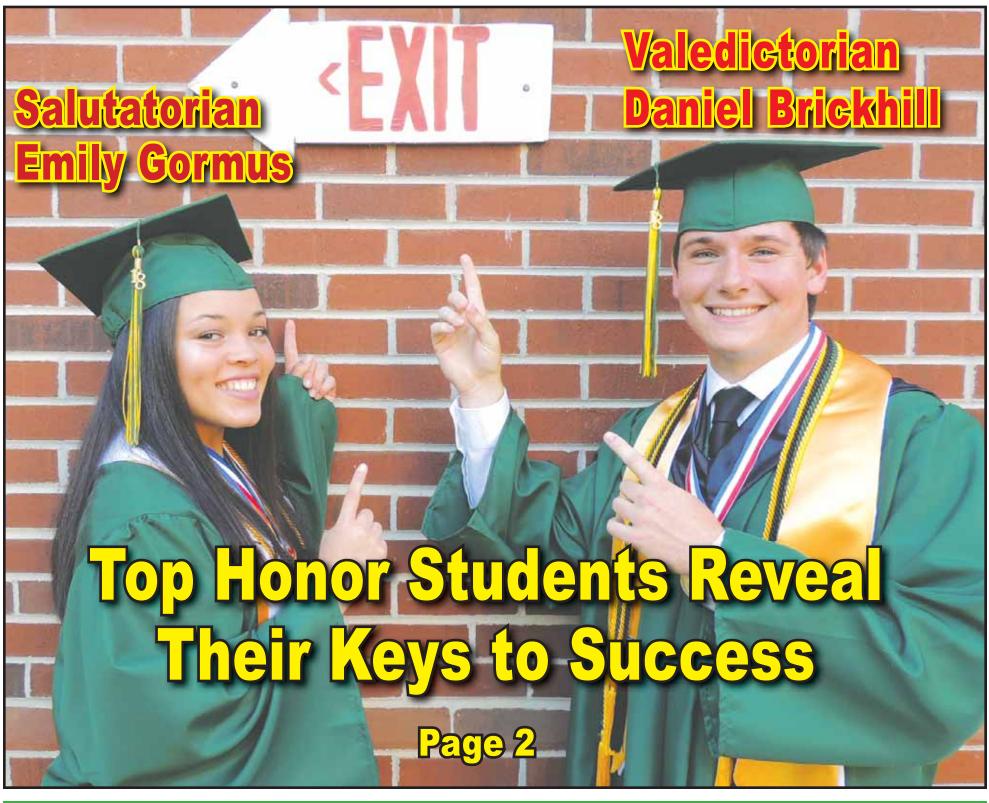


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BUCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Saluting the Graduating Class of 2018 Pages 4-7



Top Honors went to the two students who earned the rank of being #1 and #2 in their overall grade point average. Emily Gormus was recognized for achieving the rank of salutatorian while Daniel Brickhill achieved the rank of valedictorian for the Class of 2018. Photo by Sue A. Miles.

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger

# Buckingham Beacon

A monthly publication

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# Val and Sal 2018

By Sue A. Miles Correspondent

> nd a find exit it is! Top Honors goes out to the two students who earned the rank of being #1 and #2 in their overall grade point average. Emily Gormus was recognized for achieving the rank of salutatorian while Daniel Brickhill achieved the rank of valedictorian for the Class of 2018. These exceptional young people took a few minutes to respond to some questions before taking off to college.

**Beacon: Where do you plan to attend college and what will be your major? Brickhill:** I will attend Harvard and hopefully concentrate in either government or economics.

Gormus: I will attend Bridgewater and I am undecided.

Beacon: Being in the top of your class and also getting an sssociate's degree certainly took a lot of work. What do you attribute to your success?

**Brickhill:** There was certainly a lot of effort involved, but I really attribute the ability to push through to having a solid foundation. It's no secret that an educational journey like the one you mentioned can have its ups and downs. No matter how much hard work is exerted, failures still

come; with that, I think it is extremely important to have a consistent anchor to make it through the obstacles. For me, that was my faith.

**Gormus**: I attribute my success to the support of my family and friends, the morals and ideals my parents instilled in me and my determination and work ethic.

#### Beacon: If there is one bit of advice you could give a rising ninth grader coming into the high school what would it be?

**Brickhill:** Do not be afraid to blaze your own trail; do not feel pressured to do something just because it is what everyone else is doing. Be yourself, follow your heart, and don't conform to outside pressure.

**Gormus:** Always remember to work hard and try your best, but always make time for yourself to relax and have downtime.

# Beacon: If you could have done anything different in the past four years, what would it have been?

**Brickhill:** I think I can honestly say that I don't have any major regrets; most everything that happened contributed to my growth, and I am thankful for that. If I had to pick something, I would probably be a little more social, maybe take a few more evenings off and go spend time with friends.

**Gormus:** If I could have done anything differently I would have taken some ball-room classes and cosmetology.

#### Beacon: Who, in your life, has had the most influence on you?

**Brickhill:** Most definitely my mom. She exemplifies to me daily what it means to be strong, courageous, resilient, and hard-working. I try to emulate here in the way I live my own life.

**Gormus:** There is no one person who has had the most influence over me, but my family as a unit has influenced me greatly.

#### Beacon: What is one of your most memorable experiences of high school?

**Brickhill:** Throughout the past year, our athletic director, Coach Gowin, and I have traded banter about a wrestling match between the two of us. I looked forward to seeing him every day just so we could trade jokes about who could get a "three-count" on the other one first.

**Gormus:** My graduation is one of my most memorable experiences because after it was all over I was able to look around and realize all the friends I had made and how all the love and support and my family and my faith had helped me to graduate and become the person I am now.

# Beacon: If you could meet and talk to one person in the world (alive or dead) who would it be and why?

**Brickhill:** Charles Dickens. I have absolutely enjoyed every single work of his that I have read, and I am intrigued by his perspective. In the words of one my English instructor's, Dr. Joy Hurt, "Dickens was a rockstar." When it comes to literature, I agree with that. He did not waste a single word, and I would like to ask his advice on how to be so intentional while writing.

**Gormus:** It would be Sacajawea because I am inspired by her strength not only to lead Lewis and Clark through the wilderness but also her ability to take care of her baby and be a mother.

#### Beacon: What do you hope to accomplish after college graduation?

**Brickhill:** I am not completely certain what I will do right after graduation, but my ultimate goal is to get involved in public service and eventually have a political career.

**Gormus:** I hope to reach my full potential and be able to provide for my family and parents the way they have for me.

Beacon: What do you do to relax?

# **BUCKINGHAM FOOD PANTRY CALENDAR**

#### **BLUE RIDGE FOOD TRUCK**

The truck will be at Crystal Cathedral on the following days:

Blue Ridge Food Truck Friday June 8 & June 22 Friday July 13 & July 27

MOURNER'S VALLERY - RT 20 1ST and 3rd Saturday of every month 10:00-11:00am For Food Emergencies, call Buckingham Social Services.



**Brickhill:** Sometimes I relax by reading, whether that be a novel or a magazine article. Other times, I find it relaxing to exercise and then take a really long nap.

**Gormus:** I watch T.V. with my mother every evening and discuss our television shows.

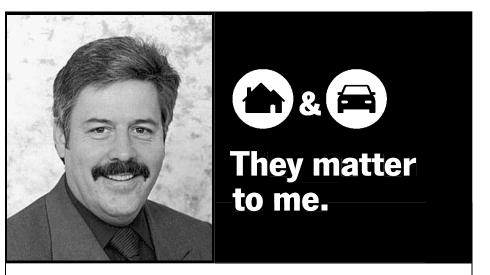
#### Beacon: What is a movie that most affected you and why?

**Brickhill:** I am a big Star Wars junkie, so I kind of have to go with all the movies in the series. Not only to enjoy the movies for their well-defined struggle between good and evil, but also from a practical standpoint. Star Wars has always been a good talking point and common ground when meeting new friends and socializing with current ones. To me, the series boils down to a belief in the ultimate and sustaining power of all that is good in the universe.

**Gormus:** Pocahontas because she showed me that no one should be treated differently because others do not understand them, and the movie also gave me my first glimpse at fairytale love.

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#### **Honor Grads:**

Students who earned an overall grade point average of a 3.5 or higher were acknowledged at graduation for their academic success. Shown left to right (back row): Brycen Newby, Caleb Clarke, Michael Cummings, Jr., Angel Martinez, and Cody Woodson. Center: Ethan Caldwell, Rebecca Branzelle, Sarah Whittington, Ty'Leik Chambers, Amanda Bryan, Jennifer Beahm, Donnea Martin, Stephen Fait, Ashley Smith, Mary Johnson, Alice Jones, Alyssa True, Tiyahna Grammer, Will Auten, Brianna Valdiviezo, Raven Morgan. Front: Heather Hunt, Brianna Potts, Daniel Brickhill, Emily Gormus, Keana Jones, and Kayla Sage. Not pictured: Hannah Shaw.

# **The Graduation Class of 2018**



#### **Associate Students:**

Twenty Buckingham students were recognized for earning, not only a high school degree, but also an Associates Degree in General Studies from Southside Virginia Community College. Earning this two year degree, while in high school, is quite an accomplishment, so special congratulations goes out to these students. Left to right (rear) Ty'Leik Chambers, Brycen Newby, Michael Cummings, Jr., Cody Woodson. Middle row: Ethan Caldwell, Amanda Bryan (with an Agriculture concentration), Tiyahna Grammer, Rebecca Branzelle, Alyssa True, Angel Martinez, Alice Jones, Sarah Whittington. Front: Heather Hunt, Brianna Potts, Brycen Newby, Emily Gormus, Brianna Valdiviedo, and Kayla Sage. Not pictured: Hannah Shaw and Destiny Sutton.

#### 4 • Buckingham Beacon • June 15–July 12, 2018

By Sue Miles Correspondent

> or Buckingham County High School seniors Graduation 2018 was an exciting event as parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends celebrated the success of the students. There were many reasons to celebrate; earning an Honors Graduate status (achieving at least an overall 3.5 gpa), successfully completing an Associates Degree or a Certificate, being awarded scholarships, or simply the joy of successfully completing four years of high school, these incredible young people are all off to a good start. Congratulations to all of the graduates in the Class of 2018.



**Certificate Awards - Cosmetology** SVCC awarded Buckingham students with certificates in Cosmetology and Barbering at the graduation ceremony. Shown left to right (rear): Breanna Bagby, Tianna Anderson, Raven Smith, Alaysia Toney, Destiny Anderson, and Tatayania Front: Trisha Huffman, Donnea Martin, Ashley Smith, Logan Carrington. Edmondston, Dashawna Foster, Samantha Seay, and TaKai White.



**Certificate Awards – Nursing Aide** Students who completed the prescribed sequence of Nursing Aide classes were awarded a certificate from SVCC. Rear: Nikia Lee, Mary Johnson, Allison Mayes, Sierra Flood, Honei Hill, Harmony Henderson. Middle: Trisha Huffman, Lovely Johnson, Alyssia Sandridge. Front: DaJanic Langhorne, Tina Turner, Victoria Franklin, InDya Logan, Amari Butler, and Destiny Chenault.

See Class of 2018 Page 6







# **Project Discovery/SOAR**

Project Discovery, which began in 1979, is a community based program addressing the problem of unequal access to higher education by low-income and/or potential first generation college students. Twenty-five Buckingham seniors received scholarships, up to the amount of \$2000.00 each, through this program. Here's just a few of the hard-working students: (rear) Ty'Leik Chambers, Imani Scruggs, and Jacob Jamerson. Middle: Mary Johnson, Amari Butler, Nikia Lee, Keana Jones, DaJanic Langhorne, A'larah McLay, InDya Logan, Lovely Johnson and Donnea Martin. Photo by Sue Miles.



# **Decision Day/Dominion Power t-shirts**

Decision Day (May 1) is a yearly event where seniors solidify their choice for college, work, or military. It has also become an annual tradition for Dominion Power/Bear Garden to honor the graduating class at the Decision Day event. This year Bear Garden supplied the pizza and refreshments for the graduating seniors along with Honor Grad t-shirts for those students who achieved an overall grade point average of a 3.5 or better. Shown with their Honor Grad t-shirts are (left to right) are Angel Martinez, Emily Gormus, Ty'Leik Chambers, Alice Jones, Daniel Brickhill, and Brycen Newby.

# Scholarships for Buckingham Seniors

With the cost of higher education constantly rising the opportunity to earn scholarships is a godsend. That's exactly what Buckingham County High School seniors did! The Class of 2018 were awarded a total of \$3,468,046 in institutional aid and merit scholarships from colleges and university and business and community scholarships. Many thanks goes out to the individuals, civic organizations, and businesses that supported Buckingham's best and brightest.



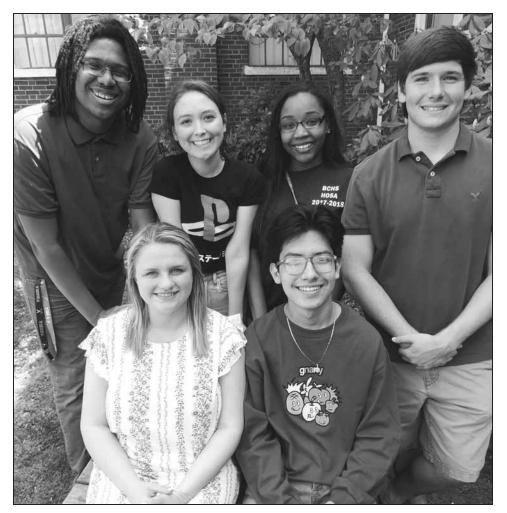
# Scholarship Community

State and local community organizations were part of the scholarship giving. The following students received community scholarships: Right to left: Brianna Valdividezo (CADRA), Philip Monterrezo (SCHEV Super FAFSA), Kayla Sage and A'larah McLay (Spreading God's Gifts), Amari Butler (Straight Street, Woman's Club of Buckingham County, Spreading God's Gifts and GRASP Foundation) and Mary Johnson (GRASP Foundation). Not pictured: Raven Morgan (Spreading God's Gifts) and Tiana Anderson (Katherine R. Wingo).



### Business Community

Here is another group of students who were awarded state and local scholarships: Keana Jones (Keystone Lodge #188, Keystone), Amanda Smith (ECMC College Night), Amari Butler (Delta Sigma, Red Cross, Alpha Kappa Alpha), and Sierra Flood (Towler). Not pictured: Alaysia Toney (Keystone Lodge #188), Destiny Anderson, Daniel Brickhill (ECMC College Night), Raven Morgan (Delta Sigma), and Tiyahna Grammer (Peter Francisco Soil and Conservation).



### Memorial Scholarships

Memorial Scholarships Many people in the community honor their loved ones by giving scholarships in their memory. The following students received such scholarships: Rear: Ty'Leik Chambers (Jasmine Benson Scholarship), Tiyahna Grammer (Sharon Dowdy Tew Scholarship), and Amari Butler (Dr. Samuel S. Jones Scholarship). Front: Kayla Sage (Ella Senger Payne Scholarship, Meghan Snoddy Scholarship) and Angel Martinez (Meghan Snoddy Scholarship). Not pictured: Brycen Newby (Harrison K. Davis Scholarship), Daniel Brickhill (Dr. Samuel S. Jones and F. D. Johns Scholarships), and Raven Morgan (John B. Buschmann and Harrison K. Davis Scholarships).



**ECMC Scholarship** Over the past 15 years the ECMC Foundation, headquartered in Minnesota, have given up to ten \$6000.00 scholarships to qualifying Buckingham seniors. Congratulations to these hard-working seniors who graduated as ECMC Scholars. Rear: Tiana Anderson, Anais Trejo Parra, Lovely Johnson, Mary Johnson, and Nikia Lee. Front: Bryan Biggers, Victoria Franklin, Donnea Martin, Keana Jones, and Amari Butler.



#### **Dudley West**

The Dudley West Memorial Scholarship was established as a trust to recognize outstanding seniors in Buckingham. The following students were awarded scholarships from Dudley West: Rear: Emily Gormas, Brianna Valdividezo, and Amanda Smith. Front: Alice Jones, Angel Martinez, Amari Butler. Not pictured: Stephan Fait and Anais Trejo Parra.



### **Military and Volunteers**

The JROTC program, along with leadership training and physical fitness, encour-ages cadets to give back to the community. Seniors who were in the school's JROTC program were honored for their community volunteer service during the school's annual Senior/Scholarship Night. In addition, several students were recognized for joining the military. Left to right: Shekema Smith (volunteer service), Brandy Snoddy (Army Reserves) Alyssa True (volunteer service and Army Active Duty, Intelligence), Destiny Sutton (Army Reserves), Jacob Marin (volunteer service), and Divine Daniels (volunteer service).

# **UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Camp Peaks Day Camp July 16-20 at Maysville Presbyterian Church



Do you have children or grandchildren look-ing for an adventure this summer? Camp Peaks welcomes children ages 5-12. Camp will run 9am – 3pm. It will be staffed by experienced Day Camp Director and counselors. Volunteers from Maysville Presbyterian, locat-ed in Buckingham C.H., will be on hand to provide drinks, snacks and other help. Campers bring a sack lunch each day. Worship, music, games, hiking, arts and crafts, field trips and more.

Cost of the camp is \$70 per child/per week. The actual cost to the camper is only \$35/week

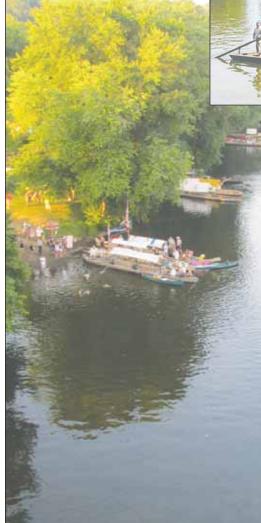
because Maysville Presbyterian will pick up the balance. Deadline for registration is July 8, 2018. Registration form can be found at www.maysvillepc.org . For information call (434)969-0010.

The Buckingham Triad meets second Thursday of every month at 1:30pm at the Buckingham VFW building off of Route 60. "Triad is based upon the partnership between the Office of the Attorney General, police chiefs, sheriffs, older Virginians, and senior service providers. Triad provides a forum to exchange infor-mation and forge community solutions that combat crime through education and prevention. " In a nutshell, "reducing crime against the elderly"

### AA and Al Anon

Every Tuesday at 7:30 pm - Scottsville United Methodist Church. AA meets in the Fellowship Hall and Al Anon (for families of problem drinkers) meets in the Sunday School Room.

AA meeting on Wednesdays 6pm Emmanuel Episcopal Church Howardsville Rd. Glenmore in Buckingham





# The 33rd Annual **James River Batteau Festival** June 16-23, 2018

The schedule is as follows: June 16 launch at Percival's Island in Lynchburg (will spend the evening at Galt's Mill/Stapleton.

- June 17- Bent Creek June 18- Wingina
- June 19- Howardsville
- June 20 Scottsville June 21- Slate River

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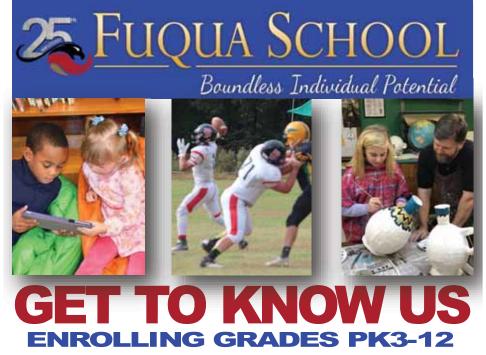
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# UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# **Fuqua School Commencement Exercies Held**

By Linda Davis Contributor

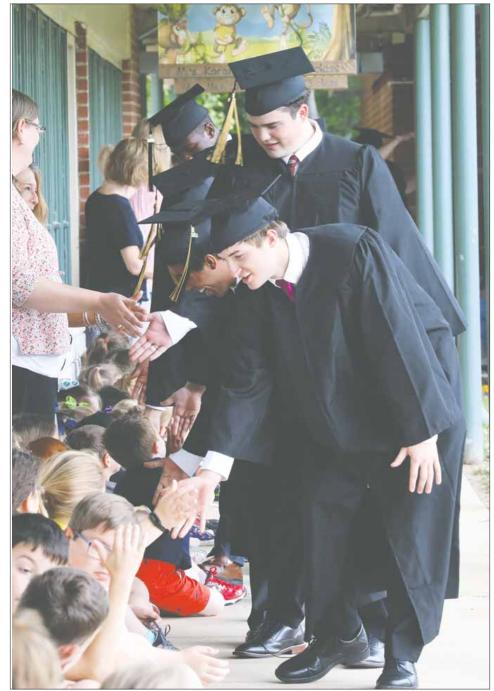


Judge Blessing

Fuqua School held commencement exercises for the Class of 2018 on Friday, May 25 at 6 o'clock on the front lawn of the upper school campus. Keeping with the tradition of inviting alumni to deliver the commencement address, The Honorable Donald C. Blessing was the guest speaker.

Judge Blessing is a 1973 graduate of Prince Edward Academy where he was a member of the football team, debate and forensic team, and editor of the school newspaper. After high school, he attended University of Richmond and graduated from T. C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond in 1980. His admission to the Virginia State Bar was in 1980, and in 1983, he began his own law practice in Farmville. Since December 2014, he has been the Circuit Court Judge, 10th Judicial Circuit of Virginia, presiding primarily in Buckingham, Cumberland, and Prince Edward Counties.

Prior to sitting on the bench, Judge Blessing had been President of the Prince Edward Lion's Club, President of the Farmville Chamber of



Fuqua School's Class of 2018 continued the tradition, "Retracing Their Steps". After commencement practice, the soon-to-be graduates took a trip back down to the lower school. Each senior took a final walk around the lower school while the faculty cheered and the students looked up where they will be soon. Pictured: Billy French, Jalen Patteson, Michael Davis, and Warren Dabney Commerce, Member of Historic Farmville, Member of the Masonic Lodge, Member of the Virginia Trial Lawyer's Association, and Member of Virginia State Bar Ethics Committee for this area. Judge Blessing was one of the keynote speakers at the School's Nancy Anderson Haga Forensic Hall of Fame.

Judge Blessing resides in Farmville with his wife, Susan. His two sons, Jason and Nicholas, are Fuqua School alumni from the Class of 2007 and Class of 2009, respectfully. Don is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Blessing of Farmville.



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# Buckingham and Cumberland 4-H Livestock Clubs Attend 2018 Piedmont Area Jr. Livestock Show

Buckingham and Cumberland County 4-H have partnered together over the last year to encourage participation in the 4-H Livestock Club. Club activities throughout the year have included guest speakers on nutrition, animal care, farm tours, clipping/grooming demonstrations and showmanship techniques. On Saturday, April 28, 2018 members of the Buckingham County 4-H Livestock Club and members of the Cumberland County 4-H Livestock Club, attended the Piedmont Area Jr. Livestock Show for the culmination of their 4-H livestock project

Combined, the Clubs have twenty-one members: Sarah Bryant, Landon Cobb, Nina Davis, Andrew Dorrier, Jordan Dorrier, Charlotte Espinoza, Christopher Espinoza, Lottie Mae Hazlegrove, Courtney Madison, Charlie Mick, Matthew Mick, Michelle Mick, Morgan Morris, Mattie Moss, Grace Moss, Katie Page, Elaina Page, Collin Snoddy, Noah Tubbs, Tanner Wise and Kelly Womack. The Club is led by adult volunteers, Kelly Snoddy, David Wise and Diane McLain, and Virginia Cooperative Extension Agents, Jennifer Ligon, Ruth Wallace, Amber Anderson and Linda Eanes. Eight club members showed market lambs, ewe lambs, market hogs, a commercial heifer, registered heifers, a market steer, doe goats and market goats at the Piedmont Area Jr. Livestock Show. The Piedmont Area Jr. Livestock Show.

The Piedmont Area Jr. Livestock Show was held at the Southside Livestock Market in Blackstone. It allows 4-H and FFA youth (ages 9-19) to exhibit in competition, beef, swine, goat and sheep projects. There are two categories that are judged: Showmanship and Market. In Showmanship, the youth are judged on their appearance and conduct in the show ring. In Market, the animals are judged on their conformation. Youth are divided into groups based on their age/experience: Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Novice. Animals are separated into various weight and age classes.

The Buckingham and Cumberland 4-H Livestock Clubs are very proud of their members. 4-H Livestock Club members that competed in the Piedmont Area Jr. Livestock Show are: Jordan Dorrier, Charlotte Espinoza, Christopher Espinoza, Lottie Mae Hazlegrove, Courtney Madison, Grace Moss, Noah Tubbs, and Tanner Wise. All members placed well throughout their various classes. Members that were awarded above their individual class placings were: Charlotte Espinoza, with the Grand Champion Market Hog; Christopher Espinoza with the Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog and Reserve Champion Market Lamb Pairs; Lottie Mae Hazlegrove 1st Place Novice Beef Showmanship and Reserve Champion Market Steer; Grace Moss with Reserve Champion Registered Heifer; Courtney Madison

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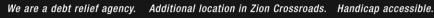
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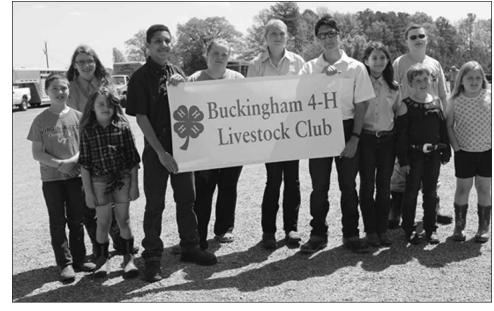
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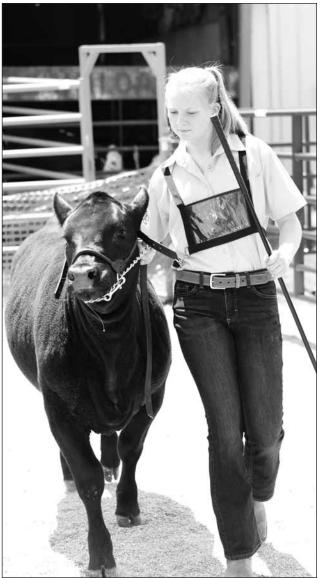




with 1st Place Senior Goat Showmanship, Grand Champion Market Goat, Reserve Champion Market Doe, 1st Place Senior Lamb Showmanship and Grand Champion Ewe; and Tanner Wise with Grand Champion Market Lamb Pairs.

During the months leading up to the Show, the Livestock Club members strive to raise animals that develop into a well-balanced market animal and work with them in proper show ring behavior. The show provides an opportunity for youth to learn responsibility, awareness of the importance of the agricultural industry in our area, healthy competition and cooperation with their peers.

Sponsorship is a main component of the Show. The Piedmont Area Jr. Livestock Show is a volunteer organization composed of extension agents and community and business volunteers. There are certain expenses required to run the show; such as ribbons, trophies, premiums for show classes, insurance, show judge and exhibitor picnic expense. The entry fees submitted by each member for their show animals cover these costs.

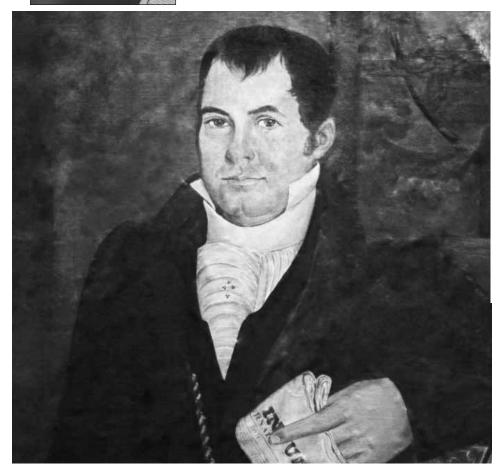


The Buckingham and Cumberland 4-H Livestock Clubs were sponsored by the following individuals and businesses: Buckingham Cattlemen's Association, Buckingham Farm Bureau, Cumberland Farm Bureau, Kathleen B. Jones, C.H. Morris and Sons, LLC, Berk-Mar Farm, Rocky Hill Farm, DavidWise.com Insurance, LLC, Poplar View Farm, LLC, Heaven's Edge Farm, Seay Milling and Machinery Company, Moss Motor Company, C&C Motors, Inc., The Spa, New Images Hair Designs, Thunder Road Auto Sales, LLC, Gilliam Motors, Inc., Calvin and Theresa Wallace, Herbert E. Maxey, Jr., Attorney-At-Law, Agrarian Veterinary Services, LLC, Buckingham Branch Railroad, Slate River Veterinary Clinic, Buckingham Family Dentistry, Shawn and Diane McLain, Mildred Gilliland, Circle B Cattle Company – Bramhall Family, Anne M. Field, Cumberland Animal Hospital – Dr. Elizabeth Hazlegrove, Maysville Manor Bed and Breakfast, Madison Farm, Cape Printing, Keymon Farm – Tim and Theresa McManus, DeShaun Forbes, and Rocky Mountain United Methodist Church.

# **Slate River Ramblings**



Joanne Yeck has been fascinated with Buckingham County for over twenty years. Since late 2012, she has shared her collection of Buckingham facts and photos on her blog, "Slate River Ramblings" (slateriverramblings.com). Her newest history, Peter Field Jefferson: Dark Prince of Scottaville 9, Let Lefferson: Dark Prince of Scottsville & Lost Jeffersons, is now available locally and online (braughlerbooks.com).



### Alexander Cheatwood Smith. Courtesy Bell Family Collection. Digital restoration by Robert Harris.

On July 5, 1774, my ancestor Alexander Smith received 390 acres in Buckingham County, Virginia from then Governor Dunmore. Price: Forty shillings of good and lawful money. Located on Walton's Fork of the Slate River, his neighbors were among others, the Patteson family. When I first learned I had a Smith line, my response was: "This is going to be a

nightmare." With some help from my cousins, my work turned out to be remark-ably easy. If you are the only Smith in the neighborhood, tracing the family is not so hard.

Alexander Cheatwood Smith (1790–1839), pictured above, was the grandson of Alexander Smith. Born in Buckingham County, he grew to be an extremely successful merchant in Cartersville, Cumberland County, Virginia.

**Buckingham Literary Academy** In 1960, historian Lulie Patteson published "Welshman Organized First Buckingham Cultural Group" in Charlottesville's *The Daily Progress*. Miss Patteson opened in her typical evocative style: "Those who remember Richard Llewellyn's book, *How Green Was My Valley*, will recall the passionate devotion of the Welsh peo-ple to singing and reciting poems. Buckingham County has benefited from these gracious Welsh assets. The first benefit was from the Buckingham Literary Academy, the first of the cultural organizations in the county, which was conceived and set in metion of Mexicon the Buckingham.

motion at Merioneth by William Evans, a Welshman." Miss Patteson went on to explain that William Evans' father settled in Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary War. William moved southward, lived in Augusta County, Virginia and, for his service during the war, received several thou-sand acres of land in Ohio and the land grant in Buckingham County at the southern end of Willis Mountain. There he built his home, which he called Merioneth, remembering his ancestral home in Wales. Patteson continued, "William Evans was a great reader. He constantly had the newest and best books sent to him from England. This passion for cultural reading was the genesis of the first self-improve-ment organization in Buckingham. This club, or Academy as they designated it, seems to have had a small membership, if we are to depend on the scraps of minutes from their meetings.

The Literary Academy's membership included the familiar Buckingham sur-names: Yancey, Bolling, Patteson, Cabell, Shepard, Robinson, Eldridge, and Howell. At least one meeting was held at "Traveler's Rest." Miss Patteson gave William Evans credit for shaping the Academy's goals:

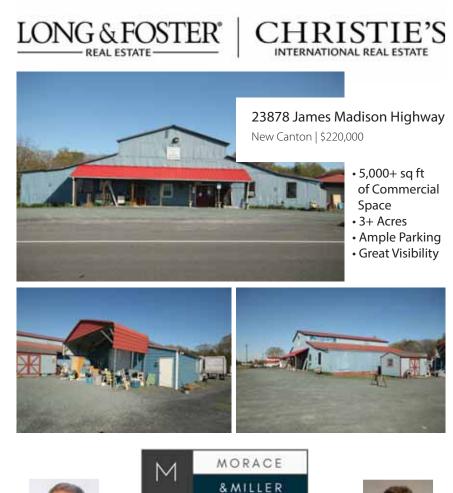
The club was organized for discussions of current topics of interest, poem composition, etc. Political discussions were abolished because one such debate almost had broken up the club. There seems to have been no prizes awarded for good poems or prose other than the honor of having the group listen to the recital and sharing in the public

dinner. Evans kept the minutes, copying into the records the winning poems and prose compositions. Meetings were held at various places—Curdsville, Warminster and Maysville, for example. Evans died in 1840 and is buried in the old Merioneth Cemetery. He was a brilliant man of sharp wit. Long after his death his satirical remarks were much quoted and the not-to-sympathetic jokers would mimic his one-sided walk caused by a wound at Germantown.

This Evans family's devotion to literature filtered down to William Evans' grandson, author Dr. George W. Bagby, whose lyrical and humorous sketches entertained readers for decades.







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# **Sunny Sides**

By Sue A. Miles Correspondent

## ometimes the stars and the planets align up just right and wonderful things happen. That may

be just what occurred, two years ago, when Evelyn Booker Dent and Susan Liebl met. The result of that encounter is now a great friendship and a musical group called The Sunny Sides.

"We met at an anti-pipeline meeting," said Liebl. "We started talking and after realizing that we had so much in common, we became friends."

Both ladies had come to Buckingham for personal reasons. Dent had returned to her home place after living in New Jersey for many years. Liebl, who had lived in California, was drawn to the county because of the Yogaville community. "We both love music, spiritually, enjoy playing cards (scrabble), love nature, and want to work towards protecting the environment," said Dent. Turns out it was a perfect match.



The Sunny Sides joined hands when Evelyn Booker Dent and Susan Liebl met two years ago at a local meeting. They have now formed The Sunny Sides, a musical duo that performs songs representing the unsung voices of local history.

Because of their passion for music, the ladies starting playing together and were soon asked on many occasions to play at the anti-pipeline meetings. "We started doing sing-alongs," said Liebl. "We both play guitars and are both singer-songwriters."

Dent also plays piano. She is a regular at area churches and also plays electric bass as well as acoustic. Liebl taught herself how to play the guitar and also plays piano and flute. "I sang in church choirs, community theatre, and school musicals and also played in a band in San Francisco," she said.



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Dent (left) and Liebl (right), collectively known as The Sunny Sides, perform original folk and indie music for a local pre-school. All photos by Sue Miles.

Thus, the combination of similar interests and the love of music evolved into The Sunny Sides. "That's our signature song," said Liebl. "We've play at Habitat events, at the Appomattox National Park, at the Historic Village and the World Day in Charlottesville. We are starting to be known for performing songs that represent the unsung voices of our local history as well as indie folk music."

One such song, "Three Days Free," written by Liebl, is about Hannah Reynolds, a slave who tells about being freed immediately after Appomattox. The musicians also have other originals based on local stories. "We Will Work" is an example of a song that slaves sang when they labored. "Many of the slaves songs were sung to gives messages of hope and rebellion against enslavement," said Liebl. "Most of such songs have double meanings."

The Sunny Sides see themselves evolving over time. "We'd like to have one or two more musicians join us," said Liebl. "We'd like to add a bass, percussion, and drums." Dent nodded and added, "But we have to find musicians who understand the thrust of what we're doing. Our singing wouldn't feel as authentic if we don't stick to what we believe in. We don't want to stray from the message."

The Sunny Sides see themselves networking with others and performing more in the community. "We'd like to align with the local historic society do to program on enslaved, indigenous, and immigrant members," said Liebl. The group has a number of upcoming events on their calendar for the spring and

The group has a number of upcoming events on their calendar for the spring and summer and welcome the opportunity to share their music and message. Liebl can be reached at srliebl1@gmail.com or 620-200-2699.

In the meantime, here are the words to Three Days Free. Read the message but make sure you make the effort to hear The Sunny Sides perform it in person.





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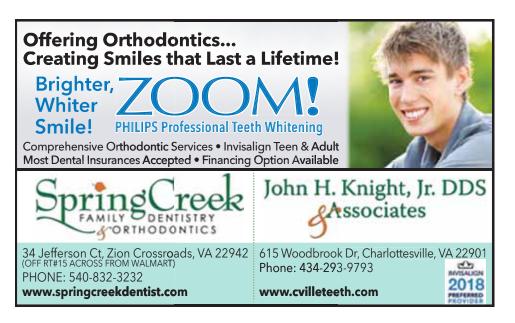
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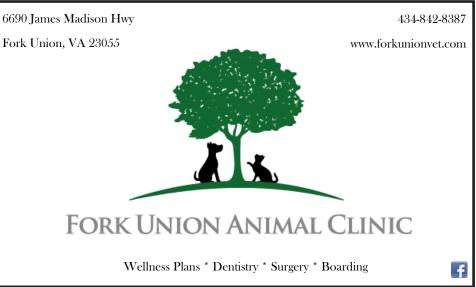
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# Sunnysides from page 13

# Three Days Free

My name is Hannah Reynolds And I lived my life enslaved Till April 1865 when Freedom flowed through my veins.

The Yanks marched round Appomattox town Lee laid his saber down. The tyrants knew their time was through And freedom was the sound.

My master and my missus They ran to save their hide And left me all alone In the Coleman house I cried.

The sound of bullets splintering The roar of cannonballs I stayed behind the fireside But one shell hit the wall.

The Yankee doctor struggled He tried to save my life But in the arms of my dear husband I knew I had little time

For three long days I lingered Joy was all that I could see Because I knew those precious hours I was living free.

Three days free The good lord gave to me I sing this song to tell you The joy of livin' free.

Three days free The good lord gave to me I JUST ROSE to tell you The joy of livin' free.

Free, free, free, free, Free, free, free, free,

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# Mayfest was a Success!

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**"HOMETOWN NAZARETH, WHERE JESUS GREW UP"**: Colonial Baptist Church cordially invites you to ALL AGES/FAMILY VBS for an interactive Holy Land experience on Friday, 6/22 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, 6/23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are located at 4218 Richmond Rd., Keswick. www.colonialbc.org/VBS.html. Call (434) 971-3079 for more information.

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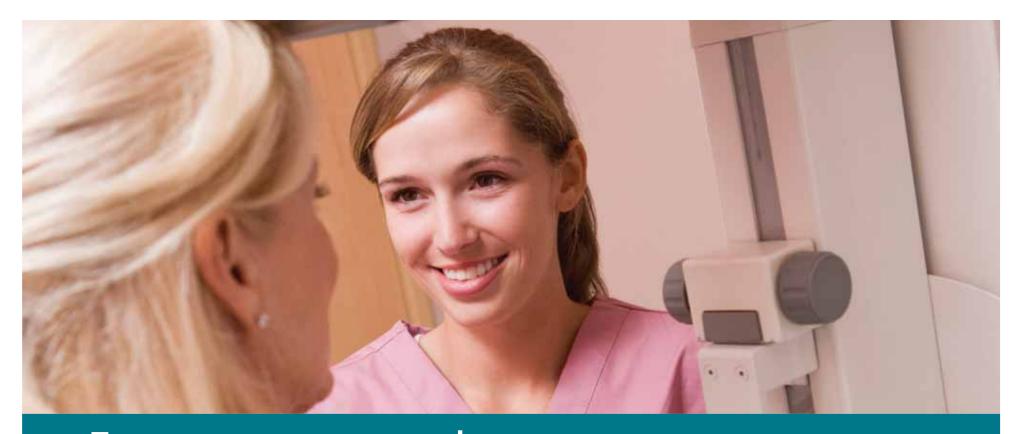
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# **Registration:**

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Space is limited for this one day event.



# C E N T R A Foundation

# **SPECIAL EVENT**

DATE: Tuesday, September 18

TIME: By appointment

LOCATIONS: The Mammography Center, 20293 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg

The Mammography Center, Suite 15, 1900 Tate Springs Road, Lynchburg

Centra Bedford Memorial Hospital, 1613 Oakwood Street, Bedford

Centra Southside Community Hospital, 800 Oak Street, Farmville

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