

HCHS Beta Club holds annual Induction Ceremony

BY MAKENZIE BURDEN
HCHS CORRESPONDENT

This past Sunday, Oct. 25, the HCHS Beta Club held their annual Induction Ceremony.

About 20 new members across all four grades were inducted in an inspiring ceremony that focused on the 4 Pillars of Beta Club: Achievement, Character, Leadership, and Service. While Beta Club is a service-based organization, members are highly encouraged to follow the other pillars and maintain their reputations.

Guest speaker Izzy Ratliff reflected on her time in Beta Club. She explained how the skills prepared her for her current internship, as well as the lessons she learned along the way. She

encouraged the future Betas to understand how important their service is.

Two committee chairs, Solomon Philpot and Cooper Harney, also volunteered at the Induction Ceremony and their help was greatly appreciated by the officer team.

The Beta Club has been sponsored by Laurie Philpot, an HCHS Teacher, since the fall of 2025. The officer team works alongside Philpot to build up the club's reach and expand opportunities within the club. They've also increased social media use to bring attention to service projects and fundraisers.

Members are encouraged to work toward 100 service hours per year but need at least 100 by the end of their high school career

in order to get a stole at graduation.

Now that the Induction Ceremony is over, the club will shift its focus toward planning service projects and fundraisers for the remainder of the year. The club will be running the school's blood drive Wednesday, Oct. 28, and will have a booth at "Halloween On the Hilltop" Thursday the 29th from 5-7 p.m.

Earlier in the fall, Beta Club was in charge of cleaning up after soccer games. This was their main service project for the first quarter of the school year.

Members are encouraged to pursue service hours on their own time as well. The club is currently looking for restaurants to host a fundraiser night.

Beta Club members will be offered an opportunity to attend the State Convention in January. There are multiple competitions and categories for project entries, and all club members are encouraged to participate.

The current officer team includes President Makenzie Burden, Vice President Nikko Chipman, Secretary Lyla Feagan, Treasurer Brinkley Wiggins, Historian Ellie Popplewell and Sentinel Holly Simonson. The officer team holds frequent planning meetings and hosts monthly club meetings as well.

While the officers are working on increasing participation and communication, they have still managed to provide impactful service.



Photo submitted

2026-2027 HCHS Beta Club officers are, from left, Lyla Feagan, Ellie Popplewell, Makenzie Burden, Nikko Chipman, and Brinkley Wiggins. Not pictured: Holly Simonson

HMH

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have quit within the past 15 years and have a smoking history of at least 20 pack-years.

Individuals interested in participating should speak with their primary care provider to determine whether they qualify and to arrange the necessary orders and scheduling prior to the event.

The Pink & Pearl Screening Day will also include a continental breakfast and free gifts for participants. The HMH Auxiliary Gift Shop will be open during the event.

Diabetes education will continue on Thursday, Nov. 19, when HMH joins Nicholas County Extension Services and WEDCO District Health Department for a community seminar at the Nicholas County Livestock Barn.

The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will feature Dr. Samhitha Munugoti presenting "Understanding Diabetes: The Basics & Latest Information."

The seminar will provide an opportunity for individuals living with diabetes, those at risk of developing

the condition and family members to learn more about diabetes and the importance of managing their health.

The event is free and open to the public. Dinner, giveaways and door prizes will be provided. Those planning to attend are encouraged to RSVP by calling 859-289-2323.

The final scheduled event will take place Saturday, Nov. 21, in Pendleton County. HMH and the Bluegrass Lions Diabetes Project will offer free diabetes screenings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Southern Elementary School, located at 320 Fairgrounds Road in Falmouth.

The screening will be held in conjunction with Pendleton County's Winter Wonderland and Storywalk, providing an opportunity for community members to participate in health screenings while attending the seasonal event.

Free services will include prediabetes and diabetes screenings, A1C testing and diabetes education. Participants will also receive a free gift.

Diabetes affects millions of Americans, and many individuals with prediabetes are unaware that their blood glucose levels are elevated.

Because diabetes and prediabetes may develop without noticeable symptoms, screenings and regular conversations with healthcare providers are important steps in identifying potential health concerns.

Throughout November, HMH's community events will emphasize the importance of prevention, education and early detection. The programs also highlight the partnerships between the hospital and organizations throughout the region that work together to make health information and preventive services more accessible.

By offering events in Harrison, Nicholas and Pendleton counties, HMH continues to bring healthcare education and screening opportunities into the communities it serves.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the free educational programs and screening opportunities available throughout the month. Whether learning more about diabetes, understanding lung cancer risks or completing recommended cancer screenings, these events provide opportunities for individuals to take an active role in maintaining their health.



Rhonda Florence

Pages of "The Hallo-Wiener," by Dav Pilkey, lined the fence of the pocket park, creating a story walk.

S'more Spooky Stories

Foul weather forced the postponement of the Cynthiana-Harrison County Public Library's "S'more Spooky Stories" from Oct. 16 to Oct. 23. With the new

date came perfect weather, as participants and a few pups in costume engaged in a little Halloween fun in the pocket park.

HARRISON

FROM PAGE A1

using our established emergency processes and procedures. The safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority."

Whereas Westside Elementary was dealing with a legitimate incidence of trespassing, the threat at the high school seems never to have had any basis in reality.

Early in the school day Friday, a student alleged there was a backpack in the school with a magazine for a firearm in it. There was no allegation of a weapon in

the school, Jones said.

A thorough search of the school was conducted and turned up nothing; video was reviewed, which also revealed no evidence to support the claim, according to school administrators.

"Our people handled this situation by the book; it could not have been more controlled and textbook. The atmosphere at the high school was very calm, happy and normal," administrators responded.

Jones said the incidents at the two schools were unrelated.

At the end of the school day Friday, an additional message went out on Parent Square and on Face-

book from the superintendent's office acknowledging families' concerns and describing what happened at both schools.

The message concluded with a plea to avoid feeding the rumor mill, which was on steroids Friday, consuming social media feeds and prompting an avalanche of calls from worried parents.

"We encourage families to rely on verified information and to be mindful of sharing unconfirmed reports, as rumors can spread quickly and cause unnecessary concern."

Despite the plea, social media posts continued to focus on the incidents throughout the weekend.

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