AS THE PAGE TURNS

BY KATHARINE BLOODWORTH

School starts the second week of August, during the famous "dog days of summer." What are the dog days of summer? According to the Farmers Almanac "The phrase is a reference to Sirius, the Dog Star. During the "Dog Days" period, the sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth. Sirius is a part of the constellation Canis Major, the Greater Dog. In the summer, Sirius rises and sets with the Sunday. On July 23rd, specifically, it is in conjunction with the Sun, and because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the sun's warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather. They referred to this time as diēs caniculārēs, or "dog days."Thus, the term Dog Days of Summer came to mean the 20 days before and 20 days after this alignment of Sirius with the Sun—July 3,rd to August 11th, each year."

The winner of the Jamerson Shark Week Raffle is Orla Hancock! A library staff member drew the winning name on Wednesday, July 19th, just in time for the Discovery Channel's much-anticipated SHARK WEEK, which began on Sunday, July 23rd. This lucky winner received a plethora of shark-themed items to enjoy.

There is less than a week left of the library's Summer Reading Program "All Together Now." This program will end on Friday, July 28th. All reading logs must be turned in no later than Friday, August 4th, as we will not be accepting reading logs after this date. All Summer Reading Tickets must be redeemed by Friday, August 18th, as we will not be accepting tickets after this date.

A lot of patrons in Appomattox have backyard gardens that can quickly become over-abundant in a short period of time. Don't forget that you can bring your extra bounty to the library's annual "Victory Garden of Sharing." Donating your extra produce to the library helps reduce the unnecessary waste of homegrown produce, provides a unique and fun way to share your extras, and encourages the community to pay it forward, If you would like to donate your extra produce to the library's Victory Garden just bring your vegetables to the front desk, or place them in the crates located inside the front foyer. If you would like to pick up a few items, just visit the crates. It is a win-win for everyone! The library staff requests that you only take what you need, so that we may share with everyone.

Did you know that the library is hiring a part-time staff member? If you would like to apply, stop by and fill out an application at the front desk. This job will involve working days, evenings and weekends. You can view the job posting or other county opportunities online at: www.appomattoxcountyva.gov/your-government/employment-opportunities.

Katharine G. Bloodworth/Contributed
The winner of the Jamerson Library's Shark Week Raffle, Orla Hancock.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or other library-related topics please feel free to call us during normal business hours at 434-352-5340.

The library receives a steady supply of new and donated items; we would like to highlight the following titles:

DVDs
- Magic Mike
- Magic Mike XXL
- Magic Mike's Last Dance

Blu Rays
- Predator
- Predator 2
- Predators
- The Predator

GARY'S CORNER

The Lake Camp

Note: The author writes works of fiction

BY GARY EVANS

I have adventured out today to explore a new lake. We live in the rolling hills of North Carolina. I was born here and have never ventured far. Our father is a godly man and a farmer. He keeps a close rein on all of us. I have two brothers and two sisters; I am the oldest. We all have chores on the small 100-acre patch we call home. Our farm is in the Piedmont area of North Carolina. We are just north of poor, but happy and have dreams.

It is 1968 — new things, fast cars, music, sock dances. Life was waiting to be lived.

I have reached the ripe age of 17, a senior at the local high school, and have not yet had a girlfriend. I love the outdoors, hunting, fishing, hiking and swimming. I am in great physical shape and my mind is set on college and a business degree. I hope to be accepted at Duke, and maybe play football.

My friends excite me; we enjoy each other. But we are shy when it comes to girls. No girls have entered our lives; how do we advance? We need start to experiencing what life has to offer.

This lake I have adventured to has a girls' retreat, a summer religionist camp for girls in their teenage years. They learn to boat, fish, camping and being one with nature while learning more about God and his teaching.

Since I accidentally found this place, I have revisited a few times. I have viewed the camp from a distance and have always stayed out of site.

This camp is exciting, named Camp Kickapoo. I do not know how to approach this newfound adventure. The sight of these girls keep bringing me back as my curiosity grows.

I am quick to tell a few close friends, Bill and Beckham, of my discovery.

The excitement builds. We scout out the camp; we learn they are our age and eager to meet boys.

We take my family's 12-foot aluminum john boat with a 9.5 Mercury and proceed across the lake at midday. To our excitement, several girls meet us on their pier. We learn they are from New Jersey. They are here for two weeks; this is the start of their second week.

The head counselor, Miss Becky Johnson, has walked to the dock to greet us. We say we are seniors at the high school. She welcomes us and invites us to walk with her; she explains the camp.

Miss Johnson tells us we

See **CORNER**, page 12

HUNT SMART, FISH HARD

Alaska The Last Frontier

BY LEON METTLER

I got a ping on my cell phone and I knew somebody had sent me a text message. As I reached for my phone, it pinged and pinged several times before I could see who sent it. I was sent some pictures from Marshall Hancock of Appomattox. Marshall sends me pictures when he catches some nice crappies and other fish. These pictures were different, they came from the Last Frontier — Alaska.

Marshall was in Alaska on work-related business. Marshall was a spectator, not a competitor, in The U.S. Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition — the best Army National Guard soldiers across the 54 states and territories. Virginia had one soldier competing in the Best Warrior competition. This was the best of the best competition in physical fitness, weapons proficiency, soldier skills proficiency, obstacle course, mystery events, and anything that could be tested on the total soldier concept.

I am looking at these pictures in awe. In the little spare time Marshall had, he was able to book a spot on the J-DOCK Halibut & Salmon Fishing Charter (www.j-dockcompany.com). On the boat with friends there were 30 silver salmon (6 to 10 pounds), 22 pink salmon, 50-plus rock fish, 40 cods, 28 ling cods and the two (one small and one big halibut limit). Most of the fished weight between four to eight pounds. Marshall landed a 45-pound halibut, and the big halibut that was caught on a different day weighed in at 276 pounds.

I went over to Marshall's house to get the lowdown on his trip to Alaska. I got to his house, and when I got invited in Marshall was in the middle of preparing a coating for his cod he was going to fry later. Marshall pulled out a package from the refrigerator that was marinating in Italian dressing. Marshall was going to cook it up that weekend.

As I am watching Marshall making up his coating for his fish, I asked him how he caught his halibut. Marshall said, as he was jigging up and down a spoon, "When you jig up and let the spoon fall back to the bottom, the spoon flutters back and forth and the fish can't stand it, got to attack it." Marshall said all of a sudden it felt like he was snagged on something. The next thing he knew the fish took off like a rocket. About five to six minutes later, after fighting the halibut, the halibut was in sight and was just about to get gaffed and pulled into the boat.

Marshall was able to get 50-plus pounds of fillets flash frozen to bring back to Virginia. With some time still in his favor, Marshal took a four-mile hike, all uphill, to get a few pictures of the glacier on the Chugach National Forest. Marshall showed me pics of a moose that stood over the top of a pickup truck right on post. Then I got to see a short video of mountain goats with young ones just 10 yards away from Marshall. I asked Marshall if they were scared; Marshall came back with, "It's not hunting season, yet."

It was just about time to go when Marshall went to his freezer and pulled out a big pink fillet and handed it to me. I couldn't thank him enough for the salmon. Then Marshall finished cutting up a fillet of cod that was going to fry later. As we go outside Marshall turns on his portable gas grill to cook his salmon. As I walked down the steps, I could almost smell the salmon cooking on the grill as I told Marshall I would talk with him later. I thanked him one more time for the salmon. One thing I forgot to mention, halibut sells for $35 a pound!

Until next week- H.S.F.H.-L.M.

Leon Mettler/Contributed
Marshall Hancock, of Appomattox, caught this 10-pound coho salmon while fishing in Alaska.

Letter to the Editor

Howdy Friends! A few weeks ago my wife and I attended a Home School Conference in North Carolina. I'm an author of children's books. We were there to offer my "A Dog Named Saturday," books for parents to include in their home school curriculum. On our banner above our booth, with pictures of a smiling Saturday, was my trademarked slogan, "Children's Books The Way They Used To Be."

Little did we know how much attention those eight words would generate! Over the three days of the conference we had dozens of parents stop to talk with us regarding those eight words, "Children's Books The Way They Used To Be." Everyone one of those parents discussed how difficult they now find it to be to purchase books for their children.

The most used phrase was, "We now have to read every book before we are comfortable giving them to our children." Many said they could not rely on cover pictures or titles.

What does this have to do with us here at Appomattox? We have parents right here in Appomattox who encourage their children to read. And many who engage their children in summer reading programs, many who value our public library. And we are fortunate to have an active library right downtown.There are many terrific selections of "books the way they used to be" in our library — and that's a good thing.

— Ken "Dutch Henry" Wolfskill, Appomattox

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