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H.L. Bonham Regional  
Development and Tourism Center

## THE VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS' *MOST BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE* 2008 Winners Announced

**SMYTH COUNTY, VIRGINIA, August 18, 2008** – The Smyth County Tourism Association announced today the winners of the Virginia Mountains *Most Beautiful People* promotion. The winners are: Carrie Sparks, George Buchanan, Evelyn Lawrence, Richard Walker, Doris Hogston, Eleanor Walker Jones, Janice Orr, Joy Brooks, Pam Pickle, “Big Tom” Buchanan, and Raymond Cross.

“Congratulations to each of our winners, Director of Tourism Barbara DeBord said, and many thanks to our community for helping us discover this year’s Virginia Mountains’ *Most Beautiful People*”. “We are delighted to let the rest of the world know about these Smyth Countians. The stories of these very deserving nominees will help us to showcase the spirit of what our community is all about, and to share what a wonderful place we have to experience here.” For more, log onto [www.VisitVirginiaMountains.com](http://www.VisitVirginiaMountains.com).

Motivated to honor the internal beauty of the people in Smyth County through this promotion, the SCTA’s call for submissions read, in part:

*Even Forest Gump Knows, "Beauty is as beauty does."  
It's that time of year again; time for People Magazine's 100 Most Beautiful People issue.  
While we may agree with their picks from what we see on the outside, here in the Virginia Mountains we know it's what's inside that really counts. So, we're taking nominations for the Virginia Mountains' Most Beautiful People (on the inside).  
You know the kind of people we're looking for: They are doing good things with their lives; they are helping others; they give something back to society; they lead by example--and that example is service; they make the world a better place; they inspire us to be better human beings.  
Perhaps they have touched only one life, a few, or thousands with their good works. Maybe they advocate for those who do not have a voice. They would likely be too humble to talk about themselves, so this is your chance to shine a light on them.*

The Virginia Mountains' *Most Beautiful People* winners are now featured on the regional tourism web site in a group photo. Each winner will soon be featured individually, along with the reasons for their nomination. They may also be part of future promotional materials for the area.

The deadline for this year’s submissions was June 30, 2008. Nominee criteria included current residency within the Towns of Chilhowie, Marion, or Saltville, or of the unincorporated area of Smyth County, Virginia. Nominations were accepted online via [www.VisitVirginiaMountains.com](http://www.VisitVirginiaMountains.com), Smyth County’s tourism web site, and by paper ballot at the H.L. Bonham Regional Development & Tourism Center located at 408 Whitetop Road, Chilhowie, I-81, Exit 35, just across the street from the Exxon Station.

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