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Pages 6-7



June 1999 Vol. 6, Issue 6

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

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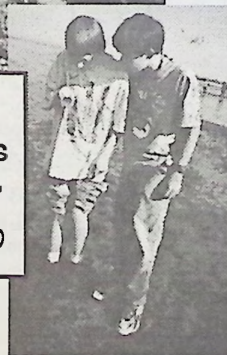
Staunton man spearheads
effort to honor
World War II airman

Page 3



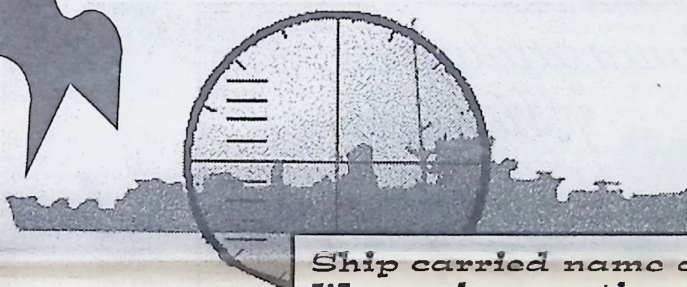
Project Adventure
takes BMMS students
to mountains and bay

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Remembering those who
have served
their country

Memorial Day
May 31, 1999



Ship carried name of
Waynesboro native

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*Grand
Champions*



Complete
4-H and FFA
Market Animal
Show results

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Augusta youths honored by cattle producers

AC staff report

STUARTS DRAFT — The Augusta County Feeder Calf Association honored two area youths during an awards presentation held recently.

Cole Heizer of Middlebrook and Jason Arehart of Staunton were presented the organization's Outstanding Youth Beef Awards for 1999. Heizer received the award for his achievements in 4-H and Arehart received the award for his FFA project area work.

Heizer was nominated for the award by J.R. and Betty Coleman of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. Heizer has been active in the beef cattle industry for much of his life and is very active in promoting the shorthorn breed. Heizer is a member of the Beverley Manor Middle School FFA Chapter where

he serves as chapter president. He has participated in the agriscience technology mechanics contest as well as livestock judging. He has attended leadership conferences on local, county and state levels and was a member of the state runner-up junior livestock judging team in 1998. He also was high scoring individual in beef cattle at the 1999 Block & Bridle Livestock Judging Contest.

Heizer is active in the Virginia-West Virginia Shorthorn Association, serving as junior vice president. He has shown shorthorn cattle in local and state shows. Most recently he exhibited at the Virginia Beef Expo and the Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show. He also exhibits his shorthorns in the local and state level fair contests.

Heizer has been a 4-H member for

five years. He is the 14-year-old son of Suzanne and Bill Heizer and is an eighth-grade student at BMMS.

As winner of the FFA award, Arehart was nominated by Buffalo Gap FFA advisers Shirley Kaufman and Barry Gray.

Arehart owns a registered purebred Angus herd of eight cows, producing heifer seedstock and placing bulls at the state's test station. He is an active member of the American and Virginia Angus associations and has participated in the groups' sales, field days and shows. He has been involved with his purebred cattle business for seven years and has been an FFA member for five years. As a Gap FFA member, Arehart has participated in parliamentary procedure contests, the chapter's annual Food for America program, National FFA Week activities, leadership conferences and livestock judging. He has competed on the state level in livestock judging.

Arehart is the 17-year-old son of Brenda and Carey Arehart of Staunton. He is a junior at Buffalo Gap High School.

Mac Swartzel, president of the feeder calf association, presided over the evening's activities. The award presentations were made in conjunction with the association's annual meeting.

During the business meeting, association members discussed ways to improve the cooperative. New directors Charles Clements, Joe Graham and Jerry Schultz were elected to the board. Directors retiring from the board are Todd Beck, Brooks Moore and John Western. —



Mac Swartzel, right, president of the Augusta County Feeder Calf Association, congratulates Cole Heizer, center, and Jason Arehart for being selected as recipients of the association's Outstanding Beef Awards. AC staff photo

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Staunton man spearheads effort to honor airman

By NANCY SORRELLS

STAUNTON — When World War II veteran Warner Mills talks about Capt. William W. Green, his voice gets husky and his eyes get misty.

The story he tells is powerful, both wonderful and awful all at once. It is a story of a segregated South when a young black man from Staunton could volunteer to die for a country which refused to let him drink from the same water fountain as his fellow white citizens.

Green and Mills were Stauntonians, raised in a black community that demanded quality from its youth. "It was a time in this country's history when segregation was the rule of the law... In Staunton, black people were not expected to be achievers, but our teachers at Booker T. Washington knew that for us to achieve anything we had to be twice as good, so they were hard on us," Mills remembers.

When world war came to America in 1941, Green, who was seven years Mills' senior, was already a hero to the black community. He graduated from Booker T. in 1939 and had been at North Carolina A&T for two years. While there he joined the civilian pilot training program.

"This was a time when it was believed that a black man did not have the intelligence necessary to acquire the skills to fly a plane," Mills recalls. But Green came from a family and community that took such beliefs as a challenge to work that much harder. After all, Green's father, William Green Sr., had displayed such courage and bravery on the European battlefields in WWI that he got a field commission and a distinguished service cross.

"When we were growing up we

always called him Capt. Green," Mills says of the elder Green. "His brother said he had to go through hell to get that field commission."

It was with that character instilled in him that William Green Jr. took his steps into history in the Second World War. His dream of becoming a pilot took him to a segregated army airfield in Alabama. The place was called Tuskegee and soon the 1,000 African-American fighter pilots who trained here made history for their flying and combat prowess. The Tuskegee Airmen of the 99th Pursuit Squadron of the U.S. Army Air Corps left their marks of glory in the annals of aircraft history as no other group. Sixty-six of them never came home. They were killed in action in service for their country.

Green graduated as a second lieutenant in 1943 and went immediately to North Africa where he flew convoy patrols, participating in dive bombing, strafing and general disruption of enemy transportation and communication lines. According to Mills, these assignments were nice, but Green longed for a little more action.

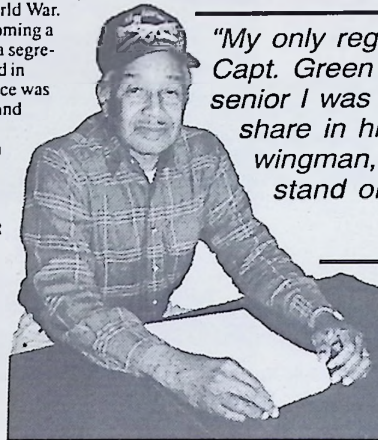
Soon his wish was granted and he became part of the 332nd Fighter Group that was moved to Italy. There the Tuskegee Airmen escorted heavy bombers over Europe. As their reputation grew, more and more groups requested the men from Tuskegee.

"Green's outfit never lost a bomber to enemy action and that is a record that still stands today," Mills says. "Green personally shot down three enemy pilots and helped take

down a fourth," he adds, noting that five kills are needed to earn the title of ace.

Green's character was such that he often pushed the envelope, which is how he found himself in a bit of trouble one day as he was returning to the

followed," Greensaid. The wingman, Lt. Luther Smith, was captured by Germans and later liberated. Green, on the other hand, hooked up with the Yugoslavian freedom fighters under Tito and fought the Axis behind enemy lines.



"My only regret is that because Capt. Green was seven years my senior I was not old enough to share in his adventure or be his wingman, but I was able to stand on his shoulders."

Warner Mills
Staunton

"Green was adventurous but mild-mannered. In fact he had the nickname of Chubby. Rather than sit around and get fat, he went on horseback raids with Tito's men," Mills said.

For his bravery, he was the only American ever given the Order of the Partisan Star Third Class of Yugoslavia, that country's highest award. That award was added to the many other medals pinned to his chest — the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, and the ETO with three battle stars.

Green eventually made his way back to his home base with a Russian crew. In 1944 Green, by that time a decorated combat veteran, came home to Staunton on leave. It was an event that

Italian base from a bomber escort mission over Hungary. A few years later, while at Godman Airfield in Kentucky, he related the ensuing adventure to a newspaper reporter.

"We decided to go down on deck and look for targets we had seen the day before. We made three passes at a large barn and on the third try it exploded. My wingman and I were damaged by the flying debris. We gained altitude, he bailed out and I

Mills, who was 17 at the time, will never forget for it was one of the biggest days in the history of the city's black community.

With their hero scheduled to arrive home by train, the Booker T. principal, D.M. Crockett, closed school early so everyone could go meet the train. "I will never forget, the C&O station was a sea of black faces when the Sportsman No. 5 rolled in. Green stepped off the train and some of the larger boys picked him up and put him on their shoulders and carried him to a waiting car," Mills said in describing the scene that went unrecognized by the white community.

"Several days later, he came to our class and spoke," Mills added. "Someone asked him if he had ever been afraid, and he said, 'Not until the other day,' referring to the moment the crowd picked him up and carried him on its shoulders."

Mills remembers that Green was the biggest hero the African-American community ever had. "We would get information about him from his sister or younger brothers and for a while after he was shot down he was listed as MIA. I can't describe what it was like to be there the day he came home. To see this guy with bars on his shoulders... he was like some kind of god. We wanted to touch him to see if he was real," he says of that time more than 50 years ago.

For blacks in Staunton, Green was an inspiration. Mills, for instance, soon lied about his age and joined the service. He also followed Green's flight to the heavens, piloting everything from bush planes in Liberia to Lear jets across America. "Capt. Green followed his dream and he was an inspiration to me as I followed mine. I kept his image before me as I climbed steadily upward."

Green went on to serve in Korea and when he left the service he had logged 123 combat missions over Europe and Korea. He had achieved the rank of his father before him and had a chestful of medals. "Fear was something that wasn't in his nature. Not bad for a black Stauntonian who wasn't expected to be intelligent enough (by the white community) to be a fighter pilot and a role model for others," said Mills.

Despite his hero status among people as diverse as Warner Mills of Staunton and Yugoslavia's Tito, the city fathers of Staunton never recognized Green for his bravery and sacrifice. Green died in 1978 never earning as much as a thanks from the city's white community. "He was Staunton's hero who wore the uniform of an officer in the Air Corps proudly.

See GREEN, page 4

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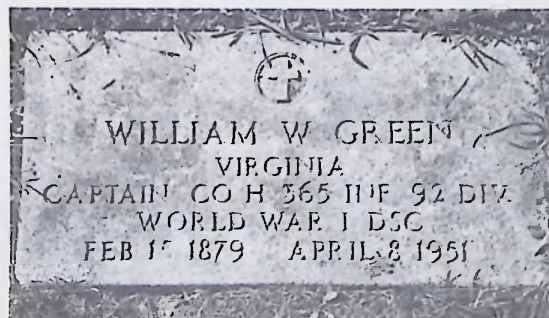
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This stone in Thornrose Cemetery marks the grave of Capt. William W. Green Sr., a decorated veteran of World War I. His son Capt. William W. Green Jr., a World War II airman, will have a memorial placed in Gypsy Hill Park in recognition of his military service.

Photos by Nancy Sorrells

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Navy ship carried name of Waynesboro war hero

By NANCY SORRELLS

WAYNESBORO — It was November 1942 and the eyes and ears of America were fixed on a military struggle between two titans in the Pacific. The naval battle between the Japanese and Americans was one like the world had never seen before — it came to be called The Battle of Guadalcanal.

Thousands of men in uniform never returned from that battle, including a 23-year-old lieutenant named James Duval Koiner. But, unlike most of the men who perished in those Pacific waters, Koiner's name would live on through at least two more wars and over more than two decades.

Koiner was born in Waynesboro, the son of Dr. Warren Worth Koiner of Waynesboro and Mae Hughes Koiner of Beckley, W.Va. Ironically when Koiner was born, his father was serving as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War I. In addition to James, the Koiners had three daughters, Henrietta Lee, Virginia Mae, and Louise.

Koiner grew up in West Virginia and was educated there, graduating from Huntington High School

and attending Marshall College for two years. He later went to the Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania.

In November 1940, young James Koiner volunteered for the navy reserve as an ensign. He reported for active duty in March 1941 and began instruction at the Supply Corps, Naval Medical Center, in Washington, D.C. Some of his training also took him to Harvard for training in the quartermaster's branch of the service.

In October 1941, Koiner went shipboard on the newly commissioned light cruiser, *Atlanta*, that was dispatched into Pacific action. He served during the campaigns of Midway and Solomon Islands and was promoted to Lieutenant on Oct. 1, 1942. Six weeks later, Koiner was dead, killed in action on November, Friday the 13th during the Battle of Guadalcanal. The telegram from Rear Adm. Randall Jacobs informing the family of Lt. Koiner's death stated that recovery of the body was impossible at the time.

Although he grew up in West Virginia, Koiner's death was remembered in his native Waynes-



The U.S.S. *Koiner*, a destroyer escort, was named for Waynesboro native Lt. James Duval Koiner who was killed in action during

the Battle of Guadalcanal, Nov. 13, 1942. The ship remained in the U.S. naval fleet for more than two decades.

Photo courtesy of Waynesboro Heritage Museum

boro where his aunts, Fay K. Koiner and Mrs. Casper Coiner lived, and in Charlottesville where his grandfather, William F. Koiner lived. News of his death was headlined on the front page of the Waynesboro newspaper, "Waynesboro Native Dies In Battle."

That, however, is not the end of the story. Koiner's military service was exemplary enough that a year later the navy named a ship after him. All destroyer escorts were named for naval heroes or other notable persons. The *USS Koiner* was launched in

September 1943 and commissioned on Dec. 27, 1943. It was Koiner's mother who sponsored the destroyer escort and christened it by smashing a bottle of champagne against the bow at the shipyard in Orange, Texas.

The *USS Koiner* was 306 feet in length and reached a top speed of 21 knots. She wound up having a long and important career at sea. For six months in 1944 she was on convoy-escort duty in the Atlantic, making four round-trip cruises from Curacao to North Africa to Naples. Upon cessation of hostilities in Europe, the *Koiner* readied for Pacific duty.

During the summer of 1945, *Koiner* was involved in training exercises in the Pacific and then remained on duty with the occupation forces in the Far East following the war's conclusion. She remained on duty there until April 1946 at which time she left Hong Kong and sailed by way of the Indian Ocean, through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean and arrived in

Charleston, S.C. on May 30.

In 1946 the *Koiner* was decommissioned and joined the Atlantic Reserve Fleet. But that was not the end of work for the ship. From 1951-1954 she was on loan to the Coast Guard and was known as WDE-431. *Koiner* returned to the navy in 1954 and was converted to a radar picket escort vessel. As such, she was part of the Continental Air Defense System in the Pacific Barrier from 1956 until 1965.

In 1965, *Koiner* went to war again, this time her home port was Guam and the conflict was the Vietnam War. She continued in action in those waters at least until 1967. On Sept. 23, 1968, after nearly 25 years of service, *Koiner* was stricken from the Navy Register of ships. The following September she was sold.

But because of a mother's love of her son and because of that son's bravery in war, the name of Waynesboro's James Koiner lived on for more than 25 years after he gave his life in service for his country in 1942. —



•Green

Continued from page 3

He fought for his country, community, comrades and himself but the city of Staunton never once gave him a "Well Done, Lt.!" For Shame, I say, For Shame," exclaimed Mills.

Thanks to Mills, however, Green will finally get his long overdue recognition. The veteran pilot who once idolized Green is now spearheading a project to get a memorial placed at the armory in Gypsy Hill Park. The project, which will cost just over \$10,000, has the blessings and some financial backing from Staunton City Council. Mills, an active VFW member, has also writ-

ten VFW posts across the state asking for contributions. In addition, he is visiting civic groups locally and telling Green's story.

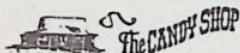
"My only regret is that because Capt. Green was seven years my senior I was not old enough to share in his adventure or be his wingman, but I was able to stand on his shoulders," Mills said.

More than 50 years ago, Mills saw his hero step off a steam locomotive and be elevated above a sea of black faces. The pride that coursed through young Warner Mills' veins that day took him off on his own adventure. Soon that adventure will come full circle when

the Green Memorial is dedicated later this year. Chances are that Mills' eyes will again mist over and his voice will be a little husky as he snaps off a salute and gives his hero that long overdue, "Well done!"

Contributions to the William Green Memorial Fund can be sent to: Wm. Green Memorial Fund, VFW Post 2216, P.O. Box 2055, Staunton, VA 24402. —

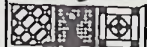
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Scrapbooks celebrate memories of the heart



Louise Swink of Staunton and her 11-year-old granddaughter Amanda Swink look over some of the albums at the note book open house.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

By NANCY SORRELLS

STAUNTON — The social room of the Gypsy Hill House in Staunton had a Victorian flavor to it recently — and that was exactly how Louise Swink planned it. For three days the room overflowed with memories and memorabilia as Mrs. Swink displayed a lifetime of collecting in an arrangement she called, "Memories Bloom Forever in the Garden of the Heart."

At the center of her exhibit were three long tables containing 20 notebooks bursting with photographs and historical information. Again, this fit the theme because it was the late-19th century Victorians who turned scrapbooks into art. Mrs. Swink's books rival any found a century ago. Some are genealogical, some nostalgic, some historical, either local, state or national, and some are related to local churches. All are neatly organized and arranged by theme.

In addition to the scrapbooks, there were quilts, made by Mrs. Swink's mother, Lula Rowe; and dolls, buttons, books, pictures, and patches from the 16 states and Canadian provinces that she visited on her adventures by motorcycle.

In short, this was a snapshot of her life and Mrs. Swink had invited family, friends, and the people she graduated with from Middlebrook High School in 1944 to stop by, browse, and enjoy a stroll down memory lane. As she moved about the room explaining the finer points of this notebook or that picture, she fit the part of the Victorian hostess with her sweeping hat adorned with flowers.

"I have always been a sort of Victorian person," Mrs. Swink explained of her clothing. As for her passion for organizing information into notebooks, she refers to her motto, "Live and Learn and Pass it on."

Her passion for the scrapbooks began in earnest back in the 1960s and 1970s when she was involved in church work at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church. "I was district chairman for the Women of the Lutheran Church so I started clipping and keeping things," she recalled. "Then I began to cut out things and put them in a basket. In the winter I file them and put them in books."

She added that she started saving the information just for herself, but then she thought maybe her grandchildren would be interested in the volumes she has organized. She admits that since moving into her retirement apartment at the Gypsy Hill House that space has become a premium. "I said I was going to quit, but I am still cutting things out of magazines," she said with a smile.

Whether or not she slows down in her collecting, however, her accomplishments to date are impressive. Not only were the results enjoyed by her fellow residents at Gypsy Hill House, but close to 100 people, including grandchildren, high school classmates and even a high school teacher, stopped by for a trip down memory lane with Mrs. Swink's albums.

"People are enjoying it," she said. "Whenever I leave this world, I'm not having a funeral and I don't want to have a family visitation. So, I've invited all my friends to this now; that way I can see them and visit with them!" —

BIF Convention June 16-19 in Roanoke

BLACKSBURG — The 31st annual convention of the Beef Improvement Federation will be held June 16-19 at the Hotel Roanoke.

Some 500-600 beef cattle breeders and producers, university researchers and extension personnel, and breed association and support industry personnel are expected to attend. BIF encompasses North America and its membership is composed of state and national beef cattle organizations involved with beef cattle breeding and improvement. Members of such organizations and all others interested in beef production profitability are cordially invited to attend.

The three-day program will begin in the evening June 16 with a cattle reproduction symposium in cooperation with the National Association of Animal Breeders. Speakers will include Dr. Richard Saacke, Virginia Tech, whose topic will be "The Evaluation of Semen: Effect on Fertility and Embryonic Development;" Dr. Jeff Stevenson, Kansas State University, whose topic will be "Estrous Synchronization and Induction Systems;" and Dr. Tom Geary, Colorado State University on the topic of "Heat Detection and Estrus Management."

On Thursday, June 17, the morning session theme will be "Profiting from Efficiency." Speakers will include Dr. Harlan Ritchie, Michigan State University; Darrell Anderson CEO of the National Swine Registry; Dr. Tom Jenkins, MARC; and Bill Brockett, owner of Virginia Beef Corporation and Warren Weibert of Decatur County Feedlot in Kansas.

After an opening luncheon where Virginia Ag. Commission Carlton Courter will speak, seedstock and commercial award candidates will be featured. The afternoon session will include three concurrent special interest sessions: the Producer Technology Application session chaired by Dr. Sally Dolezal from Oklahoma State University, the Whole Herd Analysis session chaired by Dr. John Hangh, and the Genetic Prediction session chaired by Dr. Larry Cundiff of MARC. Each will have a full set of speakers.

On June 18, the morning session theme will be "Profiting from Increased Demand." Speakers will include Dr. Harlan Ritchie, Andrew Galtchalk of LFG Inc., Bernie Hansen, Concept Foods from Kansas; Marcine Moldenhauer of

See CONVENTION, page 16

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Jackson defeats two different Union armies on successive days at Cross Keys, Port Republic

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last installment in a series of articles on the Shenandoah Valley Campaign which took place in this area 137 years ago in the spring of 1862.

By JOHN A. TAYLOR

During the first week of June 1862, information must certainly have been filtering across the Blue ridge to Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and his staff that the Confederate army around Richmond had successfully held back Gen. George McClellan's Union Army in the Battle of Seven Pines or Fair Oaks on May 31.

Surely Jackson must have reflected on the fact that for the better part of the past month his little army had occupied the attention of three Union armies that might have made the difference had they been able to shake off Jackson and reinforce McClellan instead of being tied up in the Shenandoah Valley. *He might have thought, "Richmond is saved because of my efforts."* But he couldn't dwell on these thoughts for very long because two of those three Union

armies were attempting to push him into a trap as he moved southward toward Harrisonburg.

As Jackson's Confederate army entered the town of Harrisonburg on June 5, 1862, the Yankee army under Gen. John C. Fremont had followed closely behind along the western side of Massanutten Mountain since leaving Strasburg on June 1. To make his situation even more serious, another Union army under Gen. Robert Shields was marching parallel to Fremont along the eastern side of the Massanutten from Front Royal through Luray toward Port Republic.

Over the past month Jackson's tired veterans had marched up to 300 miles under stressful circumstances after the Battle of McDowell to the Battle of Winchester and then to the Potomac River and now back to Harrisonburg. The last few days had seen heavy downpours of rain that resulted in severe muddy conditions. The rains had swelled the rivers and streams between Staunton and Harrisonburg to flood stage, making it virtually impossible to move an army to the



The South River along the eastern edge of Port Republic as it flows northward toward its merger with North River forming the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. All of

Jackson's troops had to ford this river in order to reach the location of the Battle of Port Republic to the north on the morning of June 9, 1862.

Photos by John A. Taylor



A Civil War historical sign, as seen when looking west from U.S. 340, marks the location of the June 9, 1862 Battle of Port Republic. The south end of Massanutten Mountain can be seen to the right of the sign.

southwest. Thus, Jackson decided to turn southeastward toward Port Republic near the Rockingham-Augusta line.

Although Gen. Fremont's Northern troops followed closely from the direction of New Market toward the southern end of the Massanutten, Jackson had great confidence that his cavalry, under Turner Ashby, would effectively defend his rear from the encroaching Fremont. He was more concerned about the Union army movement under Gen. Shields on the eastern side of the Massanutten from Luray. Jackson realized that his army's safety depended entirely on his ability to reach Port Republic before Shields. He was greatly relieved, therefore, to receive word from his scouts atop the southern end of the Massanutten that Shields was badly mired down in the mud some 14

See MUD, page 7



A sign marks the point where Confederate troops overran Union emplacements to turn the tide in the Battle of Port Republic. This was the last of many battles in Gen. Stonewall Jackson's "Valley Campaign."

Don't delay.
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today.
See page 2



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•Mud

Continued from page 6
miles north of Port Republic.

By nightfall of June 5, the lead units of Jackson's army were approaching Port Republic but his weary soldiers were spread out almost eight miles along the road to Harrisonburg. The next day, June 6, saw constant rear guard skirmishes between Union and Confederate cavalry and supporting infantry. Gen. Ashby's troopers successfully slowed the Union advance but the day ended tragically for the South when Ashby fell mortally wounded. Jackson later wrote of Ashby, "As a partisan officer, I never knew his superior..."

The town of Port Republic marks the birth of the Shenandoah River. It is situated at the junction of two rivers, the North River which flows from the west and the South River which flows from the south. Their confluence near the village, called The Point, forms the South Fork of the Shenandoah which flows north toward Luray. In early June 1862 a wooden bridge crossed the North River on the northern end of Port Republic. This bridge connected with the road leading to Harrisonburg, the very route along which Gen. Fremont's Union army was advancing. On the side of town parallel with the South River were two fords leading to the road along which Gen. Shields was advancing southward from Luray.

Jackson assigned the task of holding off Fremont's advance to Gen. Richard Ewell who occupied a defensive position at Cross Keys about seven miles southeast of Harrisonburg and four miles from Port Republic. Throughout the day on June 7, Ewell tried without success to get Fremont to attack. Finally on the morning of June 8, Fremont's artillery began firing on Ewell's strong line which extended across an open area between heavy woods on both flanks. Ewell had expected Fremont to attack his left flank which the Confederate general thought was considerably weaker. Fremont apparently did not recognize the vulnerability of his enemy's left and instead launched his attack against the opposite end of the Southern line.

As Fremont's Union troops under Gen. Louis Blenker moved across open fields in parade formation toward the Confederate's timber-covered right flank, the Southerners, under Gen. Isaac Trimble, held their fire. When the Yankees were within point-blank range, the Confederates opened fire; the Union troops panicked and retreated. Trimble's troops charged forward for about a mile at which point the temptation to continue the offensive was overcome by Ewell and Jackson who realized

to wrap up the action at Cross Keys on June 8, much to the frustration of Gen. Trimble who felt that the South was passing up an opportunity to win a great victory over Fremont. The small battle ended with 684 Union losses compared to only 288 for the Confederates. However, Ewell lost two brigade commanders in the action, Arnold Elzey and George Stuart, both of whom were badly wounded.

Early on the morning of June 9, Jackson turned his attention to the Yankees under Gen. Shields. He

of the South Fork of the Shenandoah, they encountered what Jackson thought were advance units of Shields' army set up along a wheat field. The tired Jackson pushed his men too quickly before analyzing the situation. He soon realized he was up against a stronger Union army than he anticipated.

Two brigades of about 3,000 Federals under Gen. Erastus B. Tyler were supported by strong artillery along a high ridge known as The Coaling, just above Jackson's right flank. It was quickly apparent that Jackson had moved into an ambush and he soon realized he would need all his troops to get out of the situation.

Jackson made a concerted effort to gain control of The Coaling by sending two regiments into the dense undergrowth that surrounded the area. After some success, the Confederates were pushed back and the Federals renewed their devastating fire on Jackson's line below The Coaling. Realizing he was in a desperate position, Jackson sent word to the Confederates facing Fremont to withdraw as quickly as possible across the North River into Port Republic and burn the bridge behind them. This would prevent Fremont's troops from coming to the aid of Shields.

Meanwhile, Gen. Richard Taylor arrived with his Louisiana troops. Jackson sent these Confederate reinforcements toward The Coaling, but the Confederate left was still facing murderous fire and began to waver. Just in time, Gen. Ewell arrived with more of his troops and the advancing Federal soldiers fell back. After two failures, Gen. Taylor's Rebels finally gained control of The Coaling. The simultaneous movement of Ewell's men across the plain below convinced Union Gen. Tyler to retreat. As the remainder of Ewell's men moved onto the field, the Northern units pulled back in good order and the last battle of the Valley Campaign came to an end. Jackson was fortunate to have escaped with a victory for which much of the credit must go to Gen. Ewell. Jackson's army suffered the largest number of Confederate casualties, 615, of any battle in the Valley Campaign, although that number was far below Shields' 1,018 Union losses.

In the ensuing days and weeks, Jackson moved his army to the Richmond area to join the newly



This monument marks the spot where Confederate Gen. Turner Ashby was killed June 6, 1862 just east of Harrisonburg.



The remains of the wooden bridge which spanned North River and which Jackson's troops crossed. After retiring from Cross Keys the bridge was burned in order to prevent Fremont's Union troops from crossing to reinforce the Federal army at Port Republic.

that Shields' Union army was rapidly approaching. Indeed, some of Shields' advance soldiers had slipped into Port Republic early on June 8, almost capturing Jackson, his staff and their supply train parked along the road to Staunton. In that brief encounter, Jackson barely escaped across the North River on the Port Republic bridge and the Federals withdrew back across the South River ford.

Gen. Ewell therefore was forced

ordered most of Gen. Ewell's troops to Port Republic, leaving two brigades to watch Fremont at Cross Keys. Jackson's initial plan was to defeat Shields quickly and return to Cross Keys and destroy Fremont's army the same day. He began moving troops along a makeshift bridge which his engineers had erected overnight across South River.

As the Confederates moved northward along the eastern side

appointed Confederate commander, Gen. Robert E. Lee. Together they participated in the Seven Days Battles at the end of June. Jackson's reputation as a great general would follow him and his military achievements mounted. His ability to work in partnership with Gen. Lee had its beginning in the Valley Campaign. Over the next 10 months Lee and Jackson became a renowned leadership combination.

In addition to Jackson's escalating career after the Valley Campaign, there were many other leaders on both sides who would have interesting roles in future Civil War actions. For example, Confederate Gen. Richard Taylor became Commander of the District of West Louisiana where he again opposed Union Gen. Nathaniel Banks. Taylor's army repulsed Banks' Red River expedition at the Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill in the spring of 1864, earning him a promotion to Lt. General in Command of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana.

There were many others on both sides in the Valley Campaign who would go on to a future of great achievements using the lessons they learned in the spring of 1862. It is fascinating to study the activities of each.

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All exhibitors walk away winners at 4-H & FFA Market Animal Show



Middlebrook, RHS FFA club members collect nine of 10 top awards

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

STAUNTON — Only a handful of the exhibitors participating in the 54th annual Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show could take home Grand Champion ribbons. But each of the 175 exhibitors tallied up countless hours of experiential learning in preparing lambs, hogs and steers for the county's premier livestock event.

"It's not important which one wins, but what the young people learn," said Scott Grenier, show judge. "The overall quality of the livestock was really good from top to bottom. There wasn't a great deal of difference between the best and the worst. Seeing these young people out here is a tribute to the parents, leaders, and raisers of livestock in this county. Judging this show has been an enjoyable experience for me. You have a tremendous set of youth and they have a lot to be proud of. The livestock here is as good as you'll find anywhere in a county show of this type."

Grenier, a show judge veteran and assistant professor of animal and poultry science at Virginia Tech, methodically worked his way through divisions of lambs, hogs and steers to select the Grand

Champion animals. The show was held May 5 and 6 at Staunton Union Stockyard. According to the event's organizers, the show is the largest of its kind east of the Mississippi River.

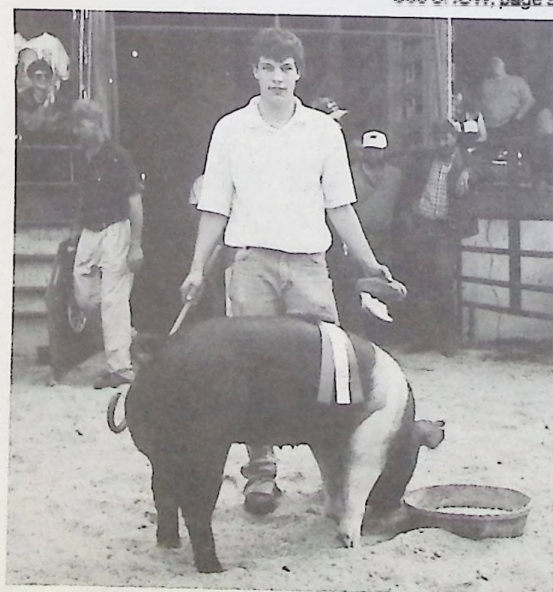
A 125-pound Dorset exhibited by Amanda Hemp of Middlebrook took Grand Champion honors in the single lamb show. Jared Hemp of Middlebrook won the Grand Champion rosette in the single hog show with his 250-pound market hog. A 1,210-pound Simmental-AngusX steer exhibited by Shelly Buchanan won the Grand Champion award in the market steer show. The three exhibitors of the Grand Champion animals are members of the FFA chapter at Riverheads High School. Amanda exhibited her market lamb as a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

In fact, it was a banner year for exhibitors from the Middlebrook-Riverheads area. Of the 10 Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion awards, nine were won by animals exhibited by members either of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club or the FFA chapter at Riverheads. Many in the latter group got their start raising and exhibiting livestock through the

See SHOW, page 9



GRAND CHAMPION STEER shown by SHELLEY BUCHANAN, RIVERHEADS FFA



GRAND CHAMPION MARKET HOG shown by JARED HEMP, RIVERHEADS FFA



GRAND CHAMPION MARKET LAMB shown by AMANDA HEMP, MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION MARKET LAMB shown by JARED HEMP, RIVERHEADS FFA

Photos by Betty Jo Hamilton

•Show

Continued from page 8

Middlebrook 4-H Club. It could even be argued there appears to be a livestock dynasty emerging in the Riverheads district. Out of the 100 first and second place winners in the show, 78 were members of either the Middlebrook 4-H Club or Riverheads FFA. The club and chapter names popped up with monotonous regularity throughout the two-day event as class winners' names were announced.

Not only was it a banner year for southwestern Augusta County, but performances on an individual basis were worth note as well. In addition to her Grand Champion steer win, Shelly Buchanan also picked up the Reserve Grand Champion rosette for her 215-pound market hog. Amanda Hemp was joined in the single lamb winner's circle by brother Jared who took Reserve Grand Champion single lamb honors with a 115-pound Dorset. He also claimed the Grand Champion single hog and pair awards for his 250- and 235-pound swine duo.

Justin Shomo of Rt. 10, Staunton claimed the Reserve Grand Champion steer award with his 1,190-pound 3/4Angus-1/4Maine-AnjouX steer. Justin also is a member of the Riverheads FFA Chapter.

Robert Grogg, 12, a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club, collected the Reserve Grand Champion rosette for his 240- and 255-pound hogs exhibited as a pair. He is a sixth grader at Beverley Manor Middle School and is the son of Raymond and Teresa Grogg of Churchville.

Jessica Rohrbach, a member

of the Willing Workers Junior 4-H Club, won the Reserve Grand Champion award for lamb pairs with her 105- and 115-pound Suffolks.

The Market Animal Show opened its 1999 edition through a drizzle of rain with the traditional show dedication. This year's show was dedicated to the Hewitt family of Swoope whose livestock yard has been the site of the event for each of its 54 years. Present owners of the yard are brothers Clay and E.M. Hewitt Jr. Their children—Dennis, Neal, Jerry, David, and Cathy—represent the third generation of Hewitts at the Staunton yard. E.M. Hewitt Sr. helped to start the event when it was just a steer show with 16 animals exhibited. Over the years the county's annual livestock exposition has grown to become the largest of its kind east of the Mississippi and has been hosted each year by the Hewitt family at Staunton Union Stockyard. The show was dedicated to the Hewitt family for the support and generosity which they have afforded the show throughout the years.

Again this year the show had the support of numerous area organizations. The Staunton-Augusta and Waynesboro-Augusta Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs of Staunton, and Augusta County Ruritan Clubs have long-standing commitments as the show's sponsors. The organizations offer monetary support to the show in the form of premiums for exhibitors but



CLAY HEWITT, left
E.M. HEWITT, JR.

also provide people-power to put on the event each year.

Three weight divisions of single lambs and two divisions of market lamb pairs worked through the show ring during an afternoon of intermittent drizzles on Wednesday. Judge Grenier and the 4-H and FFA exhibitors appeared unfazed by the rain. The judge gave each animal in the 13 singles classes and eight pairs classes serious attention. In turn, the exhibitors trained their eyes on the judge hoping for him to point them to a place in the top of the class.

It was not until the last class of the single lamb division that Grenier found the show's Grand Champion lamb in Amanda Hemp's entry. Amanda had two chances to win the heavyweight championship with both her single lambs

See LAMBS, page 10

Market Animal Show results

MARKET LAMBSHOW SINGLES DIVISION I

LIGHTWEIGHT: 95-100 pounds
Class 1 — 1. K. Ambler, MDL 4-H; 2. D. Grimm, RH FFA; 3. A. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 4. L. Mish, MDL 4-H; 5. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 6. C. Jarvis, RLC 4-H
Class 2 — 1. S. Talley, BG FFA; 2. A. Collins, MDL 4-H; 3. D. Grimm, RH FFA; 4. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 5. B. Snyder, MDL 4-H; 6. C. Harris, MDL 4-H
Class 3 — 1. M. Garland, SM FFA; 2. S. Willis, ADC 4-H; 3. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 4. R. Riley, BG FFA; 5. K. Michael, WW Jr. 4-H; 6. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H
Class 4 — 1. A. Gilbert, RH FFA; 2. J. Crosby, BMM FFA; 3. K. Marshall, WW Jr. 4-H; 4. C. Jarvis, RLC 4-H; 5. C. Cancofe, SM FFA; 6. R. Harris, MDL 4-H
CHAMPION
Kaitlyn Ambler, Middlebrook 4-H

Mark Garland, Stewart Middle School FFA

DIVISION II MIDDLEWEIGHT: 101-110 pounds

Class 1 — 1. M. Garland, SM FFA; 2. K. Michael, WW Sr. 4-H; 3. Co. Lyle, BG FFA; 4. S. Talley, BG FFA; 5. J. Massie, WW Jr. 4-H; 6. K. Higgins, RH FFA
Class 2 — 1. J. Rohrbach, WW Jr. 4-H; 2. J. Ramsey, MDL 4-H; 3. N. Buchanan, RH FFA; 4. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 5. A. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H; 6. B. Dunsmore, WW Jr. 4-H
Class 3 — 1. C. Brown, RH FFA; 2. B. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 3. L. Michael, NR 4-H; 4. J. Truxell, BMM FFA; 5. L. Mish, MDL 4-H; 6. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H
Class 4 — 1. A. Collins, MDL 4-H; 2. C. Mish, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Hemp, RH FFA; 4. C. Harris, MDL 4-H; 5. M. Shreckhise, WW Jr. 4-H; 6. Ben Napier, RLC 4-H
CHAMPION
Anna Collins, Middlebrook 4-H

Jessica Rohrbach, Willing Workers Junior 4-H

DIVISION III HEAVYWEIGHT 111-130 pounds

Class 1 — 1. M. Carpenter, ADC 4-H;

2. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Crosby, BMM FFA; 4. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 5. A. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 6. M. Shreckhise, WW Jr. 4-H

Class 2 — 1. J. Hemp, RH FFA; 2. J. Rohrbach, WW Jr. 4-H; 3. A. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H; 4. S. Willis, ADC 4-H; 5. J. Ramsey, MDL 4-H; 6. C. Snyder, MDL 4-H
Class 3 — 1. B. Glass, FD FFA; 2. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 4. T. Rohrbach, WW Sr. 4-H; 5. A. Kyle, MDL 4-H; 6. K. Ambler, MDL 4-H

Class 4 — 1. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H; 3. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 4. B. Glass, FD FFA; 5. K. Rohrer, FD FFA; 6. J. Riley, LJ 4-H
Class 5 — 1. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 3. M. Carpenter, ADC 4-H; 4. R. Riley, BG FFA; 5. C. Brown, RH FFA; 6. S. Williams, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION
Amanda Hemp, Middlebrook 4-H

RESERVE CHAMPION
Jared Hemp, Riverheads FFA

GRAND CHAMPION
Amanda Hemp

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
Jared Hemp

MARKET LAMB PAIRS

DIVISION I
LIGHTWEIGHT: 190-220 pounds
Class 1 — 1. D. Grimm, RH FFA; 2. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 3. E. Curry, NR 4-H; 4. J. Botkin, BG FFA; 5. C. Jarvis, RLC 4-H
Class 2 — 1. A. Collins, MDL 4-H; 2. M. Garland, SM FFA; 3. S. Talley, BG FFA; 4. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 5. C. Harris, MDL 4-H
Class 3 — 1. J. Crosby, BMM FFA; 2. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 3. L. Michael, NR 4-H; 4. K. Ambler, MDL 4-H; 5. B. Dunsmore, WW Jr. 4-H
Class 4 — 1. S. Willis, ADC 4-H; 2. K. Michael, WW Sr. 4-H; 3. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 4. T. Shreckhise, WW Jr. 4-H; 5. D. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H
CHAMPION
Anna Collins, Middlebrook 4-H

RESERVE CHAMPION
Jessica Rohrbach, Willing Workers Junior 4-H

DIVISION II
HEAVYWEIGHT
Class 1 — 1. M. Carpenter, ADC 4-H;

2. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Crosby, BMM FFA; 4. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 5. A. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 6. M. Shreckhise, WW Jr. 4-H
Class 2 — 1. J. Hemp, RH FFA; 2. J. Rohrbach, WW Jr. 4-H; 3. A. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H; 4. S. Willis, ADC 4-H; 5. J. Ramsey, MDL 4-H; 6. C. Snyder, MDL 4-H
Class 3 — 1. B. Glass, FD FFA; 2. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 4. T. Rohrbach, WW Sr. 4-H; 5. A. Kyle, MDL 4-H; 6. K. Ambler, MDL 4-H
Class 4 — 1. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H; 3. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 4. B. Glass, FD FFA; 5. K. Rohrer, FD FFA; 6. J. Riley, LJ 4-H
Class 5 — 1. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 3. M. Carpenter, ADC 4-H; 4. R. Riley, BG FFA; 5. C. Brown, RH FFA; 6. S. Williams, MDL 4-H
CHAMPION
Amanda Hemp, Middlebrook 4-H

RESERVE CHAMPION
Stephanie Willis, Augusta Dairy 4-H Club

See RESULTS, page 12

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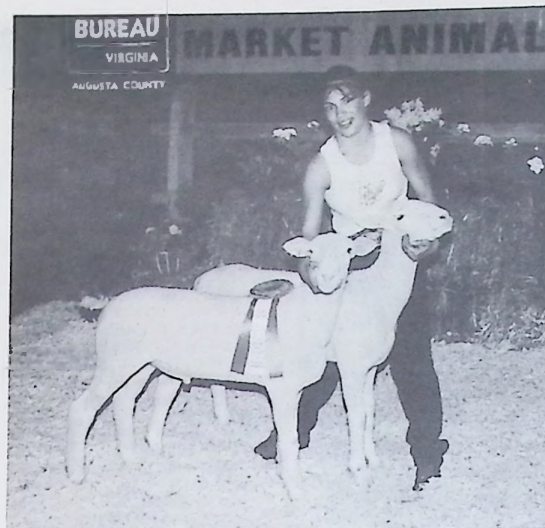
Continued from page 9

placing first in their respective classes. It would be these two lambs which would win the Grand Champion pair of lambs award. Competing with Amanda's heavy-weight champion lamb for the Grand Champion single lamb rosette, were champions from the lightweight and middleweight divisions. The lightweight single lamb champion was a 95-pound lamb exhibited by Kaitlyn Ambler. The middleweight champion, a 110-pound lamb, was exhibited by Anna Collins. Both Kaitlyn and Anna are members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club making the Grand Champion single lamb finale a three-way Middlebrook 4-H event.

With the lamb exhibited by Amanda chosen as Grand Champion, the reserve champion heavy-weight lamb exhibited by Jared moved into contention for the Reserve Grand Champion rosette. The reserve champion in the lightweight division was a 100-pound lamb exhibited by Mark Garland of Stewart Middle School FFA. The reserve champion in the middleweight division was a 105-pound lamb exhibited by Willing Workers 4-Her Jessica Rohrbaugh.

"What I'm looking for is potential carcass merit and freedom of fat," Grenier said while looking at the six single lamb champions and reserve champions.

Grenier's experience in the show ring includes judging shows in 24 states. He is Virginia's Extension beef and sheep specialist headquartered at Virginia Tech. He earned his master's degree and doctorate in animal science at Iowa State University where in 1988 he was the national collegiate livestock judging high individual at the contest held annually at the North American Livestock Show in Louisville, Ky. The Iowa State team also won the top team award that year. Grenier evaluated animals in the Market Animal Show not only from an industry target standard,



GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF LAMBS shown by AMANDA HEMP, MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB

but also considered the animals' eventual endpoint. He stressed this concern when selecting the Grand Champion market lamb.

"We have to keep in mind that the consumer is looking for a product that's lean and doesn't have a lot of waste. We need the lamb with the best combination of these traits, lambs that can grow fast, convert feed and forage to the end product real efficiently. I'm also looking for structural correctness because, after all, it's a show."

Grenier's choice for the lamb out of the 196 exhibited in the show and which met all the qualities he was looking for was Amanda Hemp's Dorset.

In the market lamb pairs contest, Anna Collins of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club claimed champion honors in the lightweight pairs division with her pair of 95- and 110-pound lambs. Stephanie Willis of the Augusta Dairy 4-H Club exhibited a 100- and 115-pound pair to win lightweight reserve champion honors. Jessica Rohrbaugh's Re-

serve Grand Champion pair came to its finish by winning reserve champion honors behind Amanda Hemp's heavyweight champion pair and eventual Grand Champion pair.

The Hemp sister and brother purchased their lambs from the Wade Brothers of Greenville. It was the third single lamb Grand Champion win for Amanda in four years. She also claimed the award



GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF HOGS shown by JARED HEMP, RIVERHEADS FFA

for Grand Champion pair of lambs in the 1997 show. Amanda, 15, and Jared, 18, are the daughter and son of Katrina and Mike Hemp of Middlebrook. Amanda is a sophomore at Riverheads and Jared is a student at New River Valley Community College.

Jessica Rohrbaugh, 10, is the daughter of Cindy and Jeff Rohrbaugh of Mt. Sidney. She is

a fifth-grade student at Clymore Elementary School. She purchased her lambs from David Shiftlett of New Hope.

Thursday morning's show opened under partly cloudy skies which would heat up to unseasonably balmy midday temperatures in the 80s. Judging in the single market hog exhibition was under way before 8:15 with 67 hogs in two weight divisions vying for the top award.

In the lightweight division of single hogs, Shelly Buchanan's hog, which would be the eventual Reserve Grand Champion winner, took champion honors. Her hog was followed in reserve champion for the lightweight division by a 220-pound hog exhibited by Doug

See HOGS, page 13



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION HOG shown by SHELLY BUCHANAN, RIVERHEADS FFA



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION STEER shown by JUSTIN SHOMO, RIVERHEADS FFA

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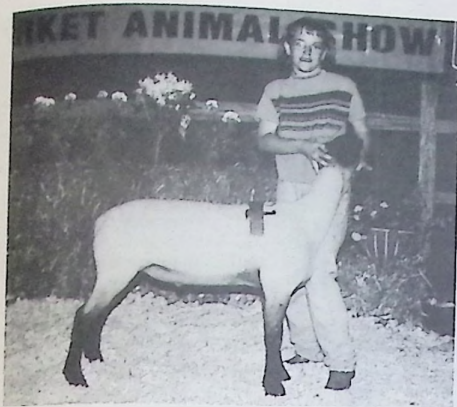
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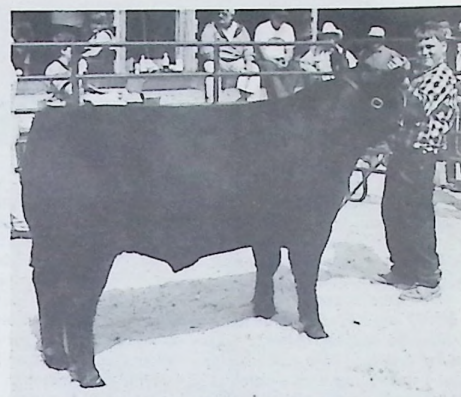
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GARRETT JOHNSTON
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CHAMPION JUNIOR STEER SHOWMAN

Augusta Country honors youth for showmanship

AC staff report

STAUNTON — Five Augusta County youths won showmanship honors at the 54th annual Market Animal Show to claim \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds sponsored for the event by *Augusta Country*.

Garrett Johnston, a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club, claimed two of the top junior showman awards — one for hogs and one for steers. The junior showmanship award for lambs was won by Meagan Carpenter of the Augusta Dairy 4-H Club.

In senior competition, winners were Rosalea Riley of the Buffalo Gap FFA for lambs, Neal Buchanan of the Riverheads FFA for hogs and Jonathan Coleman of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club for steers.

"It's amazing to watch these young people in the show ring with their animals," said *Augusta Country* publisher Betty Jo Hamilton. "You can tell by the way they handle the animals that they've spent a lot of time and hard work

getting their projects ready for this event. Regardless of how the animal places in its class, the exhibitor is the one who has the responsibility of showing the animal off in the best manner possible. These showmanship winners, as well as the other exhibitors called back for the showmanship contest, set an example to be followed by every exhibitor in the show. They are to be commended for a job well done."

Show judge Scott Grenier commended exhibitors for their showmanship efforts.

"I want to compliment all these exhibitors for doing such a fine job," he said. "Obviously they've worked hard to get to this point."

In selecting the champion junior lamb showman, Grenier noted that the 13 competitors called back for the contest included several outstanding showmen.

"They present the lamb so it looks its very best," he said. "They know how to accentuate the positives. I made my decision based on their show ring presence, seeing if

they moved calmly and remained cool and collected."

Carpenter, 11, is a sixth-grade student at Stewart Middle School and is the daughter of Mandy and Mike Carpenter of Mt. Solon. She has been in 4-H for three years.

Placing second and third respectively in junior lamb showmanship was Chance Snyder and Kaitlyn Ambler, both members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

Grenier was equally complimentary of exhibitors competing for the senior lamb showmanship award.

"The Number 1 job for these young people is to take care of their sheep," he said. "They all have an understanding of how the lamb needs to be set up."

Riley was the senior lamb exhibitor whom Grenier chose as the top of the class. She is the 17-year-old daughter of Donna and Doug Riley of Rt. 10, Staunton and has exhibited livestock in the show for eight years. Riley is a junior at Buffalo Gap High School.

Placing second and third, respectively, in senior lamb showmanship

was Mark Garland of the Stewart Middle FFA and Jared Hemp of the Riverheads FFA.

In selecting the top junior hog showman, Grenier said he looked for the individuals who maintained control of their pigs, kept them moving at a slow pace, and held the swine about 10 to 15 feet away from the judge.

Johnston was the junior competitor whom Grenier chose as the champion junior hog showman. He was followed in second and third places, respectively, by Robert Grogg and Mary Williams, both members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

Johnston, 11, is a sixth-grade student at Ridgeview Christian School and is the son of Dinah and Donnie Johnston of Rt. 1, Staunton. It was the second consecutive year in which members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club swept the junior hog showmanship competition. Johnston's brother won the top junior award at the 1998 show.

For the champion senior hog

showman, Grenier chose Buchanan as the top swine exhibitor. A junior at Riverheads High School, Buchanan is the 17-year-old son of Kay and Lacy Buchanan of Dutch Hollow.

Troy Lawson of the Buffalo Gap FFA placed second and Hemp of the Riverheads FFA placed third in senior hog showmanship.

In steer showmanship, Grenier put "nine outstanding showmen" through their paces in the junior class.

"Control [of the steer] is first and foremost," Grenier said. "Then they need to be efficient in moving and positioning the steer."

Johnston collected his second junior showmanship award of the day in the steer class. He was followed in second place by rookie steer showman Katie Leonard. Jeff Buchanan took third in junior steer showmanship. Both are members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

Due to the number of senior showmen selected for the competition

See **SHOWMEN**, page 13



ROSALEA RILEY
BUFFALO GAP FFA
CHAMPION SENIOR LAMB SHOWMAN



NEAL BUCHANAN
RIVERHEADS FFA
CHAMPION SENIOR HOG SHOWMAN



SHOW JUDGE SCOTT GRENIER with JONATHAN COLEMAN
MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB
CHAMPION SENIOR STEER SHOWMAN

Market Animal Sale grosses \$177,000; \$72,000 over floor

AC staff report

STAUNTON — Livestock sold through the 1999 Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale grossed \$177,000 with more than \$72,000 being in excess of the floor price.

If 4-H and FFA members learn nothing else from their Market Animal Projects, they learn very quickly what a fluctuating supply-demand market means to them in dollars they earn on livestock. For this reason the club and chapter members look each year for support from local businesses to help them break even on their animal projects.

Businesses from Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta, Rockingham and Rockbridge counties came out in full support of the Market Animal Sale. 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. Busi-

nesses have always supported Augusta County youth by purchasing livestock at the Market Animal Sale and in turn reap the rewards of the positive public relations generated by supporting the youth.

As usual, the pavilion at Staunton Union Stockyard was packed to capacity for the May 6 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 U.S. slaughter markets on hogs and steers dipped well below 1998 figures. The slaughter lamb market has shown some signs of recovery following a 1999 spring price slump.

Auctioneers for the sale were Robbie Reeves, Ben Howell and H.C. Wise.

An overview of the 1999 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale and prices follows.

Grand Champion steer

1,210 pounds, graded choice — Exhibited by Shelley Buchanan Purchased by Lee Hereford for \$1.20/pound or \$1,452/head
Reserve Grand Champion steer 1,190 pounds, graded choice Exhibited by Justin Shomo Purchased by Transit Mix Concrete for \$1.10/pound or \$1,309/head

The 117 steers sold at the Market Animal Sale had an average weight of 1,160 pounds and brought from \$82.50 to \$142.50/hundredweight, with most ranging from \$87 to \$90/hundredweight. Only one steer in the sale fell below \$82.50 at \$80. In 1998, prices ranged from \$79 to \$127/hundredweight, with most ranging from \$87 to \$95/hundredweight.

In 1997, prices ranged from \$77 to \$120/hundredweight, with most falling in the \$92 to \$97.50 range.

Floor price on 76 steers grading choice at the 1999 4-H and FFA

Market Animal Sale was bid \$61/hundredweight by Moyer Packing. Floor price in 1998 was \$63.65/hundredweight on choice steers.

Floor price on 39 steers grading select was bid \$58.35/hundredweight, also by Moyer Packing. Floor price on steers grading select in the 1998 sale was bid \$61.35/hundredweight.

The progressive downward trend in livestock markets is represented in the three-year sale cycle with the 1997 figures showing the floor price bid on choice steers at \$66.60 and \$62 on select grades. The floor price at the 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale reflects the value of slaughter animals sold through regular markets.

Grand Champion single hog

250 pounds, yield grade 1 Exhibited by Jared Hemp H&H Auto Service Center for \$1.70/pound or \$425/head
Reserve Grand Champion single hog 215 pounds, yield grade 1 Exhibited by Shelley Buchanan Purchased by Evers Family Restaurant for \$3.20/pound or \$688/head

Grand Champion pair of hogs 235 pounds*, yield grade 1 Exhibited by Jared Hemp Purchased by Family Barber & Beauty for \$135/hundredweight or \$317.25/head

*Other hog in pair sold as Grand Champion single hog.
Reserve Grand Champion pair of hogs 495 pounds, yield grade 1 Exhibited by Robert Grogg Purchased by Transit Mix Concrete and Century 21 for \$100/hundredweight or \$495/pair

Market hogs sold individually numbered 53 with an average weight of 235 pounds. Prices ranged from \$100 to \$200/hundredweight with most falling in the \$115 to \$130/hundredweight range.

Individual sales on hogs showed much improvement over 1998 figures when prices ranged from \$55 to \$162.50/hundredweight. Most prices bid for hogs in 1998 fell in the \$80 to \$90/hundredweight range.

Prices for 1999 were more in line with 1997 figures when individual hogs brought \$97 to \$120/hundredweight.

Floor price bid on 13 yield grade US 1-2 market hogs and 1 yield grade US 3 was \$33/hundredweight.

In 1998, the floor price bid on four yield grade US 1 market hogs was \$36/hundredweight. Floor price bid on 17 yield grade 1-3 market hogs was \$38.75/hundredweight. In 1997, floor price on yield grade US 1-2 market hogs was \$55.25/hundredweight. The U.S. slaughter hog market had been on a downward trend throughout 1998 and then collapsed in December when slaughter hog prices dropped as low as \$8/hundredweight. The market has recovered some but has yet to reach 1997 levels.

Grand Champion single lamb

125 pounds, Blue O Exhibited by Amanda Hemp Purchased by Hershey Tire for \$5/pound or \$625/head
Reserve Grand Champion single lamb 115 pounds, Blue O Exhibited by Jared Hemp Purchased by Evers Family Restaurant for \$2.50/pound or \$287.50/head

Grand Champion pair of lambs 120 pounds*, Blue O Exhibited by Amanda Hemp Purchased by Blue Ridge Animal Hospital for \$1.80/pound or \$216/head

*Other lamb in pair was Grand Champion single
Reserve Grand Champion pair of lambs 220 pounds, Blue O Exhibited by Jessica Rohrbaugh Purchased by Tractor Supply Co. for \$2.10/pound or \$462/pair

A total of 131 lambs which averaged 107 pounds were sold individually at the Market Animal Sale. Prices on these lambs ranged from \$1.20 to \$4.60/pound with most falling in the \$1.50 to \$2.20/pound range.

In the 1998 sale, single lamb prices ranged from \$1.50 to \$4.30/pound with most falling in the \$2 to \$2.30/pound range. In 1997, See SALE, page 13

Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show						
Three-year price trends						
	FLOOR PRICE			BUYER-SUPPORTED PRICE RANGE		
	1999	1998	1997	1999	1998	1997
Steers (Choice)	61.00	63.65	66.60	87.00-90.00	87.00-95.00	92.00-97.50
Steers (Select)	58.35	61.35	62.00	NA	NA	NA
Hogs	33.00	36.00	55.25	1.15-1.30	55.00-1.62 1/2	97.00-1.20
Lambs	88.50	80.00	1.05 1/2	1.50-2.20	2.00-2.30	2.50-3.00

Results

Continued from page 9

DIVISION II

HEAVYWEIGHT: 221-255 pounds
Class 1 — 1. J. Rohrbaugh, WW Jr. 4-H; 2. A. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H; 3. R. Riley, BG FFA; 4. J. Ramsey, MDL 4-H; 5. J. Truxell, BMM FFA

Class 2 — 1. C. Brown, RH FFA; 2. J. Hemp, RH FFA; 3. B. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 4. Ben Napier, RLC 4-H; 5. M. Lawson, MDL 4-H

Class 3 — 1. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 2. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 3. B. Glass, FD FFA; 4. M. Carpenter, ADC 4-H; 5. T. Rohrbaugh, WW Sr. 4-H

Class 4 — 1. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H; 4. A. Kyle, MDL 4-H; 5. R. Swartzel, SDH FFA

CHAMPION

Amanda Hemp, Middlebrook 4-H

RESERVE CHAMPION

Jessica Rohrbaugh, Willing

GRAND CHAMPION

Amanda Hemp

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Jessica Rohrbaugh

Junior Lamb Showmanship

1. Meagan Carpenter, ADC 4-H; 2. Chance Snyder, MDL 4-H; 3. Kaitlyn Ambler, MDL 4-H

Senior Lamb Showmanship

1. Rosalea Riley, BG FFA; 2. M. Garland, SM FFA; 3. Jared Hemp, RH FFA

MARKET HOG SHOW

SINGLES

DIVISION I

LIGHTWEIGHT: 210-235 pounds

Class 1 — 1. S. Buchanan, RH FFA; 2. A. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H; 3. C. Smith, MDL 4-H; 4. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 5. A. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 6. M. Garland, SM FFA

Class 2 — 1. D. Grimm, RH FFA; 2. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Smith, MDL 4-H; 4. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 5. R. Riley, BG FFA; 6. J. Ramsey, MDL 4-H

Class 3 — 1. D. Grimm, RH FFA; 2. A. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H; 3. B. Perkins, MDL 4-H; 4. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 5. R. Riley, BG FFA; 6. J. Riley, LJ 4-H

Class 4 — 1. Jared Hemp, RH FFA; 2. N. Buchanan, RH FFA; 3. C. Smith, MDL 4-H; 4. N. Nycum, BG FFA; 5. K. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 6. S. Williams, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION

Shelly Buchanan, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Doug Grimm, Riverheads FFA

DIVISION II

HEAVYWEIGHT: 236-260 pounds

Class 1 — 1. K. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 2. R. Grogg, MDL 4-H; 3. D. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H; 4. N. Nycum, BG FFA; 5. A. Kyle, MDL 4-H; 6. E. Shifflett, WW Jr. 4-H

Class 2 — 1. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Leonard, BMM FFA; 3. N. Buchanan, MDL 4-H; 4. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 5. D. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H; 6. J. Smith, MDL 4-H

Class 3 — 1. J. Hemp, RH FFA; 2. J. Buchanan, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Leonard, BMM FFA; 4. N. Collins, MDL 4-H; 5. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 6. E. Curry, BG FFA

Class 4 — 1. D. Gayhart, BG FFA; 2. E. Curry, BG FFA; 3. R. Grogg, MDL 4-H; 4. A. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 5. Ben Napier, RLC 4-H; 6. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION

Jared Hemp, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Danielle Gayhart, Buffalo Gap

GRAND CHAMPION

Jared Hemp

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Shelly Buchanan

MARKET HOG PAIRS

Class 1 — 1. D. Grimm, RH FFA; 2. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 3. A. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H; 4. R. Riley, BG FFA; 5. V. Burton, SH 4-H; 6. B. Burton, SM FFA

Class 2 — 1. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 2. C. Smith, MDL 4-H; 3. B. Perkins, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Smith, MDL 4-H; 5. J. Riley, LJ 4-H

Class 3 — 1. N. Buchanan, RH FFA; 2. K. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 3. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 4. A. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 5. N. Nycum, BG FFA; 6. M. Garland, SM FFA

Class 4 — 1. J. Hemp, RH FFA; 2. R. Grogg, MDL 4-H; 3. D. Pitsenbarger, MDL 4-H; 4. A. Kyle, MDL 4-H; 5. S. Williams, MDL 4-H

Class 5 — 1. E. Curry, BG FFA; 2. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Buchanan, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Leonard, BMM FFA; 5. Ben Napier, RLC 4-H

GRAND CHAMPION

Jared Hemp, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Robert Grogg, Middlebrook 4-H

See RESULTS, page 13

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Hogs

Continued from page 10

Grimm of the Riverheads FFA. Jared Hemp's hog won champion honors in the heavyweight contest and would go on to be named the event's Grand Champion market hog. Danielle Gayhart of the Buffalo Gap FFA showed the reserve champion hog in the heavyweight division. It was the second consecutive year Jared Hemp collected Grand Champion honors in the single hog contest.

"We have two outstanding division champions," Grenier said before selecting the Grand Champion market hog. "They are similar in type and kind. They are sound and big enough in skeleton. The lightweight champion is probably the best designed hog. It is tremendously balanced. I wish there was more hog there. The heavyweight champion has a tremendous amount of leanness and shape at the 10th rib and puts it all together in the correct package. This has been an extremely competitive hog show."

Market hog pairs were split into five classes for competition. Jared Hemp's pair and the pair exhibited by Robert Grogg took first and second places, respectively, in the pairs' fourth class.

Grenier called the show's five first-place pairs "awfully good" in terms of their overall quality. Grenier said the basic rule for pairs selection is uniformity.

Other first-place class winners in the market hog pairs contest were Doug Grimm, Riverheads FFA; Austin Johnston, Middlebrook 4-H; Neal Buchanan, Riverheads FFA; and Emily Curry, Buffalo Gap FFA.

The hogs were ready to head for the shade when their time in the show ring was complete. The steer show, featuring 117 animals, kicked off about 11 a.m. with four weight divisions.

Shelly Buchanan's steer, the show's eventual Grand Champion, won champion honors in the heavy middleweight division. It was also that weight division in which Justin Shomo's eventual Reserve Grand Champion won the division's reserve champion award. The heavy middleweight division featured steers with the industry target weight for slaughter steers ranging from 1,151 to 1,230 pounds.

In the lightweight division, a 1,045-pound Angus exhibited by Carrie Heizer of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club won the champion rosette. Chance



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF LAMBS shown by JESSICA ROHRBAUGH, WILLING WORKERS JR. 4-H CLUB

Snyder, also of the Middlebrook Club, claimed reserve champion honors in the division with his 1,075-pound Angus steer.

In the light middleweight division, Carrie Brown of the Riverheads FFA exhibited a 1,095-pound steer to win champion honors. Amanda Hemp again found herself in the winner's circle, this time with a 1,135-pound steer to take reserve champion honors in the light middleweight division. In the heavyweight division of steers weighing 1,231 to 1,440 pounds, the champion 1,240-pound steer was exhibited by Bryan Shomo of the Riverheads FFA. Reserve champion in the heavyweight category was claimed by a 1,320-pound steer exhibited by Katie Leonard of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

In explaining his selection for the show's Grand Champion steer, Grenier noted he was looking for the animal which he hoped might also be the steer with the Grand Champion carcass.

"All these steers have a greater likelihood of achieving high cutability and function," he said while reviewing the four division champions. "They have sound structure and will have acceptable carcass weights. One calf comes closest to putting all the things together I'm looking for." That calf was the Simmental-AngusX exhibited by Shelly Buchanan.

The 1999 win was a step up for Shelly who exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion steer at the 1998 show. Her 1999 steer came from a

South Carolina breeder.

The Reserve Grand Champion steer might not have made it to the show at all if Justin Shomo's brother Bryan hadn't talked his big brother into showing this year. Having graduated from high school last June, Justin found himself busy with college studies in the fall when steers were weighed in and was ready to opt out of his final year of eligibility for Market Animal Show competition. According to the boys' father, Bryan encouraged Justin to participate in his last year and it was Bryan, in fact, who tracked down the steers for the two Shomos to exhibit. Justin's Reserve Grand Champion steer was an embryo transfer bred by Donnie Michaels of Mt. Solon.

Shelly Buchanan, 17, is the daughter of Kathleen and Eddy Buchanan of Rockbridge Baths. She is a senior at Riverheads High School. Justin Shomo, 18, is a student at Blue Ridge Community College. He is the son and stepson of Scott and Sally Shomo of Rt. 10, Staunton.

The total number of animals exhibited in the 1999 edition of the Market Animal Show was up over the 1998 numbers. Exhibitors brought 380 animals to the 1999 show and only 349 made it to the show in 1998. Lamb numbers were up considerably over 1998 with 196 lambs making the 1999 show ring compared to 158 in 1998. Due to increased interest in the lamb and hog exhibitions, 4-H and FFA members were limited to two lambs and two hogs for the 1999 show. In past years, members could show two singles and a pair of lambs or hogs and were allowed a total of three animals in each species.

Steer numbers were down slightly from 1998 when 126 steers were exhibited. The 1999 steer show featured 117 animals.

Master of ceremonies for the event was June Cohron. Ring assistants were Scott Shomo, Amy Trout, Donnie Michael, and Larry Cohron. Ribbon bearer was Kara Michael representing the Augusta County Farm Bureau Federation. —



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF HOGS shown by ROBERT GROGG, MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB

oSale

Continued from page 12

prices on lambs sold individually were bid mostly in the \$2.50 to \$3/ pound range.

The 1999 floor price on 65 Blue O lambs which averaged 108 pounds was \$88.50/hundredweight. Floor price in 1998 on 42 Blue O lambs with an average weight of 107 pounds was bid \$80/hundredweight. Floor price on Blue O lambs at the 1997 Market Animal Sale was \$105.50/hundredweight.

In 1997, Blue O lambs brought \$1.25/pound the week prior to

Easter. The market dropped 32 percent during 1998 to 85 cents/pound during the first week in April. The floor price on Blue O lambs at the 1999 Market Animal Sale reflected a 10 percent recovery in market value of slaughter lambs from 1998 prices.

Although the lamb market traditionally reaches its highest point annually just prior to religious holidays in the spring, the market was higher in May when the Market Animal Sale was held than it was the month prior. Blue O lambs sold for \$85/hundredweight this past Easter. —

oShowmen

Continued from page 11

tion, the event was split into two heats. Ultimately Grenier narrowed the field to six top exhibitors who vied for the top spot.

It was Coleman who won the judge's nod as champion senior showman. Coleman has been exhibiting at the Market Animal Show for six years and won the junior steer showmanship award in his second year out for the show. He is the 15-year-old son of Betty and J.R. Coleman of Arbor Hill. Coleman is a ninth-grade student at Riverheads High School.

Placing second in senior steer showmanship was Cole Heizer. Heizer is a

member of the FFA chapter at Beverley Manor Middle School.

Proving he is a capable showman with just about anything on four legs, Hemp picked up yet another third-place showman award of the day in the steer category to make a clean sweep of third-place honors across the species board at the show. He was the champion senior lamb showman at the event in 1998.

Savings bonds from Augusta County were presented to the five champion showmen at the Market Animal Show banquet held May 20. Each top showman received a \$100 bond for winning his or her species. Johnston received a \$200 bond for winning junior hog and steer showmanship. —

oResults

Continued from page 12

Junior Hog Showmanship
1. Garrett Johnston, MDL 4-H; 2. Robert Grogg, MDL 4-H; 3. Mary Williams, MDL 4-H

Senior Hog Showmanship
1. Neal Buchanan, RH FFA; 2. Troy Lawson, BG FFA; 3. Jared Hemp, RH FFA

MARKET STEER SHOW
DIVISION I
LIGHTWEIGHT: 910-1,080 pounds
Class 1 — 1. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Buchanan, MDL 4-H; 3. M. McCune;

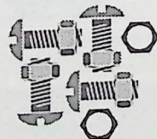
LM 4-H; 4. A. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 5. J. Hemp, RH FFA; 6. M. Miller, RH FFA
Class 2 — 1. C. Butler, BMM FFA; 2. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 3. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Smith, MDL 4-H; 5. A. Cash, SM FFA; 6. Co. Lyle, BG FFA
Class 3 — 1. Ca. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 2. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 3. S. Cash, FD FFA; 4. S. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 5. A. Fuller, BMM FFA; 6. E. Curry, BG FFA
Class 4 — 1. C. Snyder, MDL 4-H; 2. A. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 3. A. Gilbert, RH FFA; 4. J. Hinton, MDL 4-H; 5. G. Brinkley,

See RESULTS, page 19

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Schoolhouse News

BMMS students gain insight to Chesapeake Bay preservation

By ELIZABETH GATEWOOD

PORT ISOBEL — Project Adventure students from Beverley Manor Middle School headed east to Port Isobel, Va., in April to learn about the Chesapeake Bay.

The three-day, two-night trip took students first to Reedville where they boarded a boat for the hour-long ride to Port Isobel.

Port Isobel is close to Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay. Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) staff taught students how the Shenandoah Valley affects the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Club members set crab pots and helped prepare their catch for dinner. Other activities included canoeing and beach combing. They dredged underwater grass beds to find animals for their "Beverley Manor Critter List." The list was an ongoing list of all the animals the students saw on their visit. Everything from black-backed gulls to

oysters and everything in between was included.

Project Adventurers also helped CBF staff on two restoration projects taking place on the island. First, students went "phrag stomping." Phrag (phragmites) is an introduced species of grass, and has a tendency to choke out the natural vegetation. Its roots are too interwoven to try to pull out, so they had to stomp them down. This gave the trees they smothered a chance at sunlight and space.

The other project was cleaning the oyster floats. CBF had floats filled with oysters tethered to the dock. Oysters are the filters of the Chesapeake Bay, so the floats had holes for the water to flow through and be filtered. These floats were becoming clogged with algae and the water couldn't flow freely. Club members also cleaned and sized oysters while they cleaned the floats.

One of the things the students enjoyed most was "Road Rules," a

sort of treasure hunt, but with a time limit. They had to find flags placed in the marsh, answer the attached question and finish by an exact time. This was one of the most memorable things about the trip because of how muddy everyone got by traipsing through the marsh.

While the students were there, they competed against other schools for the title in the "No S.L.O.P." contest. S.L.O.P. stands for Stuff Left On Plate. This meant all the extra food you got that you couldn't eat. Having no S.L.O.P. helps cut down on waste, because everything that was carried to the island had to be brought back, even trash.

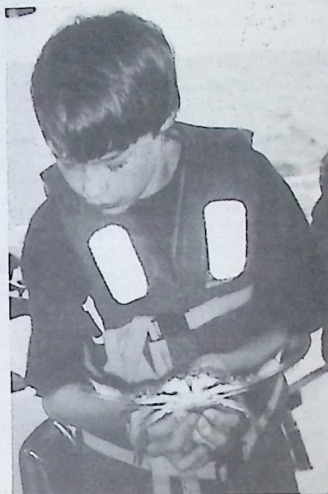
Students also tried to cut down on how much water they used each day they were there. They didn't take showers (peeewww!), and the toilets didn't flush — they composted, without water. Before students arrived, the CBF staff checked the water meter. Right before they left they once again checked the meter, then

divided out how many people and how many days to find that each person had used around 4.5 gallons per day. The record to beat was 5 gallons.

By the end of the trip, students concluded that we in the Shenandoah Valley need to help take care of the Chesapeake Bay. It's a delicate ecosystem — one that for centuries has provided income, a way of life, food, and source of recreation for millions of Americans.

Students who participated in the trip to Port Isobel were Beth Huffer, Andrew Green, Josh LaPorte, Will Fawley, Zan Gillies, Tim Rawley, Charlie Moyer, Hillary Brooks, Lauren McGee, Jackson Cox, Lauren Davis, Janita Daggy, Catlin Clements, Lauren Jarvis, Kate Presbury, Kalyn Ruud, Bambi Brooks, Meredith Withers, Maggie Gilstrap, Ryan Stoltzfus, Alicia Maloney, Brandy Waybright, Melissa Koerner, and Elizabeth Gatewood. Teachers and

chaperones were Mark Gatewood, George Savage, Nan Savage, and club sponsor, Betty Gatewood. —



Ryan Stoltzfus holds a blue crab carefully so it doesn't pinch him.

Photo by Elizabeth Gatewood

Riverheads FFA members receive honors at 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 37th annual banquet held recently at the school.

Members were recognized for outstanding achievement in chapter project work for the school year 1998-99.

Chapter adviser Eugene McIlwee presented the chapter's Blue and Gold Award for outstand-

ing achievement to Colby Irvine, Carrie Heizer, and David Arehart. Irvine and Heizer were presented Star Chapter Farmer awards and Arehart was named the chapter's Star Agri-Businessman. The three seniors each received \$100 from the Missy Clemmer Scholarship Fund. Dennis Clemmer, president of the



IRVINE



HEIZER



AREHART

Middlebrook Ruritan Club made the scholarship presentations.

McIlwee presented the DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment

Award to Irvine, who is the chapter's outgoing president.

Irvine presided over the banquet. He noted that the chapter won the Virginia State Fair outstanding agriculture exhibit competing against numerous other schools from across the state.

"These young folks have put in a lot of hard work this year," McIlwee said. "We have an out-

standing group of young people here. They're about ready for a break and they've earned it."

Chapter officers named William Bishop, RHS principal, and Randall Huffman, RHS head custodian, Honorary Chapter Farmers for 1999.

Star Greenhand awards, given in recognition of outstanding achievement for first-year FFA members,

See RHS, page 15

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FHA members receive honors at RHS banquet

AC Staff Report

GREENVILLE — The Riverheads High School Future Homemakers of America concluded a stellar year with honors and recognitions during the annual awards banquet held recently.

The 1998-99 school year was highlighted with achievements for the group which sent 17 members to the FHA/HERO State Leadership Conference. Each participant won a gold award for her area of participation. Of the 17 gold award winners, nine won state trophies and qualified to participate in the FHA/HERO National Leadership Conference to be held July 3-9 in Boston, Mass. Eight of the nine members will attend the conference.

Nine members earning gold awards and state trophies at the State Leadership Conference were: Jennifer Ishee, Jennifer Seaman and Kelly Watts, Chapter Showcase; Kathleen Fornadel, Misty Reed and Crystal Smith, Focus on Children Senior; Stacey Bower and Jamie Daugherty, Skills for Life; and Rachel Bernier, illustrated talk.

Members receiving gold state awards were Karol Buss and Shelly Buchanan, Chapter Service Project; Jennifer Brooks and Jessica Roadcap, Focus on Children Junior; Katey Handley, interpersonal communications; and Deon Bricker, Misty Blackwell and Brook Smith, Skills for Life.

The RHS FHA chapter also had a 28 percent increase in membership for the 1998-99 session with a club ros-

See FHA,
page 20



ISHEE



SEAMAN



WATTS



FORNADEL



REED



SMITH



BOWER



DAUGHERTY



BERNIER



KEITH



HICKEY



TALLEY



BRITT



CRAUN



STOUTAMYER

Awards highlight Gap FFA ceremony

AC Staff Report

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

Jenny Keith was presented the J.W. Riley Memorial Scholarship. The DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award was presented to Matthew Hickey. Scott Talley was awarded the Scott Hickey Memorial Trophy.

Honored as the chapter's Star Agri-Businessman was Doug Britt. Chad Craun and Dixie Stoutamyer received the chapter's leadership

awards. The Star Chapter Farmer award was presented to James Ramsey. Tina Wilson was recognized with the chapter's Star Greenhand award. Greenhand and Chapter farmer awards were presented to first-year and second-year FFA members, respectively. Chapter advisers Shirley Kaufman and Barry Gray commended FFA members for their accomplishments during the 1998-99 school year. Matthew Hickey, chapter president, presided over the awards ceremony.

Earning State Degrees were Matthew Hickey, Chad Craun, Dixie Stoutamyer, Jeremy Hunter, Doug

Britt, Scott Talley, Aaron Ramsey and Jenny Keith.

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

Amanda Coiner, agricultural communications; Lee Marshall and Kevin Hodge, ag mechanics; Doug Britt, ag sales and service; Emily Curry and Jason Arehart, beef production; Brian Vess, diversified crop production; Rosalea Riley and Colt Lyle, diversified livestock production; Scott Talley and Jenny Keith, equine production; Danielle

See GAP, page 17

•RHS

Continued from page 14

were presented to Erin Lowery, Frank Dull and Jonathan Coleman.

Earning State Degrees this year were chapter members Arehart, Neal Buchanan, Chapman Williams and Drew Glenn.

Scholarship awards were presented to Heizer, senior; Buchanan, junior; Thomas Marcus and Jason McIlwee, sophomores; and Bruce Brooks, freshman.

Proficiency award winners included the following individuals:

Drew Glenn, Jason Argenbright, Scott Huntley, C.L. Hemp, and Chris Fravel, agriculture mechanics; Chapman Williams, C.L. Hemp and Jason Argenbright, landscape management; Neal Buchanan, diversified livestock production;

Carrie Heizer, Jonathan Coleman, Ryan Miller and Megan Miller, beef production; Drew Glenn, fruit and vegetable production; Sarah Huntley, environment science; Bruce Brooks, Frank Dull, Charlie Ward and Timmy Simmons, agricultural processing; Jason McIlwee and Erin Lowery, specialty crop production; Aaron Root, Jason Argenbright and Jason McIlwee, home and community development; Chris Fravel, Tarah Lotts, Laura Grimm and Megan Miller, equine production.

Also, Doug Grimm, Laura Grimm and Angela Hinton, sheep production; Colby Irvine and Philip Myrtle, agricultural electrification; Timmy Simmons and Jack Hinton, agricultural sales and services; David Arehart, outdoor recreation; Stephanie Branch, Ryan Miller, Megan Miller and Erin Lowery poultry production; Jamie Shippe and Justin Fravel, dairy production; Stephanie Branch, agricultural communications; Doug Grimm, small animal care; Thomas Marcus,

turf grass management; Erin Lowery, diversified crop production; Colby Irvine, extemporaneous speaking; Bryan Shomo, senior prepared public speaking; and Colby Irvine and Carrie Heizer, leadership.

The chapter's junior ag mechanics team was recognized for its second-place win in the federation contest. Team members were Erin Lowery, Jonathan Coleman, J.C. Crawford and Frank Dull.

RHS FFA members competing in the Block and Bridle Livestock judging contest were Carrie Heizer, Amanda Hemp, Neal Buchanan and Jonathan Coleman. The team placed first in swine judging in the contest, second overall and first in the Northern District 4-H contest.

Recognized for participation as parliamentary procedure team members were Colby Irvine, president and members Carrie Heizer, David Arehart, Jason McIlwee, Bryan Shomo, Aaron Root and Carrie Brown, senior team; and Erin Lowery, Frank Dull, Laura Grimm,

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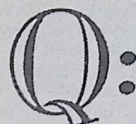
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References provided upon request.

The Hitching Post

Remember patience to avoid frustration when trailering horses



I have a young horse that needs to learn to load on a trailer. I would like to prevent problems if I can. How can I teach him to load easily?

Waiting to get on

Loading your horse on a trailer should not be a problem if you take the time to prepare him properly. There are different methods suggested for teaching horses to adjust to trailer situations. The use of tarps is one. Another is boards or wooden chutes. Some trainers just use the trailer itself. Regardless of how you present a "trailer" atmosphere to your horse remember to work with any reactions your horse might have to each.

Reactions are a communication process that can give you insight into prevention of problems. How your horse reacts to loading at any phase of the training can help you understand how he feels about it. Addressing his fears or frustra-

tions in the early stages can make the training process easier and less stressful for him and YOU.

Let's look at the three basic methods. In using tarps you can prepare a "box" out of the material and walk the horse through it. The idea is to get the horse used to a closed in feeling. Tarps are inexpensive and will do if you do not have access to a trailer for training purposes. Many trainers ask the horse to stand on tarps to overcome fears. One of the most important parts of training your horse will be in how much trust he has in you. If your horse trusts you then you will find that training is easy. Horses that do not trust are difficult to train because they tend to "question"

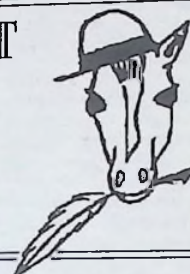
everything. Remember that difficult training only takes more TIME!

The other method is the use of chutes and wooden walls to prepare the horse for loading. In a trailer horses will often have their flanks and sides touched while in motion due to the narrowness. Ask your horse to deal with this by preparing a chute and walking him through it. Finally he should stand for longer periods of time as he becomes accustomed to the closed in feeling.

The third method is the use of a trailer itself. When my owner trained me I was asked to walk on and given time to "think." I was "fed" in the trailer, too. In the learning process I was given my evening meal on a trailer to give me the idea that I should look forward to getting on. I still keep that first impression today. I was also asked to back off slowly. I was nervous at first, but the more I did it the more confident I became.

If you work with your horse with

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patience and consideration, you should be fine. Most accidents are caused because owners and trainers wait until it is necessary for a load due to a sale or a horse show and "force" the issue. If you take the time when there is no stress to load, your horse will learn faster and with less frustration. Choosing the best time to work it out and working together means finding the least stressful time to practice loading. Don't wait until you HAVE to. Trailering

is an important part of a horse's life and training a horse to load should be part of his routine.

As a competitive horse I trailered to many shows and events. I also trailered from owner to owner through sales. Most of my confidence came through repetition and injury prevention. If you take the time to train your horse thoroughly you should have an accident-free travel companion. Remember that PREVENTION is always due to foresight and proper preparations. —

Convention

Continued from page 5

Excell Corp.; Dr. Dwane Wulf of South Dakota State University; Dr. Ronnie Green of CSU.

Concurrent sessions will be offered Friday afternoon. The main convention tours are scheduled for June 19.

Pre-registration should be

mailed to Conference Registrar, Division of Continuing Education, 810 University Blvd., Suite D, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0272. Telephone (540) 231-5182. Full pre-registration per person is \$180. Pre-registration for spouses is \$110 and for students \$60.00.

For information contact Dr. John

Hall, Department of Animal and Poultry Science, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0306, telephone (540) 231-9163 or 0153, fax (540) 231-3010, e-mail: jbhall@vt.edu.

Full program and registration information is also available on the internet at <http://www.conted.vt.edu/bif/va.htm>. —

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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I. B. Hoofinit's 'Horses in History'

Can you identify the horse and rider described in the following vignette? If so, simply write your answer down and mail it with your name and address to I. B. Hoofinit's Horses in History, P. O. Box 2955, Staunton, Va. 24402 or call 540/885-0266. The first correct answer received will be sent a free gift! The answer will appear in the next issue of *Augusta Country*!

Last month's rider was Edward "Eddie" Arcaro on the thoroughbred race horse Citation.

Horseback racing has been called the sport of kings. Races take place on an oval dirt, clay, or grass track anywhere from a mile to a mile and an eighth long. Distances are measured in furlongs and one furlong equals an eighth of a mile.

The most famous event series of American racing is the Triple Crown. It is where three-year-old thoroughbreds must win three individual races, the Kentucky Derby

(roses), the Preakness Stakes (black eyed susans), and the Belmont Stakes (carnations).

Edward "Eddie" Arcaro won his first race in 1932 when he was 15 years old. He rode 4,000 winners and won over \$23 million in purses. He won five Kentucky Derbys and two Triple Crowns. The first on Whirlaway in 1941 and the second on Citation in 1948. Eddie was inducted into the racing hall of fame in 1955. He was a great American jockey and Citation was another famous Horse in History. —

This month's question asks, "What breed am I?" Famous from the Nez Perce Indian tribe, this horse was the product of skillful breeding and a strict selective policy. In 1876 the tribe and the breed were virtually wiped out as U.S. troops seized tribal lands. In 1938 a few descendants of the Nez Perce tribe started this breed's horse club and in 50 years it became the third largest in the world. —

Gap

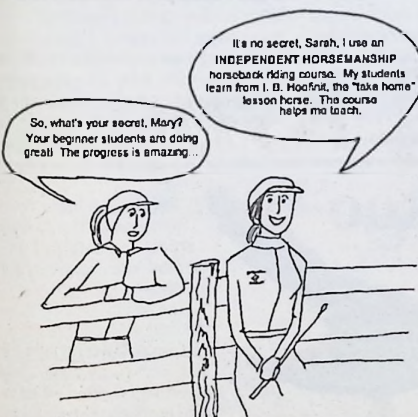
Continued from page 15

Gayhart, outdoor recreation; Rosalea Riley, poultry production; Troy Lawson, sheep production; and Thomas Lyle, small animal care. State proficiency winners were Emily Curry, beef production; and

Rosalea Riley and Colt Lyle, diversified livestock production.

The chapter presented a service award to Harry Crosby of Hebron for his contributions to the FFA program at Gap. An honorary chapter degree was conferred upon Russell Douglas, Gap assistant principal. —

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More on Custer's horses...

A call placed to the historian at the Little Big Horn Battlefield had not been returned when *Augusta Country* went to press last month when information was included in the Horses in History feature about Custer's horses. However, the historian did return the telephone call later and provided *Augusta Country* with additional information about mounts used by Gen. Custer during his last stand.

According to the Little Big Horn Battlefield historian, Gen. Custer had two horses in the proximity of Little Big Horn. In the morning before the battle he rode Dandy (more on him later) but changed mounts and left Dandy with the pack train.

Into the battle Custer rode, Vic, short for Victory. Custer bought Vic in the spring of 1872. He was a sorrel gelding with three white feet. Some officers later reported seeing the carcass of Vic about 100 yards from Last Stand Hill like he had

been galloping toward the final stand. Another story says that an Indian captured him, sold him and he wound up in Canada.

As for Dandy, he was a brown gelding that Custer bought in Nov. 1868. The soldiers chipped in and had him shipped back to the Custer farm in Monroe, Mich. (near Detroit) and Custer's father Emmanuel would ride Dandy in the Fourth of July parade every year.

Although not a horse ridden by Custer, there was a cavalry horse that survived the Battle of Little Big Horn. Its name was Comanche and it was ridden by Capt. Miles Keogh, an Irishman of "I" company.

Capt. Keogh was killed in the battle and Comanche survived but sustained at least 9 wounds. The soldiers brought the horse back to Ft. Abraham Lincoln in North Dakota and nursed it back to health. They built a special stall for Comanche and the horse be-



came a mascot of the 7th cavalry.

Eventually special orders were issued that Comanche never be ridden again. But the horse accompanied the 7th cavalry in the field and was at the Battle/Massacre of Wounded Knee. Comanche would be brought out for special parades and eventually took to hanging around the soldiers quarters and became very fond of beer. He died in 1891, almost 20 years after the Battle of Little Big Horn! —

Thanks to staff writer Nancy Sorrells for obtaining this information by contacting the folks at the Little Big Horn Battlefield



LEONARD



J. HEMP



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LAWSON

Awards cap year for exhibitors

AC staff report

SANGERSVILLE — The Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show wrapped up its 54th year with the presentation of awards at a banquet held recently at the Sangersville-Towers Ruritan Hall.

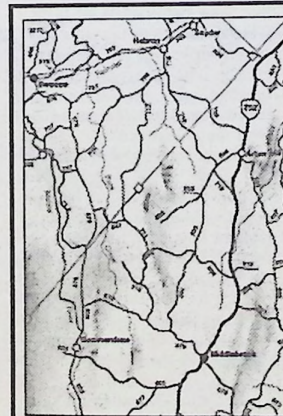
Junior 4-H member Katie Leonard of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club won the Alton Lewis Award for the show's top first-year exhibitor. Jared Hemp, a member of the Riverheads FFA chapter, was awarded the R.L. Coffey Junior

Achievement Award for earning the most points in exhibiting lambs, hogs, and steers at the show. Katie is the daughter of Luanne and Sam Leonard of Haytie. Jared is the son of Katrina and Mike Hemp of Middlebrook. He also was named the Virginia Pork Industry Association Sweepstakes Winner based on points awarded for hog class placings and showmanship. Jared also won the Carl Grove Memorial Award.

The Jim Coffey Memorial Award was presented to Shelly Buchanan

of the Riverheads FFA who exhibited the 1999 grand champion steer at the show held May 5 and 6 at Staunton Union Stockyard. Shelly is the daughter of Kathleen and Eddie Buchanan of Rockbridge Baths.

The award was established in 1998 in memory of long-time Ruritan and Market Animal Show supporter Jim Coffey. The award, a silver belt buckle, is given annually to the individual who exhibits the show's grand champion steer. A plaque also is engraved with each See *CHAMPION*, page 20



ATTENTION MIDDLEBROOK/SWOOPE-AREA LANDOWNERS

An agricultural-forestal district is being created in the area of Augusta County southwest of Staunton shown on the map at left. If you own property within this area and would like to learn how to include your property in the ag-forestal district or if you would like information about ag-forestal districts, you may call the Valley Conservation Council at 886-3541. Information also may be obtained by calling 885-0266.

Country Crossroads

Reflecting pool reflections

By Roberta Hamlin



Dear Maude,

This note will have to be a quick one, as I am sneaking it in between phone calls and a report I am working on for the boss.

Things have been very busy for us this month since there is a piece of legislation proposed in which one of our most important clients has a great deal of interest. What that means is that we spend a great deal of time running back and forth to the hill to fetch first drafts, and second drafts and revisions while our daily work remains undone. All of this, mind you, before the bill is ever introduced! And after it is introduced, things start all over again, with the trips for copies of more revisions after the appropriate committee takes it up for hearings. With luck, the bill might actually be passed, or at least passed by part of Congress. That should be enough for the boss to keep on billing the clients.

Of course, another thing that has kept me busy is all of those wonderful Memorial Day sales. Goodness what fun I have had now that all of the summer clothes are in the stores. The lunch hours are simply not long enough for me to find everything I need! My wardrobe just won't do anymore — after a year or two of moderate restraint, things are looking pretty dowdy. Now that I have been going places with Jimmy, I certainly have to look my best! I found one stunning little black dress I had to have for parties, but it also came in red and was gorgeous, so I bought both.

Everyone here is excited about the Memorial Day. It has been quite some time since we had a long weekend, and in

this city, those weekends are important. Most people take off for the beach this time of year, or to some special event out of town. I plan to go on a camping trip with Jimmy and a group of his friends. It sounds like such fun that I am willing to brave the bugs and ticks.

Many of the politicians, however, will stay in town for the publicity surrounding the holiday itself. Or at least, they will use that as an excuse not to have to take their whole family off to the beach for a few days. With the media coverage of the special memorial services many will want to be here in the city where they can be seen doing their civic duty. There are those who will actually go to the ceremonies at Arlington or the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Many, however, will probably be celebrating the day at the Tomb of the Unpassed Legislation. Much of our fallen legislation is no longer remembered. (There are the much publicized bills which fell by the wayside that meant a lot to those members who are most important in the leadership of their respective parties, but those proposed failures have large memorials of their own, where each party blames the other for the battles lost.) However, the memorial for the unpassed, and therefore now unknown legislation, is a quiet little spot which lies somewhere between the Democratic Club and the Capitol Hill Club (home of the Republicans). There are no party lines among those who pay homage here. They come from the halls of valor where they fight to protect the rights and liberties of the citizens, their constituents, or their campaign contributors who maintain and sustain the campaign war chests.

And as the year 2000 looms with its upcoming skirmishes, there are many battle plans being drawn and strategies in the works. It is only proper and useful that some remembrance be made of past failures. There will be many promises and publicized intentions to add to the graveyard here. The members of Congress, made up of generals, lieutenants, and sergeants, as well as the poor old privates (those first term house members who are just learning the ropes,) all have some bill dear to their hearts buried here. The lobbyists fondly remember how they fought gallantly for the profits of their clients on these battlefields. We seldom hear of their grief, however, as it usually takes place at a private table at the Club, or some popular and expensive restaurant like The Prime Rib, over a very good bottle of wine. The press is seldom present at these services.

As for me, I shall sit before the campfire among my friends cooking a simple dinner and remember Uncle Joe and Uncle Olin. There were times when they probably ate their meals the same way when they were in Europe fighting for our country all those many years ago.

I must stop and get back to work — the boss just came in with a sour expression on his face. He must be thinking of that lost legislation which also lost him a client last year. I had better look as if I am busy working on something to save one of the new clients! Give everyone at home my love, and tell them that I miss them. Love, LuLu

Local students respond to crisis in schools

By BECKY McMANNES

GREENVILLE — The incident that took place in Colorado frightened many students. Some are terrified to come to school knowing that something like this could happen at their school. Sophomore Stephanie Branch from Riverheads says, "It really worries me that people might do something like that here at Riverheads. Just thinking about my friends could not be here or even myself. Hearing people say things and the way they act towards each other, it's scary. They could do what happened in Colorado."

What would we do if it happened here?"

The media has contributed to the chaos that has recently occurred in and around Augusta County. The Columbine school shooting was broadcast for weeks. This influenced some students. Many have made bomb threats. Some have gotten caught with bombs in their homes.

Today's society has become dependent on the media. So what happens there must be fine to do in other places. The society today is more violent than it once was. "It makes me sad to see people with so much suppressed anger that they have to express it in violence."

Says Kassie Tucker who is a junior at RHS.

Riverheads Elementary School has made a day that they are calling "Violence Prevention Day." This day includes being polite to everyone around, not watching TV, and wearing a gold ribbon to symbolize the golden rule.

Christie Hostetter's fifth grade class came up with this idea and presented it to administrators at RES. They agreed that it would be very beneficial to the children's well being. The fifth grade class wrote a song about violence that is occurring in schools in Augusta County and especially for the school in Colorado. It is very inspiring. They have performed it for their school and some local

churches. They also have made some peace posters and put them up around their classrooms. The students have workbooks that are called "Peace Books." They work on an exercise from this book every day. It is a good idea to teach kids that violence is never good.

There is no solution to the violence in today's world. The only thing people can do is try to prevent it. An excellent way to start preventing violence is by teaching kids at an early age about violence. Having students be aware of the facts also can help. Trying to prevent any other terrible tragedy from happening is all anyone can ask for. —

Grab the binoculars and go cuckoo

By MARK GATEWOOD

For those of us who set our clocks by the activities of the natural world, June is a relief. All through April and May, we've been balancing the need to show up at work occasionally with the equally pressing need to attend personally the arrival of every new bird and bloom. In June, it's over and the comparatively lazy days of summer begin.

A bird whose voice truly announces the arrival of summer in our area is the yellow-billed cuckoo. You probably know it as the rain crow and have heard its strange "Kowp-kowp-kowp-kowp kowp...kowp...kowp" from the treetops. The call is said to announce coming rain. In reality, with the summer sun heating the ground and creating convection cell thunderstorms, the bird has a chance

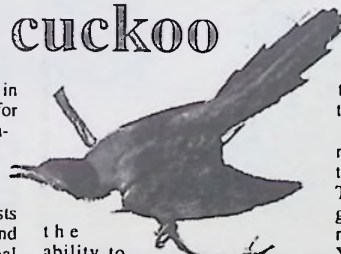
of being right on any given day. But it's a lovely piece of folklore.

Actually seeing the yellow-billed cuckoo can be quite a challenge, considering that the bird is nearly a foot in length from beak tip to tail tip. The bird tends to slink through the upper reaches of tall trees and slips easily from your view. When you do see one, words like slippery, slinky and sleek will come to mind, for the cuckoo is slender and drab in overall coloration. The bird often seems to be looking furtively over its shoulder, as if planning its escape from some unknown assailant. Indeed, the positioning of the yellow-billed cuckoo's eyes allows it to see nearly as well to the back as to the front.

Our cuckoo got its name from the similarity of its call to that of the European cuckoo, but, believe me, the resemblance stops there. The

European cuckoo is renowned in the literature of animal behavior for its practice of nest parasitism. Unlike your better class of birds which build nests, lay eggs and raise their young, the European cuckoo lays its eggs in the nests of other, often smaller, birds and leaves the duped parent to deal with the consequences.

The cuckoo egg even resembles that of the "host," in size and coloration, so there's no tip off that it doesn't belong there. One egg is laid per host nest, but that's all it takes. When the cuckoo hatching is 10 hours old, it becomes, shall we say, touchy, and begins ejecting everything else from the nest — eggs and fellow nestlings — until nothing remains but itself. The adoptive parent still doesn't get it. She's acting on instinct only, not



the ability to count, and she sees and reacts to one big baby bird with an open mouth to feed.

Our cuckoo is no relation to the European cuckoo; it is related to the roadrunner — the feathered one, not the cartoon — of the American Southwest. The yellow-billed cuckoo may occasionally lay eggs in the nest of another species, especially its cousin the black-billed cuckoo, but this may be a case of mistaken address, rather than a way of life. In fact, we

should celebrate the yellow-billed cuckoo for its dietary preference of caterpillars — and thereby hangs another foray into the bizarre.

The yellow-billed cuckoo's chief menu item is caterpillars, especially tent caterpillars and fall webworms. The bird's arrival and nesting in a given area is often timed to the annual eruption of the tent caterpillar. You probably know that these caterpillars are quite hairy. This deters many predators, but not the cuckoo. It can't digest the hairs, so it lets them accumulate in its stomach until the stomach lining sloughs them off like an avian hairball.

The yellow-billed cuckoo is a common nesting bird in Augusta County and can be heard anywhere there's good tree cover. So when the lazy — for some of us — days of summer come, get out your binoculars, crane your neck and try to spot this slinky, sneaky bird. —

New plant varieties make gardening maintenance free

"Maintenance free," are the words the clients used to describe the type of landscape they wanted. Immediately, plants such as juniper, dwarf yew and arborvitae popped into my head.

"We would also like a lot of color!!!!" they demanded. Again a list of plant materials scrolled in my mind: dwarf, blue spruce, gold mop cypress, crimson pygmy barberry. But then the coup de grace.

"We also love blooming plants!" they said. Now this could have provided a problem 10 years ago. The list of blooming, low maintenance colorful plants was a short one. Thanks to new plant breeding programs and availability of plant materials on a worldwide market, there is now a veritable plethora of items available.

Obviously the space you are working with will determine what plants you will need. A wildflower meadow in the back 40 would be a good way to treat a large area that you do not want to maintain on a weekly basis. This is seen all over the state of Virginia where VDOT has planted large plots of wildflowers to add color to otherwise drab interstate medians and right of ways.

The process of planting a wildflower plot will initially require killing the existing grass or foliage

with weed killer to expose bare ground then working up the soil to a depth of 8 inches to allow seed to root deeply. The good news is a wildflower plot can be planted in just about any site from shady and damp to sunny and dry. Obviously seed selection is very important for each different set of conditions. I would recommend contacting one of the numerous wildflower seed companies about your site. Each company has its own

W. Atlee Burpee Co.
300 Park Ave.
Warminster, PA 18974
Vermont Wildflower Farm
Rt. 7
Charlotte, VT 05445

What if your conditions are a little different? Maybe this planting will be in a small garden or even against the foundations of your home. As mentioned before there are hundreds of new plant selections for each need. Let's

in a well drained site. Boxwood *Insularis* (*buxus semp. Insularis*)

Don't jump to conclusions. This is truly a maintenance free dwarf boxwood. Maturing at 2 feet tall and 4 feet wide, it displays all the qualities of the beautiful English boxwood without the insect problems of American boxwood. Put the hedge trimmers away, this is a true dwarf.

Cold hardy Camellia (*camellia sasanqua X Camellia Hiemalis*)

Don't touch that dial! You read correctly. Yes, there is a cold hardy, outdoor growing strain of camellia that will grow in the Shenandoah Valley. A series of cold winters in the late 70s and early 80s devastated all of the almost 120 varieties of camellias in the National Arboretum in Washington D.C. Three plants survived and — you guessed it — the cold hardy camellias were

born. Varieties include winter storm, snow flurry and polar ice.

Hummingbird summersweet (*clethra alnifolia* "hummingbird") A flowering plant growing only 3 1/2 feet with lovely white flowers in the summer. It's aptly named because the flowers are wonderfully fragrant.

Stellar Dogwood (*Cornus rutgersis*)

Lawn & Landscape

By
Jeff Flint



As I'm sure a lot of you have read, the native white dogwood of Virginia is having serious disease problems. A new species developed at Cornell University may be the answer. *Cornus Florida* (white dogwood) was crossed with *cornus kousa* (Chinese dogwood) to create a tree that branches and flowers like native dogwood but with the disease resistance of Chinese dogwood. It's a real winner.

Virginia Sweetpire (*Itea Virginia* "Henry's Garnett")

Another mid-summer bloomer to 5 feet tall, this plant displays bright white, goose-neck shaped blooms. Fall turns the leaves as bright as any red maple tree. This plant works well with andromeda.

"Harbor DWF" Nandina (*nandina domestica* "Harbor DWF")

Picture your grandmother's red berrying upright nandina in a ground cover form and you will have "harbor dwarf." Growing to 2 feet tall and spreading to 5 feet wide, this makes a great sharp textured plant for full sun or part shade.

"Watanabei" Viburnum (*viburnum plic. v. tomt. watanabei*)

No, I cannot pronounce it correctly either, but talk about bloom! This variety blooms all summer long and when it's done blooming the foliage turns as red as any burning bush.

I hope these selections make their way into your garden. You will be pleased with the results. —

Lawn & Landscape checklist for June

June is here and what should you be doing in your garden? Here are a few tips:

- Remember to pinch back old blooms on annual flower plantings to renew flower production. Apply a slow release fertilizer.

- If your bulbs did not bloom properly they may be overcrowded. Dig them up when the foliage starts to wither and separate to 6 inches apart.

- Water fruiting plants, even established ones, during dry spells to insure full development of fruit.

- As the weather warms, roses will need frequent applications of orthene and

funginex to discourage problems.

- Add tropical color to the garden now because hot weather is on its way. Lisianthus, Mexican heath and mandevilla are a few good choices.

- Prune any spring flowering trees and shrubs (flowering cherry, forsythia, etc.)

- Post-emergent weed killers will now be effective on your lawn. Apply after a rain or early in the morning before the dew dries. —



special blend of plant seeds to carry bloom spring through fall. A couple of companies to contact would include:

Applewood Seed Co.
P.O. Box 10761
Edgemont Station
Golden, CO 80401

look at some exciting new introductions for small gardens:

Andromeda "Red mill" (*Pieris Japonica* "Red Mill")

This is a part shade/sun loving broadleaf evergreen with a cascade of beautiful blooms in the spring. Once the blooms have finished, the new foliage emerges a bright red color which contrasts sharply with the dark green mature foliage. Plant

•Results

Continued from page 13

LM 4-H; 6. R. Miller, RH FFA

CHAMPION

Carrie Heizer, Middlebrook 4-H

RESERVE CHAMPION

Chance Snyder, Middlebrook 4-H

DIVISION II

LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT:

1,081-1,150 pounds

Class 1 — 1. C. Brown, RH FFA; 2. Ca. Heizer, RH FFA; 3. K. Cromer, MDL 4-H; 4. Ka. Shomo, MDL 4-H; 5. T. Campbell, RH FFA; 6. F. Dull, RH FFA

Class 2 — 1. N. Buchanan, RH FFA; 2. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H; 3. L. Bean, WW 4-H; 4. W. Earhart, MDL 4-H; 5. B. Perkins, MDL 4-H; 6. Ben Napier, RLC 4-H

Class 3 — 1. A. Hemp, RH FFA; 2. Co. Heizer, BMM FFA; 3. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 4. D. Gayhart, BG FFA; 5. C. Cromer, MDL 4-H; 6. Kr. Shomo, MDL 4-H

Class 4 — 1. J. Crosby, MDL 4-H; 2. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 3. C. Butler, BMM FFA; 4. T. Michael, WW 4-H; 5. A. Hemp, RH FFA; 6. J. Heizer, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION

Carrie Brown, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Amanda Hempt, Riverheads FFA

DIVISION III

HEAVY MIDDLEWEIGHT:

1,151-1,230 pounds

Class 1 — 1. J. Hemp, RH FFA; 2. B. Shomo, RH FFA; 3. S. Williams, MDL 4-H; 4. M. Arcy, SH 4-H; 5. N. Buchanan, MDL 4-H; 6. H. Jones, BG FFA

Class 2 — 1. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 2. B. Snyder, MDL 4-H; 3. B. Perkins, MDL 4-H; 4. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 5. A. Michael, WW 4-H; 6. I. Swortzel, MDL 4-H

Class 3 — 1. J. Shomo, RH FFA; 2. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 4. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 5. C. Hughes, MDL 4-H; 6. A. Shifflett, WW Jr. 4-H

Class 4 — 1. S. Buchanan, RH FFA; 2. B. Skelton, FD FFA; 3. J. Lyle, BMM FFA; 4. L. Mish, MDL 4-H; 5. N. Hildebrand, BG FFA; 6. L. McCune, WM FFA

CHAMPION

Shelly Buchanan, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Justin Shomo, Riverheads FFA

DIVISION IV

HEAVYWEIGHT:

1,231-1,440 pounds

Class 1 — 1. B. Shomo, RH FFA; 2. R. Riley, BG FFA; 3. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 4. M. McCune, LM 4-H; 5. C. Irvine, RH FFA; 6. C. Mish, MDL 4-H

Class 2 — 1. J. Crosby, MDL 4-H; 2. W. Begoon, FD FFA; 3. J. Via, FD FFA; 4. L. Shaver, FD FFA; 5. J. Begoon, WW Sr. 4-H; 6. S. Talley, BG FFA

Class 3 — 1. K. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 2. K. Burford, MDL 4-H; 3. R. Riley, BG FFA; 4. A. Shifflett, WW Sr. 4-H; 5. Co. Lyle, BG FFA; 6. B. Phillips, FD FFA

Class 4 — 1. J. East, MDL 4-H; 2. M. Williams, MDL 4-H; 3. S. Talley, BG FFA; 4. I. Swortzel, MDL 4-H; 5. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 6. T. Lawson, BG FFA

CHAMPION

Bryan Shomo, Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Katie Leonard, Middlebrook 4-H

GRAND CHAMPION

Shelly Buchanan

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Justin Shomo

Junior Steer Showmanship

1. Garrett Johnston, MDL 4-H; 2. Katie Leonard, MDL 4-H; 3. Jeff Buchanan, MDL 4-H

Senior Steer Showmanship

1. Jonathan Coleman, MDL 4-H; 2. Cole Heizer, BMM FFA; 3. Jared Hemp, RH FFA —

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Bike trip closes out adventures for BMMS students

By NANCY SORRELLS

BRALEY'S POND — It was with a lot of excitement and a touch of sadness that Project Adventure, the seventh grade outdoor adventure club from Beverley Manor Middle School, set off on its final expedition of the year. The students have traveled by foot, bus and boat across the state of Virginia during their year of adventures. This time the adventure was by bicycle through the George Washington National Forest.

The students and chaperones,

under the direction of their science teacher Betty Gatewood, began the trip in the parking area of the popular fishing pond. Despite the fact that the trip was by bicycle, the first part was on foot as the group pushed bikes up the ridge path to the far end of the pond. After that, the kids got up in the saddle and pedaled off along a forest road that climbed "gently uphill" to a rest stop in a grassy field two miles later.

The group, which had stretched out along the trail according to skill level and speed, rallied at a bald on top of one of the gentle uphill stretches. There, guest mountain

biker extraordinaire, (also known as Mark Gatewood) used his Wife-the-Biology-Teacher to demonstrate proper mountain biking techniques.

Armed with this additional knowledge, the group pedaled forward again to its destination, three miles from the pond. There a sag wagon, complete with water, juice and high energy snacks was waiting for the adventurers. After a short scouting expedition and a group picture, the students headed back to Braley's Pond. Because the return three miles were "gently downhill," the trip quickly drew to an end.

Once the group reached the

pond, Mrs. Gatewood gathered the students for a year-end, wrap-up discussion. Although some of the nine dusty but grinning students threatened to fail the seventh grade in order to participate in Project Adventure for another season, they were "probably" just joking.

As a parting summation of the day's trip, each person was asked to sum up his or her feelings in one word. Fun, neat, exciting, tiring and exhausting were all quickly rattled

off. Mud referred to the multiple stream crossings, while exhilarating and fast brought to mind the bone-jarring downhill and gravel spin-outs. Challenging stirred up memories of the gentle uphills, while invigorating defined the whole day. One of the more brash young men thought simple defined the level of the ride. Finally one young adventurer thought for a moment and then said, "Awesome." It was a sentiment that everyone felt. —

Chemical People hosting grad party

GREENVILLE — Each year Riverheads holds an after graduation party for students. It is held at the Staunton YMCA. Since it is taking place here, there are plenty of games to play. There is racquetball, basketball, swimming, tennis, and wallyball.

Students or graduates can enter to win door prizes worth \$400. They can also get T-shirts, stadium cups, photograph memory books all designed by a

Riverheads student. There will be tons of great food as well.

The Chemical People sponsor this. They are taking donations from individuals, churches, Ruritan clubs, and businesses. These donations will help to provide activities planned for the students.

To make a donation, send to: Riverheads Chemical People, One Valley Bank, P.O. Box 100, Greenville, Va. 24440 or Becky Williams, Rt. 1 Box 536, Greenville, Va. 24440. —

•Champion

Continued from page 17

year's winner and rotates from year to year. The award will be retired if an individual exhibits the grand champion steer three times.

The show's George Beam Memorial Award was presented to Amanda Hemp of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. The award is given annually to the individual who amasses the most points in lamb showing. Amanda is the daughter of Katrina and Mike Hemp of Middlebrook.

The Virginia Dorset Association Awards were presented to Amanda and Jared for showing Dorsets as the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion market lambs, respectively.

U.S. Savings Bonds in the amount of \$100 each were presented to the event's showmanship champions. The awards are sponsored annually by *Augusta Country*.

Receiving bonds were Rosalea Riley, senior and Meagan Carpenter, junior, lamb showmanship; Neal Buchanan, senior hog showmanship; and Jonathan Coleman, senior steer showmanship. Garrett Johnston received a \$200 bond for winning both the junior hog and

junior steer showmanship awards.

Seven individuals received awards from the Augusta County Feeder Calf Association for beef performance. These awards are given to steer exhibitors and are based on the animal's average daily rate of gain (ADG).

Receiving a first place ribbon for beef performance was Troy Lawson of the Buffalo Gap FFA who exhibited a steer with an ADG of 4.22 pounds. Second place went to Matthew Hickey, also of the Buffalo Gap FFA, for his steer which gained 3.97 pounds per day. Third place for beef performance was presented to James East of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club for his steer which gained 3.83 pounds per day. There was a three-way tie for fourth place with steers which had ADGs of 3.80 pounds. These awards were presented to Colt Lyle of the Buffalo Gap FFA chapter, Isaac Swortzel of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club and Rosalea Riley of the Buffalo Gap FFA. Fifth place for beef performance was awarded to Mary Williams of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club for her steer which gained 3.78 pounds/day.

Awards for recordbooks included the following individuals.

Senior, blue awards: Bobby Perkins, Lindsey McCune, Frank Dull, Cole Heizer, Colt Lyle, Josh Smith and Shelly Buchanan, steers; Josh Smith, hog; and Austin Johnston and Mary Winegard, lambs.

Senior, red awards: Jimmy Crosby, Hock Jones, Christina Mish, Aaron Shifflett, and Scott Lam, steers; Ben Burton, Adam McCune, Tamara Rohrbaugh and Josh Smith, lambs; and Austin Johnston, hog.

Junior, blue awards: Garrett Johnston, Sarah Heizer, Mark McCune, Jacob Leonard, Katie Leonard, and Mary Williams, steers; Daniel Pitsenbarger, Robert Grogg, and Ashley Pitsenbarger, hogs; and Ashley Kyle, lamb.

Junior, red awards: Ashley Puffenbarger, Sarah Williams, Robert Grogg, Kaitlyn Ambler, Jessica Ramsey, and Meda Smith, lambs; Nick Collins, Ashley Kyle and Ashley Pitsenbarger, hogs; and Logan Bean, steer.

Premiums for class placings also were presented at the banquet. The show is sponsored annually by local Ruritan and Rotary clubs and the Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County Chambers of Commerce. —

•FHA

Continued from page 15

ter of 77 members, 17 more than the 1997-98 school year.

Chapter members were recognized for their achievements by Kathleen Buchanan and Roena Barbre, chapter advisers and RHS work and family studies instructors.

The chapter inducted three honorary members including William Bishop, RHS principal; Jennifer Groh, supervisor for vocational education for Augusta County Schools; and Edgar Buchanan, "master chicken barbecue supervisor" and husband of Mrs. Buchanan.

Appreciation awards were presented to Dottie Sue VanFossen and Cynthia Phillips, bus drivers; Georgia Meyerhoeffer, RHS cafeteria manager; and the Riverheads FFA chapter.

Other FHA members receiving recognition at the awards program including the following individuals.

Kathy Fornadel, Shelly Buchanan, Elizabeth Cash and Kelly Watts, attitude pins; Kelly Watts, Misty Reed, Jennifer Ishee, Shelly Buchanan, and Karol Buss, senior officers; Julianna Berry, Katey Handley, Rachel Bernier, Crystal Smith, Maggie Cobb, Stacey Bower and Jamie Daugherty, member of the month; Jessica Fortune, ninth grade recognition; Jennifer Stevens, 10th grade recognition; April Conner, 11th grade recognition; and Crystal Drumheller, 12th grade recognition.

Officers for 1999-2000 were installed during a candlelight ceremony. Jennifer Seaman will serve as chapter president for the upcoming school term. —

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, 1980 — A man from Falmouth,

Maine, was struck by lightning restoring his eyesight. The man had been blind and partially deaf since a truck accident in 1971.

June 6, 1816 — The temperature reached 92 degrees at Salem, Mass., during an early heat wave, but then plunged 49 degrees in 24 hours to commence the famous "year with-

out a summer."

June 13, 1984 — Severe

thunder-

storms

struck Denver,

Colo., deluging the

city with five inches of rain, and

leaving up to six feet of water in

some places. Softball size hail

smashed windshields and ripped

through metal cars. Snow plows

had to be called out.

June 23, 1902 — The tempera-

ture at Volcano Springs, Calif.,

soared to 129 degrees to set a

June record for the U.S.

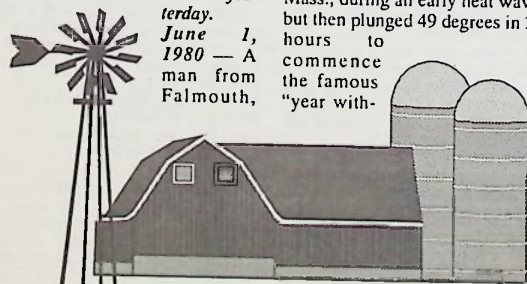
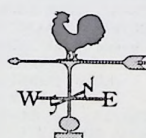
June 27, 1901 — There was a rain

of fish from the sky at Tiller's

Ferry. Hundreds of fish were

swimming between cotton rows

after a heavy shower. —



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

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