

Thursday, May 20, 2021 • Dogwood Capital of Virginia • Covering Vinton, Bonsack & Stewartsville

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WBHS Class of 2021 recognized at Senior Honors Banquet



WBHS seniors Natalie Mullins and Keaton Band were named Best All Around Female and Best All Around Male at the Senior Honors Banguet on May 12. They are shown with WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb.



Choir Department Award winner Bayla Kessler.





Band and German Department Award winner Nicholas Business Department Award winner Nicholas Carter. Colvin.

William Byrd High School recognized the accomplishments of the Class of 2021 at the Senior Honors Banquet on May 12. The ceremony and dinner were held in the main gymnasium at the high school.

WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb welcomed the students and their parents. "Tonight we will recognize the accomplishments of the Class of 2021," she said. "Thank you for being a class that truly embraced being a Terrier."

Seniors Natalie Mullins and Keaton Band were named Best All Around Female and Best All Around Male for the WBHS Class of 2021. This is a coveted honor based on academic success, good character, and investment in the school and community. The awards are determined by a faculty nomination and vote and remain a secret until the honors banquet.

Department awards were also presented at the banquet. Each department

•Art: Ashlyn Robinson •Band: Nicholas Colvin

•Business: Nicholas Carter

•Choir: Bayla Kessler •Drama: Ellen Frary •English: Mathew Pampley

•Family and Consumer Science: Felicia Grace Davis

•German: Nicholas Colvin

•Latin: Athena Liao •Marketing: Kasey McKee

•Math: Adi Iyer

•Yearbook: Natalie Mullins

•Physical Education: Jamie Cawley

•Science: Tyler Buxton •Social Studies: Taylor Dawson

•Spanish: Caroline Dullaghan

•Technology Education: McCaffrey Simmons Newcomb recognized several students with spe-

cial awards: •Dylan Hatfield was recognized as Top Ter-rier for the Class of 2021.

"The Top Terrier is nomi-



•Isaac Fix, Hunter revic, Christopher Blan-Harris, Elizabeth Reckt- kenship, Samuel Bunn, enwald, Dylan Hatfield, and Amna Becirevic were Buxton, Erin Courtemanawarded the Blue Ridge che, Hallie Cox, Rachel District Academic Awards Cruff, Grayce Dantzler, for having the highest Olivia Darnell, Taylor GPA and the most award-

ed school letters. •Hunter Harris and Elizabeth Recktenwald were recognized as the Preston Fleitz, Ellen Frary, 2021 B'Nai Brith award winners for William Byrd High School. The B'Nai Brith awards are given each year to a male and female winner from among 19 schools in the Roanoke Valley. It is viewed local-ly as the area "Heisman trophy" of high school awards. The studentathletes are judged differently than most awards Ramsey, Elizabeth Reckof this kind. The award is weighted 40-percent on athletic success, 40-percent on academic success and 20 percent on community service. Harris ily Summey, Erin Taylor, and Recktenwald will compete with the winners from the other 18 schools for the prestigious award. er, and Madisin Witt.

•Faith Parrish was rec-

Sarah Butterworth, Tyler Dawson, Kinsey Dollbert, Caroline Dullaghan, Catherine Dullaghan, Elizabeth Fedor, Isaac Fix, Caroline Gibbs, Andrea Gonzalez, Cade Hanson, Hunter Harris, Dylan Hatfield, Seth Hodges, Hanna Howell, William Howell, Adi Iyer, Brooke Johnston, Bayla Kessler, Erin Kirtley, Autumn Krebs, Athena Liao, , Kasey McKee, Eh Tha Moe, Natalie Mullins, Faith Parrish,, Dillon Peters, Hailey tenwald, Emma Roberts, Charlotte Rose, Joseph Sandzimier, McCaffrey Simmons, Sarah Stanley, Annie Stevens, Em-Luke Taylor, Stella Taylor, Mya Travis, Reagan Tuck, Julie Wang, Katie Wheel-

Candidates for Valedicnated by students, elected ognized for completing torian were announced.

Drama Department Award winner Ellen Frary.



Family and Consumer Science Department winner Felicia Grace Davis.

selects an outstanding senior who maintains good academic standards in the department, displays good character, and contributes constructively to the class, department, and school. They are recommended by teachers and determined by a consensus vote by the department. The names of the department award recipients are not released until the night of the banquet.

Department Award recipients honored include:

by the faculty, and awarded to the senior who best exemplifies the qualities of integrity, loyalty, courage of character, and who serves as a model for everyone," said Newcomb. "This person values education as well as the traditions of the school."

•Three seniors, Joey Sandzimier, Isaac Fix, and Taylor Dawson, received their Governor School cords for completing four years at the Roanoke Valley Governor's School.



Latin Department Award winner Athena Liao.

her Associates Degree at They include those who Virginia Western Com- have achieved a cumula-munity College while tive GPA of 4.0 or higher completing her high school diploma.

•Keaton Band and Car- that oline Gibbs were honored as the 2021 Dog Pound leaders. Each year the sevotes for two students to school-spirited, rowdybut fun-student section known as the Dog Pound.

BETA Club members were recognized and presented with BETA Club certificates and pins. BETA Club is a national honor and service orgaa part of William Byrd since 1960. Students with a 3.75 GPA at the end of their junior year are invited to join the BETA Club. If a student decides activities in the school and in the community. BETA Club members in wear at graduation.

BETĂ Club members Urunna Anyanwu, Keaton Band, Amna Beci-

during their high school years. In recognition of accomplishment, each student was presented a Valedictorian Stole and Certificate as well as nior class nominates and their Honor Graduate gold tassel and Advanced lead the award-winning Diploma pin. (Students were reminded that once final GPAs are released, more valedictorians might be added to the list. Conversely, if a student's GPA dropped below 4.0, they would not be able to graduate as a valedictorian.)

Valedictorians honnization that has been ored included: Urunna Anyanwu, Keaton Band, Amna Becirevic, Christopher Blankenship, Sarah Butterworth, Tyler Buxton, Erin Courtemanche, Grayce Dantzler, Olivia to become a member, they Darnell, Taylor Dawparticipate in volunteer son, Caroline Dullaghan, Catherine Dullaghan, Elizabeth Fedor, Isaac Fix, BETA Club members in Preston Fleitz, , Andrea the Class of 2021 who Gonzalez, Cade Hanson, completed 10 hours of Hunter Harris, Dylan volunteer service also re- Hatfield, Hanna Howceived a BETA cord to ell, William Howell, Adi Iyer, Brooke Johnston, Bayla Kessler, Autumn recognized in 2021 in- Krebs, Athena Liao, Kasey clude: Brandon Acker, McKee, Natalie Mullins, Mathew Pampley, Faith Parrish, Michelle Price, Hailey Ramsey, Eliza-beth Recktenwald, Emma Roberts, Charlotte Rose, Joseph Sandzimier, Annie Stevens, Emily Summey, Erin Taylor, Mya Travis, and Reagan Tuck.

Distinguished Honor Graduates with a GPA of 3.5 or higher were recognized and presented with an Honor Gold Tassel. Those who earned an Ad-

See **Banquet**, page 5



LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing concerning the proposed FY2021-2022 Town of Vinton Budget at its meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. 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 budget by emailing sjohnson@vintonva.gov, leaving a message at 540-983-0607 or writing to the Town Clerk, Vinton Municipal Building, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179. Voice mails, emails and other messages containing comments on the budget 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 Friday, May 28, 2021. 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. The proposed budget is as follows:

Revenues	Total All Funds
General Fund	\$8,032,258
Grant Fund	384,800
Utility Fund	4,513,595
Capital Fund	835,000
Stormwater Fund	414,328
Total Revenues	\$14,179,981
<u>Expenditures</u>	
General Fund:	

General Fund:	
Town Council	\$114,788
Town Manager's Office	149,495
Human Resources	67,436
Legal Services	53,517
Treasurer/Finance Department	332,415
Police Department	2,440,931
Communications Services	450,440
Fire & EMS	2,268
Police/Animal Control	85,326
Public Works Administration	164,639
Maintenance/Highways/Streets/Bridges	920,617
Snow and Ice Removal	32,454
Traffic Signs and Street Light	112,770
Refuse Collection	463,331
Recycling	75,029
Building & Grounds	167,774
Health Department	25,020
Special Programs	155,848
WM Interdepartmental Functions	10,000
War Memorial	246,804
Vinton Veterans Monument	5,000
Swimming Pool/Parks	2,954
Senior Program	93,525
Town Museum	13,586
Planning & Zoning	393,423
Economic Development	20,000
Public Transportation	120,000
Vinton Business Center	2,765
Performance Agreements	104,008
Retiree Insurance	4,800
Travel & Training	0
Debt Service - General Fund	444,131
Transfers	757,164
Total General Fund	\$8,032,258
Grant Fund:	
VML Risk Management Grant	4,000
GC Greenway PH2B	380,800
Total Grant Fund	\$384,800
Utility Fund:	\$500.004
Water & Wastewater Administration	\$530,204
Customer Accounts	366,237
Water System Maintenance	1,062,146
Purchased Water	150,000
Wastewater System Maintenance	941,547
Debt Retirement-Bonds/L.T.D.	1,256,297
Contingency	0
Transfers	207,164
Total Utility Fund	\$4,513,595
Capital Fund:	.
Treasurer/Finance Department	\$200,000
Police Department	100,000
Maintenance/Highways/Streets/Bridges	20,000
Traffic Signs and Street Light	150,000
Town Museum	25,000
	50,000
Planning & Zoning	
Planning & Zoning Economic Development	290,000
Planning & Zoning	
Planning & Zoning Economic Development Total Capital Fund <u>Stormwater Fund</u>	290,000 \$835,000
Planning & Zoning Economic Development Total Capital Fund <u>Stormwater Fund</u> Administration	290,000 \$835,000 \$94,772
Planning & Zoning Economic Development Total Capital Fund <u>Stormwater Fund</u> Administration	290,000 \$835,000 \$94,772 90,412
Planning & Zoning Economic Development Total Capital Fund <u>Stormwater Fund</u> Administration Street & Road Cleaning	290,000 \$835,000 \$94,772 90,412 190,417
Planning & Zoning Economic Development Total Capital Fund <u>Stormwater Fund</u> Administration Street & Road Cleaning Operations Debt Retirement	290,000 \$835,000 \$94,772 90,412
Planning & Zoning Economic Development	290,000 \$835,000 \$94,772 90,412 190,417

Signs urge 'Say NO to HATE, YES to LOVE'



PHOTO BY DEBRIE ADAMS

Steve Musselwhite of Vinton is sharing a message he believes is much needed in today's world.

Vinton is known for its LOVE artwork sign at the Vinton War Memorial on Washington Avenue. But there is a new "Love" sign springing up in Vinton neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

The signs say simply "Say NO to HATE, Say YES to LOVE, LOVE GOD, LOVE ALL."

Steve Musselwhite of Vinton says this is a message that needs desperately to be shared-that "we need to listen to and live every day."

He and his wife Billie Sue were riding bikes in a Florida residential neighborhood and noticed a similar sign on a lawn there. He took a photo and asked a local sign company to make him 10 of the signs when he returned home.

"It touched my heart," Musselwhite says. "That's a message we need to share with people all over the world. There is a deficit of love, a lack of love, in the world today."

The signs have been placed around Vinton and at United Methodist Churches in Franklin County and on the way to Smith Mountain Lake.

"We need to stop hating people who are not just like us," Musselwhite said. "God is love and He commands us to love. We don't necessarily have to like one another, but God

does tell us to love one another.

"We need to concentrate on the 99% of things we agree on, instead of the 1% we don't agree on," he said. "Just because someone thinks differently than you, doesn't make them wrong or deserving of hate.

"As Christians, we don't have to think alike, we just need to love alike.'

Musselwhite is the president of Musselwhite and Associates, a member of Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church, a leader in the Kairos prison ministry, and a member of the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority.

Antique Car Show and Family Movie Night rescheduled for May 22

On Saturday, May 22, enjoy outdoor admission, free popcorn and a free take fun in downtown Vinton at the Vinton home craft kit for children. Bring a chair Farmers' Market with an antique car show or blanket for seating. and movie night, sponsored by the Vinton Dogwood Festival. These two events were rescheduled from the April 24 Dogwood Festival due to weather challenges. The Roanoke Valley Region Antique Automobile Association will conduct a judged car show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

> Susan N. Johnson, CMC Town Clerk

www.vintonmessenger.com

The evening will conclude with an outdoor Family Movie Night featuring "The Lion King" (2019) on a large screen at 7:45 p.m. The movie event includes free

The Movie Night is sponsored by Platinum Level Sponsor Rosie's Gaming Emporium.

Both activities will take place at the Vinton Farmers' Market, 204 W. Lee Avenue in downtown Vinton.

For additional information, contact Chasity Barbour at 983-0645, cbarbour@vintonva.gov about the movie or Ron Vanderpool at 309-6945, ronvanderpool49@comcast.net for the car show.

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Town Council takes deep dive into FY21-22 budget

Vinton Town Council took a deep dive into the proposed FY 2021-2022 budget in a briefing presented by Town Manager Pete Peters during its meeting on May 18 and a work session afterwards led by Finance Director/Treasurer Anne Cantrell.

The proposed budget for FY22 totals \$14,179,981 an increase over last year's budget of 21.5%. The FY21 budget total was \$11,663,773, reduced from the original due to fears of the impact of the pandemic on the economy.

Proposed budget highlights include a 1% cost of living adjustment for all employees, implementation of a new classification plan, continuing to offer a free employee health plan, funding the first year of a seven-year Capital Improvement Plan, and continued economic development.

Peters delineated sources of revenues for the town. Sixty percent of the town's revenues are generated by business-related taxes: real estate tax (\$75,640), business personal property (\$184,644), communication tax (\$636,409), business license tax (\$647,071), franchise license tax (\$27,584), bank stock tax (\$207,466), pari-mutuel tax mainly from Rosie's Gaming Emporium (\$550,000), admissions tax (\$1,127), transient occupancy tax (\$3,214), prepared food tax (\$1,282,197), cigarette tax (\$116,969), and state sales tax (\$1,157,416) for a total of \$4.9 million.

Peters commented that the town has hopes that development of its hotel site could quickly increase transient occupancy tax revenues.

He emphasized that the town has a consumer-based economy and is fairly diverse, not based on one tax source.

About \$4.8 million of the General Fund revenues go to the Public Safety (\$2.9 million) and Public Works (\$1.9 million) departments. Utility Fund revenues come mainly from fees for water and wastewater services. Council was reminded that as part of the Davenport & Company Rate Study in 2019, council approved a multi-year rate schedule which includes an 8 % service charge increase and a 6 % volumetric rate increase each July 1 through FY2023.

The proposed town budget will fund 73 positions across all departments—up two from FY20-21.

The budget, for the first time in a decade, includes funding for a Capital Improvement Plan. În FY21-22, those capital projects will include traffic signal improvements at various intersections, ERP software replacement, Gish Mill parking and façade improvements, gateway signs, the Glade Creek 2B grant match, a worksite and work zone safety package, history museum repairs, and body cameras for the Vinton Police Department.

As a priority in the FY22 proposed budget, town management presented a seven-year CIP plan balanced within forecast available funding.

Peters told council that the town's total debt across all funds—General, Utility, and Stormwater—is approximately \$11 million.

Of the \$14.2 million budget proposed, 40.15% (\$5.6 million) goes for personnel costs and \$3.9 million (27.89%) for operating costs.

In the budget work session following the regular council meeting, Cantrell presented an even more indepth look at the budget, especially sources of revenue, and the seven-year CIP program. A prolonged discussion emanated from proposed increases to certain fees mainly related to planning and zoning procedures.

A public hearing on the FY21-22 budget is scheduled for the next council meeting on June 1 with the budget to be adopted by

council at the June 15 meeting.

In other business, council adopted a resolution appropriating funds to purchase Body Worn Cameras for the Vinton Police Department. The Department of Criminal Justice has approved a grant in the amount of \$97,326 to include a local match of \$48,633. The police department is also installing new in-car cameras.

Vinton police were recognized in a proclamation for National Police Week (May 9-15), and very creatively this year, via video produced by RVTV. National Public Works week was proclaimed via RVTV video as well.

Peters introduced Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton at his first council meeting. Sexton has spent the past seven years as the assistant to the county administrator in Botetourt County. One of his main assignments will be overseeing the Public Works Department.

"We are thrilled to have him join the team," said Peters.

Planning and Zoning Director Anita McMillan shared the town's plans for Arbor Day which will be celebrated at 9 a.m. on May 25 in conjunction with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Glade Creek Greenway Phase II. The ceremony will take place at the Glade Creek Greenway Trailhead located off Gus Nicks Boulevard below the Billy Byrd Apartments. The public is invited to attend. Roanoke County officials will be joining the town for the celebration.

Arbor Day usually includes tree planting and this year the town has received \$6,000 in grant funding to purchase trees.

Peters briefed council on three agreements involving the Gish Mill Redevelopment Project: a Performance Agreement, an Industrial Revitalization Fund Loan from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Roanoke County. He described the project as "challenging and expensive," requiring public and private investments.

Peters said the Gish Mill project will be funded in thirds—one-third private investment, one-third from grants and historic tax credits, and one-third from public funding through the Town of Vinton and Roanoke County.

The town has partnered with the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority to negotiate the performance agreement with Gish Mill Davii, LLC, valued at up to \$910,000 over a 10-year period to incentivize the redevelopment of the Gish Mill property to encourage mixed-use commercial, residential, and retail development.

The redevelopment project will include a restaurant, seven lodging units, a locally sourced market, and a special event space located in the basement area. It is expected to be completed in December 2022.

It is expected to generate in excess of \$165,000 annually in combined tax revenues for the town and county on anticipated gross revenues of \$1.85 million.

Financial terms of the

Performance Agreement include:

A single lump sum payment at closing for public infrastructure, gateway and parking improvements in the amount of \$250,000

Reimbursement of all Permitting and Utility Connection Fees paid to the town by the company, not to exceed \$40,000

Reimbursement of all Building Permitting Fees paid to the county by the company, not to exceed \$20,000

Five equal payments of \$80,000 each year in the initial five years (years 1-5) of the agreement

Five equal payments of \$40,000 each year in the last five years (years 6-10) of the agreement

Providing a \$468,500 Industrial Redevelopment Loan (IRF)

Performance terms of the agreement include:

A minimum investment of \$2,700,000

Creation and maintaining at least 37 new jobs for 10 years

Generating and paying at least \$40,000 annually in meals taxes to the town for 10 years

Repayment of the IRF loan in full to the town

The town was awarded the IRF loan of \$486,750 from DHCD and in partnership with the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority will provide the funds to Gish Mill Davii, LLC in the form of a 30-year loan with a 2.5% interest rate and 20-year deferment. As the loan is repaid with interest, the town may redirect the loan proceeds back into future redevelopment projects within the Central Business District.

The MOU is a funding agreement with Roanoke County to reimburse the town for a portion of the Incentive Grant for Gish Mill in the amount of \$40,000 annually over five years. It will also reimburse up to \$20,000 of building permit fees paid to the county.

Donna Collins presented the town's proposed Paid Time Off (PTO) Policy which will replace the existing Vacation and Sick Leave Accrual Policy. It will take effect on June 1.

Public Works Director Bo Herndon reported that work on the traffic signals at the intersection of Clearview Drive and Hardy Road is expected to begin the first week of June.

Peters announced that inperson Town Council meetings will resume on July 6. RVTV is working to develop a system to continue broadcasts of the meetings.



Grose recognizing May 9-15 as National Police Week.

Our Old Hammock

From the Pulpit

This week has been an emotional week in the Russell home, as we approach the end of an era. On Thursday, Parker will graduate from preschool, and that is a big change for all of us. For the last six years preschool has been an integral part of our home. From special crafts to classroom centers, superhero day to color of the week, special snacks to birthday celebrations, Wednesday chapel services to Christmas plays, preschool has been a special place for our family. For our boys, it has been a place of love and acceptance, encouragement and support; a place to learn how to make friends and follow directions, how to share, take turns, explore, discover, laugh, and play; a place of learning how to say goodbye to Mom and Dad with the assurance that they always come back. There is a lot about preschool that Parker is going to miss.

As a parent, one of the best parts of my day has been picking Parker up from preschool at lunchtime. I love arriving a little early, sitting in my car with the windows down, watching a game of chase unfold and listening to the sounds of laughter and fun. I love the look on Parker's face when he sees me coming and runs to the fence to say hello. I love listening to all of the stories from his day, as we drive home for lunch. I love those precious 20 minutes we spend sitting on the couch side-by-side, eating our sandwiches, and watching whatever cartoon he chooses to watch. I love that big hug he gives me, as

Whitney comes home, and I head back to the office. As a parent there is a lot about preschool that I too am going to miss.

This week we have all been feeling it. Yesterday as we were driving home for lunch, Parker talked a lot about his graduation and how fun it was going to be. He said he could not wait to celebrate with all his friends, throwing water balloons and eating ice cream. He seemed so excited. Shortly after arriving home, he looked out into the backyard and said, "I miss our old hammock." Moments after uttering those words (that seemed to come out of nowhere), he laid down on the couch facedown and began to cry.

At first, I was a bit confused. Our backyard hammock broke a couple of months ago. He and Carter were playing on it, and the post that supported one side snapped. After digging up what remained of that post and disposing of it, I promised the boys we would find a new place to hang the hammock. They were happy with that solution and have not talked about it since. When Parker brought it up yesterday with such emotion, I was a bit surprised. Lying down beside him and putting my hand on his back I said, "I'm sorry about the hammock, buddy, but remember I promised you and Carter that I would find a new place to hang it up again." Bursting into tears, he said: "I don't want to find a new place. I just want our old hammock back where it was, the way it has always

ł been!"

At that moment it hit me: whether he realized it or not, we were not really talking about the hammock in the backyard. What his heart was saying but his words could not express, was the grief he and I both were feeling about a change we knew was coming. After all that talk about graduation, we were both realizing that our mid-day waves from the playground, snuggles, cartoons, and lunches on the couch were coming to an end. Though we will certainly find other times for all of those things, our daily routine of sharing that special time together was about to change. In response, with tears welling up in my eyes, I pulled him close to me and said, "I'm going to miss that old hammock too, buddy."

Change is hard. Even when change is necessary—a natural progression of lifethere is grief. So often we too "just want our old hammock back where it was, the way it has always been." The reality that where it was no longer is, and therefore cannot be again, is hard. The daily process of facing that reality and adapting to our new normal is hard. Thankfully, as we take that step and make that change, we can be assured that God is at work. In his infinite care and love for us, he is able to take every change we face, however difficult it may be, and use our transitions for our transformation.

Paul encouraged the church in Corinth by describing the process this way: "So we do not lose heart . . . For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)." When it comes to change, what we can see is the transition; what we often cannot see is the transformation. Paul assures us that through Christ, one accompanies the other; however, the growing pains of life's transitions will not last, but the transformation they produce is eternal.

Whatever change we are facing—old hammock we are missing—may we be "confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6)."

By Pastor Travis Russell, Vinton Baptist Church



William Byrd hosts open house prior to renovations







William Byrd front entrance May 2021

William Byrd High School Principal Tammy Newcomb, Vinton's Roanoke County School Board representative Tim Greenway, and Roanoke County Schools Director of Facilities and Operations Chris Lowe hosted an open house at the school on Sunday afternoon, May 16.

Renovations and new construction will begin on the high school this summer and the open house gave the community the opportunity to visit the school once more before renovations get underway. Architectural drawings and renderings and site plans of the planned renovations were on display in the front lobby.

Greenway emphasized the need for updates to the school. He noted that much of the school looks just as it did when he graduated in 1982.

The project was originally planned to be completed in 18 months, but with industry-wide delays in construction and production and delivery of construction materials, that timeline will most likely be 24 months instead with completion estimated for December 2022.

The School Board received an update on the project at its meeting on May 4 from Troy Smith, president of Avis Construction, and Earle Shumate, senior designer for Hughes and Associates Architects and Engineers, along with Lowe.

Avis Construction and Hughes and Associates were awarded the contract for the WBHS renovation and construction project in November 2020.

At the board meeting Shumate said that the philosophy of Hughes and Associates was to make the Vinton school "look and feel like a new school without building a new school, to make the Byrd facility more cohesive—to look like a school that was built all at the same time."

WBHS media center May 2021

They plan to accomplish this through a series of infill additions, some major renovations, reshuffling of spaces, and general updates of all the finishes in the building, all the casework, the HVAC systems, electrical systems, plumbing, etc.

Avis will place 12 trailers on the school grounds to provide classroom space for students displaced during the renovations. Those trailers will be moved onto the William Byrd campus in June and mobilized by July. Newcomb said that about half of the school will be open and used during the renovations.

The initial cost of the project was estimated to be approximately \$23 million, including soft costs of technology and furniture. That price may increase significantly due to current market conditions. Lowe said that pricing will be addressed on May 26 when subcontractor bids are received.

Some features of the William Byrd project will include a renovation of Byrd's front portico and its front lobby with a new Hall of Fame, new science labs, new art classrooms, the addition of its first Choir Room (choir and band now share a space), an added gym dedicated to wrestling and cheerleading, a new elevator, renovations to the guidance offices and media center with the two swapping spaces, addition of a sprinkler system, added security systems, and the addition of numerous restrooms throughout the building.

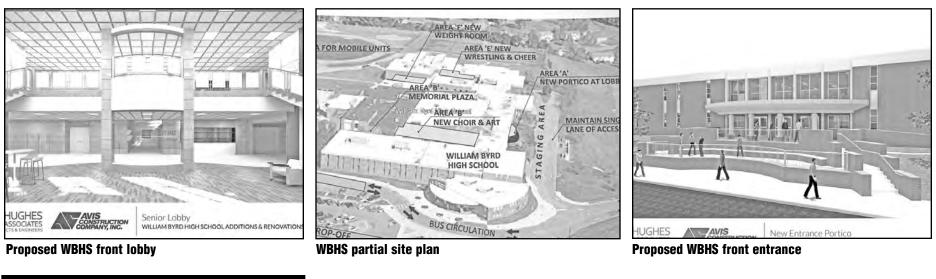
Workspaces will be added for Special Education staff. The final portion of the building which has not received a new roof, will have one installed. An emphasis will be placed on natural lighting, including the addition of an attium.

This is the first Roanoke

County school to be built under the "design build" model in which the architects and contractor work together from the beginning, as a team, providing unified project recommendations. This process should reduce cost overruns and save taxpayer dollars.

Greenway says the purpose of the William Byrd project is to "bring the school up to the standards of the other four high schools in the county." The school was built in 1969 and has been renovated or added to piecemeal on six previous occasions.

He stressed again his belief that renovations and construction at William Byrd and other county schools which have become antiquated will increase pride in the community and lead to students choosing to remain in the area to work after high school or college—May 16 was all about "Terrier Pride."



The Vinton (540) 473-2741 USPS 660-020 (540) 473-2741 1633 W. Main St. Salem, VA 24153 ourvalley.org



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The Vinton Messenger encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified by telephone before publication. The Messenger reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style.

The Vinton Messenger (USPS 660-020) is published weekly for \$44 a year in Vinton and Roanoke County, \$48 a year in adjoining counties, \$52 a year out of state and the yearly bundle is \$59 a year by Virginia Media Inc. P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Vinton, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE VINTON MESSENGER, P.O. Box 1125, Salem, Va 24153 Proposed WBHS media center

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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.

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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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Banquet from page 1



Marketing Department Award winner Kasey McKee.



Science Department Award winner Tyler Buxton.



Social Studies Department Award winner Taylor Dawson.



Spanish Department Award winner Caroline Dullaghan.

vanced Studies Diploma also received a pin recognizing that accomplishment.

Distinguished Honor graduates for 2021 include: Alayna Abdelhadi, Brandon Acker, Christopher Beckner, Augustus Blake, Morgan Bohon, Morgan Booth, Kian Bradac, Samuel Bunn, Nicholas Carter, James Cawley, Nicholas Colvin, Hallie Cox, Rachel Cruff, Felicia Davis, Tyler Dean, Kinsey Dollberg, Gracie Fairbanks, Ellen Frary, Caroline Gibbs, Mason Gibson, Emily Hale, Ashlyn Harris, Kara Harvey, Seth Hodges, Andrew Jenkins, Carson Jernigan, Joseph Johnson, Erin Kirtley, Ryan Krawczyk, Andrew Kroese, Carson Leonard, Bryson Lutz, William Marsh III, Amelita Martin, Eh Tha Moe, Zachary Moore, Kaitlyn Morgan, Katelyn Morgan, Kassity Morris, Tyler Oliver, Jocellan Pearce, Dillon Peters, William Pickeral, Ethan Powell, Payten Richardson, Ashlyn Robinson, Kelsey Roth, Madison Saunders, Arielle Shiloh, McCaffrey Simmons, Kollin Slusher, Sarah Stanley, Luke Taylor, Stella Taylor, Haley Thomas, Megan Thom-as, Autumn Thompson, Faith Turner, Julie Wang, Taylor West, Katie Wheeler, D'aja Williams,

Dylan Wimmer, Madisin Witt, Morgan Witt, Hollie Yates, and Landon Young.

The Best All Around Male and Female awards were presented at the end of the evening. Each year the awards are presented by members representing organizations active in the community—the Breakfast Lions Club of Vinton and the GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton. Winners were awarded a \$250 scholarship.

Vicki Newburn from the Vinton Woman's Club presented the Best All Around Female award.

"Our organization seeks ways to honor and thank our community workers for their contributions," said Newburn. "We recognize those that serve all of us. We have enjoyed serving the Vinton community for many years and one of our favorite yearly endeavors is to present an award to the William Byrd Best All Around Female student.

"This year's student has excelled in her academic achievements as an AP Scholar with Distinction, a member of the Beta Club; she was in the Gifted Program and she served as Junior Honor Marshall, all while maintaining a grade point average of 4.2.

ship roles such as: SCA President, Team Terrier Mentor Program, editor of the Yearbook staff, the American Red Cross Club and the Roanoke County Student Advisory Council. Her list goes on to include the William Byrd Academic Team and the Chick-fil-a Leadership Academy.

"She plays on the school tennis team and works in her spare time as a nanny.

"She is dedicated to serving her community by volunteering for the Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs Hockey Booster Club and helping at Bedrock Roanoke Community Church working with children and participating in outreach programs.

"She is well respected among her peers and her teachers. It is with great joy that I tell you that Virginia Tech will be proud to welcome your Best All Around selection-Miss Natalie Mullins."

The award for Best All Around Male was presented by John Dyer, first vice president of the Breakfast Lions Club of Vinton.

"We are proud to serve the community in all types of volunteer work and fundraising for local needs," said Dyer. "On behalf of the Lions I am honored to recognize a student who has committed his high school years to serving William Byrd and his community with distinction.

"Our winner tonight has served in the Christian Athletics Club, the Prevention Club, Red Cross Club, Habitat for Humanity Club and the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Program.

"Our winner was an all-state athlete in Indoor Track, Senior Class President, Dog Pound Leader, and had a GPA of 4.3. He will be entering Virginia Tech this fall in their Neuroscience Program.

"To say that our winner made the best of his high school years is an understatement. Even more amazing considering the challenges of the pandemic. I am sure this is not a surprise to any of you, but the winner of the William Byrd Best All-Round Male is Keaton Band."

The 2021 Senior Honors Banquet was organized and facilitated by Senior Sponsor Hannah Blais. The meal was catered by Sal's.

Each Honor Graduate was asked to create a "Senior Board" with their pictures and accomplishments to share at the banquet. They were on display in the cafeteria.

Wheeler, D'aja Williams,She has many leader-Submit
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Tony Holland
Manager, Roanoke Challed



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Technology Education Department Award winner McCaffrey Simmons.



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Yearbook Department Award winner Natalie Mullins.



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Greenway Coordinator Liz Belcher announces retirement



Roanoke Greenway Coordinator Liz Belcher (front of line) is retiring in August after 25 years of service to the entire Roanoke Valley and beyond.

Liz Belcher will retire in August as the Roanoke Valley Greenway Coordinator after 25 years. She began working as coordinator in 1996 when the Greenway Steering Committee was a fledgling organization at the Fifth Planning District Commission.

The regional Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission was formally established in 1997 by the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, City of Salem, and Town of Vinton. Botetourt County joined in 2016. Belcher has been the only employee of the Commission, coordinating with the local governments to

build a greenway network. During her time with the Commission, the greenway network has grown to include over four hundred miles of off-road greenways and trails, with the 1996 Greenway Plan updated twice (2007 and 2018) to reflect the expanded vision for the region.

"It's been a true pleasure to work with Liz on various trail projects and with the Green-way Commission," said Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters. "She will certainly leave an impressive legacy with all that she has accomplished, and the entire valley is a better place for having had her at the helm of the greenway movement in our community for the last 25 years.

"It's gonna be hard to not think of Liz when discussing or using a greenway in the future, as the two are so intertwined,' Peters said. "Personally, I can't

think of a single thing that has made more of a positive impact on Roanoke in the last two plus decades. From economic development to real estate and property values, a healthier citizenry and the overall improvement in the water quality and aesthetics of the Roanoke River, it's astounding what a positive impact she has made on our community. Thank you, Liz, for all that you have done."

The Roanoke River Greenway, running west to east through the valley, is the backbone of the network, with north-south routes connecting to the public lands encircling the valley. Mason Creek, Lick Run, Tinker Creek, Garden City, Glade Creek, Wolf Creek, and Mill Mountain Greenways provide the core of the northsouth routes, connecting to the Blue Ridge Parkway, National Forests, Carvins Cove, Read Mountain, Appalachian Trail, and state preserves.

Belcher has been closely involved in protection of these public lands through conservation easements on over 13,000 acres with Virginia Outdoors Foundation and Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. She also helped organize the purchase and donation of lands for Read Mountain Preserve and Hinchee Park.

In 1999 the Greenway Commission and local governments hosted the first Governor's Conference on Greenways and Trails. That Conference grew into a biannual event and then later into a state-led effort to expand greenway and trail networks statewide and capitalize on the economic impacts of outdoor recreation.

In the Roanoke area, Roanoke Outside was born as part of the Roanoke Regional Partnership's efforts to build an economy that valued our natural resource assets and to attract businesses, employees, and economic development to a bikeable/walkable community with great outdoor recreation opportunities. Greenways have been the foundational infrastructure for that vision and repeatedly appear in surveys and public input as one of the best things the region has ever done.

Belcher has served on numerous boards and organizations, including the Roanoke Valley Urban Forestry Council, the Transportation Technical Committee of the Transportation Planning Organization, the State Trails Advisory Committee, the Virginia Outdoors Plan Advisory Committee, the Virginia Trails Alliance, the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club, the Western Virginia Land Trust, and the Blueway Committee.

She has been a speaker for many civic organizations, an adjunct professor at Virginia Tech, and an instructor at Roanoke College and Hollins University. In addition to the greenway plans, she led development of the first local trail plans for Carvins Cove, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Green Hill Park, and Mill Mountain.



Liz Belcher (kneeling) worked with the Midweek Crew of Pathfinders for Greenways to build the Gladetown Trail in Vinton, including its bridge

Frank Simms, chair of the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission, said that Liz "has been the face of greenways for the region and, although she is often given credit for their existence, this has been a community effort with the Greenway Commission, localities, staff, volunteers, and many, many supporters providing the impetus and expertise to make it ĥappen. We all get great joy from seeing so many people from all walks of life using the greenways, loving the river and streams, and making greenways an integral part of their life and their family. Thanks to Liz Belcher and many partners, the Roanoke Valley Greenway system has become a reality."

"Professionally, Liz will be hard to be replace; her successor will have big shoes to fill," said Anita McMillan, director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of Vinton. "I was on the phone interview panel back in 1996 along with Lucy Ellett, Charlie Blankenship, and others, and boy, did we made a great decision hiring her. She is always there whenever I need help with the greenways in the town."

In the Vinton area, Belcher put together design professionals and volunteers to build the Wolf Creek Greenway pedestrian bridge near Lynn Haven Baptist Church. She was instrumental in getting the Pathfinders for Greenways Midweek Crew to remove silt build-up under the Washington Avenue Bridge throughout the years so

that Wolf Creek Greenway users could safely use the greenways from Hardy Road to the East County section without having to cross busy Washington Avenue. She worked diligently with Pathfinders volunteers on building the Gladetown Trail in Vinton. She is always hands-on and in the thick of things.

"On the Glade Creek Greenway Phase II last year, she, along with greenway volunteers Bud LaRoche, Janet Scheid, Tom Berdeen, and John Van Luik, removed/cut down diseased and/ or badly-shaped trees by April 15, 2020, before the construction took place to meet time of year restriction for bats," Mc-Millan said. "Two weeks ago, Liz and a volunteer, Shannon Palmer, removed downed trees along the Glade Creek Greenway from the recent storm events.

"Personally, I will miss Liz very much," said McMillan. "I am so glad that she will stay in the Roanoke Valley. Liz has gotten to know my son, Jameel, since he was 3 years old and he is now 28 years old; and my daughter, Kiara, who is 22 years old now."

"We all hate to see Liz retire, but she deserves it!' said former Vinton Town Council member Janet Scheid. "Liz has been the face of the Roanoke Valley greenway system and she has worked tirelessly to unite the valley with a linear walking trail. There is no doubt in my mind that we would not be as far along as we are without Liz's dedication and drive."

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ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH - 10cated 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 Hershberger, 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: AWANA 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.vintonbaptistchurch.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

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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

Dimecico

Watch Out For Pride

Read 2 Chronicles 24:1 through 26:23

After Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense (2 Chronicles 26:16).

Uzziah became king in Judah at sixteen years of age. During his reign, he fortified towers, dug wells, increased agriculture, invented weapons, and raised an impressive army. However, after forty blessed and prosperous years as king, he made a monumental mistake in judgment. He let pride settle in.

He entered into the sanctuary to offer incense on the golden altar, a ministry rite belong

ing to the consecrated temple priests, not him. When the high priest, along with a band of eighty priests, withstood him, Uzziah became furious. While screaming back at the priests, leprosy broke out on Uzziah's forehead. Sadly, he remained a leper, living in an isolated home until the day he died.

Pride can slip into a believer's life almost unnoticed. The consequences are never good. If pride ever raises its ugly head, deal with it immediately. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

Thought for Today: Humility is our best defense against pride.

Quicklook: 2 Chronicles 26:16-23



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If you would like to see

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va.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/ 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

NAZARENE

more information about how the teachings of 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; cmpc2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible School; Tuesdays & Thursdays Yoga ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHER- 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Tuesday Evening Bible AN CHURCH, "The Church Under The Cross", 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 METHOD-IST 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.





Alavna Abdelhadi



Alatorre

Acker

Josiah

Butterworth



Emily Andrews



Urunna Anyanwu

Summer

Bell



Keaton Band



Joshua **Barker**



Noe **Bautista-Cardenas**

Amna **Becirevic**



Beckner

Beckner-Pollard



Garrett **Belcher**



John **Belcher**





Augustus Blake



Christopher **Blankenship**

Kaylynn

Bryant



Kenneth **Blankenship**

Samuel

Bunn





Nick



Haleigh Bush



Tyler Buxton

Morgan

Booth



Jenna

Boyette

Nicholas Carter



Autumn

Brockerman



Robert

Brown



Elijah Chisom





Derek

Burton

Clements



Landon Cobble



Cochrane



Darion Coleman





Erin Courtemanche



Hallie Cox



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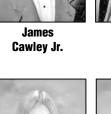




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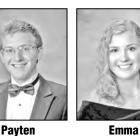




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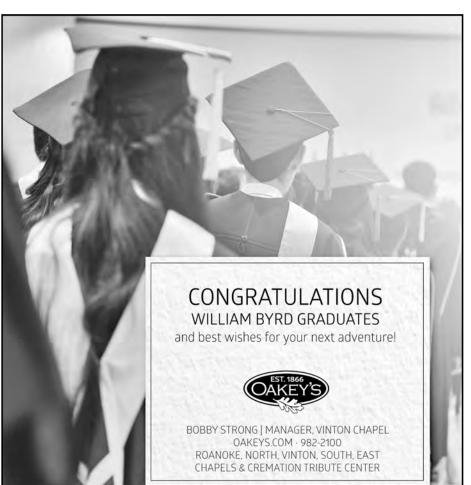
Tyler

Roseberry

Isaac Roth



Roth





John Rusinak



Joseph

Sandzimier



Sankbeil



Andrew Scott

Students graduating that are not pictured:

III

Dylan Daniel

Natalie Ferguson

Rafael Gonzalez

- Marcus Anderson
- Kayla Asbury
- Kian Bradac
- Kerion Carter .

Robert Cox

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> 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 May 27, 2021, 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

VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. CL21000419-00 Montgomery County Circuit Court 55 East Main Street Suite 1 Christiansburg, VA 24073 VADEN, KEILA ADAIRE

VADEN, JOSHUA LEE The object of this suit is to: COMPLAINT OF DIVORCE It is ORDERED that JOSHUA LEE VADEN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 4, 2021

May 4, 2021 ERICA W. CONNER CLERK

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Maintenance Tech (\$12/hr) Responsible for routine cleaning and maintenance of restrooms, facilities, grounds, trails, and assisting park rangers with various projects as needed.

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Sports

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Dean draws a crowd as Terriers shut out Northside

The radar guns were out in force Tuesday as William Byrd senior Tyler Dean got his first start on the mound. Dean didn't disappoint the many scouts on hand as he pitched five shutout innings of a 7-0 win.

What was all the fuss about? Dean has received a lot of attention after throwing in the high 90s during travel games last summer. He has committed to play for Virginia Tech but there's an excellent chance he'll be drafted in the Major League Baseball draft this summer, and the word was out that he would be starting against the Vikings on Tuesday.

"I've never seen so many radar guns," said Byrd coach Neil Zimmerman. "When I got to the



Tyler Dean pitches Byrd to a win over Northside Tuesday.

PHOTO BY BILL HOAL

Seniors shine in softball sweep

The William Byrd softball team will take a 5-1 record to Staunton River Friday night for a Blue Ridge District softball game. The Golden Eagles are 4-2, but undefeated in district play.

Byrd swept a doubleheader from William Fleming in Vinton last Friday, shutting out the Colonels in both games. It was a fitting time for "Senior Night" as

ballpark there were already a few scouts there, and when I came back from the fieldhouse there was about 15. By the time the game started I counted over 20."

Tyler pitched five innings and allowed three hits, striking out seven. He walked three.

"He has one of the best curveballs I've ever seen," said

Zimmerman. "I expect they were impressed."

With a 7-0 lead Zimmerman shut Dean down and called on Hunter Sipe to pitch the sixth inning. Ross Divers took care of the seventh, both pitching scoreless frames. It was the third shutout in a row for Byrd and the fourth in five games as they improved to 4-1.

Offensively, Ethan Tinsley got the Terriers on the scoreboard with an inside-the-park home run in the bottom of the second. The Northside leftfielder dove for the ball and missed it, and when it scooted past him Tinsley circled the bases.

"I don't know that I've ever seen an insidethe-park home run in our little ballpark," said Zimmerman.

Isaac Fix also homered, but his shot cleared the fence in a five run fourth inning. Joey Johnson had an RBI double for the Terriers.

The win followed a doubleheader sweep of William Fleming at Walthall Park last Friday. Both games were shutouts against an overmatched Fleming nine as the Terriers won 19-0 and 8-0.

Tinsley pitched the first game and went all four innings played. He allowed two hits, walked none and fanned eight. Sipe had three hits and Trenton Sayers and James Purcell had two each.

Divers pitched the



Above, Luke Taylor fires across the diamond for an out. Below, Joey Johnson checks in with a run in Tuesday's win over Northside. PHOTOS BY BILL HOAL



ting out the Colonels in both games. It was a fitting time for "Senior Night," as the Terriers honored seniors Hallie Cox, Rachel Cruff and Erin Courtemanche.

Cox made it a memorable night by tossing a no-hitter in the opener as Byrd took a 16-0 win. Courtemanche, Logan Pekala and Haleigh Vaughan had multiple hits and Courtemanche had two home runs and four runs batted in. Pekala had a triple and Vaughan smacked a double.

In the second game Byrd won 17-0. Cox pitched the first inning before giving way to Chloe Varney, who fanned four and allowed one hit, the only Fleming hit of the night in the two games combined.

Pekala, Vaughan and Brooklyn Peters had multiple hits as Byrd banged out 11 hits as a team. Keely Hoal had four runs batted in.

Byrd was scheduled to play at Northside Tuesday but that game was postponed. Next Tuesday, May 25, Franklin County is here.

Above left to right, Byrd seniors Rachel Cruff, Erin Courtemanche and Hallie Cox were honored on "Senior Night" as Byrd swept a doubleheader from William Fleming last Friday. Right, Courtemanche steams around third for the first of her two inside-the-park home runs against the Colonels. nightcap and picked up the win with four strikeouts in two innings.

Sayers came on and fanned four more, qualifying for a save with three innings pitched while finishing the game. Hunter Harris and Sipe had two hits each and Sipe drove in four.

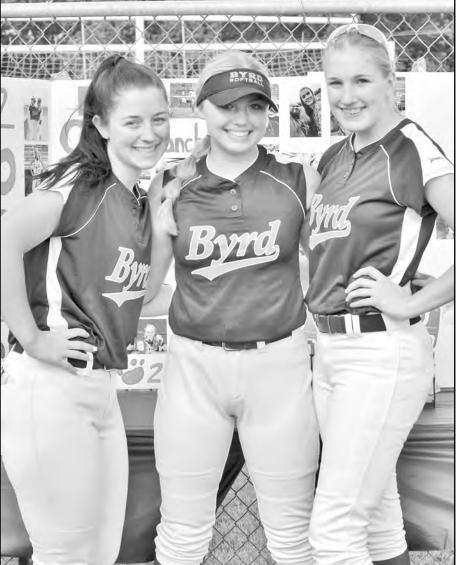
With the win and Lord Botetourt's loss to Franklin County on Tuesday Byrd, Botetourt and Franklin all have just one loss in the district. Byrd will take on Blue Ridge foe Staunton River in Moneta Friday with the first pitch scheduled for 5:30 pm.

"I really don't know what they

have," said Zimmerman. "After missing the season last year, anyone who is a senior was a sophomore the last time we had a high school season."

Next Tuesday, May 25, the Terriers are back home for a big game against Franklin County. That will be a jayveevarsity doubleheader, with the jayvees at 5 pm and the varsity to follow, under the lights. Byrd won the first meeting, 2-0 in Rocky Mount, and that's the only game the Eagles have lost in eight outings.





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Above, Byrd's Jackson Meador clears the bar in the high jump, and right Jamie Cawley long jumps in last week's track meet at Patterson Stadium. PHOTOS BY JEFF MARVIN

Terriers will host track meet Monday

William Patterson Stadium will be the site of a high school track meet on Monday, May 24, as the Terriers host William Fleming, Franklin County and possibly a couple other teams.

"Lord Botetourt was supposed to be in it but I think their graduation is that day," said Byrd coach James Pannell. "We may add a team or two but that is still in the works.'

Last Wednesday, May 12, Byrd hosted a four team meet in Vinton with Northside, Fleming and Franklin County providing the opposition on the fairly new Byrd track. On the boys' side Isaac Roth won the pole vault with a height of 10'6" and finished third in the 200m dash with a time of 24.65. Jamie Cawley finished second in the long jump with a leap of 18'5".

In the high jump Jackson Meador and Cawley tied for first by clearing 5'4". In the discus the top



finisher for Byrd was Kendal Howard with a fourth place throw of 83'10", and Doniven Davis finished fifth in the shot with a throw of 37'8.75".

Jeffery Williams was sixth in the 100m dash with a time of 12.25. Wyatte Bailey finished third in the 400m dash at 55.68 while Walker Nance won the 300m hurdles with a time of 45.16 and finished second in the 110m hurdles in 17.12.

On the ladies' side Sela Beatty won the 100m dash with a time of 13.45 and also won the 200m dash in 27.56. Grace Owen was fourth in the 400m dash with a time of 1:14.56.

Chloe Harrilla took third in the long jump with a distance of 14'9.50" and also finished tied for first in the high jump with a height of 4'8". Mya Rosser was first in the discus with a throw of 87'3" and Jaylen Rosser finished second (82'5") and Sarah Fuchs was third (69'1").



In the shot-put, Sydney Blewett finished first with a throw of 32'10" while taking a day off from the softball team. Mya Rosser was second in that even and (31'3") Jaylen Rosser took third(29'8").

The Terriers were scheduled to run at Staunton River on Wednesday of this week, but results were too late for publication.

Vikings nip Byrd boys in OT soccer game

William Byrd and Northside boys' soccer teams battled to a scoreless tie in regulation Tuesday, only to have the Vikings score in overtime and pull out a 1-0 win on the Northside pitch.

"We lost a tough one," said Byrd coach Russell Dishman. "What made it sting the most was that it was probably the best group performance we have had this season and we just could not get that final piece in front of the goal. We had to move guys around and they played in places that they normally don't, some in new spots altogether, and they stepped up and rose to the challenge.'

The loss dropped Byrd to 1-4 overall.

"It's tough explaining to the guys after a tough finish like that that it was a very impressive performance and I was beyond proud of what they did out there because as a player you hurt after something like that," said Dishman. "We just have to regroup in the next training session and prep for the next match. We need to prepare and work to create our own opportunities, and when that happens I look forward to seeing them have their moment.'

The Terriers are scheduled to play Staunton River on Friday night in the second game of a varsity doubleheader with the girls. The Eagles are 0-4.

Next Tuesday, May 25, the boys are at Franklin County.

Girls are 4-1 after shutting out Northside

The William Byrd girls' soccer team lit up the Patterson Stadium scoreboard with eight goals Tuesday night in a shutout win over Northside. Byrd improved to 4-1 with the 8-0 win in Vinton.

Byrd struck early as Claire Glover scored off a corner kick from Anna Milliron. The next two goals were by Chappell, and Hanna got her first of the night for the sixth goal of the game. Ella Ashworth had a breakaway, assisted by St. Clair, for the seventh tally and St. Clair finished off the scoring with an assist from Simmons.

The girls were scheduled to play at home again on

Byrd's Braden Crossen controls the ball.

PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY

"Nicest team in the district" sees tennis season come to an end

The tennis season came to an end for the William Byrd girls with losses to Staunton River and Franklin County last week.

Last Wednesday Byrd lost in Moneta, 7-2. Lexi Aquino won at number one singles and the second doubles team of Makenna Jacobsen and Timber Raines also won

Friday at Byrd the Terriers lost to Franklin County, 9-0. The girls finished the season with a 2-8 record and did not qualify for the regionals, which begin this week.

"It was a short and sweet season for us," said coach Kayla Mitchell. "I knew it would not pan out in our favor due to our team being so novice, but we had a lot of fun and I'm sure if it were asked who the nicest team was, ours would definitely get it this year. Looking forward to a new season next year."



Lexi Aquino played number one.

scored by Maddy Simmons, the first off an assist from Hanna Chappell and the second with an assist from goalie Sophia Chrisley. Addisyn St. Clair finished the first half scoring with an assist from Simmons.

Byrd came out strong in the second half, putting up four more goals to end the game early. Riley Firebaugh scored the first of the second half, assisted



Byrd lacrosse teams sweep Blacksburg

The William Byrd lacrosse teams swept a girls-boys doubleheader Monday night at Patterson Stadium. The lucky number was 11 as the girls opened with an 11-7 win over the Bruins and the boys followed with an 11-9 victory.

Ashlyn Stover led the girls with five goals in the win. Trinity Hylton added three and Bethany Beecher had two. Haley Firebaugh had five saves in goal.

In the boys game Jerze Webb scored a season high seven goals in Byrd's win. Connery McCarthy had two goals and Josh Barker and Kaden West had one each.

The boys are now 1-5 but continue to improve every game. Last week they dropped a 21-4 decision to a strong Rockbridge team. Webb had four goals in that one.

The girls also played Rockbridge and lost 15-2. Hylton and Beecher scored for Byrd and Beecher assisted on Hylton's score. Firebaugh had nine saves against a relentless Wildcat attack.

Wednesday against Lord Botetourt, the only team they had lost to. LB took a 3-0 win in a prior meeting in Daleville and the Byrd girls were anxious for revenge, but results were too late for publication.

On Friday the Terriers will be at Staunton River for a 5:30 pm game, and it's the first game of a varsity doubleheader with the boys.



Top left, Byrd's Kaden West(#4) goes to the goal against Rockbridge. Above, Ashlyn Stover(#10) wins a draw against the Wildcats.

PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

The girls will take a 4-3 record to Hidden Valley Monday night as they play in the first game of a doubleheader with the boys. The boys' team will be looking for their second win tonight when they host a Christiansburg team that squeaked by them in the first meeting. Tonight's game will be at 7 pm at Patterson Stadium.

Lacrosse is coming to William Byrd Middle School

The fastest growing sport in the United States is coming to William Byrd Middle Schoollacrosse. WBMS is announcing the offering of boys lacrosse next year. This will be open to all fifth through eighth graders who attend (or will attend) WBMS.

No experience is necessary. The goal is to provide high quality instruction in the game of lacrosse while building a sustainable feeder program for the high school varsity team. WBMS lacrosse will be coached by US Lacrosse certified coaches,

Jim Lasecki and Will Satterfield. They encourage all boys to come out and give it a try. Practices and games will be held primarily in the spring in accordance with Virginia High School League and Roanoke Valley Middle School League

schedules.

More information is available at http://tinyurl.com/wbmslacrosse

WBMS will be promoting girls lacrosse next year via the Terrier Lacrosse Club. All elementary and middle school aged

girls are welcome. The goal is to move the team into the school for the 2022-2023 year. This team will be coached by Kelsey Harris, who is U.S. Lacrosse certified. For more information contact board member Gloria Harris at gharris@rcps.us

Lacrosse alumni play Terrier Lacrosse Club team

The Terrier Lacrosse Club invited the William Byrd alumni and current players to their pickup game on May 11.

Éleven alumni and five current players attended, some traveling several hours to Roanoke to play with their former teammates.

Alumni players attending were: Taylor Hilliard (Class of 2016), Emily Hash and Kelsey Harris (Class of 2017), Tabitha Beecher, Natalie Ferguson, and Evamarie Pascoe (Class of 2018), Bishop Buck (Class of 2019 and Emmy Harris, Liz Hancock, Chloe Pascoe, and Roanna Hylton from the Class of 2020.

Current players attending the game were Bethany Beecher, Trinity Hylton, Haley Firebaugh, Ashlyn Stover and Madison Hare.

The alumni team was randomly divided into two teams. The oldest alumni, Taylor Hilliard, was selected as a team captain. The other team captain was Kelsey Harris, Terrier Lacrosse Club assistant coach. The club girls were then randomly placed on each team.

The ladies played 12 vs. 12 with two 15-minute halves. The club girls came out strong and really enhanced the older girls' play. The game remained remarkably close the entire time with the Harris team edging out the Hilliard team 8-6. It was amazing to see the younger girls be able to score against the very skilled goalies-Evamarie Pascoe and Haley Firebaugh.

Chloe Pascoe led the scoring with five goals, Madison Hare with two, and the following with one goal each: Kelsey Harris, Emmy Harris, Liz Hancock, and Bethany Beecher.

Club team girls scoring were Annika Hylton, Ava Sexton and Emma Rupe.



The lacrosse alumni and Terrier Lacrosse Club teams.



The winning team led by Kelsey Harris, Club team assistant coach.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Tai Chi and cards returning to **Vinton Community Center June 3**

Tai Chi classes are returning to the

The Tai Chi classes are free; all are Vinton Community Center on June welcome to try it out. Comfortable 3. The classes– Tai Chi for Arthritis loose clothing and closed toe, sneaker

Roanoke River Bridge rehabilitation project begins May 16

and Fall Prevention-will be held from 9:15 to 10 a.m. on Thursdays at the center.

These classes will be geared toward beginners and will be led by three certified instructors who have taught there previously, Chris Sager, Judy Gruber and Mike Ferguson.

Steve Garay, who started the classes years ago, has a conflict with the time, but will be available occasionally.

type shoes are recommended.

Cards will also be starting up again at the Vinton Community Center on June 3 from 10:15 a.m. to noon.

The Vinton Community Center is located at the Vinton War Memorial complex.

If you have questions, call Director of Community Programs Chasity Barbour at 540-400-1942 or email her at Cbarbour@vintonva.gov.



As we continue serving our families and limiting exposure to the COVID19 virus, we are now allowed to operate at 100% capacity while meeting all mandated social distancing and facial covering recommendations.

Most service options are now fully available.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

The Roanoke River Bridge at Milepost 114.7 on the Blue Ridge Parkway will close on May 16 for a major rehabilitation project.

National Park Service officials have announced the full closure of the Roanoke River Bridge on the Blue Ridge Parkway beginning on May 16 at Milepost 114.7. The closure is for the purpose of a major rehabilitation project and will affect motorists used to taking the Parkway from Vinton to Explore Park and Roanoke.

The Roanoke River Overlook/parking lot and trail access to the Roanoke River will be closed as well.

MP 115/Explore Park to MP 121.4/Route 220

in Roanoke will remain open.

Access to Explore Park will be available from the south via U.S. 220 at MP 121.4 and via Mill Mountain Parkway at MP 120.

Alternative access will be available via Rutrough Road.

The National Park Service and Federal Highway Administration identified this project as a priority in 2015, as part of the ongoing, multi-year road maintenance planning process for the Blue Ridge Parkway.

This project includes concrete repairs to bridge piers, reconstruction and drainage repairs to approach areas, removal of the existing asphalt surface and waterproofing membrane, installation of new waterproofing membrane and asphalt surface, and repainting of the steel superstructure of the bridge.

The closure is expected to begin on May 16 and be in place through the spring of 2022.

For updated information on this closure, visit the Blue Ridge Parkway website at https:// www.nps.gov/blri/learn/ news/roanoke-riverbridge-2021.htm.

Submit your community news and photos to

vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org.