

Buckingham Beacon

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BUCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Jayda Chambers: All-District Basketball Player

Page 5

Buckingham Chamber Swears in New Members and Officers...Page 7



Buckingham Elementary Theatre Group Takes on Macbeth

Page 4

Charlotte Patterson:
A School Career
Spanning 50 Years
Page 2

New Business:
James River Equipment
In Dillwyn
Page 9

Timmy Vadasz:
Helping Student Apply
to College
Page 12

Elizabeth Christina
Harris Turns 100
Page 13



A very enthusiastic group of Buckingham Elementary students have joined together with adult volunteers to prepare for an April 12th production of Macbeth. Many of the students are two- or three-year veterans while others are in their first year. No matter, they all seem to embrace the joy of theatre. Shown left to right, rear: Angela Kitchen, Charlotte Trant, Jayden White, Belle Bryant, Kyla Austin, Christian Mendez, Ariel Foster, Logan Schock, and Stacie Pierce. Front Row: Katie Dodson, Harmani Holman, Abigail Bryant, Skylar Saulisbury, Dakota Bryant, Deacon Finn, LaBrea Nicholas, Trinity Mitchell, Graye Jones, and Maddie Faw. Not Pictured: Demi Snoddy. Photo by Sue A. Miles.

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger

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Charlotte Patterson's School Career Shows Work Ethic, Dedication

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

There's something to say about longevity in our jobs, our relationships, and in our lives as it often times represents contentment and dedication to something we believe in. That dedication can be displayed in this story about a very special individual who has been part of the Buckingham County School system for over 50 years.

Charlotte Booker Patterson began working with the county school system in 1966. "My first job was as a teacher's aide at the Carter G. Woodson High School with the Title 1 program," said Patterson. "Mr. Frank Harris was the director and it was the first such program in the county."

Although Patterson was born in Prince Edward, she attended school in Buckingham after her parents moved to the county when she was three. After graduation she had considered working for the Craddock Terry Shoe Factory. "I got the job offer with Craddock Terry the same day that the school system offered me the aide job," she said. "I've never regretted my decision or my career choice."

Throughout Patterson's 50+ year time with Buckingham, she has experienced a variety of work positions. "I was a substitute teacher at Carter G. Woodson. I then worked in the cafeteria as a cashier, assisted in the office and later became school secretary for what was then known as Buckingham Junior High School," said Patterson, as she mentally reviewed her work history.

In 1974 Patterson moved to the School Board Office as secretary to the Director of Instruction, administered by Mr. Frank Harris. She was the first African-American secretary to work at the office. She has remained at the Office until her retirement in 2014. But, that is not the end of the story, as after one month of retirement, she



Charlotte Patterson currently works part-time at the Buckingham school board office where she serves as receptionist. Photo by Sue Miles

graciously agreed to return and fill in as needed. "I had promised them that if they ever needed me I would come in to assist," said Patterson. As of December, 2018, she is now serving as their current front desk receptionist.

Patterson obviously found her niche working for the School District. "I've always liked being a secretary and greeting people," she said. "You've got to be open to receiving the public. I like that. The office staff has always been so nice to me. I've always enjoyed working with them and feel I've gained so much from my work here." Patterson laughs as she talks about her 50 year career of going from manual typewriters to computers, from rotary phones, ditto machines to the current technology. "When I was Deputy Clerk of the School Board I had to take notes of the monthly board meetings by hand and then type them up for the records. It's so interesting how things have changed over the past 50 years but I love the challenge and enjoy learning new things. I've always tried to improve throughout the years."

When you consider just a few of the individuals who Patterson has worked with over the past 50 years it becomes a type of archival history of the educational system: Mr. Driscoll, Mr. Kay, Dr. Gold, Dr. Coonan, Dr. Massie, Dr. Blair, Dr. Snead, Dr. Hicks, Frank Harris, Carol P. Jones (her first grade teacher), John Morgan, John Brown, Mary Etta Brown Shelton, Jose Baldwin, Ossie Harris, Spencer Adams, Joan Staton, and Thelma

Llewellyn are just a few of the individuals who she's worked with. "Over the past 50 years the staff has come and gone," she said. "It's naturally an adjustment to work with a new superintendent as they often come in with different ideas. I'm happy to say that I've never had any problem working with any of the staff. I'm grateful and thankful for all those years."



Charlotte Booker Patterson began her career in the Buckingham school system over 50 years ago. She was the first African-American to work at the school board office as a secretary. Photo provided by Patterson

Patterson from page 2

Patterson, who is married to Willie C. Patterson, has two children, Angela Jones, who is principal of Buckingham Primary School, and Maurice, who is a sales manager in Charlottesville. When she's not working, she is involved with the choir and missionary ministry of Second Liberty Baptist church, is an avid reader and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren.

Working in the education system for the past 50 years allows for some reflection. "I had always wanted to be a secretary. I took relevant courses and am happy with my career choice. Over the 50 years I see that education has improved. I think Buckingham has a great school system with very dedicat-

ed people. I am so grateful and blessed to be able to continue assisting. God is so good."

Perhaps the best testimony of Patterson's dedication is made by her daughter Angela who said, "My mother is the epitome of hard work and dedication. She loves her community and the school system. For her, every day is not work because she loves what she does. She has such a story to tell that could really inspire others. She definitely is an inspiration to me. She is not only one of the most loving people I know, she is also the best mom."

Kudos to Charlotte Patterson for her work ethic and dedication to the county's education program.

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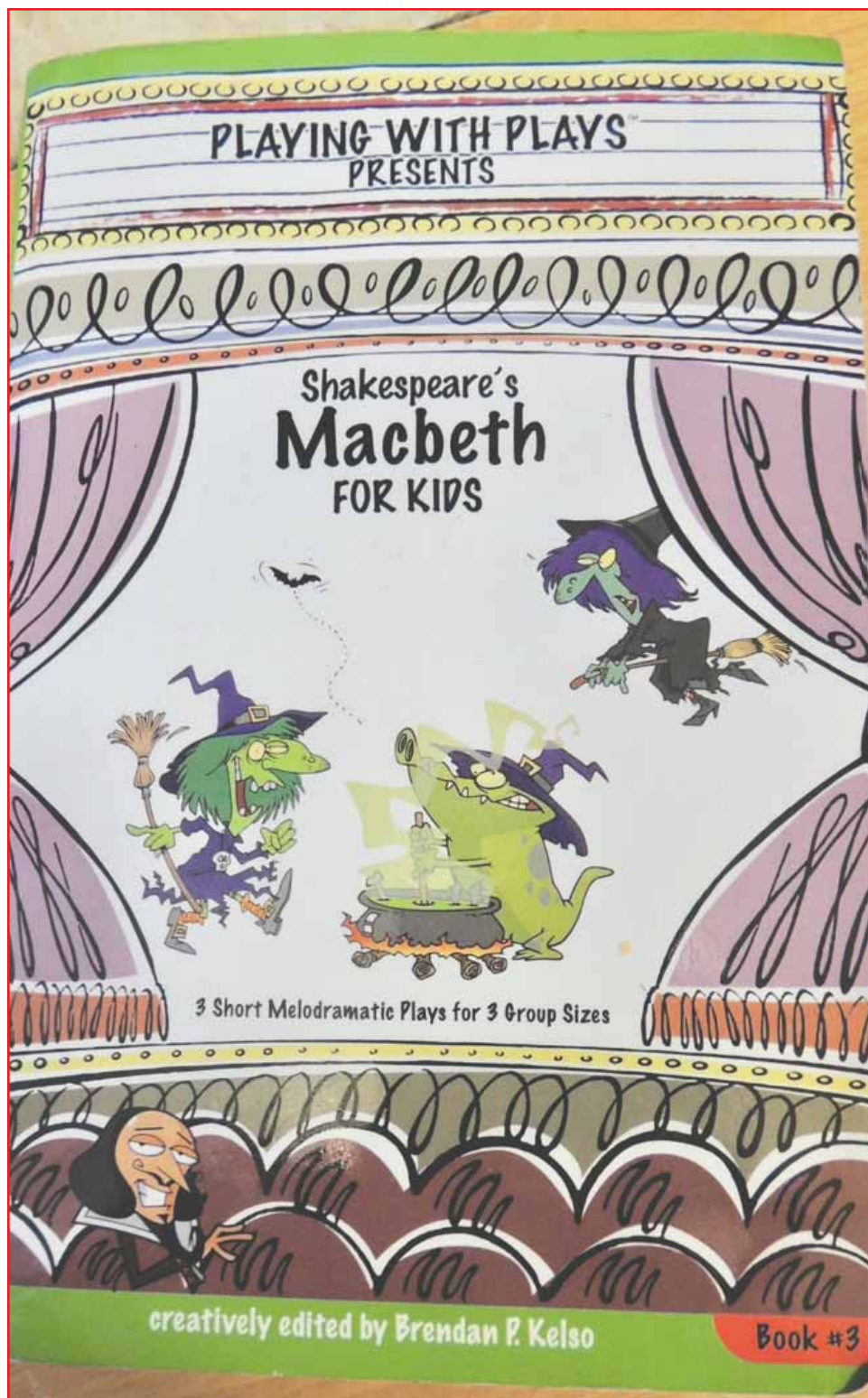
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Macbeth is the Club's next production. Other plays have been Snow White Lite, Midsummer's Night Dream, Under the Big Top and Stone in the Road. Make sure you put this April 12th event on your calendar and support these young thespians.

Photo by Sue Miles

Buckingham Elementary Theatre Group Takes on Macbeth

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

It is becoming apparent that Buckingham County is beginning to develop a true student thespian community. Along with past Beacon features about the middle and high school drama clubs, we are now happy to share this story about the Buckingham Elementary Drama Club and Stage Crew, a group of enthusiastic and energetic young people, who are truly enjoying what they're doing.

The Club, which is in its fifth year of existence and lead by four very dedicated volunteer adults, currently consists of 16 third through fifth grade students who are in the middle of rehearsing, Shakespeare's Macbeth, to be presented on April 12th. Previous productions have included Snow White Lite, Midsummer's Night Dream, Under the Big Top and Stone in the Road. If you missed those, then read on and plan to learn more about the next production.

When the Beacon recently visited a rehearsal at the elementary school it was full of joy, laughter, and a whole lot of energy. Student actors and production crew were very happy to talk about their involvement in the Club and why they are willing to take a break from homework to memorize their lines, and to stay after school to rehearse and rehearse.

Elementary office aide Stacie Pierce is joined by music teacher Charlotte Trant, art teacher Maddie Faw (who leads the stage crew), and starting this year, office staffer Angela Kitchen, as part of the adult team who works with the students.

But, it's obviously the kids and their enthusiasm that make the production a success. Fourth grader, Trinity Mitchell, who will be the witch in Macbeth, said, "I like it because I get to say stuff. We get to dress up and everything. I don't get nervous because I remember all my lines and when to say it." Katie Dodson, who is in the third grade and will play Malcolm, has actually participated in community theatre with Farmville's Waterworks Theatre. "I was on the stage crew in Shrek at Waterworks and played a rabbit and a child in Star Trek. I like acting." Three year veteran, Abigail Bryant, joined in. "I played the lead last year in Stone in the Road. I practiced a lot so it wasn't that hard. Sometimes getting to know the character can really be tricky."

Ariel Foster, who is also a three-year veteran, shared her thoughts about being involved in the Club. "A lot of my friends are involved so it's more fun. It's not hard to learn lines. I get stage fright but I just imagine the audience isn't there and it works for the most part."

Fifth grader, Kylah Austin, who will play Lady Macduff and Siward, is in her second year with the theatre. "I really love drama and when I was in fourth grade I was so nervous. But then I got used to it. I think it helps me focus and be a better student."

Along with the actors, the very important stage crew is involved. Belle Bryant, who is a fifth grader, has done some small acting parts but prefers working in the background. "I like painting and setting up the stage. It's fun and making sure all the props are in the right place."

Buckingham Elementary principal, Bryan Jackson, is one of the Club's biggest fans. "I love what they have done with this program. It is entirely home grown and on a limited budget. I did my best to support them with funds in the past and now the PTO also helps out. The performances they have put on the past two years were incredible!"

Although after school practice is once a week, as the April 12th performance date gets closer, the crew will begin meeting more often as the Club prepares for the event. The buildup to the show can be stressful but the students and volunteer adults seem to take it in stride.

And, the adults are in awe of the children's dedication. "I love the way our Drama club allows our students have a creative outlet, whether it's acting on stage or working on the set with me, they get to put their own twist on what they're doing. It really is amazing to see how much confidence they gain in themselves by the end of the year. I'm so proud of them," said Ms. Faw. Ms. Trant nodded and said, "It's amazing to see our students take what they learn in Drama Club and translate it into their everyday life."

So pull out your calendar and plan to see these wonderful children perform Macbeth. The date is Friday, April 12, 5:30 in the Buckingham Elementary School gymnasium.

The admission cost is \$5.00 and all primary and elementary students are free. What a great way to have a family outing while supporting these incredible young people.

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Jayda Chambers.

Playing with Heart

By Kyra Jones Student Intern Contributor

Jayda Chambers, a senior at Buckingham County High School, has been playing basketball since she was just five years old. This all-district player, who was recently accepted at Lynchburg University for Fall 2019 is also signing to play on the University's women's basketball team. Jayda was not only honored to be selected for the college team but is also humbled by her opportunity. "I love playing the game and I have always dreamed of playing for a college ever since I was young," said Jayda. She attended Lynchburg's summer camp and felt a special connection with the coaches and team that made her realize it was definitely the right fit for her. "It's a small campus and not too far from home," said Jayda. When asked for her for young athletics who hope to play for college, she responded: "You have to put in the work to better yourself, practice, take in advice, and always play with heart." Good luck to Jayda Chambers on her journey at Lynchburg University. We anticipate her being a shining star on their court, just like she was at Buckingham High.

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Pictured are, from left, Chamber President Krishna Jo Melendez, Young, and Treasurer and Newsletter Editor Sandra Moss.

Buckingham Chamber Welcomes speaker Justine A. Young

Justine A. Young, CEO of Piedmont Senior Resources, Area Agency, on Aging spoke to the Buckingham Chamber of Commerce recently. She updated the Chamber members on the agency's many programs, including its home-delivered meal program, new senior medical transportation program, long term care ombudsman services, homemaker/companion services, friendship cafes, Medicare consulting, and much more. All programs are open to seniors age 60 and older.

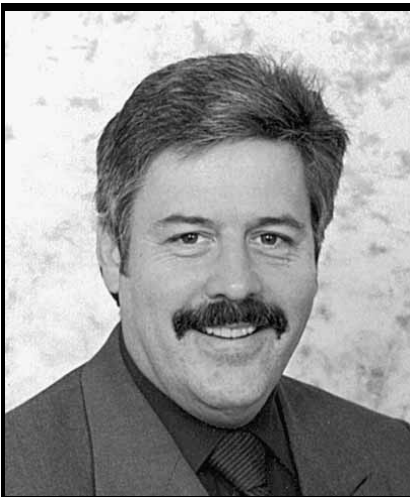


Sandra Moss, Chamber Treasurer, presents March speaker, Cody Davis, with an honorarium of \$50 to be donated to the charity or group of his choice.

March Chamber Speaker is Cody Davis

At the monthly Buckingham Chamber of Commerce meeting, members got to hear about emergency planning for Buckingham County. Cody Davis, Emergency Coordinator for Buckingham County, gave an overview of his job responsibilities which are extensive. He is working with others to put plans into action to upgrade coordination between fire and rescue and police in case of emergencies and natural disasters.

The Buckingham Chamber of Commerce meets every 3rd Tuesday at the VFW Hall at 6:30pm. All are welcome. A light meal is provided at each meeting and ways to support, welcome and publicize new and existing businesses is always a priority.



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Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center Receives Grant



Pictured are Rob Marquis, Plant General Manager, International Paper, Lynchburg, Preston Willson, President/CEO, Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center and Shawn Baier, Plant Scheduler/Shipping Supervisor, International Paper, Lynchburg who attended 4-H Camp at the Center as a youth. Photo courtesy of Holiday Lake

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, located in Appomattox County and serving 19 localities in Central/Southside Virginia, received a \$10,000 grant from the International Paper Foundation for the Center's Natural Resource Education Programs (NRE).

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center's NRE Programs serves to develop awareness and appreciation of the natural environment by utilizing the Science leg of the STEM Program with analysis of the environment with natural resource stewardship training using unforgettable hands-on and field experiences during the school year. This funding provides the opportunity for hundreds of school age children to attend Natural Resource Education (NRE) programs at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational

Center located in the 20,000 acre Appomattox/Buckingham State Forest. The NRE program offers an outdoor class setting for earth science, life science, life-skill development and leadership development. All curriculum is correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs).

This grant funding enables youth to participate in the 4-H Center's NRE Programs which are conducted through in-school programs as well as in-the-field experience at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center. Our mission is to instill in each student the need to understand the balance between the natural world and technology. If your school (public, private or homeschool) is interested in participating in the Center's NRE classes please contact us at 434-248-5444 or www.holidaylake4h.com



Readers We Need Your Help!

Following The Buckingham Beacon's November Veterans' Day edition last November, where five living World War II veterans were honored through photos and their stories, we are now asking our readers to help us identify living veterans from the Korean War (1950-1953) and the Vietnam War (1955-1973) who are currently living in Buckingham County.

If you are such a veteran or know someone who is, please contact Sue Miles at sueamiles52@gmail.com.

It is The Beacon's intention to continue this project of recognition for these very deserving patriots.



Buckingham Chamber



New Members and Officers Sworn In

By Jordan Miles, III
Contributer

During its recently held annual awards banquet, new members and officers of its board of directors were sworn in. Pictured are, from left, Wanda Albright, Janet Miller, Faye W. Shumaker, Board Chairman Eddie Slagle, Jewel Harris, Chamber President Krishna Jo Melendez, Secretary Margaret Stout, Barbara Wheeler, Chamber Vice President Jordan Miles, and Treasurer and Newsletter Editor Sandra Moss.

"The chamber is proud to have these leaders in place — representing various industries and sectors of business — in our mission to promote Buckingham's businesses," the chamber said in a statement. "Our membership is strong and our directors and officers are ready to lead them."

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLASS Reunion

ATTENTION BCHS CLASSES OF 1969 AND 1970 !!

We are trying to seek out members of these 2 classes to invite them to a 50th Class Reunion.

When: August 24th, 2019

Time: 3:00-10:00pm

Where: The Barn (located on Rt 60 near Duck's Corner)

Contact Information:

CLASS OF 69:

Annettekinsey@gmail.com

CLASS OF 70:

rosehaven@embarqmail.com

April 6:10:00am Auction and Yard Sale behind Chestnut Grove Baptist Church (Francisco Road.) Fundraiser for Chestnut Grove Scholarship Fund.

The Dillwyn Fire Dept will be selling their delicious Chicken BBQ dinners on Sunday April 28th. The dinners will be ready at NOON. Come support them !

• CVGP (Central Va Gold Prospectors) will meet **April 20 at 10:00am** at the VFW Hall in Buckingham

• **Sat April 20th 9am.** Chamber of Commerce Super Bake Sale Dillwyn at Food Lion.

Tea Party for Parkinson



You are invited to join Micki Cole for tea at her home, on April 13th, 2019 at 1:00pm- 3:00pm. Micki's house is located on Oak Street and is purple (the only purple house in town). Come and enjoy a cup of tea and something sweet as you support the Parkinson's Research thru the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Feel free to borrow or wear your favorite hat, fascinator, and /or boa. There will be door prizes made possible from Frida's Mexican Restaurant, Serenity Creations by Rachel Allen, Anderson Tire, The Spa of Buckingham and Teresa's Place. Also, thanks to Farmville Printing and Central

Va Exterminating for their sponsorship.

You may donate on the Michel J. Fox Foundation website or you can make a cash or check donation which will be collected and sent to the Foundation.

Micki is hosting the tea in honor of her father who had Parkinson's disease.

Contact Micki at (434)390-0434 or Mickirnbsn@yahoo.com

• **April 3rd 1:00-4:00pm** Housewright Museum and Adams Museum REOPEN. Both museums are open every Wednesday and Saturday 1:00-4:00pm

• **April 6th 1:00-4:00** The Historic Village at Lee Wayside Reopens. No admission chg.

• **April 13th 11:00-4:00** Primitive Technology Day at The Historic Village at Lee Wayside

• **April 27 12:00 noon** Theresa's Place 6th Annual BCHS Alum.Car and Bike Show.

• **April 28th 2:30pm** Historic Buckingham Spring Membership Meeting - for more info. marthalouis60@gmail.com or 547-2296

• **May 10 6:30pm** "A Fairytale Adventure" BCHS Drama Club Buckingham Middle School

• **May 11 10-2pm** MAYFEST 2019 (Buckingham Co. Day) The Historic Village at Lee Wayside

Easter Events:

• **Concord Baptist** will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Sat., April 13th at 4:00pm for ages 2-10.

Families are welcome to stay afterwards for a hotdog supper. Concord is located at the intersection of Francisco Rd and Deer Run Rd.

• **Maysville Presbyterian Church** will hold a Maundy Thursday service on April 18th at 7:00pm. Easter Sunday Service will be at 11:15am . ALL are most welcome . (Maysville Presbyterian is located in Buckingham Court House)

Upcoming Library Events Family Fun

Sat. April 13- Robot Fun Day - Have an adventure with the Ozobots-complete a challenge- The movie Robots will be shown at 10am and 2pm- Build your own robot !

MAYFEST 2019- May 11th 10:00-2:00 The library will have a table with crafts and Information. Held at The Historic Village at Lee Wayside

MOVIE TIME: Fridays at noon - Bring your own lunch or snack to enjoy in our meeting room

April 5- Casablanca
April 12- Singin in the Rain
April 19- The Wizard of Oz
April 26- To Kill a Mockingbird

COMPUTER CLASSES

April 3, 2019 Social Media
April 10 Intro to Computers
April 17 Intro to Email and Google features
April 24 Walk in Wednesday
May 1 Ebooks and Downloads



Primitive Technology Day

Come enjoy and participate in Primitive Technology Day which takes place at The Historic Village on Saturday, April 13, 11-4.

Experience atlatl, flint knapping, bow and arrow, and more !

Great for the kids - no admission charge.

Call 969-4032 for more information



Live Music!
"Farm Use String Band"

Mayfest

Sat. May 11, 2019

10:00 am – 2:00 pm
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Events coming up in April :

• "Primitive Technology Day" April 13, 11:00-4:00 at Historic Village, tomahawks, atlatl demo, flintlock rifle demo, flint knapping, trapping demo, longhunter camp, blacksmithing, long bow shooting, and MORE!

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Historic Buckingham Inc is a 501 (C) 3 organization




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Announcing Miss Buckingham Pageant Winners

The Miss Buckingham Pageant was held at the Buckingham High School on March 9th. There was an auditorium full of lovely Buckingham ladies but only 5 could be chosen. A hard decision for the judges. The annual pageant is put on by the Dillwyn Fire Dept. Ladies Auxillary and all proceeds benefit the Dillwyn Volunteer Fire Department. Photograph taken by Tara Smith

- L to R
 Miss Buckingham -Rachel Bardon
 Baby Miss Buckingham -Lucy Tyler
 Petite Miss Buckingham -Abigail Bryant
 Tiny Miss Buckingham -Tessa Jayne Pankey
 Pre-teen Miss Buckingham -Maggie Rumsey

Congratulations Dr. Karen Wheeler!

Dr. Karen Wheeler, currently a Fellow at University of Texas Health Center SanAntonio, is the winner of the Second Annual Residents and Fellows Committee Essay Contest. The theme of this years contest was "How I Maintain Resilience in an Era of Physician Burnout". Dr. Wheeler's essay will be published in The Journal of Urology and on the AUA website in the coming months and she will be recognized on May 5th in Chicago.

Dr. Wheeler, a graduate of Buckingham High School, went on to get a degree from VMI, with her MD/PhD and Urology Residency from University of Virginia Medial School. Dr. Wheeler and her husband are residing in San Antonio while she is completing her Fellowship. She is the daughter of Steve and Barbara Wheeler.

New Business Arrives in Buckingham

As you drive down Main Street in Dillwyn by the Industrial Park, you cant help but notice a line of green and yellow tractors and more and that would be James River Equipment which opened late 2018. Their very friendly and helpful staff are there to answer any questions on their equipment and they have a complete parts dept.

Steve Richardson, Dillwyn store manager, said they are excited about their newest location in Buckingham County. Ken Powell, forestry manager, says that this store offers a variety of forestry equipment along with John Deere agricultural equipment. And they also carry YETI coolers and cups.

They invite you to stop in and see what they have.



John Deere and YETI products. Photo courtesy of Martha Louis

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March 29-April 25, 2019 • BUCKINGHAM BEACON • 9

Who doesn't love Bluebirds!?

By JoAnn Jones, Virginia Master Naturalist
Contributor



Robbie Wegner attended our workshop in 2018 and 2019; he was able to watch two broods of bluebirds last year and we feel experiences like this are invaluable to help youngsters connect with nature.

Briefly, in 2012 Central Piedmont Virginia Master Naturalists developed a Stewardship project to help increase populations of the Eastern Bluebird. The project has morphed a bit over the past eight years, but the end result has been the same....each February twelve to twenty-five Bluebird boxes have been assembled in a community workshop and participants take their boxes home to be mounted on their property.

For the past three years, our Master Naturalist chapter has worked with Morgan Smith's Carpentry class at Buckingham County's Career and Technical Center. We purchase red cedar from Cumberland Building Supply, who works with us to make the supplies a bit more affordable. Supplies are delivered to the school and students follow the Virginia Bluebird Society's birdhouse plan to cut out the pieces needed to put together the box. Bear Creek Lake State Park provides the site for the workshop, which is scheduled annually in mid-February. Master Naturalist volunteers provide a brief introduction about bluebirds and then assist with box assembly.

Each box that is mounted early in the season has the potential for three broods.....each brood generally 4 eggs. If mother nature allows each bird to hatch and fledge successfully, there is potential for 12 bluebirds to be added to the population on a given site! And to take that one step further, each



Tom Crouse and JoAnn Jones look over a bluebird house.
Photos courtesy of JoAnn Jones

year our workshop sends at least 15 boxes home with participants....a potential for 180 new beautiful, sky-blue songbirds in the area!



Shown rear: Maura Myles and LeDetra Swann.
Front: Destinee Baker and Jordan Ingram.

Cosmetology students to Compete

Buckingham Career and Technical Education Dual Enrollment Cosmetology students will be competing in the Skills USA State Competitions for nails on April 15th in Virginia Beach. The students pictured recently competed on the district level at ACE Hermitage and placed 1st and 2nd place in Nails, securing secured them a spot at the state competition. If these students place at state they would then travel to Nationals which is held in Kentucky. Good luck to these young ladies!

Thistle Gate Winery

April 20, 2019 (Saturday), 11:30 to 5:00 PM. Spring Fling! 11:30-5:00 PM.

April 27, 2019 (Saturday), Noon to 7:00 PM. Feast of Saint George 12:00-7:00.

Music with Ben David, Wahoo BBQ.
www.thistlegatevineyard.com

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



Welders to Compete

Buckingham High School Career and Technical Center student welders (from left to right) Chad Jones, Cody Petersheim, Luis Mendez, Francisco Palacios, Shane Catlett and Foster Harkins recently placed first in various SkillsUSA District II welding and job skills competitions. These young men will now move on to compete in the SkillsUSA State Championships held in April at Virginia Beach.

Watching Your Weight

Weight Watchers meeting every Thursday afternoon which takes place at the beautiful Wiley Fitness Center in The Central Va Community Health Center. The group lost 226 pounds in 12 weeks !! The meetings are on Thursdays with weigh in beginning at 2:30pm and meeting at 2:45-3:15pm.

Contact alex.butterfield@weightwatchers.com for more information.

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 information and forge community solutions that combat crime through education and prevention. " In a nutshell, "reducing crime against the elderly"

Slate River Ramblings



**On The Move
With Joanne Yeck**

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 Scottsville & Lost Jeffersons*, is now available locally and online (braughlerbooks.com).

Buckingham Notables: Mrs. Owen John Williams

In 1959, Mrs. R. J. Wojnicki's lengthy article in Charlottesville's *Daily Progress*, "Welch Quarrymen Organized Church In Buckingham," reported that Mrs. Owen John Williams was at that time the oldest member of Arvon Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Williams had been a member for almost fifty-two years, joining the church when Rev. Plummer F. Jones was pastor. For over forty years, Mrs. Williams taught junior classes in the Sunday School, only taking a break when her sons were born, and remembered when the adult Sunday School classes were taught in Welsh. In 1959, Welsh hymnals were still kept in the church.

Born Sarah Louisa File, on December 26, 1872, at Ransons, Buckingham County, Mrs. Williams was a first generation American on her father's side. Her father came to Virginia from England and her husband, Owen John Williams, emigrated from Wales in 1891. Mr. Williams first worked in Vermont as a slate maker, later moving to Arvon. The couple was married in 1907 and, from 1928 to 1934, Mr. Williams served as Treasurer of the church. When he died in 1934, Mrs. Williams took over as Treasurer, serving until 1958. Mrs. Wojnicki also noted that while Mrs. Williams was the oldest member of Arvon Presbyterian Church, her ten-year-old granddaughter, Anne File Williams, was the youngest.

For much more about Arvon and its slate quarries, please visit the archives at Slate River Ramblings (slateriverrambling.com) and enjoy the results.



Buckingham Female Collegiate Institute

Buckingham History: William G. Shepard

Over the twentieth century, several individuals contributed significantly to chronicling the history of Buckingham County. Each had their special interests. Some, including Lulie Patteson and Mrs. R. J. Wojnicki, wrote for daily newspapers. Others, including Rosa Williams and Elizabeth McCraw, focused on places in Buckingham and created surveys for the Depression-Era Virginia Historical Inventory.

Another Buckingham historian, William Gamaliel Shepard, published numerous articles in *William and Mary Quarterly*. Keenly aware of losses due to the Buckingham Courthouse fire, he was particularly interested in preserving the contents of original documents, many of which had survived in his family papers. His multipart article tracing the history of Buckingham Female Collegiate Institute is invaluable. During 1937, Shepard also served as an informant for several Virginia Historical Inventory surveys, again providing details about his family homes and surviving papers.

Like so many other aspects of Buckingham County's history, the works of these historians are scattered far and wide, and many are destroyed. But all is not lost! A biographical essay of William Gamaliel Shepard can now be found in my book, "At a Place Called Buckingham," Volume Two.

Buckingham County Weddings

One hundred years ago, December weddings were extremely popular. On January 4, 1905, the *Appomattox and Buckingham Times* printed the following about a Buckingham County union:

Alcoma. Davison-Rosin

Miss Anne B. Rosin and Mr. R. T. Davidson, were quietly married at the bride's home, "Oakland," on December 18, [1904]. Rev. W. E. Bullard officiated. Mrs. R. I. Morgan was matron of honor and Mr. R. I. Morgan was best man. The parlor was beautifully decorated with holly, ferns and juniper. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson took the C. & O. train at Dillwyn for their new home in Ashland. Attendants were as follows: Miss Bessie Rosin and Mr. Humphrey Steger; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Morgan, Mr. Charles Rosin, Mr. D. M. Word, Mrs. Shellie Saunders and Mr. Irby Saunders. Mr. C. R. Rosin has just returned from the Valley of Virginia where he received a good price for his cattle and his old friends were very glad to see him.



Cumberland 4-H Livestock Judging Team

Jordan Newman and Tanner Wise (pictured above L to R) of the Cumberland 4-H Livestock Judging Team competed against other teams on March 2 at the 2019 Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club's Livestock Judging Contest. 4-H and FFA Teams from throughout Virginia competed in this daylong competition where they placed in classes of: Spring Simmental Heifers, Fall Commercial Bred Heifers, Market Steers, Market Hogs, Crossbred Breeding Gilts, Breeding Ewes, Wether Dams, and Breeding Does. Newman and Wise also had to each present oral reasons for their placings for four of these classes as well as answer a group of questions regarding two of these classes. Jordan Newman is the son of Doug and Melissa Newman of Cartersville and he is a Junior at Cumberland County High School. Tanner Wise is the son of David and Sherri Wise of Dillwyn and he is a Freshman at Buckingham County High School. Coaches for the Cumberland 4-H Livestock Judging Team are Henry Paris and Rob French.

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Wait state
- 6 Normal beginning?
- 10 Lot size, maybe
- 14 Archer's ammo
- 15 Erelong
- 16 Type of rug
- 17 Crowning ceremony
- 19 Tattered duds
- 20 Part of BTU
- 21 Grant
- 23 Director's cry
- 24 Over-the-hill horse
- 25 Bee or Em
- 26 Take on, as a challenge
- 28 Shocked
- 30 Prophetic
- 32 Engrave on glass
- 33 Make a sweater
- 34 Coastal bird
- 35 Blue hue
- 37 Have a hunch
- 39 ___-ran
- 42 Vegan no-no
- 44 Office note
- 47 Feature film precursor, once
- 49 Sarcastic
- 51 Move unsteadily
- 52 Forest dweller
- 54 Chic getaway
- 55 Polished off
- 56 Strip
- 58 Study all night
- 59 Name as a source
- 61 Breakfast melon
- 63 "I had no ___!"
- 64 Get the pot going

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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55				56		57				58		
59			60			61			62			
63						64			65			
66						67			68			

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- 65 Speck in the sea
- 66 Fender bender result
- 67 Fortune teller
- 68 Over yonder
- 10 Berne's river
- 11 One of a cereal trio
- 12 Bar fixture?
- 13 Tampa's time zone
- 18 Have an edge against
- 22 WWII female
- 25 Pale as a ghost
- 27 Butcher's offering
- 29 Approach boldly
- 31 Break in relations
- 33 Kind of pad
- 36 NBC show, "____ Got Talent"
- 38 Ruler of the east
- 39 Stomach remedy
- 40 Danger for small boats
- 41 Add sugar to
- 43 How some prefer their pasta
- 45 Govern badly
- 46 In theory only
- 48 Roulette bet
- 49 Software test version
- 50 Germ cell
- 53 Aromatic compound
- 57 Wind instrument
- 58 Brit's bludgeon
- 60 Chow down
- 62 Liquored up

Timmy Vadasz: Helping Student Apply to College

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

In this day and time applying for college is not for the weak of heart. The process, which is quite competitive and time consuming, actually begins years before applying as students develop their transcripts for strong GPAs, become involved in clubs and other activities to add to a resume, and prepare for the SAT and ACT tests, all in hopes that the college of their choice will accept them when they graduate.

This process has gotten much easier for students at Buckingham County High School thanks to the Americorps College Advisor program. In its fifth year at Buckingham High and staffed by University of Virginia graduate Timmy Vadasz the College Advisor program gives students one-on-one assistance on the college application and financial aid process. Vadasz, who will be at the high school for a total of two years, provides expert guidance and advice to seniors as they wade through the many different levels of applying for college. One specific mission of the program is to provide such services to rural schools where the rate of college attendance is likely low.

Vadasz's position is currently funded through a grant administered by UVA. He received intense training during this past summer before beginning his job in August, 2018.

"We had three weeks of summer training on the UVA campus," he said. "I learned more than I ever thought I'd know about college admissions and the ins and outs of financial aid. During the fourth week of training we toured different college campuses to see what they were like in order to share our experiences with the students." Vadasz also got to hear from admissions staff. "I got to hear from the Tech counselor who gave insight on when to apply as they were revamping their application process this year. Being there and being able to hear this saved a lot of confusion when working with students."

Senior Colton Morris, who has been accepted to Radford, Longwood, ODU, and Virginia Wesleyan, and was working on additional application projects in Vadasz's office, had many good things to say about the College Advisor program. "I think that without Mr. Vadasz the process that I've gone through would be a lot more difficult. Some of the things that I've gone through I didn't have a clue what to do. He's made it much less difficult to go through the process of applying and attending college. It's a long, tedious process. We walk in not knowing what we're doing. It's a lot easier to have someone help us with what we're doing and to know what colleges are looking for in a prospective student."

Vadasz, in conjunction with the school's Counseling Department, also coordinates events to assist both students and parents. "We have a FAFSA Night in the fall, allowing parents of seniors the opportunity to complete their financial aid form with the help of experts," he said. Vadasz also coordinates College Application Week in the fall, allowing seniors to use the computer lab to complete applications, again with expert help. "I also had several college admission counselors come in that week to do on-site admissions. That's always helpful for students and certainly makes them feel better when they are accepted on the spot," said Vadasz.

Charmaine Battle, who has been accepted to Mary Baldwin, Longwood, and Radford walked in to Vadasz's office to have him review one of her financial aid letters.

"Bringing in the on-site admission counselor from Radford was great," she said. "I got accepted on that day. The resources that Mr. Vadasz and the College Advisor



Senior Brian Hatcher (left) is shown working with Vadasz while Rha'Neisha Holman and Colton Morris join in on the conversation. The students speak highly of Vadasz and appreciate how he works with them to guide them through the year-long process of getting into college. Photo by Sue Miles

program offers have made a big difference in my process of applying for college." Vadasz's purpose in working with the Americorps program was very personal. "When I was a high school senior I had no idea about the process. I didn't even fill out the FAFSA until late April which meant my financial packet was thousands of dollars less than it could have been. I didn't have easy access to an individual person who could help me with the process. Having a College Advisor who is solely dedicated to focusing on the college process for students gives them much more opportunity for success."

Vadasz noted that the current complicated digital application and financial aid process often makes it difficult for parents to assist their children. Morris nodded and said, "Even with my brothers attending college just ten years ago the process is so different. We went to FAFSA night and Mr. Vadasz and the counseling staff stayed with us the whole time and helped us get through it."

Vadasz, who hails from Mechanicsville, was an Economics and Education major, but is now considering getting a masters in school counseling after his College Advisor job ends. "I knew that college was important and that going can change your life. One thing that specifically drew me to this job was my experiences with financial aid. My family's education history is very diversified thus I have a bigger picture of what happens with the process."

Although the four-year application process is Vadasz's main focus, he also assists students who consider a different academic path. "I do focus on four-year colleges more than two year but I understand the value of a two-year college track. There are some career paths that community colleges are a better fit for. In some cases it's the perfect fit for individual students and what they want to major in."

Vadasz reviews student acceptance letters and SAT scores, discusses the financial aid award letters and helps student understand how to compare the award letters to determine which is a better financial fit.

Typical with teens, there are some hurdles that he has encountered. "The biggest hurdle is the gap in expectations," he said. "A lot of students aren't aware of the grade point average or SAT/ACT requirements that certain schools have. Those can be hard conversations to have with some students. Another challenge is the lack of preparedness. They don't have a college list, they wait until their senior year to take the SAT, or they may not have chosen to take the classes that would help them get into college."

In order to work on that problem, Vadasz and the counselors are currently working on a March Madness program for juniors to encourage them to set goals, build a list of colleges that they want to apply to and to register for the spring SAT. They recently held a College Night for sophomores and juniors and their parents to discuss the aspects of the college process. "I personally led a workshop in the library specifically devoted to getting juniors ready for college," he said. And, as the May 1 date approaches, Vadasz is preparing for the big Decision Day event where students who have finalized their decision celebrate with food, prizes, music, and games.

In anticipation for his second year at Buckingham High, Vadasz noted, "I'm more comfortable now in knowing how to approach students, how to better prepare students with a year under my belt, especially with the junior class. When the current juniors return as seniors this fall, I hope that I'll be able to start them on the process sooner, especially with the SAT assessment. Some students don't want to take the SAT for whatever reason. If you don't take it, you can miss out on some scholarship opportunities. It's an important test."

Vadasz obviously enjoys his work with the students. "A few weeks ago, I was helping a low-income student with her financial aid letter. As we reviewed the awards I could see that she was realizing that college is actually possible for her. The

See Vadasz page 15

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Elizabeth Christina Harris Turns 100

Contributed by Crystal Baylor

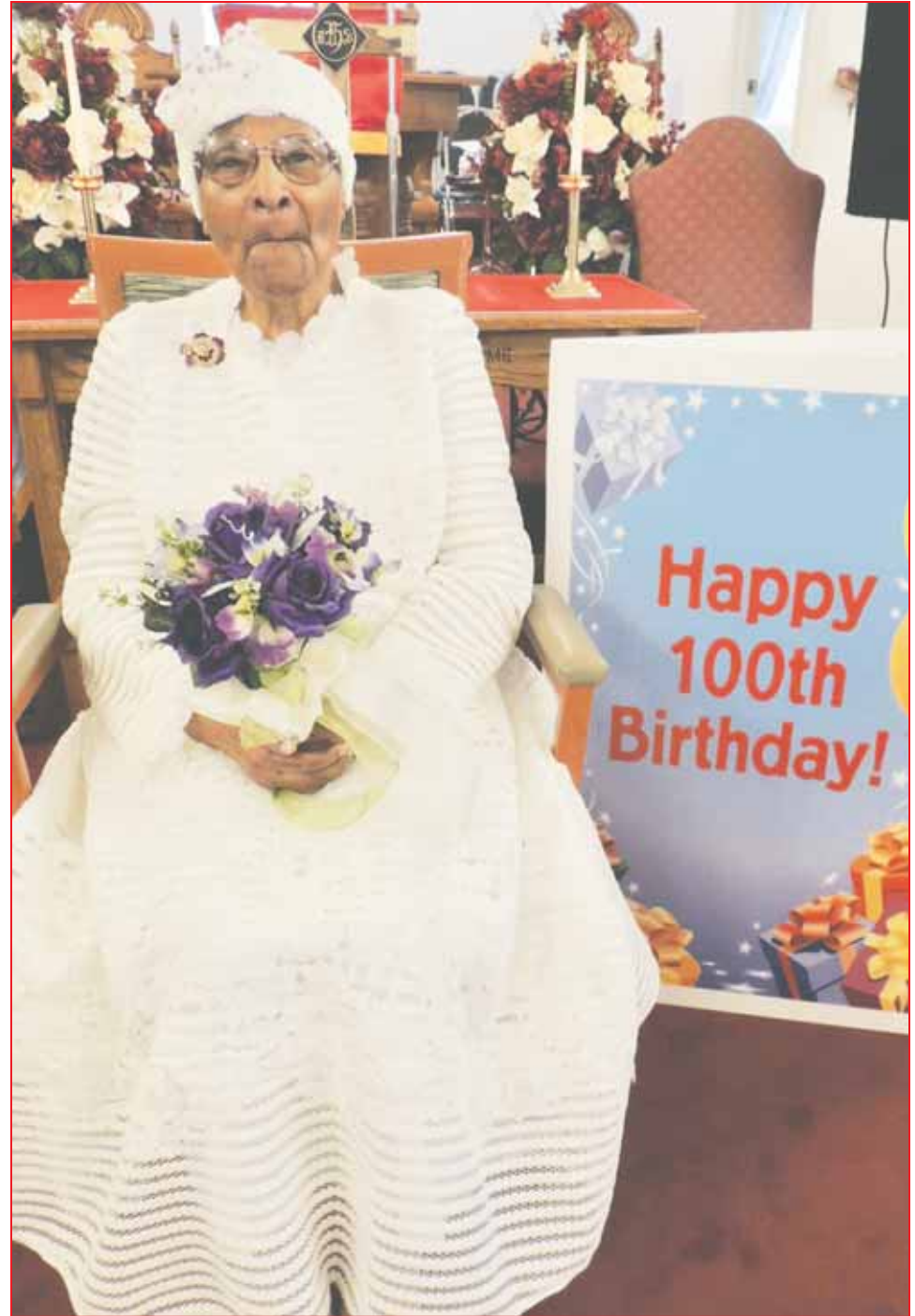
The Beacon and Buckingham community wishes a happy 100th birthday to a very special lady, known as Mother Harris. Elizabeth Christine Harris was born in Dillwyn on March 12, 1919, one of ten children born to the late Alexander Tyree and Vera Anne Wade Tyree. She attended Jones's School and Cornerstone School. Mother Harris grew up as a member of Bright and Morning Star Holy Church where she accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior at the tender age of twelve.

Mother Harris married Joseph Lloyd Harris on July 4, 1935 and relocated to Washington D.C., for five years prior to returning to Dillwyn to start and raise a family of five children: three daughters and two sons. Widowed at a young age, she exhibited strength and courage beyond measure and remained devoted to serving God, family and her community. As a testament to her faithfulness, her family now extends to nine grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren and a host of in-laws who love, admire and cherish her deeply.

Mother Harris is considered an invaluable treasure to her Pastor, Elder Janene Jones, and her church family. Having attended Bright and Morning Star Holy Church all her life, she was actively involved in ministry. In addition to her decades-old position as Adult Sunday School teacher, she held many other ministry positions in Bright and Morning Star Holy Church, including Praise and Worship Leader, Treasurer, and Secretary and Acting Superintendent of Sunday School.

Mother Harris kept a daily journal for many years to record memories, special dates, milestones and events. Moreover, she was an avid sewer of quilts and she enjoyed cooking for family, neighbors, friends and church functions.

As demonstrated by her fervent prayers, actions and priceless wisdom, Mother Harris is widely known as a godly woman who has committed most of her life to caring and helping those in need. Even since her transition to nursing home living, Mother Harris' sweet, kind spirit and her love for God and others brings so much beauty to her family and continues to be an inspiration to everyone she meets.



A much beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Mother Harris was honored at her 100th birthday by her family and fellow church members. Photo by Sue Miles



Elizabeth Tyree, now known as Mother Harris, is shown here at the approximate age of sixteen. Photo provided by family



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PANCAKE BREAKFAST-FREE FOR KIDS 10 & UNDER: Saturday, March 30, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Lake Monticello Firehouse, 10 Slice Road, Palmyra (turn at traffic light – off of Rte 600) featuring animal-shaped pancakes. Tickets \$8. Proceeds benefit FCHS Scholarships and local charities. Sponsored by Palmyra and Salem Methodist Men.

EVENT

BINGO: at Lake Monticello Fire & Rescue, 10 Slice Road, Palmyra (off of Rte 600, turn at CVC traffic light). Every Thursday! Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Early Bird 6:45 p.m. \$1000 Jackpot (with 80 or more players). Progressive Games! Food menu available. Questions? Call (434) 591-1018.

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**Direct Support Professionals
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**Direct Support Professionals
(Louisa Adult Activity Center- 1 full-time position.)**

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Vadasz, who is completing his first year as Buckingham's College Advisor, is planning a March Madness event to work with current juniors and their parents to get them ready for the application process in the fall. Photo by Sue Miles.

Vadasz from page 12

experience was becoming more real. It was very cool to see her response and the gratitude she had for the College Advisor services."

That gratitude was also shared by Rha'Neisha Holman who plans to attend Longwood this fall. "He helped me a whole lot. SAT, getting passwords, user names, Longwood ID's. He was on phone with Collegeboard for 20 minutes with an issue and has helped with on-site application process. I was nervous and Mr. Vadasz helped me to prepare for meeting with the admissions officer. He told me I was going to get in Longwood. It was so stressful, but he kept assuring me that it was ok."

Brian Hatcher, who plans to attend Mary Baldwin College, joined in on the praise, "After I applied I wasn't getting any information from the school. Mr. Vadasz contacted the colleges and got the information I needed. He has a great way of communicating with colleges and he can get information that we need quickly. He's more than a College Advisor, he's a counselor. He helps with a lot of the emotional issues that we go through when we're going through this process."

School Counselor, Libbie Ranson, also shared her thoughts about the benefits of the program. "Seniors have a specialized set of tasks to complete during their last year of high school to ensure they are ready to enter their

next stage of life. Mr. Vadasz meets with every senior to work out that plan and is constantly checking in with them on deadlines and opportunities. With the other responsibilities we have as counselors, it would be very difficult to give each senior the attention that he or she does. He is an invaluable member of our team! He has fit in well here at BCHS and is a team player, always willing to help out."

Kudos to the College Advisor program and to the good works of Timmy Vadasz, who obviously has a passion for what he's doing. Lucky Buckingham High School seniors!

Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11

L	I	M	B	O		P	A	R	A		A	C	R	E	
A	R	R	O	W		A	N	O	N		A	R	E	A	
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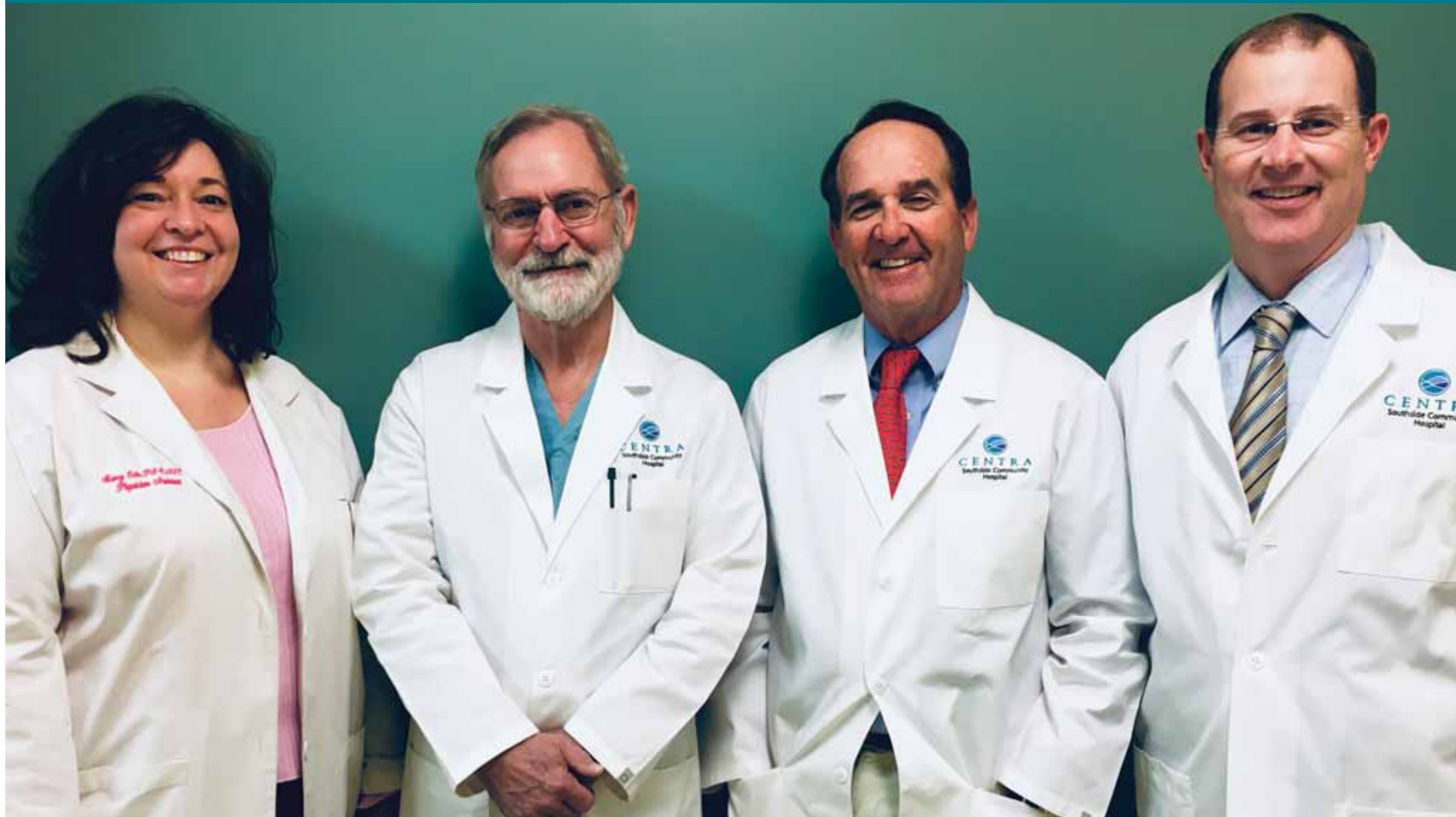
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