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V ALLEY VIRGINIA

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County, City Teachers Up For Simms Award

By **JEFF MELLOTT**
Daily News-Record

HARRISONBURG — Educators in Rockingham County and in the City Schools were honored this week and are now in the running to represent their respective divisions in the state teacher of the year competition.

Each county and city school selected a teacher as a nominee for the

Lucy F. Simms Educator of the Year Award sponsored by the law firm Wharton Aldhizer & Weaver. A Simms winner will be selected June 3 for both the city and county schools, and each person will represent their district in the state competition.

Rockingham County Nominees

The county's teachers were honored Tuesday night during a Partners

in Education banquet sponsored by the Rockingham Education Foundation Inc.

Rockingham's teachers of the year include Broadway High School's Steve Bange. Bange has spent 21 of his 24 years teaching at Broadway. He has taught earth science and biology, and created the school's geology program.

J. Frank Hillyard Middle School's Chris Botkin has taught social science

and history at the school. He also served as assistant principal for one year.

Debbie Coffman has taught kindergarten at Linville-Edom Elementary School for the past 27 years.

Katherine Dameron teaches physical education at Ottobine Elementary School. This is her sixth year in Rockingham County.

Kim Dean has been a U.S. history

and government teacher for the past 10 years at Turner Ashby High School. Dean also received this year's history teacher of the year award from the Massanutton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Penny Dolan has been a first-grade

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TEACHERS OF THE YEAR | HARRISONBURG

Harrisonburg has announced its teachers of the year at each of the city's six schools. They will be considered for the Lucy F. Simms Educator of the Year Award for Harrisonburg,

which will be announced June 3. The award is sponsored by the law firm Wharton Aldhizer and Weaver and includes a cash prize and a trophy. The city school award winners are:



Angie Baylor Keister
Elementary



Shannon Goodson
Stone Spring Elementary



Pat Harman
Thomas Harrison Middle



Vicki Harris
Harrisonburg High



Karen Matthias
Waterman Elementary



Dianne Murray
Spotswood Elementary

— Compiled by Jeff Mellott

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR | ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Rockingham County has announced its teachers of the year at the individual schools. They will be considered for the Lucy F. Simms Educator of the Year Award for Rockingham County,

which will be announced on June 3. The award is sponsored by the law firm Wharton Aldhizer and Weaver, and includes a cash prize and a trophy. The county school award winners are:



Steve Bange
Broadway High



Chris Botkin
J. Frank Hillyard Middle



Debbie Coffman
Linville-Edom Elementary



Katherine Dameron
Ottobine Elementary



Kim Dean
Turner Ashby High



Penny Dolan
South River Elementary



Cindy Evans
Elkton Middle



Dawn Flory
John Wayland Elementary



Regina Griffin
Massanutten Technical Center



Marsha Hinkle
Plains Elementary



Bobbie Jo Kite
Elkton Elementary



Mike Long
Wilbur S. Pence Middle



Patsy Neese
Peak View Elementary



Mark Palmer
Spotswood High



Deborah Price
Pleasant Valley Elementary



Lisa Pullen
Montevideo Middle



Judy Rhodes
John C. Meyers Elementary



Sherry Ryman
Lacey Spring Elementary



Cary Schulte
Fulks Run Elementary



Nanette Shifflette
Mountain View Elementary



Therese Warner
McGaheysville Elementary

— Compiled by Jeff Mellott

Simms Winners Go On To State Competition

Award

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teacher at South River Elementary School for the past 13 years. She began her career in Rockingham County as a reading teacher.

Cindy Evans of Elkton Middle School teaches special education. She is in her second year at the school and has been teaching a total of 28 years.

Dawn Flory of John Wayland Elementary School has taught for 19 years at the school at the kindergarten, first- and second-grade levels.

Regina Griffin teaches health careers at Massanutten Technical Center, where she is completing 18 years. She has been a registered nurse for 22 years.

Marsha Hinkle of Plains Elementary School has spent 11 years teaching kindergarten and pre-kindergarten.

Mike Long teaches agricultural education at Wilbur S. Pence Middle School. He has taught the subject for 17 years at Wilbur Pence after two years in Augusta County.

Bobbie Jo Kite represents Elkton Elementary School. Kite has taught elementary school for eight years, the last three at Elkton.

Patsy Neese is a second-grade teacher at Peak View Elementary School. During her career, Neese has taught kindergarten and first, second and third grades.

Mark Palmer teaches alternative education at Spotswood High School. He has spent four of his 24 years in education at Spotswood.

Deborah Price has been teaching the fourth grade at Pleasant Valley Elementary School since 1991. She has taught a total of 22 years in Rockingham County.

Lisa Pullen of Montevideo Middle School teaches music. A teacher of 20 years, Pullen has been at Montevideo since 2004.

Nanette Shifflette of Mountain View Elementary School has been teaching elementary school students and developing reading programs since 1978.

For the past 10 years, Judy Rhodes of John C. Myers Elementary School has taught first- and second-graders. Rhodes has been teaching a total of 36 years.

Sherry Ryman of Lacey Spring Elementary School teaches kindergarten. She has taught there for the past nine years in a career that began 13

years ago.

Cary Schulte of Fulks Run Elementary School is a special education teacher. This is her third year of teaching. Previously, she was a school secretary at Fulks Run and at John C. Myers Elementary School.

Therese Warner of McGaheysville Elementary School has worked in Rockingham County for 14 years. She is completing her ninth year at McGaheysville Elementary School as the pre-kindergarten teacher.

City Nominees

The city's educators of the year were honored Wednesday morning during a breakfast at James Madison University hosted by the Harrisonburg Education Foundation.

Each of the city's six public schools nominated an educator of the year.

The educator of the year at Harrisonburg High School is Victoria Harris. She teaches earth science and oceanography. She has been teaching for 34 years, including eight at the high school.

Thomas Harrison Middle School's educator of the year is reading teacher Pat Harman. A teacher for 31 years,

she has spent four years at the middle school.

Angie Baylor teaches third grade at Keister Elementary School. She has been teaching for 20 years, all of them at Keister.

Dianne Murray is the librarian at Spotswood Elementary School. She has been the librarian for about eight

years. She taught fifth grade for seven years before becoming a librarian.

Shannon Goodson teaches second grade at Stone Spring Elementary School. She has been in education for 10 years, including seven years at Harrisonburg.

Karen Mathias is finishing her 19th year as a speech ther-

apist at Waterman Elementary School and her 31st year in education.

The Harrisonburg Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization formed to support the city's public school system.

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