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W.E. Cundiff welcomes new faculty and staff



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

W. E. Cundiff Elementary School is welcoming several new faculty and staff members for the 2021-2022 school year. They include: (front row, left to right) Drew Basham, Bailey Grubb, Jade Claunch, and Conner Hill; (middle row) Maria Williams, Hannah Jones, Jennifer Hill, Laura Barton, Elizabeth McGuire, and Shari Olsson, and (back row) Stephanie Sander, Teresa Johnson, Sarah Dolan, Tara Montague, and Marcie Martin. Paxton Sauerwald is not pictured.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

W. E. Cundiff Elementary School in Vinton is welcoming several new faculty and staff members for the 2021-2022 school year.

Conner Hill is the new assistant principal at WEC. She is from Troutville and currently lives in Roanoke City with her husband Matt, and their dog, Raleigh.

Hill graduated from James River High School in Buchanan and then earned her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with her Elementary Education (PK-6) teaching licensure from Roanoke College. She obtained her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Virginia Tech.

She began her teaching career with Botetourt County Public Schools,

where she taught kindergarten for two years in addition to teaching fourth grade for three years at Troutville Elementary School.

"I completed my administrative degree in December of 2020, and then finished up the school year with my fourth graders at Troutville Elementary School," said Hill. "While I loved teaching, I was eager to become an administrator, therefore when Roanoke County posted an assistant principal position opening, I was excited to apply! I ended up at W.E. Cundiff with Ashley McCallum, principal, and I couldn't be happier!"

"I am thrilled to begin my administrative career at W.E. Cundiff Elementary School!" Hill says. "Throughout my first month of work, I have had nothing but positive interactions with RCPS administrators, teachers, stu-

dents, and families. Ms. McCallum will be an excellent mentor to me, and I enjoy learning from her on a daily basis. Most importantly, I am excited to get to know all of our Cundiff kiddos and help them have a fantastic school year! Our Cundiff teachers and staff have been nothing but welcoming to me, and I am thankful to be a part of Team Cundiff!"

"I remember traveling to Vinton and playing against William Byrd in high school sports," Hill said. "Troutville is a small town filled with great support systems, which reminds me a lot of Vinton. I am looking forward to building relationships with the broader Vinton community."

"A fun fact about me is that I interviewed (virtually) for this assistant

See New Staff, page 4



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

A local family makes a donation to Load the Bus for Kids at the Bonsack Walmart, received by Chuck Lionberger (right), Director of Community Relations for Roanoke County Public Schools. Walmart partners with local school systems in the project.

Community 'loads the bus' with donations for students in need

Roanoke County Public Schools joined with Roanoke City, the City of Salem, Craig County, and the Walmart Corporation in their annual project "Load the Bus for Kids" to collect school supplies for students in need.

Roanoke County Schools Director of Community Relations Chuck Lionberger, who coordinates the project each year, said the program is in about its 20th year. The project started with Lionberger and Roanoke County schools, who were soon joined by surrounding districts.

Each year "Load the Bus" is held during Virginia's Tax-Free Weekend—this year from August 6-8.

All four Walmart stores in the Roanoke Valley participate—Bonsack, Clearbrook, Valley View, and Salem. Lionberger said Walmart is "determined to make the program bigger and better each year." They promote the event in their stores and encourage shoppers to donate.

Once the donations are collected, they are divided between the four school systems and then among the schools in each district. Donations at the Bonsack, Clearbrook and Valley View Walmarts are shared between Roanoke County and Roanoke City. The Salem Walmart splits their donations between Roanoke County, Salem City, and Craig County.

The impetus for "Load the Bus for Kids" is to provide school supplies for students

who might not be able to afford the tools they need to be successful in school.

Shoppers were invited to bring their donations to the school bus parked in front of each Walmart during announced hours, but they were also collected at the registers and in bins throughout the stores during regular business hours.

Volunteers including School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely, teachers and staff from all the participating localities, Central Office staff, bus drivers and aides, and student organizations helped to collect the supplies and load them on the bus, where they were sorted by categories.

The goal this year was to collect \$25,000 worth of supplies. The Back-to-School shopping lists distributed to customers entering the stores included: backpacks, glue sticks, notebooks, 3-ring binders, crayons, colored pencils, notebook paper (college and wide-ruled), pens, pencils, highlighters, rulers, folders, scissors, and construction paper. They also requested classroom items like tissues, hand sanitizer, printer paper, dry erase markers and more.

By Sunday evening when the drive came to a close, boxes were "over-stacked and overflowing" with supplies.

In addition to school supplies, monetary donations were also accepted. Lionberger promised that any money collected during the event would be used to purchase school supplies—"every item and every cent of your donations go to help students in need."

Lionberger says that in 2018 and 2019—pre-COVID—the community gave supplies with a retail value of over \$22,000.

He points to the

Macado's Dog Days of Summer returns to Lancerlot on Aug. 21



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Lancerlot Sports Complex (aka "The Lot") is proud to announce the return of the "Macado's Dog Days of Summer" event returns to the Lancerlot on Saturday, Aug. 21 from 2 to 5 p.m. This will be a free community event open to the public, especially all those with dogs, or those who are thinking about adopting a dog.

Lancerlot will host a dog "Adopt-a-thon" that day in conjunction with Angels of Assisi and other local animal adoption centers.

In addition to the Adopt-a-thon, Lancerlot Sports Complex will welcome the general public to the coolest activities for people and pooches.


The full regulation-sized ice rink will be turned into a cool dog park and the outdoor swimming pool will be open for dogs and their owners only.

Over 20 animal vendors will be on-site providing free services, offering door prizes, and more.

"We are very excited to be able to offer such a wonderful and cool event for all dogs and their owners to attend," said Lancerlot Sports Complex General Manager Joe Miller. "We hope that many dogs find a loving family and a new home during the Adopt-a-thon. Our goal for this event is to offer something different and unique for all dogs and owners alike across Virginia's Blue Ridge."

The Lancerlot held its first wildly successful "Macado's Dog Days of Summer" in August 2019 prior to the pandemic with plans of making it an annual event. Over 300 dogs and their families showed up. COVID-19 delayed the event's return for a year, but now it's back.

Lancerlot Sports Complex thanks the title sponsor, Macado's, and co-sponsors, the Town of Vinton and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce for their support of the event.



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used to purchase school supplies—"every item and every cent of your donations go to help students in need."

Lionberger says that in 2018 and 2019—pre-COVID—the community gave supplies with a retail value of over \$22,000.

He points to the

See Bus, page 5

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Adam Rutledge featured at August 14 Mingle concert

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its next Mingle at the Market Concert for 2021 on August 14 at the Vinton Farmers' Market. The concert will get underway on the HomeTrust Bank Stage at 7 p.m. with a performance by Adam Rutledge and his band, with special guest Cary Rutledge.

A Salem native, Adam Rutledge is a singer/songwriter who describes himself as a "country rocker—a modern-day country artist with a

rock edge." He started writing songs when he was just 8 years old. His first album, "Don't Stop," was released in a drive-in concert at the Salem Civic Center in September 2020 during COVID-19. He has just released his latest single, "Just for the Summer." When the video of his "Love Kickin' In" premiered on CMT.com it reached the No. 1 spot for most viewed video.

The featured food truck this week is the al-rockers popular Mountain Grille Food Truck. Craft

beer and adult beverages will be available for purchase.

Admission is \$6. This is a family-friendly event with children 12 and under admitted free of charge.

Bring your own seating and an ID. No pets are allowed. Wear a mask if you haven't been vaccinated. Since this is an outdoor event, those who are vaccinated can choose whether to wear a mask or not.

Member One is the lead sponsor for the 2021 Summer Concert Series. Diamond Level sponsors include Blue Ridge Beverage and the Vinton War Memorial. Special Sponsor is Roanoke County. Gold sponsors include Carilion Clinic, Winters Storage, and Servpro. Silver level sponsors include Berkshire Health Care, HomeTrust Bank, Lotz Funeral Home, Neely's Accounting, PFG, Coastal Insurance Planning of VA, Fox Radio 910, and The Vinton Messenger. Sherri Winkler of Nite Owl Artz has done the design work for the concert with printing by Vertex Signs.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Adam Rutledge will be the featured entertainer at the August 14 Mingle at the Market.



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Melanie King

Executive Director | Proclaiming Grace Outreach



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PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Angie Chewing

Filling in for Bootie

“You had me at Aloha!” was the theme of the weekend. A wedding shower was held for Drake Lewis and Hannah Jones at the Charles Hill Community Center. And what a good time it was! Folks came from all over to celebrate the couple. Wedding days are so busy, many don't get a chance to talk with the bride and groom so I thought this was a better time to visit, and for Hannah and her family to meet a lot of our family (we can be a bit overwhelming, lol).

Those joining us in the food and fun festivities were, of course, Nana Boo (Bootie), Abbie Lewis (Drake's sister), Tara, Steve and Emilee Jones (parents and sister of Hannah), Holden O'Boyle from Midlothian, Va., Uncle Greg Chewing, David Lewis from Myr-

tle Beach, Valerie (Bell), Kyle, Chase and Cade Hendricks, Lindsey and Amber (Bell) Wells, all in from Richmond; Suzanne and Jim Bell, David and Dahl Brown, Steve, Kristi (Carter), Finn, and Cole Griffiths in from London, Stacey (Edmonds) and Kylie Evans, Mark and Karen Chewing, Tim and Teresa Chewing, Alvin Chewing, Melanie Vest, Roxanna Price, Jack and Carolyn Mills (thank you for the amazing fruit bowl!), Kim Barker (thank you for everything!), Vickie Smith, Greg Boitnott, Kathryn Sowers, Bobby Conner, Ryan Dippel, Bradley Harless and Greg O'Neil – all groomsmen in the wedding, Jerry Franks, Jessica Brammer – bridesmaid, Nonie Hall, Candie and Richie Tomlinson, Michelle and Brian Barklow, Melissa and James Blankenship, Bobby Dillard, and Dan Webb.

Drake and Hannah got some many great gifts to start their new life. They got to debut their new

corn hole boards (made by Charlie Hartman of C&L Creations – outstanding boards). You all have no idea how much this day meant to me, Drake and

Hannah and our families. Thank you for being a part of such a fun day! Thank you to everyone that sent gifts and well wishes that could not be with us –we

missed you and hope to see you soon.

Don't forget Mingle at the Market this Saturday with Adam Rutledge. Mountain Grille

will be there, so come hungry! Gates open at 6:30, music starts at 7; \$6 entry fee, children under 12 free; ID required! Bring your own seating.



Mount Pleasant Lions show their appreciation to local teachers



The Mount Pleasant Lions Club treated teachers and staff at Mount Pleasant Elementary School to Deb's Lemonade on their first Teacher Appreciation Day, which the Lions hope will become an annual event.

Mount Pleasant Lions Club members showed their appreciation for the teachers and staff at Mount Pleasant Elementary School with cool treats on a hot day on August 5. They made arrangements with Deb's Lemonade for a truck to stop by the school and offer free slushies to the staff returning from summer break. Sandy Mathena, who is a Mount Pleasant teacher and a member of the Lions Club, was instrumental in organizing the event.

Mount Pleasant Lions program coordinator Mike Ferguson greeted the employees in the parking lot with some poetry on this first Teacher Appreciation Day from the Lions: “Soon the kids are back in school; but today we have Lemonade Slushies—so cool; So here we all are sharing a smile and a laugh; with the Mount Pleasant Elementary teachers and staff.”

He shared some personal history, recalling his childhood at Mount Pleasant Elementary, “shooting marbles in the schoolyard” which looked quite a bit different than today. In fact, the road to the school was gravel.

Ferguson said that Annie B. Stiff was the principal at Mount Pleasant in those days and also the impetus for starting the local Lions Club. Her husband had been a Lion, and she saw the need for a community organization.

The Mount Pleasant staff thanked the Lions for all they do for the school and community, and Deb's Lemonade for stopping by.

The Lions plan to treat the staff at Garden City Elementary with Deb's on August 19.

The Mount Pleasant Lions celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. The Lions Club is an international service organization-- the Lions motto, “WE SERVE.” The Mount Pleasant Club has chosen for those many years to be of service especially to the

children in the community.

In pre-COVID years, members have taken students from Mount Pleasant and Garden City on school shopping trips prior to the opening of school each fall to purchase school supplies. There is a Christmas shopping trip as well. The Lions Club contributes to the schools' clothes closets by providing new underwear and socks.

The Lions contribute to a weekend food backpack project to make sure children don't go hungry when they are out of school. They stop by the school to read to students on “Read Across America Day.” They conduct vision screenings for students in several local schools.

When Rivermont School moved into the Garden City/Mount Pleasant area in the former Piggly Wiggly store, the Lions adopted those students as well. In fact, they donated the club's piano to Rivermont.

The Mount Pleasant Lions also maintain historic Kefauver Cemetery; they do regular roadside clean-ups, and support eye-glass recycling.

The pandemic put a little damper on club ac-

tivities, but they managed to meet monthly via Zoom. Anne Ferguson currently serves as president of the club. Tommy Moore serves as vice president, Janet West as secretary, and Warren Burger as treasurer.

The Mount Pleasant Lions used some of their time during the health crisis to renovate their meeting hall, the “Lions' Den” located on Mayfield Drive, built in 1976. Improvements included new heat and A/C units in the Lions space, as well as the two duplex rental apartments in the building, new dry wall, color coordinated paint and moldings, window treatments and chairs. In addition, a new food service table, beverage station, bulletin board and library table were put in place.

The Mount Pleasant Lions are one of the few Lions Clubs that are fortunate enough to have their own building. The meeting space at 2432 Mayfield Drive is made available to the community and groups for baby showers, birthday parties, family reunions, etc. (More information on renting the meeting hall is available from Lee Whitbeck at 400-0008 or Wayne Wray at 427-0525.)



Cassandra Taylor, a longtime Deb's customer and recent employee, serves Deb's Lemonade at Mount Pleasant.



Mike Ferguson, programs coordinator for the Mount Pleasant Lions Club, expresses the club's appreciation to the faculty and staff at Mount Pleasant Elementary.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
17			18					19				
20			21					22				
23											26	27
		28					29				30	
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38							39	40				41
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51				52	53	54				55	56	57
		58								59		
60	61							62	63			64
65												67
68								69				70

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Calls balls and strikes
 4. Turkish officer
 9. Repaired shoe
 14. Grass genus
 15. Small, sealed vial
 16. Primp
 17. Immoral act
 18. A tool to communicate
 20. Crumbles away
 22. Egg-like
 23. Districts (abbr.)
 24. Dressed
 28. Small island (British)
 29. Dialect of Chinese
 30. Force unit
 31. Borderlines
 33. Norse gods
 37. Morning
 38. Fiddler crabs
 39. Tell a story
 41. Consumed
 42. Atomic #58
 43. About old Norse poems
 44. Fencing swords
 46. One-time Tigers third baseman
 49. Southpaw (abbr.)
 50. Neither
 51. Conversations
 55. Distinctive manner or pronunciation
 58. Cyprinids
 59. Appropriate to a festival
 60. Pearl Jam frontman
 64. Wrath
 65. Italian city
 66. A way to get there
 67. A nose or snout
 68. German seaport
 69. A horse for riding
 70. Airline representative (abbr.)
- CLUES DOWN
1. Unhappy
 2. Silk fabric
 3. Unbroken view of a region
 4. Middle Eastern territory
 5. ___ and Andy, TV show
 6. Central processing unit
 7. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 8. Midcentury newspaper columnist
 9. Weapon
 10. Delivered a speech
 11. Probably going to happen
 12. Midway between northeast and east
 13. Danish krone
 19. Synthetic resin (abbr.)
 21. Fall slowly in drops
 24. Bestow an honor upon
 25. Childishly silly
 26. Related on the mother's side
 27. Populations of related plants
 31. Coherent
 32. Tribe of ancient Britons
 34. Financial firm Goldman ___
 35. Stephen King thriller
 36. Went in again
 40. Commercial
 41. Poking holes in the ground
 45. Prisoners of war
 47. Pursued pleasure
 48. “Seinfeld” character
 52. Body of water
 53. Hovering vehicle (abbr.)
 54. People who utilize
 56. Nostrils
 57. Inner mass of some fungi
 59. Honor lavishly
 60. Midway between east and southeast
 61. Turn down
 62. Small round mark
 63. Expected at a certain time

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New Staff

from page 1

principal position when I was out of the country in St. Lucia for my postponed honeymoon," Hill said. "While there, a volcano erupted on a nearby island that kept us from getting home to my second in-person interview, which had to be postponed until I could arrive back in Roanoke."

Laura Barton is working this year as an instructional assistant at W.E. Cundiff. She was born and raised in Vinton and graduated from William Byrd High School with the Class of 2005. She has been an IA at Herman L. Horn Elementary since 2019.

Barton spent 12 years in both restaurant and retail management and decided she would look for a career with more fulfillment.

Her grandmother and both parents attended William Byrd High School. She herself was a student at W.E. Cundiff Elementary.

Drew Basham is teaching fifth grade Language Arts at Cundiff. She is from Salem and a graduate of Salem High School. She received her Master's Degree in Education from Liberty University and her BA in Psychology from Radford University.

Basham was an instructional assistant at Burlington Elementary for two years before student teaching (hybrid) at Green Valley. She then taught fourth grade virtually at two separate schools.

"I taught virtually in the spring at Masons Cove and W.E. Cundiff," Basham said. "I knew from the second I walked through the doors that Cundiff was home."

"I am happy to be teaching at Cundiff because I know the staff cares immensely about the students," Basham said. "They put the whole child first above anything else. The fifth grade teachers are very knowledgeable, and I am humbled to be a part of their team. I am excited to begin fulfilling my purpose and will always be

driven by my 'why.'"

Jade Claunch is one of the new Special Education teachers at W.E. Cundiff this year. She grew up in Ohio and now lives in Bedford County. She graduated from James Madison University with her master's degree in May 2021.

"I am a first-year teacher, and I am excited to be part of Team Cundiff!" Claunch says.

She spends her spare time at Smith Mountain Lake and is a dog lover.

Sarah Dolan is an instructional assistant at Cundiff this year. She grew up in Covington and graduated from Covington High School. She graduated from the Staunton School of Cosmetology as a Cosmetologist, and then from the ECPI Medical Careers Institute with an Associate Degree in Medical Assisting.

"My husband and I moved to Virginia Beach, where he was stationed at NAS Oceana in the U.S. Navy," Dolan says. "We lived there for eight years and in the meantime had our twin boys. After discharging from the Navy, we moved back to be near family, and my husband's job opportunity brought us to Vinton."

The family moved to Vinton in 2018 and her twin boys started at Cundiff in the second grade.

"I have been active on the PTA Board and served as the vice president of Membership and Volunteers the past couple of years," Dolan said.

"I am very excited to be working at W.E. Cundiff and looking forward to the new school year," Dolan said.

Bailey Grubb will be teaching kindergarten this year at Cundiff. She is from Roanoke and graduated from Northside High School. She completed her undergraduate degree at Virginia Tech, majoring in Human Development, and earned her Master's Degree

in Elementary Education from Virginia Tech as well.

"I knew I wanted to teach in Roanoke County and Cundiff has given me that opportunity," said Grubb, who will be in her first year of teaching.

"I am super excited to be working at Cundiff this year!" Grubb says. "I am excited to be a part of a school with great administrators and other educators I will be able to learn from. I am also super excited to be in Vinton and teach in a great, close-knit community."

"I am a lover of all sports!" said Grubb, who played against William Byrd in high school. "I grew up playing softball and basketball and continue to be involved in the world of sports by coaching."

Jennifer Hill is teaching third grade math and social sciences at Cundiff this year. She is from Daleville. She graduated from Chancellor High School in Fredericksburg and then earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication from Radford University in 1994. She received her teacher certification/licensure in 2013. This will be her ninth year in teaching. She taught kindergarten for one year, second grade for two years, and the rest have been in third grade.

"I am excited to be a part of such a dedicated team!" Hill says.

In her spare time, she loves to spend her time with her family, reading, and working out.

Teresa Johnson will be serving as the Special Education coordinator at Cundiff this year.

"As the Special Education coordinator, I will coordinate all Special Education processes, serve as a consultant and mentor to all instructional staff in the building regarding Special Education services, and assist parents and students with any questions, concerns, or needs in relation to the special education program," Johnson said. She was born in Abingdon and has been a resident of Roanoke County since her parents relocated here in 1969, with the exception of five years spent in California and Connecticut while her ex-husband was in the military. Three of her children live in the Roanoke Valley.

She graduated from Northside High School, then earned her B.S. in Family/Child Development from Virginia Tech. She received her Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction/Reading Education and Certification in Special Education from the University of Virginia. She is working to complete her Certification in Educational Leadership from James Madison University.

Johnson transferred to Cundiff from Northside High School where she served as a Special Education teacher and reading specialist. She has 21 years of teach-

ing experience.

"I enjoy working with elementary age students, and I am looking forward to serving the families of the W.E. Cundiff community and supporting the instructional staff at W.E. Cundiff," Johnson said.

"I am also a licensed reading specialist trained in Orton Gillingham and Lindamood Bell," Johnson says. "I have a special interest in dyslexia intervention and am pursuing certification as a Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist through the International Dyslexia Association."

Hannah Jones is a Remediation teacher at Cundiff this year. She says she was "born and raised in Roanoke" and graduated from William Byrd High School. She earned her Interdisciplinary Studies (Elementary Education) Degree from Radford University.

"This is my first year of full-time teaching!" Jones said. "I have done many internships in all grades except fifth; my student teaching last year was in kindergarten."

She is excited to be working at WEC this year—"I get to work with an amazing staff, and I get to meet new students and start building relationships!"

Marcie Martin will be an instructional assistant working with first, second, third and fifth graders in reading and math. She is from Roanoke and a graduate of Cave Spring High School. She studied Early Childhood Education at Virginia Western Community College and Radford University. All three of her children "graduated" from W.E. Cundiff.

Martin has worked in the field of education for 10+ years in various capacities.

"I love the TEAM environment at WEC," Martin says.

As for her spare time, "I love spending time with family and friends and attending sporting events watching my kids."

Elizabeth McGuire is working as an instructional assistant for kindergarten through fourth grade at Cundiff this year. She is from Roanoke and graduated from William Fleming High School, but recently moved back here after living in Chesapeake for about eight years. She earned her Associate Degree in Science from Tidewater Community College. She taught fifth grade geology with the ODU STEM program.

Her mother, Kim Wood, is a preschool instructional assistant at Cundiff. Her entire family lives in the Roanoke County area, "so I have a lot of love, support, and memories in this area."

"I am so excited to be working at W.E. Cundiff this year!" McGuire says. "All of the staff and community have been wonderful and I'm so excited to be a part of the Terrier family!"

"I am the biggest Harry Potter fan you'll ever meet, and I hope I can spread some magic into all the students at W.E. Cundiff Elementary," McGuire says.

Tara Montague will be teaching first grade at W.E. Cundiff. She is originally from Berkeley Springs, W.Va., and graduated from Berkeley Springs High School. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in History from Radford University and her Master of Arts in Teaching from Hollins University.

"I originally graduated from Radford with a history degree," Montague said. "Shortly after I graduated, I realized that I had no idea what I wanted to do with that degree, so I worked as an instructional assistant at Glenvar Elementary for three years. While I was there, I immediately realized that working in education was where I was meant to be, so about halfway through my time at Glenvar, I started working on my Master of Arts in Teaching at Hollins and graduated in May 2016."

"During the 2020-21 school year, I was a virtual first grade teacher for RCP-SOnline," Montague said. "While it wasn't necessarily what I was trained to do, it was a 'build-the-plane-as-you-fly-it' experience that uniquely prepared me for the rest of my career in education."

Montague has now worked for three years as an instructional assistant and one year as a virtual teacher.

"I am excited to work at WEC for many reasons," Montague explains. "For one thing, I've heard amazing things about the climate, staff, and administration here, and I already feel supported and welcomed by everyone I've met! Secondly, my husband and I have lived in the Roanoke Valley for five years, and right up the road from WEC for three of those years. We love Vinton, and I am so excited to be able to serve our community in such an impactful way."

Shari Olsson is an instructional assistant this year at WEC. She is originally from Omaha, Neb., but has lived here for 22 years. She graduated from Bryan High School and earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

She worked for seven years as a PALS tutor in Franklin County and then applied for the IA position at Cundiff, with "their awesome administration, staff, and students."

Stephanie Sander will be teaching kindergarten at WEC. She is from Cincinnati, Ohio and graduated from Lakota West High School in West Chester, Ohio. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from Northern Kentucky University and then taught second grade in

Northern Kentucky.

"In July 2021, I relocated from Northern Kentucky to Roanoke to be with my high school sweetheart!" Sander said. "Being new to the area, I applied to so many places and was lucky enough to receive an offer from W.E. Cundiff. It is apparent that W.E. Cundiff has the best interests in mind for their team and kids."

"I have wanted to be an elementary teacher since I was in preschool," Sander said. "Outside of teaching, my favorite thing in the world is being with my family! All of my family (immediate and extended) lives in the Cincinnati area and we are very close."

Paxton Sauerwald is the ELL teacher working with grades K-5 at W.E. Cundiff. She is from Roanoke and a graduate of Hidden Valley High School. She majored in Liberal Studies at Bridgewater College as an undergraduate, and then received her Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Radford University.

WEC was added to her caseload this year due to ELL student numbers. This will be her sixth year in teaching.

"I am excited for a new opportunity," Sauerwald said. "My teaching license is PreK-6, so I am excited to get back to the 'littles' as I like to call them. For the past five years, I've been with middle and high school students."

As for other interests, "I love soccer. I play for the women's adult league team here in Roanoke, but I also referee soccer. I've been refereeing for 15 years (rec, travel, middle school, high school, and college). This upcoming season will be my fifth year refereeing college, and my third year refereeing D1 for schools like Va. Tech and JMU."

"I love to travel," she said. "My fiancé and I enjoy travelling to many places around the U.S. and abroad. We just returned from a two-week trip to Montana and Wyoming where we got to go to three National Parks (Grand Teton, Yellowstone, and Glacier)."

Maria Williams is the new LIFE Counselor at W.E. Cundiff.

"I will be providing individual and group therapy to students and provide mental health supports to students, families and staff," Williams explained.

She is a graduate of Glenvar High School. She majored in psychology and minored in Art and Visual Technology at George Mason University and attended Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass., where she received her Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, specializing in Art Therapy.

"I'm so excited to be working with the students and staff at W. E. Cundiff!" Williams said. "Looking forward to a great year!"

The Vinton Messenger

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ourvalley.org

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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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Bus

from page 1

contributions made by the personnel at the Walmart stores, the

RCPS warehouse staff, and a multitude of volunteers for the ef-

iciency and success of the program over such a long period of time.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Bus driver Melissa Welch and Roanoke County Schools Director of Community Relations Chuck Lionberger collected donations at the Bonsack Walmart on August 7. Lionberger organized the program some 20 years ago to provide school supplies for children in need. Welch has volunteered her time collecting donations for the past eight years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RCPS

The goal for 2021 is to collect \$25,000 worth of school supplies. Once items are collected they are divided among participating school systems—Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Salem City, and Craig County. Distribution is made easier by sorting as you go.

Roanoke Valley Dulcimers return to perform at Vinton History Museum

The Roanoke Valley Dulcimer Group presented an outdoor concert for the public in the pergola at the Vinton History Museum on August 7. Musicians Jesse Shelor, Cathie Shelor, Gloria Howell, Angie Martin, Carla Fosbre, Ronda Vanover, Earl Vanover, and Holly Lauderdale entertained with a variety of old-time Appalachian and Irish tunes, hymns, folk songs, and more.

A dulcimer is a unique percussion instrument with an ancient history, dating back to the Middle Ages in many parts of Europe. The word “dulcimer” is derived from the Latin word dulcis (“sweet”) and the Greek word melos (“song”) and produces what many describe as “sweet sounds.” Dulcimers are typically played on one’s lap and plucked like a guitar.

This was their second performance at the museum. The first was pre-COVID in September 2019.

The group says at that point they had “big plans” which had to be put on hold during the pandemic. But now they are back. During the most restrictive times of the pandemic the group attempted to practice together via Zoom—not an easy task. Once the guidelines loosened up, Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church in Vinton offered them its pavilion for rehearsals.

The Vinton History Museum is open on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and often provides special programs, such as the dulcimer concert, on those days. They are also open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for tours and research. Admission is free.

Upcoming museum events include a fundraising yard sale on Saturday, Sept. 11. The museum is in need of gently used, sellable items for the sale. Christmas/holiday décor

is also welcome. You may bring donations to the museum located at 210 East Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton during their regular business hours.

The History Museum will be open on October

2 for Fall Festival Day. The annual Holiday Open House is scheduled for December 4.

The museum always welcomes volunteers and will match you up to a role that matches your interests, skills, and schedules.

History Museum is recruiting new individual and business members to support the work of the museum.

The museum maintains two Facebook pages—the Vinton History Museum page and Vinton Memo-

ries and History, packed with information about days gone by in the town.

For more information call the museum at 342-8634, email info@vinton-historymuseum.org, or check out the Facebook pages.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Roanoke Valley Dulcimers presented an outdoor concert at the Vinton History Museum on August 7. Musicians included (from left) Jesse Shelor, Cathie Shelor, Gloria Howell, Angie Martin, Carla Fosbre, Ronda Vanover, Earl Vanover, and Holly Lauderdale. Spectators Denny and Jan Dickens are in the background.

Head Start enrollment now open

Families are invited to enroll their children in Head Start, the free

childcare program at TAP. This program serves children ages 6

weeks to 4 years old for full- and part-time childcare. They enroll children year-round for their Head Start and Early Head Start childcare programs.

Head Start programs include important education and learning skills as well as health services and screenings, teach good eating habits and manners, support parents, and promote physical activity.

Call 767-6094 or email tapheadstart@tapintofope.org. You can also visit <https://tapintofope.org/event/head-start-open-enrollment>.



North named to Virginia Tech Dean’s List

Adam P. North, a senior majoring in Public Relations in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, is among the Virginia Tech students named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2021 semester. North is from Roanoke

and the son of Phil and Bonnie North.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must complete at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

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TOWN OF VINTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INVITATION TO BID

PROPOSED GRANTING OF TWO EASEMENTS TO ROANOKE GAS COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE, REPAIR, REPLACE AND MAINTAIN A GAS LINE (WITH APPLIANCES AND ACCESSORIES USEFUL AND NECESSARY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH) OVER, UNDER, THROUGH AND ACROSS THE LAND IN THE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA AND INVITATION TO BID

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 15.2-2100 et seq., of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Town Council of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. or immediately thereafter, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider approving an Ordinance proposing to grant two easements to Roanoke Gas Company to construct, install, operate, repair, replace, and maintain a gas pipeline (with appliances and accessories useful and necessary in connection therewith) over, under, through and across 2121 and 2131 Cardinal Park Drive (Tax ID No. 071.07-03-04.00-000 and 071.11-01-01.00-0000) (“Property”) in the Town of Vinton, Virginia. The Property is owned jointly by the Town of Vinton and Roanoke County, Virginia.

In addition, the Town shall publicly receive bids for the proposed easements from other providers. Interested parties shall submit bids in writing by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 to Susan N. Johnson, Town Clerk, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia. Any bids will be opened in public session and marked for identification by the Town Clerk. The cost of this advertisement shall be paid by the town which shall be reimbursed by the company to whom the easements are granted. The town shall have the right to reject any and all bids and reserves this right in the advertisement.

Any additional information concerning this public meeting is available in the Town Manager’s Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. 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



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Masks required indoors for all RCPS students, staff, visitors beginning Aug. 12

Roanoke County Public Schools (RCPS) announced on July 27 that, at that time, the School Board did not plan to add a local requirement for masks to be worn in school for the start of the school year.

Since that time, on both July 27 and August 5, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) revised its guidance for the safe opening of PK-12 schools, and Gov. Northam has made it clear that the law passed by the Virginia General Assembly (SB1303) has the legal effect of making CDC recommendations actual requirements, to the maximum extent practicable.

Since the CDC requirements include universal masking in grades PK-12 for students,

staff, and visitors, RCPS students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks indoors in schools, beginning August 12. The CDC requires masks to be worn indoors and on buses.

Students and staff will not be required to wear masks during outdoor activities, and schools will be instructed to allow students to have brief mask breaks throughout the day, as long as they can observe physical distancing. Masks are also not required while eating or drinking.

According to the School Board, "Overall, students did a wonderful job with wearing masks in schools last school year and while in summer programs. It is safe to say that most of us do not enjoy wearing masks and

we certainly wish this step were not needed. We do know, however, that requiring everyone to wear masks indoors will not only keep RCPS in compliance with state law, doing so will also lead to fewer students having to quarantine due to contact tracing rules. This means more students will benefit from in-person learning each day."

In addition to masks, the CDC also requires that school districts consider additional layers of mitigation to the extent practicable. Additional RCPS mitigation strategies are outlined in the health plan provided on the RCPS website (www.rcps.us) and include increased ventilation, screening, cleaning, and physical distancing to

the extent practicable. Extra precautions for extracurricular activities are also in place.

Options for students wanting full-time, online instruction will also be expanded in grades K-8 to include an option for students who request online learning but do not have COVID-related medical documentation as previously required.

To provide these expanded options, RCPS will use a variety of instructional delivery methods in addition to Virtual Virginia, and staff is working to make these arrangements. Parents of children already on a waiting list for online learning will be contacted as soon as arrangements are finalized, as soon after August 12 as is possible.

sible.

"Thank you for your patience as we have continued to receive information and make decisions in the interest of students' learning and safety," the School Board said in a press release. "Our teachers and staff are hard at work preparing for the first day of school and are excited to have our students return on August 12."

During the 2021-2022 school year, the elementary day will run from 7:45 a.m.-2:25 p.m., Monday through Friday. The middle school and high school day will run from 8:20 a.m.-3:25 p.m., Monday through Friday. All high school classes will return to an A/B alternating block schedule.



From the Pulpit

'Low Risk, Low Reward'

"What the world often sees are devoted, committed Christians serving God to the best of their ability.... They are not seeing God because Christians are not attempting to do anything that only God can do (Henry Blackaby, Experiencing God)."

Vinton Baptist has begun a series on the uncomfortableness of answering God's call by discussing the story of one of Israel's most notable Judges—Gideon.

In the beginning, Gideon was clearly not a man known for taking uncomfortable risks. In order to remain safely hidden and out of sight from the Midianites, his story began with Gideon threshing wheat in a winepress. After God's

call led him out of that cellar and ordered him to tear down the altars of the Canaanite gods, once again, Gideon chose the safest path. Exercising caution, Gideon tore down all of the Baal and Asherah poles under the cover of night to avoid being identified as the culprit.

When God called Gideon to be a Judge, Gideon asked for three different signs of assurance so that he could be safely assured this was God's will. When God told Gideon to sneak down into the camp of the Midianites in order to avoid the risk of being spotted alone, he took with him his servant, Purah.

Like Gideon, I too like to minimize risks. Before making a pur-

chase, I like to read many different reviews and customer ratings to be sure I am making the best choice. When looking for a new restaurant, I usually stick with the places that friends and family have recommended. When the boys go outside by themselves, they are only allowed to play in the safety of our backyard until Whitney and I are able to join them. In just about every area of life, I like to reduce threats and avoid potential dangers.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus told a parable about the importance of making plans, considering outcomes, and minimizing risks. He said: "Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider

whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace (Luke 14:31-32)." His point: risk management is important. Before making an important decision, we must consider the potential outcomes. Once the king discovered he was outnumbered and waging war was too great a risk, he chose a different way.

Scripture certainly does not encourage us to take unnecessary risks that put ourselves or others in harm's way. However, scripture is full of God's call leading his people into risky situations with seemingly

impossible odds.

Gideon was called to fight tens of thousands with only 300 men. David was called as a boy to face a giant on the battlefield. Daniel was called to reject the king's food and enter a fiery furnace. Jesus called his disciples to leave everything behind—lucrative careers, family-owned businesses, friends, relatives, and hometowns—to follow him.

For each of these, the risk was great. And yet, if God had only called them to do things that they could accomplish themselves, the world may have never seen their God accomplish the impossible through them.

How might God be calling you to take a step of faith? What is it that

God needs the world to see through you that only he can do?

If we only do things for God that we can safely accomplish ourselves, we may be all the world ever sees. However, if we are willing to trust God to work through us to do things only God can achieve, the world might just see the God we serve. That kind of faith may raise the stakes and increase our risks, but the rewards will be eternal. As we find in scripture, when it comes to answering God's call and following his will, an old saying comes to mind: "Low risk, low reward."

By The Rev. Travis Russell, Vinton Baptist Church

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 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.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

BELMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST), 1101 Jamison Ave. SE, Roanoke, VA 24013, 540-343-7502, Worship Services every Sunday at 11:00AM, Pastor Terry Brace. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday!

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.

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eckva.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

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 Fa-

mous 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

Peace in the Chaos

Read Luke 21:1 through 22:71

Do we ever look at our world and ask, "What happened?"

The moral climate seems to have plunged. Sin is rampant. Nuclear war threatens. A bad economy has become the new way of life. And what's with all these record-breaking natural disasters?

It's easy to wonder if the end of world is near and become so afraid that we panic.

"When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away" (Luke 21:9).

Many times through the past two thousand years, people have panicked over the state of the

world. Jesus had a word for them and for us: "Do not be frightened."

The world may change, but God is still in control.

Bad times can bring good results. As society disintegrates people tend to turn to God, and revival can occur. Challenges even make believers depend on God more. Our survival plan should be to prepare ourselves spiritually for whatever God brings—in good times or bad.

Challenge for Today: Think of a way to point people to Jesus when they express their fears about the future.

Quicklook: Luke 21:5-18

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

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SPORTS

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Byrd football team will scrimmage at Glenvar Friday, volleyball will host Glass Tuesday

The first scrimmages of the fall sports season will be held this week as high school teams prepare for their first fall seasons since 2019. Last year's fall season was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic and played on a limited schedule in the late winter and early spring.

The William Byrd football team have their first scrimmage this Friday at Glenvar. The scrimmage was originally scheduled for 5 pm but moved to 6:30 pm due to logistics of getting a bus to take the Terrier team.

Byrd's second scrimmage will be on Friday,

August 20, at Patterson Stadium in Vinton. The Terriers will host Rockbridge and it will be a "Benefit Game," played like a regular game but counted as a scrimmage. The Terriers open the regular season at home on August 27 against Liberty.

The William Byrd Middle School football team will participate in a jamboree today at Salem Stadium at 5 pm. The Terriers, host Andrew Lewis, William Fleming and Patrick Henry will participate, pairing off and using half the field per scrimmage.

The Byrd volleyball team will scrimmage E.C. Glass next Tuesday, August 17, at home. The jay-

vees will open the scrimmage at 5:30 pm with the varsity to follow.

The Terriers will also participate in the Rockbridge Jamboree. The jayvees will travel to Rockbridge this Saturday and the varsity will compete on Saturday, August 21, in a jamboree that will include over 20 high school volleyball teams. Byrd will open the season on Tuesday, August 24, at home against Hidden Valley.

The golf season is already underway and the cross country season won't take the gun until September.



William Byrd sports teams were busy Monday as they prepare for the upcoming fall season. Above, the volleyball team practices serving in the high school gym. Right, Terrier football players warm up for a practice on a warm day. So warm, in fact, that the team was not allowed to practice in helmets and pads with the first scrimmage just days away. Below, it was picture day for some of the Terrier teams. Here the Byrd cheerleaders have their pictures taken on the "WB" at Patterson Stadium.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Bruins win Metro Golf at Botetourt Golf & SC

Terriers 11th

Blacksburg High School shot a team score of 294 to win the first Botetourt Metro Tournament at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club Tuesday. The William Byrd golfers finished 11th among the 13 teams competing.

This year's Metro was a one-day affair hosted by the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club, and it's planned to be an annual event. In past years the "Bob McLelland Metro Tournament" was a two-day, 36 hole tournament at two different locations. However, the folks who had been running the Metro opted to step aside and, when no one could be found to take over, Jeff Sprinkel of the Botetourt G&SC stepped up and offered to run a one day Metro.

Blacksburg's team score of 294 was eight strokes better than second place Salem. Nate Faulkner of Cave Spring was the medalist on the par 71 course with a four-under 67. Jake Albert of Blacksburg was second at 69.

Byrd's best score was 85 by senior Griffin Horacek. Also scoring for the Terriers were Evan Mullen at 89, Kendrick South at 90 and Nathan Carter at 93 for a team total of 357. Madeline Cunningham also played for Byrd and carded 96.

The Terriers are back on the links on Tuesday, August 17, for a Blue Ridge District mini-match at the Westlake Country Club, hosted by Franklin County. A week from today, on August 19, Byrd will host Salem and Bassett in a non-district match at Blue Hills.

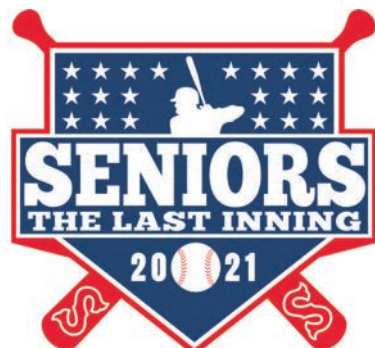
Senior Baseball games are at Salem Memorial Saturday

There wasn't much good that came out of the coronavirus pandemic in the year 2020, but one positive you can point to is the Senior Baseball event at Haley Toyota Field in Salem.

Last year, with the high school spring sports seasons cancelled, the Salem Red Sox and members of the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame board decided to have games for players who missed their senior seasons. Seniors were split up into four teams for two games played at Haley Toyota Field, home field for the Salem Red Sox. It proved to be such a popular event that it was decided to make it an annual affair, even when the regular baseball season returned.

This Saturday, the Red Sox and the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame will again put on a doubleheader for seniors in Salem, and it's free of charge for spectators. Two seven inning games will be played with a special presentation in between.

The first game will begin at 4 pm between teams wearing Navy and Red shirts. The Navy team will consist of players from William Byrd, Lord Botetourt and Glenvar, and they'll take on the Red team with



players from Hidden Valley, James River, North Cross and Eastern Montgomery. Byrd will be represented by graduated seniors Tyler Martin, Dylan Hatfield, Isaac Fix, Tyler Dean and Seth Hodges. Byrd's Neil Zimmerman and Doug Pence will be two of the four coaches for the team along with Glenvar's Jeremy Cromer and Todd Smith of LB.

After the first game the Salem-Roanoke Valley Hall of Fame will have a special presentation of the annual Ray Bellamy Award for the



Player of the Year in the area served by the Hall of Fame. That area includes the counties of Alleghany, Roanoke, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin and Montgomery and the independent cities located within the boundaries of those counties.

The five finalists this year, as voted on by high school coaches in the eight-county area of the Hall of Fame along with Hall of Fame Board members, are Tyler Dean and Isaac Fix of William Byrd, Corey Sigmon of Northside, Holden

Wilkerson of Cave Spring and Michael Williams of Franklin County. There will also be a presentation to an area player as winner of the Posey Oylar Scholarship, sponsored by the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame and awarded to a player who will go on to play in college and has shown a dedication to the game.

After that presentation a second game will be played by teams wearing Green and Gray shirts. The Green team will consist of players from Patrick Henry, Staunton River, Liberty and Christiansburg while the Gray team will have seniors from Blacksburg, Cave Spring, Franklin County and Northside.

Concessions will be available during the games this Saturday and the Hall of Fame will be open for players and fans to visit. The Salem-Roanoke Hall of Fame building is located on the grounds of the James E. Taliaferro Complex, next to the Salem Red Sox administrative office behind the third base seating area of Salem Memorial Ballpark.



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