



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2013 ALSTON-PLEASANTS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

May 23, 2013 – The 2013 Alston-Pleasant Scholarship for undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been awarded to Jazmin Alston of Halifax County.

Ms. Alston, a resident of Hollister, was Valedictorian of her graduating class at Northwest Halifax High School. Active in sports and extracurricular activities, as well as excelling in academics, she is also an alumna of the North Carolina Governor's School. Ms. Alston is the 85th recipient of the Alston –Pleasant Scholarship.

The Scholarship Fund was established in 1958 by Ms. Missouri Alston Pleasant for study at UNC-CH by selected high school students from Franklin, Halifax and Warren Counties.

The Trustees of the Alston-Pleasant Post-Graduate Scholars Fund, which provides graduate studies scholarships for Alston-Pleasant scholars, join with the Honorable Rebecca C. Spragins, Clerk of the Superior Court of Halifax County, the Honorable Richard E. Hunter, Jr., Clerk of the Superior Court of Warren County, and the Honorable Patricia B. Chastain, Clerk of the Superior Court of Franklin County, who oversee the Alston-Pleasant Scholarships, in congratulating Ms. Alston on her outstanding accomplishments and welcoming her to the Alston-Pleasant community.

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For information or questions, contact J. Gilbert Stallings at 540.856.3613 or gstall@aol.com. Also, see the Alston-Pleasant Postgraduate Scholars website at www.alstonpleasants.org, and ***Alston-Pleasant Scholars*** on Facebook.

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Valley event**

**Enfield FD
improves
rating**



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On the fast track to a bright future



Jacqueline Hough | The Daily Herald

Jazmin Alston, left, a rising senior at Northwest Halifax High School, will spend the next five weeks at Governor's School East on the campus of Meredith College in Raleigh. With her sister Alexis, center, and grandmother Charlean Brown.

Northwest's Alston goes to Governor's School

BY JACQUELINE HOUGH
STAFF WRITER

Jazmin Alston, of Hollister, will spend the next five weeks doing what she loves — math. "Math is my favorite subject," she said. "I've always been good with numbers, and I like to find solutions to problems."

Alston, a rising senior at Northwest Halifax High School, will attend the five week Governor's School East on the campus of Meredith College in Raleigh.

The Governor's School is a residential program for intellectually gifted high school students.

The road to the school began with Alston and 12 others at Northwest taking a test. After this, she and one other student received an application. Alston is pleased to be representing Halifax County Schools because she wants to show others good things happen in the school system. "I feel like I am going to enjoy it," she said.

"I am not intimidated. I don't believe in quitting."

She is the daughter of Melissa Alston, of Hollister, and Kevin Alston, of Warren County. She has a sister, Alexis, who is a rising junior.

And while she is nervous, she is not afraid of a challenge or hard work.

Her class ranking proves this with Alston on track to be valedictorian for the class of 2013.

In addition to doing well in academics, she plays basketball and runs track. She is president of several organizations — Teens Against Tobacco Use, Beta Club and Future Business Leaders of America.

And in her balancing of academics with sports and extracurricular activities, Alston

**"If I get less than
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— Jazmin Alston, Northwest Halifax High School

has a personal standard for herself.

"If I get less than an 'A' in a class, I take a break from sports and extracurriculars," she said.

During the 2011-12 school year, Alston made the Principal's List every six weeks.

"I never got a B," she said.

When she returns after Governor's School, Alston said her senior year will be busy.

Alston will be the captain of her track team and participate in the Career and College Promise program by taking classes at Halifax Community College.

Her goal after graduation is to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to major in public health.

"Then I plan to go to medical school to become a pediatrician," she said.

Her grandmother, Charlean Brown, of Hollister, said was elated about Alston attending Governor's School.

"She's got insight and she is a committed person," Brown said. "She sees the possibilities for herself."

Budget in place



**Roanoke Valley Rescue
receives \$10,000, cemetery
amenities scratched**

BY ROGER BELL
STAFF WRITER

The city of Roanoke Rapids has a budget in place for the next fiscal year more than half a month early.

City council members unanimously passed the fiscal year 2012-13 budget Tuesday night — a \$14,411,018 budget that holds the line on taxes and provides a three percent raise to city employees. The

budget does include an additional \$10,000 for Roanoke Valley Rescue Squad, and a request from the Beautification Committee for \$8,000 for a bridge and fountain at Cedarwood Cemetery was eliminated.

"Staff has been working diligently on this budget," Interim City Manager Ed Wyatt said. "We recognize clearly and unequivocally the

SEE BUDGET PAGE 9

Veterans, 35-60, target of job training effort

BY DELLA ROSE
STAFF WRITER

Roanoke Valley veterans can cash in on a new education opportunity that takes them through training and into job placement.

Roanoke Rapids Employment Service/Job-Link Manager Tommy McKnight said a partnership between the Department of Labor and the Department of Veteran Affairs is launching the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program to provide up to 12 months of training assistance in a VA-approved community college or technical school program that leads to an associate's degree or industry-recognized certificate for veterans 35 to 60.

McKnight said along with the training, the VA will provide up to

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\$1,473 in monthly financial support.

Once veterans complete the program, the labor department will work with participants to help them find a job in a high-demand field requiring their new skills.

Veterans Representative Mike Holman said applications are now being taken for the program, which begins July 1. He expects the

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INSIDE TODAY

State team

Two Halifax Academy softball players, Jessie Jones and Torie Lendendorf, were voted to the North Carolina Independent Athletic Association 2-A All-State Softball teams.

It is the second straight season Lendendorf, a junior, earned All-State recognition as catcher. Lendendorf had a batting average of .455 this year.

Complete story on page 11



Randy Whinn | The Daily Herald
Halifax Academy senior Jessie Jones named to the NCISAA All-State team.



Thursday's weather
Mostly cloudy

High 85
Low 59
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