

Five Clinton seniors named National Merit Semifinalists



Special to The Clinton Courier

Clinton High School's National Merit Semifinalists (l-r) Samuel Connelly, Katie Tracy, Bo Bland, Abigail Young and Caleb Zmitrovich.

Five seniors at Clinton High School have been named as National Merit Semifinalists in the 68th National Merit Scholarship Program

Seniors Bo Bland, Samuel Connelly, Katie Tracy, Abigail Young and Caleb Zmitrovich are amongst the one percent of high school students across the country to be recognized as National Merit Semifinalists.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,000 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition.

Over 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

"We are exceptionally proud of these students," Clinton High School Principal Brett Robinson said. "Their hard work in the classroom has certainly paid off so far, and we are excited about their participation in the National Merit Scholarship Program."

For more information, visit www.clintonpublicschools.com.

Free art lessons offered for children

The Clinton Courier

After retiring, Jeanette Latimer and her husband, Elbert, settled in Clinton. Latimer is the author of several books and took first place in a Mississippi Writers contest. Never idle, she and her husband have traveled to thirty countries. She also taught herself painting, then went on to the creative "Junque Art" medium.

"It is hard to describe Junque Art," Latimer says. "Things that would ordinarily be thrown out, such as plastic and tin lids, broken jewelry, pine cones, buttons, and small objects no longer of use, are turned into works of art."

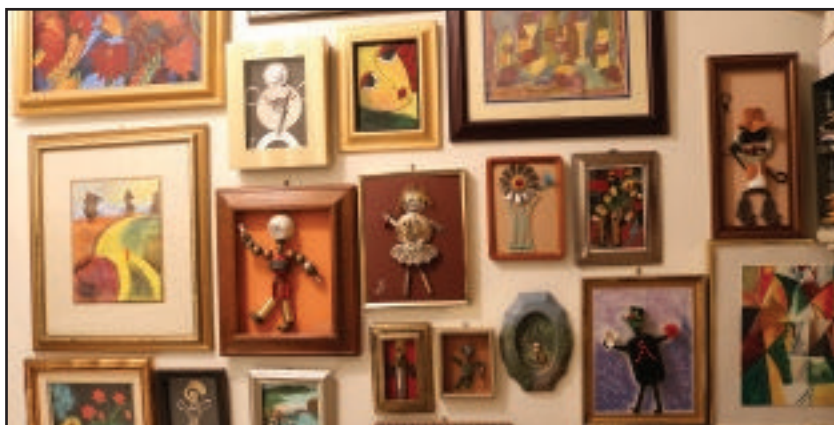
Last year, Latimer taught more than two dozen local children to use their creativity and "opened their minds to Mother Nature, in hopes of getting them away from their cell phones long enough to see the beauty in art and notice the world around them," and she is planning to continue her efforts by offering free art classes to area children ages six and up.

Latimer says the children will



Susan Rodriguez

Jeanette Latimer will offer free art classes for children ages six and up beginning September 26.



Susan Rodriguez

be given a different set of items each lesson, along with an idea, but they will be free to make changes they like.

"They are given kits to complete as I see it or as they see it, by adding a snake, a monster, or a beautiful dancing girl," says Latimer.

They will learn "a bit of sewing, chalk on sandpaper, using beads, gluing objects, and even how to make a special keepsake using Venetian plaster; but, most of all, they will learn about using their imagination," she says.

Classes will be offered beginning September 26 in the Cascades subdivision. Classes will be available on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Registration and promptness of attendance are required, and all classes are free. Latimer welcomes parents to visit a class ahead of time to see if it is something their children would enjoy and learn from. For more information or to register a child, call Jeanette Latimer at 601-924-9324.