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the CROZET gazette

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CVFD Gives Up 4th of July Carnival

No Fireworks Show Either

The Crozet Volunteer Fire Department has reluctantly abandoned its main fundraiser, the carnival it has sponsored on the 4th of July weekend at Claudius Crozet Park since the 1940s, ending one of Crozet's favorite traditions and the chance for a view of town from the top of a ferris wheel. The carnival was requiring "hundreds and hundreds" of volunteer man-hours to organize and its income was dwindling, explained CVFD president Matt Robb.

Instead the department will sponsor the traditional parade and a lawn party on June 30 this year.

The parade will start at the Park and end at the firehouse, unless for some reason the lawn party must be held at

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King Family Vineyard Allowed More Special Events

Pyrrhic Victory for All Concerned

The Albemarle County Planning Commission agreed to allow Crozet's King Family Vineyard to hold more special events at the winery at their meeting Jan. 23, but on terms that defeated the point of the original request.

Commissioners closed public comment on the special use permit and following their ad hoc redrafting of the permit's terms, commissioner Jon Cannon asked winery owner David King how their proposed terms would affect the farm.

"It puts us out of business," King answered.

The Commission then proceeded to pass those terms on a 6-1 vote, with Jack Jouett District commissioner Bill Edgerton opposing.

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Pot of Gold Revealed in Crozet!

Warm spring showers are not far off. Bob Albrecht got this great shot of a rainbow over Crozet from his yard in Emerald Ridge last May. The pot of gold seems to be somewhere near Powell's Creek and Orchard Acres. Happy hunting.

Starr Hill Puts Crozet on the Brewery Map

By A.J. Pesch and Allie Marshall

"Starr Hill's mission is to share the gift of great beer with the world," said Mark Thompson. Those ambitious yet assured words were barely audible over the echoing operations of the brewery that now fills a large section of the old ConAgra building in Crozet. But clamor can't compete with Thompson's enthusiasm when he's talking about making a great beer.

Thompson is the brewmaster and owner of Starr Hill, a popular local brewery founded in Charlottesville in 1999. Although he learned the art of brewing in Portland, Oregon, at the center of the microbrewery movement in the mid-1990s, Thompson's roots are in Western Albemarle. He went to Henley Middle School and graduated from Western in 1984. After graduating with a major in biology from James



The Starr Hill line-up.

Madison University in Harrisonburg, he set out to the west coast to pursue a career in wildlife science. As fate would have it, there Thompson got his first job at a microbrewery. He moved to Denver for a while and continued to brew beer. But finally, in 1999, "the heavens opened," as Thompson put it, with the opportunity to open a brewery in his hometown. Thompson and his family moved back to

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from the Editor

The Show Must Go On

It's understandable, if lamentable, that the Crozet volunteer firemen are abandoning their long tradition of putting on their Fourth of July carnival. As the number of emergency calls the volunteers must answer has grown so dramatically in recent years, time for fundraising events and fun has gotten tight. How much can we expect from them? Crozet owes a huge debt to the volunteers who provide us local fire and rescue services from their big hearts and personal commitment to good-neighbor public services for our special corner of the world. And, carnivals are a country event, grown out of old agricultural fairs, and perhaps are a little old-fashioned and out-of-date. How can a ferris wheel or an arcade game, for all their simple charm, compete with Wii and all the other electronic diversions? For all they take to put on, carnival profits are steadily dwindling.

But what can't be allowed to fade into the past is our fireworks blast. No. This is Crozet. This is America. We do the Fourth of July right. We blow up stuff in the night sky with lots of noise and colors. If every other little town around us can do it, so can Crozet. The firemen are willing to help and even host the launches at the firehouse, or perhaps, as traditional, at Claudius Crozet Park. But with their expenses rising all the time, they don't want to have to pay for fireworks as well.

Our civic organizations, businesses, schools and clubs, and we individually are going to have to step up and raise at least \$5,000. Really, that shouldn't be hard. We need to book a professional service soon before they are committed elsewhere. The Gazette is ready to do its part.

the CROZET gazette

Don't miss any of the hometown news everybody else is up on. Pick up a free copy of the Crozet Gazette at one of the many area locations or have the Crozet Gazette delivered to your home or dorm room. Mail subscriptions are available for \$18 for 12 issues. Send a check to Crozet Gazette, P.O. Box 863, Crozet, Virginia 22932.

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Michael J. Marshall
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to the Editor



Thank You, Crozet

On the evening of Monday, January 16th, at 7:30 p.m. our cabin home near Mint Springs burned to ashes due to an electrical malfunction.

After the emergency call, the Crozet fire department arrived, helping to fight the fire. In spite of all of their efforts, the cabin and everything in it were lost.

Since that night we have received many calls and visits from loved ones, family, friends and strangers offering words of comfort and help in many thoughtful ways.

We are deeply grateful to each of you and overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity you have shown.

This thank you to all of you is from our hearts and very sincere.

Janet Scholes and Tom and Melanie Hart
Crozet

The Weighted GPA

It's a shame that Scott Masselli ("Unweighted GPAs Unfair to Honors Students," *Crozet Gazette*, December 2006) recites the same old uninformed litany of excuses for adding bonus points to the computation of student grade-point-average for Honors and Advanced Placement courses in Albemarle County.

Masselli claims that Honors and AP students should be "rewarded for their extra efforts." They already are. According to Maselli they are engaged in "rigorous classes." If that's truly the case, then Honors and AP students are rewarded by their efforts and by their learning. Moreover, they are rewarded when applying to competitive colleges since colleges tend to favor Honors and AP courses.

Masselli also claims that colleges do not reweight student grade point averages. But that cannot be true. Not all high schools in the United States weight Honors and AP courses. And not all high schools in the United States that do weight Honors and AP courses weight them the same way. So what is a competitive college to do when it receives literally thousands of applications from students across the country with a smorgasbord of weighted GPAs? How does it com-

pare them? The obvious and logical answer is that those diverse GPAs have to be unweighted and converted to standard GPAs.

The more compelling reason to unweight high school grade point averages, which Masselli avoids discussing, is that research supports unweighted GPAs. In a four-year study of more than 80,000 students who applied to the University of California from 1998 to 2001, Geiser and Santelices (2004) found that "... unweighted HSGPA (high school grade point average)—a GPA that does not grant additional points for honors—is consistently the best predictor of both first- and second-year college grades ... the greater the weight given to AP and honors, moreover, the weaker the prediction ... the HSGPA weighted with a full bonus point for AP and honors is invariably the worst predictor of college performance. This finding is consistent with earlier UC studies ..."

Masselli assumes, like many people and the Virginia Department of Education do, that AP/Honors courses are inherently superior to "regular" courses. But nearly a half-dozen studies over the last five years dispute that notion. The National Research Council (2002), Geiser and Santelices (2004), Klopfenstein and Thomas (2005), Sadler and Tai (2006) and Adelman (2006) have all found marginal benefits for AP courses and/or tests. Indeed, as Geiser and Santelices explain it, "the number of AP and other honors-level courses taken in high school bears little or no relationship to students' later performance in college."

Perhaps a better understanding of relevant research would promote a healthier, more relevant discussion of the Albemarle County Program of Studies.

Mark Crockett
Western Albemarle High School

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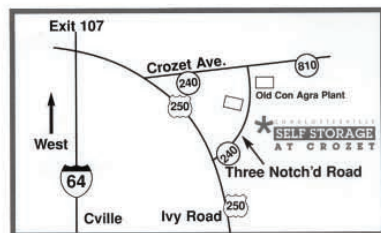
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D & W Market Opens

Denzel and Wayne Ramsey have opened their D & W Market on Rt. 250 westbound in the store previously operated by the Ron Washington family and formerly long known as Ridge Mini-Mart or the Blue Ridge Market. The store is believed to have operated for 50 to 60 years.

"It's been picking up every day," said Wayne of the start-up period after the Market opened its doors Jan. 20.

"I've been eyeing this store for 10 or 12 years," said Wayne, "waiting to see if it would come open. I retired and everyday got to be the same. Fifteen days was all I could stand. So I'm going to try this."

"I got an education on state and county regulations," he said, a little wide-eyed. Their plan had been to open immediately after New Year's Day, but arrangements didn't gel in time. There was a delay in getting the store's ABC license.

"We intend to be in the store as much as possible," said Denzel. Wayne is installing TV service so he won't miss NASCAR races or weekend sports events while he's at the store. The Ramseys, first-time market-owners, also

have one part-time helper.

The store has the usual convenience items: snacks, candy (virtually every kind made), sodas, beer and wine, coffee and cappuccino, cigarettes, a dairy case and, once a freezer is found, ice cream.

The grill is ruled by Norma Gray ("Everybody seems to know her," said Wayne with a hint of envy.), who has a long history with the store and is cooking breakfast and lunch items. Burgers and pizzas, whole and by-the-slice, are available and Gray also thinks up a daily special, such as barbeque. The deli case is stocked with a good assortment of home-cooked choices, notably some tasty soups and salads.

Denzel is raising flats of flower and vegetable seedlings that will be available later in spring. They'll also carry the Crozet Gazette.

The gas comes from Exxon and the store accepts Visa, MasterCard and Exxon credit cards. The Market is open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the cold months and will be extending its hours until 9 p.m. once spring is here.

Formerly living in Charlottesville, the Ramseys have made their home in Crozet for six years.

Western Albemarle's Natural Food Store



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New In Town

Little boy Cazin Michael School, son of Mike and Kay School, joined the Crozet growth boom January 16 at 9:59 a.m., after 41 weeks, at 9 lbs, 5 oz, and 21.5 inches. Older sister Julia is happy about the news. The Schools were profiled in the first issue of the Crozet Gazette as the first family to move into Old Trail.



Crozet Lions, 2007

Seated (left to right): Charles Nelson, Ben Hurt, Jack Coogan, Bob Stamara (vice president), Susan Miller (president), Harper Girvin, Ruth Chiles, Larry Claytor and Jim Stork.
Standing: Mike Maupin, Dave Ellis, Jordan Patkin, Matt Smith, Terry Crone, Dot Lambert, Tom Amato, Russell Gough, Don McElwee, Carla Larsen, Chris Scherer, Betty Jane Kent, Phil Eaton, Jenny Roff, Denise Girvin, Leigh McCauley, Goodloe Saunders, Agnes Anderson, Karl Pomeroy, Becca White and Carroll Conley.
Not pictured: Jon Mikalson, Danny Newton, Cole Sandridge, Kelly Strickland, Skip and Patricia Thacker, Barbara Tobey, Bookie Westbrook and Dexter Whitehead.

The Crozet Library Book Group Joins JMRL's THE BIG READ

The Crozet Library Book Group is changing its April book selection to *The Great Gatsby* and will begin participating in the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library's THE BIG READ program, according to Branch Manager Wendy Saz.

The new schedule of readings is: Feb. 5, *Tess of the D'ubervilles*, by Thomas Hardy; March 5, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, by Robert A. Heinlein; and April 2, *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

The Book Group meets on the first Monday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Library's meeting room. All are welcome.

WAHS Jazz Band to Hold Dinner Dance

The Western Albemarle High School Jazz Band is holding its annual dinner dance Feb. 10 at Western Albemarle High School from 7 to 10 p.m.

Catered buffet dinner, raffles, door prizes and dance music will be provided by our jazz band. Tickets are on sale until February 5th for \$25 per person. Please contact Sara Reynolds at (540) 456-6541 or Steve Layman at Western Albemarle 823-8700.

Newcomers Club Coffee Feb. 27

The Newcomers Club of Greater Charlottesville will hold a coffee for members and prospective members Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 10 a.m. at the Church of Our Savior, 1165 Rio Rd., Charlottesville. A complimentary breakfast buffet prepared by our members will be offered at the Parish Hall. All new residents of less than three years are invited. Call 973-3353 or 295-3062 for information and reservations. For more about the Club, visit www.charlottesville-newcomersclub.org.

Wintergreen Performing Arts Casino Night at Veritas Vineyard

"Betting on the Arts," a casino night fundraiser for Wintergreen Performing Arts, will be held Friday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Veritas Winery in Afton. Your donation of \$50 per person includes music, food, wine, raffle and fun. Come early for Casino College at 6:30 p.m., then try your luck at blackjack, roulette, putting contest, horse racing, craps, poker, and the money wheel. Win chances for raffle prizes. After Feb. 25, the donation is \$60 per person. For information and tickets, contact www.wintergreenperformingarts.org or (434) 325-8292.

Coming Up at the Hamner Theater

The Hamner Theater will host the Rockfish Valley Community Center's Youth Movie Night—watch a widescreen movie with pizza and a drink for only \$5—Friday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 p.m. The licensing agreement prevents the theater from publicizing the name of the film to be shown. For details, call the theater at 434-361-1999.

Hamner's In the Cabaret show will feature girl-group TigerLily Saturday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Cabaret shows begin at 7:30 p.m. with the doors opening at 6:30. Tickets are \$15, with food (by reservation only), or \$7, without food. Tickets at the door (when available) are \$7, without food. Call for reservations.

In a benefit for the Sexual Assault Resources Agency, with donations earmarked for Nelson County, the theater will feature a performance of *The Vagina Monologues*, by Eve Ensler, Wednesday, Feb. 14, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15/person or \$25/couple. There will be an Open Rehearsal on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. with donations gratefully accepted.

The Hamner Theater is located at 190 Rockfish School Lane in Afton.

Secrets of the Blue Ridge

by Phil James



Morton's: An "Old Kentucky Recipe"

It took 18 trucks and drivers to fulfill one frozen food order to a Pittsburgh wholesaler in the late 1950's. That was a lot of dinner rolls and mac'-and-cheese!

OLDER HOMES ARE OFTEN REFERENCED by the original owner's name, i.e. the old Wayland place, Knobloch's Corner, or the Ballard house. Sometimes the names change to reflect a newer generation's associations. We identify with our own neighborhoods and sometimes are identified by the neighborhoods in which we live.

Similar parallels can be made to the places where we work. Just as in our home neighborhoods, we also nurture business friendships, calling on co-workers in times of need, and finding opportunities to celebrate together. We develop a unique identity at our workplaces and often are identified by the places where we work.

Crozet and much of western Albemarle County was defined economically by a thriving fruit industry beginning in the late 1800s. In the first decade of the 20th century, fruit production had exceeded immediate seasonal demands. William Carter, who was operating an ice plant alongside the railroad in downtown Crozet, began an expansion to his facility in 1912 to include a six-story cold storage plant. This new enterprise—known later as Herbert Cold Storage and Ice Company—allowed for the storage of apples that remained unsold at the end of picking time.

By 1929, a second cold storage plant was placed in operation a short distance east of the C&O depot. Operated as the Crozet Cold Storage, apple storage space could be rented on a per barrel basis by smaller fruit growers. A.E. Rea, a well-known Crozet grocer, offered an additional service that included cutting, wrapping and freezing fresh meats. Grocers and individuals could rent storage lockers for meats, fruits and vegetables.

A peeling-and-slicing plant was added onto the Crozet Cold Storage in 1946, and Crozet Frozen Foods was born. Sliced frozen apples and peaches were packaged and sold for uses such as pie fillings. During fruit season this operation required two shifts of workers to meet demand.

But as the fruit industry began to wane in the 1940's, the large, local,

able-bodied workforce began to turn to nearby towns to find other employment. While small-scale subsistence farming still supported some residents, industries in Charlottesville and Waynesboro attracted people needing steady employment. With the arrival of Acme Visible Records in 1950, the fortunes of many local residents took a positive turn. Year-round inside work, fair wages and benefits packages began to redefine a people long identified as seasonal laborers.

Meanwhile, a business that would forever influence our Crozet community emerged from unassuming beginnings west of our Blue Ridge Mountains. In 1940, in an abandoned church building in Louisville, Kentucky, Harold Morton developed a chicken-and-noodle dish, which he sold in glass jars. Following World War II, Morton entered the fledgling frozen food industry with the Chicken Pot Pie, made from an "Old Kentucky Recipe." Acceptance and demand led him to create more products including beef and turkey pot pies and, later, fruit and other frozen dessert pies. With his business growth limited by the capacities of his Louisville plant, Morton began to search for a larger frozen food production facility. His search ended in Crozet.

When the Morton Packing Company purchased the Crozet Cold Storage

continued on page 6



The Crozet Cold Storage, in operation by 1929, was Crozet's second major fruit storage facility. Herbert's Cold Storage, adjacent to the C&O railroad depot and The Square, had already been in service for over ten years.

Morton's—continued from page 5

CROZET FROZEN APPLES
SUGAR ADDED FIVE PLUS ONE
NET WEIGHT 80 POUNDS

SUGGESTED RECIPE FOR USE IN PIES

Let apple slices completely defrost. Drain all the juice from the container. To this juice, add 1 lb. Sugar, 8 lbs. Water and 8 lbs. Corn Syrup. Bring this to a hard boil, add 1 lb. Corn Starch, Cinnamon, Nutmeg and salt to taste.

Pour this hot liquid over defrosted apple slices. Let stand until cool. Mixture is then ready for pies. *Do not fill pies with hot mix.*

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With the addition of a fruit peeling-and-slicing operation in the mid-1940's, the Crozet Cold Storage achieved a marketable product line.

With appealing advertisements (right) in major magazines and on television, Morton 'prepared frozen foods' achieved popularity throughout the United States.



building in 1953 (as well as another similar operation in Webster City, Iowa), Harold Morton's former basement operation took a major leap forward.

In 1955, Continental Baking Company purchased Morton's business and operated it as a separate division. With the driving force of this major corporate parent, the Morton Frozen Foods operation in Crozet experienced amazing growth and success. During the next ten years the former Crozet Cold Storage physical plant was expanded almost annually. There was hardly a town in the United States in which the Morton label was not familiar.

By 1965, Morton Frozen Foods was Albemarle County's largest employer



Crozet, marketed its advantages in the 1933 Shenandoah National Park visitor's guide. Identifying itself as 'Home of the famous Albemarle Pippins, it also noted that the Crozet Cold Storage was 'Modern in every detail.'



Several additions to the Morton Frozen Foods physical plant are evident in this 1959 photo that Les Gibson took from his front yard across the street. The Beitzel home, partially visible to the left, was later moved to make way for the plant's cafeteria.

with over 1,600 employees working three shifts around the clock. Its fleet of 35 tractor-trailers, one of the largest in the county, traveled more than five million miles annually!

The consistently high quality, prepared frozen foods turned out by skilled co-workers not only made the company profitable, but it also made it a tempting acquisition in the corporate world. In addition to Continental Baking Company, the former Morton Packing Company was operated at different times under the giant corporate umbrellas of International Telephone and Telegraph, Del Monte, R.J. Reynolds, and Nabisco. In 1986 it was acquired by ConAgra Frozen Foods, who owned it until a corporate streamlining brought about the Crozet plant's closure in the fall of 2000.

Pauline Corbin was one of the employees who started work at Morton's on its first day of operations in Crozet. "We started at seventy-five cents an hour," she recalled, "and didn't get any raises until the union came in." For the next 35 years, laboring in numerous departments on both sides of the road, she weathered the plant's consistent growth, including its advancements in automated production. Summing up her varied work experiences recently, she concluded, "We had a lot of fun. It was really nice down there."

Gone now is the railroad spur that crossed Rt. 240 to transport raw materials to the freezer/warehouse across the street. Gone is the row of employees sitting on the rock wall in front of the old plant, catching up on news from one another while waiting for their rides at quitting time. Gone, too, is the seemingly endless line of traffic threading its way through Crozet following workshift changes. Gone are the crowds hoping to get best pickings at the Thrift Store on Saturday mornings, the occasional blast of a tractor-trailer horn, and the sweet smells that wafted across the road when honey buns were being prepared.

Once described as a small city that never slept, the Morton/Del Monte/ConAgra manufacturing facility was ably served by a family of co-workers who exemplified loyalty and steadfastness to their company and to one another. The values of the several thousands of employees who labored there across five decades continue to influence our local community, as well as many communities in the surrounding counties.

It was 80 years ago this year that construction began on a "new" cold storage facility in Crozet. Today, new tenants there perform vastly different tasks than those from that earlier era. May the legacies they leave reflect the excellent qualities of those workers who have gone before them.

Phil James invites contact from those who would share recollections and old photographs of life along Albemarle County's western mountain border. Contact him at: P.O. Box 88, White Hall, VA 22987 or philjames@firstva.com. © 2007 Phil James

Crozet Cougar Seen Near Hilltop Street

A large cougar was seen by Roger Rawlings in his yard on the north side of Hilltop Street in Crozet shortly before noon Saturday Jan. 20. Rawlings was cutting firewood near the rear of his lot, where it borders the eastern reaches of Barnes Lumber Company, and when he cut off his saw to move a branch he heard an unusual noise. He expected to find a cat when he turned around, he said, but was surprised and startled to see the cougar about 25 yards away.

"It was pretty big. It wasn't no small one," Rawlings said. "I got a good look at him." He estimated its length at five feet and described it as "tan with a white patch on its belly." Rawlings said the nearest the cougar came to him was about 15 yards. He is familiar with bobcats, he said, and the animal he saw was not a bobcat.

Rawlings said the cougar "showed his teeth. He was staring right at me. I took off running as fast as I could." When he went back later to recover his saw he found no sign of the cougar. He said he believes they will attack.

His neighbor Sharon Hutchinson said she has heard what she believes is the cougar in the same area, the woods between Hilltop and the railroad tracks, on three different occasions. "I heard that awful wailing like a baby," she said. She said one night her son's dog, Jake, which was tied in the yard, "was raising a fit" barking and when she went to investigate she saw "a pair of yellow eyes" staring at her through the dark. "I swear to God it was there," she said. "I'll guarantee he was there that weekend" [when Rawlings saw it]. Hutchinson said she reported her encounter to Albemarle County police.

Rawlings also reported a recent sighting of a coyote on Blue Ridge Avenue.



The new look of the Crozet Family Medicine medical staff (left to right): Dr. Lily Hargrove, Dr. Mark Keeley, Dr. Berla Giese, Dr. Russell Sawyer and Dr. Harvey Laub

New Doctor Joins Crozet Family Medicine

Dr. Bela Giese, a board-certified family physician, has joined the doctors at Crozet Family Medicine, bringing the medical staff there to five. Raised in Ohio and a graduate of the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo, Dr. Giese finished her residency training in family medicine at U.Va. in 2003 and was working for the University's Student Health clinic until her shift to Crozet last month. "I wanted to stay in the area and this clinic has a great reputation," she said. Dr. Giese's husband, whom she met in medical school, is also a physician in family medicine and is now practicing in Orange. They have two young children (and two dogs).

"I have really enjoyed practicing medicine since graduating from residency," said Dr. Giese, "and I'm really excited to be at Crozet Family Medicine. It's exactly the sort of practice I always hoped I could join. I love seeing patients of all ages and with a wide range of issues. I want to serve the Crozet community well and for a long time."

Her special interests are women's health, pediatric and adolescent medicine and lactation counseling. Crozet Family Medicine offers comprehensive and urgent medical care and welcomes same-day appointments. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

Bright Beginnings Adds Luster

Jon Nafziger, Chair of the Partnership for Children, a regional coalition of 14 community agencies that works to promote the welfare of young children, presented Karen Moore of Crozet Bright Beginnings day care center with a "Seal of Good Child Care" certificate Jan. 28, recognizing the center's achievement of Level Two status in a nationally normed quality-of-care rating. Joining Nafziger was Kathy Flanders, who oversees center evaluations for the Partnership. Bright Beginnings curriculum specialist Amy Hatfield (holding son Keller) and assistant director Meg Petchel are shown on the right. An outside evaluator spent 10 days visiting the center's classrooms and each one won a rating of 4.5—above average—on a scale of seven. Evaluators look especially at two factors: the quality of the adult care provider's interaction with children and indications of improvements in a child's language and reasoning skills, meaning that the provider



designs activities that promote vocabulary growth and pre-reading skills. "The key is the adult/child interaction," said Nafziger, who is also a vice president of the United Way for the Thomas Jefferson Area and a Crozetian. Nine centers in Albemarle and Charlottesville are pursuing the formal quality rating, but Crozet Bright Beginnings was the first to volunteer to be evaluated and the first to achieve Level Two status. The center is pursuing Level Four, which is national accreditation.

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Changes Coming to Afton Mountain

By Kathy Johnson

There are ghosts on Afton Mountain. They stand in muted orange and faded white starkly against the skyline—pale shades of their former glory. Peeling paint, billowing sheets of plastic and empty rooms stand side by side like birds on a fence line watching the valley below.

In the early 1960s and before, every trip to Waynesboro went over the mountain on Route 250. It curved past the Howard Johnson and the more recently constructed Holiday Inn and young children, now grown old, remember the lure of “HoJos” and the 28 flavors of ice cream (my personal favorite being fudge ripple). Each trip required a stop for ice cream or a temper tantrum could ensue.

Today the Howard Johnson stands abandoned after closing in 1998. Built in 1960, the Holiday Inn changed in the mid-1990s (after construction of Interstate 64) to independent ownership and changed its name to The Inn at Afton. Nearby, the remnants of the Skyline Parkway Motor Court stand burned out and desolate after a series of fires between 2002 and July of 2004.

But there is a move afoot to bring life back to Afton Mountain. The Tourist Information Center (officially known as the Rockfish Gap Regional Visitor Center) annually hosts nearly 50,000 tourists seeking information about the region, wineries, Albemarle and Augusta County, and area officials are starting to take notice.

In December the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission approached the City of Waynesboro and the Augusta County Board of Supervisors with a proposed study to look for ways to improve the Rockfish Gap/Afton Mountain complex. Their plan was for a partnership to include Augusta, Nelson and Albemarle counties, the cities of Waynesboro and Staunton, the U.S. Forest Service and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

So far the Augusta County Board of Supervisors and the Waynesboro City Manager have agreed to fund the planned study at a total cost of \$5,000 (\$1,667 from the County and the balance from the city). In supporting the study, Augusta



Board of Supervisor member Nancy Sorrells stated, “This is a major entrance corridor to our beautiful valley. It forms a first impression for visitors.”

Wendall Coleman, another member of the Board of Supervisors, agreed and said, “We (the city and the county) have a vested interest in what goes on there. That’s [tourist] first introduction to either side of the mountain.”

Coleman explained that Augusta County and the City of Waynesboro

are looking at the big picture. The study will include the feasibility of a new regional visitor center and “We’re looking at traffic patterns, ways to improve pedestrian and biking paths, signage and lighting.” The study will also consider possible business and tourism-related businesses for the mountaintop.

A recent on-line blogger suggested the county might declare “eminent domain over derelict properties” on the mountain, but another

Afton mountain businessperson expressed concern over just that possibility. “Could,” she asked, “the study be preliminary to the County trying to declare eminent domain” and possibly confiscate the 9 acres, including the burned-out Skyline Parkway Motel currently owned by Phil Dulaney of Charlottesville?

“Not so,” said Wendall Coleman. While Dulaney owns a crucial part of the 417 acres on top of the mountain, he is working to remove the derelict buildings. “We’re providing some expertise on what needs to be done,” said Coleman. “He (Dulaney) is incurring all the expense.”

And the cost to remove the burned-out buildings has been significant, with asbestos abatement and lead paint analysis high on the list of expenses. In December, Dulaney stated that he had just paid a \$44,000 bill to remove asbestos from one of the buildings.



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Field School Sponsors Lecture by Raising Cain Author

The Field School, a boys' middle school opening in Crozet this fall, and Woodberry Forest School are sponsoring a talk by Michael Thompson, author of *Raising Cain* and other books exploring boys' developmental issues, parenting and child psychology, at Piedmont Virginia Community College's Dickinson Auditorium Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. Thompson will speak and answer questions on educating and parenting boys.

A limited number of tickets are also available for a book-signing party at 6 p.m. in the Commons adjacent to the Auditorium. Tickets available at Mincer's on the Corner, Greenberry's in Barracks Road, and Timberlake's on the Downtown Mall. For more information on Field School, call Todd Barnett at 434-923-3435 or visit www.fieldschoolcv.net.

White Hall Ruritans Have a Scholarship to Give Away

The White Hall Ruritans are looking for nominees for their 2007 college scholarship. Scholarship selection criteria include financial need, character, academic promise and a desire for further education. Nominees should live in the White Hall/Crozet area and should have already made an application to their intended colleges or vocational schools. If you know of a deserving senior at Western Albemarle High School or a recent WAHS graduate, call Susan Woodward at 823-5094 or email her at swoodwar@cstone.net. Please provide the student's name and contact information and, if possible, information about his/her volunteer activities, work experience, vocational goals and school plans.

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King Family Vineyard —continued from page 1

King had requested a special use permit that would raise the number of special events he could hold to 104 per year, or two per week. The applicable County ordinance allows farm wineries 12 special events per year. The definition of what a “special event” is remained problematic throughout the discussion. The ordinance says: “special events include, but are not limited to, meetings, conferences, dinners, wedding receptions, private parties and other events conducted for the purpose of marketing wine.” King claimed that “meetings” where wine sales were discussed was vague enough to use up his 12 allowable “events” in very short order. Tastings and on-farm sales in the tasting room are allowed under section 1 of the ordinance. Section 4 allows four public “festivals” per year but 155 acres of the 325-acre farm (including the winery) is under a conservation easement held by the Virginia Outdoor Foundation that forbids festivals.

The Kings are currently building a facility large enough to accommo-

date up to 150 people next door to the winery for indoor private parties as a by-right farm building. Commissioners were shown elevations of the building, which resembles a large traditional horse barn. Events would be held indoors or under the building’s porch on the winery side. The implication made was that “events” would mainly be weddings.

King is the legislative chair for the Virginia Winery Association and has been spending every day in Richmond while the General Assembly is in session working to relieve rule and economic pressures that are undermining the viability of Virginia’s \$300 million wine industry. Following court decisions, the Assembly last year forbade wineries from making direct sales to retailers, leaving operators with either on-farm sales of wine or sales to distributors, who can require large discounts and thus are a realistic avenue only for large-volume producers. King Family Vineyards produces about 7,500 cases per year, a relatively small amount. Thus the

winery must dramatically boost on-farm sales to remain in business. “This [request] is a poster child for why legislation on wineries is before the General Assembly,” noted Wayne Cilimberg, director of planning. It was the first formal request in the County to raise the event limit.

“What’s happened is that the legislature took away one of the three legs to the stool of distribution, namely self-distribution,” explained King. “We *have* to have customers come to our facility. We break even as it is. The loss of self-distribution, which had been allowed since 1975, has compromised our ability to remain economically viable. The purpose of the new building is to limit impacts on our neighbors. To continue, we have to increase our customers. I am in the tourist business. I sell wine and a view of the mountains.”

Given that the County’s Comprehensive Plan supports farm winer-

ies, County planner staffers were inclined to favor the request, planner Scott Clark said, but on six conditions: events have to be held in the building specified and it has to be built according to the submitted design; better screening trees and shrubs must be added near neighbors; events have to be limited to 150 guests; events cannot begin before 5 p.m.; and the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Heath Department also have to consent.

In a letter submitted to the commission, VDOT’s residency program manager Joel DeNunzio said the road to the winery, Half Mile Branch Road, had sightline problems but the traffic added by event goers did not strain its capacity. “I do not have concerns with increasing the frequency of events because the road can handle the traffic,” he wrote. The construction of a left-turn lane into the farm would help

continued on page 26



Crozet Branch to Relocate in February

To the Shoppes at Clover Lawn on Route 250

Opening day for our bright new Crozet branch is fast approaching—and our staff can’t wait. You’ll love it too. It couldn’t be more conveniently located, with easy parking, and an enclosed ATM.

Once we settle in, we’ll be hosting a relocation celebration, and we would love to welcome you to our new branch. Keep your eyes open for further news.

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CROZET gazette

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To submit, e-mail your digital photo (.jpg format) to editor@crozetgazette.com OR mail a print of your photo to the Crozet Gazette at P.O. Box 863, Crozet VA, 22932.

Submissions are due by Thursday, February 15th.

Please limit one photo per pet (but not necessarily one photo per person).

Please include your name and age, your pet’s name and age, your grade and school (if applicable), and your contact information.

Starr Hill—continued from page 1



left to right: John Bryce, Matt Briggs, Matt Reich, and Mark Thompson.

Charlottesville and he began Starr Hill in the old Blue Ridge Brewery on Main Street. He now lives in Crozet with his wife and their two daughters, Dominique and Ana, who both attend Crozet Elementary School.

While on Main Street, Starr Hill developed their identity as a brewery, as well as their four central beers. Those four beers—the Amber, the Pale, the Jomo, and the Dark Starr—would go on to win 13 medals over the last six years at the Great American Beer Festival, the “Olympics of microbreweries,” as Thompson described it, held annually in Denver, Colorado. The Amber and the Pale Ales were the first beers of the Starr Hill line. The Amber, one of the more popular beers Starr Hill makes, is a great example of a darker, yet not overly complex, beer. Available at nearly every restaurant in the Crozet area, the Amber has a deep, almost reddish hue and a pleasant aroma of fruits and nuts. After a sip, hints of chocolate and molasses linger on the tongue. Next, Starr Hill released the Jomo Lager, reputedly the “smoothest” of all Starr Hill beers, and now the Dark Starr Stout, which Thompson described as “an Irish-style ale with a rich, robust taste.”

In addition to these mainstays, the brewery makes four seasonal beers. The winter brew, The Gift, was named that because once you taste it you definitely want to find it under your Christmas tree. The Gift is a darker beer, (though not as dark as the Dark Starr), that gains its full-bodied taste from being brewed with locally-roasted Shenandoah Joe coffee. Thompson and his brewers are now working on the release of their next beer, the Starrlight. As its name implies, the newest of the Starr Hill brews will be a light, Hellis-style beer; but light only in color, not in flavor, Thompson said.

At its original location, the brewery could produce only around 1,500 barrels annually, an amount far too small to keep up with demand for Starr Hill beer. So two years ago, the brewery

moved into much more suitable digs—the old ConAgra plant. “Brewed and bottled in Crozet, Virginia,” its labels now say. The brewery occupies the west third of the building. The rest is used by MusicToday.

In their new location, they can produce 10,000 barrels a year, and there is plenty of room to grow. Thompson described the new location as ideal. “It was always a dream of mine to find a place like this. It’s perfect for brewing.”

The move into such a significant Crozet building is important to Thompson for roots reasons too. For him, this new home aptly combines the philosophy of Starr Hill with the tradition of ConAgra. Working in the old plant, even using the frozen foods cold storage, Thompson said he feels “a deep sense of loyalty to the memory of ConAgra and its workers” and that the brewery carries on that legacy.

The cavernous halls and massive cold storage facilities are a brewer’s dream. Now Starr Hill can perform its entire brewing operation on one site. Brewing is a complicated process that takes anywhere from three to five weeks, beginning with three mammoth silos, each holding 40,000 pounds of malted barley, and ending at the state-of-the-art Kronen bottling machines that can fill, cap, and label 100 bottles per minute. Four full time employees take on the task of brewing. A typical week at the job consists of brewing two types of beer on Monday, two types of beer on Tuesday, bottling kegs on Wednesday, bottling bottles on Thursday, and spending all day Friday cleaning everything up. Because beer has a shelf life of 110 days, Thompson has to think ahead when planning the brewing schedule. Summer-time is generally the brewery’s peak season.

The explosion of Starr Hill’s success over the last eight years is due in part to the capabilities of new facility, but also because of the community’s preference for well-made local products. The popularity of Starr Hill beer has grown simultaneously with the expansion of another group



of local manufacturers: Virginia wineries. “Consumers across the U.S. are rejecting mass market commodities,” Thompson explained. “Like the recent success of Virginia wineries, Starr Hill’s success is a result of the people of Charlottesville and Crozet who appreciate a fresh, locally made product.”

Crozet’s hometown beer is about to be shared even more widely. The brewery recently hired a sales representative who will work on increasing Starr Hill’s presence throughout Virginia, and, over the next three to five years, across the entire East Coast.

Another secret of Starr Hill’s success has been their development of a special connotation—Starr Hill is the music lover’s beer. Even though the brewery has grown out of the space it shared with the eponymous music hall, it still has a strong connection to the local music scene. Thompson explains that the growth of the brewery and the music hall were very much related. “Starr Hill’s identity as a brand is very much tied to music. The brewery’s start in the music hall has helped to draw attention to the product by attracting people of different musical tastes.” These days the brewery has grown even more within that niche—if you visit any number of local festivals, such as the Nelson County Summer Music Festival, Floyd Fest, or any event at the Charlottesville Pavilion, you’ll surely see Starr Hill beer on hand. For Thompson, enjoying music and a Starr Hill beer go hand in hand. “If I had my dream, you would enjoy a Starr Hill in the sun listening to your favorite band.”



continued on page 24



Dancers from Crozet's Albemarle Ballet Theater performed excerpts from the Nutcracker Suite for a crowd of more than 400 in a "lunch-time cabaret" at Western Albemarle High School Jan. 29. Shown here in the finale are (left to right, including those partially obscured), Lara Spiekermann, Ashley McCall Geisler, Julia Wasserman, Madison Neisser, Caitlin Cosby, Anna Rol and Aleksandra Tolczyk. Groups from Brownsville Elementary,

Henley Middle School, The Village School, Crossroads Waldorf School, North Branch Academy and the Renaissance School attended. No admission was charged. Directed by Sally Hart with a studio in the old Fruit Growers building, the ABT now has more than 100 students and has recently added three instructors. It offers need-based scholarships and is now creating a civic dance company.



Meredith Dickens

Crozet Library Lands Dickens

Meredith Dickens joined the Crozet Library staff as the new Young Adult Librarian Jan. 8. She was formerly the solo librarian at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, where she had a reputation for making the library an upbeat, positive experience for workers and patrons.

Dickens is a graduate of Charlottesville High School and has her Bachelor of Arts, with majors in Art and Religion, from Williams College. Her Master of Library and Information Science degree is from Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science, in Boston, Mass.



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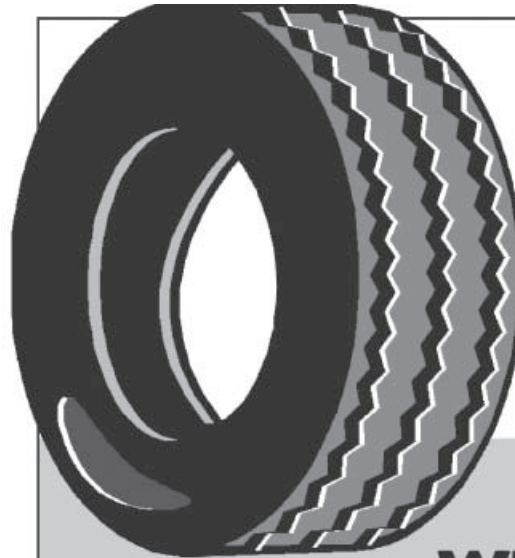
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A NEW YORK YANKEE IN CHIEF BUBBA AND HUBBA'S FIREHOUSE

By Tom Loach

CVFD CAVALRY RIDES TO THE RESCUE

Hardly a day goes by when I don't learn something new in Chief Bubba and Hubba's firehouse. For instance, I recently found out those hairy little caterpillars inching their way across the roads with a seeming death wish because I see so many, are called Woolly Worms and they can predict the weather. According to the CVFD's Woolly Worm experts, the worm's dark-colored fur means we're in for a bad winter and despite the fact winter has been quite warm so far, they're still convinced we're in for trouble. As for me I've been in the department long enough to know not to question country wisdom, so unless the boys have stumbled on a totally whacked-out bunch of Woolly Worms, I suggest you stock up on firewood.

Recently we were sitting around the firehouse and another learning opportunity came along. We got a call from the Emergency Communication Center (ECC) telling us a man was stuck in a creek and needed help. I figured someone was either drunk or fell asleep at the wheel and ended up in the drink. But mine is not to reason why, just get up, gear up and mount up. I followed Jessie Seale and Nick Barrell and jumped into one of the two brush trucks we have in the department and away we went.

As I settled into the seat between Jess and Nick, they started the usual discussion about the best way to get to the scene. The fact that we never get lost has lead me to the conclusion that God implants his own version of GPS into everyone born south of the Mason-Dixon Line. Jesse and Nick kept up a running dialog about the ford, which didn't make any sense since the ECC had said nothing about the type of vehicle involved in the incident.

Now I have to admit that even after living in Crozet for almost 20 years, I've never been able to 'bring myself to say y'all. So using my best New



Nick Barrell

Yorkeze I asked, "Hey, how do yous guys know it's a Ford?"

Jesse laughed so hard I thought he was going to drive off the road.

Nick just turned, slapped me on the back and said, "Don't worry Tom, it's a Southern thing."

It took a second or two to realize they weren't talking about my father's Ford, but something entirely different. Then it dawned on me that the only other context I've ever heard the word ford used in was a John Wayne movie. He was always fording something for one reason or another. And, at any rate, how was I to know there are actually fords in Albemarle County. For those

that don't know, a ford is a road that happens to be bisected by a body of water and the onus is on the driver to know whether to cross the ford or not. As for the driver we were sent to help, sure enough, he made the wrong decision and was stuck in his truck in the middle of the creek.

Nick and I jumped on the back step of the brush truck, Jessie put it in 4-wheel drive, we pulled up next to the driver's truck, popped him out the door onto the back step of the truck and off we went. The Duke would have been proud of us.

You've already met Jesse in a previous article, so let me take this opportunity to introduce you to Nick Barrell. If anyone was born to work in emergency services, it's Nick. He's not only a member of the Crozet fire department, but is employed by Charlottesville as a professional firefighter. But Nick doesn't stop there. He also volunteers with the Western Albemarle Rescue Squad and is currently taking advanced emergency medical training.

Nick is one of several 20-somethings in the department who seem to have boundless energy. At my age I can only sit back and envy it. One of the things I like about Nick is he's a gadget guy and his turn out coat and pants are always bulging with the newest and greatest in firefighting paraphernalia. His latest venture was to try to attach a small digital camera to his helmet to get action shots at fires. I'm not sure it was much of success. But no doubt he'll be coming up with another innovation real soon. Nick lives close enough to the firehouse that he can run the short distance to answer a call. So if some night you're driving down the road and you happen to see someone running in his pajamas toward the firehouse, don't worry; it's probably Nick. Just roll the window down and give a shout hello.

4th of July—continued from page 1

the Park, in which case the parade will follow its traditional route from Crozet Elementary to the Park.

The lawn party will feature such diversions as a poker run for motorcyclists, in which they go to various locations, pick up playing cards and return to the firehouse to see who has assembled the best hand. There will be a car show, a climbing wall, a moon walk and a bull ride, various carnival-style games, and local bands will perform. The CVFD is contemplating offering booths for rent too, Robb said. "We're really anxious for more community participation and

we're all ears if anybody has ideas that might help."

The CVFD is not hiring a company to organize the event, as it had to with the carnival, though the carnival in its earliest days was completely organized and manned by local firemen.

Tentative plans call for the lawn party to start once the parade ends.

"We want to start the party in the cooling time of the day," explained Robb, who said the event is likely to run from about 4 to 10 p.m. "We're hoping to have fun and bring out the community."

"The lawn party may have to be at the Park," Robb said, "but we hope to have it here [at the firehouse]."

"The carnival has always been a primary fundraiser for the fire department and a community social event," said Robb, who is in his third year as president. "As its fundraising has diminished, it became important to change it to still fulfill both those needs. We didn't want it to just disappear. The carnival has been going since the late 40s.

"Its [income has] been decreasing and in talking to the carnival com-

panies, they see a dying off of the small local carnival. The costs of it keep going up and I think we've had less community participation. Our upfront preparation time is huge.

"There were hundreds and hundreds of our hours invested in it [last year] and it netted about \$6,000.

"This past year our donations were adequate, and we're very thankful to the community," said Robb. The fundraising strategy for this year includes the customary spring and fall raffles of pickup trucks, the

continued on page 21

There's a Lot of Love in This House • Part I

Larry Scott, who in September moved into the house he and volunteers from Habitat for Humanity built on Holmes Avenue in Charlottesville, and Habitat's development director Tim Bowring visited the Crozet Lions Club Jan. 8 to describe the local chapter's program and ask for the Lions' help.

"[Habitat has] gone from being a building club to being a sizeable construction company," said Bowring.

"We have huge housing issues in Charlottesville. People can't afford to live here anymore." Charlottesville's median income is \$66,700, he said.

It takes a \$50,000 donation to sponsor construction of one unit. Donors finance the building materials and volunteers build the houses. Habitat provides \$60,000 to \$70,000 to buy land and arranges no-interest mortgage loans for recipient families. The national foreclosure rate on Habitat houses is 1.5 percent. There has never been a foreclosure on a Habitat house in Albemarle or Charlottesville, Bowring said. Habitat gets half the profit of the first sale of the house if it is sold outside the family.

Habitat is working on houses in Fifeville now and plans to build 20 to 30 houses per year. It built 16 houses in Charlottesville in 2006 and expects to build 20 in 2007. "We're buying trailer parks now, such as Southwood [near the new Biscuit Run development, just south of Charlottesville], which has 361 trailers." Habitat plans to replace them with 700 to 900 new apartments and townhouses.

"It's not a handout," said Bowring. "Nobody gave Larry a house. Larry and his family helped build the house." Habitat requires recipients to put in at least 200 hours of "sweat equity" into their house or another Habitat project. Most have worked at least that much before construction gets very far along.

Bowring suggested that Crozet Lions Club members work on a house.

For the last eight months, Larry Scott has been working at the new Charlottesville Habitat for Humanity store on Harris Street, where he hauls and manhandles building supplies, used furniture and appliances. He spent the previous 14 years working for the Salvation Army. He met his wife, Monique, an immigrant from Niger, in north central Africa, at the Salvation Army. They've been married 10 years.

Now 54, Scott was homeless when he came to Charlottesville 15 years ago. "I had a drinking problem. It was *my* choice, not society's. I was living life day-to-day."

Love, the supreme power, eventually got him out of that predicament. But not the economic one that came with it. "I was hurting inside," said Scott. "I wanted a home for my wife and daughter. I admired houses with Christmas lights."

But, feeling undeserving, he believed he would be rejected for a Habitat house. "I hoped she wouldn't ask me [to apply]. I couldn't have stood it for her to be disappointed. I felt less than a man."



Larry Scott with his wife Monique, daughter Marie-Beth, age 10, and niece Maria in front of their house on Holmes Avenue. "We take pride in it," said Scott. "We were part of everything. We did sheetrock, siding, framing, painted, finished the stairs. There's a lot of love in this house."

But she did press him to apply, believing a house would happen, and forced him to confront his fear. "I was workable," he said. "I went to classes to get my finances straight. I waited for four and half years for a location I liked."

"I went out on faith. Habitat won't guarantee a location. I felt if God wanted me to have it, I would and if not, another door would open."

"Habitat helped me to live my dream that I felt was impossible. I walk with my head in the air. My neighbors respect me. They call me 'Mr. Scott.' I say, 'You don't have to do that.'" But the point is he earned that respect. "I didn't want a handout. No one told me to be an alcoholic or to sleep under steps."

"We have a beautiful home with a brick front and a basement. Our neighbors love us. If it wasn't for Habitat I would still be paying rent with most of my check."

"Today my life is complete. My daughter is in a wonderful school. I don't have to wait for drug dealers to go home before I can go to sleep."

"Some people just need an opportunity. Not all are ready. You gotta really work, put something into it. We worked very, very hard for our home. It's worth it."

The Scotts have had their first Christmas in their new (and spotlessly kept) home on Holmes Avenue now.

"I'm paying a mortgage now, not rent. I'm on my own property. I can't put into words how I feel. It is truly a blessing."

"People donate their time and their money. A



lot of people are not willing to give people a chance. But you *can change* a person's life," Scott insisted, and to the Lions on hand he had indisputably proved his point.

• Part II

Crozet architect Paul Geartner graduated from Virginia Tech in 1981 with a degree in architecture, went to Reston to practice for a while, then came to Crozet in 1990 and hung out his own shingle as a residential designer. Among his projects was the enlargement of the sanctuary platform at Crozet Baptist Church, where he was married 32 years ago. He's also done "hardscape" elements for landscape designs. Recently he went to work for Shelter Associates in Free Union. Along the way he imagined a dream house or two for himself, one of which he lives in now, not far from Rock Gate cemetery, and another, a tower form, that he hopes one day to build high on a Blue Ridge slope.

But Geartner knows other people have house dreams, too, and to help them out he went to work on a Habitat for Humanity project.

"I sought them out and signed on as a volunteer. I hammered nails for a while," Geartner said. "They knew I am an architect and they needed some construction drawings. They've got sites that their designs don't fit. Those require unique



Paul Geartner, Habitat for Humanity designer, and the model he built of his dream house.

houses.

“Habitat wants to build in Charlottesville so that commutes are short. Charlottesville has undeveloped lots, but they tend to have problems, so we’ve built some unusual houses.”

Habitat’s regulations are aimed at producing fairly simple, compact and efficient dwellings. A three-bedroom house is limited to 1,050 square feet. That’s not much by today’s standards. If it has to be two stories, room for a staircase is allowed. In some rare cases basements happen, “accidentally,” was Geartner’s term for it.

When he became involved, Habitat was building its sixth house in Charlottesville. Now it has built more than 60, Geartner said.

He designed his first Habitat house in 1999. “I didn’t draw every one. Many are the same design. We try not to reinvent the wheel,” explained Geartner. “I’ve done about 8 designs for them.”

All his work for them is, as lawyers like to say, pro bono—free. “I do them in my spare time,” said Geartner, with a so-what, no-big-deal shrug.

“I design these houses like they are Chinese puzzles. Every square foot is exploited as carefully as possible.” Recently he’s finished a duplex for a lot in Rock Creek, an unusual case, but one that allows two families to fit on the same lot. “The staggered footprint allows different gables,” he said, gesturing to his drawings to show how some appealing features were still possible on tight budgets.

“I try to make the house efficient, functional and simple. Habitat likes the potential for one-level living for the elderly and wheelchair-width passageways.

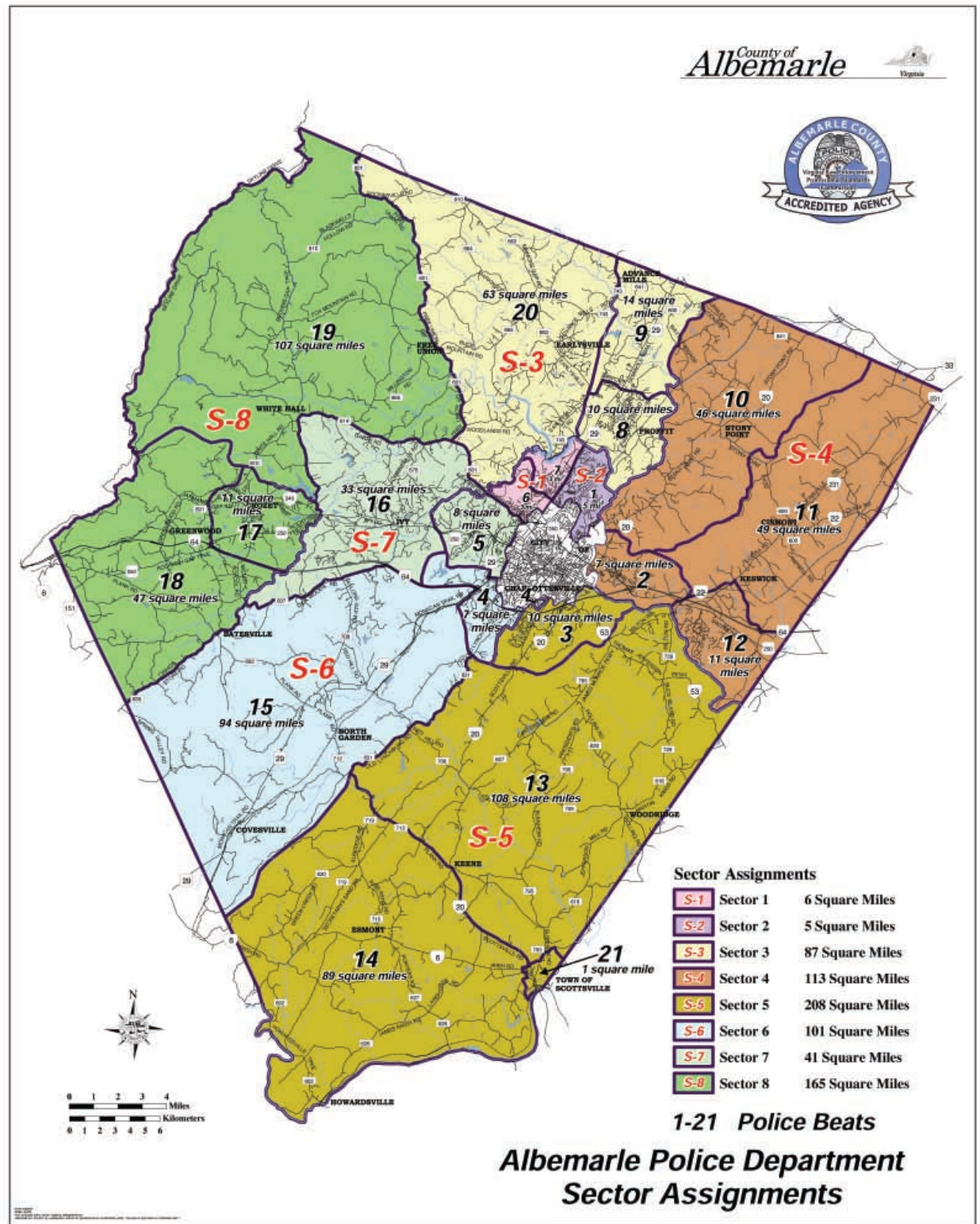
“The Holmes Avenue houses had tiny lots. They needed to be two stories.” And the steep slopes in their rear meant basements were as smart as paying for excavations.

Has he ever met Larry Scott, one the new owners of that design?

No. “Habitat is a little compartmentalized,” said Geartner, who describes himself as introverted and content to work on blueprint challenges, problems of mere inches.

“I really value the opportunity to serve in a way that makes the best of the gifts I have and the skills I’ve developed. My Habitat work is a good match for my temperament.”

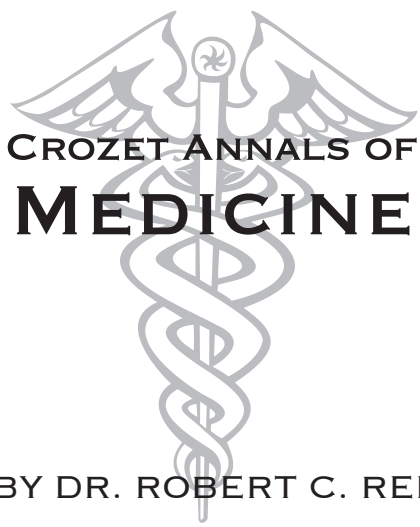
It is a small world whether we know it or not.



Crime Stats for 2006 for Beats 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

Report offenses:

	BEAT 15	BEAT 16	BEAT 17	BEAT 18	BEAT 19
Arson	1	0	1	1	1
Assaults	21	16	48	21	14
Aggravated assaults	3	0	2	2	0
Burglary	13	12	25	11	5
Counterfeiting/forgery	0	1	2	1	0
Vandalism	26	30	71	25	25
Drug Violations	17	9	13	3	3
Embezzlement	2	0	4	0	1
Fraud offenses	9	11	20	3	2
Motor vehicle thefts	4	1	4	5	3
Larcenies	26	32	79	23	15
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	2	0	0
Pornography	0	0	1	0	0
Robbery	2	0	1	0	0
Sex offenses	4	1	2	1	1
Weapon Law violation	2	3	4	3	1
Crash reports	144	80	94	55	42



BY DR. ROBERT C. REISER

Affairs of the Heart

My experience in clinical medicine has taught me that some broken hearts can be mended and some cannot.

Doris was 86 years old when she was flown in by helicopter to our CCU in Pittsburgh. The report we had received from the small rural hospital she came from was that an ER doc had placed a large needle through her chest wall and directly into her heart and rigged it up to an external pacemaker to revive her from a cardiac arrest.

The report of this primitive, risky, and rare heroic measure brought a capacity crowd to meet her on arrival to the CCU. Most were skeptical that this procedure was indicated or effective. First impressions confirmed this opinion. Doris was in fine fettle, awake and alert with good color. Her silver hair was elegantly coifed and I complimented her on it.

She greeted us all politely and insisted on transferring herself from the helicopter stretcher



Dr. Robert C. Reiser

to the hospital bed. Most of the crowd drifted away assuming the crisis past and the device no longer in use. But Doris had a few surprises for us. The first surprise was that when Doris was unwrapped from her transport packing she did indeed have a gigantic needle plunged through her chest in the vicinity of her heart. Against her tiny frame it appeared to be the size of a knitting needle. Wires led from it to a pacing device and with each heartbeat this knitting needle oscillated back and forth like a metronome. It was imbedded in her left ventricle, normally a fatal injury. Doris seemed to regard it vaguely as a curious indignity but of no special concern.

The attending cardiologist simply could not resist the obvious question: did she really need this crazy intervention?

"Let's turn off this pacer and see what her underlying rhythm is" he suggested in a confident, authoritative manner.

The instant the pacer was switched off Doris's eyes rolled back in her head. She had a few beats of seizure activity and the monitor went completely flat line. Surprise number two. She was dead. The pacer was switched back on and Doris's eyelids fluttered, then opened and she refocused on us as if she had just taken a brief nap. She was probably wondering why we had all fallen so completely pale and wordless. The ER doc's actions suddenly rose in our opinion.

I was assigned her case and especially the daily changing of her temporary pacer batteries. (I placed a less risky transvenous pacer and removed the cardiac needle with no complications.) Once a day I would switch off the pacer. Doris would pass out in the same deadly fashion while I fum-

bled with the new batteries and then I would switch the pacer back on and she would awaken and question why I kept doing this to her. Not the switching off part, but rather the switching back on part.

"I am ready to die," she would declare in a rational matter-of-fact tone that my twenty-something mind could not grasp. It took us a week to talk this lovely lady into a permanent pacemaker. She trusted the wisdom of her heart, which no longer wished to beat over our limited science.

In the end she did fine and left the hospital under her own steam with her reluctant heart electrically prodded 80 times a minute to keep to its task.

More recently I was presented with the case of a 35-year-old man with six months of chest pain. His father had died unexpectedly six months ago and he grieved him deeply. They were constant companions. They lived next door to each other, hunted, fished and tinkered on machines together. He was tearful as he described how bereft he was without him. He was concerned that he was dying of a broken heart, although his doctor had assured him that this was impossible. At this last statement the resident doctor with me glanced at me sharply, but held his tongue until we were out of earshot of the patient.

I knew, what the resident was thinking. Two years ago, just in time for Valentine's Day, the New England Journal of Medicine published a case series that concluded "emotional stress can precipitate severe reversible left ventricular dysfunction without coronary disease." In other words, as in the popular imagination, you can die of a broken heart.

The Japanese were the first to describe this peculiar condition in which the heart undergoes a characteristic change in shape such that it resembles the narrow neck and broad base of an octopus trap. They dubbed it Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy after the Japanese word for octopus trap. It appears to be mediated by high levels of stress hormones such as epinephrine.

We ran some tests which fortunately showed no evidence of Takotsubo syndrome and discharged the patient with a mild anti-anxiety medication. We had a long discussion with him about grief and time and he left in a better frame of mind with heart disease ruled out.

So this Valentine's Day, dear readers, remember the power of love to keep you and your loved ones healthy. I must leave you as I have a sudden craving to take my sweetheart out for sushi for some reason.

Toxic chemicals: A 'silent pandemic'

More than 100,000 industrial chemicals are contaminating the air, water, and our homes, causing a 'silent pandemic' of brain diseases in children, a new report warns. Neurotoxin experts Philippe Grandjean and Philip Ladrigan say the widespread use of pesticides, cleaning products, glues, and other chemicals represents an uncontrolled experiment on developing brains, with little or no research on its impact. It's already been shown that minute amounts of lead, mercury, and PCBs can cause serious brain and neurological damage. Researchers say that tons of other, unregulated chemicals being poured into the environment could be causing an increased incidence of autism, attention deficit disorder, cerebral palsy, and retardation. "The human brain is a precious and vulnerable organ," says Grandjean, a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health. "Even limited damage may have serious consequences."

— THE WEEK, November 24, 2006

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Jo Ann Ferguson with her parents, Juanita and John Floyd, at Mountainside.

When Jo Ann Ferguson realized it was time for her 92-year-old father and 87-year-old mother to move from independent living in Roanoke to assisted living near her home in Ivy, she left no stone unturned.

She visited seven assisted living facilities in the Charlottesville area. None felt right.

"I hadn't even considered Mountainside," she said. "But a friend said 'try it. It's changed.'"

"From the moment I walked in the door, I felt the love. I thought 'This is a community. These people care. This is it.' I had looked at more expensive facilities, but never felt the love and caring."

"Mother and Dad love Mountainside as much as I do. It's ideal for them. There is enough to do but they don't feel stressed, and I know they're in safe hands, well cared for, and happy. I can't say enough about the caring, loving staff. And it's so easy for me to get there as often as I want."

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Minutes of the Downtown Crozet Association January Meeting

By Sandy Wilcox

During our January 8 meeting Cliff Fox and Don Skelly led the discussion about zoning regulations that are problematic for our downtown areas and suggested a number of solutions to various specific ordinances. While no positions were adopted, most of the opinions tended to focus on allowing the Albemarle County building code (BOCA) and the Neighborhood Model concepts to prevail over the County Comprehensive Zoning Code when conflicts arise. If we are to have commercial/retail space moved up close to the street with parking in the center of the blocks, for example, we can't have the zoning code requiring thirty-foot-front setbacks! We also can't have parking setbacks, side building setbacks, etc., that eat up a high percentage of the total lot area.

Concern was also expressed that we should expand the area referred to as "downtown," which we have generally considered just the "CT-6" (urban core) area designated in the Crozet Master Plan even if we distinguish between CT-6 and CT-5 (urban support) areas and have different density and use standards for each. The thought is that we should plan these at the same time. Concern was also shared that we need to find a way to implement these changes without the delays that a bureaucratic process often entails. If a zoning overlay district just adds new rules on top of the existing, that's not good. If a new zoning district takes forever to implement, that's not good either.

White Hall Supervisor David Wyant will meet with the Association at its next meeting Feb. 5 at 7:15 p.m. at Mountainside Senior Living. Topics will include: the status of the Phase I streetscape project at Three Notch'd Road and Crozet Ave; the alignment of Crozet Avenue for the Phase II improvements and how these might affect Pete McCauley's porch and Emery Taylor's oak tree; improvements to the Square; whether the Downtown Crozet District be removed from the Architectural Review Board's Entrance Corridor requirements; and more on parking and zoning

regulations. All Association members and any interested citizens are urged to attend.

Crozet Library Book Club Notes

The book group sponsored by the Crozet branch of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library met January 8 to discuss Larry McMurtry's western novel, *Lonesome Dove*. About fifteen readers, almost all enthusiastic in their reactions to the Pulitzer-winning novel, spent ninety minutes trading ideas about the book's bizarre plot twists and quirky, emotionally-stunted characters. The novel, an epic saga that follows a cattle drive from the Mexican border to the Montana territory in the 1870s, introduces a sprawling cast of cowboys, Texas rangers, farmers, gamblers, and outlaws, as well as a couple of pigs. At times the group's discussion focused on the author's presentation of women, the brutality of his outlook on life in the old West, and whether such a popular, readable book will come to be regarded as a classic.

The group will meet again on Monday, February 5, from 7 until 8:30 p.m. at the Crozet library to discuss Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. New participants are always welcome; three first-timers took part in the *Lonesome Dove* conversation.

Get Ready for Crozet Elementary's Silent Auction

Crozet Elementary's PTO encourages western Albemarle residents to mark their calendars for the school's silent auction the evening of Friday, March 16. This event raises funds for literacy programs and materials, scholarships for field trips, mini-grants for teachers and cultural arts assemblies.

Items already received for the auction include: a private tour and tasting for 12 at the King Family Vineyard; dinner for two at The Ivy Inn; a signed copy of John Grisham's *The Innocent Man*; a soccer ball signed by the U.Va. men's soccer team; theme baskets; gift certificates to stores and restaurants and much more coming in every day.

To donate a service or item, please contact Kim Connolly at 434-823-5169.

School Report

WAHS Swimming Dominates Districts, Sets Sights on States

By Keenan Timko and
Chris McConnell

For being the school's newest sports team, the Western Albemarle High School boys and girls swimming squads make it look like they've been building on successful seasons since WAHS opened thirty years ago. With an immaculate regular season record, including dual victories in the City-County Championship over their AAA adversary, Albemarle High School, no other sports team at WAHS or in the Jefferson District can claim the dominance that Western swimmers had this season.

Combined with a recent one-hundred-plus point sweep over Charlottesville High School in the Jefferson District Swim Meet, Western swimmers have every reason to predict a top-five finish at their AA State Meet in mid-February.

No team has stopped the WAHS wave and there is no sign that the tide will ebb anytime soon.

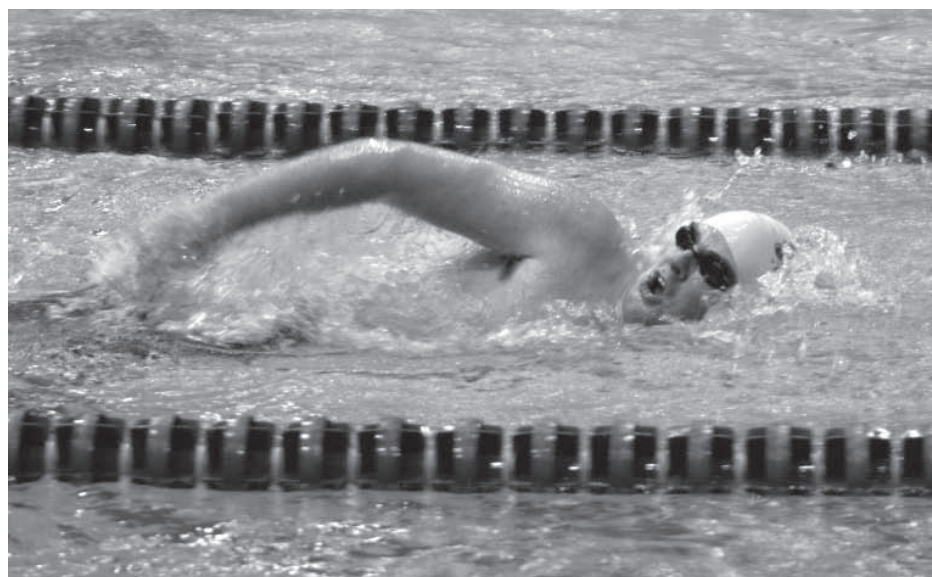
While much of the Warriors' success is attributed to the raw talent of their swimmers, attention has to be paid to the outstanding coaching Western swimmers receive. Marc Hagen, who is in his second season as head coach, and Andra Simons, in her third as assistant, both come from competitive swimming backgrounds and can relate to the strain that comes with difficult training.

Hagen, who swam for the very successful University of Virginia program as a freestyler, has no problem passing on the intensity that was bred into him while in college. He believes the team is doing an even better job of setting high goals and working towards achieving them this year.

"Our newer swimmers have adjusted well to the heightened expectations from last year," he said.

Kellianne Mullin, a junior on the team who recently moved from New Jersey, has taken notice of the determination and joy Western swimmers have in their sport.

"High school swimming here is lot more competitive and team-oriented," she commented. "But here we get to swim at U.Va. [s Aquatic and Fitness Center] and swim with



Joe McGrath swimming for Western at the City/County championship.

teammates from other club teams, which adds to the enjoyment."

Hagen's words of motivation have strengthened the hearts and resolution of the entire team. One of Hagen's legendary sayings during a particularly difficult practice made its way from the pool deck onto the team T-shirt last year: "What you're feeling is discomfort—pain is being shot!"

It's this kind of tenacity combined with Western's talent and serious training that has created quite a buzz amongst coaches in central Virginia, and the team's results show the buzz is well deserved.

At the City-County Championship, a meet open to all local teams of all levels, the Warriors nabbed fourteen first-place finishes out of twenty races, with Mark Nicholson, Dan Corley, Caitlin Shelley, Keenan Timko, and Brenna Broadus—to name a few—capturing the top honors in at least one event.

Top-scoring relays and other top individual performances from Matt Anhold, Sarah Clugston, Jay Spisso, Joe McGrath, Matthew Timko, Jack Cronk, Josh Dugan, Lisa McGill, Katherine Nicholson and many others helped augment the Warriors' lead.

By the end of the night, the Warrior boys racked up 358 points to the Patriots' 342, marking their first City-County title in the meet's six-year history. The Warrior girls slipped into first place by a four-point margin over Albemarle at 359 points.

Things weren't nearly as close at the Jefferson District Meet on

January 27. Both Warrior teams managed to part the waters at Fork Union Military Academy, easily gliding past the second-place finishers, CHS. While the girls won with 333 points over CHS's 258, the Warrior boys absolutely leveled the Black Knights, 405 to 217.

The win came at no surprise to Hagen, Simons, and the team, who all have their sights set on a bigger prize.

"Considering we knew we would win Districts, we have been pointing our training toward our Regional meet and States," Hagen said.

The day wasn't completely void of surprises, as Hagen and Simons were notified at the last minute that the meet would score down to ten swimmers, and not the previously assumed eight, a scoring structure that harms smaller teams like Western, and benefits larger teams. The decision was made by an on-deck coach vote, with only Western voting for the previously agreed score-to-eight system that is going to be used at Regionals.

While the measure was meant to narrow the scoring gap, the plan may have backfired on the other teams.

"When they decided to score to ten points to help the other teams, it only made us want to win more," freshman Lauren Simpson remarked after the meet.

Sophomore Matthew Timko agreed that it gave Western swimmers an edge in the pool. He described the feeling of the meet as "Nerve-racking, exciting, and action-filled."

Western swimmers still displayed outstanding sportsmanship and did not bring the contest to a personal level.

As Hagen noted, "We did our talking in the pool."

Simons was extremely proud of the professionalism of the team, despite her frustration with the decision. "In the face of adversity our team rose to the occasion."

"We will continue to swim faster," Hagen predicted. "That is the only thing we can look at now. Districts is setting the table. Regionals is enjoying the meal. States is dessert—saving the best for last."

DISTRICT RESULTS:

Men - Team Scores

Place	School	Points
1	Western Albemarle H.S.	405
2	Charlottesville H.S.	217
3	Orange County H.S.	154
4	Monticello H.S.	148
5	Fluvanna County H.S.	53
6	William Monroe H.S.	29

Women - Team Scores

Place	School	Points
1	Western Albemarle H.S.	333
2	Charlottesville H.S.	258
3	Orange County H.S.	204
4	Monticello H.S.	100
5	Fluvanna County H.S.	82
6	William Monroe H.S.	27

Swimmers to compete in Regionals:

Katherine Nicholson, Brenna Broadus, Caitlin Shelley, Sarah Clugston, Kellianne Mullin, Lauren Simpson, Lisa McGill, Annie Watson, Brittany Wagner, Laura Berti

Keenan Timko, Mark Nicholson, Matt Timko, Dan Corley, Jay Spisso, Matt Anhold, Joe McGrath, Jack Cronk, Dan Berti, Hunter Mitchell, Jim Shelley, Josh Dugan, Peter Milligan, Chris McConnell

REST OF SCHEDULE:

Fri., Feb. 9: Region II Meet at FUMA
Sat., Feb. 10: Region II Meet at FUMA
Fri., Feb. 16: State Meet at UVA
Sat., Feb. 17: State Meet at UVA

CCAC Urges School Redistricting Be Limited to Crozet, Brownsville

Enrollment growth at Crozet Elementary is outpacing a plan to add on to the school, White Hall District School Board member Barbara Massie Mouly told the Crozet Community Advisory Council Jan. 18, so the School Board decided that redistricting some Crozet students, most likely to Brownsville Elementary, is the most expedient solution.

That decision also meant that a scheduled expansion of Crozet could be deferred and the scheduled expansion of Brownsville moved forward, she explained. Brownsville has a capacity of 456 students and an enrollment of 383. So it has room for the 88 students that are overcrowding Crozet. The expansion of Brownsville will raise its capacity to 646. Construction is slated for 2008-09 at a cost of \$10.3 million.

Enrollment growth Countywide over the last five years has fallen below planning projections, Mouly acknowledged, but virtually all of it has been in Crozet schools at all levels. Total County elementary enrollment went up by 115 students over the period, but 106 of those came to Crozet and Brownsville, she reported. Albemarle's middle schools grew by 166 students, but 145 of those students came to Henley Middle School. Total high school enrollment has actually declined, but at Western Albemarle H.S. it's up by 38. A \$13.7 million addition to WAHS scheduled for 2011-12 will raise its capacity to 1,235.

School officials are expected to present redistricting options to the Board in February, Mouly said, and a public hearing on them will be scheduled for March.

"Meriwether Lewis [Elementary] also has some room," she noted. "Murray [Elementary] is on the table as well."

But when CCAC members urged the Board to weigh community identity factors heavily in making a choice, making Brownsville the least traumatic shift, Mouly said, "I want to withdraw the Meriwether Lewis option. I don't think that needs to be in this."

Following discussion of the dismal art of making enrollment projections and the planning times for school construction, CCAC chair Mary Rice suggested that the Council investigate the question of population growth projections to prepare for the possibility of locating a new elementary school in western Albemarle.

In other business, a CCAC member said funding for the new library, budgeted at \$5.9 million, is woefully inadequate if a classroom addition to an existing school is budgeted at \$10.3 million. He called for the library's construction to be adequate to build a public building anchoring the business district that citizens can be proud of for 50 years.

County communications director Lee Catlin told the Council that the size of the library has not been decided on, but that population growth in its service area—virtually all of western Albemarle—is being studied. The County will ask for rezoning of the site, she said, so that the project is not delayed while the County works on simplifying zoning rules for downtown Crozet. One of the best things to come out of the decision to locate the library downtown is that the County has discovered, now that it needs to build there, that it can't live with its own zoning rules either.

Mallek Kicks Off White Hall Supervisor Race

Ann Mallek of Earlysville announced her candidacy for the White Hall District supervisor's seat at the Crozet Community Association's Jan. 11 meeting.

"I'll be asking for the endorsement of the Democratic party," Mallek said, "but I want this to be an issue-oriented campaign. White Hall is the County in miniature in terms of its diversity and issues."

Candidates must submit petitions with the signatures of 125 registered voters living in their district to the County Board of Elections by June 12 in order to be on the November ballot.

Mallek invited voters to contact her through her campaign website, annmallekforsupervisor.com, which also includes these statements on her reasons for running and qualifications:

Why am I doing this? A native of Albemarle, I grew up in a family dedicated to helping the community. My memories from the 1950s include my father providing veterinary care on farms large to very small, sometimes with a chicken or some eggs for payment. My mother drove parents and children to the hospital Well Child Clinic from the most rural parts of the district. White Hall was more covered with fields and ponies than it is today. I have worked to preserve that rural experience for our daughters. As a natural history educator, I enjoy



Ann Mallek

sharing knowledge of our rural heritage and involving children and adults in their natural surroundings.

What do I have to offer? I am living proof that students in Ms. Beard's 1967 American government class at Albemarle High School learned the importance of civic participation. I have community experience as a parent, business owner, and farmer. Through E 3 Summer Science Camp, I am a small business owner with eleven years experience sharing our natural world with children. With a decade of leadership in the Earlysville Area Resident's League, I offer a record of community service and neighborhood leadership. As farmers of twenty-two years, my husband and I raise beef calves, timber, and a market garden, while working to reduce pollutants that negatively impact local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. A supervisor's task is to represent constituents' views and to guide the use and protection of county resources: human, natural, economic, financial.

continued on page 18



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Professional Actors Lead the Way at The Hamner Theater

By Kathy Johnson

If you drove down Route 151 just a little over 8 miles—past the Liberty gas station and turned right on route 635—you would almost immediately come to an old school, now known as the Rockfish Gap Community Center. Driving around to the right, toward the back you would find The Earl Hamner Theater. Yes, it's same Earl Hamner, famous for the television series, which told the story of his family ("The Waltons") and their struggles and successes during the depression.

Hamner grew up in Nelson County, not far south of the theater, which is dedicated to him. His books are on sale at the theater and last year two productions—"The Twilight Zone Scripts" and "The Homecoming" were written by Hamner and produced at the theater. But the theater, while dedicated to him, is not all about Earl Hamner.

It's really more about the vision of two New York-trained theater professionals who first hoped "to offer a performing arts venue ... and to create a community theater."

Co-artistic director and co-founder Peter Coy said ultimately his hope is "to have this turn into a regional theater with local professional paid actors." His partner in the theater and co-artistic director and co-founder, Boomie Pederson of Crozet, agreed. "To have a paid resident company frees you to do what you do best," she said, explaining that the goal would also provide the ability to work with some visiting professionals as well as the local performers.

"Joint productions are the best way to go," Coy agreed. "You can have rehearsals for the production and then perhaps produce the play at The Hamner Theater, maybe then in Washington, D.C., or somewhere else nearby at some other professional theater."

Pederson explained that when you are able to deal only with actors that donate their time, you are never certain which productions you'll be able to cast. Which actors will be available for a particular play or script? "We've been very lucky with the casting," she said, explaining that so far they've been able to get the performers they've needed for a particular production. She explained that starting last fall with their pro-



Peter Coy and Boomie Pederson

duction of "Carrie Rose," a lot of the cast has been coming back.

"I don't think there is another year-round professional theater company east of the Blue Ridge" until you get to Richmond, Coy said. Pederson explained that the big difference between professional theater and community theater would be that in community theater, the performances are really for the performers, their friends, their family—"that's their payment." "Professional theater is about what the audience takes away." Because the actors would be paid, the focus changes to giving a professional performance for the theatergoers. Coy and Pederson spoke with the authority that could have come only from being a professional.

Coy talked about his experiences in New York working as a playwright, stage manager, producer and director. With more than 30 productions, ranging from experimental musicals to Shakespeare and American realism, and more than 18 full-length plays, he brings a wide range of experience and professionalism to the Hamner Theater.

Pederson studied with the Joffrey Ballet in New York City, gave up dance and attended Princeton University. From there she spent 10 years on and off stage in Tokyo, Japan. "I did a lot of voice overs and made 'so' much money," she laughed. She relocated to Charlottesville in 1995, where she was involved at Live Arts.

The Earl Hamner Theater has recently been awarded a \$150,000 challenge grant. This is a "matching

grant" and payable at \$50,000 each year, provided the theater can raise \$50,000 annually to match that grant.

"Love Letters," an A.R. Gurney bittersweet love story with only two performers, was produced in January with four different casts. This sweet performance offered the audiences the opportunity to relate storied memories to their own, to laugh and finally to share the sadness of friends, loved ones and missed opportunities.

The next theater production will be the Anton Chekhov play, "Uncle Vanya," a sad/happy play to be performed March 8 through 18. Auditions for the musical "The Fantasticks" will take place on Sunday, March 11, at 6 p.m. and Monday, March 12, at 7 p.m. Production dates are April 26, through May 6.

The Hamner Theater is about more than just theater productions. It also offers a creative and theatrical potpourri of entertainment choices. There are cabaret performances, classes and volunteer opportunities.

In January the cabaret performance by Barbara Martin from Staunton and Mac Walker from Maryland offered a great evening's entertainment to the packed crowd. The small theater, only 26 by 42 feet, created an intimate setting where the entertainers and the audience enjoyed the feel of a gathering of friends. With seating for around 50 people, the audience is more in partnership than usual and because of the limited seating, individuals frequently share a table (and conversation during intermission).

When Martin belted out the song, "I'm an Old Woman," the women in the audience were drawn into the lyrics and responded with shouts, thumbs up and laughter. Husbands and males friends smiled as they too recognized the "woman" in the song. Those attending left with lighter steps and warm glows created by the shared experience of good wine, great entertainment and charming companions.

Up next in the cabaret will be Tiger Lily on Saturday, February 10, followed by The Guano Boys on March 24 and Paul Curreri on April 28. Cabaret performances start at 7:30 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30. Tickets are \$15 with food (reservations required) or \$7 without. The food was great. The evening was a "real buy." Other upcoming events include Youth Movie Night on Friday, February 9, at 6:30 pm. This will be a wide screen movie with pizza and a drink for only \$5.

The theater is also offering acting classes, set design, technical theater, stage management, youth improv, clown classes for young people and a wide range of volunteer opportunities—building sets, selling tickets, front of the house and more.

This summer The Hamner Theater will host the second annual Hamner Theater National Playwrights Conference. The conference will include a three-week teen workshop in which a company of teenaged actors will have the opportunity to work with a professional playwright and director.

For more information about volunteering, making a donation, auditions, movie night, the Playwrights Conference or to make a reservation, call (434) 361-1999. Don't be surprised if you get Boomie or Peter. This is a small theater—but they dream big.

Malleck—continued from p. 19

I pledge to pursue a consistent, thoughtful approach to county issues, to connect actions to the letter and spirit of the comprehensive plan, to use common sense, and to fairly represent the taxpayers. I will work to connect our farmers with local consumers, to improve the vitality of agriculture, preserve county farms, and increase availability of locally grown food.

Crossing the Pond: Balestrieri To Study at Oxford University Next Year

By Keenan Timko

While most high school seniors in Crozet search up and down the East Coast—and some even as far as California and Canada—for colleges to attend next fall, Western Albemarle student Philippa Balestrieri set her sights a little farther.

“Ever since entering high school, I had an interest in attending Oxford,” Philippa said over tea and crumpets at her home in Ivy. “Because I already knew what I wanted to pursue in college, the specialized PPE program [Philosophy, Politics and Economics] at Magdalen College at Oxford matched my interests perfectly.”

Both Philippa’s parents attended Oxford (note: legacy is not factored into decisions), so she was familiar with the unique type of education she will receive. However, in comparison to American schools, merely calling Magdalen ‘unique’ is a bit of an understatement.

Unlike the curricula of most schools in the States, the PPE program at Magdalen has no required courses outside of philosophy, politics, and economics. Students at Oxford work closely with tutors, sort of the equivalent to an American college advisor, to discuss papers and their course of study. Universitywide lectures serve as classes and students are only tested twice in their three years at University. Magdalen is especially reading-intensive, so students spend countless hours in Oxford’s expansive libraries.

“It is quite common to see students walking around carrying stacks of books,” Philippa admitted.

The most complicated thing she had to learn about Oxford wasn’t the foreign educational system—it was the application process.

“The system for applying to Oxford is even confusing for applicants in England,” Philippa commented. “Needless to say, the process was very new for the guidance department at Western. As a result, I took a lot of duties into my own hands.”



Philippa Balestrieri

The extra work didn’t deter Philippa’s resolve to complete the application and fulfill its difficult requirements. One experience along the way strengthened her resolve even more.

“When I was visiting Oxford, I talked with a tutor from Hertford. I was completely unprepared. He was in a tweed jacket and rather posh sounding,” Philippa recalled. “One of the first things he asked me was how I would interview someone if I were a tutor. We ended up talking for a while, which made my mother nervous. But the secretary outside told her it was a good thing when tutors talk to applicants for a long time.”

“The informal interview gave me the feeling that I could handle the Oxford experience and a sense of what the tutorial system is like. I knew afterwards that going to Oxford is what I really wanted to do.”

Tons of paperwork and numerous essays later (all of which, by the way, cannot be written specifically for Oxford but have to have been for a legitimate school assignment), Philippa had her real oral examination. In the twenty to thirty minutes that she talked to her examiner, Michael Allingham, Philippa tackled questions on eco-

nomics, philosophical theory, and political thought.

Mr. Allingham must have loved her, because in her letter of acceptance that Philippa received in December, he wrote a personal note at the bottom expressing his hopes to see her in October. Her offer was unconditional, rare for Oxford.

Although Philippa has until June to decide, she has already made up her mind to attend.

“A lot of people have said I will be missing out on a liberal arts education [in the States]. To this, I say that I would only be missing out if I hadn’t made up my mind on what I want to study,” Philippa explained. “I know I want to study political and philosophical theory. Oxford offers exactly that.”

Like all parents sending their firstborns off to college, Philippa’s have their concerns. As Philippa’s mother explained, “In terms of my comfort level, I wish she would just be able to drive home if she needed to.” With an uncle just an hour away outside Bath, and a tutor that her parents are friends with, Philippa won’t be completely stranded in an emergency.

Philippa’s mom also knows exactly what Philippa is going through, having walked the grounds of Magdalen not so long ago. In fact, she pointed out that history seems to be repeating itself in more ways than one.

“When I was interviewing for Oxford, I met a girl also interviewing that year. We both were accepted and ended up being good friends. Over the years we lost contact but twenty years later, she has a daughter going to Oxford the same year as Philippa.”

Lisa Marshall, who has taught Philippa in her English and philosophy classes, wrote Philippa’s letter of recommendation.

“Philippa is going to amaze the Brits,” Marshall predicted. “They will be surprised by how good the products of public education in America are,” proving that no matter how far away you venture, you will always have your home town to thank for it.

4th of July—continued from page 13

lawn party day, and a mail solicitation. “That’s all our manpower has the time to do. We need a group of volunteers to help us with fundraising. We’re busy on emergency calls and maintaining the trucks.” The Santa Parade is “in the loss column” as a fundraiser, he said. “It’s all for community spirit.”

The fireworks display, which costs about \$5,000 for a 15-minute show, is also gone.

“Half of everything we made on the carnival got blown up,” Robb said. “We don’t know if the lawn party is going to fly or

flop, so we can’t commit for the fireworks, too,” he explained.

The firemen used to launch the fireworks as well, but eventually turned it over to a professional company.

“We’d love to help someone else do it,” said Robb, cautious to add, “We don’t want a donation that would have come to the CVFD to go to fireworks. If somebody wants to pay for those for the community that would be great. Those companies are booking now, so if someone wants to do it they need to act soon.”



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Church Offers Peace in the Home to Area Families

By Kathy Johnson

Father Michael Kerouac said the mission of the new Saint Joseph's Anglican Mission in Crozet is to "Help promote peace and understanding within families. Families are under economic stress," he said, "and helping them is our mission."

While the current congregation is small in numbers, only 12 or so mostly from the Afton, Crozet, Charlottesville and White Hall area, a typical Sunday service clearly demonstrated the quotation, "... where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Meeting in the Moose Lodge building located at 6131 Rockfish Gap Turnpike, members listened attentively as Father Mike talked about hypocrisy and "failed people." He encouraged the faithful to "offer themselves in humility and love" and he talked of the need to "convert imperfect people" and to "welcome and comfort one another." He said, "That is the means by which we become children of God."

The new mission, open since just before Thanksgiving, lacks much of the finery displayed by more prosperous and well-established churches: there is no music, folding chairs are lined into rows instead of pews and there is a simple portable altar where the cross stands. Those who attended did not seem to miss the frippery, but instead listened



Father Michael Kerouac

quietly as Father Mike shared the meaning of epiphany, when the Magi came to visit and the appearance of Christ. "Christ is light," he said.

He told them "even John the Baptist suffered doubts" and encouraged them to avoid hypocrisy and love one another. Afterward members of the congregation spent time together over coffee and tea, and clearly supported and encouraged one another.

In an earlier conversation Father Mike had explained that he and his wife Carolyn lived in Crozet prior to their move to Waynesboro, but they liked the area and felt that "Crozet was the place that was home." Speaking softly but directly he said there was a "need for a sacramental church here. I want to have

religion help them [the people] survive day to day." After final training at All Saints in Ivy, he made the decision to establish the Saint Joseph Anglican Mission in Crozet.

Originally from New Hampshire, Michael Kerouac spent his early career writing medical grants and he and his wife also operate a medical support company, "Informed Care." Currently located in Charlottesville, that business will be relocating to Crozet. The Kerouacs also have three children, one of whom attends Miller School. His son's involvement at Miller prompted Michael Keroauc to become first the school's chaplain and later a coach.

Talking again about the mission, he explained that Saint Joseph's is still in its organizational and formative stages, and when asked about the lack of church music he smiled and replied, "Music is a part of the church," and explained they hoped to add music to the service sometime in February or March.

St. Joseph's Anglican Mission is a member of the Diocese of the Eastern United States of Anglican Church in America. It is a traditional and orthodox Anglican Church and Father Mike explained the service is "the Catholic Mass in English." Communion is offered to all who have been baptized in the name of the Trinity. Bible study is held each Sunday followed by church service and communion at 10:30 a.m. They hope to see the church grow with those in search of a traditional sacramental church. For more information call (434) 817-2884 or (434) 409-5513 or contact Father Mike at mkerouac@infomedcare.com.



St. Joseph's Mission banner

Crozet Methodist Offers Support Group for Mothers of Toddlers

Mothers of Preschoolers [MOPS], an international program designed to encourage mothers with children under school age through relationships and resources, meets at Crozet United Methodist Church on the second and fourth Thursday of each month during the school year from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

A MOPS group is not a Bible study, but is based on instruction with biblical values that will continue to equip moms for the responsibilities of family and community. A MOPS group provides a caring, accepting atmosphere for all mothers of preschoolers and gives the opportunity to share concerns and explore areas of creativity, in addition to learning from speakers.

To learn more about or to join or assist in our MOPS group, call Cheryl Carroll at 823-8223 or e-mail her at gardenof5@earthlink.net or visit www.crozetumc.org for more information on the Crozet chapter.

You do NOT have to be a member of CUMC or any church to be a member of MOPS. Mothering matters because better moms make a better world. Investing in MOPS helps a mom be as effective as she can during the critical foundational years of a child's life.

Ash
Wednesday
Service

February 21, 7:00 p.m.

Crozet Baptist Church
5804 St. George Avenue 434-823-5171
www.crozetchurch.org

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Anglican Mission**

Every week, when the petitions of the parish are placed on the altar, we include a special prayer for families.

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The Green Olive Tree Snippets

By Nancy Virginia Bain

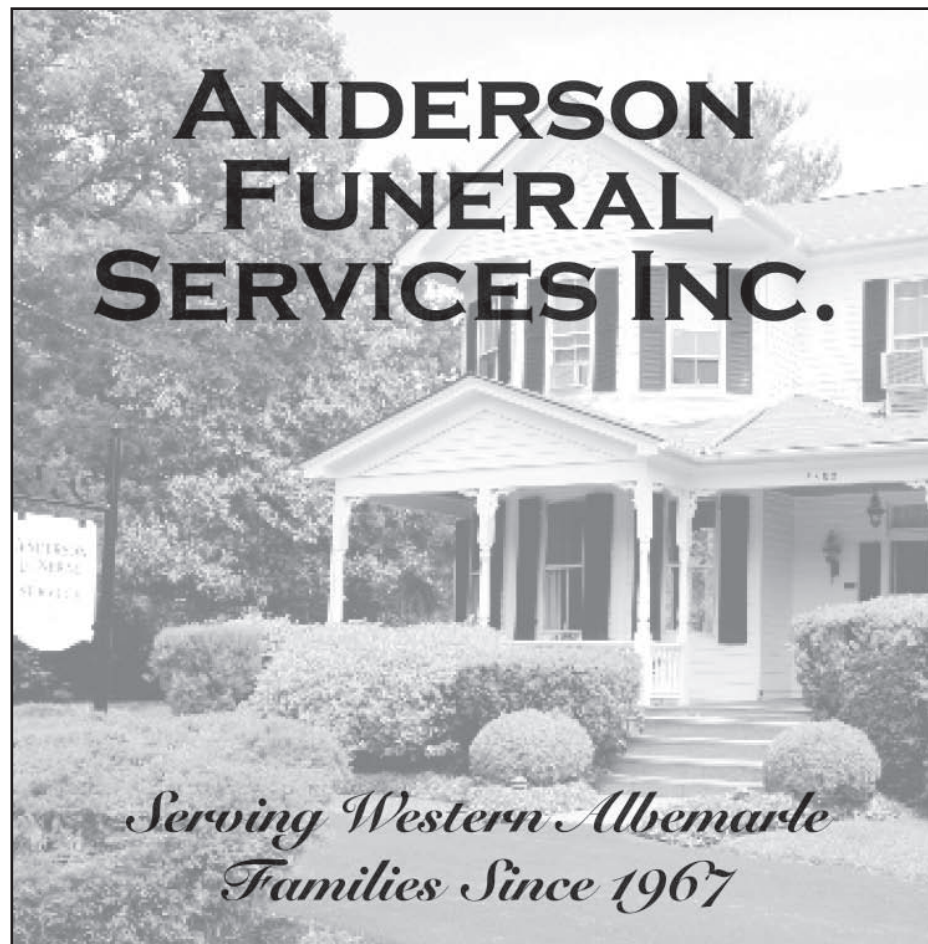
What do the Green Olive Tree and February 14th have in common? Did you think love? Yes, that's the common denominator. The Green Olive Tree was born out of love and our culture here in America certainly jumps into Valentine's Day full time to celebrate love. We send cards and notes and all kinds of tokens of love from large to small, and little Cupid is everywhere with his bow and arrow.

As for its actual name, it is rather obscure. Several explanations are mentioned throughout history. I discovered a connection to a Roman festival and to several saints of the early Christian church, including one named Valentine who befriended many, especially children. He was imprisoned and children threw notes of encouragement and affection into his cell before he was beheaded. There was an old English belief that birds choose their mates on February 14th. Out of this sprang the tradition of sending notes of endearment as early as the 1400s. Happy Valentine's Day.

Love can mean so many different things to people. To the seven original founders of The Green Olive Tree, love is defined as it is spoken of in the Bible. In fact, the New Testament has been spoken of as God's love letters to the whole world. First Corinthians 13, among other scriptures, is a beautiful picture of God's love. Also, John spoke of God as love in 1st John, verse 8. We believe God's heart is love for all people and that it was His love that created the Green Olive Tree into being. We desire to be a personification of His love to everyone. This has been and is our goal. This is our reason for being.

Of course we fall short of His perfect love because it has not been perfected in us. His unconditional love is so hard to fathom and all of us are spending a lifetime working on this. A big part of love is putting others' needs before our wants and surrendering our selfish and self-centered ways for the greater good of others. Sacrifice is hard much of the time, but with God's help and life within us, we find it becomes easier.

During this month of celebrating love, please know that The Green Olive Tree is welcoming to one and all and that we love you.



Robert S. Anderson
Director

John W. Anderson, Jr.
Director

823-5002

5888 St. George Avenue • Crozet, VA 22932

BEREAVEMENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Herman Junior Summers, 69
12/17/2006 | RUBY P. SHIFFLETT, 77
1/16/2007 |
| REGINALD L. HANEY, 71
1/04/2007 | LINWOOD TYLER DAVIS, 94
1/18/2007 |
| GEORGE FRANKLIN DUDLEY, SR.,
77; 1/06/2007 | DAVID NORWOOD CRITZER, 83
1/19/2007 |
| ATHEY C. PETERS, JR., 66
1/07/2007 | GEORGE GRANT MILLS, 75
1/19/2007 |
| HERBERT LOYD SHIFFLETT, 78
1/07/2007 | PAGE THOMAS FARISH, 88
1/20/2007 |
| FRANK CHISHOLM KING, 79
1/08/2007 | SAT PAUL KHOSIA, 70
1/21/2007 |
| HELEN L. COOLEY HARRISON, 76
1/09/2007 | BESSIE DOUGLAS PIPPIN, 95
1/21/2007 |
| MALCOLM ARTHUR TAYLOR, 81
1/09/2007 | ROBERT PUGH, 70
1/21/2007 |
| SYLVIA TRUSLOW KIRBY, 78
1/10/2007 | DR. RICHARD NEIL ATKINSON, 66
1/23/2007 |
| RENCHLER NEON SHIFFLETT, 89
1/10/2007 | PEGGY TOMPKINS FLANNAGAN,
102
1/23/2007 |
| SALLIE JONES HALL, 88
1/12/2007 | LOUISE CLARK MARTIN, 89
1/23/2007 |
| LAURIE K. SANDRIDGE, JR., 87
1/12/2007 | ALLEN MICHAEL COCHRAN, 16
1/24/2007 |
| LEVI PLEASANT MAUPIN, JR., 82
1/13/2007 | ROWLES EDWARD ADAMS, SR., 69
1/25/2007 |
| HARVEY WILLIAM MORRIS, 83
1/13/2007 | PRESTON EARL GIANNINY, 84
1/25/2007 |
| YVAN FERRE
1/15/2007 | |

Extracted from public notices through January 29, 2007

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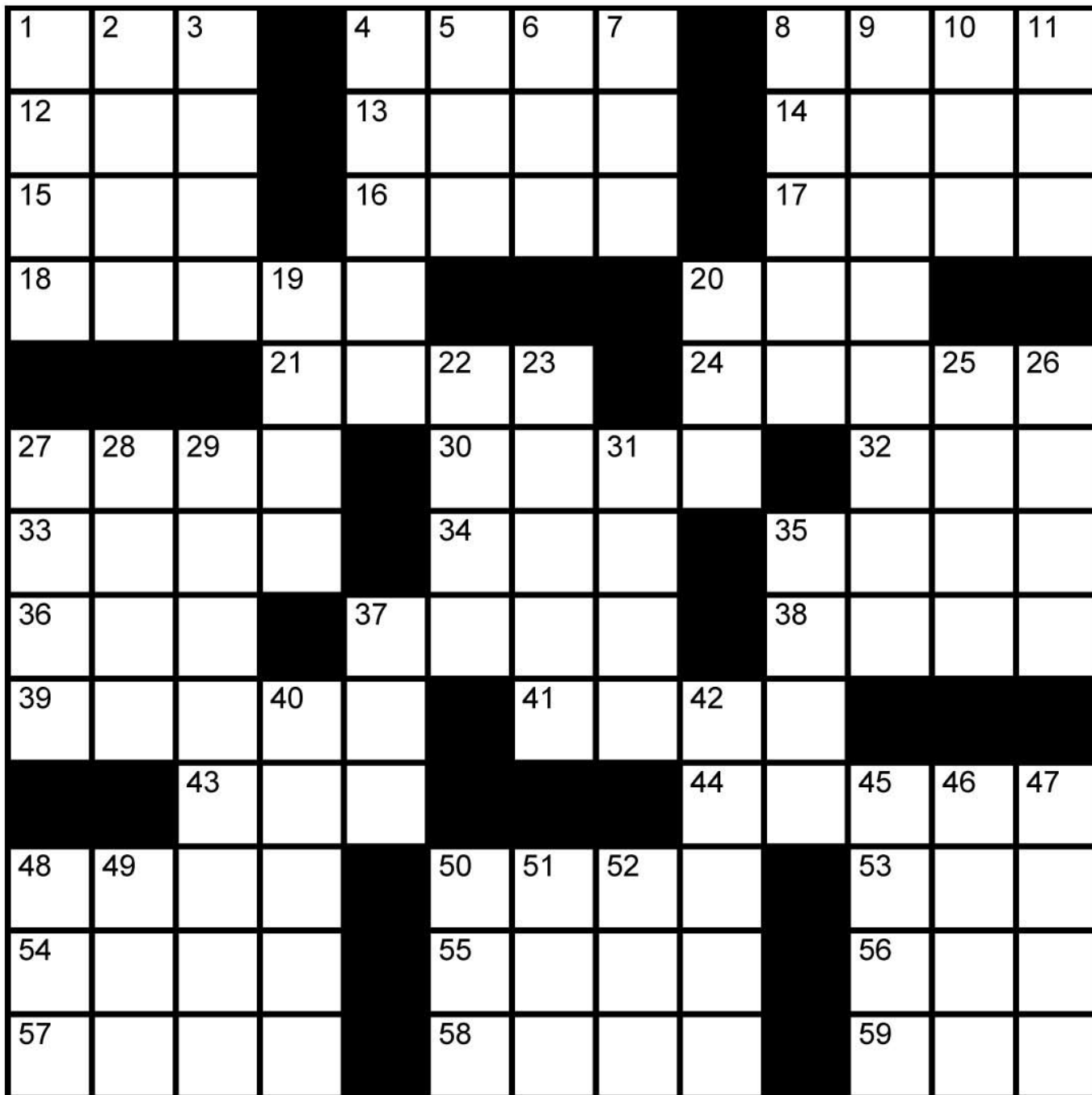
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BY MARY MIKALSON

ACROSS

- 1. Duffer's dream at Old Trail
- 4. Mix
- 8. Worship from _____
- 12. _____ Road, East or West in Charlottesville
- 13. Item for sale
- 14. "Agape" is one kind
- 15. Travelers show these at IAD
- 16. Old-fashioned expression
- 17. Touse
- 18. Symbol used by P. Buckley Moss
- 20. Road covering
- 21. Long form of "it's"
- 24. Love nips Dell-style?
- 27. Chuckle: var. spelling
- 30. Osculation
- 32. A Gabor sister
- 33. Landed
- 34. Suffix that forms nouns of agency
- 35. Long period of time: var.
- 36. Mound of earth
- 37. Herb for flavoring meat
- 38. Knife

- 39. Often worn on a sleeve in February

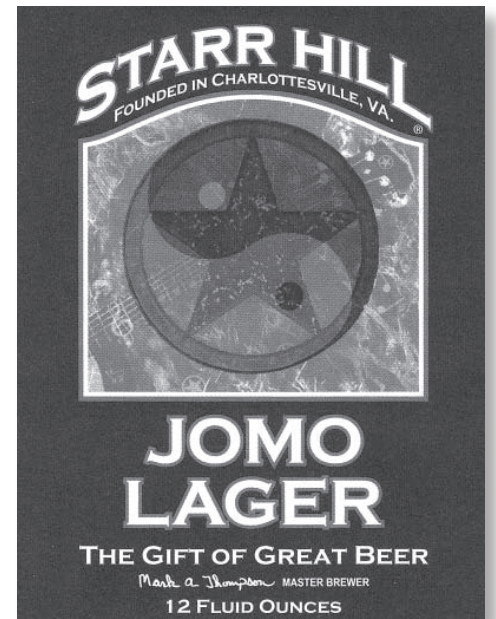
- 41. Create with acid
- 43. Tangled mass of hair
- 44. Chief gods of the Teutonic pantheon
- 48. Accusative of "they"
- 50. Bigwig at the University of Virginia
- 53. Manning or Whitney
- 54. Small part of a chromosome
- 55. Barren
- 56. Poet's "dusk"
- 57. Engaged
- 58. "My Fair _____"
- 59. "Chin. Restaurant Syndrome"

DOWN

- 1. Unpleasant person
- 2. Helper
- 3. Dolly Parton or Reba McEntire: e.g.
- 4. You and sugar are this
- 5. Children's game
- 6. Ret. fund
- 7. February's celebrated color
- 8. Aveda's competitor

- 9. February's celebrated number
- 10. Rds.
- 11. Legal "thing"
- 19. Recipe instruction
- 20. Ted's network
- 22. Furn. outlet
- 23. Burn superficially
- 25. Reveler's cry
- 26. Of sound mind
- 27. It gets plastered
- 28. Sheltered side
- 29. Threadlike object
- 31. Opposite of "dele"
- 35. Richmond's tennis great
- 37. Gas tank prod.
- 40. A "star-cross'd" lover
- 42. "_____ is dandy"
- 45. Appear
- 46. Islands: Fr.
- 47. Butler's call or token of love
- 48. First three-fourths of a Charlottesville restaurant
- 49. Rooster's love
- 50. Indian lentil dish
- 51. Division of geologic time
- 52. Kool-_____

Starr Hill —continued from page 11



Although the brewery is currently closed to the public, plans include opening a tasting room balcony to take advantage of the beautiful view of Jarman's Gap and hosting special events such as Friday afternoon openings, live music, or even movies.

Most important to Thompson is fostering brand ownership among Crozetians. "I want our consumers to be proud of Starr Hill, their own local beer." Although statewide and national success is a part of Thompson's dream for Starr Hill, he also means to "keep it local" and provide the community with a local craft beer that they can be proud to call their own.

(Tip: Thompson tells the Gazette that Crozet Great Valu, in the spirit of hometown solidarity, has the lowest price anywhere for six-packs.)

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Apples for Appalachia Go to the Valley and Piedmont

Wayne Clark's intended second trip to Southwest Virginia to deliver another 700 bushels of apples he bought from Crozet's Henley's Orchard to give to poor families in Wise County ran into roadblocks three straight weekends in January, mainly due to weather. So he looked around for poor people nearby and found plenty. Last weekend, he organized



George Drane, Wayne Clark and Arnulfo Torres manned the sorting line as apples were inspected for blemishes before being packed.



Harvey Fitzgerald, owner of Fitzgerald Tire in Waynesboro, waited as Tim Henley (on the fork lift) and Wayne Clark loaded Fitzgerald's beautifully restored Chevy pick up with a pallet of Granny Smith apples for distribution to the needy in Augusta County.

can be sent, any time, for distribution by local networks, presumably churches, as needed and with less interference by winter weather. "I want to be able to distribute there year round," Clark said. He has assembled a group of volunteers that will meet Feb. 10 to plan next steps. The Celebration Church of God account at BB&T bank remains open and donations can still be made to the "Appalachian Relief Fund." Clark said he wants to open connections with food banks that will allow other foods to be sent to Southwest as well.

churches and volunteers from Buena Vista to Mechanicsville, east of Richmond, and they hauled off bushel after bushel, truck and trailer springs groaning, to counties all around Crozet and into corners of Albemarle and Charlottesville.

Clark's extensive contacts among churches with active outreach efforts meant volunteers with a certain knowledge of where the poor are living in their communities were engaged in distribution. Hugs of gratitude for Clark were common as drivers from out of town lined up to haul away their loads. Once Clark had possession of the apples he was reluctant to let them sit in cold storage.

Clark has drawn the lesson that a food storage facility is needed in Southwest where donated food

Jacquelyn Henley was kept busy making bushel boxes with a wire staple machine at the packing shed.



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King Family Vineyard —continued from page 10

reduce the danger from the bad sight-lines, he suggested.

Nonetheless, traffic concerns were high with Yancey Mills residents. Nick Duke, who has been calling attention to the volume and hazardousness of traffic in the village as the area north of it grows, spoke against the permit. Another resident agreed about the traffic problem, but said it was mainly due to commuters headed to Interstate 64 and teens driving to Western Albemarle High School and not simply winery visitors.

Nearby neighbors complained that they had heard amplified noise from events held under tents, but the permit required those to move indoors where much less sound was expected to escape.

White Hall commissioner Duane Zobrist wondered if raising the limit would not alter the character of the area—he was inclined to think yes—but Cilimberg said the staff had determined that it was within the ordinance's definition of being of rural character.

Jay Crawford from the Charlottesville/Albemarle Chamber of Commerce endorsed raising the limit to 104 and Don Kelsey of Crozet, who said he "went under" in the wine business in California and understood its nature, also supported the request. "They have to have a way to be economically viable and these events are one way how. They have been a good neighbor," he said.

David Wayland (who was not speaking in his role as president of the Crozet Community Association) introduced the idea of cutting the number of events. "I think the issue is a matter of intensity. They have to have more events, but this is an excessive request. It's important to Crozet for them to succeed.... I'm not opposed, but I think it should be modified to 50 events per year."

Barbara Westbrook and Karen Arch spoke in opposition, citing traffic and noise. Arch suggested that events not be "bankable," meaning saved up to concentrate in the summer. "The Kings have done a great job, but from 12 to 104 is not fair," she said.

Bob Miller, who lives on Jarmans Gap Road, said, "It's hard to understand how VDOT could say this is an adequate road, especially to people who have been drinking. It's a nasty little road. I want to see the vineyard successful, but not for the rest of us to be at risk from these drivers."

Kathleen Jump, the winery's nearest neighbor, said, "Special events create a substantial detriment to my property. My family can no longer enjoy the tranquility of my patio ... Two events per week is inappropriate in a rural area."

She said the request raised a "conflict between revenue enhancement and rural life." Her husband Peter called the new building "an entertainment center. It's difficult for me to accept that it's an extension of a farm use."

Neil Williamson noted that the "County says it wants to encourage agricultural tourism. We want to plant them but not allow access to them or allow them to flourish."

Kerry Shannon, the winery's new general manager, reacting to insinuations that the winery was allowing drunks to get on the road, told commissioners that the winery staff closely monitors that sobriety of guests and works hard to avoid any risk to its liquor license.

Once public speakers were done, Edgerton asked more about the number of events.

"Two per week is quite a bit of reduction for what

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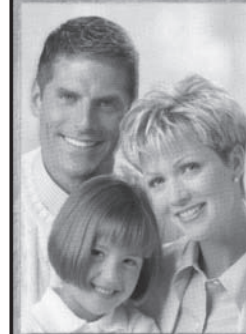
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King —continued from page 26

we could do in warm months,” said King. “This is a compromise for our most productive months. As a practical matter, it’s down to 64 events.”

Could the winery make do with 60 events a year, Edgerton asked.

“Yes,” said King, but not if there was also a limit of two per week. King said he was asking for permission to do what his customers were asking him for.

Zobrist said he could support the permit if it was limited in time and scope.

At-Large Commissioner Marcia Joseph commented, “I don’t know if it’s up to us to disrupt rural areas to help one vintner. It’s very intrusive and very commercial.”

Scottsville Commissioner Pete Craddock observed, “Sounds to me that there are already more than 12 events going on. They want to get a permit to be legal.”

Could approval be a “camel’s nose under the tent,” he wondered, that would prompt other local wineries to apply for more events?

Commissioners bandied about ideas for limiting events, such as not allowing them after daylight hours.

Zobrist wrapped them up in a motion that added to the original conditions a few others:

The permit would allow two events per week between April 15 and October 15; events would have to be concurrent with other winery operations; public portions of the events would have to end within one hour of sundown; the winery would submit a monthly report of its special events to the County zoning administrator within 10 days of the end of each month, and the permit was valid for 2007 only. The winery would have to reapply at the end of the year for a new permit for 2008.

The Commission also required the construction of a left-turn lane into the farm on Half Mile Branch Road as a permit condition and they also clarified that the public is not to be invited to polo matches at the farm—they can’t be advertised. Only those personally invited by the Kings are allowed.

Rivanna commissioner Calvin Morris seconded the motion.

Neighbors left feeling victorious.

“The County has made a policy decision to put the winery out of business,” King said of the vote. He was left only with the hope the General Assembly will find some way to restore the ability to self-distribute. He went home stunned, glum and simmering.

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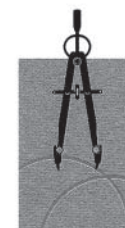
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Winter Birds of Central Virginia

by Nancy King

Hundreds of bird species live in Central Virginia year round and a few—just like some of our lucky neighbors—head south when the nights get chilly.

While colorful Indigo Buntings and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have long departed for warmer climates, a feisty group of more cold-tolerant birds have taken their places in the suburban yards and in the mowed fields of western Albemarle.

Our first common winter bird arrived back in the fall—the **Dark-eyed Junco**. It has a slate-gray back, white undersides, and a pale pink bill. Juncos tend to congregate in flocks and they feed on the ground, often scratching among the leaves.



Dark-eyed Junco

Another ground-feeder that is frequently seen with a flock of juncos is the **White-throated Sparrow**, which looks just like its name implies. This bird is a stocky reddish-brown sparrow with a prominent white throat. It has a very sweet distinctive song that, depending on what part of the country you live in, either sounds like “*Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody*” or “*Sweet Canada, Canada, Canada.*”



White-throated Sparrow



Purple Finch

The small bird with a *big* appetite at your feeder these colder days is the **Purple Finch**. These little guys look like brown striped sparrows that have been dipped in raspberry sauce. The males have extensive red on their heads and breasts while the females are drabber, feathered in basic brown with a bold white “eyebrow.”

Remember that bright yellow bird with the black cap and black wings that spent a lot of time at your feeder in the late summer? That’s the **American Goldfinch** and he’s still around but has undergone a major molt, trading his screaming yellow feathers for a very sedate buffy-gray plumage.



American Goldfinch



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

There’s an additional woodpecker on the scene during the winter months. The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** has a bold slash of white on his wings and messy black and white bars on his back. It’s hard to see the wash of yellow on his belly, but it’s there. You may notice this bird on one of your trees circling the trunk and drilling small shallow holes as he goes. He’s feeding on sap and the insects attracted to the sap.

It’s easy to invite the resident and winter birds to your yard this time of year. All it takes are a couple of feeders full of black-oil sunflower seeds and a birdbath. If you hang a tube feeder (the long cylinders) and provide some kind of elevated tray feeder, most birds will accept your invitation to eat. Add a heated birdbath and you won’t be able to keep them away!

