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Vinton holds a parade from the heart



The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Vinton, the Vinton Moose Lodge, the Sassy Sisters of the Moose, the Vinton Police Department, Vinton Public Works, and many volunteers joined together to lift the spirits of the town with a Santa Claus Crawl through the neighborhoods of Vinton on December 8.



Vinton Town Councilman Keith Liles, along with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, rode a Public Works truck through Vinton distributing gifts to children who came to the curb to greet them.



Elf Kim Barker greeted her grandson as she was out distributing gifts with the Sassy Sisters of the Moose for the Santa Claus Crawl.



In one neighborhood, a resident Elf dressed up to greet the Grinch.



Members of Vinton Town Council joined the Santa Claus Crawl. Shown left to right are Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty, Councilman Keith Liles, Mayor Brad Grose, Councilman Mike Stovall, Councilwoman Laurie Mullins, and (front), the mayor's daughter, Amanda Fullen.



A young girl expressed her delight at seeing the Grinch during the Santa Claus Crawl.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

For decades, the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Vinton have collaborated to sponsor a Christmas Parade each year to celebrate the season, to highlight local businesses, to showcase local talent and officials, and to draw crowds of visitors to the town. The parade is always scheduled for the first Thursday after Thanksgiving to be the first in the valley and a kick-off for the holiday season.

This year, when it became evident early on that the traditional parade on Washington Avenue and through the streets of downtown would not be possible due to the pandemic, the Chamber and the town came up

with an alternate plan—a Vintage Vinton parade in reverse. The floats and other units were to remain stationary while spectators drove past.

About two weeks ago, with an increase in COVID-19 cases in the area and throughout the state and the subsequent change in CDC and Virginia Department of Health guidelines, that reverse parade plan was also jettisoned.

"This was a very hard decision," said Angie Chewing, executive director of the Chamber. "While we were hopeful we could host a parade in 2020, the board came to the realization that it was necessary to cancel the event considering the governor's recent executive order limiting public gatherings and the ongoing uncertainty surround-

ing the coronavirus pandemic."

Instead, the Chamber of Commerce, the town, the Vinton Police Department, Public Works, the Vinton Moose Lodge, and the Sassy Sisters of the Moose elected to hold a parade through the Vinton neighborhoods on December 8 for the sole purpose of brightening the spirits of town residents, especially the children.

The parade—actually three parades traveling three separate routes through the town—was dubbed the "Santa Claus Crawl."

Two Public Works trucks were festooned with Christmas trees and seats for Santa and Mrs. Claus in the back. The Vinton Moose brought Santa's sleigh for the trip through town, towed by the Grinch. The Vin-

ton Police and more Public Works trucks provided an escort on each route.

Elves (members of Vinton Town Council, Moose volunteers, and town staff) traveled with all the Clauses to distribute 750 coloring books, 500 boxes of crayons, candy, and Christmas trinkets to children who stood at the curbs near their homes.

The parade had been publicized on social media, with maps of the route, to inform residents of the new parade plan. The reaction was magical and heartwarming. Children of all ages came out delighted to see Santa. Many adults waved from their windows, as the parade announced its presence with sirens, honking horns, and waves.

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose's

wife Debby and daughter Amanda Fullen stopped the parade in their neighborhood to offer hot chocolate to those in the vehicles—on a night of below-freezing temperatures. Public Works provided small heaters to keep the Clauses warm. Handwarmers were abundant.

The Santa Claus Crawl was another grand idea and great success, put together by dedicated Chamber and town staff and generous volunteers with enormous effort and coordination.

Throughout the pandemic crisis, the Chamber and the Town of Vinton have proved themselves resourceful, innovative, and more than willing to think outside the box when plans had to be altered, always with the community and the quality of life in Vinton in mind.

Vinton continues traditional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Town of Vinton kicked off the holiday season with its traditional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Municipal Building on December 3. The town is usually the first in the valley to usher in the holiday season with the lighting of the tree, followed by the Christmas parade, sponsored by the Vinton Area

Chamber of Commerce on the first Thursday after Thanksgiving.

In this "anything but conventional" year of the pandemic, the town and the Chamber have made mighty efforts to provide citizens with some degree of normal life, while observing CDC and Virginia Department of Health guidelines.

Plans for the traditional parade were initially adjusted to schedule a parade in reverse with station-

ary floats and other units with the spectators driving past.

At the last minute, with an increase in COVID cases in the area, that plan was scaled down even further. The Chamber, the Town of Vinton, and the Vinton Moose Lodge sponsored a "Santa Claus Crawl" through the streets of Vinton on Tuesday, December 8. Santa and his elves drove through the neighborhoods and distributed Christmas gifts to the children who came out to greet them along the way.

Changes were also required for the tree lighting ceremony, which generally draws a crowd of entertainers and spectators, including the William Byrd High School band, dancers, and the WBHS Chorus. This year, with participants limited in number to 25 due to COVID protocols, basically the tree was lit—and that was it, but the tradition was upheld.

Vinton Director of Community Programs and Facilities Chasity Barbour welcomed guests to this year's Vintage Vinton celebration. The town and the Vinton Police Department accommodated the limitations on attendees by livestreaming the tree lighting event.

The Police Department's Officer of the Year for 2020, chosen by his peers, generally leads off the Christmas parade. This year, Officer Brandon Alterio, who received that prestigious honor, instead

Lancerlot partners with TAP to help struggling families

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Lancerlot Sports Complex in Vinton is partnering with TAP (Total Action for Progress) to provide food and warm winter hats, scarves, socks, and gloves for struggling families in the Roanoke Valley.

The community (in addition to Lancerlot members) is being asked to participate in "Bridging the Community Gap" by bringing donations of canned goods, boxed foods like macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, pasta, and cereal, staples like peanut butter and rice, as well as winter clothing accessories to the Lancerlot between December 7 and December 21. (The Lancerlot is open from 6 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. for drop-off of items).

Leave the donations under the Christmas tree in the entrance lobby (wear a face mask), and stop by the front desk in the fitness area to receive a thank you gift of appreciation from TAP.

Lancerlot Administrative Manager Kathleen Sink says this is the second year of the partnership with the non-profit TAP organization in this effort. "The community response last year was great," she said.

TAP Special Project Manager Troy Gusler said that



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Lancerlot Sports Complex in Vinton is partnering with TAP to provide food and winter clothing accessories for those who are struggling. Drop off donations under the tree in the lobby at the Lancerlot.

"Bridging the Community Gap" got its start five years ago in an attempt to bring the various communities and organizations in the Roanoke area together and to coordinate their efforts.

A special event is held in Roanoke each year to kick off the food drive campaign. This year's is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, from 6 to 7

See **Lancerlot**, page 2



PHOTO BY MANDIE BAKER

Vinton continued its Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony tradition at the Municipal Building on December 3. Vinton 2020 Police Officer of the Year Brandon Alterio, Director of Community Programs and Facilities Chasity Barbour, and Mayor Brad Grose (shown left to right) joined together to light the tree.

See **Tree Lighting**, page 2

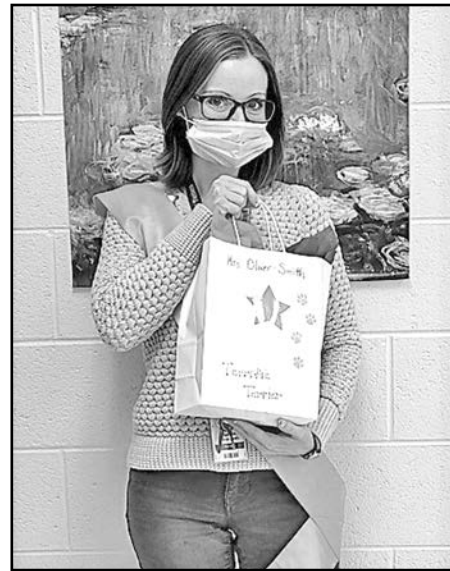
WBHS Terrier Spotlight of the Week



Dan Plybon



Keagan Vickers



Elizabeth Oliver-Smith



Kevin Tuck

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Each school week, the administrators at William Byrd High School recognize faculty and staff members for their wonderful contributions to our students and community with the Terrier Spotlight of the Week.

The first Terrier Spotlight of the Week for December 4 was Dan Plybon, our wonderful band director here at William Byrd. As the son of a professional drag racer, Mr. Plybon knows a thing or two about shifting gears. During the 2020 school year, Mr. Plybon has had to make many adjustments to accommodate his students, while still following CDC guidelines. That has included adjusting seating arrangements from six to ten feet, as well as holding symphonic and jazz band classes in the cafeteria. Mr.

Plybon has been a great sport and a consummate professional throughout this year. He has also continued to devote time and energy to extra-curricular activities, such as the marching band, as well as preparing for the annual Vinton Christmas Parade. We would again like to thank Mr. Plybon for all of his hard work and commitment to our students.

Next up is a new member of our Terrier family, Keagan Vickers. The recent RU grad has brought her talents from the NRV to the Town of Vinton, and we couldn't be more thankful for it! As an instructional assistant, Ms. Vickers is asked to do a little bit of everything, from assisting classroom instruction, taking temperatures in the morning, to managing Hybrid Help Days. Her

hard work and dependability this year have been invaluable. We should also highlight that apart from being a fantastic IA, Ms. Vickers is also a gifted dancer and nationally recognized archer. Thank you again, Ms. Vickers, for supporting our students and staff this year.

From recognizing a new Terrier, to welcoming one back, our next Terrier Spotlight of the Week is Elizabeth Oliver-Smith! Ms. Oliver-Smith is the epitome of an English teacher. From Orwellian posters on the walls, to a vast collection of scarves, cardigans, and shawls, this Hollins University graduate has all the English teacher vibes. Ms. Oliver-Smith has provided meaningful instruction and curated engaging resources to help support her Sophomore and Senior English

students throughout the year. She has also worked tirelessly reaching out to parents and guardians, as well as devoting time each Wednesday to provide additional support to help her students succeed. In her free time, Ms. Oliver-Smith enjoys tucking into a thrilling crime novel while enjoying a pumpkin spiced latte. Did I mention, she's an English teacher? Thank you again, Ms. Oliver-Smith, for all of the guidance and support you provide to our students.

Our final Terrier Spotlight of the Week is a true William Byrd icon and legend, the one, the only, Kevin Tuck! This Byrd graduate, who married his high school Terrier sweetheart, bleeds orange and maroon. He has done a little bit of everything over the course of his 18

years at William Byrd. Whether it's teaching world history, coaching basketball or golf, or training countless teenage drivers, Mr. Tuck has been there for the students and staff of William Byrd. Of course, he does it all with that classic laidback Tuck style. You may ask yourself, why do all of the students and staff vibe with Coach Tuck? Is it his indefatigable spirit? His charismatic smile? Is it that he can still rock shorts in December? Is it the Ric Flair mask? Or is it all just a by-product of his mentor and life coach, Mr. Thacker? We may never know, but what we do know is his style and rapport with the students is second to none. Thank you again, Mr. Tuck, for being that teacher!

By the Administrative Team at William Byrd High School

Vinton awarded CARES funds for customer utility assistance

The Town of Vinton has been awarded federal CARES Act funds in the amount of \$68,764 to assist with municipal utility customer relief. The money was set aside in the state budget by Gov. Ralph Northam for utility assistance. State funding can be used for water, wastewater, electric, and gas bills. The Town of Vinton is using the assistance for water and wastewater customers.

According to Vinton Finance Director Anne Cantrell, the town is partnering with Roanoke County in this effort; the

county will be acting as the fiscal agent to receive the funds for the town.

"We have a very tight deadline to get applications from customers and get them all processed by the end of the month of December," Cantrell said.

According to the announcement by the governor, "Fundamentally, the goal of this program is to assist municipal utility customers experiencing economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds are to be used to provide direct assistance to customer

accounts over 30 days in arrears during the covered period from March 1, 2020, to December 30, 2020."

Localities are asked to refrain from providing dual benefits to customers who have already received some level of assistance through other existing programs funded by the CARES Act for the same months.

Vinton customers are required to complete a "Utility Arrearage Assistance" form which includes some basic information (name, address, account number, dates of

arrears, phone number, and whether you are a residential or non-residential customer).

Residential applicants are also asked to indicate the cause of their economic hardship during the pandemic: laid off, place of employment closed, reduction in work hours, the need to stay home to care for children due to closure of day care or school, loss of child or spousal support, missed work or hours due to contracting COVID-19, unable to find work due to COVID-19, or unable to participate in previ-

ous employment due to being high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Non-residential customers are asked to indicate whether their arrears are a result of the pandemic and to explain their specific situation.

CARES Act assistance may be used for bills dated March 1 to December 30, 2020 and not for past due amounts prior to or after those dates.

Funding is designed to be a one-time opportunity, with only one payment per household for residential accounts or per account holder for

non-residential accounts.

Hard copies of the application form are available at the Town of Vinton Treasurer's Office and links to the application will be made available on the town's website at <https://www.vintonva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2105/Customer-Intake-Form--Utility-Relief-and-on-social-media>.

"We are asking for applications to be turned back in by December 15 for priority, but we will continue to accept them as long as we have funding available," Cantrell said.

Tree Lighting

from page 1

welcomed the community to the tree lighting event with "Happy Holidays" and reminded everyone to stay safe during celebrations with masks and PPE.

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose thanked Barbour, the Chamber, the police, and Public Works in particular for their great efforts and accomplishments in preparing for the holiday events and

decorating the town, pivoting to provide alternative activities, and making the best of a challenging situation. He reminded those watching online to visit and support downtown merchants who have decorated their storefronts for the 2020 holiday season.

Grose also reminded the community to not forget the "reason for the season," and to set aside

some time to remember the true meaning of Christmas and spend some time in family worship.

And with that said, he, Alterio, Barbour, and Barbour's daughter Kaidence Stores counted down to light the tree.

The Municipal Building stage was festooned with vintage Christmas elves donated by Mildred Scott. The decorations—

some dating from 1919—started out many years ago at Colonial American bank where Scott was employed, and have appeared at the Hotel Roanoke, Virginia Tech, at the Virginia Beach Municipal Building, and at the Vinton War Memorial over time.

Those attending the Municipal Christmas Tree Lighting were Mayor Grose and his wife

Debby, Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty, Councilwoman Laurie Mullins, newly appointed Town Manager Pete Peters, newly appointed Chief of Police Fabricio Drumond and his wife Julianna, Police Executive Assistant to the Chief Mandie Baker, Sgt. Scott Hurt, Barbour and her daughters Kaidence and Skylour, and Mildred Scott.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS
1. Skateboarders love them
 6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
 9. Former Ohio State great Michael
 13. Not dirty
 14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
 15. A Spanish river
 16. Pig meat (French)
 17. Famed astronomer
 18. Floating ice
 19. Broadcast
 21. Aquatic mammals
 22. Some are bath
 23. Hip hop trio
 24. NY Giants' #56
 25. Small European viper
 28. Neither
 29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
 31. Loud noise
 33. Second year high schooler
 36. "___ in comparison"
 38. Golf score
 39. Raise
 41. Pastas
 44. Easily manageable
 45. Fathered
 46. Pouch
 48. Institute legal proceedings against
 49. News organization
 51. Unruly group of people
 52. Fasten or secure
 54. Sheets of glass
 56. Doubled
 60. Foolish person
 61. Rooney and Kate are two
 62. Small, rich sponge cake
 63. Advice or counsel
 64. Large wading bird
 65. Famed British physicist
 66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)
 67. Field force unit
 68. Lying face downward
- CLUES DOWN
1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)
 3. Blackbird
 4. Single steps
 5. Tin
 6. Books have lots of them
 7. Made of fermented honey and water
 8. You can get it in a bed
 9. Room for communal meals
 10. Early Syrian kingdom
 11. Provokes dry amusement
 12. Use with "thou"
 14. Mollusk
 17. Grain storage units
 20. Not a car, not a truck
 21. Ooze
 23. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
 25. Tennis pros group
 26. Something that's not what it's purported to be
 27. E. Indian trees
 29. Beloved December holiday
 30. Regions
 32. Metric unit of length
 34. Peter's last name
 35. Beige
 37. 18-year period in astronomy
 40. Where golfers begin
 42. Basketball stat (abbr.)
 43. Frocks
 47. Soda comes in it
 49. On approval
 50. Trims by cutting
 52. Small finch
 53. Language Bura-___
 55. Nothing
 56. Imbecile (British)
 57. Tropical Asian plant
 58. Abba ___, Israeli politician
 59. Small freshwater fish
 61. Indicates position
 65. Data processing

Lancerlot

from page 1

p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge near the Higher Education Center in downtown Roanoke. Due to COVID restrictions on crowd size limited to 25, the event will be live-streamed.

Gusler says the goal of TAP is to give a "hand-up" not a "hand-out" to those it works with. "TAP works with lots of people with lots of different needs," he said. He

also says that anything donated to TAP, "we have a program that can use it."

Gusler will be picking up the Lancerlot contributions before Christmas. Volunteers in their youth programs will then sort the goods to distribute to three neighborhoods—Melrose/Rugby, Loudon/Melrose, and Hurt Park. TAP will be delivering the items col-

lected to families identified by the neighborhood organizations "by need" during the first week of January. Multiple organizations are involved in the giving again this year.

TAP partners include: Melrose/Rugby, Loudon/Melrose, Hurt Park, RCPO, YouthH@Goodwill, Roanoke City Council, Task Force to Reduce Gun Violence, City of Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Family Services of Roanoke Valley, Oak Grove Church of the Brethren Peace and Justice Committee, Central Church of the Brethren Race Education Team, Virginia Career Works Roanoke Center, TAP Project Discovery, and TAP Domestic Violence Services.

Gusler says many in the community are suffering more than usual this year. Organizations providing meals and shelter for the indigent have had to make adjustments due to the pandemic, with COVID screenings, social distancing, required facial coverings, and capacity limits, resulting in reduced services in some cases.

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PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Angie
Chewning

Filling in for Bootie

The Virginia Army National Guard has just welcomed its newest member. Isaiah Huffman (our cousin) just signed on to defend our freedoms and will be pursuing a career as a physical therapist. We can't be more proud of him;

so grateful his Opa, Retired State Command Sergeant Major, was there to be a part of his big day.

Virginia Holley celebrates her 98th birthday with her daughter Ruth, who lives in Cloverdale, and other family members.



From the Pulpit

The Process

"3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us (Romans 5:3-5)."

"I'm tired of this! I don't want to do it anymore." These were the words Parker declared last week as he hopped off his bike, unbuckled his helmet, threw it in the grass and sat down on our front steps. For the last couple of months Parker has been trying to learn how to ride his bike without training wheels. Other than a toddler who lives a couple houses down, he is the youngest of

the boys on our street and the only one who still uses training wheels. He is desperate to get rid of them, but the process has proven to be a lot harder than he anticipated. He believes he can do it. He trusts the training wheels will come off one day. He knows what the end result will be. But he is tired of the process.

When it comes to COVID-19, I can relate to Parker's frustration. I believe wholeheartedly that we will get through this. I trust that one day this will all be over. I am hopeful in the promise of a vaccine. But the process—face masks, social distancing, limited gatherings, etc.—has proven to be a lot harder than I anticipated. I find myself on some days echoing Parker's sentiment: "I'm tired of this! I don't want to

do it anymore." I'm tired of being restricted from going to see family in North Carolina. I'm tired of holiday gatherings being cancelled. I'm tired of being restrained from hugs and handshakes. I'm tired of our church family being scattered. I know what the end result will be—one day this will all be behind us. But I am tired of the process.

In the Book of Romans, Paul was writing to a group of Christians who could relate to our frustrations on a much larger scale. They were living in Rome—the epicenter of the Roman Empire. They were living under the persecution of the fifth Roman Emperor, Nero. His persecution of Christians was cruel and vicious. It is said that Nero used captured Christians as human torches to light the night sky for his gardens and dinner parties. In response, Christians in Rome were meeting in secret. They

believed in Jesus. They had accepted him as their Messiah and Lord. They trusted in his redemption and believed wholeheartedly that he would come again. They knew what the end result would be—evil would be defeated and good would prevail—but the process was proving to be a lot harder than they anticipated. I am sure on some days they too echoed Parker's sentiment—"I'm tired of this! I don't want to do it anymore."

In response, Paul included these words in his letter to them: "But we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

For Paul, enduring suffering required more than a belief that it would end one day. Though trusting in the end-result was vitally important, Paul did not want his hearers to overlook the process. He did not want

them to miss what Christ was doing within them as they waited for him to come back for them. Their faith-journey was not just about where it would ultimately lead, but also who they were becoming along the way—the incredible ways they were changing and growing in Christ through the process.

Parker has yet to reach his end-goal—riding his bike without training wheels. However, through the process, his legs have gotten stronger, his balance has gotten better, and his courage has far surpassed what it once was. He is able to conquer hills that he once deemed impossible. Though his bike's training wheels remain, the rider on the bike has changed. He has grown, improved, and developed. By enduring the process, he is no longer who he once was on his bike.

This Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the joy of

Christ's birth on Christmas, may we not overlook the process. Christ has promised he will come for us one day and we will be with him for all eternity. That is the eagerly anticipated end-goal. In the meantime, may we not overlook what he is doing within us today. May we endure, however difficult it may be, trusting that through the process God is making us stronger, better, braver, and more equipped to conquer hills we once deemed impossible. May we stay on the bike and keep peddling, being assured that "endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

By The Travis Russell,
Vinton Baptist Church

VDOE announces \$12 million
in School Security Equipment
Grants, including WBMS

The Virginia Department of Education has announced \$12 million in state School Security Equipment Grants to protect students, faculty, and visitors in 489 schools in 102 school divisions across the state.

The grants will pay for video monitoring systems, voice and video internal communications systems, school bus interior cameras, mass notification systems, visitor-identification systems, access control systems, two-way radios, security vestibules and other security upgrades.

"This year, we have doubled the amount of assistance available to help Virginia school divisions protect our students and the educators, administrators, and staff dedicated to preparing them for success," Governor Ralph Northam said. "We remain focused on supporting students and their families in navigating the pandemic and preparing for in-person learning to resume, which includes ensuring that our schools have all the necessary technology, equipment, and systems to keep everyone safe and to respond to emergencies."

The 2019 Appropriation Act approved by General Assembly doubled the total annual appropriation for the grant program — effective this year — from \$6 million, to \$12 million. The

2019 General Assembly also approved the governor's proposal to increase the maximum award per school division — effective last year—from \$100,000, to \$250,000.

"Virginia is a national leader in school security and the grants announced today support our proactive approach to creating and maintaining safe learning environments," Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane said. "In many cases, the equipment and systems divisions will purchase with these funds address vulnerabilities identified through the commonwealth's pioneering school security audit program."

The criteria for making the awards — developed by VDOE and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services — give priority to schools most in need of modern security equipment, schools with relatively high numbers of offenses, schools with equipment needs identified by a school security audit, and schools in divisions least able to afford security upgrades. The program expanded this year to include funding for security equipment for school buses.

The divisions awarded grants locally are as follows:

Roanoke County — \$204,000 for Hidden Valley Middle, Northside Middle and William Byrd Middle

Bedford County — \$97,280, for Bedford Elementary, Bedford Primary, Big Island Elementary, Goodview Elementary, Jefferson Forest High, Liberty High, Montvale Elementary, Otter River Elementary, Staunton River High, Staunton River Middle and Stewartsville Elementary

Botetourt County — \$8,000 for Breckinridge Elementary and Eagle Rock Elementary

Montgomery County — \$11,870 for Auburn Middle and Shawsville Middle

Roanoke City — \$236,000 for Breckinridge Middle, Fairview Elementary, Garden City Elementary, Hurt Park Elementary, Lincoln Terrace Elementary, Morningside Elementary, Preston Park Elementary, Virginia Heights Elementary, Wasena Elementary and Westside Elementary

Salem — \$16,999 for West Salem Elementary

A local match of 25 percent is required of most divisions. The School Security Equipment Grants program was established by the 2013 General Assembly in the aftermath of the December 14, 2012, mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut.

The School Security Equipment grant will be used at WBMS for replacement of outdated security cameras and addition of new ones.

Family tradition of walking the Drumstick Dash

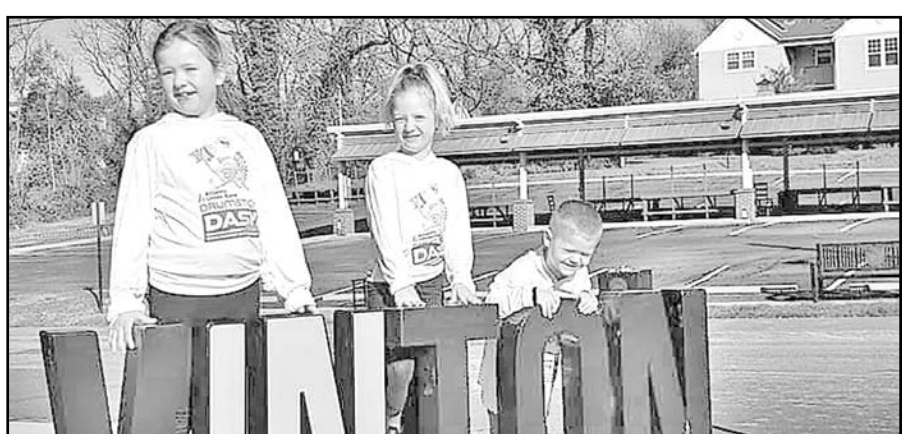


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KAREN ROSE

The Rawlings/Rose/Smith family tradition of walking the Drumstick Dash fundraiser for the Rescue Mission continued in 2020 despite changes to the annual event. The Drumstick Dash usually draws huge crowds of runners and walkers to downtown Roanoke — last year about 12,000 hardy souls. In fact, it's their major fundraiser of the year. Karen Rose of Vinton and her family weren't deterred by the in-person race being cancelled this year. They just moved their event to Vinton. Their Dash group included Tiffany Rawling, Kristen, Eric, Jaylen, Camren and Owen Smith, Gene and Jennifer Rawling and Chase Kendall, along with Marvin and Karen Rose. The family stopped at a few Vinton landmarks for photos, like the Vinton Farmers' Market, the Vinton History Museum, and Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church.

TOWN OF VINTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to receive public comments concerning proposed Rate Changes for the Vinton War Memorial to be effective January 1, 2021.

A complete copy of the proposed Rate Changes and additional information concerning this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, participation in this public hearing by Council members, staff, and the public will be available through electronic or other alternative means. The public may comment on the proposed Rate Changes by emailing sjohnson@vintonva.gov, leaving a message at 540-983-0607 or writing to the Town Clerk, Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179. Voice mails, emails and other messages containing comments on the proposed Rate Changes will be provided to Council members. The public also may be able to comment during the electronic public hearing. Citizens interested in this option must register in advance by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 540-983-0607 or sending an email to sjohnson@vintonva.gov by 12 Noon on Monday, December 14, 2020. The public can observe this meeting through a livestream on the Town's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vintonva. Additional information concerning the meeting and the public hearing will be made available on the Town's website at least three days before the meeting date.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Susan N. Johnson, CMC
Town Clerk



Remembering Vinton

Past Christmas Parades

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Reprinted from The Vinton Messenger, November 2013

The late Lester Cundiff, who grew up in Vinton in the 1920s and '30s, said that Vinton didn't have a Christmas Parade or other Christmas festivals in those days. "The churches had special services to celebrate Christ's birth, sometimes even a dawn service."

Judy Cunningham, executive secretary of the Vinton History Museum, says that in the 1950s Vinton had a small Christmas Parade or-

ganized by the Chamber of Commerce. For several years Santa would ride the train to Vinton and disembark at the old Train Depot, greeted by most of the town.

Then in 1975, she and then Mayor Charles Hill re-introduced the Christmas Parade to Vinton where it has now become an annual tradition.

Hill's daughter, Diane Mullen, said the annual Christmas Parade was the accomplishment her father was most proud of in the 20-plus years he served on Town Council and as mayor.

The first parade of the modern era took place on

December 4, 1975. "The Vinton Messenger" reported that the crowd watching the parade was upwards of 6,000 people, with "unseasonably warm weather" for that time of year.

The newspaper also reported that there were "baton groups, bands, floats, Little Misses Vinton and Roanoke Valley, the Dogwood Queen, Vinton officials, a Bicentennial cement truck, an Army tractor-trailer, antique cars, and "good old Saint Nick atop the fire truck."

There were 46 units in that initial parade. Crowds gathered at the Vinton War Memorial afterward to sing Christmas carols and wait for the announcement of which floats had won the competition.

That first year Salem Wesleyan Church won first place and a prize of \$75; Lynn Haven Baptist received \$50 as second place winner, and third place went to Thrasher Memorial (\$25). The cash prizes were donated by the Vinton Lions Club.

Hill commented after the parade that "the turnout proves that the Town of Vinton can have a good parade and that the county surrounding Vinton and Vinton itself will support it."

The newspaper reported that "not a single incident of any kind marred the event," which must have been a concern beforehand.

Originally, the Vinton parade was the first of the season in the Roanoke Valley, always held on the Thursday after Thanksgiving, and kicking off the holiday celebrations.

"We had parades in all kinds of weather," said Cunningham.

She commented that in the years before the "Dickens of a Christmas" festivities began in Roanoke, the city would schedule its parade on the Saturday night after the Vinton parade. When inclement weather forced the postponement of the Vinton parade one year, Roanoke City invited the town to join its parade.

Cunningham and Mary Beth Layman, then director of Special Programs in Vinton, went to Patrick Henry High School and completely revamped the line-up to combine the two parades into one. They had to contact every entry by phone (this was before email and texting days) and explain the new plan to determine which units were going to take part. The parade lined up at Victory Stadium with about 75 percent of the original entries able to participate.

"Roanoke cleared the streets, but with snow still be-

ing there, it gave a holiday/wintery atmosphere with the snow glistening," said Cunningham. "It was a great opportunity to show the Valley working together."

She recalls another bad weather year when Clay Goodman was Vinton's town manager. Snow was predicted, but according to the forecasters it would be a "beautiful evening for a Christmas parade with snowflakes twirling around."

"Just in time for the line-up to begin, it began snowing, and snowing so much that it was like it was being dumped on Vinton," said Cunningham. "Instantly, no one could get to the lineup; there were wrecks everywhere. It was too late to call people. Floats and units that had been brought earlier in the day had to be left. Vinton crews worked so hard to get streets cleared, but it was so bad the parade had to be cancelled. It was a big disappointment after so much work by everyone, but it was a safety issue."

She remembers another parade when Kevin Boggess was town manager, and the parade was postponed until Saturday morning. It worked, although there were not as many units. Many people had other commitments and most bands couldn't come because the kids had part-time jobs and couldn't ask off at that point. Again, the line-up had to be redone. In addition to scraping the streets, the town scooped the snow into dump truck and took it else-

where—many dump truck loads of snow.

"It is very difficult to redo months of work in a few hours, but worth it when seeing the smiling faces along the parade route," said Cunningham.

Boggess recalled, "The Vinton Christmas Parade was one of two annual events where the town manager was expected to wear reindeer antlers as part of his official duties. When Clay Goodman passed on the responsibility for the parade lineup, I must admit it was a part of the job that I dreaded the first year."

"The volunteers from the Chamber of Commerce and the Vinton community make it all work," said Boggess. "It takes a lot of people with a lot of patience to get everyone where they need to be. The transition from the somewhat controlled chaos of the first hour to the calm that settles over as Washington Avenue is closed and the color guard takes up the lead position is the part of the experience that I appreciated the most."

Deborah McDaniel recalled that in the late 1960s there was a horse club her sister belonged to that would take part in the Christmas Parade each year. "The riders would dress up in their hats, vests, boots" and so on. She also remembers "lots of area school bands (from city and county schools) playing music with majorettes and floats galore—no cars and trucks like you see today. I remember everyone proceeding up

Pollard Street; and Santa concluded the parade."

Roanoke County Treasurer Fred Anderson, who passed away in 2016, remembered his daughter Claudine being an angel on the back of the Thrasher United Methodist Church float.

"There she was on the back side of the float acting very 'un-angel-like' and more like a movie star waving profusely to the parade-goers."

Members of bands and baton twirlers all recall how cold it could be in late November or early December marching in the parades, and how difficult it was to march the steep grade up Washington Avenue at the end of the parade route.

In fact, "cold" is the word that seems to come to mind most often with the words "Vinton Christmas Parade." The late Town Councilman Bobby Altice remembers taking his children and grandchildren to watch the parade and bundling them up to protect them from the cold.

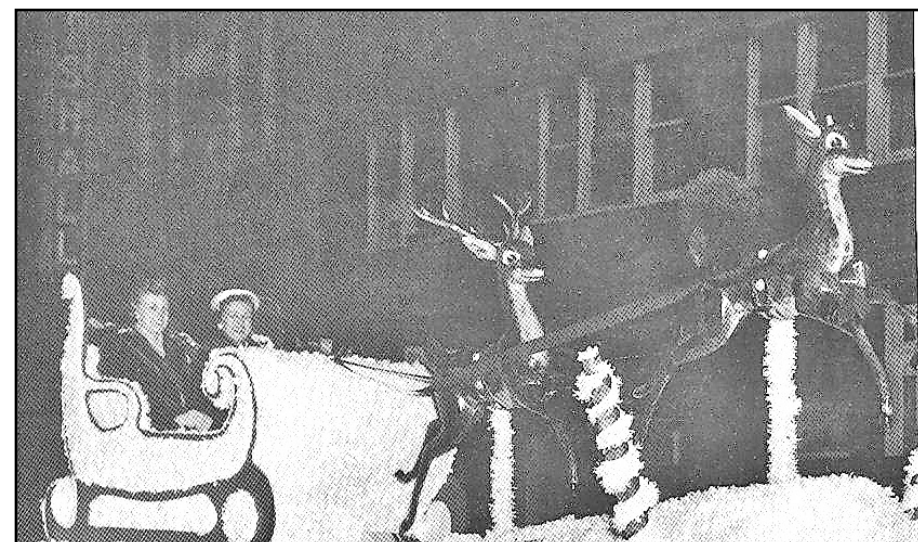
One of the most romantic episodes in a Vinton Christmas Parade occurred in 2010, when Doc Epperly stopped the parade almost before it was underway, dropped to one knee in the middle of the street, and proposed to girlfriend Christina Bryan. It took her several minutes to recover from the shock and say yes. Epperly, a Marine, had recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan. They married in 2012.



Marine Doc Epperly proposed to girlfriend Christina Bryan at the Vinton Christmas Parade in 2010. Now that's a proposal.



Doc Epperly and Christina Bryan



A float in the early years of the Vinton Christmas Parade.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM

A Vinton Christmas Parade float from the 1998 parade.

Celebrating The Town of VINTON!

The Town of Vinton, a community nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, welcomes you to our community. Vinton, a town rich with history, has over the years found itself to be one of a few communities that continue to relish the past by offering an environment of a comfortable lifestyle with the feeling of being a part of a large community family. The town, with its proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Smith Mountain Lake, provides many opportunities for those who wish to stop and shop at our local farmers market or one of our unique specialty shops.

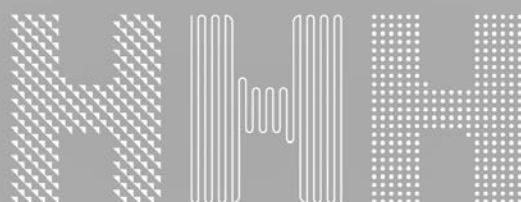
If festivals are your interest, the Vinton area hosts several festivals throughout the year from the Vinton Dogwood Festival to the Vinton Fall Festival. Each festival offers its own unique atmosphere. When you are away from home it's always nice to feel as if you never left.

The Town of Vinton provides small town character with urban services and amenities located nearby. The small town atmosphere is characterized by a low crime rate; small, locally, and regionally owned businesses; and moderately priced homes. Views of the mountains and Blue Ridge Parkway abound.

Vinton represents the ideal type of community, small enough to provide a feeling of belonging, yet progressive enough to provide the facilities, services, and conveniences that are necessary to make a community feel like home to its citizens.

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Humana.

Y0040_GHHJQ9DEN_21_C

Santa to appear on the Vinton Library roof

The Vinton Library is hosting a special event on December 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.—Santa on the roof!

Come wave to Santa and pick up a curbside treat from one of his jolly elves (while supplies last). Don't forget your letter to Santa, and the elves will make sure it's delivered.

The Vinton Library has reopened by reservation for county residents, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., with visitors not to exceed 25 percent normal occupancy.

Patrons may make reservations for one-hour time slots via the library's website at <https://www.roanokecountyva.gov/library> or by calling at 540-857-5043. The library will close for

cleaning from 1-2 p.m. each day.

Upon arrival, patrons will receive information about the new protocols. Masks are required for anyone over 3 years old, and will be available free at the library, along with hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.

The library will look a bit different and services will be limited.

While in the library patrons may browse the collection, use computer stations, and seek staff help via a barrier or at 6-feet distance to abide by social distancing guidelines.

Containers will be placed around the library for all items that have been handled but not

chosen to take home.

Meeting rooms and other enclosed spaces will remain closed.

On-site programming will be limited to outdoors with social distancing requirements. For a list of upcoming events, please visit the library's website.

All virtual programming and curbside pick-up and drop-off of materials will continue.

Curbside and phone services are available at the Vinton Library from Monday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Follow the signs in our parking lots. Cones will be located in designated curbside parking spots.

The library is mask friendly.

No fines will occur until the library fully reopens to the public.

Please allow seven days for materials to be removed from your account.

Bins will be located outside of the library. Book drops and drive-thru windows are available during operating hours.

Practice social distancing and stay six feet from others when approaching the bins and holds pickup table.

For returns: If you are unable to get out of your vehicle, please call the library and library personnel will pick up bagged or boxed items from your backseat or trunk. Items not in bags/boxes will not be taken.

Place holds by visiting

the online catalog or call during operating hours.

You will be contacted when your items are ready. Please do not come to the library until you have been contacted. Process could take up to seven business days.

Once you are notified your holds are available, you will have seven days to pick them up via curbside or walk-up services or with your library reservation.

Items are not due back until further notice, but please try to return materials in a two- to three-week period so that your friends in the community may enjoy them as soon as possible.

For more details visit the website.

Campbell Memorial to host Christmas Goodie Bag Drive-Thru on Saturday

On this coming Saturday, December 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the little Christmas elves of Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church will be conducting a Drive-Thru Christmas Candy Cane Goodie Bag Give-Away to the first 100 cars—one bag per car—rain or shine.

Each of the Goodie Bags will include the Story of

the Candy Cane, a metal Nativity ornament, a storybook about Christmas, a church brochure, candy canes and candy bars.

The Rev. Skip Hastings said, "I had seen how some businesses and organizations had candy distributions at Halloween and thought that our church should tell the marvelous story of Jesus' birth

through the giving away of Christmas Goodie Bags.

"I have a wooden cross with the Nativity carved in the middle which is highlighted during the Advent and Easter seasons in our worship services and I wanted our community to know of God's love for them through these Goodie Bags filled with goodies and information about

Christmas," Hastings said.

The pastor says the church's main emphasis of the Goodie Bags is the candy cane story which reads like this:

"Each time I share a candy cane or hang one on the tree, it calls to mind the gracious gifts my dear Lord gave to me.

I know God loves me very much. He gave me His own Son. The upside-down candy cane forms the letter "J" for Jesus. He's God's gift for everyone.

The pure white color of the cane means Jesus was free of sin.

The red stripes say He gave His life upon the cross so I might live again.

He gives me guidance every day. He shepherds me. It's true. Two canes together form a heart, my gift, dear Lord, to You."

Mary Dalton, chair of the Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church's Outreach Committee, has been busy preparing for the event, along with committee members.

Campbell Memorial is located at 1130 Hardy Road in Vinton, next door



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Campbell Memorial Presbyterian will be sharing the Legend of the Candy Cane in the Goodie Bag Give-Away to the community on December 12.

to W.E. Cundiff Elementary. Enter the church's parking lot from the Har-

dy Road entrance into the parking lot and wear face-masks.

REV funds remain for \$3,000 scholarships at VWCC

The deadline for unemployed and underemployed Virginians impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to claim up to \$3,000 in tuition funding through Gov. Ralph Northam's Re-Employing Virginians (REV) is December 14.

Virginia Western Community College is encouraging individuals to immediately RSVP for REV to find out if they are eligible for training in a high-demand career field. To see if you are eligible and schedule to meet an enrollment specialist, visit: <https://virginiawestern.edu/vw-forms/rev/>.

Gov. Northam announced that Virginia is allocating \$30 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars

to help Virginians whose employment has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis pursue workforce training in a high-demand field.

The REV initiative will provide scholarships to eligible individuals to enroll in a workforce or community college program in five essential industries, including health care, information technology, skilled trades, public safety, and early childhood education. Virginia Western is allocating REV funds to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis.

"This is truly a golden opportunity for people in our community who have lost work due to the coronavirus to get the training they need to start a new career," said Dr. Robert H.

Sandel, president of Virginia Western. "We want to help as many of our neighbors as we can so that our region can come out of this crisis poised to succeed."

Virginia Western offers a wide variety of programs that are eligible for REV scholarships across subject areas such as Building & Trades, Health Professions, Information Technology, Mechatronics & Manufacturing, Public Service and Science. The initiative will provide one-time REV scholarships of \$3,000 to register in a qualifying full-time degree program and \$1,500 to register part-time or in quicker, career training courses.

"If you have lost your job, or seen a reduction in your hours and paycheck,

and we look forward to helping individuals and families who want to move forward, beyond the unexpected challenges posed by the pandemic."

Interested individuals should contact Virginia Western as soon as possible to apply before the December 14 enrollment deadline. To find out more information and apply, visit: <https://virginiawestern.edu/vwforms/rev/>.

[edu/vwforms/rev/](https://virginiawestern.edu/vwforms/rev/).

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
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...Our job most of the time is not very joyful, but I enjoy helping people at a difficult time in their life."

Lee Arritt | Manager, East Chapel

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Mountain View Road Reconstruction Project updated

Mountain View Road remains a priority infrastructure improvement project for the Town of Vinton, as it serves as a primary transportation connection for both town and Eastern Roanoke County residents.

The road surface deterioration of Mountain View has been and will remain a focus of the town's seasonal repair and repaving efforts, although the original poor construction and worsening drainage conditions over time have led to a subgrade that doesn't sufficiently hold up with typical repaving efforts.

In order to fully repair the road for the longer term, much of the road located within the town limits must be reconstructed and rebuilt entirely.

In September 2019, Town Council adopted a resolution in support of an allocation of town

funds of up to \$500,000 from revenues generated by Rosie's Gaming, to be matched through the Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing Program to be used for the Mountain View Road Reconstruction Project.

With an estimated total cost of over \$1 million, the VDOT-approved project was set to provide the necessary matching funds to the town to begin the design of the project in July of 2021, with construction following as early as 2022.

However, the town recently learned from its local representatives at VDOT that the unfortunate occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically impacted the state's revenues earmarked for transportation funding.

VDOT further ex-

plained that due to the pandemic shutdowns and travel restrictions that occurred during the spring of 2020 and the overall diminished fuel tax collections for the year to date, that the revenue shortfalls would result in significant delays in its ability to meet grant funding commitments.

While VDOT revenues are expected to increase as the economy emerges from the pandemic, VDOT does not anticipate grant funding cycles to recover for several years. VDOT places current estimates to be able to provide the town's required \$500,000 match for the Mountain View Reconstruction Project at 2025 to 2026.

In the meantime, the town will continue to revisit the item with VDOT in hopes of expediting the VDOT supported

project as quickly as revenues allow. The town will also continue to observe the road conditions and maintain our ongoing seasonal repairs and repaving efforts for the roadway until the reconstruction can take place.

"We will continue our

'off-season' maintenance to include patching and repaving portions as necessary," said Town Manager Pete Peters. "Should VDOT revenues recover, we are hopeful that funding will be restored and the full rebuild can get underway as soon as possible.

With many CIP (capital improvement project) needs present throughout the town, we will utilize the cash savings already set aside for Mountain View to meet other critical needs as we wait for the 50 percent VDOT match."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF VINTON

The Mountain View Road Reconstruction Project in Vinton will be postponed due to reduced VDOT grant funding revenues during the pandemic.

Vinton History Museum hosts Holiday Open House

The Vinton History Museum hosted its annual Holiday Open House, "Deerly Love Christmas," on Saturday, December 5. There were tours, refreshments, a gift niche, music on the Vic-

trola, and photo opportunities for guests—limited in number due to COVID-19, with masks required.

The museum remains beautifully decked out for the holi-

days with vintage decorations through December 18 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Guests are invited to enjoy the reindeer decorations on the lawn

and use the decorated pergola for a lovely photo opportunity day or night during December.

You can also shop the gift niche for holiday gift baskets and gift items such as tapestry

throws, notecards, Christmas ornaments, T-shirts, and commemorative bricks for sale.

For more information email info@vintonhistorymuseum.org or 342-8634.



It's amazing how things can change in a year. The Vinton History Museum adapted to CDC guidelines to hold its annual Holiday Open House. This is the refreshment table from the 2020 Holiday Open House under CDC and VDH pandemic guidelines: prepackaged treats, tongs, and hand sanitizer.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Vinton History Museum traditionally decks its halls and serves up homemade treats at its Holiday Open House. This was the refreshment table in 2019.

ANGLICAN

ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hersherberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)

MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH & CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 1030 Bible Lane, Vinton, Va. 24179. Church Phone 890-4465. Rev. Jason Gault. Sunday Services: Traditional Service, 8:45 AM, Sunday School, 10:00 AM, Contemporary Service, 11:00 AM, Evening Worship 6:00 PM, Wednesday Services: AWA-NA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM

BAPTIST (COOPERATIVE)

VINTON BAPTIST CHURCH - 219 Washington Ave., Vinton, Virginia. 343-7685. Rev. Travis Russell. Sunday Services: Contemporary Service 8:45 a.m., Sunday School 9:50 a.m., Traditional Service 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Services: Family Dinner: 5:30 p.m., Bible Study 6:15 p.m., Children's Ministries 6:15 p.m., Youth Ministry 6:30 p.m. www.vinton-baptistchurch.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH OF CHRIST VINTON - 2107 Feather Road, Vinton. Terry Hodge, Minister, 540-890-1170. Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m., Sunday Morning Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 3679 Sandlewood Road, Roanoke VA 24018, (540) 206-6160. Repent & Be Baptized... Acts 2:38. Come study the Bible with us! Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m., Wednesday 6:30 p.m., www.christianchurchofchristclearbrook.org

FOURSQUARE

EVANGEL CHURCH - 2360 Hardy Road, Vinton, (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 982-3694. Pastor-Tim Wright. Sunday, 10 AM - Worship Service, SuperChurch for Children; Wednesday 6:30-8PM - AWANA Clubs for ages 3-5th grade, Adult Bible Study.

LUTHERAN

ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, "The Church Under The Cross", 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net

NAZARENE

FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmcp2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible School; Tuesdays & Thursdays Yoga 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Tuesday Evening Bible Study 6:45pm; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Thursday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 2nd Monday Supper with Rev. Skip at Famous Anthony's 6:30pm; 2nd Tuesday Luncheon with

Rev. Skip at Famous Anthony's; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Skip Hastings-Interim Pastor.

UNITED METHODIST

THREE OAKS FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1026 Gravel Hill Road, Vinton, Va. 540-512-8070. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rob Colwell. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.

WESLEYAN

VINTON WESLEYAN CHURCH - 246 E. Jefferson Ave. Pastor Ricardo Rodriguez, 345-3385; Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM, Wednesday Night Life Ministries - Children - Awana; G-5 Youth Ministry; Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM.

Vinton Worship Directory

Trust the Truth

Read 2 Timothy 1:1 through 4:22

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

The Greek word orthotomeo, translated here as "correctly handles," is rendered "rightly dividing" in other versions. It carries the idea of cutting straight like a surgeon and getting to the heart of the matter.

Paul's letters to Timothy emphasize sound doctrine, which must be taught in the churches so believers will be established in the truth. Is false teaching being advocated? Stand firm on God's truth. Do unbelievers mock our Christian life? Stand firm on God's truth.

We are all to be students of God's Word—diligently studying it, faithfully putting it into practice in our daily lives, and effectively sharing it. We should never be ashamed to be identified with Christ, nor do we want to be embarrassed by our lack of preparation for witnessing. We need to be ready with knowledge of the truth and guided by God's Spirit in sharing it with others.

Thought for Today: Train in the truth and trust its teaching.

Quicklook: 2 Timothy 2:7–15

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at 540-473-2741 or email tfrye@ourvalley.org



Marketplace



THE FINCASTLE HERALD The Vinton Messenger THE NEW CASTLE RECORD SALEM TIMES-REGISTER News Messenger RADFORD News Journal

Lost & Found

Lost
Canon Power Shot
Camera
Lost in Greenhill park area
Reward
804-436-3261

LOST:
Yearling all black Angus
bull (700- 800 pounds)
and 8 month old all
white Charolais type bull.
No ear tags. Missing from
the corner of
Springwood Rd and
Timber Ridge Rd since
early November. If you
have any information,
please call 540-354-2514

**For Rent -
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Townhouse Style**
accepting applications.
Short waiting list, HUD
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projects. Various sizes
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West Main St. or call
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**Help Wanted -
Clerical**

**Deputy Clerk
Botetourt County
Circuit Court**
Botetourt County Circuit
Court Clerk's Office will
have a full time position
for Deputy Clerk
beginning January 4,
2021. General knowledge
of Circuit Court system,
ability to operate
computers, computerized
cash register, other office
equipment and
information system
equipment; ability to
communicate effectively
and tactfully with the
public; ability to read and
understand legal
documents; and ability to
maintain confidentiality of
information handled are all
requirements of the job.
High School diploma
required plus additional
education preferred. Apply
at Clerk's Office of Circuit
Court, Fincastle, Virginia
by December 11, 2020.
Salary within the Deputy
Clerk scale.
Applications are available
at Botetourt County Circuit
Court Clerk's Office and
on the Botetourt County
Virginia Human Resource
page.

**Full-time
Receptionist/Office
Assistant-**
The qualified candidate
needs to have outstanding
communication,
organizational skills and
legal office experience.
Please send resume to
Attorney's Office, P.O.
Box 4, Fincastle, VA
24090.

**Help Wanted -
General**

**Part Time
Newspaper
Production Help**
The Salem TimesRegister
has openings for
afternoon/evening shift
work inserting, labeling
and bundling newspapers
for delivery. No
experience necessary.
Hours may vary. Will train.
\$7.50 per hour. Contact
Lynn Hurst, General
Manager, Salem-Times
Register (540)389-9355
or email
lhurst@ourvalley.org

**Help Wanted -
Health Care**

**Hospice & Home
Health RN Nurse
Openings
New River Valley**
Use your clinical skills in
an independent and
autonomous setting! We
invite you to join our
Home Care team, where
compassion, technology,
flexibility, and an inter-
disciplinary team help you
thrive. Carilion New River
Valley Hospice and Home
Care are currently seeking
the following positions:
Full time, Hospice RN
Case Manager
Full time, Home Health
RN Case Manager
Flex Time, Home Health
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positions)

-Licensed RN in
Commonwealth of VA or
eligible for VA license;
must obtain and maintain
AHA BLS-HCP
-Sign-on bonus for full
time positions
-Employee referral bonus
-Benefits offered including
PTO, health, vision, and
dental for full time
-Relocation assistance

Please contact Whitney
Shell at
wdshell@carilionclinic.org
for questions or by phone
at (540) 983-4036.

To view these
opportunities, please visit
our website at
www.carilionclinic.org/care
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is required for all positions
of interest.

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**Legals - City of
Radford**

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF
RADFORD,
VIRGINIA**
The Radford City Council
will hold a public hearing to
receive comments on a
proposed ordinance
December 14, 2020 7:00
p.m.

Pursuant to Code of
Virginia, Title 15.2, Article 2
Section 15.2-2006 et seq.,
the purpose of the public
hearing it to receive
comments regarding a
request from the Radford
University Foundation to
vacate an alleyway located
between Tyler Avenue and
First Avenue and Calhoun
Street and Lawrence Street.
The request contains a total
area of approximately .11
acres.

Due to the threats posed to
the public by COVID-19, the
public hearing will be
conducted virtually. The
members of City Council will
participate in the public
hearing by electronic
means, and the public will
be able to participate and
make comments as set out
below.

The City has established
the following ways for you to
share your public comments
with City Council. The
deadline to share your
comments for the public
hearing is Noon on
December 11, 2020. Any
comments received by that
time will be shared with City
Council and will be added to
the meeting minutes,
making them a matter of
public record.

When providing your public
comments, please be sure
to provide:
1. First Name;
2. Last Name;
3. Residential Address;
and,
4. Your Comment.

Ways to submit your public
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•Email:
Jenni.Wilder@radfordva.gov
•Mail comments to:
City Clerk, 10 Robertson
Street, Radford, VA 24141
•Voicemail message:
540-267-3145

Ways to participate in the
public hearing:

The public is encouraged to
participate in the public
hearing scheduled on
Monday, December 14,
2020, beginning at 7:00
P.M., Facebook Live at the
following links:
<https://www.facebook.com/Radford-City-Government-301072910338>. The public
hearing meeting agenda
can be viewed at:
www.radfordva.gov.

Copies of the agenda may
also be obtained by calling
the Office of the City Clerk
at (540) 731-3603.

**Legals - City of
Salem**

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**
Notice is hereby given to all
interested persons that the
Board of Zoning Appeals of
the City of Salem, Virginia
will hold a public hearing, in
accordance with the
provisions of Sections 15.2-
2204 and 15.2-2309 of the
1950 Code of Virginia, as
amended, on December 23,
2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the
Community Room of the
Salem Civic Center, 1001
Roanoke Boulevard, in the
City of Salem, Virginia, to
consider the following
applications.

Request of The Trustees of
Roanoke College, property
owners, for a variance from
Section 106-226.7
pertaining to development
restrictions in a floodway,
for the property located at
301 Campus Lane West
Riverside Drive, Tax Map #
86-3-4. The petitioners are
requesting to construct a
pavilion within the floodway.

At this hearing, all parties in
interest will be given an
opportunity to be heard,
present evidence, and show
cause why such requests
should or should not be
granted. For additional
information, contact the
Office of the Zoning
Administrator, 21 South
Bruffey Street, Salem,
Virginia (Phone 375 3032).

THE BOARD OF ZONING
APPEALS OF THE CITY
OF SALEM

BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines,
CZA, CFM
Zoning Administrator

**Legals -
Montgomery
County**

**ORDER OF
PUBLICATION**
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
**Case No. JJ004492-01-00
& JJ004492-02-00**
RADFORD J&DR-
JUVENILE DIVISION
Juvenile and Domestic
Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia,
in re BOWLING, ALAYNA
DAWN RENEE
HILL, STEPHANIE
/v.
BOWLING, DAVID H.

The object of this suit is to:
LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that DAVID
H. BOWLING appear at the
above-named Court and
protect his or her interests
on or before 1/19/2021
2:00pm.

11/16/2020

Sally Davis
Clerk

**ORDER OF
PUBLICATION**
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
**Case No. JJ004492-01-00
& JJ004492-02-00**
RADFORD J&DR-
JUVENILE DIVISION
Juvenile and Domestic
Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia,
in re BOWLING, ALAYNA
DAWN RENEE
HILL, STEPHANIE
/v.
LAPP, KRISTEN

The object of this suit is to:
LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that LAPP,
KRISTEN appear at the
above-named Court and
protect his or her interests
on or before 1/19/2021
2:00pm.

11/16/2020

Sally Davis
Clerk

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**Legals -
Montgomery
County**

**ORDER OF
PUBLICATION**
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
**Case No. JJ004494-01-00
& JJ004494-02-00**
RADFORD J&DR-
JUVENILE DIVISION
Juvenile and Domestic
Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia,
in re CARSTENS-ZIEGLER,
ARIANA LEIGH
EAST, AMANDA
/v.
CARSTENS, RICHARD
FRANK; III
The object of this suit is to:
GAIN CUSTODY.

It is ORDERED that
CARSTENS, RICHARD
FRANK; III appear at the
above-named Court and
protect his or her interests
on or before 2/16/2021
2:00 pm.

10/30/2020

Sally Davis
Clerk

**Legals - Town of
Vinton**

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Donald K. Sutliff, President

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HIGH SCHOOL PRACTICE

continued from page 10

and Roanoke County. We are grateful that Lancerlot will have us and we are confident we can hold swim practice safely.”

Like the wrestlers, the swimming teams won’t have all the big meets they’re used to.

“We had a coaches meeting in October with all the area swim coaches and we set our meet schedule,” said Martin. “We do not have quite as many meets this year since the season is a little bit shorter. The VHSL has not given permission to have sanctioned events right now, like invitationals where we have several teams from across the valley. However, if we are given the go ahead for competition then we are allowed to host something like a tri-meet where three teams would compete against one another.”

The Byrd swim team has been very close and the pandemic has been tough to deal with.

“I have missed these kids and I know they have missed each other,” said Martin. “Our team captain this year is senior Elizabeth Recktenwald. Elizabeth is a great motivator and I can’t think of anyone else better suited to keep our team’s spirits up during a pandemic.

“I don’t know what this season is going to bring, but I do know that I can’t wait to see my team on the 14th. I’m so grateful that we have the opportunity to get back in the water to train and share our passion for the sport of swimming.”

On the track, Byrd coach James Pannell is hoping for a mild winter.

“A challenge will be if it is too cold outside as we will not be able to practice inside because of COVID protocols and school rules,” said Pannell. “Another set of challenges for my particular sport will be getting in touch with athletes so they can do those workouts when we have to cancel because of weather, but since I have such a hard working group I am sure they will find a way to get their required work in for the day.”

James isn’t expecting to have as many partici-



Byrd swim coach Krista Martin shouts encouragement at a past meet.

pants as usual.

“The biggest challenge with my indoor track and field team is going to be the size of my team,” he said. “We normally have a large group of athletes that participate for indoor track to help them get ready for their upcoming seasons. I think the numbers will be down with indoor track being the first sport to start the year along with basketball and swimming, but I think we will still have a very good turnout. The challenge with having a big team is having somewhere where

they can all practice and thankfully we have a great facility that we can practice and spilt the team up into groups to help us socially distance and still get a good workout in.”

Like wrestling and swimming, the track team won’t have the big meets they are accustomed to.

“As of right now I do not have a schedule put together because COVID has shut down many of the facilities where we practice and the only place currently open is the brand new Virginia Beach fieldhouse,” said Pannell. “With the VHSL not sanctioning any meets to start the year they are only doing meets where runners can run unattached and they cannot run under their high school. You will see many facilities in North Carolina open up and allow athletes to run in their indoor facility with no affiliation to anyone. I believe high schools will try to have polar bear track meets outside with indoor track distances, but with the Virginia winter season it can be very cold and almost difficult to compete in.”



Olivia Hurd will need to dress warmer than this for “Polar Bear” track meets this season.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Former McGuire assistant named new baseball coach for Maroons

Roanoke College Director of Athletics Scott Allison has named Zach Ullrich as the new head baseball coach. He replaces Cam Cassady, who coached just one COVID-shortened season for the Maroons.

Ullrich returns to Salem where he served on Matt McGuire’s staff that led the Maroons to its first ODAC Championship, an NCAA South Regional Championship and a Final Four finish at the NCAA Division III World Series. He will assume the top spot for the baseball program on January 4, 2021.

“Our baseball program is in good hands with Zach Ullrich,” said Allison. “His recruiting background at Dickinson, Roanoke, and now Barton has prepared him well for this opportunity. Zach’s ready.”

Ullrich returns to Roanoke after a two-year stint at NCAA Division II Barton College in Wilson, N.C. While with the Bulldogs, Zach was the top assistant, serving as the pitching and head develop-

mental coach. In the 2018-19 season, Ullrich led the Bulldogs to their most strikeouts (421) in school history while the team ERA dropped from 7.35 to 5.54. That year would see Barton’s win total go from 12 to 31, the most in NCAA DIII that season. In addition, the opponents’ batting average fell from .319 to .287 while five players earned Conference Carolinas Pitcher-of-the-Week honors.

“I want to thank Scott Allison and the administration for the opportunity to come back and coach,” said Ullrich. “This is a very special place to me and I am looking forward to taking over the reins and getting to work.”

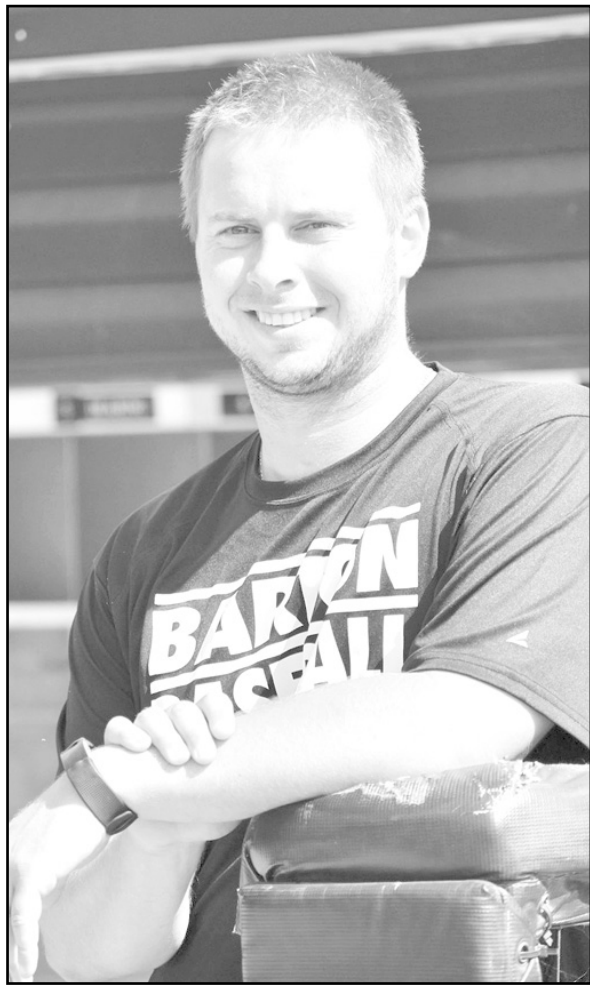
In 2016, Ullrich came to Salem after five years as an assistant at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa. In his first two seasons at Dickinson, Ullrich served as the pitching coach where he assisted in daily practices, player evaluation, community involvement and in-game management of the pitch-

ing staff. Ullrich was also named the Recruiting Coordinator for the Red Devils in 2013, where he was the point of contact for prospective student athletes.

In addition to his duties at Dickinson, Ullrich served as the pitching coordinator for the Keystone Nationals, based in Mechanicsburg, Pa. During his time with the Nationals, he organized practices and workouts for pitchers ages 6-18 while focusing on teaching proper mechanics, approach and strength.

Ullrich graduated from Mansfield University in 2011 with a degree in history and a minor in psychology. He pitched at Mansfield from 2006-2010, highlighted by a NCAA Tournament Appearance in 2010. He also coached summer camps and rebuilt baseball fields in the Mansfield, Pa. community.

In May of 2019, Ullrich received his master’s degree in athletic administration and coaching from Liberty University.



ZACH ULLRICH

Brian Hoffman



Ready or Not

The first NBA preseason games are scheduled to begin this Friday, December 11, ready or not. That’s just two months to the day after the Lakers finished off the Heat to win the championship on October 11.

The fake news will tell you the Heat have yet to concede the championship to the Lakers, citing a “rigged” final series. No evidence of that has been found and the Lakers are assembling their team like they’re defending champions, signing LeBron James and Anthony Davis to multi-year contracts. It’s also not true the Lakers offered President Trump front row season tickets to pardon Javaris Crittenton.

Well, with the first exhibition games this week it’s been announced the NBA had 48 positive COVID-19 results as of last week. That’s 8.8 percent of all tested, or almost nine out of every 100 players. That’s not good.

James Harden missed his first practice of the season with the Rockets after breaking protocols for the virus. Reportedly, and I don’t have this first hand, just from the internet, he attended a party at a strip club.

While we know the NBA isn’t playing in a bubble this year, shouldn’t James have been aware that the “strip club” would be off limits? The NBA is cracking down on players who break COVID-19 protocols as the season starts and if players can’t keep away from the strip clubs during the season, it will cause a big problem for teams.

Well, here comes “IsMyGirl” to the rescue. I got an e-mail about this Monday explaining that this website is “a premium platform for adult models to monetize their sexy content, formally extending an offer to the NBA to partner with the site to help keep players away from strip clubs and Instagram models. By interacting with some of the hottest models online, players can ensure that their needs will be satisfied while still complying with the strict COVID-19 protocols. And if you’re like James Harden, a player known to succeed in cities with the best strip clubs, the players performance may actually improve the more they use the site.”

I guess that’s why Harden got traded out of Oklahoma City. I bet JJ Redick never had that kind of offer at Cave Spring.

GUESS WHO?

Here’s a player that you might find interesting if you’re an NBA fan. I won’t give his name until the end of the column, see if you can guess who he is.

He played in 963 NBA games at 6’10” and 215 pounds. He averaged 15.3 points while shooting 44 percent from the floor and 56 percent from the line and couldn’t make an outside shot if he was the only person in the gym. He did manage to lead the league in rebounds five times. It’s not DeAndre Jordan. Answer at the end of the column.

I’M NOT BROCK’S DAD

Just to clear the air, Brock Hoffman of the Virginia Tech football team is not my son.

There was an article in the Roanoke Times earlier this fall about Hoffman, who transferred from Coastal Carolina to Virginia Tech prior to the 2019 season. Brock’s mother had a health concern and he filed for a “Family Medical Hardship Waiver” to play at Tech in 2019. It was denied, but this year he’s the starting center for the Hokies and doing quite well.

In the article in the Times his father was quoted several times, and his father’s name is “Brian Hoffman,” just like me. After the story came out several people came up to me and complimented me on “how well my son was doing for Tech.”

The first time it happened it caught me by surprise and I didn’t know what they were talking about. However, the next couple times I knew right off the bat and explained I’m not “that Brian Hoffman,” not that it wouldn’t be cool to have a son playing football for Tech.

As far as I know Brock’s dad and myself are two of the not-as-famous Brian Hoffmans in the world. I’ve Googled my name and there’s a Brian Hoffman who founded and played guitar for the satanic heavy metal band “Deicide” and another Brian Hoffman who does a show of impersonations in Las Vegas. His most famous impersonation is Red Skelton, who ironically enough was my very favorite comedian when I was a kid.

Surprisingly, no one has ever come up to me and said, “I really like your guitar licks on ‘Homage to Satan,’ or ‘your Freddie the Freeloader impersonation is spot on.’”

However, I do find it ironic that I love the 76ers and Brock Hoffman wears 76. I’d like to have one of



These two Brian Hoffmans and Virginia Tech center Brock Hoffman’s dad are not me.

those Tech jerseys with “Hoffman” and “76”. Please take note Santa Claus.

AND THE ANSWER IS. . .

It’s former Boston Celtic Bill Russell!!! With those stats he was a five time MVP and won 11 NBA championships with the Celtics.

Russell is often listed with the greatest NBA players of all time, but having seen him play, both live as well as many times on TV, I feel he was just a very good player. He was no Michael Jordan, LeBron James or Kobe Bryant, to say the least. He wasn’t as good a center as Kareem, couldn’t shoot like Larry Bird or dribble like Magic Johnson. He would have had a hard time guarding Shaq.

In comparison, Wilt Chamberlain averaged 30.1 points for his career while shooting 54 percent from the floor, although he wasn’t a good free throw shooter either. Wilt led the league in scoring seven times and was the NBA rebounding leader 11 times, and is still the all-time leader in rebounds per game at 22.9.

The difference? Russell won 11 championships and Wilt won two. Russell’s greatest asset was that he always had a lot of good players around him, and that wasn’t always the case with Wilt.

Of the nine all-time players with seven NBA championship rings or more eight are Celtics. Can you tell me the non-Celtic? It’s the “great” Robert Horry with seven, two with the Rockets, three with the Lakers and two with the Spurs.

Former Boston guard Sam Jones is second all-time with 10 championships, just one less than Russell, and no one calls him one of the all-time greats although he averaged more points(17.7) than Russell for his career, shot better from the floor(.456) despite taking much longer shots and was way better from the line (.803).

Maybe they should have named the NBA trophy after Sam Jones.

SPORTS

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William Byrd wrestling coach Thomas Kessler(center) at a match last season with assistants Michael Bryant(left) and Ron Long(right). PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Wrestling, Swimming and Track open practices Monday at Byrd

Teams are under strict VHSL, Roanoke Co. guidelines

sports will begin practice. Wrestling, swimming and indoor track teams are scheduled to begin Monday, December 14.

Rules dictating practice are currently under Phase 2 guidelines. Wrestling is one of the toughest sports to steer clear of the virus with constant contact in an indoor environment.

"We can technically go Monday, but we have to be in certain VDH Health Metrics," said Byrd wrestling coach Thomas Kessler. "In order for us to practice we must be under 200 per 100,000 cases. Currently Roanoke County's 14 day average is 603. We can hold practices where kids can be 10 feet apart. For wrestling, that means we cannot get much done."

The Terriers have been weightlifting and conditioning in the off-season and will continue to do so until actual practice can begin. Some members of the Big Orange have been competing with wrestling clubs that aren't associated with school.

"The off season has been pretty tough to get anything accomplished," said Kessler. "Luckily we have some dedicated guys who have found work at various wrestling clubs. They have the freedom of not having the same restrictions as we do in the county since they do not have to follow VHSL guidelines."

At school, things are much different.

"The restrictions that are put in place when we can actually have practice are pretty tough," said Kessler. "I don't have the room to follow all of the guidelines so I am going to have to have a practice before school and after school to accommodate the new guidelines. The kids are only able to work with one partner per practice and they must stay in 'pods' for two weeks at a time."

The Terriers have struggled to put a schedule together. In normal years Byrd would compete in several weekend tournaments, including the annual Big Orange Classic in Vinton, but those are off.

"Putting a schedule together is very challenging and luckily my AD, Jason Taylor, is responsible for that," said Kessler. "When we don't know if we will be able to participate in an event its tough committing or its tough trying to invite a team to come wrestle. We are limited to Duals and Tri's this year. There will be no tournaments other than the Region and State tournament."

While the season is in flux, the kids keep coming to work out.

"I give my kids a lot of credit," said Kessler. "A lot of them have shown up since September 28th, when Roanoke County said we could work out, and busted their butts not knowing if they would be able to have a season. We are still working out, lifting and running, in hopes that something will change and we will be able to have a season for our seniors who have put in a lot of work to our program."

Swimming is a little easier to social distance as there is no contact between participants during practice and events. Still, Byrd coach Krista Martin has rules to follow.

"James(assistant coach Martin) and I are ready to be creative in ways that we spread swimmers out in the pool for practice," said Krista. "Swimmers will show up ready to get in the water versus as opposed to using the locker rooms. We will wear masks when not in the water and follow all guidelines set forth by VHSL

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