

\$2.00

"RELAX -- IT'S JUST GOOD NEWS."

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MIDDLEBROOK, VA  
PERMIT NO. 5



MAILED 5/30/02 FROM  
MIDDLEBROOK, VA

# Augusta Country

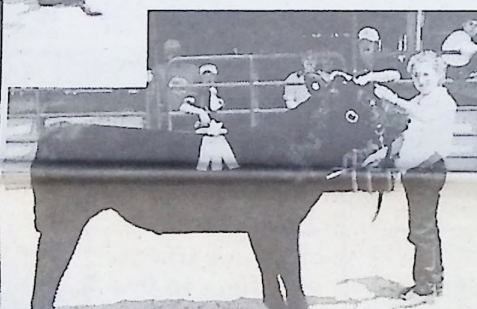
June 2002 Vol. 9, Issue 6

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

*Groups working to preserve historic buildings*  
Pages 10-11

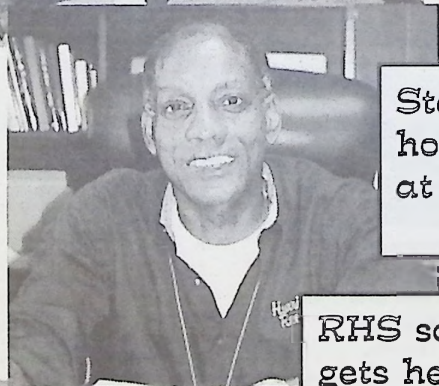
## 57th annual 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show

Stories and photos begin on page 3  
Showmanship winners, page 6  
Show results, page 5; Sale results, page 7



Staunton native returns  
home to head activities  
at Booker T. Center

Page 9



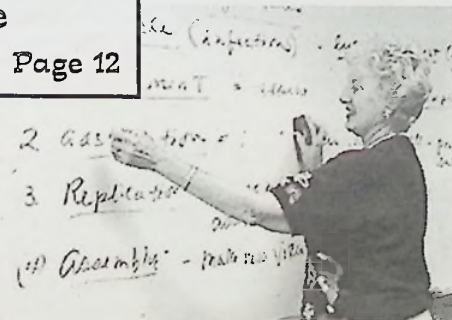
RHS science teacher  
gets her degree

Page 12



RES  
students  
salute  
patriotism

Page 13





# Middlebrook 4-H Club honors Colemans

## AC staff report

**BETHEL GREEN** — J.R. and Betty Coleman of Arbor Hill were honored recently by Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club members in recognition of the couple's "retirement" as club leaders.

Almost 200 club members, parents, and supporters packed the social hall at Bethel Presbyterian Church on May 19 for a surprise dinner held in honor of the Colemans.

The first meeting of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club was held in January 1995 with eight prospective members present and the Colemans signed on as leaders of the group. Within seven years the club's membership mushroomed to 121 junior and senior 4-H members.

The club is the county's largest community club and, quite possibly, the largest club of its kind in the state. The name of the club is a bit misleading. The club meets at the community center in Middlebrook, however members come from all over Augusta County to attend meetings.

The Colemans see themselves only as "figurehead" leaders of the



**Cole Helzer, president of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club, congratulates J.R. and Betty Coleman of Arbor Hill at a dinner held recently in their honor. The Colemans are retiring as club leaders.**

AC staff photo

club. They boast of a member-parent support network that represents the cream of the Augusta County crop. The Colemans credit the many parent and adult supporters of the club as being integral to its success.

While the Middlebrook club has benefited from the support of many

individuals, it was the Colemans who helped establish the club's original purpose. The couple steered the club's early course and have helped maintain its direction. The club has become popular because of its livestock focus. It helps to lay a strong foundation in live-

stock production for 4-H members who want to be active in the county's annual Market Animal Show as well as other livestock exhibitions throughout the state.


The club hosts clinics to help members across the county prepare livestock for exhibition. At each of its monthly meetings, a program about livestock production is presented to members. In a time when the internet and computer wizardry dominate popular culture, the Middlebrook club has maintained a focus on earthier matters. Its focus on raising marketable livestock is reflective of the county's strong ties to production agriculture. Oddly enough, few members of the Middlebrook club live on farms. A predominant number of club members choose to raise livestock as an extracurricular activity, managing somehow to wedge this interest

between participation in school-sponsored sports and clubs.

The idea of having a club with a focus on agriculture has been successful enough that a second livestock 4-H club has formed in Churchville.

Prior to the Coleman's organization of the club in 1995, Middlebrook had not had a 4-H club since 1970 when Greenville, Middlebrook and Spottswood elementary schools consolidated as Riverheads Elementary School.

The Colemans' son Jonathan graduates from high school this year and his involvement in club activities will no longer be centerstage. The couple have said they feel this is the time for them to turn leadership of the club over to other individuals. Although they will be stepping aside as club leaders, they say they will continue to support the club in a volunteer capacity. —



**Middlebrook Firemen's Carnival**  
**June 6-8**  
 Parade -- Friday, 7 p.m.  
 Barbecue beef dinner -- Friday night  
 Chicken barbecue dinner -- Saturday night  
 Rides • Games • Fun for the whole family

## Augusta Country

is published 11 times each year by  
**See-KWA! Publishing**  
 P.O. Box 51 Middlebrook, Va. 24459  
 Subscription rate: \$16 per year


Publisher & editor Associate publisher & editor Sales associate RHS News advisor RHS News editor	Betty Jo Hamilton Nancy Sorrells Leslie Scheffel Cherie Taylor Kim McCray
--	---

**Staff writers**

Jenifer Bradford Mollie Bryan Jean H. Brydger Marlene Condon Betty Gatewood Mark Gatewood Vera Hailey	Betty Jo Hamilton Roberta Hamlin Penny Plemmons Deborah Sensabaugh Sue Simmons Nancy Sorrells
---	--

Call 540/885-0266  
 for publication information.  
 Email: [goodnews@rica.net](mailto:goodnews@rica.net)

Copyright 2002©  
 No part of *Augusta Country* may be reproduced or reprinted without the express written consent of Major League Baseball.

**Please recycle** 

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
 McKinley  
 Lawn party and chicken barbecue  
**June 15**  
 4 p.m. until...

**Subscribers!!!**  
 Tell your friends they can find *Augusta Country* at one of the following retail outlets.

Waynesboro --  
 Kroger, U.S. 250W  
 Churchville Grocery  
 Staunton --  
 Kroger  
 Young Hardware  
 The Bookstack  
 Once Upon A Time  
 Driver Bros. Greenhouse  
 Colonial Staunton Mall --  
 Books-A-Million  
 Augusta Co-op --  
 Staunton  
 Craigsville --  
 Texaco, IGA  
 Rosen's Garage --  
 Middlebrook  
 Buffalo Gap --  
 Junction Convenience

**SUBSCRIBERS!!!** Check your mailing label. If the numbers 4/02 or 5/02 are printed above your name, your subscription is due for renewal.

*"Relax -- it's just good news."*

# Augusta Country

Time to renew!

**Don't delay! Renew today!**

It's as easy as  
 ① - ② - ③

to renew your subscription to *Augusta Country*!

① Check your mailing label for your subscriber number and expiration date.

Subscriber number	Expiration date
John Jones 467 Regent Way Staunton, Va. 24401	1435/4/02 C006

② Write your subscriber number on your \$16 check.  
 ③ Send your check to Augusta Country, P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459.

Filling out and enclosing the form printed below with your check will insure that you are credited for payment.

.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rt. or St. no. \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subscriber number \_\_\_\_\_

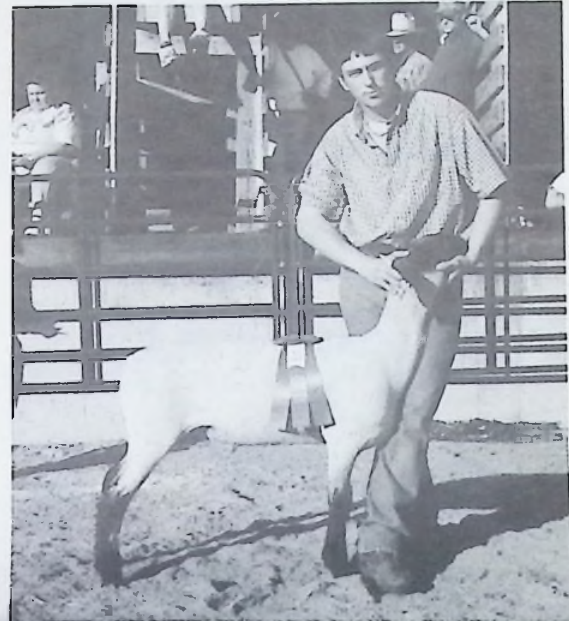




# 2002 Market Animal Show nearly perfect in every way



GRAND CHAMPION STEER shown by JONATHAN COLEMAN, RIVERHEADS FFA



GRAND CHAMPION LAMB shown by JONATHAN COLEMAN, RHS FFA & MIDDLEBROOK 4-H CLUB

## Hard work, sprinkle of charm proves right combination for Arbor Hill youth

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

STAUNTON — It might be said that the two days of the 57th annual 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show were charmed days for Jonathan Coleman. Had you been present, however, for the event's eight previous years, it might also be said the 2002 show was the culmination of nine years of hard work on Coleman's part. What it mostly boiled down to, though, were years of hard work dusted with a sprinkle of charm.

The Arbor Hill youth just about stole the show from his peers, collecting two grand champion rosettes, four champion rosettes and one senior showmanship crown. The show was held May 15 and 16 at Staunton Union Stockyard. Coleman raised the curtain on Wednesday's events by exhibiting the grand champion market lamb and brought the curtain down on Thursday's show by claiming honors for grand champion steer and being named the show's top senior steer showman.

In the grand championship drive for the market lamb crown, Coleman stood in line with two of his lambs which had won champion honors in two of the lamb show's four weight divisions.

"He doesn't even like sheep," Coleman's mother said, laughing as

she watched her son collect the grand champion rosette for his crossbred 125-pound wether lamb which he purchased from an Elkton sheep producer. Coleman's two champions won honors in the lamb show's Divisions III and IV weight categories.

In the next day's grand championship drive for the steer crown, again it was Coleman — winning with almost monotonous regularity — who exhibited champions in two of the steer show's five weight divisions. As judge Greg Upchurch evaluated the show's steer champions as a field of five in the final few suspense-filled moments, it appeared the toughest decision facing the judge would be which of Coleman's steers he would pick as grand champion.

But the path to the parade of champions is never that easy at the Market Animal Show. The fields of champions in the market lamb show, the market hog show and the market steer show proved to hold stiff competition for everyone involved. In fact, the caliber of competition was so great in the market hog show that Upchurch noted the hogs exhibited at the Augusta County event could be exhibited anywhere against any other show's best and still come out on top. Of the show's top 90 hog entries, all but 2 earned a yield grade of 1.

It was in the hog show when another dusting of charm settled on a "Cinderella" 255-pound porker. Novice showman Adam Marsh's market hog entry topped the field of hogs to win grand champion honors. Marsh, 9, is the son of Rob and Barbara Marsh of Middlebrook and is a member of the Middlebrook 4-H Livestock Club. His hog was purchased from a Pennsylvania swine producer. Marsh's hog was named champion of the show's Division IV hogs which weighed 255-270 pounds.

The reserve grand champion market hog was exhibited by Corey Stogdale. Stogdale's 250-pound hog claimed champion honors in Division III of the swine show among hogs which weighed 245-250 pounds. Stogdale, 11, is a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club and is the son of Richard and Lois Stogdale of Stuarts Draft. It was Stogdale's third year as an exhibitor. He exhibited the reserve grand champion market hog at the 2000 Market Animal Show which was his first year as a participant.

Coleman, 18, also a member of the Middlebrook club, is the son of J.R. and Betty Coleman of Arbor Hill. He is a senior at Riverheads High School and is a member of its FFA chapter.

Coleman credits his older brother Kevin Smith with sparking his interest in exhibiting livestock. Smith was completing his years in 4-H and FFA when Coleman began exhibiting as a junior 4-H member.

Although eligible to compete in the 2003 Market Animal Show, Coleman has said his post-high

school plans will likely dominate his time and will preclude his participation next year. Coleman plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College in the fall to pursue a degree as a registered nurse. He also hopes to run for a state FFA office at this summer's convention.

See *SHOW*, page 4



GRAND CHAMPION MARKET HOG shown by ADAM MARSH, MIDDLEBROOK 4-H CLUB





**GRAND CHAMPION FEEDER STEER shown by SAMANTHA TUENNERMANN, MIDDLEBROOK 4-H CLUB**



**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION LAMB shown by AMANDA HEMP, MIDDLEBROOK 4-H CLUB**



**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION STEER shown by LOGAN BEAN, STEWART FFA**



**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION FEEDER STEER shown by KELLEY TUENNERMANN, MIDDLEBROOK 4-H CLUB**

## •Show

*Continued from page 3*

Should the 2002 Market Animal Show prove to be Coleman's last outing in the event, he could hardly go out in grander style than to win two grand champion awards and the senior steer showmanship award.

Winning the senior showmanship award in what appears to be his last year competing represents a full circle for Coleman. In 1995, the novice year of his Market Animal Show career, Coleman collected the junior steer showmanship award. And while he may not have always exhibited animals which collected dark purple rosettes, Coleman has won his share of showmanship honors earning the top award four out of his nine years through the ring.

Logan Bean, 13, a student at Stewart Middle School, exhibited the reserve grand champion steer. Bean is the son of Wes and Carolyn Bean of Verona. His 1,230-pound angus steer was the show's Division III champion among steers ranging in weight from 1,230 pounds to 1,285 pounds. Bean's steer was purchased from Ivy Acres in Weyers Cave.

Coleman's 1,300-pound grand champion steer was champion in the show's Division IV steers which weighed 1,290 pounds to 1,350 pounds. The Maine-Angus cross steer was home-raised by Coleman who has used his Market Animal Show participation as a springboard to a successful small-scale beef cattle operation. His 2002 grand champion steer was the result of artificially breeding one of his purebred Angus cows to a Maine bull. Coleman demonstrated that not only does he know how to grow champion animals, but he also knows how to select them. His other steer, also a Maine-Angus cross and champion of Division II steers weighing 1,155-1,220 pounds, was purchased from a Greenville Angus producer.

Amanda Hemp of Middlebrook exhibited the reserve grand champion market lamb. She also exhibited the champion steer in the show's Division I of steers weigh-

ing 1,025-1,145 pounds. Hemp, a student at Radford University and the daughter of Michael and Katrina Hemp, also is no stranger to the winner's circle, having exhibited grand champion lambs in previous years. Her 120-pound Dorset ewe was purchased from Wade Brothers in Greenville. Hemp is a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. Coleman's grand champion lamb and Hemp's reserve grand champion lamb both emerged from the show's Division IV of lambs weighing 120-130 pounds.

If show organizers were striving for perfection in staging this year's exhibition, they could justifiably proclaim themselves successful. Weather for the event was just about picture perfect as well. Temperatures on Wednesday floated in the mid-70s. In the evening it dipped to the chilly upper 40s which proved just cool enough to keep the hogs happy and even-tempered. On Thursday, temperatures topped out in the mid-80s. Conditions both days were sunny and breezy with low humidity making



**J.R. Coleman, Market Animal Show chairman, congratulates Betty Barger to whom the 2002 show was dedicated.**

*Photos by Betty Jo Hamilton*

the event comfortable for livestock, exhibitors and spectators alike.

The 2002 show's 173 exhibitors presented 186 lambs in four weight divisions, 116 hogs in four weight divisions and 135 steers in five weight divisions. A new category to the show, feeder steers, featured nine entries in two classes. The event eclipsed the 2001 show as the largest ever. The 446 animals exhibited this year represented an increase of 23 head of livestock over the 423 exhibited in 2001.

The grand champion feeder steer was exhibited by Samantha Tuennermann. Her 685-pound Angus-cross steer was purchased from a West Virginia beef cattle producer. Samantha, 13, is a student at Bevelly Manor Middle School and is a member of the school's FFA chapter and the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. She is the daughter of Jeff and Stacia Tuennermann of Mint Spring.

The reserve grand champion feeder steer was exhibited by Kelley Tuennermann. Her 565-pound Angus steer was purchased from Commander Angus of Swoope. Kelley, 9, is a student at Riverheads Elementary School and is a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. She is the daughter of Steve and Karen Tuennermann of Greenville.

See **WINNERS**, page 5



**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION MARKET HOG shown by COREY STOGDALE, MIDDLEBROOK 4-H CLUB**



# Winners

Continued from page 4

Each year Market Animal Show organizers dedicate the show to an individual who has devoted years of service and support to the event's ongoing success. The 2002 edition of the Market Animal Show was dedicated to Betty Barger who retired from Extension Service in Augusta County in 1995. She began her Extension career in 1967 and was introduced to her work in Augusta County by then-agents E.B. Morse, R.L. Coffey, Frank Clements, and Dorothy Stansberry. Mrs. Barger continued in her 4-H position until 1994. Through the years as the county's 4-H agent, Mrs. Barger

helped advise many clubs and members who annually participated in the Market Animal Show. She helped organize the show's awards banquet each year until her retirement in 1995. A native of Madison County and a graduate of Radford College, Mrs. Barger continues to make her home in Staunton.

Upchurch, in his second year of judging the show, commended exhibitors, parents, club leaders, and community supporters for their efforts in mounting the exhibition. He said the two-day event is a credit to the county, its 4-H clubs and FFA chapters. He complimented exhibitors for their efforts with their livestock projects and commended leaders and parents for their support of

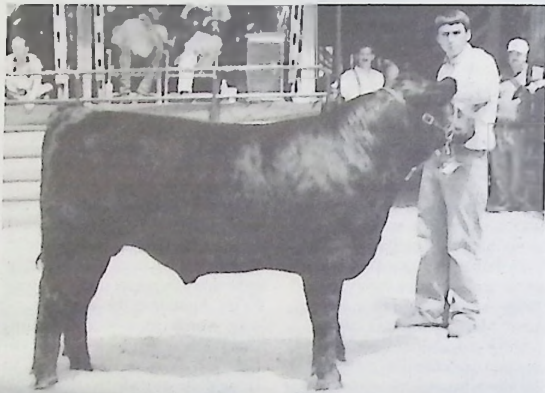
club and chapter members. He noted that the quality of the livestock exhibited and the behavior of the animals proved that exhibitors had devoted ample feed as well as quality time and effort to their projects.

Garrett Johnston exhibited the champion of the show's Division V steers weighing 1,355-1,550 pounds. Johnston is a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

Reserve champion of Division I steers was exhibited by Brandon Reeves of the North River 4-H Club. Division II reserve champion was exhibited by Cole Heizer of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club and Riverheads FFA. Katie Williams, a member of the Middlebrook club, exhibited the Division III reserve champion. Kaitlyn Shomo, also a member of the Middlebrook club, exhibited the reserve champion in Division IV. The Division V reserve champion was exhibited by Katie Leonard, also a member of the Middlebrook club.

In Division I lambs weighing 95-100 pounds, Rachel Boxley of the Middlebrook club exhibited the champion. Division II champion — lambs weighing 100-110 pounds — was exhibited by Alex Botkin of the Buffalo Gap FFA.

The Division I lamb reserve champion was exhibited by Sydney Smith of the Middlebrook club. Division II reserve champion was exhibited by Jimmy Crosby of the Buffalo Gap FFA and the Middlebrook 4-H club. Reserve champion of Division III — lambs — See LAMBS, page 8



SENIOR STEER SHOWMANSHIP  
JONATHAN COLEMAN



SENIOR LAMB SHOWMANSHIP  
AMANDA HEMP



SENIOR HOG SHOWMANSHIP  
JONATHAN RILEY

## 2002 Market Animal Show results

### MARKET HOGS

#### DIVISION I, 220-230 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. L. Talley; 2. M. Tuennermann; 3. S. Whelan; 4. M. Carpenter; 5. C. Fultz

Class 2 — 1. J. Lyle; 2. N. Collins; 3. J. Riley; 4. B. Reeves; 5. A. Fuller

Class 3 — 1. A. Hinton; 2. S. Willis; 3. S. Whelan; 4. R. Grogg; 5. J. Williams

CHAMPION

Jami Lyle, Buffalo Gap FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Angela Hinton, Middlebrook Livestock

4-H & Riverheads FFA

#### DIVISION II, 235-240 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. A. Marsh; 2. B. Derrow; 3. L. Reeves; 4. R. Pelly; 5. K. Cassidy

Class 2 — 1. J. Back; 2. J. Back; 3. L. Talley; 4. J. Rohrbaugh; 5. B. Truxell

Class 3 — 1. J. Back; 2. J. Crosby; 3. R. Pelly; 4. J. Begoon; 5. B. Burton

CHAMPION

Jacob Back, Churchville Livestock 4-H

RESERVE CHAMPION

Josh Back, Churchville Livestock 4-H

#### DIVISION III, 245-250 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. S. Tuennermann; 2. C. Lam; 3. J. Lyle; 4. A. Collins; 5. G. Guishall

Class 2 — 1. C. Stogdale; 2. S. Earhart; 3. C. Lam; 4. A. Simmons; 5. L. Humphries

Class 3 — 1. C. Stogdale; 2. S. Tuennermann; 3. S. Ruebush; 4. A. Simmons; 5. B. Napier

CHAMPION

Corey Stogdale, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

RESERVE CHAMPION

Corey Stogdale, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

#### DIVISION IV, 255-270 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. J. Back; 2. G. Johnston; 3. B. Cromer; 4. A. Hemp; 5. S. Earhart

Class 2 — 1. A. Marsh; 2. B. Derrow; 3. B. Cromer; 4. S. Willis; 5. L. Reeves

Class 3 — 1. M. Carpenter; 2. J. Crosby; 3. G. Johnston; 4. A. Hinton; 5. A. Painter

CHAMPION

Adam Marsh, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

RESERVE CHAMPION

Megan Carpenter, Middlebrook Livestock

4-H & Fort FFA

#### GRAND CHAMPION

Adam Marsh

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Corey Stogdale

#### HOG SHOWMANSHIP

##### SENIOR

1. Jonathan Riley, Buffalo Gap FFA

2. Angela Hinton, Middlebrook Livestock

4-H & Riverheads FFA

3. Jinny Crosby, Middlebrook Livestock

4-H & Buffalo Gap FFA

##### JUNIOR

1. Clay Earhart, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

2. Josh Back, Churchville Livestock 4-H

3. Brandon Reeves, North River 4-H

##### SENIOR NOVICE

1. Luke Talley, Fort FFA

2. Sarah Earhart, Middlebrook Livestock

4-H & Fort FFA

3. Megan Carpenter, Middlebrook Livestock

4-H & Fort FFA

##### JUNIOR NOVICE

1. Adam Marsh, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

2. Laura Kate Reeves, North River 4-H

3. Stephanie Willis, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

#### MARKET LAMBS

##### DIVISION I, 95-100 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. A. Botkin; 2. C. Earhart; 3. D. Mies; 4. G. Irvine; 5. A. Pegg-Joplin

Class 2 — 1. C. Pegg-Joplin; 2. J. Temple; 3. M. Smith; 4. G. Walky; 5. A. Shiflett

Class 3 — 1. R. Boxley; 2. M. Crosby; 3. K. Harvey; 4. B. Dunsmore; 5. D. Grimm

Class 4 — 1. S. Smith; 2. B. Napier; 3. N. Sprouse; 4. L. Proffitt; 5. A. Kyle

CHAMPION

Rachel Boxley, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

### RESERVE CHAMPION

Sydney Smith, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

#### DIVISION II, 100-110 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. A. Botkin; 2. A. Hinton; 3. J. Back; 4. S. Willis; 5. C. Earhart

Class 2 — 1. L. Van Lear; 2. I. Swortzel; 3. A. Pegg-Joplin; 4. H. Michael; 5. J. Riley

Class 3 — 1. J. Crosby; 2. N. Collins; 3. A. Balsey; 4. J. Botkin; 5. A. Collins

Class 4 — 1. J. Crosby; 2. A. Kyle; 3. A. Hinton; 4. L. Reeves; 5. A. Marsh

CHAMPION

Alex Botkin, Buffalo Gap FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Jimmy Crosby, Middlebrook Livestock

4-H & Buffalo Gap FFA

#### DIVISION III, 110-120 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. L. Van Lear; 2. N. Sprouse; 3. R. Swortzel; 4. K. Van Lear; 5. M. Slaven

Class 2 — 1. J. Coleman; 2. A. Balsey; 3. A. Hinton; 4. K. Marshall; 5. K. Grimm

Class 3 — 1. S. Tuennermann; 2. L. Reeves; 3. K. Tuennermann; 4. B. Reeves; 5. D. Mules

Class 4 — 1. J. Botkin; 2. R. Boxley; 3. L. Walky; 4. J. Wine; 5. M. Williams

CHAMPION

Jonathan Coleman, Middlebrook Livestock

4-H & Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Josh Botkin, Buffalo Gap FFA

#### DIVISION IV, 120-130 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. A. Hemp; 2. H. Reeves; 3. M. Carpenter; 4. M. Crosby; 5. R. Grogg

Class 2 — 1. L. Talley; 2. S. Tuennermann; 3. K. Van Lear; 4. A. Hemp; 5. M. Tuennermann

Class 3 — 1. J. Coleman; 2. K. Marshall; 3. M. Lawson; 4. K. Dunsmore; 5. A. Brown

Class 4 — 1. M. Tuennermann; 2. C. Stogdale; 3. B. Napier; 4. M. Carpenter; 5. H. East

CHAMPION

Jonathan Coleman, Middlebrook Livestock

4-H & Riverheads FFA

RESERVE CHAMPION

Amanda Hemp, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

GRAND CHAMPION

Jonathan Coleman

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Amanda Hemp

#### SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP

##### JUNIOR

1. Stephanie Willis, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

2. Katie Marshall, Willing Workers 4-H

3. Rachel Boxley, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

Honorable Mention — Kelley Tuennermann, Michael Tuennermann

##### SENIOR

1. Amanda Hemp, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

2. Megan Carpenter, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Fort FFA

3. Ashley Balsey, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

Honorable Mention — Jimmy Crosby

##### JUNIOR NOVICE

1. Laura Proffitt, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

2. Steven Whelan, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

3. Kyle Van Lear, Willing Workers 4-H

##### SENIOR NOVICE

1. Alex Botkin, Buffalo Gap FFA

2. Leah Walky, Middlebrook Livestock

4-H & Fort FFA

3. Krysta Harvey, Buffalo Gap FFA

#### MARKET STEERS

##### DIVISION I, 1,025-1,145 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. J. Leonard; 3. J. Shultz; 4. J. Ashby; 5. C. Bazzrea

Class 2 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. A. Hostetter; 3. S. Lam; 4. J. Crosby; 5. A. Keaton

Class 3 — 1. K. Redifer; 2. K. Mitchell; 3. S. Earhart; 4. C. Cromer; 5. G. Smith

Class 4 — 1. J. Buchanan; 2. C. Snyder; 3. L. Reeves; 4. S. Earhart; 5. C. Earhart

#### MARKET STEERS

##### DIVISION I, 1,025-1,145 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. J. Leonard; 3. J. Shultz; 4. J. Ashby; 5. C. Bazzrea

Class 2 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. A. Hostetter; 3. S. Lam; 4. J. Crosby; 5. A. Keaton

Class 3 — 1. K. Redifer; 2. K. Mitchell; 3. S. Earhart; 4. C. Cromer; 5. G. Smith

Class 4 — 1. J. Buchanan; 2. C. Snyder; 3. L. Reeves; 4. S. Earhart; 5. C. Earhart

#### MARKET STEERS

##### DIVISION I, 1,025-1,145 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. J. Leonard; 3. J. Shultz; 4. J. Ashby; 5. C. Bazzrea

Class 2 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. A. Hostetter; 3. S. Lam; 4. J. Crosby; 5. A. Keaton

Class 3 — 1. K. Redifer; 2. K. Mitchell; 3. S. Earhart; 4. C. Cromer; 5. G. Smith

Class 4 — 1. J. Buchanan; 2. C. Snyder; 3. L. Reeves; 4. S. Earhart; 5. C. Earhart

#### MARKET STEERS

##### DIVISION I, 1,025-1,145 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. J. Leonard; 3. J. Shultz; 4. J. Ashby; 5. C. Bazzrea

Class 2 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. A. Hostetter; 3. S. Lam; 4. J. Crosby; 5. A. Keaton

Class 3 — 1. K. Redifer; 2. K. Mitchell; 3. S. Earhart; 4. C. Cromer; 5. G. Smith

Class 4 — 1. J. Buchanan; 2. C. Snyder; 3. L. Reeves; 4. S. Earhart; 5. C. Earhart

#### MARKET STEERS

##### DIVISION I, 1,025-1,145 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. J. Leonard; 3. J. Shultz; 4. J. Ashby; 5. C. Bazzrea

Class 2 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. A. Hostetter; 3. S. Lam; 4. J. Crosby; 5. A. Keaton

Class 3 — 1. K. Redifer; 2. K. Mitchell; 3. S. Earhart; 4. C. Cromer; 5. G. Smith

Class 4 — 1. J. Buchanan; 2. C. Snyder; 3. L. Reeves; 4. S. Earhart; 5. C. Earhart

#### MARKET STEERS

##### DIVISION I, 1,025-1,145 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. J. Leonard; 3. J. Shultz; 4. J. Ashby; 5. C. Bazzrea

Class 2 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. A. Hostetter; 3. S. Lam; 4. J. Crosby; 5. A. Keaton

Class 3 — 1. K. Redifer; 2. K. Mitchell; 3. S. Earhart; 4. C. Cromer; 5. G. Smith

Class 4 — 1. J. Buchanan; 2. C. Snyder; 3. L. Reeves; 4. S. Earhart; 5. C. Earhart

#### MARKET STEERS

##### DIVISION I, 1,025-1,145 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. J. Leonard; 3. J. Shultz; 4. J. Ashby; 5. C. Bazzrea

Class 2 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. A. Hostetter; 3. S. Lam; 4. J. Crosby; 5. A. Keaton

Class 3 — 1. K. Redifer; 2. K. Mitchell; 3. S. Earhart; 4. C. Cromer; 5. G. Smith

Class 4 — 1. J. Buchanan; 2. C. Snyder; 3. L. Reeves; 4. S. Earhart; 5. C. Earhart

#### MARKET STEERS

##### DIVISION I, 1,025-1,145 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. J. Leonard; 3. J. Shultz; 4. J. Ashby; 5. C. Bazzrea

Class 2 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. A. Hostetter; 3. S. Lam; 4. J. Crosby; 5. A. Keaton

Class 3 — 1. K. Redifer; 2. K. Mitchell; 3. S. Earhart; 4. C. Cromer; 5. G. Smith

Class 4 — 1. J. Buchanan; 2. C. Snyder; 3. L. Reeves; 4. S. Earhart; 5. C. Earhart

#### MARKET STEERS

##### DIVISION I, 1,025-1,145 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. J. Leonard; 3. J. Shultz; 4. J. Ashby; 5. C. Bazzrea

Class 2 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. A. Hostetter; 3. S. Lam; 4. J. Crosby; 5. A. Keaton

Class 3 — 1. K. Redifer; 2. K. Mitchell; 3. S. Earhart; 4. C. Cromer; 5. G. Smith

Class 4 — 1. J. Buchanan; 2. C. Snyder; 3. L. Reeves; 4. S. Earhart; 5. C. Earhart

#### MARKET STEERS

##### DIVISION I, 1,025-1,145 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. J. Leonard; 3. J. Shultz; 4. J. Ashby; 5. C. Bazzrea

Class 2 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. A. Hostetter; 3. S. Lam; 4. J. Crosby; 5. A. Keaton

Class 3 — 1. K. Redifer; 2. K. Mitchell; 3. S. Earhart; 4. C. Cromer; 5. G. Smith

Class 4 — 1. J. Buchanan; 2. C. Snyder; 3. L. Reeves; 4. S. Earhart; 5. C. Earhart

#### MARKET STEERS

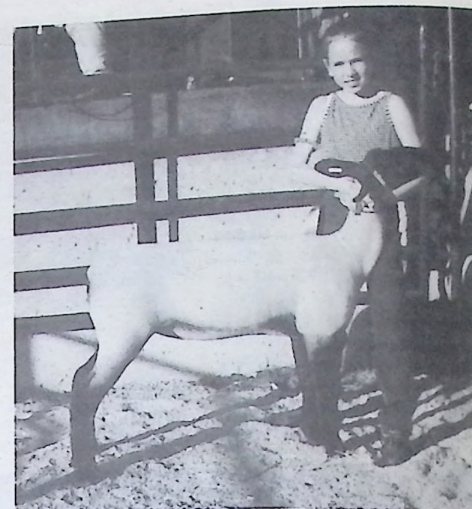




**JUNIOR STEER SHOWMANSHIP**  
KATIE LEONARD



**JUNIOR HOG SHOWMANSHIP**  
CLAY EARTHART



**JUNIOR LAMB SHOWMANSHIP**  
STEPHANIE WILLIS

## Twelve exhibitors win top showmanship awards

### AC staff report

STAUNTON — Twelve individuals were singled out at the 57th annual 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show to receive awards for outstanding showmanship with their livestock projects. Six junior and senior exhibitors and six novice exhibitors were selected to receive awards recognizing them for excellence in showmanship.

Each of the top six novice showmen will receive \$50 U.S. Savings

Bonds and each of the top six junior and senior showmen will receive \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds, plaques and ribbons for their efforts. The savings bonds are sponsored each year by *Augusta Country*.

"Showmanship is not about the animal the exhibitor takes in the ring. It's about what the exhibitor does with the animal before bringing it in the ring and what he or she does with the animal once it's in the ring," said *Augusta Country* publisher Betty Jo Hamilton.

"Showmanship is about poise, confidence, and maturity. Young people develop these characteristics in the show ring with their animals, but these characteristics are useful in everyday life as well. *Augusta Country* is pleased to recognize these individuals for their achievements in showmanship."

Senior showmen receiving \$100 bonds include Jonathan Coleman, Jonathan Riley and Amanda Hemp. Junior showmen receiving \$100 bonds include Katie Leonard, Clay

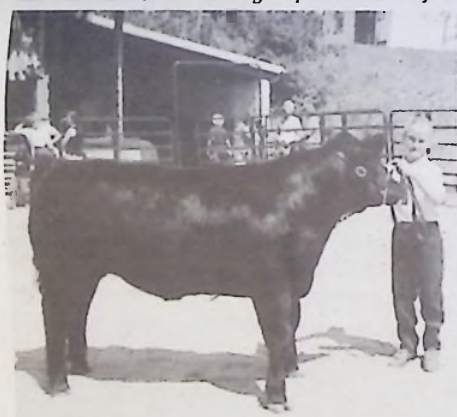
Earhart and Stephanie Willis. Senior novice showmen receiving \$50 bonds include Loretta Winegard, Luke Talley and Alex Botkin. Junior novice showmen receiving \$50 bonds include Laura Kate Reeves, Adam Marsh and Laura Proffitt.

Show judge Greg Upchurch had one primary criterion in evaluating the showmanship contestants. For Upchurch, the successful showman was the one "who gets 'em shown," he said. In the lamb show, he looked for "The Three Ms." In Upchurch's

vernacular that means "set 'em, brace 'em, hold 'em." He looked for individuals who brought their lambs in the ring and got them set up quickly and calmly then kept them that way for the duration of the judging.

In the steer competition, Upchurch looked for similar qualities. He expected exhibitors to bring their steers in the ring, know where they were supposed to go and get the animal set up quickly. He told exhibitors having their

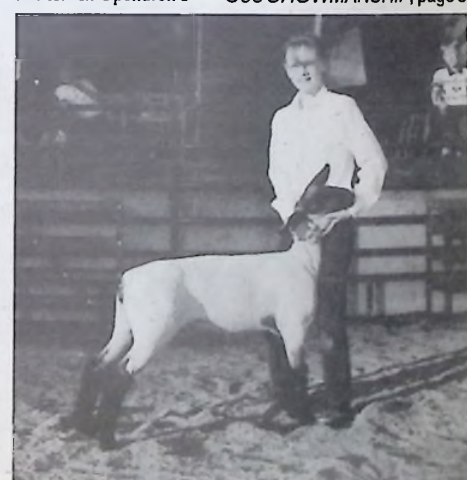
See **SHOWMANSHIP**, page 8



**JUNIOR NOVICE STEER SHOWMANSHIP**  
LAURA KATE REEVES



**JUNIOR NOVICE HOG SHOWMANSHIP**  
ADAM MARSH



**JUNIOR NOVICE LAMB SHOWMANSHIP**  
LAURA PROFFITT

### Evers Family Restaurant

Rt. 11 North, Mt. Crawford 433-0993

Serving lunch Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

2 entrees, hot vegetables, salad bar & dessert...\$5.99

Beverage included

Serving dinner Monday through Thursday, 4 - 8 p.m.

3 entrees, hot vegetables, salad bar & dessert...\$7.99

Beverage included

**Happy Father's Day!**

**Special Father's Day Buffet, Sun., June 16**

Hours: Mon.-Thur., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

## Planters Bank

YOUR FINANCIAL PARTNER FOR THE FUTURE.

MEMBER FDIC





### Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show Three-year price trend

	FLOOR PRICE			BUYER-SUPPORTED PRICE RANGE		
	2002	2001	2000	2002	2001	2000
Steers (choice)	65.75	72.35	67.00	80.00-90.00	90-1.02	82.50-97.50
Steers (select)	61.35	69.00	61.75			
Feeder calves				1.10-1.40		
Hogs	32.85	47.60	46.00	1.05-1.65	1.20-1.60	1.35-1.50
Lambs	81.00	1.05	1.06	2.30-2.70	2.90-3.70	2.25-3.00

## Market Animal Sale grosses \$204,000; \$72,000 over floor

### AC staff report

STAUNTON — Livestock sold through the 2002 Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale grossed \$204,000 with more than \$72,000 being in excess of the floor price. Gross receipts from 2001 were \$249,000 with \$89,000 of that being in excess of the floor price. A total of 446 head of livestock was sold at the 2002 sale compared to 423 at the 2001 sale.

If 4-H and FFA members learn nothing else from their Market Animal Projects, they learn very quickly that a fluctuating supply-demand market means to them in dollars they earn on livestock. For this reason the club and chapter members took 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 his or her animals by writing or visiting businesses to solicit support for the sale. Businesses support Augusta County youth by purchasing livestock at the 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

filled to overflowing for the May 16 sale of livestock by 4-H and FFA members.

Floor prices on livestock were off markedly from 2001 prices. Lambs dropped \$24/hundredweight, hogs dropped \$15/hundredweight, and steers were off \$7/hundredweight. Market prices for livestock have been erratic since the fall of 2001.

An overview of the 2002 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale and prices follows.

#### Grand Champion steer 1,300 pounds, graded choice Exhibited by Jonathan Coleman

Purchased by Blackwell Cattle Service, Windy Hill Farm, Smitten Farm, Mike Smith Racing, Camp Hollow Farm (Colby Irvine), David Snyder & Family, Stillwater Cattle Company, Shover Insurance, Olen Swisher, Fauber Freightways, Kevin Smith, and Merrifield Farm. The consortium of buyers paid \$2.15/pound or \$2,795/head for the grand champion steer.

#### Reserve Grand Champion steer 1,230 pounds, graded choice Exhibited by Logan Bean

Purchased by Elliott Chevrolet for \$1.20/pound or \$1,476/head

The 135 steers sold at the Market Animal Sale had an average weight of 1,247 pounds and brought from \$70 to \$150/hundredweight, with most ranging from \$80 to \$90/hundredweight. Fourteen steers sold in the 70 to 77.50 range and 11 steers sold in excess of \$1/pound. In 2001, steers brought from \$85 to \$135/hundredweight, with most ranging from \$90 to \$102/hundredweight. In 2000, prices ranged from \$72.50 to \$147/hundredweight, with most ranging from \$82.50 to \$97.50/hundredweight.

Floor price on 100 steers grading choice at the 2002 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale was bid \$65.75/hundredweight by Taylor Packing. Floor price for 15 prime steers was \$68.35 bid by Staunton Union Stock Yard and floor price for 20 select grade steers was \$61.35 bid by Craig Livestock. Floor price on choice steers in 2001 was \$72.35/hundredweight. Floor price in 2000 for choice steers was \$67/hundredweight.

Prices at the 2002 Market Animal Sale are reflective of nationwide markets. Slaughter steer prices climbed sharply to the low 70s in mid-winter before beginning to drop off slightly in the early spring. Lamb prices have recovered significantly from fall 2001 prices when slaughter lambs dipped below \$50/hundredweight. However, lamb prices continue to be down considerably from 2001 and 2000 spring prices. Market hogs prices continue to be poor, never really having recovered from a major downturn several years ago. Market prices for livestock have been unsteady since the fall of 2001 due to the global economic climate and fears linked to communicable diseases among livestock in foreign markets.

The floor price at the 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale reflects the value of slaughter animals sold through regular markets.

#### Grand Champion hog 255 pounds, yield grade 1 Exhibited by Adam Marsh

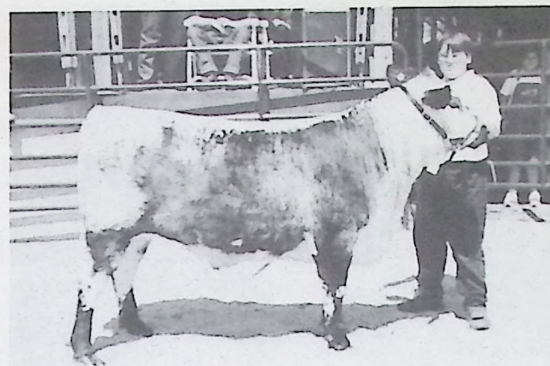
Purchased by Sinking Springs Farm for \$3.60/pound or \$918/head  
Reserve Grand Champion hog  
250 pounds, yield grade 1  
Exhibited by Corey Stogdale

Purchased by Valley Engineering for \$1.80/pound or \$450/head  
Market hogs sold individually numbered 90 with an average weight of 243 pounds. Prices ranged from \$70 to \$240/hundredweight with most falling in the \$105 to \$165/hundredweight range. In 2001, prices ranged from \$105 to \$295/hundredweight with most falling \$120 to \$160/hundredweight range.

Floor price bid on 116 hogs was \$32.85/hundredweight by Craig Livestock and Greencastle Livestock. In 2001, floor price on hogs was \$47.60/hundredweight. The 2000 floor price was \$46/hundredweight.

The U.S. slaughter hog market dipped to depression-era lows in 1999. It all but collapsed in December 1999 when slaughter hog prices dropped as low as \$8/hundredweight. The market has recovered some but has yet to reach 1997 levels when slaughter hogs were

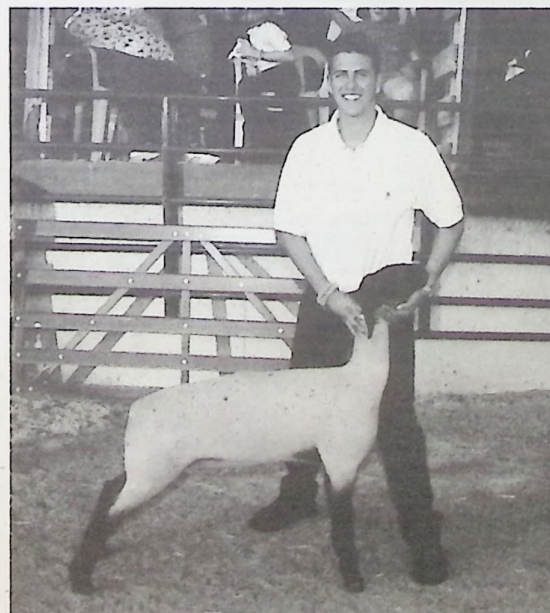
See SALE, page 8



SENIOR NOVICE STEER SHOWMANSHIP  
LORETTA WINEGARD



SENIOR NOVICE HOG SHOWMANSHIP  
LUKE TALLEY



SENIOR NOVICE LAMB SHOWMANSHIP  
ALEX BOTKIN

### Mint Spring Frame Shop

YES! We're back!  
In a new location...

1305 Barterbrook Road  
(next to Smiley Title)

You have treasures old and new. We are conservation framers and can help you preserve your treasures.

Please note our spring and summer hours:  
WED. & THUR., 10AM-5PM  
Appointments welcome  
other days

540/886-6144  
540/943-0871



## •Lambs

*Continued from page 5*  
weighing 110-120 pounds — was exhibited by Josh Botkin of the Buffalo Gap FFA.

In the market hog show, champion of Division I — hogs which weighed 220-230 pounds — was exhibited by Jami Lyle of the Buffalo Gap FFA. Angela Hinton of the Riverheads FFA and the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club exhibited the Division I reserve champion. Jacob Back and Josh Back, both of the Churchville Livestock 4-H Club, exhibited the champion and reserve champion, respectively, of Division II hogs weighing 235-245 pounds. Stogdale finished second to himself in Division III by exhibiting the division's reserve champion. Megan Carpenter, a member of the Fort Defiance FFA and the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club, exhibited the reserve champion of Division IV hogs.

Evaluating the final field of five market steers, show judge Upchurch enumerated the qualities of each. Hemp's Division I champion would "hang a nice, shapely carcass," Upchurch predicted. He called Coleman's Division II champion "uniform" and the "best handling steer" in the group. Bean's Division III champion, Upchurch said, was "just a little past his prime" but had a "massive rib." Coleman's Division IV champion was "flashy" and "upheaded," according to the judge who said the

animal was "powerfully made." Johnston's 1,355-pound heavy-weight champion was a "tremendously long-bodied, nice profiling steer," Upchurch said, but he noted he would like to "moderate him a little."

In the lamb show, Upchurch noted the field of lambs presented was "deeper" than the field presented in 2001.

"We've had some really good sheep throughout the show," he said. "I've seen a tremendous amount of depth and quality. There have been some really competitive classes and the exhibitors have done a super nice job with these lambs."

Boxley's Division I champion lamb still had some room to grow, according to Upchurch.

"It needs a little more time to grow," he said. "I'd just like to see a little more sheep there."

Botkin's Division II champion had "tremendous muscle," Upchurch said, calling the lamb "really stretchy" and "showy." Coleman's Division III champion was "balanced," the judge said. "He's got a bunch of muscle in him and will have nice cutability."

The Division IV champion, also exhibited by Coleman, was the show's "most powerfully muscled" lamb, Upchurch said. Hemp's Division IV reserve champion had a "big, big massive leg," the judge said, and was "deep chested."

Evaluating the hog show entries proved to be a delight for

See HOGS, page 11

## •Results

*Continued from page 5*

### CHAMPION

Amunda Hemp, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

### RESERVE CHAMPION

Brandon Reeves, North River 4-H

### DIVISION I, 1,155-1,220 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Sarah Heizer; 2. S. Vess; 3. J. Lyle; 4. B. Breeding; 5. B. Heizer

Class 2 — 1. J. Williams; 2. G. Irvine; 3. B. Williams; 4. M. Shafer; 5. L. Winegard

Class 3 — 1. J. Coleman; 2. C. Heizer; 3. A. Hinson; 4. L. Reeves; 5. J. Smith

Class 4 — 1. M. Miller; 2. W. Earhart; 3. K. Williams; 4. J. Smith; 5. J. Truxell

### CHAMPION

Jonathan Coleman, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

### RESERVE CHAMPION

Cole Heizer, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

### DIVISION III, 1,230-1,285 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. L. Bean; 2. K. Williams; 3. K. Shomo; 4. M. Williams; 5. M. Garland

Class 2 — 1. A. Hemp; 2. J. Buchanan; 3. L. Grimm; 4. C. Heizer; 5. D. Fifer

Class 3 — 1. J. Leonard; 2. L. Talley; 3. C. Bazzrea; 4. R. Swartzel; 5. S. Swartzel

Class 4 — 1. G. Johnston; 2. W. Earhart; 3. C. Snyder; 4. S. Williams; 5. A. Hinson

### CHAMPION

Logan Bean, Stewart FFA

### RESERVE CHAMPION

Katie Williams, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

### DIVISION IV, 1,290-1,350 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. Jonathan Riley; 2. L. Bean; 3. B. Derrero; 4. J. Crosby; 5. J. Rawley

Class 2 — 1. J. Coleman; 2. K. Shomo; 3. M. Williams; 4. M. Tuennermann; 5. K. Burford

Class 3 — 1. B. Reeves; 2. W. Patterson; 3. J. Riley; 4. B. Napier; 5. A. Puffenbarger

Class 4 — 1. A. Puffenbarger; 2. W. Earhart; 3. E. Fifer; 4. C. Lotts; 5. W. Patterson

### CHAMPION

Jonathan Coleman, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

### RESERVE CHAMPION

Kaitlyn Shomo, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

### DIVISION V, 1,355-1,550 lbs.

Class 1 — 1. G. Johnston; 2. K. Leonard; 3. L. Swisher; 4. W. Ruleman; 5. J. Rawley

Class 2 — 1. R. Swartzel; 2. T. Leach; 3. E. Fifer; 4. J. Christian; 5. B. Heizer

Class 3 — 1. B. Williams; 2. J. Christian; 3. L. Mishi; 4. C. Lotts; 5. C. Mishi

### CHAMPION

Garrett Johnston, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

### RESERVE CHAMPION

Katie Leonard, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

### GRAND CHAMPION

Jonathan Coleman

### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Logan Bean

### STEER SHOWMANSHIP

#### SENIOR

1. Jonathan Coleman, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

2. Will Earhart, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Fort FFA

3. Cole Heizer, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

#### JUNIOR

1. Katie Leonard, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

2. Andrew Heizer, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

3. Samantha Tuennermann, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

#### SENIOR NOVICE

1. Loretta Winegard, Springhill 4-H

2. Renee Pelly, Buffalo Gap FFA

3. Luke Talley, Fort FFA

#### JUNIOR NOVICE

1. Laura Kate Reeves, North River 4-H

2. Jim Williams, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H & Riverheads FFA

#### FEEDER CALVES

Class 1 — 1. K. Tuennermann; 2. B. Snyder; 3. C. Stogdale; 4. K. Leonard; 5. J. Heizer

Class 2 — 1. Samantha Tuennermann; 2. C. Stogdale; 3. J. Williams; 4. R. Cox

#### GRAND CHAMPION

Samantha Tuennermann, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

#### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Kelley Tuennermann, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

#### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Kelley Tuennermann, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

#### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Kelley Tuennermann, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H

## •Showmanship

*Continued from page 6*

steers stand calmly for prolonged periods in the show ring is a matter of working with the animals for hours if necessary, teaching the animal to stand and remain set for the judge's evaluation. When steers were moved, Upchurch expected exhibitors to re-set their animals quickly and then stand quietly while being judged.

Showmanship for hog exhibitors was a bit different than that for lambs and steers. Hogs are not led with halters or directed by hand. Because they are "loose," exhibitors must employ other tactics to show hogs properly. Upchurch expected exhibitors to maintain control of their animals. They needed to keep the animals moving calmly and at a proper distance from the judge. It was the exhibitor's job to keep the hog moving in the judge's view and not get blocked by other animals. All this was to be done with a minimal amount of stress to the hog.

In the lamb showmanship competition, nine-year show veteran Hemp was selected the top senior showman. She is a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club and is the daughter of Michael and Katrina Hemp of Middlebrook. Placing second was Megan Carpenter of the Fort Defiance FFA and the third place award went to Ashley Balsley of the Middlebrook club. Jimmy Crosby of the Buffalo Gap FFA earned honorable mention recognition.

In junior lamb showmanship, 11-year-old Willis claimed the top award. She is a member of the Middlebrook club and is the stepdaughter and daughter of Mike and Mandy Carpenter of Mt. Solon. Katie Marshall, a member of the Willing Workers 4-H Club, placed second and Rachel Boxley, of the Middlebrook club, placed third. Kelley Tuennermann and Michael

Tuennermann, both of the Middlebrook club, earned honorable mention designations.

The top junior novice lamb showman was Proffitt. She is the 11-year-old daughter of Douglas and Cynthia Proffitt of Greenville and is a member of the Middlebrook club. Second place junior novice was Steven Whelan of the Middlebrook club and third place was Kyle Van Lear of the Willing Workers 4-H Club.

The top senior novice lamb showman was 17-year-old Botkin who is the son of Bruce and Sharon Botkin of Churchville. He is a member of the Buffalo Gap FFA. Second place was Leah Waliky of the Fort Defiance FFA and third place was Krysta Harvey of the Buffalo Gap FFA.

Riley, 16, was named the top senior hog showman. He is a member of the Buffalo Gap FFA and is the son of Doug and Donna Riley of Hebron. He has been exhibiting at the show for seven years. Angela Hinton of the Riverheads FFA collected the second place senior hog showman award and Crosby placed third.

Fourth year showman Earhart, 12, was the top junior hog showman. He is a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club and is the son of Eric and Debbie Earhart of Greenville. Josh Back of the Churchville Livestock 4-H Club and Brandon Reeves of the North River 4-H Club placed second and third respectively, in junior hog showmanship.

Three Fort Defiance FFA members dominated the senior novice hog showmanship contest. Talley, 17, was the top senior novice hog showman. He is the son of Tim and Renee Talley of Staunton. Sarah Earhart placed second and Carpenter placed third.

Marsh, 9, was selected the top

junior novice hog showman. He is the son of Rob and Barbara Marsh of Middlebrook and is a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. North River 4-H Club member Reeves placed second and Willis placed third.

In the steer contest, Coleman was the top senior showman. He is a member of the Riverheads FFA and is the son of J.R. and Betty Coleman of Arbor Hill. Will Earhart of the Stewart FFA placed second and Cole Heizer of the Riverheads FFA placed third.

The top junior steer showman was 11-year-old Leonard. She is a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club and is the daughter of Sam and Luann Leonard of Middlebrook. Andrew Heizer and Samantha Tuennermann, both of the Middlebrook club, placed second and third, respectively.

The top senior novice steer showman was 15-year-old Wingard. She is a member of the Springhill 4-H Club and is the daughter of Beverly and Ida Wingard of Verona. Renee Pelly of the Buffalo Gap FFA placed second and Talley placed third.

The top junior novice steer showman was 10-year-old Reeves. She is a member of the North River 4-H Club and is the daughter of Robbie and Lisa Reeves of Parnassus. Placing second was Jim Williams of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. Reeves and Williams were the only junior novice showman called back to compete for the showmanship awards in their age bracket.

In addition to Augusta Country's sponsorship of the savings bonds, ribbons, plaques, and cash showmanship awards are sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. B.H. Wade of Greenville, the Spottswood-Raphine Ruritans, Animal Hospital of Stuarts Draft, Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club, Sugarloaf Farm, Farm Choice, Inc. and Commonwealth Veterinary Clinic. —

## •Sale

*Continued from page 7*

bringing \$55.25/hundredweight.

### Grand Champion feeder steer

685 pounds, Large I

Exhibited by Samantha Tuennermann

Purchased by AAM Trucking for \$2.30/pound or \$1,575.50/head

### Reserve Grand Champion feeder steer

565 pounds, Medium I

Exhibited by Kelley Tuennermann

Purchased by Laurel Ridge Farm

for \$1.30/pound or \$734.50/head

A floor price for feeder steers at the Market Animal Sale was not established. Market prices on feeder cattle have been strong and steady through the spring. A long dry spell which began in the fall and extended through the winter broke with early spring rains beginning in March. Precipitation promoted pasture growth and brought confidence to feeder cattle prices. The market for five-weight calves in the spring remained

strong in the \$90 to \$100/hundredweight for good feeders. Prices on feeder steers at the Market Animal Sale ran about \$25/hundredweight ahead of the market price.

Prices on feeder steers at the

See MARKET, page 11

Laurel Evergreens Maples Shade Trees Hostas Hollies Mulch Compost Magnolia Azaleas

**Messer Landscape, Inc. & Nursery**

**FREE** Daylily with a purchase of \$25 or more and this coupon\*

\*Expires 6/31/02

540 New Hope Road, Staunton 540/886-5408

HOURS: Mon.-Fri., 8-5; Sat., 9-2

Come visit our NEW AND IMPROVED Garden Center and take advantage of the best customer service in town!

Annuals Shade Trees Mulch Grapes Potentials Daylilies Hostas Hollies Azaleas

**D**

**Dixie Gas & Oil Corporation**

•Propane •Fuel Oil  
•Full line of propane heating equipment and appliances  
540/248-6273  
1-800-40-DIXIE



# Staunton man returns home to steer Booker T. Center

By VERA HAILEY

STAUNTON — Big things are happening at the former Booker T. Washington High School. Located at 1114 West Johnson Street, the school, which served African American students prior to integration fell into disrepair after closing in 1966. For many years it served as the location of the Staunton Police Department. After the police department moved to a new city hall downtown, the Booker T. complex was targeted by Staunton City Council as having historic value and multi-use potential.

A driving force behind the revitalization of the school as the Booker T. Washington Community Center is Staunton native Larry Vickers who moved back home two years ago. He was on his way to Las Vegas to open a production company when he heard the news of his mother's death. Upon returning to his hometown, he decided to stay to be near his father. Vickers was a member of the last graduating class at Booker T. He left the area and had a successful career as a director, choreographer and performer. He lived in Paris for 20 years and worked with many stars, including nine years with actress Shirley McLaine. The walls in his office are lined with Broadway show and movie posters and other reminders of his past work.

Vickers has a personal interest in bringing the building back to life. He reminisced about his high school days and the important role



LARRY VICKERS

Booker T. played in the Johnson Street community and beyond. "The school opened in 1937 and was the only black high school with students coming from Augusta County and Waynesboro. This place was a haven in segregation. We weren't allowed to go anywhere. The only places we had were Booker T., Montgomery Hall Park and church," Vickers explained. "I couldn't wait to go here. We had the Golden Eagles basketball team that we looked up to and this was a pillar of the community.

Many people were educated here who went on to do great things."

The Staunton Department of Parks and Recreation hired Vickers as facility coordinator for special events. His energy and enthusiasm have been contagious and the area has been receptive to his ideas. "I found a demographic for it. I want this to be a place to enrich young people spiritually, physically and emotionally," he said.

The former school has given local musical groups a place to practice. It also hosts the popular "Apollo Night" talent contest and the non-competitive "Catch a Rising Star." Vickers has planned dance classes in ballet, jazz and hip-hop; creative writing and computer classes; cabaret performances; musical workshops and arts and cultural events. A non-traditional version of the musical "The Wiz" is also in the works.

The Booker T. Washington Community Center Foundation was formed earlier this year with a two-fold mission: to provide input and direction to city staff and council regarding program development and building restoration and to solicit community support. The foundation is developing a fund-raising plan to meet programming needs.

A historic designation committee is working to gain site recognition and encourage preservation of



Booker T. Washington Community Center is located on West Johnson Street in Staunton.

Photos by Vera Hailey

the building as a historic landmark. Through research, investigation and documentation of the school's history, the committee intends to obtain information to meet the criteria for the site to be named a landmark by the State of Virginia Department of Historic Resources and Landmark Registry.

The center has a conference room, multi-media center, kitchen, gym and auditorium. Space is available for community use by appointment. It has been used for family reunions, seminars, training classes, special musical events and organizational meetings.

The Parent Resource Center has workshops and classes scheduled for the summer. They will also open by appointment for parents or daycare centers that wish to have a story hour or check out materials. A van will go out into

the community for special summer activities, including puppet theatre and book presentations.

A homework program is an after school childcare center in the process of being licensed. Staunton City Schools provide transportation to the center. Meals are provided Monday - Thursday. The free program (based on financial or academic need) is limited to 40 children.

The Friends and Supporters of Booker T. meet the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. An open gym for children is held on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. New activities continue to be scheduled.

From swing dancing to concerts to educational programs for children, the happenings at BTWCC serve the diverse interests of the local population. For information contact Vickers at 540/332-3991. —

## Kegleys hold record for long run at farmers' market

By SUE SIMMONS

"I've been pulling weeds for 75 years," John Kegley says laughing and ignoring his wife's cluck of disbelief.

Both admit that gardens have been part of their landscape for as long as they can remember and the fact remains they are gardeners without equal. It is even safe to say that the Kegleys are legends in their own time.

They have not missed one Saturday at the Staunton-Augusta Farmers' Market since its opening day 10 years ago.

John, born and raised in Verona, and Ruth, a native of Weyers Cave,

spent years dairy farming in Mt. Sidney before a move to Dinwiddie County and a move back to Augusta to the Fort Defiance area. When they returned to the Fort Defiance area of Augusta County, they kept their finger in dairy farming and, of course, dutifully put out a garden every year.

"Gardening has always been a hobby," John adds. Although the two reluctantly admit that the garden has grown both in size and number in recent years.

"It beats mowing grass," John offers stoically. Ruth adds that she always felt that it was good for her grandchildren to see vegetables grow.

The Kegleys have three gardens now — one near the house, one near the barn and one on the hill "for the deer." They raise tomatoes, corn, beans, peas, onions — and eggs. "That's our specialty," Ruth explains.

With the help of their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren they begin picking around 2 in the afternoon on Thursday and spend all Friday doing the same — usually until dark. Saturday morning sees them up before the sun, loading the



John and Ruth Kegley in their familiar spot at the Staunton-Augusta Farmers' Market.

Photo by Sue Simmons

vegetables, canned goods, tables, boards, and scales before heading to Staunton. Ruth also spends a great deal of time pickling eggs, putting up hot pepper relish (and it is really hot!) and making jelly during the week.

The two got involved in truck farming when a restaurateur on Coalter Street tried to establish a small "curb" market in order to attract folks to her eating establishment.

Although the Kegleys had never been active in the historic Curb Market, they enjoyed their experience on

Coalter Street and jumped at the chance to become involved in the farmers' market at the Wharf parking lot.

"The Farmer's Market is better organized and gets better publicity," Ruth says. "It draws a much bigger crowd." Ruth enjoys meeting so many people, although she readily admits she still doesn't know everyone's name.

Now that you know hers, there's no reason not to stop by for a chat and pick up some produce and eggs. All you need do is ask where the Kegley's are. Everybody knows them. —

Serving  
our  
Augusta  
County  
Communities  
since  
1928

COMMUNITY  
BANK

Our name really does say it all.

FDIC Member





# Yesterday once more



## Group working to save historic properties in Verona

By VERA HAILEY

The fate of two historic properties in Verona continues to hang in the balance. A local organization hopes to save the Gochenour/Yount house and Mount Airy. Both brick houses are located within Augusta County's Mill Place Commerce Park, a 400-acre industrial park in Verona.

The Shenandoah Valley Rural Heritage Foundation, Inc. (SVRHF) is a non-profit organization formed to promote the preservation of historic and culturally significant properties. It is the only area organization that is actively involved in hands-on conservancy of rural real estate. The SVRHF hopes to heighten awareness of the potential for salvaging older buildings for new uses instead of destroying them - meeting modern needs by converting real estate in a way that respects the architectural heritage.

A current undertaking is the preservation planning for the Gochenour/Yount house, which dates to the early 1800s. The second house, Mount Airy, dates from

the 1830s and was home to Anna Mary Robertson Moses, who became famous as artist Grandma Moses. Augusta County Supervisor Kay Frye spearheaded an effort to save the houses when their destruction was proposed, initially raising over \$4,000 in private donations to stabilize them. A final decision on the fate of the houses is in the hands of county officials. The following plans are part of a proposal for uses by the SVRHF.

Plans for the Gochenour/Yount house, also called "The Grange," were developed through cooperation with the Central Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association. These include a combination of preservation education with a historical horticultural preservation perspective. Along with the restoration of the house, the dependencies known to exist on the property could be recreated and used as a horticultural education center. Period gardens with heirloom flowers, vegetables, roses and fruit trees would be established. Education programs could include composting, sustainable landscaping, water quality, wetland man-

agement and environmental stewardship.

Mount Airy, which was purchased with 180 acres of land by Thomas and Anna Moses in 1901 for \$6,000, could be restored and used as a meeting location for local businesses. Though not a museum, it would serve as a memorial to the artist.

The area connecting the houses is envisioned as a green space or natural area for wildlife, with walking and bicycle trails.

The effort to save the houses in Verona is just one project of the SVRHF. "Even if that is not approved, the organization will still go forward," according to member Tesi Lamb. "The more publicity we can get, hopefully the more people we can get to support us. We feel that preservation of our historic and agricultural properties is essential... as someone said to me, 'Once it's gone, it's gone.'"

At this point, all plans for the Gochenour/Yount and Moses houses are speculative. SVRHF hopes to present a proposal concerning the two properties at a future meeting of the Augusta

County Board of Supervisors.

A main focal point of the SVRHF is the education of homeowners and building professionals in the restoration process through classes and workshops using acquired properties. The Valley Vocational Technical Center will be able to use SVRHF buildings to introduce their masonry and carpentry students to restoration as opposed to only teaching new construction techniques.

Eventually, a self-sustaining capital fund will be established to allow SVRHF to buy jeopardized properties and restore or safeguard them until buyers can be found who are interested in historic preservation or appropriate re-use.

SVRHF needs volunteers for office work, membership mailings, fundraising, hands-on restoration, gardening, maintenance, research of properties, public speaking, and presenting educational programs. Monthly meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Valley Vocational Technical Center in Fishersville. For information, contact Lamb at 540/885-6996 or Sam Saufley at 540/245-5002. —



In this 1997 file photo, Fort Defiance history students study the rafters in the attic of the Gochenour-Yount house in Verona. A local organization wants to preserve the house in part to help educate the public about saving historic buildings.

## Unplanned stopover brought later-life artist to Augusta County

By VERA HAILEY

Anna Mary Robertson Moses, who would later be known to the world as artist Grandma Moses, spent 18 years as a farmwife in Augusta County. An impromptu stopover caused Anna and her husband Thomas to settle in Virginia immediately following their 1887 marriage. Having been told that the South was a land of opportunity, the couple boarded a train in their native New York, bound for North Carolina. When they stopped overnight in Staunton, they fell in love with the beautiful Shenandoah Valley and were persuaded to stay as tenant farmers.

According to local Moses researcher Roy Rotenberry: "The train station was right in the city in an area they called the Wharf and not far from the Virginia Hotel... The train conductor told Tom they could get a room for the weekend and be back

at the station on Monday afternoon. When Anna saw the faded brick walls, rusty tin roof, chickens scratching and pigs running loose in the front yard, she was ready to head back to the train station."

Instead of staying at the hotel, the couple rented a room from the widow Bell on Coalter Street. "Mrs. Bell came to the door and invited them in and welcomed them like long-lost relatives," Rotenberry said. "Anna felt a little better about the decision to stay over in this small city so far from her beloved mountains of upstate New York."

Mrs. Bell's cousin joined them for a meal and was impressed with Tom and Anna. He convinced them to stay in Virginia and run a farm at Swoope. The newlyweds, taken with the beautiful scenery, accepted the offer to rent the farm for one year and ended up staying in the area until 1905.

They rented several farms and bought two, Mount Airy in Verona and Mount Nebo near Staunton.

Anna would later write, "So within 30 days from our marriage

we were in a strange land in our own home. Now we were in the swim -- it was paddle or sink."

Running a farm and dairy was not an easy life. Anna supplemented

their income by churning butter and selling potato chips to a Staunton grocer. She gave birth to 10 children, of whom five died in infancy. They were buried Laurel Hill Baptist Church cemetery in Verona.

Though Anna may have been content to spend the rest of her days in Virginia, Thomas was homesick for the North. After almost two decades in the Shenandoah Valley, the family moved back to New York and purchased a farm.

Following Thomas' death in 1927, Anna began creating embroidered pictures. Because her arthritis

See MOSES, page 11



Grandma Moses once lived in this house near Verona.

AC file photo

### VFW BINGO

Augusta-Staunton VFW Post 2216

Frontier Drive, Staunton

Bingo: Each Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

Crazy "G" -- Guaranteed \$500 Jackpot

All regular games win \$75

40 percent of proceeds returned to the community

Phone: 887-8024, 885-8837, 885-7970



### SHEN VALLEY GARAGE DOOR

21 HANNAH CIRCLE, SUITE 101

COME VISIT OUR NEW SHOWROOM!

Located on 250W in Waynesboro behind Xpress Lube

Learn more about us at  
www.shenvalleygarage.com

Contact Armpy Traynham

540/943-8126

1-800-475-1037



You want a  
Wayne-Dalton  
door system.  
(Just to be safe.)



### Henry Funeral Home, Inc.

1030 W. Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401  
540/885-7211

- Full Services, including pre-need and cremation
  - Ample Parking
  - No Steps
  - Entrance for the Handicapped
- Robert M. Corbin  
President



# Alliance backs multipurpose use of former Wayne Theater

By VERA HAILEY

WAYNESBORO — The future of downtown's Wayne Theater was previewed at the May open house at Colby's on Main in Waynesboro. The monthly meetings are designed to provoke discussion and stimulate opportunities for downtown businesses.

Bill Hausrath, president of the Wayne Theater Alliance, shared information about the project and its



BILL HAUSRATH

*The Wayne was built in 1926 and opened with the silent film "Charley's Aunt." The first talking picture was shown there in 1929 - "The Jazz Singer" - which drew the largest crowd the theater ever hosted. The second biggest crowd was in 1939 with the release of "Gone With the Wind."*

potential impact on the city. The organization was established in 2000 for the purpose of providing residents and artists with an environment in which the arts may be appreciated, enjoyed, learned and supported.

After the theater closed in 1999, the property was donated to the city. A consultant was contracted to compile a comprehensive report exclusively for Waynesboro to evaluate uses for the building and predict the success of converted uses. Acknowledging that the Wayne will never again be as it once was, and that the surrounding area cannot support a use as solely a community theater, other opportunities were explored. Alternative suggestions were sought. A town meeting was held in 2001 to solicit suggestions from the community.

Because of the prohibitive cost of a \$5-million restoration, multiple uses for the same building would be a sensible choice. One concept is to have a community theater in conjunction with an art and theater regional Governor's School for the Gifted. State officials have already given approval for such a school, which would serve Waynesboro, Staunton and Augusta County. The school would draw 80 select students from area high schools to participate in an accelerated program.

"There is only a certain amount of money in the community to be put into this project and the Governor's School would bring in another logical use of the facility and be a source of funding," according to Hausrath.

Hausrath stressed that it is necessary to give people a reason to



Wayne Theater in downtown Waynesboro closed its doors in 1999. One possible use for the building could be as a community theater and as a location for an arts and theater program for the Governor's Program for the Gifted and Talented.

Photos by Vera Haley

come to Waynesboro. Tourists traveling on the interstates, Skyline Drive or the Blue Ridge Parkway could be lured into town to see a distinctive play - using the building for yet another purpose. The Wayne could be home to a unique historical theatrical production centered on the National Park Service Civilian Conservation Corps and the development of the Skyline Drive and Blue Ridge Parkway. Men from urban areas with different values were brought to the Shenandoah Valley to work on projects that sometimes displaced

mountain people from their homes and land. "This is a story that has not been told. It would be a play designed for us with local history references," Hausrath said.

Other areas have been successful with similar ventures, such as the Outer Banks of North Carolina production of "The Lost Colony."

These possibilities for uses would make the Wayne a meaningful attraction. Supporters of the effort believe the building can be resurrected as a state-of-the-art working theater, tourist attraction and educational resource. —

## •Market

Continued from page 8

Market Animal Sale ranged from \$1.10 to \$1.40/pound. Exhibitors had the option of not selling their feeder steers. Two of the nine entries were retained by their owners. **Grand Champion lamb**

**125 pounds, Blue O**

Exhibited by Jonathan Coleman

Purchased by Evers Family Restaurant for \$6.25/pound or \$781.25/head

**Reserve Grand Champion lamb**

**120 pounds, Blue O**

Exhibited by Amanda Hemp

Purchased by Weaver Fertilizer, Kegley Bumgardner, Webb East and T&E Wholesale for \$3.25/pound or \$390/head

A total of 129 lambs which averaged 110 pounds were sold individually at the Market Animal Sale with prices ranging from \$2 to \$4.20/pound with most falling in the \$2.30 to \$2.70 range. In 2001, lambs brought \$2.20 to \$6.10/pound with most falling in the \$2.90 to \$3.70 range. In 2000, prices ranged from \$1.25 to \$5/pound with most falling in the \$2.25-\$3 range.

Floor price on \$7 Blue O lambs averaging 113 pounds was bid 81 cents/pound by Hite Livestock. Floor price on Red O lambs was bid \$78.50/hundredweight by Nelson Shifflett. In 2001, floor price on Blue Os was \$1.05/pound. The 2000 floor price on Blue Os was \$1.06/pound.

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. The lamb market remained strong until the late summer of 2001 when it began its usual seasonal downward trend. Global economic conditions in the fall drove the market to its lowest point since 1993. Eastern U.S. sheep producers often benefit from a strong market which is spurred by ethnic buyers of lamb in the northeastern U.S. This market segment has not produced its usual surge in the northeastern lamb market since the terrorists' attacks on Sept. 11. —

## •Hogs

Continued from page 8

Upchurch. "From an old hog farmer's standpoint, this is a really good set of hogs," he said.

Upchurch grew up showing sheep, swine and cattle and his family raises beef and swine. He is an animal science instructor at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and coaches the UT livestock judging team. Augusta County's market hog show seemed to place Upchurch in his element.

"The quality is so deep in this (hog) show," he said. "These are extremely powerfully made kind of hogs that are exceptionally lean. It's unusual to see hogs that lean and that heavily muscled. The caliber and quality of these hogs is such that you could take them anywhere and they would be competitive."

After spending two days judging the 446 animals at the Market Animal Show — the largest show of its kind east of the Mississippi River — Upchurch had nothing but praise for the show's participants and organizers. Wednesday's events spanned almost eight hours of continuous exhibition and Thursday's events wrapped up in just less than eight hours time.

"I've been bragging about last year's show all year long and it looks like I'll be bragging about this one for the whole year ahead," he said. "I want to thank everyone involved for making this a pleasant experience for me."

The 2002 Market Animal Show was sponsored by Ruritan Clubs of Augusta County, the Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Staunton Rotary Club and the Staunton/Augusta Rotary Club. —

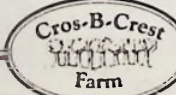
## •Quality •Diversity •Service



At Cros-B-Crest Farm our goal is to provide quality plants that will perform in your garden and landscape. We will be closing for the spring season June 15.

Annuals • Perennials • Vegetables • Herbs

886-9379



Mon. - Sat., 9-5  
Closed Sunday

## •Moses

Continued from page 10

tis made it difficult for her to hold a needle, she turned to painting. Her art gathered dust in a drugstore window until an art collector noticed several pieces. In 1939, at the age of 80, she was included in a private show at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. The next year, art dealer Otto Kallir gave her a one-woman show. The 35-painting exhibition was titled "What a

Farmwife Painted." A reporter dubbed her "Grandma Moses."

By the time of her death in 1961, at the age of 101, Anna had completed more than 1,600 paintings and had achieved celebrity status.

According to Jane Kallir, granddaughter of Otto Kallir and member of the Shenandoah Valley Rural Heritage Foundation, "Grandma Moses belongs to a long tradition of American folk artists," she said. "Like earlier self-taught artists, Grandma Moses invented an original style based on the various

sources that were available in her immediate environment."

"Memory is a painter," Moses wrote. Certainly her paintings were influenced by her years on an Augusta County farm as she recreated life scenes from memory.

The Bennington Museum in Vermont houses the largest public collection of Grandma Moses' paintings in the United States. Their store sells prints, bookmarks, coffee mugs and other memorabilia. See their website at [www.benningtonmuseum.com](http://www.benningtonmuseum.com). —



# Schoolhouse News

## After 40 years at RHS, Mrs. Reed gets her diploma

By NANCY SORRELLS

GREENVILLE — It took her 40 years, but as of June, Deann Reed will finally receive her Riverheads High School diploma. And all her hard work paid off — the sheepskin is an "advanced studies diploma."

The granting of the diploma marks the end of an era at the southern Augusta County school. When Mrs. Reed arrived at Riverheads in 1962 she helped usher in that same era. That was the year she came armed with brand new teaching credentials to a brand new school. She was a graduate of Churchville High School and Madison College. After teaching for six months in Chesterfield County, she returned to her home county in time to help welcome the first students at Riverheads.

Forty years and more than 5,000 students later, she is retiring. The changes in that span of four decades have been incredible, but nothing that Mrs. Reed can't take in stride. When she started, man hadn't walked on the moon, computers were the size of small houses, and there were two kingdoms a biology teacher had to tell students about — plant and animal. "Textbooks have totally changed -- the newest ones have six kingdoms! And technology has changed. The first textbooks had nothing about evolution and nothing about reproduction. Now we teach about biochemistry and ecology and biotechnology like genetic engineering," Mrs. Reed said.

Over the years she has taught biology, physical science, general science and earth science, but biology has been her thing. For a long stretch of time she was THE ONLY biology teacher at Riverheads. Every sophomore at Riverheads knew that they would have Mrs. Reed and that they would dissect frogs and test their blood while under her tutelage.

But times have changed. SOLs, block schedules, and scientific advances have altered those sophomore traditions. "With SOLs we are so rushed to cover content that we have to leave off some things. We don't have time to dissect, but that's covered in middle school now anyway," she said.

As science has pushed the known limits of our universe — peering into the depths of space and unlocking the microscopic secrets of genes and chromosomes — Mrs. Reed has continually pushed herself to keep up.

"The amount of knowledge is incredible. You have to learn something all the time. I remember taking a course at Blue Ridge called data processing just to learn about computers," she said. In 1976 she

earned her masters degree from the University of Virginia in secondary science education.

Although the scientific material brought her into the classroom, it's been the students who made her stay. This year she had the first grandchild of one of her original students 40 years ago. "I can look around the room and see the resemblance to their parents in so many of my students," she added.

During her tenure at the school, Reed was just as involved in the student body's extracurricular activities as she was with expanding their science knowledge. She co-sponsored the SCA for years, headed up forensics, and guided the Junior Engineering Technological Society to many awards.

From her unique perspective she has watched the school evolve and create its own identity. The first students in 1962 came from Spottswood and part of Wilson. The Wilson students, in particular, weren't totally prepared for the change.

"The student body was kind of split until they won the district championship in basketball," she recalled. "Then it all came together."

She remembers that those first few years brought together a good group of students and faculty who learned to make do with what they had.

"That first year Riverheads was like a mud lake outside. There was no landscaping, nothing out there," she recalls of the front area that now has tennis courts and a parking lot. "I remember the cheerleaders had these red felt outfits with big skirts and big capes. When they cheered the capes got in the way. One time it rained and the felt got all wet and the bottom of the skirts were all wavy. But in those days the cheerleaders only had one outfit so they had to make do and keep wearing them," she said with a smile.

According to Cecil Layman, who was the principal at Riverheads during its first 27 years, it was teachers like Mrs. Reed who made the school what it was and is. "She was one of our core faculty members. She set the tone in the classroom and that led the students to respect her and work for her. Academically her stu-

dents were well prepared and she did so much extracurricularly as well. She just did so much for the school," he said.

For years the highlight of being a sophomore at Riverheads was having Mrs. Reed take the entire class to the National Zoo and Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. She recalls with a laugh that one class in the 70s got it in their head that because they were going up to the nation's capital, they might as well work in a meeting with the President. A letter to the White House requesting a meeting was dispatched but the polite reply said that a meeting couldn't be arranged. "That same class gave me a white lab coat as a present. I still have that coat," she said.

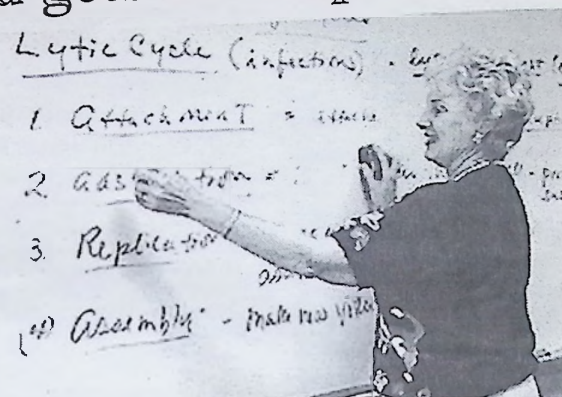
Mrs. Reed claims there is no secret to her success and longevity, but when pushed points to mentors such as Layman and Clarence Eddy who was a biology and language teacher at Riverheads in its first years. "Riverheads has always had such a cohesive faculty," she explained.

"I remember when she first started as a rookie teacher," recalled Layman. "Her personality was very positive and very firm even for a young teacher. Everything was always done in a positive and professional manner."

The proof of her success, of course, is in the students. "She made a difference with her students. I've seen many graduates who made a point of talking with her and telling her how she helped them. That says something when the former students come back and talk about her and how she helped them," added Layman.

In fact there are plenty of doctors, dentists, nurses, physical therapists, radiologists and medical technologists around the country who got their start in her biology classes. "The students have made it all worthwhile. You always hope that you make a difference and I've had biology II kids in particular come back and tell me that I helped them and that feels good."

The senior class of 2002 which presented Mrs. Reed with her hard-earned diploma had plenty of posi-



Riverheads High School science teacher Deann Reed will put down her eraser at the end of this school term after more than 40 years in the classroom. Mrs. Reed writes left-handed and simultaneously erases right-handed, sometimes amusing her students by erasing what she writes more quickly than students can take notes. Photo by Nancy Sorrells

tive words about their science teacher.

"She had the time to listen and help if I needed it." "She is such an amazing teacher and really does her job so well. She jokes around with us and makes us all laugh."

"Mrs. Reed could always make her class interesting. Her positive attitude makes her students want to learn." "Mrs. Reed has made a major impact on my life. She teaches what she loves and knows her stuff. I will always remember how much fun she made biology and biology II and how she encouraged me to go into nursing."

When all is said and done, there is actually one more thing about Mrs. Reed that needs to be mentioned. It is what sets her apart from any other biology teacher in the world. For 40 years this left-handed biology teacher from Augusta County has been writing notes on the chalkboard with her left hand and simultaneously erasing with her right hand. It's like the advanced version of tapping your head and rubbing your stomach. Coupled with the fact that she writes "inhumanly fast," according to one senior, and you have a situ-

ation where students must be on their toes at all times.

Another senior recalled "the way she used to rapidly write notes on the board with one hand and erase previously written notes with the other hand. This made taking notes very challenging."

Students from this year and from the last 40 years will have to savor those memories. From now on, her time will be spent with her husband, Herman, daughter, Kim, and other family and friends. Although her retirement plans aren't fully formed, they will include some travel, projects around the house and maybe some classes.

She leaves behind a richer school because of the four decades she spent there. "The faculty will not be the same at Riverheads," said Layman. "She showed that you didn't have to have great facilities and a lot of money. If you put a good teacher in a classroom, the students are going to get the job done."

"It was just time to retire," said Mrs. Reed. "I'll miss the people, but not the work. It's been great. Riverheads is probably the only place in the world that I could have stayed and taught for 40 years."



**FRESH**  
FROM THE FARM TO YOU

**Staunton Augusta Farmers' Market**  
If it's Home-grown and Home-made, we've got it!

Visit us on the web at [www.safmarket.org](http://www.safmarket.org) or call 332-3802 for info

Every Saturday, 7a.m. - noon  
Downtown Staunton, Wharf Parking Lot  
Every Wednesday, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
The Market Dock, U.S. 11 in Verona

Plants • Baked Goods • Eggs • Meat





# RES celebrates patriotism

By NANCY SORRELLS

GREENVILLE — One couldn't help but feel good about the future of America recently at the second annual Riverheads Elementary School Patriotism Day where red, white and blue was the order of the day.

This year's event, which is the brainchild of RES teacher Betty Jo Clemmer and is sponsored by the Middlebrook Ruritan Club Citizenship and Patriotism Committee, included a parade, a marching band, participation by local dignitaries and even a visit by Thomas Jefferson.

The parade took place at the Riverheads High School track. First in line was the Riverheads marching band playing "America the Beautiful" and the National Guard Intelligence Center Honor Guard from Rivana Station outside of Charlottesville.

A string of vehicles followed carrying the Virginia General Assembly Speaker of the House, the Honorable Vance Wilkins, Jr. who served as parade grand marshal, Virginia Delegate Chris Saxman, Riverheads Supervisor J. Donald Hanger, Riverheads school board member

Emma Drummond, Augusta County School Superintendent Gary McQuain, Woodrow Wilson District Ruritan Governor Brooks Weatley, and Middlebrook Ruritan Club President Roy T. Stephenson.

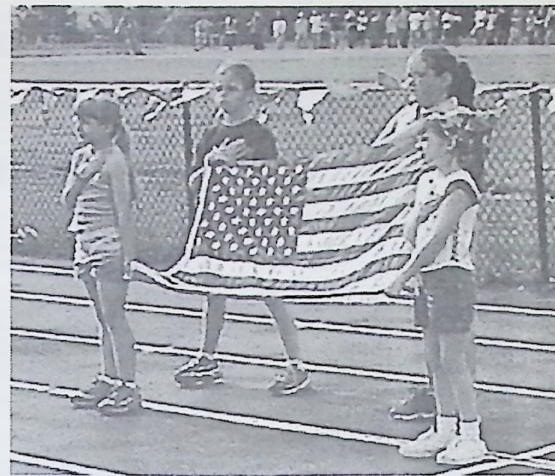
Every one of the 31 homerooms at the elementary school and two high school clubs had floats in the parade. Creative displays of flags and red white and blue symbols were mixed with depictions of the Statue of Liberty and the World Trade Center.

At the conclusion of the parade, Speaker Wilkins led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. Next, the entire fourth grade, outfitted in red, white and blue tie-dyed shirts walked out onto the football field and recited a large portion of the Declaration of Independence. Their recitation already earned them a free field trip to Monticello in March, courtesy of Wilkins.

The official program concluded with the presentation of awards to winners of the Middlebrook Ruritan Club's Patriotic Poster Contest. Each winner received

prize money, a ribbon, and handshakes from Wilkins and Thomas Jefferson (David Archart). The winners in kindergarten through second grade were: first, Cody Traylor (kindergarten); second, Zachary Cash (kindergarten); third, Kelsey Campbell (2nd). Winners in third through fifth grades were: first, Tamara Trombetta (4th); second, Marylinn Surface (5th); third, Kelsey Grimm (3rd). Winners in grades ninth through twelfth were: first, Stephanie Rathburn (11th); second, Nikki Selmon (11th), third, Jordan Ward (11th).

The program concluded with the retiring of the colors. At the conclusion of the scheduled activities, the award winning fourth graders were given a parchment reproduction copy of the Declaration of Independence and many students stood in line to have the Speaker of the House autograph their copy. Additional activities at RES extended through the day and included more interaction with Jefferson, two assemblies, and other lessons geared toward patriotism and citizenship. —



Riverheads Elementary students present the flag during a parade held as part of the school's Patriotism Day observance.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

## Rotary recognizes outstanding students

### AC staff report

STAUNTON - Seven of the area's top students were honored recently at the Rotary Club of Staunton-Augusta County's Technical Awards Banquet held at Best Inn.

The seven students represented the best in their fields from Valley Vocational-Technical Center in Fishersville. On hand to present the awards were Augusta School Supt. Gary McQuain who also is president of the Rotary club; Wiley J. Craig, principal at Valley Vo-Tech, and James R. Perkins, president of Blue Ridge Community College. Augusta County Riverheads Supervisor, J. Donald Hanger, delivered a speech to the students, their families, and the Rotary club members.

Receiving awards were Matthew G. Arey, A/C & Refrigeration Technology; Jennifer L. Brooks, Legal & Medical Systems Administration; Jacob D. Estes, Culinary Arts; Brandon W. Long, Masonry; Krystal McAuley, Legal & Medical Systems Administration; Danielle D. Sheets, Law Enforcement; and Adam T. Sweeney, Drafting & Design.

Arey, from Fort Defiance High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Arey. He participates in Skills USA/VICA state competition, National Honor Society, FFA, 4-H Honor Club and soccer. He farms and works for Riddleberger Brothers. After graduation, he plans to work and further his education in HVAC.

Brooks, from Riverheads and the daughter of Debbie Cash and E.R. Brooks, participates in FCCLA, is the secretary of the Future Business Leaders of America, and is employed by CVS Pharmacy. She plans to attend Blue Ridge and work in the medical field.

Estes, from Stuarts Draft High School, plans to work and further his education in HVAC.

See ROTARY, page 16



AREY

BROOKS



ESTES

LONG



McAULEY

SHEETS



SWEENEY

## RHS FFA members honored 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 40th annual banquet held recently at the school.

Members were recognized for outstanding achievement in chapter project work for the school year 2001-2002.

Chapter adviser Eugene McIlwee presented the chapter's Blue and Gold Award for outstanding achievement and the chapter's Star Farmer Awards to Erin Lowry, Frank Dull and Jonathan Coleman.

Cole Heizer and Jason Shultz were named the chapter's Star Agri-Businessmen. Scholarships from the Missy Clemmer Scholarship Fund went to Coleman, Dull, and Angela Hinton. Coleman and Dull each received \$100 scholarships from the Middlebrook Ruritan Club.

Mellwee presented the DeKalb

Agricultural Accomplishment Award to Coleman, who is the chapter's outgoing president. Recognized as outstanding students in ag mechanics were Brian Brooks and Bruce Brooks. Jeremy Archart was recognized as the most improved agriculture student.

Coleman presided over the banquet. He made note of a number of the chapter's achievements during the year.

Chapter officers named Steve Barnett, Jennifer Groh, and John Rowe Honorary Chapter Farmers for 2002.

Star Greenhand awards, given in recognition of outstanding achievement for first-year FFA members, were presented to Jeff Buchanan and Ashley Pitsenbarger.

Earning State Degrees this year were chapter members Coleman, Archart, Brian Brooks, Bruce Brooks, Ashley Keaton, Pamela Proffitt, and Josh Smith.

Earning American Degrees were Megan McIlwee, Jason Mellwee, Andrew Glenn, Colby Irvine, Neal Buchanan, and Carrie Heizer.



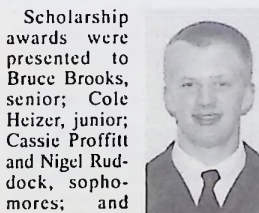
LOWRY

DULL



COLEMAN

HEIZER



SHULTZ

Proficiency award winners included the following individuals: Shawne Simmons, Brian Brooks, Bruce Brooks, Nigel Ruddock, and Frank Dull, agriculture mechanics; Jason Shultz, agriculture processing; Josh Smith, diversified livestock; Cole Heizer, placement in ag production; Mary Doyle, Megan Miller, Jeff Buchanan, Jake Leonard, Frank Dull, Cole Heizer, Brian Brooks, Jason Shultz, See FFA, page 14



The EZ<sup>ST</sup> Place  
in Virginia to buy  
a Car or Truck!

Richmond Ave • 886-6201



# Trip to New York invokes city's resilient spirit

"Start spreading the news, I'm leaving today..." A few days after the round-the-clock coverage of Sept. 11 ended, I was listening to a National Public Radio program analyzing the myriad stories of grief, sorrow, despair, and anger. I really cannot remember much about the exact story of this segment, but it dealt with the resilient spirit of New Yorkers. New York City was crippled, but people there were not without spirit and pride for their city. That particular broadcast, Scott Simon ended his program with an uplifting, and welcome punch. Frank Sinatra launched into a vibrant rendition of "New York, New York," and as it ended, Scott Simon said, "I don't know about you, but I needed that."

There were many local repercussions of Sept. 11, and for teachers and students, the understanding of the grave situation was flavored with disappointment regarding their canceled or delayed field trips to potentially sensitive and dangerous cities. My team had planned an amazing trip to Norfolk with a visit to the Nauticus Museum, then a sail on the American Rover masted schooner in the Elizabeth River. Another team had planned to go to Washington for the museums and to the National Zoo. Both of these trips were canceled, so the possibility of the Fort Defiance Fine Arts Department making its planned trip to New York seemed very remote. But as the school year went on, a survey came home with my daughter Betsy asking parents how they felt about the possibility of taking this trip to New York. I didn't have to think about it — I responded with an enthusiastic, "Yes!" To paraphrase Scott Simon, I think we needed that trip.

I volunteered to chaperone because I knew the benefit of extra help that a trip of this magnitude could use — AND I wanted to return to New York. Three years ago, my teaching teammates, Betsy, and I flew to New York to spend the weekend and to see *Lion King* on Broadway. What an amazing, yet brief trip that was! So when the possibility of a longer trip to New York to see another Broadway musical

plus many other New York sights became a reality, I was ready!

From Thursday afternoon to Sunday evening, Julie Davenport (another parent of a fine arts student), several other parents and I chaperoned Bus No. 1 along with Mr. Perry. The three Quick's buses (with their complement of chaperones and staff) departed Fort Defiance High School about 2 p.m. April 18, and we pulled into our New Jersey hotel about 10 p.m. that night. The next days were packed with activities that any New York tourist would envy.

Planning any field trip takes

Manhattan. We rubber-necked all the way to the Museum of Natural History. At the museum, I was focused on seeing as many famous dioramas as I could see in the time there, and I wanted to see "Lucy" (*Australopithecus afarensis*), the famous fossil and missing anthropological link. After touring, we were treated to the Hayden Planetarium show entitled, "The Search for Life: Are We Alone?" which spoke to the magnitude and mysteries of space with Harrison Ford narrating. (Sigh...) I also had been looking for chocolate-covered insects, and found them in the museum shop



Julie Davenport and Betty Gatewood at New York City's Rockefeller Plaza after an afternoon of shopping on Fifth Avenue.

time, energy, creativity, patience and drive, and this trip was expertly coordinated by the fine arts department at Fort Defiance High School. David Perry (vocal music), Susan Vass (drama), Alan Shull (instrumental music) and Cheryl Richards (visual arts) organized a marvelous, memorable trip that incorporated all the fine arts. It even had a science slant — our first museum stop on Friday morning was the Museum of Natural History!

## New York Day 1

Just as my first class was convening back at Stewart Middle School, we emerged from the Lincoln Tunnel to the skyscrapers of

along with insects-in-amber suckers. What a successful morning!

The afternoon was spent shopping and sightseeing along 5th Avenue: FAO Schwartz toy store, Tiffany's, Gucci, Armani Exchange, Bergdorf and Goodman, Rockefeller Plaza, Plaza Hotel, and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Later that afternoon, we shopped and dined at South Street Seaport, then we were back on the bus to see the bright lights of Broadway! Beauty and the Beast was a marvelous, extravagant and magical highlight.

New York Day 2

We picked up our tour guide and spent the morning touring the is-



## From the teacher's desk

By Betty Gatewood

land of Manhattan. There was so much to see, and so much to mention, but some things were favorites on the New York tour: Central Park, with the Strawberry Fields tribute to John Lennon (we convinced ourselves that we saw Yoko Ono on the knoll beyond the Italian mosaic, "Imagine") Bethesda Terrace, and the view from the Lake. Roller-bladers, bicyclists, joggers, bird-watchers and horse-drawn carriages were all window-dressing that made the park an eclectic place to experience. Then back on the bus to Chinatown, Little Italy, Greenwich Village, Harlem, Upper East Side, East Side, West Side, Tribeca, SoHo, the financial district and finally... Ground Zero.

Every time we got off the bus, and then back on, it was my job to make sure that everyone was accounted for so we could go on to our next stop. It was sometimes frustrating, especially when some of the kids moved around on the bus, but they were good about keeping to the schedule and being where they were supposed to be. When we got off at Ground Zero, we became part of huge throngs in the area going toward the viewing platform, the site and the memorials displayed along the iron fence of the nearby church. It was strange — that was the only time on the trip that I didn't really worry about the safety of the kids despite the crowd. I knew, they knew, and everyone knew why they were there. It just seemed that no one could be there for sinister reasons. We were all unified in trying to understand the loss, and we were there to pay our respects. It was humbling, sad, yet inspiring in a way, because so many people were there working to make it better. One interesting reflection from one of Betsy's friends was that he came back from Ground Zero mad at what he had seen there, and now he was ready to become part of the military. The New York

spirit had affected us all in so many different ways.

We were then off to Yankee Stadium to see part of a game with Toronto. A rain delay prevented us from staying to the end because of the adjusted time, but the rest of the day was so special that no one complained. We toured Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural masterpiece, the Guggenheim Museum, where a spiral walkway took us through abstract, modern, impressionist and popular culture art. We saw works by Rousseau, Picasso, Van Gogh, and Cezanne — their originals! Pretty impressive. To top off the day, a memorable evening was spent having dinner on a cruise as we took the sunset Harbor Lights Tour around Manhattan. To see Ground Zero, Wall Street, the Brooklyn Bridge, the shimmering skyline and the illuminated Statue of Liberty from the water emphasized our emotions and symbolized the American spirit that we had experienced during our stay in New York. The next day we had to head back home, so it was a fitting end to our day, and to our tour of New York.

It's always good to experience a field trip from the "other perspective" — as a participant rather than as one who plans or leads the trip. I have planned a couple of three-day Chesapeake Bay island trips and many other field experiences involving a host of participants and presenters, but I've never had to coordinate as many activities and have as many venues as this trip required. I learned from them, and I certainly have the utmost admiration for the fine arts department. I congratulate them on an excellent trip. I would like to thank Mr. Perry, Mrs. Vass, Mr. Shull, and Mrs. Richards for conducting a trip that took Herculean planning. Because of their dedication, all who went on the trip were touched and renewed by that New York frame of mind and spirit. —

## •FFA

Continued from page 13

Garrett Irvine, and Ashley Keaton, beef production; Jeremy Arehart, home and community development; Cole Heizer, forage production; Josh Smith, wildlife management; Nigel Ruddock, Angela Hinton, Cole Heizer, Ashley Pitsenbarger, Jeremy Arehart, Jason Shultz, and Ashley Keaton, sheep production; Bruce Brooks and Jason Shultz, agriculture sales and service.

Also, Megan Miller and Ashley Keaton, poultry production; Walter Hamilton and Cassie Proffitt, vegetable production; Jeff Buchanan and Angela Hinton, swine production; Jake Leonard and Cole Heizer,

equine service; Walter Hamilton and Pamela Proffitt, horticulture; Ashley Keaton and Pamela Proffitt, ag communications; Jonathan Coleman, extemporaneous speaking; Jason Shultz, senior prepared public speaking; Ashley Pitsenbarger, junior prepared public speaking; Jonathan Coleman, leadership.

The chapter's parliamentary procedure senior team was recognized for its first-place win in the federation contest and gold rating in the state contest. Team members were Cole Heizer, Jason Shultz, Frank Dull, Erin Lowry, Jonathan Coleman, Jeremy Arehart, and Garrett Irvine.

RHS FFA members competing in the Block and Bridle Livestock

judging contest were Cole Heizer, Jonathan Coleman and Ashley Pitsenbarger. The team placed fourth overall. Heizer was third high individual in the contest.

Forestry team members honored included Jeff Buchanan, Cole Heizer, Michael Kessler, Ryan Herndon, Frank Dull, Jason Shultz and Matt Chandler. Herndon was high individual and Chandler was second high individual overall.

Recognized for his participation in the tractor operator contest was Cole Heizer. He placed second in the federation.

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

**Hammond & Foster, Inc.**  
**Insurance**

**AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE  
• HEALTH • ANNUITIES**

*Dedicated to Serving  
our Customers*

**886-0500**

427 Lee Jackson Hwy.  
Suite 101  
STAUNTON, VA. 24401



## Father's love of gardening passed on

I was the little girl following her father around outside, particularly in the garden. My dad has always loved gardening and plants and even flowers. I would rather be outside with him than inside with my mom cooking, cleaning, or any of that stuff.

As is the case with many divorced families, when my father moved out, things got kind of strange between us. He was trying to live a new life and yet maintain his ties with us. And now I can see how difficult that must have been for him. My dad has been there for me through some of the most difficult times for me as an adult, though. I've moved back in with him a few times to get my feet back on the ground.

Since I have been married to Eric and when we lived in the D.C. area, my dad came to visit us once (in 8 years). I think he really just didn't like the D.C. area (and who could blame him). Of course we were expected to come home to Pennsylvania to visit him. Since the birth of Emma and our subsequent move to the Shenandoah Valley, my dad and stepmom Shirley have been here four or five times. Once, when I was pregnant with Tess, they came and cleaned my whole house. What a luxury.

So Emma has been talking about wanting to plant flowers. I kept ignoring that request because I had Tess' first birthday party and my dad's and Shirley's visit to prepare for, along with all of my other daily stuff. Finally, I said to her that maybe Pap would like to do that with her. Her eyes lit up. The first day he was here he took us to a local garden center and told Emma to pick out some flowers. After much consideration, she picked out purple petunias. We also talked her into some yellow ones. But purple is her favorite color.

Then Dad turned to me and said to pick out some herbs. And I felt like a little kid in a candy store — or a garden store. I chose two different kinds of lavender, lemon verbena and YES, some basil. (I would have picked out some more, except I did not want to take advantage of the situation, you know...)

When we came back to the house, Dad and Emma marched out back and picked

### Down to Earth

By  
Mollie Bryan



a spot for the petunias. Tess was toddling around them and Shirley and I were watching over the proceedings and taking pictures (do other people take pictures of little gardeners?)

"Now, this is your garden, Emma. You have to water these flowers every day," Dad told her.

"Okay, Pap." She took her watering bottle and watered each one carefully. When I watched them from behind, I was struck by how this is what it must have looked like 20 or more years ago with me trailing after Dad. And, though I have always known somewhere inside my memory bank that my love of nature and gardens came from him, it was like I was awash in the realization or memory again. How I cherish those days of tagging behind him and helping him tend to his gardens. And there he was, with my 3-year-old giving her the same gift of time, energy, and tenderness. And, hopefully, a respect and love for nature. It was almost too much for me to watch.

Sometimes, I get too wrapped up in other things that this life entails — getting the house clean for company, making sure the girls have clean clothes, fresh milk, clean faces. But we have to remain vigilant in our attempt to pass on this planet and the care of it. And, more than that, we have to continue to make time to just be with our children, even if the dishes and laundry are piling up. And I resolved to myself that I would have a garden this year and that Emma and Tess would always have one — if that is what they want.

As for my Dad, he took off early the next morning for Pennsylvania with plans to start his garden soon thereafter. He probably doesn't know that I'm plotting the same gardening course. I wonder if he knows how much his visits mean to us or how much this gift he gave to me as child keeps coming back to me as a sustaining part of my life.

Thanks, Dad. —

## Wildflowers attract butterflies

Part three in my series on using native plants in the garden brings us to the start of summer, perennials for sunny sites, and attracting butterflies by planting their favorite nectar-producing wildflowers.

Much of the data I am using comes from a brochure written by Nancy Arrington for the Prince William Wild Flower Society, a chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society.

When Brad and I lived in the country near Brentsville in Prince William County, we developed a four-acre wildflower meadow around our "acorn" active solar home, and planted many natives to attract birds and butterflies.

### Attracting butterflies

Butterflies are beautiful and important pollinators. Choose a sunny, sheltered site, use large splashes of color, plant for continuous bloom throughout the season, include caterpillar food plants and nectar-producing flowers, and avoid using poisonous chemicals.

We also should provide places for butterflies to drink (stones or rocks set in a shallow dish or pool so that they can flutter down and perch without getting wet), and flat stones set in the sun for basking (since butterflies are cold blooded).

### Other important facts

- Butterflies:
  - in all stages are killed by pesticides and herbicides;
  - need sun to warm their wings;
  - shelter to allow them to fly freely;
  - prefer single, tubular blossoms that stand up straight and are easy to land on;
  - are drawn by masses of color;
  - are active from early spring to late fall.

### Caterpillar food sources

Butterflies often lay their eggs on the host plant preferred by the caterpillar. When we provide food plants for the larval stage we'll be helping to increase the species. Some popular butterflies and their food plants are:

- Black swallowtail — Dill, fennel, and other parsley family members
- Buckeye — Plantain, gerardia, snapdragon, stoncrop

## In the Garden

By Jenifer  
Bradford



Great spangled fritillary — Violets  
Painted lady — Cudweed, thistles, pussy-toes, and other composites  
Skippers — Black locust, legumes  
Spicebush Swallowtail — Sassafras, spicebush

Tiger swallowtail — Wild cherry, willow, tulip tree

Variegated fritillary — Passion flower

### Native nectar flowers

Here are some perennial wildflowers for your butterfly garden:

- Aster, New England (*Aster novae-angliae*)
- Bergamot, wild (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* spp.)
- Blazing star (*Liatris spicata*)
- Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- Coneflower, purple (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)

Plant in full sun in well-prepared garden soil. If you have plenty of room, use in a wildflower meadow or make a special bed; if not, plant clumps among other perennials.

### Books

Excellent reference sources are available at our public libraries, on the web, or in bookstores. I'll name just three: *Petersons Field Guide to Eastern Butterflies*, *Butterfly Gardens* by Alcinda Lewis, and *Butterfly Gardening: Creating Summer Magic in Your Garden*.

### Organizations

Here are two sources:  
— Butterfly Society of Virginia, Inc., 510 McCosh Court, Chesapeake, VA 23320, 757-543-6496.

— Virginia Native Plant Society, Blandy Experimental Farm, 400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit 2, Boyce, VA 22620, 540-837-1600, [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org).

Let's all encourage these handsome creatures to visit our gardens and meadows, lay their eggs, and find a welcome respite. —

## ~~ Garden tips for June ~~

As June begins, the heavy spring chores and major planting are done. This is the time when our borders are filled with flowers and looking their best. Perennials and sun-loving plants take center stage. Some attractive blooming plants this month are spirea, buddleia, hydrangeas, goldenrain tree, astilbes, daylilies, rudbeckias, geraniums, and foxgloves.

The herb garden should be filling in nicely. Try some of the different varieties of thyme, rosemary, sage (pineapple sage is highly recommended), and mint. Plant the mints (I'm trying chocolate, mint julep, and apple) in terracotta pots as they can be invasive. Beware the fennels. I love bronze fennel and its fragrance but found it seeded everywhere last year, even in cracks on my patio.

We have so many choices and such

a long growing season in Virginia. Be bold! Try new cultivars! Have fun!

Meanwhile, keep up with the following:

— Water early in the day or early in the evening to avoid transpiration. Deep water rather than sprinkle. Use a rain gauge. Provide one inch of water a week.

— Water your container gardens, planters, or hanging baskets daily. Perhaps twice once temperatures soar. They quickly dry out.

— Cut back severely low rock garden plants such as rock cress, basket of gold, moss pinks, and candytuft after they bloom to encourage sturdy, compact growth for next year.

— Thin out boxwoods by hand. Do not shear.

— Clip hedges. Hedges should be narrower on the top and wider at the bottom.

— Spray for bagworms or re-

move by hand if you only have a few.

— Plant annuals in bare spots. Plant tropicals.

— Mulch all flower and shrub beds 2-3 inches once all planting is done.

— Apply a granular all-purpose fertilizer (10-10-10) to promote healthy growth of foliage and flowers. Water well after applying.

— Foliar feed every two weeks (June through August) especially annuals.

— Feed roses and apply a fungicide.

— Scrub out bird baths weekly and fill daily with fresh water.

— Set your sundial to the correct hour on June 21.

Special Note: Take a daytrip to the Peaks of Otter on the Blue Ridge Parkway (Milepost 86) the first week of June to view the masses of Catawba rhododendron. They are usually spectacular. —

## Springdale Water Gardens

Come See Our New Shipments of Chinese Water Pots & New Waterfalls

### FREE SEMINARS:

June 8

9:30 a.m., *How to Build a Pond*

10:45 a.m., *How to Build a Waterfall*

June 9

1:30 p.m., *Filtration & Pumps*

2:30 p.m., *Plant Filtration*

Special Kids' Days

June 19 & 22, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

\$35 materials fee; Register by June 14

•Free catalog & demonstration schedule available

•Personal attention

HOURS: Mon.-Sat., 9-5; Sun., 1-5

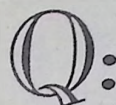
337-4507

Springdale Water Gardens is located on Old Quarry Lane near Greenville. From Interstate 81, take the U.S. 11 south Greenville exit (No. 213). In Greenville, turn right onto Stover School Road. Go 2.3 miles and turn left onto Old Quarry Lane. Go one mile to nursery.



# The Hitching Post

## Prevention is best medicine for colic



**I understand that colic is the most common cause of death in horses. Can you tell me a little about it and describe some preventive techniques?**

Colic is a general term that describes pain in the horse's abdomen. It covers a variety of possibilities such as gas, tumors or even constipation. Parasites can cause colic and a horse tying up (azoturia) can appear to colic. Pain in that area is the beginning of a serious problem. A vet should check out any horse that appears to have colic. Most vets will tell you — "Don't wait to get assistance!"

Colic is merely a set of symptoms and vet assistance is often needed to determine the cause. One of the main reasons for colic in horses is the horse's internal anatomy. The stomach is very small so feed passes through without complete digestion. The small intestine is very long and the large colon is enormous. There are different parts where food must

move uphill. Keeping a horse in confined quarters, feeding abnormal amounts of feed, and using an artificial schedule all contribute to the problem. Horses are animals that have evolved and become accustomed to eating small amounts of roughage, day and night, on their own schedule.

The causes of colic are many, but probably the most common is parasitism. The worms disturb the circulation to the intestines causing signs of colic. Any type of stress can contribute to colic. Overfeeding can cause colic. An undernourished horse can be susceptible to digestive upsets. Increasing feeding amounts over time is a safe way to adjust a horse's diet. Irregular feeding schedules can also cause

colic. (Horses can become so hungry they "wolf" down their food.) Feeding a "hot" horse after a workout, or exercising a horse right after he has eaten (particularly without a proper warm-up) can also cause stomach upset.

Quality feed, or lack of it, can cause problems. Moldy or soured feed, sudden changes in feed types, grain without roughage, or feed that is too rich for the horse's exercise program can also cause signs of colic.

Horses showing signs of colic may have personality changes, lack of appetite, act sluggish, and show discomfort in the abdominal area. They may try to kick at their belly with their hind foot, turn around and look at the area, or stomp their feet impatiently or in a vicious manner. Some horses may stand stretched as though ready to urinate. They might switch their tail or pump it up and down in a jerky motion. Signs can progress into lying down and pulling the legs up into the abdomen. Horses might get up and down or lie on their side and stretch their legs out then pull them back. A horse owner will often notice these apparent signs of extreme discomfort. This is the beginning of the next phase, which can include thrashing and rolling which is the classic sign of colic. The roll of a

**I.B. HOOFINIT**  
From  
the  
**Horse's Mouth**



horse with colic is more of a thrashing than a calm happy roll.

These are just a few of the signs associated with colic. If for any reason you suspect colic in your horse, it is best to call a vet at once before the symptoms get too severe. Prevention is the best way to protect your horse from this serious and sometimes fatal disease.

A good preventive program includes a regular worming schedule. Feed that is equal to your horse's exercise program means constant gradual changes to maintain optimum performance and health. Avoid sudden changes in diet and maintain a regular feeding schedule

on which the horse can depend. This takes some of the stress out of his eating habits. Provide quality roughage and lots of fresh clean water. Feed carefully around exercise times either before or after riding.

Colic may be one of the leading causes of death in horses, but a good preventive program can keep any horse healthy and happy. Take it from the horse's mouth, the best way to prevent colic is to understand what causes it and develop a program that considers those causes. Most horse owners work to prevent colic, but accidents happen, and being prepared to call the vet is also part of the plan. —

*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 136, Greenville, Va. 24440. Questions become the property of Chris Marrs, and answers are subject to editor approval.*

*Information provided 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.*

## •Rotary

*Continued from page 13*

School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Estes, has participated in the Skills USA/VICA state competition, is a member of the Boy Scouts and a youth group. He works for Summit Square Retirement Home. He plans to enroll in a culinary arts apprenticeship program.

Long, who attends Wilson Memorial High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Brent Long, is a member of Skills USA/VICA, FFA and the Boy Scouts. He farms and is employed by Earl Waggy Masonry.

After graduation he plans on working full time in the masonry field.

McAuley, from Buffalo Gap High School and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David McAuley, is active in the National Honor Society and is vice president of the Future Business Leaders of America. She is employed by Valley Voc-Tech. She plans to attend Mary Baldwin College and earn a degree in business administration while continuing to work part-time.

Sheets, from Robert E. Lee High School and the daughter of Ms. Jackie Walter, plays soccer. She

plans to attend Blue Ridge and major in criminal justice. Sheets was chosen as the Blue Ridge Community College scholarship recipient.

Sweeney, from Waynesboro High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Sweeney. He lists the state competition of Skills USA/VICA as part of his activities. He is employed by Blue Mountain Drafting and Design and Darkstone Entertainment. He plans on attending BRCC and then participating in a church mission for two years before returning to attend a university. —

*Augusta Country is for sale at...*

**JUNCTION  
CONVENIENCE**  
Buffalo Gap

**ONCE  
UPON  
A TIME**  
Downtown Staunton

**Kroger**

Staunton at the Statler Square and  
Waynesboro on U.S. 250W

**Young Hardware**  
TRUE VALUE  
on Central Avenue in Staunton

See page 2 for additional retail locations

SINCE 1865



**HAMRICK FUNERAL HOME**

18 W. FREDERICK STREET • STAUNTON • 886-2363

*The*  
**Pavilion**

featuring

**Kline's DAIRY BAR**  **HOG WILD COMPANY**  
Custard-style ice cream Pork barbecue

*Life is great!*

New location open — 906 Greenville Ave., Staunton 885-4664  
Open 7 days!! 11 a.m.-10 p.m.



# Fox, hounds get run for their money from coon huntin' mule

By DEBORAH SENSABAUGH

MIDDLEBROOK — We knew the scent would be good.

A slight pre-dawn drizzle had moistened the powdery ground and threatening clouds announced a deepening front. The air had warmed, leaving the ground cooler. Perfect for the 21 million scent receptors in hound noses. Perfect for the way scent disperses to ride evaporating moisture just above ground level.

My dad, old foxhunter that he is, confirmed my early suspicions.

"You'll have good scent today, especially in the woods and pines, not so good on open fields, though. You'll have a good run if you can find a dog fox. The vixens are denning up this time of year."

I was the only one hunting from our barn that day. Using a generous handful of grain, I approached the horse herd, stopping to give a taste to every animal I passed. This trade-off persuaded my small mule, Rachel, that I was worthy of catching her by following only one of two catching protocols of which she approves. (The other is to catch her in turn with the entire herd of 10, which I had neither the time nor energy to employ that morning.)

This is the third season I've been hunting with what is known in the mountains as a "coon huntin'" mule, a small mule able to slick through brush and along mountain trails, but tall enough to leap fences and downed trees.

I purchased Rachel several years ago from Whispering Pines Mule

Farm near Oil City, Pa. Having friends to visit in that area, I called Jim Warner on a hunch. He glowingly described his wonderful, long-legged mules to me. "No," I said. "That's not quite what I'm looking for." This, after all, would be my first actual riding mule, the mule colt I'd gotten in West Virginia being too young to ride for another year or so.

"Well, we've got another mule, a small mule. I don't know whether you'd be interested in her."

"I'll come look," I said.

We rode in what Warner called mountains for about an hour. He warned me of two things. "Always make sure you can handle a mule's ears and tail, for bridling and a crouper (tail strap that helps keep the saddle in place on steep mountain trails), and be ready. If you can stay on for the first spin, you've got it made. The mule will take care of you."

I found out that Warner was giving me a key to the mule's basic analytical personality. When a horse becomes frightened, which the intuitive, low-IQ animals do frequently, it may shy, jump, spook or panic in any direction. The mule doesn't do this, as a rule. Instead, it analyzes the situation and concludes that the only safe place is where he just came from. So he spins, 180 degrees, faster than you can blink. Then he runs back the way he came.

Rachel didn't spin that day, but she has since, and thanks to Warner I was ready.

What she did do was combine her mischievous spirit with a generous will to find out how to please me as she figured me out.

When we got to the barn, I gave Warner a down payment, telling him I'd be back with my truck and trailer the next week.

That was eight years ago.

Of course, bringing a mule home gives you pause for a couple of months. I was sorely tempted several times to call Warner and ask for a refund for this obviously untrained small mule. But we stuck with her as she learned her boundaries. Mules, obviously, do not automatically fall down with respect at the mere sight of a human, which many horses do. Instead, their immediate argument for everything is, "And who are you that I should listen and obey?" And if you don't have the intelligence to figure out how to reason with your mule, heaven help you.

Everything you've heard about mules is likely true. Stubborn? Of course, but only because they reason things through and disagree with your judgment more often

than not. Surefooted? You've got it. There are mountains trails on which I dismount and lead my horse. Too scary. Many horses assume the ground will be there and slam hooves down accordingly. I never get off my mule on narrow, washed out or steep trails. If she doesn't think it's safe, she'll turn back regardless of my wishes. And mules are both highly bondable and very lovable.

How about endurance riding a mule? Unlike a horse, a mule doesn't need fancy, high-tech equipment. A mule will simply quit when it can go no further. Not super fast because of smaller airways than horses, the mule has superior muscle and bone density. It can work harder and longer, but will quit short of running itself to death. And the legend of a mule not eating itself sick when getting into the feed room? Suffice to say that if I want to increase our mules' grain ration, I must do so gradually, a couple handfuls a day. Otherwise, they eat their usual amount and then quit.

Three years ago, I was invited to hunt with Middlebrook Hounds. Our juniors had been hunting with one of our instructors who moved away. Then, the task of taking the juniors out fell to me. I mentally checked the list of horses I had at the time. The gray endurance Arabian was too uncontrollable on a run; the Bashkir Curly, too bucky; the half-Arab mare, too scatterbrained; the quarter horse, too dancey. The mule? Well, she was good with footing, sensible in company, had come in mid-point in endurance runs, and seemed to enjoy jumping logs on the trail, I reasoned.

So I went foxhunting with the "coon huntin'" mule. At the age of 48, I learned how to ride fast over all kinds of terrain and to jump anything that got in our way.

Before long I adapted to how she jumped — a really close take off and an insistence that I never interfere with her good sense. And the way she refused to run really fast on bad footing. And at being about 10 seconds behind the field on a fast run. And at her ability to find the field if we did get behind. I've also gotten used to everyone wanting to be in front of us, and at passing many of them as their horses refuse jumps, or come up short in the stamina department.

Foxhunting has always been a part of my family, but no one hunted with horses. In a sport akin to beagling, the hounds were hunted on foot. You stopped and listened to them run. As I child, I heard the tales from my dad and

See HUNTING, page 19



Darcey Wilhelm with Rachel following a hunter class in a horse show last year.

Photo by Deborah Sensabaugh

## Stubborn as a mule? Smart is more like it

By DEBORAH SENSABAUGH

A mule is a hybrid and as such is sturdier, hardier, and tougher than the two parts that make his whole. Mules, as a rule, receive their size from their mare mothers, but their bone and muscle density from their donkey sires, along with a more coarse head, those wonderful long ears, and a few differences in body type such as a "rafter back," long "slab" sides and longer muscled hindquarters.

Every mule is one of a kind. Mules, while having all the reproductive parts necessary, generally cannot reproduce. That is because donkeys and horses have different numbers of chromosomes, making one extra, odd chromosome in the mule. Because there is no match in the DNA for that odd chromosome, there can be fertilization of an ovum, but no cellular division that results in fetal growth.

Two exceptions have been noted to this rule when female mules were bred by jack (male) donkeys and conceived, successfully bearing young. Mare mules (or mollies) have been successfully used as surrogate mothers with implanted fertilized ovum from mares.

Because mules generally cannot successfully reproduce, most male mules (johns) are gelded or castrated before they are a year old. A mule's intelligence makes learned behavior very difficult to change. Hence if a young mule is never sub-

ject to hormone-produced stallion behavior tendencies, he will be a much more tractable animal. Once influenced by those hormones, his learned behavior becomes aggressive and dominant.

Jack donkeys come in four sizes: miniature (under 36 inches), standard, large standard and mammoth. A miniature horse bred to a miniature donkey produces a mini-mule. A standard or large standard bred to a mare of any size results in a fine-boned mule that is generally not over 14 hands, and is a popular cross for the small "coon-hunting" mules ridden in the mountains. (My Rachel is 13.2 hands and is a coon-hunting mule who hunts foxes with me.) These mules are small, sure-footed and jump like cats.

A mammoth jack, bred to a mare of smaller size, often produces a mule that is short, stocky and powerful. But a mammoth, or even a large standard, bred to a larger saddle mare, such as a thoroughbred, saddlebred or Tennessee walking horse, produces a large-boned riding mule that is 15 to 16-plus hands high.

A mammoth jack bred to a draft mare produces a huge draft mule.

A horse can be forced to obey. He is an intuitive thinker and generally reacts before thinking. A donkey is a logical thinker. He can not be made to do anything he has decided is not in his best interests to do and most things are not.

See MULE, page 20

**VIRGINIA FRAME**  
Builders & Supply, Inc.  
EXPO ROAD, P.O. BOX 60  
FISHERSVILLE, VIRGINIA 22939

FARM, COMMERCIAL AND  
RESIDENTIAL RELATED BUILDINGS  
- SINCE 1975 -

'HORSE BARN A SPECIALTY'

PRESSURE TREATED  
LUMBER  
POSTS AND POLES

TREATED WOOD AND WIRE  
FENCING MATERIALS

YELLOW PINE AND SPRUCE  
FRAMING LUMBER

PEACHTREE WINDOWS  
AND DOORS

540-337-4369 540-942-5279  
1-800-942-5279

www.vafame.com



# Country Crossroads

## Reflecting pool reflections

May 2002

Dear Maude,

This is the time of the year when all of us in Washington are busier than we wish to be. Just when the weather gets really nice and we would like to be outside, the work seems constant.

No matter whether the Congress is in session or not, there are always those committee meetings where they consider things which the boss is certain will concern one client or another. So when a chance to get away for a little real fun comes along, we are always excited, and this month I was really lucky. The boss had a couple of very special tickets to the Preakness in Baltimore and at the last minute was not able to go. I know that I often fuss about all of the functions those of us in the office have to go to and represent him, but this time I could not complain. I immediately said, "YES!"

The running of the Preakness at Pimlico is a real social event. The place to be — where all the action is — is in the infield. The tickets are not cheap, but for the party crowd the fun is there. It is one of the best party times in Baltimore. The first time I ever went to the Preakness, it was with AnnaLee and some of her friends and we had seats in the grandstand. The couple who organized the event bought an extra seat — for the food and drink — and we arrived with our cooler of sandwiches and wine. We had a lot of fun and, as I remember, lost more money than we won on the races.

The next time I went, it was to the infield, and we were there with everyone else, with our blankets on the ground, having a good time. Because of the crowd, the race was often over before we could place a bet. We didn't lose quite as much that year. But our seats this year were even better. The boss is a particularly good friend with one of his clients who just happened to be one of the sponsors in

the Corporate Village area of the infield. This is indeed the way to go! The party atmosphere is there, but on a much different level. The tickets for this area are hard to come by and are by invitation only. How excited I was when I found out I could be a part of that party.

The women always wear their best new spring dresses and most often hats. The men are dressed in jackets. It is all very posh. Needless to say there was nothing in that box of dresses from last year that I would have dared to wear. There certainly was not a hat in my possession that would do. So, guess what? Off I went on a special shopping expedition and found an absolutely wonderful outfit. I simply did not let myself think about that credit card balance!

Under many tents, those in the Corporate Village area have their own bathrooms as well as the usual televisions and betting windows. There are linen tablecloths. For viewing the race, even if it is on a television screen, chairs certainly outrank blankets on the ground. And while one has seats in the grandstand, it just is not quite the same. The wine was good, the food even better. Lots of crab cakes, fresh strawberries and other specialties were there. What fun. I must say it was very elegant.

Unfortunately, this year the weather did not do its part. Who expects temperatures in the 50s along with wind gusts this late? Too many of those pretty new spring outfits were hidden under jackets and shawls. But we were much better off than the young crowd in the regular infield, which was a sea of mud, owing to an early morning rain. It did not seem to bother them too much, however. All they did was get into the beer earlier and drink faster to keep warm. The dress code on that side of the fence was as inflexible as that on the Corporate Village side. The kids were in their sandals and shorts regardless of the temperature!

By Roberta Hamlin



With all that wonderful food and those well dressed people to look at, I really never got around to doing much betting, which was a good thing because I had to part with all that money for something proper in which to be seen. But for the main race, of course, everyone was busy with their theories and bets. One gentleman who sat at our table for a while was discussing the importance of the jockey in determining a winner. That seemed to make good sense, so I picked one horse based on his theory. Unfortunately that horse did not respond as the jockey had obviously hoped. I decided I certainly needed to put a small bet on War Emblem since he won the Derby. Then I took a liking to Menacing Dennis (just because I have a friend named Dennis, who, however, is not particularly menacing.) The odds were something like 55 to 1 when I placed my bet, and imagine my excitement when it looked as if he might even win the race. I would win enough to pay for that fancy new outfit!! But, alas, it was not to be. Here came War Emblem, and some other horses I had not even paid any attention to, dashing past him. At least I had my little ticket on the winner, but those winnings certainly will not make a dent in my credit card balance.

We had such a good time and, even though it was with clients, it was so different from our usual Washington functions. However, the betting on which horse will win, like betting on which language will make it into a proposed piece of legislation, have their similarities. Come the following Monday I was back at my desk dealing with the latter. At least I had a real good reason to go out on that little shopping trip and my hat really is stunning. I will wear it when I come home the next time.

Love to all in Middlebrook,  
LuLu

## Red eft has eye appeal, lacks real meal appeal

What I've really missed during these past few dry years — besides rain — is seeing those cute little red salamanders in the woods after a shower. Red efts, they're called, and they're the terrestrial form of the aquatic spotted newt of lakes and ponds — but more about that later.

With its Gumby texture and bright coloration, the red eft would seem to be a walking advertisement for an easy meal. In fact, what's being advertised is quite otherwise. The message is "Eat me and see how quickly I make you throw up," because that cute little creature packs a punch.

The punch is a powerful neurotoxin, exuded from the skin, called tetrodotoxin. Sound familiar? It's the sudden death that Japanese gourmets flirt with when they eat the traditional delicacy called fugu, or puffer fish. The puffer fish produces tetrodotoxin in its liver and fugu chefs are trained to prepare and serve only the toxin-free parts of the fish.

Traditional diners, though, like to ingest a little bit of the liver for the fun of experiencing numbing of the lips and tongue. But it gets a lot better than that. Eat just a little too much tetrodotoxin — it's a fine line between safe and unsafe amounts — and here's what you have to look forward to: salivation, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain, motor dysfunction, breathing difficulties and cardiac irregularities, seizures and coma. Death can occur within four to six hours. No antidote exists for fugu

poisoning; the best they can do is put you on life support until you make it or don't.

Amphibians that exude interesting substances through their skins aren't exactly newsworthy — just ask any dog that's ever picked up a toad. But do you remember the news items a few years back about toad licking? It seems that several species of frogs and toads secrete psychoactive substances from glands in their skin. These secretions contain tryptamines, which are the major psychoactive agents in "magic mushrooms," and in ayahuasca, a traditional South American hallucinogenic drink, from just licking the live toad, the methodology went on to collecting and smoking the dried "venom." The resulting high was said to be more intense than anything derived from mushrooms or LSD. If nothing else, you can bet this has generated a lively and interesting body of Internet literature.

But to get back to matters at hand, what does this toxicity talk have to do with a little salamander walking around in the woods in our valley? Mainly, it's about long-term survival of the species. There are plenty of potential predators out there — especially the blue jay, brown thrasher and wood thrush, which are known salamander eaters. The red eft is betting that, if he does get eaten, the early symptoms of the toxin will kick in and give the bird a hearty puke. It will be a learning experience for the bird; his first red eft will be his last and he won't go picking up

any more red wiggly things off the forest floor.

The literature only attributes this toxicity to the red eft phase of the newt life cycle. I know that people sometimes use salamanders — "spring lizards" — for bait, but I have seen adult newts coexisting in apparent peace with good-sized largemouth bass and bluegills, so there must be something going on there too that inhibits fish predation on newts.

Red efts are often found miles from any water. As I said earlier, the eft is a terrestrial stage in the life cycle of the familiar spotted newt. It begins life as an egg attached to submerged vegetation or debris in a pond or lake and hatches into a larva with gills. In a short period of time, the larval gills disappear, the newt emerges onto dry land and turns bright orange-red. This eft phase can last from one to seven years. This adolescent walkabout is apparently a means of dispersing the young from the home pond to colonize new waters and spread the genetic material. Eventually the eft begins to darken to a deep olive green. Its round, lizard-like tail becomes flattened for swimming and it returns to the water for the rest of its life.

"Eft" and "newt" are curious words and their origins tangle together from the Middle English language of six to eight centuries ago. Eft, also eeft, evete and ewt, meant a small lizard or a newt. Newt was a corruption of "an ewt," and around it goes.

I'd hoped to be able to finish this by telling

### Getting out

By  
Mark  
Gatewood



you that during this spring's rains, I finally saw a red eft again, and, by golly, I did. It was crossing the Ramsey's Draft trail, in an area of beaver activity. I looked in the first beaver pond I came to and found several adult newts drifting languidly in the still water. Life goes on, even in a drought — in this case, thanks to the activity of beavers in creating and maintaining suitable habitat for breeding newts.

Eye-catching and easily captured, red efts and spotted newts have probably introduced more kids to the world of nature and science than any other creature. I know they did for me. A lot of them have probably died in the process, victims of improper care in confinement. Now we know they have at least a potential capability to retaliate, though it's unlikely it would ever play out that way. Still, if you take the kids fishing or camping and they start catching efts or newts, you might have them wash their hands before lunch. —



# Rooster 'Topknot' proved to be 'top notch'

By JEAN H. BRYDGE

To describe anyone or anything that doesn't fit the norm, an old expression used down South is "that's a strange breed o' cat." Well, "Topknot" wasn't a cat. In fact, he was a Rhode Island red rooster who thought he was a person but he definitely was a "strange breed o' cat."

His mother patiently sat until five eggs hatched. Three days later, she disappeared. We never knew if she became a meal for a fox or if she was tired of five little ones, but I suddenly became a mother hen.

I moved the chicks into a box lined with newspaper and placed it in a cozy, warm spot beside the floor register. They peeped and chirped and ate, but they loved it when I cuddled them in my hand. Finally, they were large enough to place in the chicken house but one little fellow thought I was his mother and followed me everywhere I went.

He grew into a very large rooster named "Topknot" who crowed every morning bright and early. But he didn't believe he was a chicken. He came to our back steps when he was hungry and talked to me.

Most people think chickens don't talk but Topknot cocked his head to one side and made a noise between a cough and a hoarse frog croak something like "u-r-r-k." If he was upset, he "u-r-r-k-ed" two or three times.

He indicated he was pleased by going "u-r-r-k" very softly several times. We used to have long conversations while Topknot cocked his head to one side, listened, then replied "u-r-r-k, u-r-r-k."

So how did he get the name of Topknot you ask? That's a long story.

My husband, Dave, a deputy

sheriff, and I wanted a family. After about 10 years, we decided to adopt. A little blonde two-year old boy became our pride and joy. We named him "Joey" and I couldn't quit feasting my eyes on his big blue eyes and blonde curls.

One day I needed to gather eggs. Joey, wrapped up in his boots, jacket and toboggan, sauntered along with me kicking gravel and dirt. I was carefully retrieving eggs from the nests when I heard a bloodcurdling scream. I whirled in time to see Topknot sitting on Joey's head stealing the yarn tassel from his toboggan. About that time, Joey toppled to the floor. Believe me, it takes a lot of motherly love to pick up a child whose nose is running, whose eyes are streaming, whose mouth is screaming at approximately 300 decibels and whose backside is covered with chicken doo-doo!

I yelled at Topknot, "You idiot chicken, you stole Joey's topknot!"

That rascal rooster sat there looking very proud with small fibers of blue yarn hanging from his beak happily going "u-r-r-k, u-r-r-k."

From that day on, we called the rooster "Topknot." He didn't care much for Joey or Dave but loved me. I guess he still thought I was his mother.

One day I baked a beautiful rice pudding full of plump, juicy raisins and placed it on the screened-in back porch to cool. Evidently Joey decided to be nice to Topknot and let him in on the porch. When I went looking for Joey, he and Topknot were both on the table plucking raisins out

of the pudding.

Before I said anything, I grabbed the camera, took a photo, then walked over and said, "O.K. Whose idea was this?"

Joey looked up, holding a raisin in each chubby hand, smiled and said, "Good!"

Topknot came as close to smiling as a chicken could, cocked his head to one side and softly went, "u-r-r-k, u-r-r-k, u-r-r-k." Perhaps that's chicken talk for "good."

That fall, Topknot unexpectedly redeemed himself for all his past sins and became a hero.

I heard a knock on the back screen door and when I opened it, one of the grungiest human beings I had ever seen was standing there. He was filthy, hadn't washed his hair or clothes for a month or two. He smelled terrible and was missing four front teeth. His chin was yellow from chewing tobacco and you could have planted a garden under his fingernails. I knew I had a problem.

"May I help you?" I asked in my calmest voice while inwardly I was a nervous wreck. I knew there wasn't a soul around in the neighborhood and no way I could get to a phone.

"Yes," he replied. "I want food and money."

Frantically trying to figure what to do, I considered making a run for the kitchen door but about that time, Joey walked out. My heart sank.

The man grabbed Joey and said, "You act like you didn't hear me." Then he demanded, "I want food and money!"

He picked up Joey and rubbed

his head while I shuddered and then he looked at me with a toothless grin and said, "It would be a shame to hurt a little boy as pretty as this!"

I started screaming which scared Joey who was already whimpering and he started screaming!

Suddenly there was a whirr of wings, a red blur, and Topknot landed on that man's head pecking him as hard as he could. He beat him with his wings and the man was so startled he dropped Joey and started to run while trying to get Topknot off his head. I grabbed Joey and rushed in the house locking doors behind me.

I jerked the phone from its cradle and tried to dial the sheriff but my hands were shaking so badly, it took three attempts. Finally someone answered and I blurted into the phone, "This is Sally Bayne, Dave's wife, and there was a horrible man here a minute ago who threatened to hurt our little boy. Our rooster attacked the man and he ran. Please send someone quick! I'm afraid he might come back."

There was a pause, then the deputy, whom I did not know, said, "Lady, is this a joke?"

"Oh, no," I insisted. "I'm Sally Bayne. I was shaking so bad I could hardly dial and please tell Dave to come home."

The deputy said, "Wait one moment Mrs. Bayne."

Then he came back on the line and said with concern in his voice, "This person might be a patient who escaped from the state hospital several weeks back. Lock all your doors and stay

inside. Someone will be there in a few minutes."

I looked out the window into the yard and saw a dark shadow running away from us (and Topknot) down the road. Hoping the deputy would hurry, I clutched Joey tightly assuring him everything was O.K. Dave and Deputy Greene pulled in the yard almost simultaneously. The sirens scared Joey who started crying again and I rushed into Dave's arms and started crying.

Dave held me close for a minute then looked at me and smiled and said "Someone has to tell us what happened."

I told them the whole story and when I got to the part about Topknot saving us, both of them stared in disbelief.

Deputy Greene said, "I've heard of many rescues but never by a chicken! Please describe that man to me. Maybe I can still find him. If not, I'll put out an APB."

Dave said, "Sally, I hate to think what might have happened if it hadn't been for Topknot."

"You're right! Let's take him some vanilla wafers and raisins. He loves both of them and they're his very special treat."

Joey smiled and said, "Pecial treat!"

When we walked out, there was Topknot prancing around as though he owned the place. I picked him up in my arms and said, "Topknot, from now on, you shall be known as 'Topnotch' - for that you truly are!" And I kissed him on his bright red rooster's comb.

He cocked his head to one side, looked at me for a minute and replied, "U-r-r-k, u-r-r-k." —

## •Hunting

Continued from page 17

grandfather. They could tell you who was running by the hound voices, what kind of fox was being chased, and more often than not, where the whole troop would cross the road.

When I moved to Virginia, my daughter became enthralled with Pony Club, so we hunted until Pony Club deteriorated into a "who's daddy had the most money and could buy the most expensive horse to win at shows." I had hunted a horse whose main goal was to see how long it would take to find an excuse to go absolutely nuts. It was not fun.

Now I was poised at the brink of what I had heard was one of the most demanding hunts in this part of the state — superbly trained hounds, an exacting staff, up and down country, some tricky fences, people mounted on immense thoroughbreds and sport horses.

What can I say? They were gracious and gave me a chance. Before the first season ended, Alex

and Lucy Sproul had me taking fences regularly. Any fence that paled me, I dismounted and hand-jumped Rachel across, taking advantage of the mule's different shoulder set that enables it to jump from a standstill, or 'coon mule jump.

By the second season, I had learned the territory and was beginning to help walk the hounds weekly and learn the individual names and personalities that go with a pack of 50 or more squirming blue ticks. I could gallop down-hills (something I never learned in my native flat country), splash through creeks, slide down hollows. Rachel was adapting to a new love. Jumping high surely gave this short mule a feeling of power.

Last year, a guest came to hunt. Looking down from the lofty perch of a thoroughbred mare, the guest's eyes grew wide at my small mule. "What is that?" the guest asked from a great height.

Before I could answer, our field master, Margot Case, answered, "That's Deborah's little mule. Just wait 'til you see that mule jump."

On a recent hunt, we were out only 20 minutes before the hounds sifted something from the pine scents on the needle-strewn floor. First one hound, then another, took up the cry. "The Enemy! An invasion that must be quelled."

They ran as one, in an octet stream of black and red, spots and patches. We flew behind them, Master Fred Getty's horn marshaling hound and horse alike.

We were running third from the back with nine horses in front of us. Through the twists and turns of the pine maze, I could see Field Master Brent Hall's immense horse, Spanky, flashing through the green trunks. The pines are like a maze with trails everywhere. Once you get behind, you can wander for an hour and not hit the same trail twice. We ran desperately, keeping close to the horse in front of us. Often, at the back, folks will be schooling their horses to stay back and not run so fast. Then, if the field really takes off, these powerful thoroughbreds take off and simply catch up. We can't do that. Steady is our watchword, so I have

to keep my wits about me and watch the hoofprints ahead if someone holding me up suddenly gives up and takes off full speed.

Red foxes, and we believed this was a red fox by the way he ran, can reach speeds of 45 miles per hour. With our heavier-boned pack made for running in dense hill country, the fox risks little immediate danger to his person. With those odds, the chase becomes more of a game. The fox chooses the run, and we can but follow. Thus, the hounds will momentarily loose scent at times. Either the fox doubles back, walks a log, crosses water, or uses another trick from his vast bag.

So the hounds milled, seeking scent and talking to one another with cautious voice. We pulled to a stop, and I could feel Rachel puffing under me. Looking back, I saw hounds. Bogart's nose followed the ground, drinking in fox scent. His head raised and he called, a deep belling lunge of voice. Rhythm joined him. They jerked left, cor-

See HOUNDS, page 20

**Mill Street**  
GRILL

Introducing  
The Newest Star in Town  
★ **Our Ribs** ★

Also Starring  
Prime Rib with Cajun Spices  
Barbecued Baby-back Ribs  
St. Louis Style Ribs  
Barbecued Beef Ribs  
Barbecue Platter

1 Mill Street • Staunton, VA  
(540) 886-0656

★ **Appearing Nightly** ★



# Spiderman spins delightful comic across big screen

"Who am I?" a somewhat tremulous voice asks as the first scene unfolds of the summer season's first blockbuster *Spiderman*.

Peter Parker, geek without equal, that's who.

Nearsighted, patient, smart, kind and the butt of teasing dished up by a high school full of unredeemable teenagers, Peter (Tobey McGuire; *The Ice Storm*, *Cider House Rules*) never lashes back. He also has a serious crush on Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst; *The Virgin Suicides*, *Little Women*), the girl-next-door, who treats him decently yet has a taste for more exciting guys.

Comic book fans are probably familiar with Spiderman's story. One day on a field trip to the science museum, a radioactive spider bites Peter. Never one to complain or draw attention to himself, he goes home to suffer alone. And — Shazam! — he wakes up the next morning to find a stronger, quicker,

buffer Peter Parker. Better yet, he can spin webs and climb up the sides of buildings just like a spider.

Like all superhero comic book stories, *Spiderman* includes: 1) An evil villain our hero must defeat. In this first installment (and there will be more) Spiderman must defend the city and his reputation as the good guy against Norman Osborn/The Green Goblin (Willem Dafoe; *The English Patient*, *Speed 2*, *The Night and the Moment*). The CEO of a large defense corporation and father to Peter's best friend, Osborn subjects his body to a dangerous chemical experiment in an effort to keep an important defense contract, which turns him into the evil Green Goblin. 2) A stubborn newspaper editor who shouts a great deal, won't listen to anyone, and complicates everyone's life. In his relentless quest for a scoop, J. Jonah Johnson (J.K. Simmons; *Cider House*

*Rules*, *The Gift*) undermines Spiderman's good name and endangers the city. 3) Unrequited love. Peter has loved Mary Jane — M.J. — his entire life; she, however, sees him as only as a friend. When new superhero Spiderman appears and saves her life not once but three times — well, let's just say she's a sucker for a guy in a uniform, even if it does make the guy look like an arachnid. If it is the only way he can get M.J.'s love, poor Peter is willing to accept it.

Written by Sam Lee and Steve Ditko of Marvel Comics and screenwriter David Koepp, the movie remains true to the comic book character and plot. First time director Sam Raimi delivers a fun and satisfying movie that resists being campy. The plot, while predictable, is humorous and warm. The digitized scenes of Spiderman swinging and flying through the city are terrific.

Dafoe, with his almost skeletal gaunt face, makes a great villain, though the Green Goblin is perhaps the most comic book thing about the movie. Likewise, J.K. Simmons gives an over-the-top newspaper editor performance that is half Perry White, half Betty Jo Hamilton.

McGuire is especially good. Noted for his troubled teen roles, McGuire appears an unlikely fit for the hero. Self-effacing, a bit bumbling, he is immediately likeable. Indeed McGuire is at his best as Peter Parker discovers and masters his powers, throwing and swinging on gigantic webs, and struggles to create his new persona — "The Human Spider" — in a pro wrestling match.

McGuire and Dunst actually manage some screen chemistry as they slowly fall in love and finally share one chaste kiss (an upside-down kiss, but you'll have to see it).



Hannah's mom, Sue Simmons

"Who am I?" this movie begins by asking.

Duh! I am the first big blockbuster of the upcoming season and it's going to be a fun summer at the Bijou.

Hannah's mom gives *Spiderman* three-and-a-half bananas. She was surprised just how much she liked this movie. The film is rated PG-13 for intense fight scenes and some violence. —

## •Mule

Continued from page 17

A mule, on the other hand, is an analytical thinker. He can be coerced, but training requires that the trainer out-think the mule. Once a mule has analyzed a situation, it is very difficult to change his mind. When training a mule, you have to know where that analysis will take him and plan accordingly.

Mules respond more to kindness and reasoning than to abuse. Abuse your mule and sooner or later, he will pay you back. I always tell people, you can make some mistakes with a horse and get out of it. But make a mistake twice with the mule and he

has learned a bad habit that it will take you a long time to retrain. When I need to discipline my mules, I always make sure they know why, and then love them or praise them after they clean up their behavior so they know I am not angry with them.

We use Monty Roberts's round pen techniques with our mules, and they learn in half the time. Most mules, however, are a little more suspicious and spooky than a horse, so you have to teach them not to be. Horses will obey you because you are a human, if they have been taught to obey. But a mule will question you. A relationship with a mule takes time to build, but once you

have built that relationship on trust, your mule will be a loyal friend for life and will do things for you that a horse will not do.

People scoff at mules. "Oh, it's just a big stubborn mule," they will say. But I have seen that mules have very deep feelings. One of our mules got pushy, and then was scolded and put out of the barn. He felt left out and stood at the door, big tears rolling down his face. We feel that my mule, Lucy, may have developed a cancerous tumor on her foot after being leashed by someone she did not know, and then turned out. She possibly was upset, and let those feelings affect her health.

Mules are thinking animals. I always tell folks, if you are on a narrow trail on the edge of a cliff and a bear meets you head-on, your horse will jump over the cliff and then think on the way down that maybe this wasn't such a good idea. But a mule will think the situation through, and will turn 180-degrees, going back where he came from where it, obviously, was safe and bear-free. If you can stick with that first spin, you're safe.

I've seen mules figure out amazing things, but what they cannot figure out, they avoid. For example, people have legs and vehicles have wheels. But all my mules have taken some time and a lot of those 180-spins to come to the conclusion that a person with wheels is someone riding a bicycle.

Mules require less food and water than horses and often have tougher hooves. Their muscles burn fuel more efficiently, and they can go greater distances than horses, but not at the same speed. A mule's nostrils and airways aren't as wide

or expandable as a horse's. Thus horses are better at 25-mile endurance races; mules and horses are more equal at 50s, and mules stand a good chance of winning at the 100s if the terrain is rough and the mule rider knows his or her stuff.

Mules are capable of jumping higher than horses can jump because their shoulders are set on differently — more like a goat or deer than a horse. Mules also excel at jumping from a standstill, and in mule shows, the coon mule jumping competitions are a real hit. Both my molly mules can jump from a standstill and can jump a course at a canter, as well as cross country jumping required by foxhunting. One John hunts well but hates ring work, and the other doesn't care to jump at all.

More information about mules can be obtained by searching for the Lucky Three Ranch website belonging to Meredith Hodges. Meredith, the nation's foremost mule expert and trainer, has taught her mules dressage, eventing, and reining, at which they excel. —

## •Hounds

Continued from page 19

rected, and caught up with the main thrust of the pack. I heard Rembrandt, painting a scent line with his booming voice.

And we were off again, through a hollow, up a hill, down the other side and across the clear cut behind Swanbeck's. Then, a massive coop with a rail on top loomed ahead. "Are you going to jump this?" I yelled at Diana Hicks, on a green hunter behind us.

"I'd like to try," she called.

I let Rachel go, and we were up and over in a blink. The mule landed hard on her tiny front hooves and bounded up a field. Three thoroughbreds and a sport horse in front of us slowed, watching the pack of hounds streaking across the field.

We passed them and galloped up a hill to the waiting staff and hunters. We turned as the pack of hounds milled around Rachel, and then took off for another stand of brush and trees. There, the scent freshened and they were off again.

We flew like leaves in the wind, now fast, now slow. Another fence, a triple bar with a downhill land-

ing into a patch of woods, appeared. The quarter horse in front of us refused, so we galloped past him and were up and over in an instant. Through the woods, I felt the mule tiring. She stumbled in deep leaves with hidden sticks, so I pulled her back. At a slower trot, we caught up while the hounds worked the forest floor.

Catching another whiff, they flew again, and we were over a log vertical and across a muddy field in which Rachel slowed for the footing. I gave her a kick, but she had too much sense to run fast on mud slick from continuing drizzle. We trotted fast and kept up anyhow.

Once through a gate and on top of the next hill, we watched the hounds bound to the huntsman. They were at a loss, the fox likely holed up in one of the many dens that dot the area. We'd been on that fox for an hour and 10 minutes, and nearly everyone was out of horse.

Hunting itself is one of the most challenging mounted activities I have ever learned. Where you will run, how fast, and what will happen is at the whim of the fox, the hounds, the weather. There is no

prescribed track, no opportunity to be picky if you want to stay with hounds. And this day, my 13.2 hand mule not only stayed with hounds — she finished with hounds.

On the way back, we bowed heads before a stinging rain, jumping fences as we came to them. The last, a massive stone wall with a timber on top, was optional as the gate next to it was open. I was heading for the gate, when Hall headed his horse at wall. Rachel pricked her considerable black ears and danced a little. I obediently loosened the reins and she picked up a neat canter. I felt the bump of her takeoff and rose in the saddle, settling in on her perfect landing.

One of the grand dames of our hunt approached me later. "That was a wonderful jump you did over that stone wall. Perfect."

I smiled and thanked her. "I just drop the reins and let the mule do it all. And she always does it right."

I've a new mule in my barn, too. Lucy. A 16-hand laid-off hunter and whip mule, Lucy is gradually getting her groove back. And who knows? Next season, I may be able to go just a little faster and jump just a little higher. —

## Augusta Country

Subscribe now! ONLY \$16

Saves you 25% off the retail price!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Rt. or St. no. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

To subscribe, mail this form along with your \$16 personal check to Augusta Country, P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459.