and give her a hint, and they cut it out," Sam said.

"Yes and we wondered and wondered why they cut that out," Alene recalled.

James and Ervin devised a different code. They started each sentence with the letter of where they

were stationed until they had spelled out the place. The two brothers used the code in their letters to each other with success, but the family back in Greenville never caught on to the hidden message.

When the brothers started coming home, Ervin arrived first. He had been gone for almost five years. Now nearly 32 years old, he had been the most worldly of the brothers when he had gone to war and his experiences impressed him differently than the others. "I knew that I had to go because I wouldn't have wanted James and Sam going and dying for our country and not me. It done me more good to see the poor people in the world and know that we [in Greenville] weren't as poor as I had thought," he said of the result of his service.

As a result of his being the eldest and the first to return, his

homecoming was more emotional than the others. Even today almost 53 years later, talking about that October morning in 1945 moves the 85-year-old veteran to tears and his words become choked.

"I got off the bus at Greenville at 5:30 in the morning on October 10th. I stopped at Helen and Cecil Graves and cried. Then I ran down the hills and carried my duffel sack up the hills until I saw that little white house. That was the worst part of the war, I didn't know what shape I'd find Mama in. I eased up on the porch and watched through the window. Mama was making bread. Then I stepped in and said, 'Get a soldier boy his breakfast.' Great day I thought she was gonna die," he said in a choked voice.

A few weeks after Ervin, Sam came home. He sneaked in during the middle of the night, took his

uniform off and went to bed. "Alene came in and saw my uniform and started hollering, 'Mama, Mama, Sam's home!' Mama said, 'No, it's just Ervin's uniform,' but it was me," Sam remembered of the late-night family reunion.

Finally, just before Christmas, James made it home. He had been discharged in North Carolina at midnight on Dec. 18, 1945. He and some others hired a car and drove non-stop back to the Valley. He walked in on Dec. 19 while the family was eating supper.

Although the youngest and most impressionable of the Thompsons did learn that life in that little white farmhouse in Greenville was rich compared with much of the world, the war to him was something on which he didn't care to look back. Once he was back in the family homeplace, the war was a done deal. "I just wanted to forget it as quickly as I could," he said.

But as much as they could try, neither the Thompson family nor any of the hundreds of thousands of other rural families across America could forget those years of war. And even if the memories of combat could be erased, a rural innocence had disappeared forever. Boys who had never been further than Staunton had been to hell and back. And the world was forever changed. —

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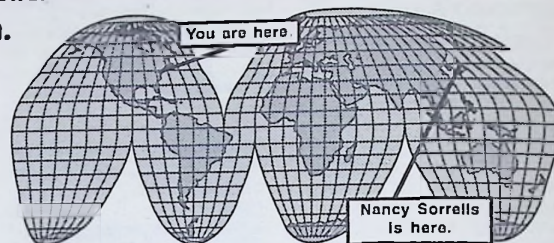
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Notes from the road

Augusta Country staff writer Nancy Sorrells is presently on a five-week trip to Japan as one of six members of a Rotary International exchange team. In her journey this month she corresponds from Sapporo, Japan.



Japanese welcome Virginia visitors with open arms

By NANCY SORRELLS

SAPPORO, Japan — It's a good thing I saw *TITANIC*, *Air Force One* and *The Devil's Own* before I came to Japan. Sure, I had studied the language and customs of this Asian country before setting off with five others from Western Virginia in order to participate in the Group Study Exchange of Rotary International, and that was good. But the knowledge of these movies, some of the most popular in Asia right now, gave us some common ground from which to communicate with our Japanese hosts.

With the first week of five under my belt, I can safely say that some things are the same the world over,

and other things are vastly different. In some cases, things are the same and vastly different at the same time. Take salads for instance. You know, the standard lettuce, tomatoes, and cucumbers thing? O.K., but how about having a salad for breakfast every morning and eating it with chopsticks while sitting on the floor. See what I mean? The same, but different.

And speaking of food, there are a few other things that I need to report on for *Augusta Country* readers who really want to know. The Japanese love seafood and they adore raw fish, which is called sushi. It would be impossible to make it through a visit of any length

See JAPAN, page 9



A new flower arrangement goes up in a Japanese hotel lobby. Fresh flowers are an important part of Japanese culture.

Photos by Nancy Sorrells



Joe-San Ferguson of Salem and Nancy-San Sorrells try some roasted corn and potatoes at Odori Park in downtown Sapporo, Japan.

The park is the site of a snow festival in winter and features gardens and fountains in the summer.

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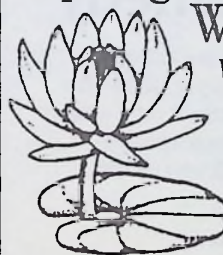
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The mixing of the tea for Japan's Green Tea Ceremony must be done in an exact, ritualistic fashion. The floors are tatami (straw). Participants remove their shoes before beginning the ceremony.

• Japan

Continued from page 8

of time and avoid sushi. It is a taste I am learning to tolerate. Also, there is sushi and then there is sushi. Some sushi is better than others. And some moves (on the plate) less than others.

Fish can also be baked (try the salmon, it's wonderful), boiled and even fried. Although sushi is number one, there is a Hokkaido specialty called Genghis Kahn that is delicious and does not involve anything raw. To eat this dish at a restaurant, diners sit at a big table that has a grill in the middle. The diners are all given aprons to wear. Then huge plates full of thinly sliced mutton, cabbage, corn on the cob, pumpkin and many other kinds of vegetables are placed on the table. From there, it is self serve. Each person dumps items on the grill and when pieces of food are cooked, chopsticks dive

into the pile of sizzling food, pluck out chunks which are then dipped in soy sauce and popped, dripping, into the mouth. Quite delicious! The Japanese also have developed a western appreciation of ice cream and it is, more often than not, the dessert course. Enough about food. How about some other observations?

Well, there are the toilets — some are the sit-down variety and some are the squat-over-the-trench variety. Both take some getting used to because even the sit-down variety is different; the seats are heated and there are many buttons and gizmos attached to the seat which perform a variety of tasks, most of which I have not yet been game enough to try. The squat variety requires a great deal of agility and is, as one team member pointed out, much like going on a camping trip.

The Japanese people themselves are wonderful — eager to

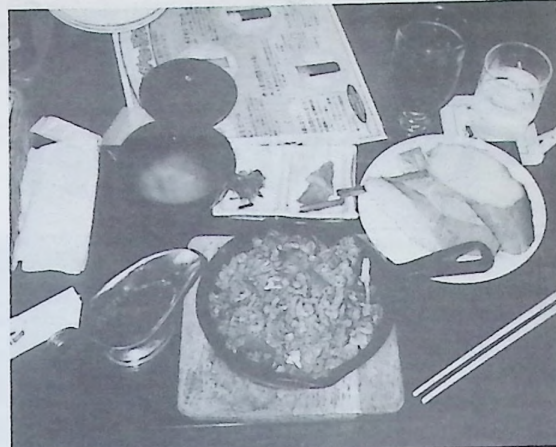
compare notes with Americans and learn from each other. My first host family, the Ogawas, own a camera shop in downtown Sapporo and live in a small, immaculate middle class house. Although they have hosted many foreign exchange students and visitors, I was their first American guest. To prepare, they took English lessons and purchased Japanese-English dictionaries.

"We teach you Japanese, you teach us English," they said.

Although the Japanese are known for their politeness and reserve, the Ogawas gave me a big hug when we were introduced after the team's 30-hour trip to Sapporo from Virginia. During our week together, the Ogawas attended to my every need — teaching me how to use Japanese showers, to slurp Japanese noodles, ride the Sapporo subway (by myself) and much, much more. They even took me to an indoor golf driving range and we went swimming at their health club. In return, I taught them a little about American culture and they had fun learning such idioms as "night owl," "early bird," and "Texas toast."

The Ogawas typify the extreme neatness and politeness of the Japanese people. In the morning, people can be seen in the streets picking up tiny scraps of paper and sweeping their driveways clean of dust and dirt.

Again, some things are the same, some very different. For instance, the Japanese drive on the left side of the road and in a city such as Sapporo with 1.8 million people, there is a true rush hour. The rate at which the drivers work their way through the traffic, the quick lane



Genghis Khan, a stir-fried mutton dish, is a Hokkaido specialty. Everything shown here is eaten with chopsticks, even the soup.

changes and the amazing ability to change two lanes of traffic into three is all done with harrowing efficiency, noted our group of rural Virginians. The bizarre thing about rush hour in Japan with all its bumper-to-bumper cars and jockeying for position is that it is done in silence — no horns honking, no fist shaking, no yelling, and definitely no "road rage."

The traffic looks much like America. There are plenty of Nissans and Toyotas, of course, and fewer Fords and Chevrolets. Sprinkled in are a few European cars such as Volkswagens and BMWs. Almost every car, though, sports lace seat covers and you

almost never see a beat-up jalopy smoking through the streets. Even the taxis are immaculate and taxi drivers wear white gloves.

Our visit so far has been a mixture of family time, meeting community leaders such as university presidents and mayors, and taking in cultural spots such as Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. I have participated in the traditional green tea ceremony twice and about that I can only say a few words at this point. It is very hard to sit for any length of time on the backs of my legs. The ritual in the tea ceremony is incredibly ancient and green tea (which is a very healthy drink) tastes like grass.

But the Japanese politeness extends to every facet of life, whether it is a traditional tea ceremony or service at McDonald's. Everybody bows to one another and when you leave a business establishment the workers shout, "Thank you very much!" It is truly a county of similarities and contrasts to our Virginia minds. It is a country where you can find the familiar pay phone on every street corner. Yet when you finish making your call, a video figure comes on a little screen on the front of the phone... and bows. —



Shinji and Wakaki Ogawa stand in the garden outside their home in Sapporo, Japan. They served as one of the host families for Rotary International exchange team members during the first week of their stay in Japan.

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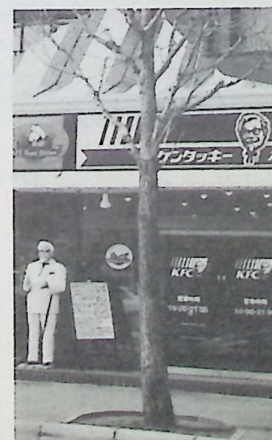
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Some things are the same the world over.



Experience shines at Market Animal Show



By BETTY JO HAMILTON

STAUNTON — Experience was the name of the game at the 53rd annual Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show held May 6 and 7 at Staunton Union Stockyard.

All exhibitors making it to the grand champion winners' circle had in excess of three years' show experience under their belts, with some capping their show careers with grand champion rosettes.

In the single lamb show, Buffalo Gap senior Sheila Nycum claimed grand champion honors. Nycum made it a double win by also claiming the grand champion ribbon for her pair of lambs.

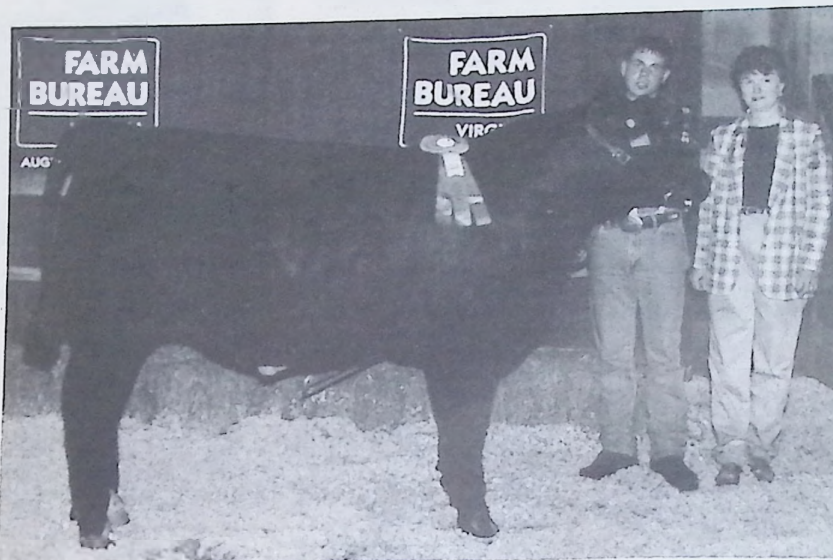
Although still classified as a junior competitor, Jonathan Riley of the Livestock Judging 4-H Club capitalized on his past years as a lamb exhibitor to capture the reserve grand champion single lamb rosette. Riverheads sophomore Jack Hinton claimed reserve grand champion honors on his pair of lambs.

Likewise in the market hog show, it was experience which shined. Riverheads senior Jared Hemp claimed the rosette for grand champion single hog and Gap sophomore Danielle Gayhart took the prize for reserve grand champion with the single hog she exhibited.

In the pair of hogs competition, junior 4-Her Jacob Leonard put his three years of show experience to work to claim the grand champion ribbon on his pair of hogs. Another Gap FFA member, Emily Curry, won the prize for reserve grand champion pair of hogs.

And again — this time in the market steer show — experience proved key as Fort Defiance FFA senior Wes Marshall claimed the top award for his steer which was named the show's grand champion. Shelley Buchanan, of the Riverheads FFA and also a show veteran, took reserve grand champion honors with her steer.

Augusta County's Market Animal Show is the largest of its kind held east of the Mississippi River. The husband and wife judging team of Andy and Katherine Meadows faced the task of selecting



GRAND CHAMPION STEER shown by WES MARSHALL, FORT DEFIANCE FFA
STEER SHOW JUDGE KATHERINE MEADOWS

grand champions from the 376 animals brought to the show. The Meadows operate Springwood Livestock Management and Springwood Farm of Buchanan. They raise Angus cattle, Suffolk sheep and club lambs. Both were members of the 1989 Virginia Tech Livestock Judging Team. Andy Meadows is a veterinarian and holds a master's degree in animal science. Grand champions in the market lamb show were selected by Andy Meadows while Katherine Meadows evaluated the lamb exhibitors for showmanship. On the second day of the show, Katherine Meadows soloed the event, choosing grand champions from among the market hogs and steers.

After selecting champions from four weight divisions of single market lambs on the first afternoon of the show, Andy Meadows said he was satisfied with those which had progressed to the winners' circle. He called the four champions a "powerful set of lambs" and noted that they represented the

"best combination of muscling, correctness of finish, and style." But it was Nycum's 110-pound Suffolk-Hampshire cross lamb which Meadows said "ties all that together for me."

"I'm trying to find lambs with the most natural muscling while maintaining the correct finish," Meadows said. "Of course, you can't ignore style and eye appeal."

See **SHOW**, page 11



GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF HOGS
shown by
JACOB LEONARD, MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB

Show dedicated to local banker, Angus breeder

The 53rd annual Augusta County Market Animal Show was dedicated in honor of Carl Craig Jr. of McKinley.

Craig is a native of Augusta County and has been active in the cattle business for 30 years. He



CRAIG

raises purebred Angus cattle on his farm in McKinley. Craig has worked in the banking industry for 37 years and presently serves as vice president/commercial loan officer at Planters.

He and his wife, Ginny, have two sons, Michael and Steven. Through the years, Craig has exhibited cattle and enjoys showing cattle with his sons. His first date with his wife was to Augusta County's 24th Market Animal Show.

Through his many years in the cattle industry, Craig has seen many successes with his herd. One of his proudest moments was when a cow he bred and sold was named All-American Grand Champion Cow-Natural Calf and All-American Reserve Grand Champion Udder Cow at the 1993 All American Breeders Show in Louisville, Ky. Craig has been active in the Virginia Angus Association as a board member and treasurer for 10 years. He has served as board member and president of the Shenandoah Valley Angus Association.

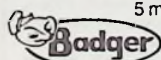
Craig was honored with the Market Animal Show dedication for his 20 years of service on the show's buyers' committee and for serving as its treasurer. His commitment to these critical positions have been an asset to the show and sale by helping to bring better prices for the livestock. —

Market Animal Show photos taken with Farm Bureau backdrop are courtesy True Camera & Photography. Photos taken in show ring are AC staff photos.

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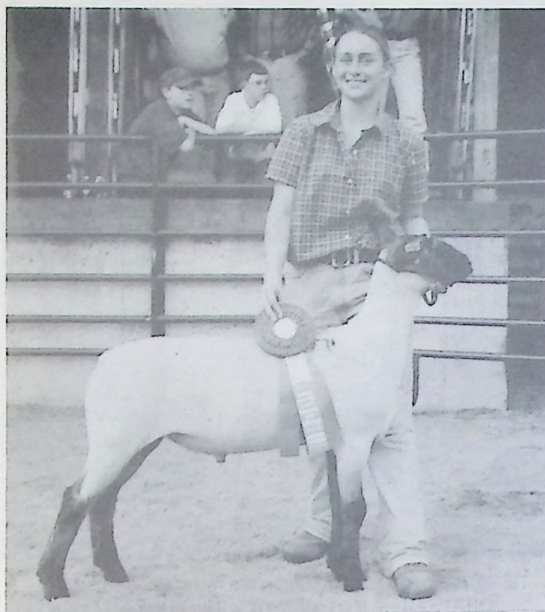
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GRAND CHAMPION MARKET LAMB
GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF LAMBS shown by
SHEILA NYCUM, BUFFALO GAP FFA

•Show

Continued from page 10

The judge noted that the 149 single lambs exhibited from which he selected the grand champion was "as a group, a very good set of lambs."

"They are very useful, by and large, and fit the mold for the industry today," he said. "Today's market demands maximum red meat yield while keeping fat to a minimum."

Finishing as reserve grand champion in the single market lamb show

was Riley's 110-pound Dorset lamb. It was Riley's second consecutive year winning single lamb reserve grand champion honors. Both Nycum's and Riley's lambs emerged as champion and reserve champion, respectively, from the show's heavy middleweight division. Nycum's lamb was bred by John and Terry McCoy of West Virginia. The breeder of Riley's lamb was Buster Wilson of Rural Retreat.

Nycum, 18, is the daughter of

Brenda and James Nycum of Rt. 1 Swoope. Riley, 12, is the son of Donna and Doug Riley of Hebron. He is a student at Beverley Manor Middle School.

In the single market lamb show's lightweight division, Doug Grimm claimed champion honors and Jimmy Crosby took reserve champion honors. Both are members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. In the light middleweight division, Hemp exhibited the champion 100-pound lamb and Craig Brown claimed the ribbon for reserve champion honors. Both are members of the Riverheads FFA chapter. Heavyweight division champion honors were won by Laura Grimm with her 120-pound lamb. She is a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. Reserve champion honors in the division went to Curry for her 130-pound lamb.

In the pair of lambs competition, Nycum successfully matched her grand champion lamb with another of similar type and style to claim the prize for grand champion pair of lambs. Nycum's second lamb of her pair placed second in a class in the show's single lamb heavy-weight division. Hinton's pair of lambs followed in the reserve grand champion position. The lambs exhibited by Hinton placed first and third in classes in which they were exhibited as singles. Hinton, 16, is the son of Joyce and Otis Hinton of Greenville. His Suffolk/Hampshire lambs were bred

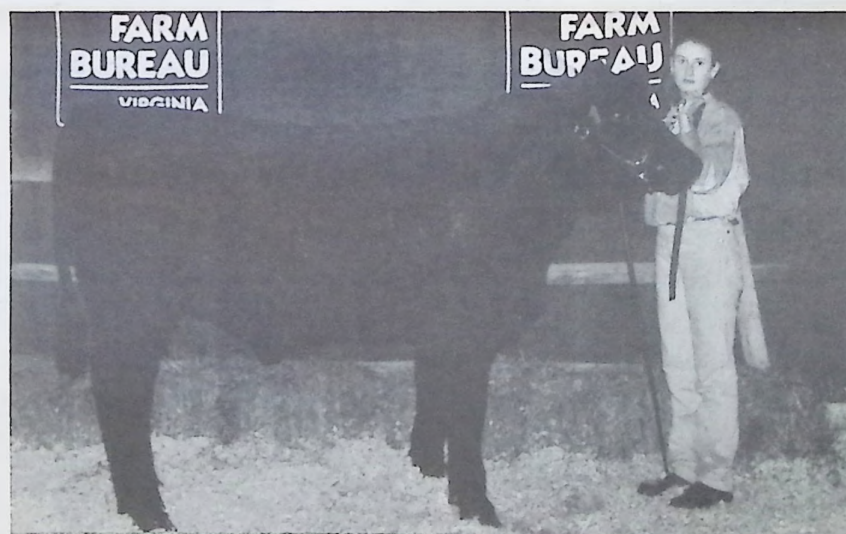


GRAND CHAMPION MARKET HOG shown by
JARED HEMP, RIVERHEADS FFA

in Pennsylvania. Hinton exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion single lamb at the 1997 show.

By the time the pair of lambs competition began, Meadows had seen most of the 178 lambs exhibited in the show. It was only a matter of picking pairs which most

closely resembled one another. The pairs of lambs were exhibited in two weight divisions. Champion pair in the lightweight division was exhibited by Buffalo Gap FFA member Rosalea Riley. Reserve champion in the division went to Doug See **PAIRS**, page 12



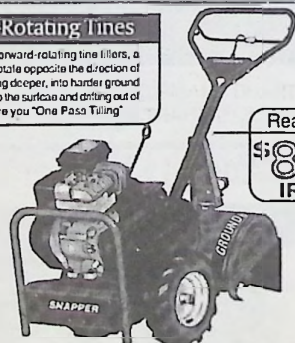
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION STEER shown by
SHELLEY BUCHANAN, RIVERHEADS FFA

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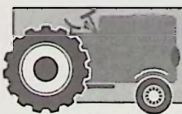
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• Pairs

Continued from page 11

Grimm, Nycum's and Hinton's pairs were champion and reserve champion, respectively, in the heavy-weight pairs division.

Although sunny skies prevailed on the show's first day, the weather on the second day of the event proved less than cooperative. Most of the morning through the market hog show, exhibitors tolerated intermittent drizzles accented with occasional bursts of sunshine. By afternoon, clouds had thickened and a persistent drizzle turned into a downpour as the steer show culminated. Despite the inclement weather, market hog and steer exhibitors maintained their composure and focused their concentration on the show judge and the animals which they had spent months preparing for the show.

In the morning's market hog exhibition, show judge Katherine Meadows was faced with 66 hogs from which to select the grand champion single and pair of hogs. The single market hog exhibition was divided into two weight divisions and it was Hemp's 250-pound spotted hog which took the grand champion rosette. Gayhart's 225-pound four-way hybrid Duroc/Hampshire/Yorkshire/Landrace claimed the reserve grand champion ribbon. Hemp's hog was champion of the heavyweight division and Gayhart's entry was champion of the lightweight division.

"Both of these hogs are showing a lot of natural thickness which they carry deep into their hams and stifles," Meadows said of the show's top two hogs. "They are



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF LAMBS shown by JACK HINTON, RIVERHEADS FFA

adequate in finish. These are two outstanding individuals."

In choosing Hemp's hog over Gayhart's for the show's grand champion, Meadows cited it as being a "little thicker and heavier muscled."

"The biggest difference was in the volume and capacity," she said. "The grand champion hog was a more production-oriented pig."

Overall, the judge commended exhibitors for bringing a "really consistent group of good thick pigs" to the show ring.

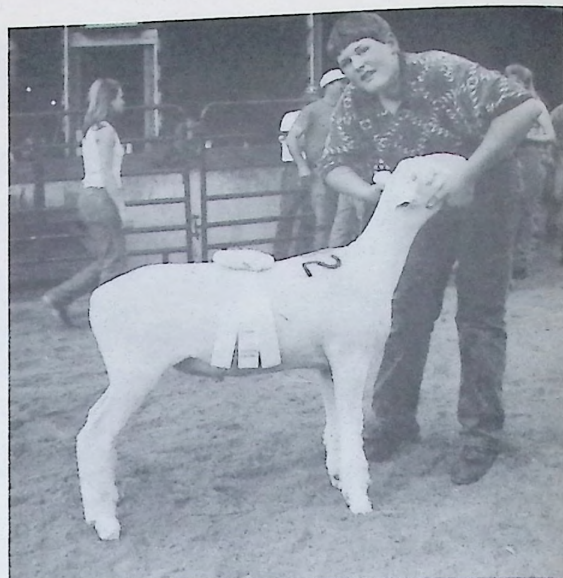
Hemp's hog was bred out of state and Gayhart's was bred by Robbie

Abell of Charles County, Maryland. Hemp, 17, is the son of Katrina and Mike Hemp of Middlebrook. Gayhart, 16, is the daughter of Pat and Danny Gayhart of Churchville.

Reserve champion hog in the lightweight division was exhibited by Curry. In the heavyweight division, the reserve champion was exhibited by Nick Nycum.

Four classes of hog pairs competed for top honors with Leonard's Pennsylvania-bred pair claiming the grand champion rosette. Curry paired her reserve champion from the single light-

See **CHAMPIONS**, page 14



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION MARKET LAMB shown by JONATHAN RILEY, LIVESTOCK JUDGING 4-H CLUB



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION MARKET HOG shown by DANIELLE GAYHART, BUFFALO GAP FFA

Market Animal Show results

MARKET LAMB SHOW

SINGLES DIVISION I

LIGHTWEIGHT: 95-100 pounds

Class 1 — 1. M. Carpenter, LM 4-H; 2. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 3. B. Dunsmore, WW 4-H; 4. J. Wine, NR 4-H; 5. M. Williams, MDL 4-H; 6. R. Miller, RHS FFA
Class 2 — 1. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Crosby, MDL 4-H; 3. A. Gilbert, RHS FFA; 4. J. Rohrbaugh, WW 4-H; 5. C. Lyle, BG FFA; 6. M. Miller, MDL 4-H
Class 3 — 1. M. Shreckhise, WW 4-H; 2. J. Arey, SH 4-H; 3. M. Miller, MDL 4-H; 4. R. Riley, BG FFA; 5. C. Lyle, BG FFA; 6. K. Mitchell, SH 4-H

CHAMPION

Doug Grimm, Middlebrook 4-H

RESERVE CHAMPION

Jimmy Crosby, Middlebrook 4-H

DIVISION II

LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT:

101-105 pounds

Class 1 — 1. J. Hemp, RHS FFA; 2. C. Brown, RHS FFA; 3. Jo. Roller, FD FFA; 4. E. Curry, BG FFA; 5. V. Floyd, FD FFA; 6. M. Shreckhise, WW 4-H
Class 2 — 1. C. Harris, MDL 4-H; 2. M. Garland, SM FFA; 3. E. Shiffert, WW 4-H; 4. A. Balsley, LM 4-H; 5. J. Botkin, BG FFA; 6. J. Back, CMB 4-H
Class 3 — 1. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 2. N. Nycum, BG FFA; 3. J. Crosby, MDL

4-H; 4. M. Garland, SM FFA; 5. A. Balsley, LM 4-H; 6. P. Arey, SH 4-H
CHAMPION

Jared Hemp, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Craig Brown, Riverheads FFA

DIVISION III

HEAVY MIDDLEWEIGHT:

110-115 pounds

Class 1 — 1. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 2. R. Grogg, MDL 4-H; 3. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 4. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 5. V. Burton, SH 4-H; 6. M. Arey, SH 4-H
Class 2 — 1. S. Nycum, BG FFA; 2. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 3. R. Rohr, MDL 4-H; 4. B. Glass, FD FFA; 5. J. Grimm, LM 4-H; 6. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H
Class 3 — 1. J. Hinton, RHS FFA; 2. L. Nulty, LM 4-H; 3. C. Brown, RHS FFA; 4. R. Grogg, MDL 4-H; 5. Ja. Roller, FD FFA; 6. B. Napier, RLC 4-H
CHAMPION

Sheila Nycum, Buffalo Gap FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Jonathan Riley, Livestock Judging 4-H

DIVISION IV

HEAVYWEIGHT: 115-130 pounds

Class 1 — 1. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 2. R. Riley, BG FFA; 3. G. Brinkley, FD FFA; 4. A. Hinton, BM FFA; 5. S. Williams, MDL 4-H; 6. S. Heizer, MDL 4-H
Class 2 — 1. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 3. J. Hinton, RHS FFA;

4. D. Temple, MDL 4-H; 5. B. Glass, FD FFA; 6. T. Rohrbaugh, WW 4-H
Class 3 — 1. E. Curry, BG FFA; 2. S. Nycum, BG FFA; 3. N. Nycum, BG FFA; 4. A. Gilbert, RHS FFA; 5. S. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 6. L. Nulty, LM 4-H
CHAMPION

Laura Grimm, Middlebrook 4-H

RESERVE CHAMPION

Emily Curry, Buffalo Gap FFA

GRAND CHAMPION

Sheila Nycum

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Jonathan Riley

MARKET LAMB PAIRS

DIVISION I

LIGHTWEIGHT: 200-215 pounds

Class 1 — 1. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 2. C. Lyle, BG FFA; 3. M. Miller, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Crosby, MDL 4-H; 5. S. Lam, BM FFA
Class 2 — 1. M. Shreckhise, WW 4-H; 2. J. Botkin, BG FFA; 3. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 4. A. Balsley, LM 4-H; 5. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H
Class 3 — 1. R. Riley, BG FFA; 2. C. Harris, MDL 4-H; 3. A. Shiffert, WW 4-H; 4. M. Garland, SM FFA; 5. J. Grimm, LM 4-H
CHAMPION

Resalea Riley, Buffalo Gap FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Doug Grimm, Middlebrook 4-H

See **RESULTS**, page 14

Staunton/Augusta Farmer's Market

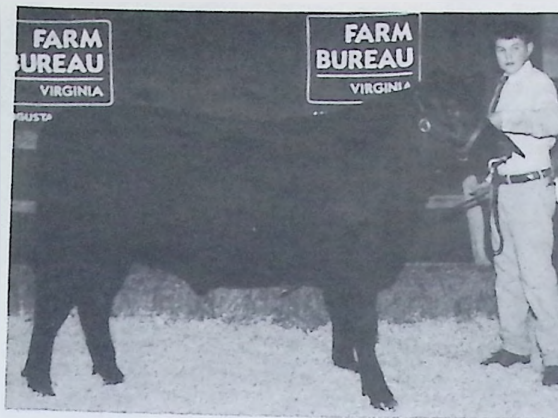


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CHAMPION JUNIOR STEER SHOWMAN



AUSTIN JOHNSTON
MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB
CHAMPION JUNIOR HOG SHOWMAN

Youths earn \$100 bonds for showmanship efforts

AC staff report

STAUNTON -- Six Augusta County youth won showmanship honors at the 53rd annual Market Animal Show to claim \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds sponsored for the event by *Augusta Country*.

The show's top junior showmen were Jimmy Crosby for lambs, Austin Johnston for hogs, and Cole Heizer for steers. All are members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

In senior competition, winners were Jared Hemp of the Riverheads FFA for lambs, Emily Curry of the Buffalo Gap FFA for hogs and Wes Marshall of the Fort Defiance FFA for steers.

"These individuals are to be commended for their outstanding efforts in the Market Animal Show," said *Augusta Country* publisher Betty Jo Hamilton. "All exhibitors in the show do an outstanding job with their projects. It is hoped that each of them will strive to do their best and remember the importance of showmanship in preparing animals for exhibition."

Lamb show judge Andy Meadows

commended exhibitors for their showmanship efforts.

"It takes a lot of courage for these young people to be out here," he said. "They all did a wonderful job."

In selecting Crosby as the champion junior lamb showman, Meadows said "he did the best job out of the group. He did a professional job, was fluid in his motions and knows how to set up his lamb and present it effectively."

Crosby, 13, is a student at Beverly Manor Middle School and is the son of Beverley and Harry Crosby of Rt. 6, Staunton. Placing second and third respectively in junior lamb showmanship was Mark Garland of the Stewart Middle School FFA and Jonathan Riley of the Livestock Judging 4-H Club. Riley also placed second in junior steer showmanship.

Meadows was equally complimentary to exhibitors competing for the senior lamb showmanship award.

"This is the hardest class of the whole day," he said, "and we save it until last. If you're out here, you're walking in pretty tall col-

ton. This is an extremely tough class and is very competitive."

Hemp was the senior lamb exhibitor who Meadows chose as the top of the class.

"This is a team effort," Meadows said. "It's part you and part the lamb. This young man gets more out of his sheep than anybody out here."

Hemp, 17, is the son of Mike and Katrina Hemp of Middlebrook. Angela Hinton of the Beverly Manor Middle School FFA placed second in senior lamb showmanship and was followed in third by Buffalo Gap FFA member Matthew Hickey.

Showmanship judge for the hog and steer exhibition was Katherine Meadows. In selecting the top junior hog showman, she said she looked for the individual who "moved smoothly and quietly" with the hog. Johnston was the junior competitor who Meadows chose as the champion junior hog showman. She said he did the best job of keeping his hog in front of her at all times and made the best use of his cane and brush to guide the hog.

Johnston, 13, is a student at Beverly Manor Middle School and is the son of Dinah and Donnie Johnston of Rt. 1, Staunton. Jacob Leonard and Josh Smith, both members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club, placed second and third, respectively, in junior hog showmanship.

For the champion senior hog showman, Meadows chose an exhibitor who she said "has got the basics down." Curry's performance with her market hog was enough to win her the champion senior hog showman award.

Curry, 15, is the daughter of Betsy and Charles Curry of Mt. Solon. Danielle Gayhart of the Buffalo Gap FFA placed second and Doug Grimm of the Riverheads FFA placed third in senior hog showmanship.

In steer showmanship, Meadows was looking for individuals who set their calves up quickly and in the best position to accentuate the calves' best points.

"This is the most important class of the day," Meadows said to the youth gathered for the showmanship judging.

Heizer was the junior steer showman who Meadows said best fit the mold for properly exhibiting a steer.

Heizer, 12, a student at Beverly Manor Middle School, is the son of Suzanne and Bill Heizer of Middlebrook. Placing third in junior steer showmanship was Kenton Burford of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

Judging senior steer showmanship in a downpour of rain, Meadows commended the group for their abilities.

"This is an outstanding group of senior showmen," she said.

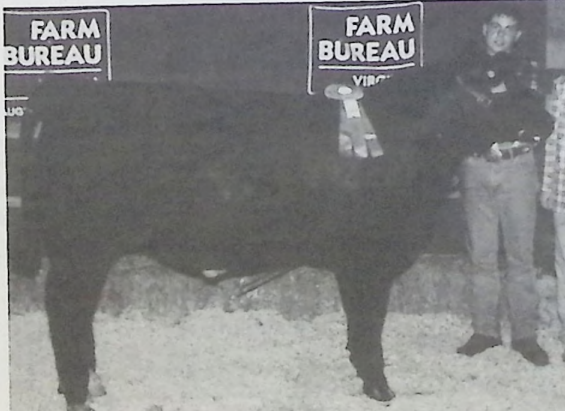
Ultimately it was Marshall who won the judge's nod as champion senior showman.

Marshall, 17, is the son of Cindy and Steve Marshall of Weyers Cave. Placing second in senior steer showmanship was Shelley Buchanan. Justin Shomo placed third. Both are of the Riverheads FFA.

Savings bonds from *Augusta Country* were presented to the six champion showmen at the Market Animal Show banquet held May 21. —



JARED HEMP
RIVERHEADS FFA
CHAMPION SENIOR LAMB SHOWMAN



WES MARSHALL
FORT DEFIANCE FFA
CHAMPION SENIOR STEER SHOWMAN



EMILY CURRY
BUFFALO GAP FFA
CHAMPION SENIOR HOG SHOWMAN

•Champions

Continued from page 12

weight division with another single which placed second in a class from the heavyweight division to win reserve grand champion pair honors.

Meadows said Leonard's pair of hogs "matched really well" to earn the top award. The grand champion pair were the "thickest and heaviest muscled," according to the show judge, which was combined with a lean finish to win the top pair award. She noted that the reserve grand champion pair were "very similar" to the grand champion hogs for being "good, thick pigs."

A hog show which was twice as large as the previous year's show delayed the usual 10 a.m. start of the steer show. It was almost noon when the first class of the show's five divisions of steers entered the show ring for the judge's scrutiny. Although the show maintained a constant pace throughout the afternoon, it was approaching 5 p.m. by the time the champions from the steer show divisions were gathered in the ring for the selection of the grand champion.

Amid a steady downpour of rain,

Meadows walked to Marshall's 1,320-pound Chi-Maine/Angus cross steer to select it as the show's grand champion. It would take only a few more minutes before she was congratulating Buchanan for winning reserve grand champion honors with her 1,265-pound Maine/Angus cross steer. Marshall's steer was bred in Jackson Mill, W.Va. Buchanan's steer came the closest of any of the grand champion animals of being raised locally. It was bred by Allen Strecker of Lexington.

Marshall's steer was champion of the show's heavyweight division and Buchanan's took champion honors in the heavy middleweight division. Marshall, 17, is the son of Cindy and Steve Marshall of Weyers Cave. Buchanan, 16, is the daughter of Kathleen and Eddie Buchanan of Rockbridge Baths.

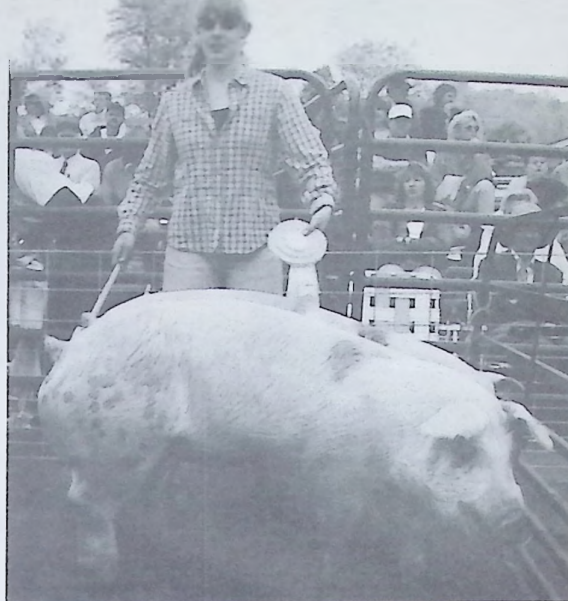
In the steer show's lightweight division, Josh Burtner of the Buffalo Gap FFA claimed champion honors with his 1,065-pound black baldy steer. Reserve champion honors were won by Leonard who exhibited a 1,065-pound Angus steer.

Buchanan was seriously in the hunt for grand championship hon-

ors in the steer show, taking two animals to the division champion winners' circle. In addition to her heavy middleweight champion steer which would be the show's reserve grand champion, she also exhibited the champion steer in the light middleweight division. She claimed the prize with a 1,125-pound Angus steer. A 1,100-pound Angus exhibited by Jonathan Coleman of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club was reserve champion in the light middleweight division.

Brothers Justin and Bryan Shomo dominated competition in the show's middleweight division. The two Riverheads FFA members claimed the top awards in the division with Justin earning champion honors and Bryan claiming the reserve champion rosette. Both Shomos exhibited 1,150-pound Angus steers.

Buchanan's heavy middleweight division champion was followed in the reserve champion position for the division by a 1,275-pound steer exhibited by Lindsey McCune of the Wilson Memorial FFA chapter. Marshall's heavyweight division champion edged out a 1,300-pound



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF HOGS shown by EMILY CURRY, BUFFALO GAP FFA

•Results

Continued from page 12

MARKET LAMB PAIRS DIVISION II

HEAVYWEIGHT: 216-240 pounds
Class 1 — 1. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Rolter, FD FFA; 3. R. Rohr, MDL 4-H; 4. S. Voss, MDL 4-H; 5. R. Swartzel, RLC 4-H
Class 2 — 1. N. Nycum, BG FFA; 2. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 4. B. Glass, FD FFA; 5. J. Rolter, FD FFA
Class 3 — 1. S. Nycum, BG FFA; 2. J. Hinton, RHS FFA; 3. E. Curry, BG FFA; 4. G. Brinkley, FD FFA; 5. V. Burton, SH 4-H

CHAMPION
Sheila Nycum, Buffalo Gap FFA
RESERVE CHAMPION
Jack Hinton, Riverheads FFA
GRAND CHAMPION — Sheila Nycum
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION — Jack Hinton

Junior Lamb Showmanship
1. Jimmy Crosby, MDL 4-H; 2. Mark Garland, SM FFA; 3. Jonathan Riley, LJ 4-H
Senior Lamb Showmanship
1. Jared Hemp, RHS FFA; 2. Angela Hinton, BM FFA; 3. Matthew Hickey, BG FFA

MARKET HOG SHOW

SINGLES

DIVISION I

LIGHTWEIGHT: 210-235 pounds
Class 1 — 1. N. Nycum, BG FFA; 2. J. Hemp, RHS FFA; 3. J. Buchanan, MDL

4-H; 4. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 5. Jo. Smith, MDL 4-H; 6. M. Hickey, BG FFA
Class 2 — 1. D. Gayhart, BG FFA; 2. S. Nycum, BG FFA; 3. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 4. R. Riley, BG FFA; 5. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 6. Jo. Smith, MDL 4-H
Class 3 — 1. E. Curry, BG FFA; 2. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 3. C. Stoutamyer, BG FFA; 4. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 5. S. Williams, MDL 4-H; 6. C. Smith, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION
Danielle Gayhart, Buffalo Gap FFA
RESERVE CHAMPION

Emily Curry, Buffalo Gap FFA
DIVISION II

HEAVYWEIGHT: 236-260 pounds
Class 1 — 1. S. Nycum, BG FFA; 2. E. Curry, BG FFA; 3. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 4. T. Curry, SD FFA; 5. Je. Smith, MDL 4-H; 6. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H
Class 2 — 1. J. Hemp, RHS FFA; 2. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 3. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 4. N. Buchanan, RHS FFA; 5. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 6. B. Burton, SH 4-H
Class 3 — 1. N. Nycum, BG FFA; 2. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 3. D. Stoutamyer, BG FFA; 4. M. Williams, MDL 4-H; 5. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 6. J. Buchanan, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION

Jared Hemp, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Nick Nycum, Buffalo Gap FFA

GRAND CHAMPION

Jared Hemp

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Danielle Gayhart

MARKET HOG PAIRS

Class 1 — 1. J. Buchanan, MDL 4-H; 2. Jo. Smith, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Hemp, RHS FFA; 4. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H
Class 2 — 1. E. Curry, BG FFA; 2. S. Nycum, BG FFA; 3. N. Buchanan, RHS FFA; 4. C. Smith, MDL 4-H; 5. T. Curry, SD FFA
Class 3 — 1. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 2. B. Burton, SH 4-H; 3. N. Nycum, BG FFA; 4. L. Wingard, SH 4-H; 5. V. Burton, SH 4-H
Class 4 — 1. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 2. D. Stoutamyer, BG FFA; 3. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 4. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 5. B. Miller, FD FFA

GRAND CHAMPION

Jacob Leonard, Middlebrook 4-H

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Emily Curry, Buffalo Gap FFA

Junior Hog Showmanship

1. Austin Johnston, MDL 4-H; 2. Jake Leonard, MDL 4-H; 3. Josh Smith, MDL 4-H

Senior Hog Showmanship

1. Emily Curry, BG FFA; 2. Danielle Gayhart, BG FFA; 3. Doug Grimm, MDL 4-H

MARKET STEERSHOW

DIVISION I

LIGHTWEIGHT: 965-1,095 pounds
Class 1 — 1. Ca. Heizer, RHS FFA; 2. B. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 3. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 4.

D. Showalter, BR 4-H; 5. G. Irvine, MDL 4-H
Class 2 — 1. R. Riley, BG FFA; 2. Ca. Heizer, RHS FFA; 3. A. Hinton, BM FFA; 4. M. Miller, BM FFA; 5. C. Irvine, RHS FFA
Class 3 — 1. J. Burtner, BG FFA; 2. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 3. S. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 4. K. Burford, MDL 4-H; 5. M. Hickey, BG FFA
Class 4 — 1. J. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 2. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 3. D. Gayhart, BG FFA; 4. C. Snyder, MDL 4-H; 5. L. Misk, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION

Josh Burtner, Buffalo Gap FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Jacob Leonard, Middlebrook 4-H

DIVISION II

LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT:

1,100-1,145 pounds

Class 1 — 1. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H; 2. G. Brinkley, FD FFA; 3. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 4. N. Hildebrand, BG FFA; 5. S. Cash, FD FFA
Class 2 — 1. J. Buchanan, RHS FFA; 2. N. Buchanan, MDL 4-H; 3. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Truxell, BM FFA; 5. J. Hunter, BG FFA
Class 3 — 1. S. Buchanan, RHS FFA; 2.

W. Bagoon, FD FFA; 3. S. Lam, BM FFA; 4. L. McCune, WM FFA; 5. S. Williams, MDL 4-H

Class 4 — 1. V. Lamb, MDL 4-H; 2. B. Perkins, MDL 4-H; 3. Co. Heizer, BM FFA; 4. J. Shultz, MDL 4-H; 5. P. Myrle, RHS FFA

CHAMPION

Shelley Buchanan, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Jonathan Coleman, Middlebrook 4-H

DIVISION III

MIDDLEWEIGHT:

1,146-1,195 pounds

Class 1 — 1. J. Shomo, RHS FFA; 2. B. Shomo, RHS FFA; 3. B. Sipe, BG FFA; 4. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 5. B. Perkins, MDL 4-H

Class 2 — 1. C. Wonderley, WW 4-H; 2. I. Swartzel, RLC 4-H; 3. A. Shiflett, WW 4-H; 4. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 5. E. Curry, BG FFA

Class 3 — 1. A. Hemp, RHS FFA; 2. S. Williams, MDL 4-H; 3. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 4. R. Swartzel, SDM FFA; 5. J. Buchanan, MDL 4-H

Class 4 — 1. W. Earhart, MDL 4-H; 2. E. Curry, BG FFA; 3. J. Hemp, RHS FFA; 4. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 5. H. Burtner, NR 4-H

See CLASSES, page 15

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Buyers make the difference for market animal projects

AC staff report

STAUNTON—Businesses from Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta and Rockingham counties came out in full support of the 1998 Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale. With prices on slaughter animals trending downward across the board, exhibitors welcomed all the help buyers were prepared to offer to make their projects finish out in the black.

Part of each youth's project work is to acquire bidders for their animals by writing to or visiting businesses to solicit support for the sale.

The pavilion at Staunton Union Stockyard was packed to capacity for the May 7 sale of steers, hogs, and lambs by 4-H and FFA members. Business leaders showed strong support for the club members' project work, helping to make up the difference in a year when all U.S. slaughter markets have showed declines. Auctioneers for the event were Ben Howell and Robbie Reeves.

An overview of the 1998 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale and prices follows.

Grand Champion steer
1,320 pounds, graded choice --
Exhibited by Wes Marshall

Purchased by S.L. Hess & Sons, Rockingham New Holland, Staunton Foods and Shomo & Lineweaver Insurance for \$1.85/pound or \$2,442/head

Reserve Grand Champion steer
1,265 pounds, graded choice
Exhibited by Shelley Buchanan

Purchased by Augusta Orthopaedic Surgery for \$1.10/pound or \$1,391.50/head

The 126 steers sold at the Market Animal Sale had an average weight of 1,183 pounds and brought from \$79 to \$127/hundredweight, with most ranging from \$87 to \$95/hundredweight. Only one steer in the sale brought just below \$80 at \$79. In 1997, prices ranged from \$77 to \$120/hundredweight, with most falling in the \$92 to \$97.50 range.

Floor price on steers grading

choice at the 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale was bid \$63.65/hundredweight by Moyer Packing.

Floor price on steers grading select was bid \$61.35/hundredweight, also by Moyer Packing. Prices were down slightly from the 1997 sale when the floor price bid on choice steers was \$66.60 and \$62 on select grades.

Prices for the 1998 Market Steer Sale reflected a downward trend in the slaughter cattle market at regular Virginia state-graded sales.

Grand Champion single hog
250 pounds, yield grade 1
Exhibited by Jared Hemp

Purchased by Transit Mix Concrete for \$1.50/pound or \$375/head

Reserve Grand Champion single hog
225 pounds, yield grade 1
Exhibited by Danielle Gayhart

Purchased by Able Show Pigs for \$1.20/pound or \$270/head

Grand Champion pair of hogs
510 pounds, yield grade 1
Exhibited by Jake Leonard

Purchased by Harner Wheels for \$75/hundredweight or \$382.50/pair

Reserve Grand Champion pair of hogs
465 pounds, yield grade 1
Exhibited by Emily Curry

Purchased by Bob Neil Antiques for \$55/hundredweight or \$255.75/pair

Market hogs sold individually numbered 44 with an average weight of 235 pounds. Prices ranged from \$55 to \$162.50/hundredweight. Most prices bid for hogs fell in the \$80 to \$90/hundredweight range.

Prices on hogs sold individually were off significantly from 1997 prices which saw most bids falling in the \$97 to \$120/hundredweight range.

Floor price bid on four yield grade 1 market hogs was \$36/hundredweight by Dinner Bell. Floor price bid on 17 yield grade 1-3 market hogs was \$38.75/hundredweight, also by Dinner Bell. In 1997, floor price on yield grade 1&2 market hogs was \$55.25/hundredweight. Prices for the 1998 Market Hog Sale reflected the

overall sharp decline in the U.S. slaughter hog market.

Grand Champion single lamb
110 pounds, Blue O
Exhibited by Sheila Nycum

Purchased by Hershey Tire for \$5/pound or \$550/head

Reserve Grand Champion single lamb
110 pounds, Blue O
Exhibited by Jonathan Riley

Purchased by Western Augusta Steam & Gas and Central Tire for \$3/pound or \$330

Grand Champion pair of lambs
130 pounds, * Blue O
Exhibited by Sheila Nycum

Purchased by Property Management for \$2/pound or \$260/head

(Other lamb in pair was Grand Champion single)
Reserve Grand Champion pair of lambs
235 pounds, Blue O
Exhibited by Jack Hinton

Purchased by Guy C. Eavers Excavating for \$1.80/pound or \$423/pair

A total of 116 lambs which averaged 109 pounds were sold individually at the Market Animal Sale. Prices on these lambs ranged from \$1.50 to \$4.30/pound with most falling in the \$2 to \$2.30/pound range. In 1997, prices on lambs sold individually were bid mostly in the \$2.50 to \$3/pound range.

Floor price on 42 Blue O lambs with an average weight of 107 pounds was bid \$80/hundredweight by Jack Bauseman. Prices on slaughter lambs broke downward in the week before Easter 1998. Religious holidays which fall in early April traditionally mark the high point for slaughter lamb prices each year. In 1997, Blue O lambs brought \$1.25/pound the week prior to Easter. This year the market tripped 32 percent from 1997 prices to 85 cents/pound during the first week in April. Floor price on Blue O lambs at the 1997 Market Animal Sale was \$105.50/hundredweight. The floor price on Blue O lambs at the 1998 Market Animal Sale reflected a 20 percent decline in market value of slaughter lambs.

Steers

Continued from page 14

Chi-Angus steer exhibited by Fort FFA member J.T. Begoon which placed as the division's reserve champion.

"You guys have so much to be proud of," Meadows said before selecting the grand champion steer from the five division champions. "I've judged a lot of shows and you've got one of the top groups (of exhibitors) here."

Her grand champion selection of Marshall's steer was "representative of the beef cattle industry today," Meadows commented. She credited it for having plenty of red meat and being adequately finished.

"The grand champion steer is the thickest made, heaviest muscled steer in the show by a long way," Meadows said. "It is a high volume animal that represents the complete package I was looking for."

Falling just shy of the grand champion mark, Buchanan's steer was "good, thick, and correct," according to the show judge. In order to have moved up in the winner's circle, Meadows said the reserve grand champion would have needed to "have higher volume and be a deeper rib kind of steer."

Overall, Meadows complimented exhibitors for the 132 steers brought through the show ring.

"This has been an excellent group of steers," the judge said. "The young people in Augusta County need to be commended for the way they fed their steers."

Master of ceremonies for the two-day event was June Cohron. Ringmasters were Mason Ware, Larry Cohron, and Amy Trout. The show is sponsored annually by Ruritan Clubs of Augusta County and the Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County Chambers of Commerce.

Classes

Continued from page 14

CHAMPION

Justin Shomo, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Bryan Shomo, Riverheads FFA

DIVISION IV

HEAVY MIDDLEWEIGHT:

1,200-1,280 pounds

Class 1 — 1. J. Begoon, WW 4-H; 2. Ca. Brown, RHS FFA; 3. Ja. Via, FD FFA; 4. K. Cromer, NR 4-H; 5. Jo. Smith, MDL 4-H
Class 2 — 1. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 2. A. Hemp, RHS FFA; 3. S. Talley, BG FFA; 4. J. East, LM 4-H; 5. Ju. Via, FD FFA
Class 3 — 1. Shelley Buchanan, RHS FFA; 2. R. Riley, BG FFA; 3. B. Shomo, RHS FFA; 4. K. Michael, FD FFA; 5. T. McClain, BM FFA

Class 4 — 1. L. McCune, WM FFA; 2. A. Shiflett, WW 4-H; 3. A. McCune, WM FFA; 4. J. Hinton, RHS FFA; 5. K. Cromer, NR 4-H

CHAMPION

Shelley Buchanan, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Lindsey McCune, Wilson Memorial FFA

DIVISION V

HEAVYWEIGHT:

1,285-1,425 pounds

Class 1 — 1. J.T. Begoon, FD FFA; 2. W. Begoon, FD FFA; 3. D. Showalter, BR 4-H; 4. B. Skelton, FD FFA; 5. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H
Class 2 — 1. W. Marshall, FD FFA; 2. J.T. Begoon, FD FFA; 3. Cr. Brown, RHS FFA; 4. L. Shaver, FD FFA; 5. T. Lawson, BG FFA
Class 3 — 1. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H; 2. Williams, DR 4-H; 3. B. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 4. B. Skelton, FD FFA; 5. Ja. Wine, NR 4-H
Class 4 — 1. Cr. Brown, RHS FFA; 2. J. Shomo, RHS FFA; 3. C. Wonderley, WW 4-H; 4. R. Swartzel, RLC 4-H; 5. I. Swartzel, RLC 4-H

CHAMPION

Wes Marshall, Fort FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

J.T. Begoon, Fort FFA

GRAND CHAMPION

Wes Marshall

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Shelley Buchanan

Junior Steer Showmanship

1. Cole Heizer, MDL 4-H; 2. Jonathan Riley, LJ 4-H; 3. Kenton Burford, MDL 4-H

Senior Steer Showmanship

1. Wes Marshall, Fort FFA; 2. Shelley Buchanan, RHS FFA; 3. Justin Shomo, RHS FFA

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Schoolhouse News

Craigsville fifth graders turn critical eye on artwork

By PENNY PLEMMONS

CRAIGSVILLE—Children's Art Network Director Brenda Papke briefly flashed Italian artist Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting, the *Mona Lisa* in front of the eyes of Mrs. Pytel's fifth grade students at Craigsville Elementary School.



Krystal Ingram, 12, left, and Kim Shields, 10, fifth grade students at Craigsville Elementary School, hold a print of Henri Matisse's *Woman with Amphora and Pomegranates*.

"This picture is so artistic. It is blue. The line of the figure is so relaxing. The texture is so Caribbean. If you walked in it you would smell coconuts. You would feel like a summer night. You would taste bubble gum."

*Kim Shields and Krystal Ingram
Interpretation of Henri Matisse's
Woman with Amphora and Pomegranates*

Putting the picture aside, she asked, "What do Mona's eyebrows look like? How are her hands folded? Is Mona smiling? frowning?" The students gave some good answers, and some good guesses. But after taking a better look at the reproduction, they were surprised at just how much they had not noticed about the painting. Papke proceeded to explain to the students that the average art viewer only "spends a grand total of three seconds" looking at works of art.

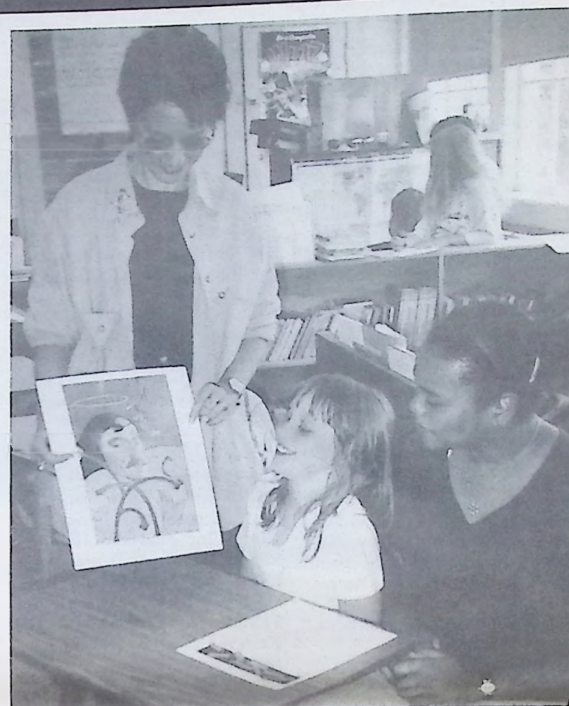
Of five curricula that the Children's Art Network (CAN) provides, Papke selected the Great Masterpieces to share with the Craigsville students. She told the students that her goal for the 1 1/2 hours of class time was threefold.

"I want to show you how to really look at art, how to talk about art and how to

write about art," she said.

Through various games, discussions and activities, Papke introduced reprints of famous artwork found in the Smithsonian National Gallery of Art located in Washington, D.C. She wove personal interesting tidbits about the artists and their works into the discussion. Papke encouraged students to think freely about the pieces by stating, "There are no wrong answers when looking at art. It is what you, the individual sees and feels."

Papke used her art repertoire to teach the students to identify the basic building blocks of art, which are line, color, texture and shape. Students examined Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Starry Night* to explore how color and lines can be useful in understanding art. Several students thought Edvard Munch's *Scream* would look terrific on a T-shirt or CD cover. Some



Brenda Papke, standing, Children's Art Network director, discusses a piece of artwork with Craigsville Elementary School fifth graders Patricia Martin, center, and Winnie Walker.

Photos by Penny Plemmons

of the fifth graders thought their mother's would appreciate owning the painting by Georgia O'Keeffe, which gives a close up view of the inside of a flower.

The class spent time viewing the works and then wrote newspaper ads aimed to entice someone to buy the piece. The Children's Art

Network is a non-profit traveling art program intended to broaden art awareness among elementary school children and the community at large. By the end of the school year the Staunton-based program will have reached 3,000 of Augusta County's elementary school children. —

Chemical People hosting RHS After-Graduation party

By JULIE GRIMM

GREENVILLE — The 1998 commencement plans are about to unfold as this year's seniors prepare to graduate. Graduation will be held in the new gymnasium at 7 p.m. on June 10.

An After-Graduation Party will begin at 10 p.m. for the graduates and their guests. It will be held at the YMCA on Coalter Street in Staunton. Every graduate will receive a T-shirt designed by an RHS art student. There will be a wide variety of things to do such as basketball, tennis, and swimming as well as plenty of food and music.

Time to renew?
See page 2

Seniors have the opportunity to win a wide assortment of prizes. Cash prizes totaling \$400 will be given away. Other prizes include passes to King's Dominion and Shenandoah Acres, and gift certificates for Jiffy Lube, Hair Creations by Wanda, Peterson's Car

Wash and much more.

The After-Graduation Party is sponsored by the Chemical People of Riverheads High School. They work very hard to plan this alcohol-free, fun, and memorable graduation event. The After Graduation Party will last until 1 a.m.

Donations are being accepted from individuals, churches, Ruritan Clubs, and businesses. If you would like to make a contri-

bution, send it to the Riverheads Chemical People or to Becky Williams, c/o Riverheads High School, Rt. 2, Staunton, Va. 24401. —

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Gap Choir invited to perform at Disney World

By SUE SIMMONS

BUFFALO GAP — "Ladies and Gentlemen... presenting the world famous Buffalo Gap High School Show Choir." Kathy Rowe punches every word as her students, big smiles plastered on their faces, quickly march on stage to foot-tapping music and an imaginary audience.

Although absent at the moment, the audience materialized when the Buffalo Gap High School Show Choir made its debut at Disney

World's EPCOT Center in Orlando, Fla., in May. Just how does a high school show choir make it to Disney World?

Rowe, the choir's director, submitted an audition tape which resulted in an invitation from Disney World for the choir to perform at the popular Florida theme park.

The teacher and her students spent frantic hours rehearsing their energetic and dynamic act, both at the high school and in front of the large mirrors at Gone Country in Staunton to prepare for the big event.

The performance took place at Innova-tion West, an outside stage for park visitors at the EPCOT Mall. Reserved primarily for park performers, Disney's stage occasionally serves as the backdrop for non-Disney performers by invitation only.

Whether or not they returned with stars in their eyes and serious stagebug bites remained to be seen, but for one weekend in May, the Buffalo Gap High School Show Choir took centerstage at Florida's Disney World. —

Buffalo Gap Show Choir members wear their "Disney smiles" as they rehearse for their Disney World performance.

Photo by Sue Simmons



June Misenhimer retiring from RHS

By JULIE GRIMM

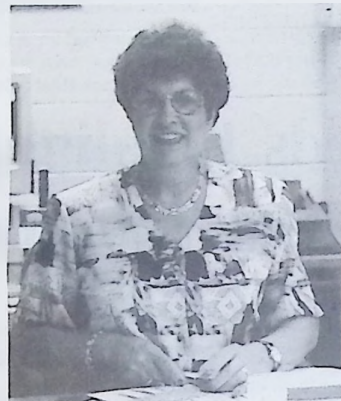
GREENVILLE — At the end of this school year, Riverheads High School will be losing a very valuable member of its faculty, June Misenhimer.

Mrs. Misenhimer began her career at RHS as an office secretary in 1977. Her responsibilities included preparing daily bulletins, keeping attendance records, as well as routine secretarial functions. She is currently secretary to the guidance counselors.

Mrs. Misenhimer takes with her many fond memories of the students and faculty of RHS. However, she feels her fondest memory is of the graduation from Riverheads of her children, Brian and Dawn, in 1988 and 1991, respectively.

Mrs. Misenhimer feels there is a very positive atmosphere at RHS, which has not changed much over the past 20 years. She said she believes "the administration and faculty work hand in hand with the students' best interests in mind."

As she approaches retirement, Mrs.



JUNE MISENHIMER

Misenhimer looks forward to spending time with her husband, Larry, and her family, doing "whatever I want to do."

Mrs. Misenhimer is wished much happiness and she will be missed by all at RHS. —

RHS seniors nominated for Rotary award

By RUTH JONES

GREENVILLE — For the past 50 years or so, the Staunton Rotary Club has been honoring a girl and a boy who display high ethical standards from each county high schools. These eight standards are presented in the Rotary Code of Ethics.

This year, Riverheads students David Bolin and Katie Manley were presented with Rotary Code of Ethics awards. In May, David and Katie were honored with a luncheon at the Rotary Club. On June 5

they will be presented with an award from the Rotary Club during the Riverheads Senior Banquet. David's and Katie's names will be placed on a plaque in the Senior Government room along with names of past recipients of the award.

When asked how they felt about being honored for high ethical standards, David said, "It's a great honor to receive this award. I think it's great that my teachers and fellow students feel this way about me." Katie also shared the same feelings on her accomplishment. "This award is truly an honor and I greatly appreciate the nomination," she said. —



MANLEY



BOLIN

Craigsville fifth graders see sights in Washington, D.C.

By SETH PLEMMONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The fifth graders from Craigsville Elementary School visited Washington, D.C. in May. The Washington Monument

seemed to follow us wherever we went. We looked at it from across the Reflecting Pool and marveled at how tall and pointed the monument is.

The students climbed the many steps to see the Lincoln Memorial

and read the Gettysburg Address engraved in the stone. Next, the two classes walked alongside the Vietnam Memorial. The wall was long and too many people died in that war. Flowers laid against the wall and a man passed out a poem about his brother who had died in Vietnam.

We saw soldiers shooting their guns and marching in formation. Parents took pictures of their children in front of the White House. The White House is big and has a large lawn.

Rain prevented us from walking to the Jefferson Memorial, but our bus driver took us on a ride around it.

We ate lunch by the stone art called The Awakening. It looks like a man coming out of the ground.

The class spent the rest of the afternoon touring the Natural Science Museum and the Museum of Natural History. We peeked at the Hope Diamond and saw things from history, like the Conestoga wagon, that we had studied about

in class. As we drove away from the city, we could still see the Washington Monument.

On the way home we stopped briefly at the Bull Run Battlefield and saw an amazing statue of Stonewall Jackson riding his horse. It was a real treat for Craigsville students to visit Washington, D.C. —



Sheila Carter's fifth grade class from Craigsville Elementary School stands near the reflecting pool in Washington, D.C. with the Washington Monument in the background.

Photo by Penny Plemmons

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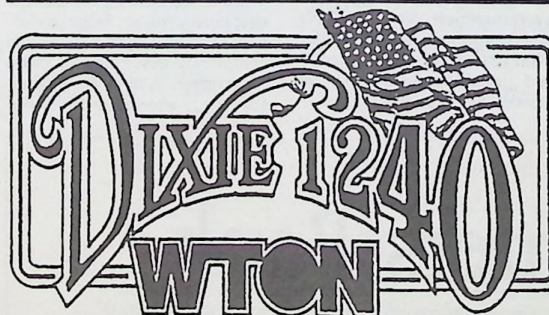
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Track meet showcases athletes

By DAVID BOLIN

GREENVILLE — Throughout the years, the Augusta County Invitational Track Meet has become one of the best invitational track meets in the area. It annually draws anywhere from 10 to 15 teams from all over the valley as well as some teams from over the mountain.

When the meet first started, it was just what the name said it was. It was just the five county teams. When the schools were split into different districts the meet dis-

banded. Fort Defiance then brought it back a few years later as an all-relay meet. Then it switched to a regular meet format and was supposed to rotate among the county schools. But then due to uncontrollable factors, such as the weather and other things, it was held at Riverheads or not held at all during a period of about three years. Since then it has been at Riverheads for about 10 years.

Also, another big format change was when Virginia High School League allowed meets with 10 or more

teams participating to qualify athletes for state competition. To take advantage of this, the meet increased its size from five teams to the present size.

Over the years some phenomenal athletes have participated in the meet. One person Coach Ron Wilkerson, who has run the meet every year it has been at Riverheads, remembers specifically was David Shuey, a Riverheads student who has held the meet record in the 200 meters and 400 meters for nine years. Another noted Riverheads athlete is weight man Tony Lee who has held the record in the shot-put for five years.

The meet has become a well known showcase for local talent. Area residents will benefit from this meet as much in the future as they have in the past. —



Laura Wilkerson, a member of the Riverheads High School girls' track team, triple jumps at the Augusta County Invitational Track Meet held recently at RHS. RHS staff photo



LAURO



WRENN



BEGOON

Fort FFA members celebrate honors

FORT DEFIANCE — Members of the Fort Defiance Future Farmers of America celebrated their accomplishments over the past year during an awards banquet held recently at the high school.

The chapter's Leadership Award and Huffman Scholarship was presented to senior Daniel Lauro. The award for outstanding achievement for a non-officer went to Ben Miller.

Named the chapter's Star Agribusinessmen were Lauro and Doug Wrenn. J.T. Begoon was presented the award for Star Chapter Farmer.

Scholarship awards were presented to Lauro, senior; Beth Blackwell, junior; Caroline Michael, sophomore; and Crista Litner, freshman.

Area proficiency award winners were Cam Michael, ag sales and service; Lauro, ag processing; Begoon, beef production entrepreneurship; Wes Marshall, diversified crop production and soil and water management; Harold Morris, diversified livestock; David Wenger, forage production; Wes Hilbert, landscape management; and Wes Breeden, wildlife management.

Receiving awards for record books were Ashlie Kiracofe and Donald Smith. Public speaking awards were presented to Lauro, senior prepared; Litner, junior prepared; and Blackwell, extemporaneous. Awards for ag mechanics were presented to R.W. Scott, junior and David Michael, senior.

Chapter proficiency awards were presented to the following individuals.

Doug Wrenn and Kenny Hyden, agriculture mechanical technical systems; Kara Michael, ag sales and service; Begoon and Jason Via, beef production; Jason Hatton, dairy production; Marshall, diversified crop production and soil and water management; Kiracofe, diversified livestock production; Ashley Gutshall and Blackwell, equine science; Wenger, forage production; Lauro, home and community development; Hilbert, landscape management; Travis Knicely, poultry production; Morgan Croft, sheep production; Ben Miller, swine production; Jeremy Mcray, turf grass management; and Breeden, wildlife management. —

Awards highlight Gap FFA banquet

BUFFALO GAP — Awards and those honored took centerstage recently at the annual Buffalo Gap High School Future Farmers of America awards program.

Senior Troy Lawson was presented the J.W. Riley Memorial Scholarship and the DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award. Sheila Nycum, also a senior, was awarded the Scott Hickey Memorial Trophy.

Honored as the chapter's Star Agri-Businessman was Bo Sipe. Star Chapter Farmer awards were presented to Emily Curry and Rosalea Riley. Bill Crosby was recognized with the chapter's Greenhand award.

Proficiency awards were given to chapter members completing requirements for specific project areas. Recipients included the following.

Billy Brown and Anthony Knight, ag mechanics; Bo Sipe, ag sales and service; Jason Arehart and Colt Lyle, beef production; Brian Vess, diversified crop production; Lawson and Clint Lyle, diversified livestock production; Doug Britt, equine science; Chris Wheeler, food science and technology; Jeremy Hunter, forage production; Danielle Gayhart, home and community development; Dixie Stoutmyer, poultry production; Lawson, sheep production;



LAWSON



NYCUM



SIPE



CURRY



RILEY



CROSBY

Catherine Knight, specialty animal production; Curry, swine production; and Whit Sours, turf grass management.

Earning pins for project area work were Steven Downey, ag mechanics; Jimmy McLanahan, beef production; Scott Talley, equine science; John Cline, poultry production; Riley, sheep production; and Aaron Ramsey, swine production.

The chapter presented a service

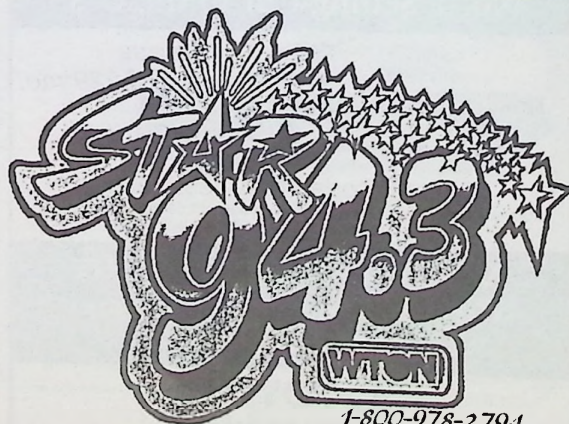
award to Doug Riley of Hebron for his contributions to the FFA program at Gap. An honorary chapter degree was conferred upon Churchville Elementary School for its annual participation in the FFA Food for America program. —

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FFA members honored at Riverheads banquet

AC staff report

GREENVILLE—The Riverheads High School chapter of the Future Farmers of America honored its members during an awards ceremony held in conjunction with the group's 36th annual banquet held recently at the school.

Members were recognized for outstanding achievement in chapter project work for the school year 1997-98.

Chapter advisers Eugene McIlwee and Deborah Strole presented the chapter's Blue and Gold Award to Jake Shuey and Justin Shomo. The two seniors also earned the chapter's Star Chapter Farmer awards. Shuey was presented the DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award by Jerry Shultz, representing the Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau.

Two juniors presented the Star Agri-Businessman awards were



SHUEY



SHOMO



HEIZER



IRVIN

Carrie Heizer and Colby Irvine.

Missy Clemmer Scholarships in the amount of \$100 were presented to Justin Shomo, Jake Shuey, and Jared Hemp.

Recognized for outstanding effort in ag mechanics was David Bolin. Earning the award for most improved in ag mechanics was Travis Jack.

Chapter officers named Ms. Strole its Honorary Chapter Farmer for 1998 and presented

Brian Craig with an appreciation award from the chapter.

Star Greenhand awards, given in recognition of outstanding achievement for first-year FFA members, were presented to Amanda Hemp, Carrie Brown, Bryan Shomo, Jason McIlwee, and Aaron Root.

Megan McIlwee and Angela Gilbert were ho-nored for their success in the 1997 State Convention Talent Contest held last June at Virginia Tech.

Earning State Degrees this year were chapter members Justin Shomo, Megan McIlwee, Carrie Heizer, and Colby Irvine.

Scholarship awards were presented to David Bolin, senior; Carrie Heizer, junior; Neal Buchanan, sophomore; and Amanda Hemp, Aaron Root, and Carrie Brown, freshmen.

Justin Shomo was honored for his success in the federation and area tractor operator's contest. He will compete at the state level during the convention in June.

Proficiency award winners included the following individuals.

Travis Jack and Holly Baber, agriculture mechanics; Stephanie Branch and Jason Argenbright, landscape management; Jared Hemp, Neal Buchanan, Colby Irvine, and Amanda Hemp, diversified livestock production; Carrie Heizer and Justin Shomo, beef production; Buddy Chandler, forestry; Aaron Root, nursery op-

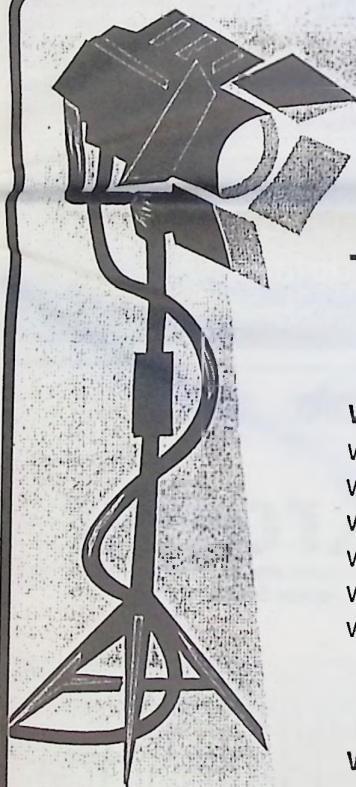
erations; Megan McIlwee and Jason McIlwee, specialty crop production; Jason McIlwee and Justin Fravel, home and community development; and Jared Hemp, swine production.

Also, Jared Hemp, Amanda Hemp, and Ryan Miller, sheep production; Buddy Chandler, wildlife management; Adam Myers and Jack Hinton, agricultural sales and services; David Arehart and Carrie Brown, outdoor recreation; Stephanie Branch and Steve Branch, poultry production; Justin Fravel and Clay Fravel, dairy production; Jake Shuey, extempo-

See RHS, page 24



BOLIN



DATELINE 29 NEWS

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TOP-RATED 6 A.M. NEWSCASTS

| | Rating | Share |
|------------------------|--------|-------|
| WVIR - Charlottesville | 15 | 88 |
| WCYB - Bristol | 13 | 54 |
| WHSV - Harrisonburg | 10 | 54 |
| WWBT - Richmond | 7 | 36 |
| WDBJ - Roanoke | 7 | 35 |
| WAVY - Norfolk | 7 | 34 |
| WUSA - Washington | 4 | 16 |

TOP-RATED 6 P.M. NEWSCASTS

| | Rating | Share |
|------------------------|--------|-------|
| WVIR - Charlottesville | 36 | 71 |
| WHSV - Harrisonburg | 26 | 48 |
| WCYB - Bristol | 24 | 41 |
| WDBJ - Roanoke | 21 | 36 |
| WWBT - Richmond | 16 | 32 |
| WVEC - Norfolk | 12 | 23 |
| WUSA - Washington | 8 | 15 |

TOP-RATED 12 NOON NEWSCASTS

| | Rating | Share |
|------------------------|--------|-------|
| WVIR - Charlottesville | 12 | 72 |
| WDBJ - Roanoke | 10 | 36 |
| WTKR - Norfolk | 8 | 31 |
| WCYB - Bristol | 9 | 30 |
| WUSA - Washington | 8 | 28 |
| WTVR - Richmond | 7 | 29 |
| WHSV - Harrisonburg | 7 | 28 |

TOP-RATED 11 P.M. NEWSCASTS

| | Rating | Share |
|------------------------|--------|-------|
| WVIR - Charlottesville | 19 | 60 |
| WCYB - Bristol | 13 | 36 |
| WHSV - Harrisonburg | 12 | 39 |
| WWBT - Richmond | 10 | 28 |
| WDBJ - Roanoke | 9 | 29 |
| WAVY - Norfolk | 8 | 20 |
| WRC - Washington | 8 | 18 |

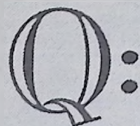
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The Hitching Post

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Can a horse tell if I'm scared of it? How?

Sarah T.

Horses can often tell when a person is afraid through a "sixth" sense as well as through body language. If you can understand my basic instincts for survival, you will realize how important "fear" is to me as a warning signal.

In a herd environment, horses grazed as a group and the members of the outer part often were the first to recognize danger, such as a predator. In order to survive as a herd, horses used the "flight" rather than "fight" instinct. I would run because the rest of the herd ran. I did not always have to SEE danger to BELIEVE it was there. This means that I had a "sixth"

sense that was important in the wild for basic survival.

Today I still have this "sixth" sense. Through proper training and discipline, I am not always allowed to act on my fear. However, I am still very aware of "fear" around me. I know when other horses are afraid. I also know when people are afraid. The important thing to understand here is that I do not always know WHAT people are afraid of. In other words, if you are afraid of ME, I do not always understand that. All I understand is that you are afraid and my "sixth" sense picks up on it.

If you are afraid around horses,

the best advice I can give you is to realize that YES, we can tell you are afraid. Emotional self control is important, because I have found that people who are afraid of me sometimes make "mountains out of molehills" with every move I make. In their fear, they do not get "close" to me. They work around me from a distance and I do not gain any confidence from them for MY fear because of THEIR fear. This means that I do not receive any kind of reassurance either.

Build your confidence by building up mine first. The more you reassure ME, the less fear you will feel because it will work for both of us. Confidence will come from time and learning more about horse behavior. If you are afraid, then you need to find a quiet, safe horse to learn from. And if you can work confidently around one horse at a time, be happy with that achievement. Not all horses behave well. And not all horses are safe. Fear is a warning

I.B.HOOFINIT
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Horse's Mouth



to protect us from getting hurt.

Time and patience can be the best remedy for fear. And overcoming it ONE horse at a time is possible. I have found that people who are afraid of horses do better with ONE horse. They are slow to trust and need a lot of time to work into a

relationship. Trust takes time to build. This means one horse is probably best for them and they can accept their emotional limitations and be perfectly happy. —

I.B. Hoofinit is a fictitious horse character developed by Chris Marrs as a service to teach horse care. Questions to I.B. Hoofinit may be submitted to P.O. Box 2955, Staunton, Va. 24402. Questions become the property of Chris Marrs, and answers are subject to editor approval. Information pro-

vided in this column is meant to be taken as general advice. Each horse, rider, owner, and situation reflects different problems. I.B.'s answers are meant to be informative and enjoyable, but not binding. Common sense in any situation is a must.

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Legal help for the horse lover

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fifth in a series of articles about equine-related careers.

By I.B. HOOFINIT

Just like people, horses can get into trouble too. A friend of mine broke loose from his paddock and visited the neighbor's house. While he was there, he poked around and sort of did some damage. The owners were rather upset and I thought I'd better find him some legal help. I decided an "equine attorney" was his best bet.

April R. Fletcher has been an attorney working in the horse industry since 1993.

"I was interested in equine-related legal issues in law school and began looking for cases relating to horses from the beginning," she said. "I began limiting my practice to mostly equine cases in 1996."

April says that there are a growing number of attorneys doing equine work, many of them in Kentucky, California, and Virginia.

Anyone interested in a career in horsemanship as an equine attorney has a great deal of school work ahead of them. (And I thought only horses were "schooled!")

Since many clients from the horse industry will have business-related issues, April advises potential equine law students to work to get a solid foundation in legal areas such as contracts, employment, taxes, and corporations as well as torts and litigation. The most important "work" of all is to get as broad a range of hands-on horse experience as possible. Experience in as many horse-related fields will help students with future clients.

Students should study and try to obtain the best grades they can in high school and college. April explained that this will broaden students' choices for law schools. After college, law school should take three years with internships or clerkships in the summer.

What is the biggest demand for an equine lawyer?

"My biggest request from equine clients is for contract work. Liability waivers are the second most requested," the equine attorney noted.

April practices law part time, and most of her caseload is equine related.

"Based on the growth of my practice, the demand for equine attorneys seems to be growing, but I doubt that any equine lawyer does only equine work full time," she said. "Most also have another area of law in which they concentrate."

April explained that most horse people with problems just need to talk to someone who understands horses AND the law. She works to help her clients operate their businesses in a way that will avoid legal problems in the future and hopefully save them lots of money in litigation costs down the road.

If you have an interest in the legal profession and also are a serious horse enthusiast—April and her husband have two horses: she fox hunts, exercises horses, works cattle, and even competes in trail rides—then maybe a career in horsemanship as an equine attorney is a possibility for you. I know horses can be difficult to understand sometimes, but a lawyer who can get us out of "hot water" is a great asset to any stable enterprise. —

Tack should be maintained properly to ensure safety

By CHRIS MARRS

Safety in tack is an important issue for any horseback riding enthusiast. Care, cleaning, and repair are all part of a good maintenance program.

Jenny Foltz, owner of The Saddle Doctor, a tack repair shop in Timberville, provides some important tips on keeping tack in good working order.

Jenny advises cleaning tack at least once a year.

"Also, clean and oil after every rain as water dries leather," she said.

Keeping leather conditioned and oiled helps maintain its flexibility and longevity. Create good habits by wiping down tack with a cloth after each use, especially the sweat areas. This will help tack last longer.

Use racks to store saddles. This keeps saddles in good shape.

"Try to keep it covered with a sheet," Jenny advised.

If you must set a saddle on the floor, Jenny recommends it be with the pommel end down. Leather also needs to breathe, so owners should avoid covering saddles with plastic.

Mildew does not hurt leather. Although not very attractive, mildew wipes off leather easily. Actually, an enemy of leather comes in the form of four-legged creatures.



Mice will chew up leather and cats will claw it. Efforts should be made to store tack in order to prevent damage from animals.

Some products recommended for tack care are leather cleaners, such as Murphy's Oil Soap, conditioners, and oils. Neat's-foot oil conditions leather and also is great for dry saddles. Oil darkens light colored leather so be aware of this, especially with new saddles and bridles. Lexoil softens the saddle. For suede areas, Jenny recommends washing with water and Murphy's Oil Soap and then condition with oil. Do not use mineral oil

or baby oil on any leather products as these will not bond with the leather. Animal-based oil bonds with the leather. Mineral and baby oils lack any conditioning effect.

Sheepskin may be used to apply soap or conditioner to leather. Toothbrushes are good to work in crevices and small areas. A soft bristle brush can be useful in the cleaning process. Rags also can be used to clean leather or apply oil.

Jenny explained that neat's-foot oil does not rot stitching on tack, but dirt, as well as lack of care, will. Tack today is being made with nylon thread which promises a longer life.

Never oil a dirty saddle. Clean it first and then don't neglect to oil the hard to reach places. Take time to check tack for wear and tear during the cleaning process. Using tack that is worn or which shows signs of dry rot in important areas such as the cinch straps or bridle pieces can mean serious injury if it should break during a ride.

Tack which is damaged or needs replacement parts should be taken to a reputable tack shop for repair. —

Jenny Foltz, owner of The Saddle Doctor in Timberville, spoke during a workshop at the Rockingham County 4-H Open Horse Forum held recently in Harrisonburg.

Internet provides resource mechanisms for genealogists

By VERA HAILEY

MONTEREY — The Highland County Internet Support Group hosted a May program on using the internet for genealogical research. Michael Gwinn of Massachusetts, coordinator of the Highland County genealogical web page, was the guest speaker.

Gwinn spoke about the USGenWeb Project, a volunteer organization that promotes family history research over the internet. In an attempt to make information available online at no cost, the project has made amazing progress. Started in 1996 by a group of Kentucky genealogists, it has grown to cover all 50 states and most of the counties within each state.

Donations of information to the project are encouraged. Those making donations do not lose any rights to the information, but it is made available to all interested persons at no charge. The data is not sold or used commercially.

For research within the U.S., the best starting point is the USGenWeb site. From there, progress to the state of interest, then next to the specific county. At each level, additional information is available.

There are a number of projects within the USGenWeb that are ongoing and quite exciting. The Archive Project is an effort to gather information from primary resources, such as deeds, ship lists and wills.

The archives are transcripts of these primary resources and are indexed by county. A search engine has been developed to allow easy searching for names and places.

The Tombstone Transcription Project is an attempt to record headstones in cemeteries across the country. As tombstones are exposed to the weather over time, valuable information is lost. By recording the inscriptions, future generations will have access to dates of birth and death of our ancestors.

The USGenWeb Project is built on volunteerism. There are no paid employees, fees, or dues. Each site, whether a state or county, is run by a

coordinator. This person is responsible for maintaining the site with a minimum context, including a query page, local sources for information, and useful links. Generally speaking, the coordinator is not able to answer questions about ancestors, history or specific items of interest, but they may be able to point a researcher in the right direction.

Queries are an important part of online research. More and more county sites are indexing the query pages, allowing people researching the same lines to find each other. When submitting queries to a USGenWeb site, there are some basic guidelines to follow. Most sites have a form that can be filled out and submitted online. Capitalizing surnames and using proper case on given names and locations is the best way to make sure the query is readable and easily understood. A specific query is most successful. Information on the USGenWeb Project can be found on the internet at <http://www.usgenweb.org/>

Genealogical and historical mailing lists also are an important part

See WEB, page 23

I.B. Hoofinit's

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GWINN

Country Crossroads

Reflecting pool reflections

By Roberta Hamlin

May 1998



Dear Maude,
Goodness, how busy you must be now that the weather has improved a little and all that planting has begun. I wish I had just a little yard where I could have a garden of my own, but alas, the balcony on my apartment is hardly wide enough for a pot of petunias, let alone any container large enough in which to put a tomato plant! I will simply have to schedule lots of trips home this summer for some good vegetables.

We are busy in our own fashion here. With H.R.10 (the banking reform bill) in the works on the hill, things are beginning to get a little crazy. This bill, brought about by the proposed merger of Citicorp and Travelers has everyone excited — especially the lobbyists. What could be closer to heaven than a batch of highly paid executives all concerned about being more highly paid, if the legislation goes well. The executives in the two companies mentioned want things to go their way. Those in other banking and insurance companies are seeing opportunities for themselves. Then there are the brokers, keeping up with the stock of those companies involved, and wondering what language might be included to help or hinder them. The lobbyists are walking around with visions of \$\$\$\$ in their eyes. The consumer activists are stirring up lots of questions that the bankers and insurance men do not want to hear. But for lobbyists like my boss, it is what dreams are made of — they are seeing many of those nice dollars going into their own bank accounts. And, for those of us who have ordinary jobs, it simply means that the phone is ringing all the time with clients "just checking things out." People are calling to see if we have heard what the legislators plan to discuss at the hearings, or if things have been canceled, or rescheduled. Some need to know who is speaking on a particular day. Others call because they are worried that something might be in the bill to harm their business. The boss keeps us busy with luncheon and hotel reservations for those clients who can not stand the suspense and have to come to look in on the hearings, and do a little partying while they are here. Once the bill makes it further along, things will ease up for us, but right now it's, "...what if they add a provision to this bill that will limit our ability to make lots more money?"

It is enough to wear one out! I keep thinking more and more about lots of trips home.

But lots of trips home will mean lots of vacation days I will have to take. I know it is hard to believe that there is anyone in Washington who is not a lobbyist, but the city also has an unbelievable number of federal employees, all of whom are even more unhappy than I am about where the federal holidays fall this year. Working for the government means one has certain "entitlements." There are, of course, automatic pay raises, sick and personal leave days, and job security. But the federal holidays are sacred and are very fondly looked forward to. Almost every month there is something that will give one a nice three-day weekend for little trips here and there. But this year, what a bummer. There are a lot of grumpy people mumbling to themselves when you ask them what they are going to do over the summer.

"...going to the beach?" you say.

"...don't have time..." they growl. What it really means is that they don't have the "free" time to go.

With Memorial Day so early, the 4th of July falling on a Saturday, (with no weekday off to make up for it) and Labor Day on the 7th of September, it is going to be a long, long summer. Can you imagine that the Post Office will have to be open every weekday and Saturday, (except for half of that 4th of July) for three whole months! One of

The joy of bird watching

When my family and I came to Bethel Presbyterian Church four years ago, we were welcomed with open arms, baskets full of homemade foods and lots of stories. These gifts helped take away our fears of being strangers in a new community and created a home for our anxious hearts. The stories? Well, they just keep coming — history, folklore, politics, church, farming — subjects as varied as the people who tell them. History is taken seriously; memory is a gift well-tended; everywhere you turn, if you listen well, there is a story being told, and with careful attention to detail.

Recently, I've been remembering stories about James Sprunt who served as minister of Bethel Church from 1957-1968. He was an avid bird watcher, who loved traveling the back roads and into deep forests with any parishioner who would take him. When he wasn't writing sermons and keeping up with pastoral duties, I'm told he was fishing, hunting or especially, bird watching. At least once, Dr. Sprunt was lost with a church member on North Mountain. That member recently recalled: "He didn't want to spend the night on the mountain without any gear, but I felt safe as long he was there praying." Local lore has it that Dr. Sprunt had developed the ability to feed Carolina Chickadees from the palm of his hand. This love for birds was shared by his brother Alexander, a world-renowned professional ornithologist who focused his research attention on hawks.

It was YuLee Lamer, known locally as the "bird lady," who first told me about Dr. Sprunt. Within weeks of moving into the Bethel manse, I called her asking for information about the Augusta County Bird Club. YuLee couldn't contain her enthusiasm. Dr. Sprunt, she said, was one of the founding members of the club along with John Mehner and a handful of others, including YuLee. Dr. Sprunt served as treasurer of the club from 1967-73. "In fact," she went on, "he still holds the record for the earliest sighting of wood thrush (April 19, 1964), the yellow warbler (April 2, 1967), and the chestnut-sided warbler (April 19, 1964). A marvelous man who loved the church and loved birds, Dr. Sprunt would be pleased to know that during my family's first year at Bethel manse, nearly 70 different species of birds were recorded either by sight or sound."

This spring YuLee has gathered 80 volunteers from around Augusta County to record all the birds breeding in the county. It's an enormous project updating the last book completed in 1984. When she asked if I would participate in the project, my immediate response was, "Yes!" hoping somehow to carry on the legacy of Dr. Sprunt, and the Caldwell family following him, who lived "in the manse on the hill" at Bethel Green. I had no idea what I was getting into, or how my awareness would change, when I awoke before dawn to begin recording the songs of early rising birds.

Since that first morning, I have been up at sunrise nearly every day, listening and watching — along with friends scat-

my friends is in real stew about it — her husband is with the postal service, and she is rather fond of little outings over to the eastern shore beaches of Maryland. Now he will have to take vacation days! Oh, the horror of it all!

And speaking of Memorial Day, that silly Dylan is about to end up at the top of the list of those people I never want to see again. He was so involved in a bunch of fundraisers and receptions, (with all the money at stake with that banking reform bill, you can imagine the flurry of activity,) that he did not bother to check much of his mail and must not have bothered to look at the calendar either, because he forgot all about the holiday and the fact that we had been invited, as we are every Memorial Day, to a wonderful big cookout in Northern Virginia, and he accepted a golf date, out of town, with some character. He told me that he had not realized the holiday was so soon, and the man was a big contributor, and there was nothing he could do. Talk about mad!! Needless to say, I did not get to go to the cookout. The only thing that made it a



Saying grace

By

Roy Howard

tered all over the county — and back again at dusk. Bird songs and calls, recorded on tape, now fill up my car as I go from hospital to home to meetings and elsewhere. I hear a symphony of God's little songsters who surround us all the time.

Few things are more delightful than the song of a wood thrush at daybreak. The wood thrush is joined by a whole company of creatures that daily remind us to sing our own songs of praise and thanksgiving. Watching a tiny common yellow throat perched on a branch with its head tilted to the sky singing, singing, singing, is a call to raise my own voice in song for the gift of life in this wonderful place. Every time I hear a bird's song, it could become a joyful summons to sing with gratitude. I hope for such a summons every day.

Following YuLee's invitation to cover the two "blocks" assigned to me, recording all the birds breeding within them, I've discovered a whole new world. Here is a sample of the birds that have been sighted in recent weeks: black-throated blue warbler, oven bird, the yellow warbler, indigo bunting, rose-breasted grosbeak, scarlet tanager, Baltimore oriole, orchard oriole, common yellow throat, wood thrush, blue-gray gnatcatcher, ruffed grouse, northern bobwhite, blue bird, assorted species of woodpeckers, sparrows, vireos and the ever present Carolina chickadees. A great many more have been spotted across the county by YuLee's legion of volunteers, including a rare sighting of a Cerulean warbler and a Cooper's hawk's nest.

I've also met some people who share a love for birds, but who are rightly wary of strangers looking through binoculars across their fields or into their trees. Each of the volunteers in the Breeding Bird Blitz project has an identification card, a permission slip to be signed before trekking on someone's private land and a bright yellow tag for the car.

On June 13 and 14, the great Augusta County Breeding Bird Blitz will take place. All the volunteers, and their friends, will cover their assigned areas to record every bird identified, by sight or sound, on these two days. Be on the lookout for your neighbors with binoculars; share with them the birds you've seen and join the adventure of enjoying God's creatures. I'm certain Dr. Sprunt, now gone before us to rest in the communion of saints, would be among those looking and listening. And, by the way, if you see a bird nesting, let me know. —

little easier for me was the fact that Dylan got a terrible sunburn out on the golf course, and complained mightily about it. It was all I could do to make myself smile and tell him to go to the drug store and get something to put on it.

At least I was able to drag him to the Sheep and Wool Festival earlier in the month. That festival is one of my favorite things — makes me think of home. It has been going on for many years — 25, in fact. There are sheep dog demonstrations, lots of weavers and spinners around, piles of spinning fleece, food and more food, and a large craft show as well. I had a great time, but I'm not so sure about Dylan. He kept complaining about the smell of the sheep. Some city folks are just hopeless!

My lunch break is over and the telephones are all ringing or blinking "on hold." I had best get back to work and try to help the others here protect the boss' bank accounts by chatting with the clients.

Love to everyone,
LuLu

It's just a phase

Gardening by the light of the moon

Nothing much happened in Middlebrook this week, except one of the street lights went out. We're not sure exactly what happened. 'Twasn't a rock, nor a baseball. And it certainly wasn't a hailstorm. The light just... well, went out. But that's OK, because a couple of things have prevented total darkness from setting in: 1) our other four street lights are just fine, and 2) the moon has been incredibly bright recently. Indeed, the moon appears to shine brilliantly with all its luminescence focused down upon our tiny little village. Hmmmph. Just another wonderful thing about living in Middlebrook — we have such a big moon, for such a small town.

Which reminds me that the Full Strawberry Moon will occur on June 10 this year. According to old time gardening lore, the best strawberries of the season will be harvested

between the full moon of June until the last quarter (June 10-17). There are enough first-rate farmers and gardeners that follow the moon signs to certainly make me take notice of things like this. Maybe they would do just as well if they didn't garden by the moon signs. I don't know. But I am convinced that planting by the moon signs at the very least does no harm. So, why not lean toward the wisdom of folklore and take advantage of the moon signs? That's my stance.

How are sowing, transplanting, and harvesting linked to phases of the moon? Over the centuries, many gardeners have developed their own systems to work in harmony with the moon. One theory is that during the dark (waning) of the moon, plants orient themselves toward their roots, the sap rushing downward, so it is a favorable time for

planting root crops and for transplanting. During the light (waxing) of the moon, sap is said to flow more strongly, filling plants with vitality and favoring the planting of crops that mature above the ground.

Another theory is that the gravitational pull of the moon raises groundwater the same way it does tidewater. If this is true, we may also appreciate how the moon may pull nutrients from the roots of a plant upward toward the leaves to stimulate growth.

To plant by the phases of the moon, you will need an almanac or calendar that shows the exact time and date of the moon phases. My personal favorite is the *Old Farmer's Almanac — Southern Edition*. Many gardeners and farmers purchase this booklet every autumn when it hits the newsstands. I keep mine by the easy chair year round.

The term "phase" refers to the moon's apparent shape as viewed from the earth. Due to the relative positions of the moon, earth, and sun, the moon appears to change shape, even though we know it really doesn't. It's just a trick of light.

The lunar month starts with the new moon, also called the "dark of the moon." From the new moon to the first quarter, and from the first quarter to the full moon, the moon appears to grow in size from nothing to a crescent, then eventually to a full circle. This half-month is the waxing phase. From full circle, the moon then starts to decrease



The Garden Path

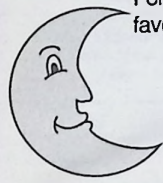
By Jeff Ishee

in apparent size through the last quarter and back to a dark circle (new moon). This phase is the waning of the moon.

If you would like to plant your garden crops in harmony with the moon during June of this year, sow seeds that bear crops above the ground during the waxing phase from June 1-10. Sow seeds that bear crops below the ground during the waning phase from June 11-22.

Now we all know that June is not really a month for planting vegetables, but usually a month for keeping up with the weeds. Weeding can be done anytime, regardless of the moon phase. If you do, however, want to plant a few things this month, you might try putting some sweet corn in the ground before June 10, and maybe some carrots in between June 11 and 22.

It's easy to scoff at people who sow, transplant, and harvest by the moon, but until we can prove that the practice is either valid or not, we would do well to lean toward the wisdom of our ancestors. At the very least, planting by the moon does no harm. —



For the remainder of the gardening season, use the moon-favorable dates listed below to plant your vegetables:

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Late green beans | July 1-9 |
| Late beets | August 15-20 |
| Late broccoli | August 1-7 |
| Late sweet corn | July 7-9 |
| Late peas | August 21-31 |
| Late spinach | August 1-7 |

Secrets of German church records revealed

AC staff report

STAUNTON — Kirchenbuecher! Gesundheit.

Although it may sound like a noise some folks make when the sneeze, kirchenbuecher is hardly that. It is German, and it refers to handwritten volumes of German church records which contain valuable genealogical information.

Have you German-backed-grounded folks out there looked at your family tree and thought it was rather odd that all your male ancestors were named Johann? Was it more than coincidence that they all married women named Maria or Anna?

How about all you folks named Carpenter, Miller, or Smith who think your roots are English? Are you sure your ancestors were not named Zimmerman, Mueller, or Schmidt?

Dorothy Boyd-Rush addressed questions such as these in a lively talk for the Augusta County Historical Society's spring meeting held recently at the Museum of American Frontier Culture.

Dr. Boyd-Rush, who received her doctorate in history from Temple University in Philadelphia, is a professor of history and dean of the graduate school at James Madison University in Harrisonburg. She also is president-elect of the Virginia Genealogical Society. For many years she has conducted research in the fam-

ily history of German settlers in the Peaked Mountain congregation area of southern Rockingham County. Her database of some 15,000 names is a rare and valuable resource in the history of the Valley of Virginia.

German church records (kirchenbuecher) were the focus of her talk to the historical society. These handwritten volumes, so hard for the uninitiated to decipher, are packed with valuable information about individual persons, about families, and their extended circle of kinship, about migration patterns, and about family customs.

A glance at Lutheran and Reformed baptismal records will show, for example, that all German baby boys, not just those in your family, were christened Johann for their first name. There is Johann Peter, Johann Jacob, Johann Georg, and Johann Friedrich, to name a few. Johann is a version of the name John, for St. John. If the family were really serious about calling the boy John, then he would be christened Johannes.

This naming pattern was peculiar to the Germans in the Valley of Virginia. The registers for English or Scottish or Scots-Irish children baptized in the established (Episcopal or Anglican) church or the Presbyterian church record no such naming patterns. The female sisters and cousins of all those little unrelated German boys would be

christened Anna Katharina, Anna Barbara, or Anna Margaretha. The children were called by their middle names — Peter, Jacob, Friedrich, Katharina, Barbara or Margaretha.

The baptismal records in these church books can be of great help in reconstructing missing parts of a family. The godparents or sponsors for these children were almost without exception members of the extended family circle. They were often aunts and uncles, older siblings, grandparents, or close cousins. The church register will often indicate what the relationship was. This is a great boon to the genealogist or family historian.

Now, about those who think you're English... perhaps you should have a second thought. Many names were Anglicized in the 18th or 19th century. Dr. Boyd-Rush told of a cemetery in which some siblings who died earlier had on their tombstone the surname Zimmerman. Buried next to them were persons with the surname

Carpenter. Zimmerman is the German word for carpenter. Those younger siblings who became more Americanized simply changed their surname to the English translation of Zimmerman which is Carpenter.

Persons whose surnames are colors — White, Brown, Black, all very English sounding — may have descended from German immigrants named Weiss, Braun, or Schwarz.

Other names got changed over time in sound shifts. One example of this is the German surname Berke, which often got changed to Pirkey. This was sometimes the result of an English-speaking colonial official writing the name pronounced to him by a German as it sounded in English.

Dr. Boyd-Rush's receptive audience, many of German extraction, carried on a lively dialogue with the professor, asking many questions and adding bits of their own information.

In other matters, Katharine

Brown, ACHS president, reported on efforts of the society to collaborate with several other groups in the county and in Staunton to create a center that could house the collections and exhibit galleries of all of the groups involved. Dr. Brown called on Kay Frye, a member of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, to speak to the group about the endangered historic structures in the county. Ms. Frye has spearheaded efforts to save two houses on grounds adjacent to the county government center in Verona — the Gouchenour-Yount house and the house in which Grandma Moses lived as a young woman. Ms. Frye spoke about efforts to raise funds to stabilize the houses while they are being studied for possible means of adaptive use rehabilitation.

In other business, members of the society elected Ken Koons, Mary Beirne Nutt and Sara Hollberg to three-year terms on the society's board of directors. —

•Web

Continued from page 21

of online research. Simply stated, a mailing list is a list of email addresses that, when a message is sent to the list address, it is bounced to all of the subscribers to the list. If someone has an answer or a comment regarding the message, they can reply to the person who sent the message or to the whole list.

Instructions for subscribing vary from list to list.

To subscribe to the Augusta County list, send email to VAAUGUST-L-REQUEST@ROOTSWEB.COM with the word "subscribe" in the message text. Directions will follow to explain how to make postings and other rules. This specific list is intended for the discussion of genealogy and history of present and past Augusta County.

A list of mailing lists can be found on the internet at http://users.aol.com/johnf4246/gen_mail.html —

Whisperer brings Big Sky to big screen

Big Sky country is Montana, not Iowa. Let's get that clear right up front. Because two-thirds of the way through *The Horse Whisperer*, you might think you've crossed this bridge before, maybe somewhere in Madison County, Iowa.

Although based on the novel of the same name written by Nicholas Evans, *The Horse Whisperer* bears an uncanny resemblance to *The Bridges of Madison County*. The fact that *Bridges* screenwriter Richard LaGravenese, co-wrote the *Whisperer* script along with Eric Roth (*Forrest Gump*) probably explains this trimmed down, less melodramatic rendition, produced and directed by Robert Redford who is the film's male lead. In the Big Sky version of *Bridges*, teenager Grace MacLean, played by Scarlett Johansson, suffers a horrendous accident that leaves her best friend dead, her leg amputated and her horse Pilgrim maimed and trauma-

tized. Grace's arrogant and controlling yet devoted mother Annie MacLean (Kristin Scott Thomas) senses that her daughter's healing lay in the horse's rehabilitation — no mean feat since the horse appears to be beyond repair. Make no mistake, this is one messed up horse. Not since Old Yeller contracted rabies have filmgoers seen an animal so mentally altered.

Despite her husband Robert's (Sam Neill) objections, Annie drives her daughter and the crazed horse cross country to "horse whisperer" Tom Booker played by Redford. There on his ranch, in the loving embrace of the extended Booker family played by Dianne Wiest, Chris Cooper and three delightful boys, Booker mends the horse, the girl, and the mother — sort of.

The opening tragedy is brutal — not necessarily graphic, but choreographed in a way that makes the viewer gasp and turn away shaken.

From there the movie continues deliberately. It is a heartwarming story for the most part. Grace's and Pilgrim's journey back to the living brings tears to the eyes more than once.

Unfortunately theirs is not the entire story.

As daughter and horse heal, Annie falls in love with Tom and he with her. The attraction confuses matters. She is, after all, a complicated, high-powered New York fashion magazine editor while he is a simple soul, tied tight to his Montana ranch and his brother's family. The audience is never privy to Annie's emotional wounds nor does it fully understand her willingness to chuck her marriage and family for the cowboy.

And to make matters worse, America's former heartthrob is a bit-too-long-in-the-tooth for this particular romantic lead. And he acts like he doesn't need to act. A great deal of Redford's time is spent

squinting at the horse, grinning knowingly, and spinning meaningful little homilies. Fortunately, the rest of the cast is strong. Johansson, Neill, Wiest, and Cooper turn in effective performances. Neill never disappoints and he is great to look at. Cooper, who has had plenty of practice playing cowboys in *Lonesome Dove* and *A Thousand Pieces of Gold*, and Dianne Wiest are thoroughly convincing as Montana ranchers.

But the real star of the movie is Montana. Redford's love affair with Big Sky country is clear from his artful, gentle and bold cinematography of the last best place on earth. And just when you think you must be in Iowa, Redford inserts a Big Sky panorama to remind you that this really is Montana.

The Horse Whisperer is not a great movie nor is it a bad one. It is a love story — a mother's love for a daughter, a girl's love for her horse,



a man's love for a woman. Belabored at times, it has an uplifting message. In the end, adults do the right thing so the innocent can be redeemed. And if that's not enough, it is cheaper and (nearly) less time consuming than driving to Montana.

Hannah's mom gives *The Horse Whisperer* three-and-a-half bananas.

The Horse Whisperer is rated PG-13 for the depiction of a collision involving two riders, their horses and a truck. —

•RHS

Continued from page 19

aneous speaking; Megan McIlwee, senior prepared public speaking; Bryan Shomo, junior prepared public speaking; and Jake Shuey, leadership.

The chapter's junior ag mechanics team was recognized for its first-place win in the federation contest. Team members were Jason McIlwee, Carrie Brown, Aaron Root, Justin Fravel, and James Coffey.

RHS FFA members competing in the Block and Bridle Livestock judg-

ing contest were Carrie Heizer, Jared Hemp, Amanda Hemp, and Neal Buchanan. The team placed first in beef judging and first in questions.

Recognized for participation as parliamentary procedure team members were Jake Shuey, Carrie Heizer, David Arehart, Colby Irvine, Justin Shomo, Clay Fravel, Megan McIlwee, and Rayburn Harris, senior team; and Bryan Shomo, Carrie Brown, Amanda Hemp, Stephanie Branch, Sarah Huntley, Shannon Lineberry, Jason McIlwee, Justin Fravel, and Hunter

Killingsworth, junior team.

Forestry team members honored included Jake Shuey, Colby Irvine, Buddy Chandler, Philip Myrtle, and Neal Buchanan, senior team; and Aaron Root, Reva Danzig, Jason McIlwee, Carrie Brown, Bobby Adkins, Amanda Hemp, Stephanie Branch, and Bryan Shomo, junior team.

Greenhand and chapter farmer pins were presented to chapter members depending on their years of membership in FFA. —

•Combat

Continued from page 7

sands of Virginia Beach. He enjoyed his stay at Ft. Story for another reason as well. "They had German prisoners of war there and they made all the beds and did the housekeeping. We had it good there!"

Sorrells' war experience culminated as he was en route to action in the Pacific Theater.

"The highlight of the war for me had to be when the Japanese surrendered because I was recovered (from the leg wound)

and was heading for the Pacific. I was within weeks of going off to Japan," he recalled.

Finally 2 1/2 years and several lifetimes after the summer of 1943, he was discharged on Jan. 13, 1946. He took home with him a Good Conduct Medal, an American Theater Ribbon, a European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, a WWII Victory Ribbon and a Purple Heart. He also took home a scar on his leg and a head full of memories. He did, however, leave one thing behind — his youth. —

Yesterday's weather

Most newspapers include a weather forecast in each edition. But we try to be a little different at Augusta Country. We may not know what the weather will be like tomorrow, but we sure know what it was like yesterday.

June 1, 1812 — Apple trees at New Haven, Conn., did not blossom until the first of June, the latest such occurrence during the period beginning in 1794. Snow whitened the ground in Cleveland, Ohio and Rochester, N.Y.

June 9, 1987 — Lightning struck "Tire Mountain" near Denver, Colo., destroying two million tires out of a huge pile of six million tires. Thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes around Denver, and a man was killed at Conifer, Colo., when strong thunderstorm winds lifted up a porch and dropped it on him. A thunderstorm near Compton, Md., produced two-inch hail, and high winds which destroyed 20 barns and 10 houses injuring five persons.

June 14, 1903 — The "Heppner Disaster" occurred in Oregon.

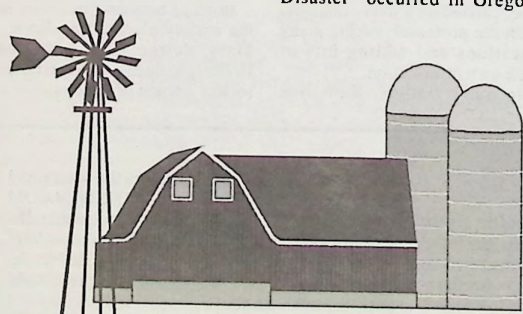
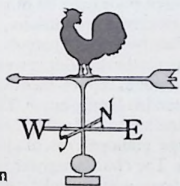
A cloud-burst in the hills sent a flood down Willow Creek, and a 20-foot wall of water swept away a third of the town in minutes, killing 236 residents and causing \$100 million damage.

June 17, 1965 — Holly, Colo., was deluged with 11.08 inches of rain to establish a state 24 hour rainfall record.

June 21, 1919 — Seven heavy coach cars of a moving train were picked up and thrown from the tracks by tornado winds. A baggage car was set down 30 feet away from the rest of the train.

June 25, 1749 — A general fast was called on account of drought in Massachusetts. It was the year of the famous dry spring in which fields and villages burned.

June 30, 1942 — The temperature at Portland, Ore., hit 102 degrees, an all-time record for that location.



Information for this report was taken from the World Wide Web homepage of the U.S. Storm Data Center.

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