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Rail Yard Dawgs visit Boys and Girls Club afterschool program

Debbie Adams
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Charlie Pelnick and Tom Pokorney, both in their first season playing defense for the Rail Yard Dawgs hockey team in Roanoke, stopped by Vinton Baptist Church on February 2 to pay a visit to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia afterschool program.

The program's Unit Director Patrick Moore and his assistants gathered about 20 kindergarten through fifth graders in the gym at Vinton Baptist for a meet and greet with the hockey players. Most of the students attend either Herman L. Horn or W.E. Cundiff Elementary Schools in Vinton.

The ice hockey players, who came dressed in their team jerseys, introduced themselves to the chil-

dren. Pelnick, 26, is in his first season with the Rail Yard Dawgs. He is from Cary, N.C. Pokorney, 27, who joined the Dawgs in October 2021, comes from Dexter, Mich.

The children were not shy in introducing themselves in turn and sharing their own experiences with ice hockey. Almost all were familiar with the sport; some had skated before; some had attended Rail Yard Dawg games at the Berglund Center; some are avid hockey fans.

The students were bursting with questions for the players which ranged from "How tall are you?" to "What's your favorite candy?" and "What's the worst injury you ever had?" (Pelnick, a broken leg; Pokorney, a concussion.)

The students asked if the Dawgs had won their last game played—the answer was, unfortunately "no."

One tactful student inserted his observation that "every sport is about having fun," not winning.

The Dawgs had brought along a hockey uniform and gear which one lucky fifth grade student, Jay Paul, donned piece by piece as the others watched. Pelnick and Pokorney named each piece of equipment and its purpose. The next question was "How do you move with all that equipment on?"

When asked, "How did you learn to play hockey?" both players answered, "years and years of practice."

Once the questions dwindled and the hockey gear and uniform had been inspected by all, the students received a special gift courtesy of the Rail Yard Dawgs—a stuffed animal from the "Teddy Bear Toss" event at a Dawgs' game in Decem-



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Charlie Pelnick (left) and Tom Pokorney from the Rail Yard Dawgs visited the Boys and Girls of SWVA afterschool program at Vinton Baptist Church on February 2. They helped fifth grader Jay Paul try on some hockey gear.

ber. On one special theme night, sponsored by Gillespie Allstate Agencies, the tradition is for fans to bring new teddy bears (or other stuffed animals) to the game and after the first

See Rail Yard Dawgs, page 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vinton Finance Director and Treasurer Anne Cantrell

Vinton Finance Director accepts position in Town of Bedford

Vinton Town Treasurer and Director of Finance Anne Cantrell will be joining the management team of the Town of Bedford as Finance Director. The announcement was made at the Bedford Town Council meeting on February 8 by Town Manager Bart Warner.

Cantrell has been serving as Finance Director and Treasurer for the Town of Vinton for the past six years. She was named Employee of the Year in Vinton in 2018.

She is a native of Bedford, a Liberty High School graduate, a cum

laude graduate of Liberty University, and a certified Public Accountant.

Prior to her work in Vinton, Cantrell worked for Roanoke County, and as an accountant and financial services professional in the private sector.

"Anne has made a huge difference in her six years with the town," said Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters. "She has helped establish a very high standard of public accounting for the town, and we are much stronger as a result of her financial leadership. She has also been instrumental in

helping establish numerous policy guidance documents that will continue to serve the town for decades to come.

"I can speak on behalf of Town Council and town staff that we will dearly miss her knowledge, although we are pleased that she is headed back home to another wonderful community and one where she has deep personal roots," Peters said. "We all wish her the absolute best and thank Anne for her incredible work and achievements while serving as the Vinton's Director of Finance and Treasurer."

Fire and Rescue Captain Mauck recognized by Board of Supervisors



COURTESY OF ROANOKE COUNTY

Fire and Rescue Captain Robert Mauck was recognized by the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors at the board's meeting on February 8 for his exemplary leadership to the COVID-19 pandemic Medical Control Unit. Shown left to right are Chief of Fire and Rescue Travis Griffin, County Administrator Richard Caywood, Captain Robert Mauck, and Vinton's representative to the Board of Supervisors, Jason Peters.

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The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors recognized Fire and Rescue Captain Robert Mauck at its meeting on February 8 for his exemplary leadership to the COVID-19 pandemic Medical Control Unit.

In March 2020, Mauck was assigned to serve on the COVID-19 Medical Control Unit under the Incident Management System to oversee safety policies and protocols for employees and citizens. He was instrumental in creating the Daily Health Assessment that Roanoke County employees have been using before arriving at work daily.

He also implemented an employee testing program in

conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health and aided the county in becoming a certified laboratory site, clearing the way to procure test kits for employees.

Since March 2020, Mauck has swabbed more than 1,347 employees, tested more than 1,680 county employees, and served as a resource regarding COVID-19 questions, symptoms and policies. His leadership and service have ensured the safety of the county's workforce.

Mauck facilitated the ordering and procurement of thousands of COVID-19 PCR test kits; first, the self-administered mail-in test kits, and second, test kits that could be processed at the new testing site on Penn Forest Boulevard.

He has served as the primary contact for Roanoke County employees regarding guidance and questions concerning COVID-19 questions symptoms, policies, and best practices for nearly two years.

The resolution of appreciation in Mauck's honor stated in part, "The Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County expresses its deepest appreciation and the appreciation of the citizens of Roanoke County to Captain Robert Mauck for nearly two years of dedicated service to mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic by keeping Roanoke County employees safe."

Captain Mauck is a deputy fire marshal and has been maintaining all of those duties as well.

Masks become optional Feb. 14 in Roanoke County schools

The Roanoke County School Board has decided that, beginning February 14, parents may elect to opt-out their students from the requirement to wear masks while in school.

Masks are still required by federal regulation on all school buses. Students

who return from a five-day isolation or quarantine period will be required to wear a mask for days 6-10, including during recess, athletics and/or extracurricular activities.

Schools have sent an email directly to parents with a link to an opt-out form which must be

completed for each child. This form only needs to be completed by parents wishing to opt-out their child from the requirement to wear a mask while in school.

RCPS also reminds parents to review the daily health checklist found at <https://www.rcps.us/>

covidchecklist before sending their children to school and strongly urges parents to keep children home if they are showing any COVID-19 symptoms

The school system also wants to update parents on some changes to contact tracing in county

schools. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has revised the contact tracing guidance. County schools will no longer be contract tracing every positive case and will, instead, be focusing on potential outbreaks and cases in high-risk settings.

It will continue to report all positive cases on the COVID-19 Dashboard at <https://www.rcps.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=4470>.

Isolation and quarantine guidelines have not changed, and parents are reminded that those students who are up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations do not need to quarantine if they are considered a close contact with someone with COVID-19 and remain asymptomatic.



For more information, see the RCPS Return to School Health Plan at <https://www.rcps.us/cms/lib/VA01818713/Centricity/ModuleInstance/9419/RCPS-Phase3HealthPlan.pdf>.



"Bank of Botetourt is a neighborhood bank and not a corporate entity."

- David Belcher,
Belcher Electric




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E-scooters increase presence in Vinton

Debbie Adams
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E-scooters from the Bird company, an electric scooter rental service, have increased their presence on the streets of Vinton. The vehicles became legal in Vinton back in March 2021 but have become more visible lately with an increased supply parked in the downtown area and waiting for riders. Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning Nathan McClung says that Bird has renewed its permit for another year as well.

Bird created the e-scooter industry in 2017 and is the largest operator in the United States. Bird scooters are placed in areas of a town or city that are authorized for scooter use. Prospective users download the app and then can rent the scooters for a ride. E-scooters, in their short existence, have become more popular than station-based bikeshares.

The electric motor will not turn on without being activated with the app, which helps discourage theft. At the end of their ride, users can just drop off a Bird right on the sidewalk, so long as it's not blocking the public right-of-way. The Bird company retrieves the scooters to recharge batteries.

"The idea behind Bird is simple—the scooters are fun, low-cost, and environmentally friendly ways to get around town without a car, an Uber, or a bus," says founder and CEO Travis VanderZanden, who worked as an executive at both Lyft and Uber. "The 'Birds' are meant to provide a cheap alternative mode of transportation and ease traffic."

"We've found that smaller cities (like Vinton) embrace Bird as a naturally socially distanced way to get around," said a company spokesperson. Bird has worked

with the town to determine where the scooters will be used.

McClung said e-scooters are best known for filling the gap in the last mile of someone's trip, but riders can even travel between Vinton and Roanoke, where Bird e-scooters have been available for a couple of years.

As for how the Bird e-scooters will benefit the citizens of Vinton, the company explains, "Residents and visitors of Vinton deserve additional, sustainable modes of transportation. Bird is easy to ride, affordable, and a fun way to get around! Additionally, as the town rebuilds, recovers, and spurs economic growth in the wake of COVID-19, a new study from Emory University finds that e-scooter programs drive significant consumer spending in towns and cities, which could greatly help local Vinton businesses."

According to its website, "Bird's mission is to make cities more livable by reducing car usage, traffic, and carbon emissions."

The Bird e-scooters are described as "dockless," which simply means they can be left anywhere (within limits). You don't have to go to a particular place to rent one. You either happen upon one or you use an in-app map to find the nearest Bird. When you're done, you park it at your destination. You don't need to find a rack to park them—unlike the bike-share program.

The Town of Vinton has been preparing for an influx of e-scooters since before the pandemic.

Officials emphasize that E-scooters are not toys, and there are rules and regulations that apply to this type of vehicle.

According to McClung, who is facilitating the program with Bird, the town has adopted a set of regulations for "Dockless Mobility Operations."

McClung says the major rules when using these devices in the Town of Vinton include:

- Before turning or altering the course of operation of any device, the operator shall use hand signals to indicate the direction in which it is intended to proceed.
- Use of helmets is "strongly encouraged" for all users.
- Bicycles and e-scooters shall be parked in such a manner as to provide a four-foot pedestrian clear zone area in the sidewalk.
- Stand-up electric scooters are to stay to the right of street lanes and to offer the right of way to bicycles on bike lanes and bike paths.
- Users shall ride on streets and, where available, in bike lanes.
- Users must not ride on sidewalks, trails, or greenways and must yield to pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Operation by anyone younger than 16 years old is prohibited.
- All users must carry a government-issued photo ID when operating a device.
- Parking must be done in designated areas.
- Wearing headphones on or in both ears while riding a bicycle or scooter is prohibited.
- Operating a shared mobility device while texting or while under the influence of alcohol is prohibited.
- The town reserves the right to determine certain blocks where e-scooter parking is prohibited.
- E-scooters shall not be parked adjacent to or within: transit zones, including bus stops, shelters, passenger waiting areas and bus layover and staging zones, except at existing bicycle racks; loading zones; disabled parking zones; street furniture that requires pedestrian access (for example, benches, parking pay stations, bus shelters, transit information signs,

etc.); curb ramps; entryways; and driveways.

- Any shareable mobility device found to be in violation is subject to removal; the permittee must pay a fee for each scooter removed and for storage.
- Devices shall be parked upright on hard surfaces in a manner that does not obstruct or impede the public right of way in locations specified in the Town Code.
- Bicycles and e-scooters shall not be parked in such a manner as to impede or interfere with any fire hydrant, call box, or other emergency facility; utility pole or box; or the reasonable use of any commercial window display or access to or from any building.

E-scooter drivers must:

- Comply with traffic signals.
- Keep their hands on the handlebars.
- Stay off sidewalks.
- Refrain from reckless driving
- Refrain from carrying other persons.
- Refrain from holding onto a moving vehicle.

Bird operates in over 100 cities around the world, as well as on nearly 40 university campuses in the United States. While most of its markets are in the U.S., Bird can also be found throughout Europe and in Chile, Israel, and Mexico. In 2018, Time Magazine named Bird as one of its "50 Genius Companies," commending its contribution to the "first mile, last mile" problem in transportation.

Other major rules when using these devices in the Town of Vinton include:

- Method of riding: Any person operating a bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, moped, or motorized skateboard

or scooter on a street at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place under conditions then existing shall ride as close as safely practicable to the right curb or edge of the street except under any of the following circumstances:

- Riders may not ride more than two abreast. Persons riding two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, shall move into a single file formation as quickly as is practicable when being overtaken from the rear by a faster moving vehicle, and, on a laned roadway, shall ride in a single lane.
- Every bicycle, electric power-assisted bicycle, moped, or motorized skateboard or scooter operated on any street shall be equipped with adequate brakes and lights.
- Law enforcement officers: Any bicycle, electric power-assisted bicycle, all-terrain vehicle, moped, or motorized skateboard or scooter being operated by a law enforcement officer of the town, during the course of his or her duties, shall be deemed to be a law enforcement vehicle and shall have the same rights and privileges as any other law enforcement vehicle when the bicycle, all-terrain vehicle or moped is being operated in response to an emergency call, while engaged in rescue operations or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

Complete regulations for Operating Devices and Customer Service Requirements are available on the Town of Vinton website at: <https://www.vintonva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2167/Dockless-Mobility-Operations-Program-Rules-and-Regulations-for-Town-of-Vinton?bidId=>

For inquiries or questions, contact Planning and Zoning at 983-0605.

Rail Yard Dawgs

from page 1

goal is scored by the Dawgs, the teddy bears are thrown down onto the ice; the game stops and then the stuffed toys are cleared and donated to local charities. Each child in

the afterschool program was able to choose a stuffed animal, in some cases bigger than they were.

Students returned to their classroom and were sur-

prised with another meet and greet—this time with Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, Town Manager Pete Peters, Vinton Baptist Pastor Travis Russell, Catherine Fox from Visit

Virginia's Blue Ridge, and Michelle Davis, the CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA.

The first question for the mayor was, "What do mayors do?" One child's reply, "He makes the rules for Vinton." Mayor Grose expanded on his role, explaining that he gets to visit people in the community like them and to help people if they are having trouble. He mentioned the services the town provides for citizens "to make things better."

Grose, Peters, and Russell had been invited to meet with Davis and Rebekah Meadows, the Director of Programming for the Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA, to discuss their program, and some potential financial backing from the Town of Vinton.

Davis explained that the organization was founded some 25 years ago with one

location on 9th Street in Roanoke City. Over time it has expanded to afterschool programs in 12 sites, including this year at Vinton Baptist.

In fact, the Boys and Girls Clubs had opened the site at Vinton Baptist in the fall of 2020 as a full day program. Roanoke County had reopened schools under COVID-19 guidelines with a "hybrid learning" plan in which students in grades K-2 attended school in person full-time, while students in grades 3-12 received in-person instruction in their schools two days each week with online learning the other three days. School Board members and the school system's leadership team expressed concern about childcare options and academic support for students on the days they weren't in

school.

The hybrid plan led to the founding of the Roanoke County Community Day Programs Task Force. The Task Force and the school system partnered with the United Way of the Roanoke Valley and the Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA to set up full-day academic support programs for students in various settings throughout the county to assist working parents on the days when learning was online.

One of the facilities which stepped up to offer space for the day program was Vinton Baptist Church, which served students in grades 3-6. The day program was discontinued in the Fall of 2021 when Roanoke County students returned to school full time in all grade levels. However, Rus-

See Rail Yard Dawgs, page 5



"The generous donation from Rosie's will allow our Foundation to help community youth through Athletics and Youth Development Programs designed to expose young men between the ages of 5 and 18 to leadership training, mentoring, planning, execution, reporting ideas, and simulating good leadership characteristics designed to raise their aspiration levels."

Charles "Chuck" Holden, President
Hampton-Newport News (VA) Alumni Chapter of
Kappa Alpha Psi Achievement Foundation

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- CLUES ACROSS
- Jam into
 - Disfigure
 - Biblical Hamath
 - Vipera berus
 - The three wise men
 - The foaming cleanser
 - Earthquake
 - Breezed through
 - South Pacific island
 - Legal possessors
 - List of dishes served
 - Jai
 - Superhigh frequency
 - Farm fanbatic
 - Double agents
 - No (Scottish)
 - Peninsula off Manchuria
 - As fast as can be done (abbr.)
 - Apulian city 70121
 - Talk show host Philbin
 - USA's favorite uncle
 - More coherent
 - PBS drama series
 - Retirement plan
 - Be obedient to
 - French river
 - ___ fatale, seductive woman
 - Made a surprise attack
 - Winglike structures
 - Belittle oneself
 - Department of Troyes
 - Mains
 - Shoe ties
 - A carefree adventure
 - Mariner or sailor
 - Modern chair designer
 - ___ Gin Fizz cocktail
 - A Far East wet nurse
 - Axiom
 - The frame around a door
 - Fruit drink
 - Ugandan Pres. Amin
 - Real Estate Services
 - Brass that looks like gold
 - Nutmeg seed covering
 - Winglike structures
 - River in Austria
 - Eliminates
 - Canadian province
 - Green, Earl Grey and iced
 - Four ball advancement
 - Vaselike receptacle
 - Highest card
 - Unction
 - 1st of the books of the Minor Prophets
 - Symbols of allegiance
 - Farm state
 - A citizen of Iran
 - More dried-up
 - Alt. spelling for tayra
 - Perfect examples
 - One point E of SE
 - Secretly watch
 - Three toed sloth
 - ___ student, learns healing
 - Liquid body substances
 - Act of selling again
 - Stroke
 - Selector switches
 - Speed, not slow
 - City founded by Xenophanes
 - Picasso's mistress Dora
 - Having two units or parts
 - 2nd largest Spanish river
 - Delta Kappa Epsilon nickname
 - The cry made by sheep
 - Air Chief Marshall
 - Perceive with the eyes
- CLUES DOWN
- Chew the fat
 - A prince in India

RCPS School Board updated on educational impacts of COVID

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The Roanoke County School Board was updated on the educational impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic at its work session on February 3.

Ben Williams, Director of Testing and Remediation, Stephanie Hogan, Executive Director of Elementary Instruction, and Mike Riley, Executive Director of Secondary Instruction, made a presentation to the board on data collected through January 2022 regarding not just the impact of COVID, but intervention processes being employed to “catch students back up.”

The first category of data came from “Longitudinal Standards of Learning (SOL) Results.” While SOL scores dropped in reading and math in Spring 2021, the county school system did well compared to the rest of the state. Math scores dropped more than reading scores. Williams explained that while reading skills are cumulative, building upon one another throughout the grade levels, math concepts tend to be new every day.

Third graders had a pass rate of 82% in reading SOLs in school year 2018-2019. There was no testing in 2019-2020 due to COVID. Spring testing for 20-21 showed a reading pass rate of 75% among RCPS third graders while the state average for 20-21 was 61%.

Third graders had a pass rate of 90% in math in 2018-19, which dropped to 72% in 21-22, but remained above the state average of 54%.

Sixth grade reading scores were 85% passing in 18-19; 76% passing in 21-22, with the state average being 69%. Sixth grade math scores were 88% passing in 18-19, 59% passing in 21-22, with the state average being 45% that school year.

Comparisons were also made on the 4-Year Winter Reading Inventory Lexile Comparison given recently. Of 3476 elementary school students tested in

January 2019, 83.2% scored at the Basic or Above level; in January 2022, testing 3511 students, that score was 78.2%. Williams called this a “significant drop.”

On the Lexile Inventory, in 2019 middle school students (3037) were at 88.7%; in January 2022, that rate was 87.1%. This was not seen as a significant drop.

Stephanie Hogan described for the board an intervention strategy being used for the elementary students—the RISE program in all Title I schools, for students reading below grade level which is seeing “quite a bit of growth” in students.

PALS benchmarks in grades K-2 indicate that Roanoke County is doing quite a bit better than the rest of Virginia. PALS tests phonological awareness in students—associating letters and sounds.

In school year 2019, 17.9% of kindergarten students in Virginia on average were below the benchmark in the PALS inventory; 15.1% of Roanoke County kindergarten students were below the benchmark. In 2021, those percentages were 25.8% below the benchmark level in the state; 13% below in Roanoke County.

In 2021, 36.5% of first graders across the state were below the PALS benchmark; with Roanoke County at 17.7% in 2021.

In 2021, 42.2% of second graders in Virginia on average were below the benchmark; 26.9% of Roanoke County second graders were below.

School Board member Tim Greenway was quick to point out that Roanoke County was able to keep its K-2 grade level students in schools for in-person learning throughout the pandemic, unlike many other school systems across the state.

In a five-year comparison of grade distribution for grades 2-12, Roanoke County students have kept fairly steady grades. With the exception of more D’s and F’s in the 20-21 school year, the grade impacts related to COVID-19 have been “rela-

tively minor.” Williams noted that teachers have been “increasingly flexible” regarding make-up work and retakes given the situation. He said that overall the grades are now reverting to “mean” this school year.

Williams said his biggest concern currently is with math saying that he anticipates it taking more time to “get back to normal” in math than in reading. The school system is doing much “scaffolding” in teaching math skills, reteaching concepts that students might have missed last year, while still teaching new concepts for their grade level. There is a gap to fill.

Williams also said that in discussion with William Byrd High School Principal Tammy Newcomb, that when students returned to school in the fall, they, in fact, had to “learn how to be students again” after a year of mainly virtual learning.

He detailed the ongoing school level intervention process underway. Schools are tracking the achievement data over time at the individual student level. They are intervening at the teacher level for students who just need short-term remediation, but also at the school level for students who are significantly behind and need long-term remediation.

Schools are continually monitoring the effectiveness of interventions and making adjustments. There are regular meetings between teachers and administrators, and the schools are collaborating with Central Office on additional resources and needs.

Central Office continues to monitor student achievement data and is endeavoring to provide an adequate remediation budget and tools to monitor achievement, identifying areas of concern around the division, providing additional resources beyond normal allotments as needed, while “ensuring that instructional and intervention standards and expectations are being maintained.”

The school system has 11 full-time remedial teachers

hired to assist with elementary remediation. Reading specialists have been returned to their elementary schools after being pulled for virtual instruction in 2020-2021.

Expanded funds have been provided for tutoring before and after the school day. There are PALS literacy tutors in grades K-3—at least one per school. There are also part-time remediation tutors in each school, along with before and after school remediation programs.

Title I teachers and instructional assistants have been hired to provide additional support to Title I schools. Algebra Readiness Tutors have been added in middle and high schools to provide math remediation. While last summer’s intervention programs were quite successful, more robust and lengthier sessions are planned for summer 2022.

The school system is also exploring adding online tutoring options and how to use additional funds from federal grants to hire full-time support—including tutors, reading specialists, and math specialists.

Williams discussed current challenges in the remediation process, such as balancing long-term remedial needs with new learning. In the first semester many remediators had to be pulled to cover classes due to substitute shortages. This situation has improved since the School Board increased substitute pay and added permanent substitutes to schools.

There has also been a problem finding qualified remediators. Many of the system’s “best remediators” were older retirees who became reluctant to enter schools due to COVID-related health concerns.

Also contributing to the remediation challenge were staff and student absences due to quarantines.

Greenway says that “it is all hands on deck to get the poorer performers up to speed.”

Summing up, School Board Chairman David Linden said that he gives teachers “95% of

the credit” for student achievement during COVID. Williams added that he knows many teachers who have worked on lesson plans until midnight during the crisis. School Board member Cheryl Facciani commented that most teachers have served double duty during the pandemic, having to plan effective in-school and virtual lessons simultaneously.

Jim Bradshaw, Director of Human Resources, presented an update on the bus transportation situation. RCPS currently runs 153 routes with 16 full-time and 139 part-time drivers. There are no vacancies for full-time positions with 12 for part-time positions.

Currently there are 39 bus aide positions with one vacancy. RCPS employs nine technicians to keep buses in repair with one vacancy. Lot attendants number five, with one position vacant.

The average daily absenteeism rate for transportation has been seven employees. Because of those absences, the technicians have been driving buses on a daily basis (disrupting their time keeping buses in good repair), along with the lot attendants, one route manager, and two transportation supervisors. There are also two teachers covering the BCAT morning runs.

Eight of the bus routes have been combined, causing students sometimes to be late.

The school system has taken steps to recruit and retain bus drivers—moving them all to a minimum five-hour day; providing them with full-time benefits (except for VRS) and increasing the starting pay to \$16.96. Past actions have included retention, sign-on, and recruitment bonuses.

Bradshaw had some suggestions: retention, signing, and recruitment bonuses, perfect attendance and safety bonuses, increasing the field trip rate to \$20/hour (paid for by schools); and job fairs.

After discussion, the board agreed to take action on recruitment and signing bonuses at the next meeting on February 10.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

The GFWC Vinton Women’s Club met at Kathryn Sowers’ house and made Valentines for the residents at Berkshire Health & Rehab. Around 170 were made. Those helping in the fun were Hazel Moody, Judy Banik, Jane Banton, Carol Williams Mills, Mary Kay Brown, Maggie Angel, Vicki Newburn and Camille Caviness. It was like they were kids again making Valentines for their friends!

The Vinton Chamber is accepting applications for the Se-

Angie Chewing

Filling in for Bootie

nior Services Expo on March 22, The Vinton Palooza on May 14. For more information please visit www.vintonchamber.com.

Also, the Vinton flags are still on sale. For more info, call 343-1364 or email angie@vintonchamber.com.

Vinton Dogwood Festival on April 30 has an open Call for Vendors for handmade arts and crafts, space for businesses, organizations, non-profits, and food vendors.

Also, a Call for Entries for the Vinton Dogwood Festival Parade. Register at vintondogwoodfestival.org.

Vinton resident graduates from James Madison University

Danielle Haldren of Vinton graduated with a degree in speech pathology from James Madison

University during commencement exercises in December 2021. Haldren was among more than

890 students who received undergraduate, master’s, educational specialist and doctoral degrees.

Local students named to William and Mary Dean’s List

The following local residents were recently named to the Dean’s List at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2021 semester:

- Nick Brown, from Bedford
- Brian Bao, Alex Blanton, Na-

than Brewer, Bryce Fothergill, Sofia Hernandez, Jordan Hooker, Luke Jenkuskus, Sophie Claire LeGault, Bhargav Mallidi, Roshan Patel, Lexie Rhodes, Carter Robertson, and Philip Schueler, from Roanoke

• Haley Cook from Vinton
 In order to achieve Dean’s List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

Vinton History Museum/Historical Society holding membership drive

It has been an exciting year for the Vinton Historical Society and the Museum, but they need your help to continue their momentum.

They received a couple of grants this year to work on the museum and preserve their collection; however, these funds are not enough to do all that needs to be done. More

support is critical to their continued success in preserving the history of the community.

They ask that you join or consider renewing your annual membership for 2022, and invite friends, relatives, and neighbors to join as well.

Membership has its benefits—members receive newsletters, enjoy

special programs and social events.

Visit their website at www.vintonhistorymuseum.org for more details.

Individual memberships are \$15 per year. Lifetime individual memberships are \$150. Corporate annual memberships are \$150 per year.

The History Museum

located at the corner of Jackson Avenue and Maple Street in downtown Vinton is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and the first Saturday of most months from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If you have any questions, call at 540-342-8634 or email info@vintonhistorymuseum.org.

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Bank of Botetourt accepting applications for annual ‘Taking Care of You’ Community Scholarships

Bank of Botetourt is offering its sixth annual “Taking Care of You” Community Scholarships totaling \$1,000. Three total scholarships will be awarded— one of \$500 and two of \$250. These scholarships are available to high school seniors and existing

college students with a GPA of 2.5 or higher and who currently utilize Bank of Botetourt for their banking services.

To apply, applicants will need to write a two-page essay on the topic of “How has Bank of Botetourt been

able to take care of your banking and financial needs?” The deadline for submissions is March 31.

For additional information, contact Education Team Representative Jon Foreman at scholarship@bankof-botetourt.com or 540-591-5053.



Remembering Vinton

50 years ago, February 1972 with the Vinton Historical Society

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The second week in February was a busy one in Vinton in 1972. There was another ribbon-cutting/grand opening celebration. This one was for the G. C. Murphy store at Lake Drive Plaza. The store occupied 30,000 square feet and had six check-out lanes.

The Vinton Messenger described the new store as a "fast moving, faster turnover store of tomorrow." The store featured clothing, furnishings, housewares, as well as a "Music/TV/Photo" area with phonographs, records, radios, TV sets, musical instruments, tape recorders, cameras, and film.

G. C. Murphy's also included at 50-seat restaurant with "hot

lunches, snacks, sodas, tasty sandwiches, and desserts."

Opening day give-aways included a free plastic laundry basket.

The store had fluorescent lighting and was fully air-conditioned with metal shopping carts and plastic baskets for customers. The newspaper commented that "Vinton truly is booming!"

That same week, 11 students from the William Byrd High School "Tootin' Terriers" band participated in the Region VI All Regional Bands at E. C. Glass High School in Lynchburg, some in Concert Band, some in Symphonic Band.

Town Council was worried about having a quorum at the council meeting with two council members, Mayor Gus Nicks and Councilman Norman Dowdy, in

the hospital. Town Manager Don Smith was out of the office with the flu; the postmaster was also hospitalized.

Core-drilling had gotten underway at the proposed Vinton water reservoir site in Bedford County.

Roanoke County Sheriff O.S. Foster announced that the department had received \$72, 540 in grants which would be used for its new communication system.

J. Thomas Engleby, III, chairman of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, proposed development of a regional jail.

The Vinton First Aid Crew cited Tim Holt and Mike Chewning for outstanding service. Holt was named "Best All-around Member." Chewning was named as "Outstanding Member

for 1971." The two men had answered a total of 800 emergency calls in the past year. They were selected for their awards by the crew.

Vice Mayor Armand Sanderson decided to seek a third term on Town Council. He was first elected to Town Council in 1966. He was the treasurer and vice president of Shenandoah Life Insurance Company and also served with the Vinton Volunteer Fire Department.

Elizabeth Ann Edwards, a senior at William Byrd, was named "Miss Junior Achievement of Roanoke Valley," and advanced to the regional competition in Atlantic City, N.J.

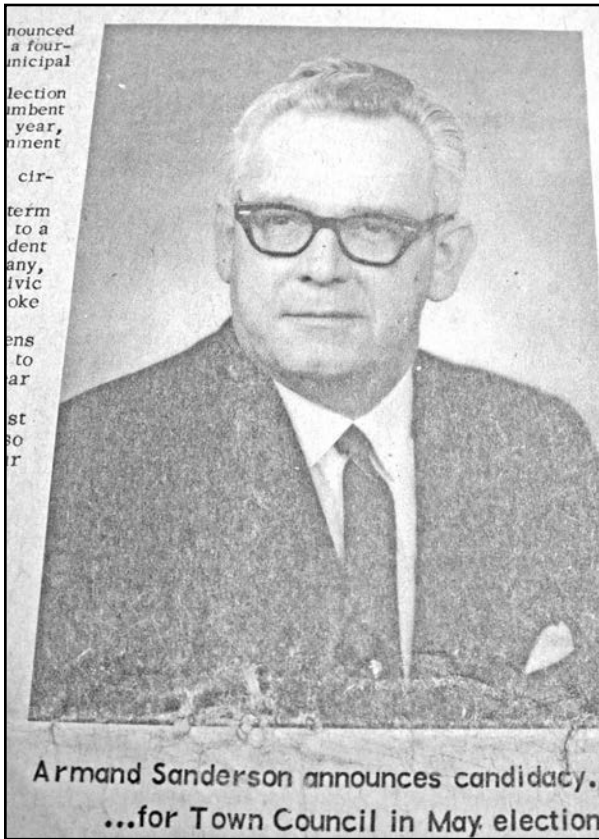
The WBHS Band Boosters continued fundraising for their trip to Mexico with a ham supper in the school cafeteria. The

band would be performing at the Lions Club convention there.

H&H Supermarket was advertising a dozen doughnuts for 39 cents and six cans of applesauce for \$1.

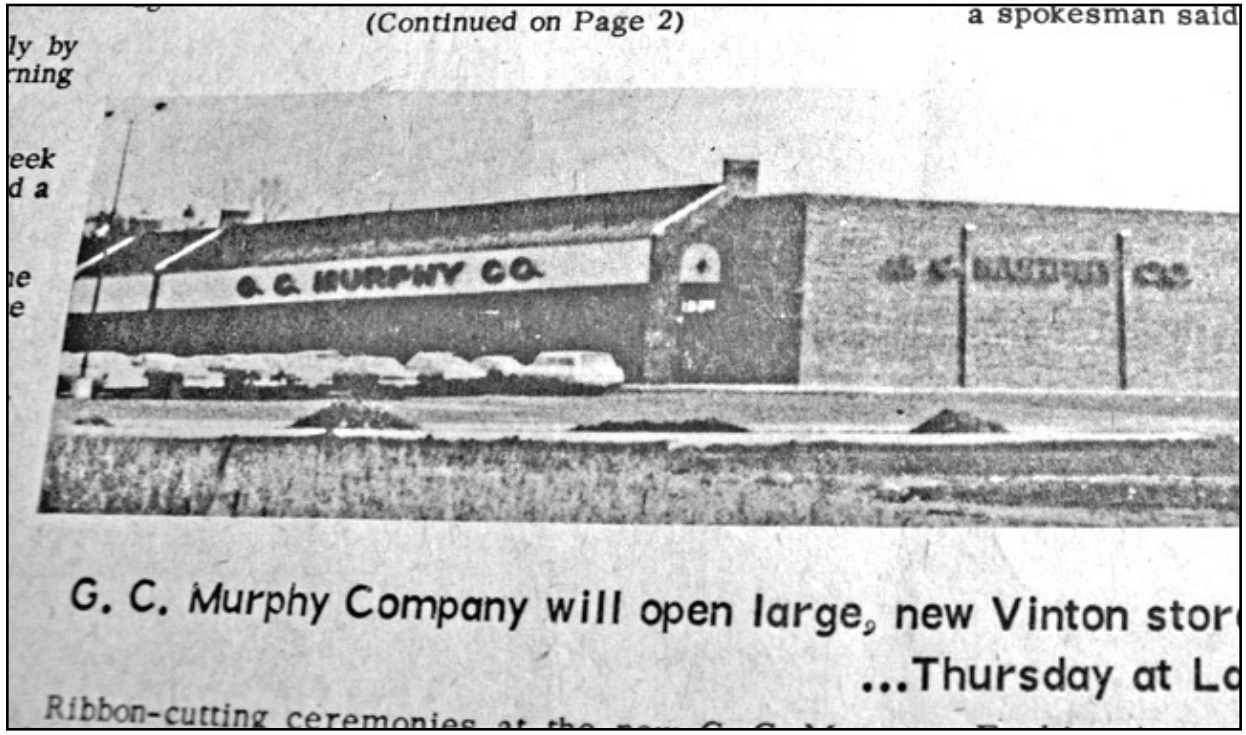
The State Board of Health approved regulations that required every child in Virginia to be vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, and rubella. Children could not enter school without the measles and rubella vaccinations with the remaining shots required within 90 days.

The newspaper reported that nearby Franklin County would be placing a permanent patrol boat on Smith Mountain Lake which was plagued with "reckless boaters" and "whose shoreline properties have been damaged by vandals and rifled by burglars."



Armand Sanderson announces candidacy...for Town Council in May election

Vice Mayor Armand Sanderson was running for re-election to Town Council in 1972.



The G.C. Murphy store held its grand opening at Lake Drive Plaza in February 1972.

PHOTOS FROM THE VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM

RECIPES OF THE WEEK:

Simple Super Bowl Appetizers

Spinach Cheese Balls

- 9 oz. frozen spinach, thawed, squeezed to drain
- 1 cup Bisquick
- 8 oz. shredded Mozzarella cheese
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 cup tomato pasta sauce for dipping (optional)

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Spray cookie sheet with cooking spray. In large bowl, mix all ingredients except pasta sauce. Shape mixture into 1-inch balls and place on cookie sheet. Bake 10-15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pan immediately. Serve with pasta sauce. Makes 30 spinach cheese balls.

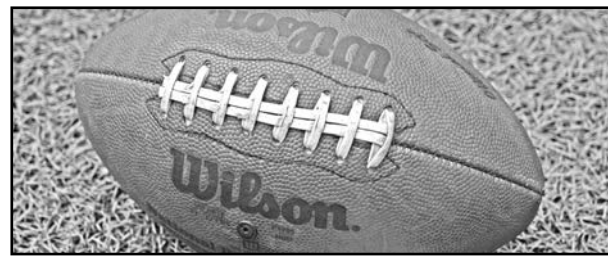


PHOTO BY DAVE ADAMSON

Super Sausage Balls

- 8 oz. Kraft Sharp Cracker Barrel Cheese, grated
- 3 scant (scooped, not packed) cups Bisquick
- 1 lb. hot sausage, at room temperature
- 3 Tbsp. water

Mix together cheese, Bisquick, water, and sausage with a stand mixer. Roll into balls. You can add a little more water as needed to make sausage balls easier to roll. Place on cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes.

Easy Fruit Dip

- 15 oz. jar marshmallow crème
 - 8 oz. cream cheese
- Blend together with mixer.
- Serve with assorted fresh fruit.

Submit your community news and photos to vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org.

The Vinton Messenger

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(540) 473-2741
1633 W. Main St.
Salem, VA 24153

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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.

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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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From the Pulpit

'A woman who found favor in the eyes of the Lord'

The Book of Ruth is named for the Moabite woman who commits herself to the Israelite people by an oath to her mother-in-law Naomi and becomes the great-grandmother of David by marriage to Boaz of Bethlehem.

The Old Testament book shows the grace of God and the mysterious providence of the history of God's redemption contained in the story of the devoted love and faith of a foreign woman.

Ruth and Esther are the only two books in the Bible with women's names. Ruth is unique in that the main character is a Gentile woman from Moab, not an Israelite.

Basically, she was an outsider, a foreigner.

Through the book of Ruth, it's a pleasure in seeing the story of a very beautiful life in "one of the most lovely and complete pieces of work" in the Bible. In Chapter 1, Ruth, a widow, came to Bethlehem with her compassion and love for her mother-in-law Naomi, and they struggled with hardships and difficulties; but in the meantime, Ruth was blessed by God's unspeakable grace and her life was filled with God's grace and love.

It's amazing how God works,

especially in situations where and when we think it's impossible in human's eyes. But the Bible indirectly tells us in Ruth 2:14-23 that everything is possible by God. It is a privilege and joy given to us to listen, look, and learn together into this process of how God works in the story of Ruth.

The purpose of the book of Ruth is also to allow us to see and enjoy God's grace and God's works.

Verses 14-17 show how wonderfully considerate Boaz (a wealthy farmer) was to Ruth. In verse 14, Boaz invites Ruth to their table. Of course, this table wasn't actually a table, but a time to eat lunch while farming in the field, but for Ruth, a foreign woman, this kind of kindness from Boaz was very special, especially during that time of period, the period of Judges.

In Verse 15, after eating, the workers go out to harvest the barley, and Ruth goes out to glean the barley.

At this point, Boaz already ordered his workers to let Ruth glean among the sheaves. This was a special kindness. Even though the law required gleaning for the poor at that time, they couldn't walk through the sheaves. Because if that happens,

that could intentionally drop the sheaves to glean, which could cause considerable damage to the owner.

But Boaz made Ruth glean among the sheaves. In Verse 16, Boaz commands the workers to pluck the heads of grain from the sheaves, drop them on the ground, and let Ruth glean them. The kindness and love given to Ruth through Boaz was something that could not be done easily, or at all, even in the circumstances of the period of Judges, and even in the circumstances of a long harvest.

And in Verse 17, Ruth picks up an ephah of wheat and goes home. One ephah is usually 5 gallons; a bag that weighs 44 pounds of rice was enough food for a full month at that time.

This kind of kindness later extends to the marriage of Boaz and Ruth—a very beautiful love story.

Ruth was a woman who found favor in the eyes of Boaz, but ultimately in the eyes of the Lord.

Here we learn the characteristics of God's grace. As United Methodists, we believe and emphasize God's grace: Prevenient grace, Justifying grace, and Sanctifying grace. And the life of Ruth reminds us of God's grace.

God's grace is not limited by time, space, place, or any specific people. This passage delivers God's heart toward us. The passage tells us that God loves you just like this.

This is not Ruth's personal life. This is not to show Ruth's life and make us jealous. The text tells us that our lives are as blessed as Ruth's life.

"I love you as well as I love Ruth." This is the message that God tells us through the book of Ruth. God wants all of God's children to see, experience, and enjoy God's grace. This is the gospel. This is God's grace.

The Lord is telling us about an event in the Old Testament times and telling us about God's grace toward us through this story.

Every moment that we live is a moment of grace. Like Boaz, Jesus invites us to the table of God. Again, in Verse 14, Boaz invites Ruth to the table to eat and share meals together.

In other words, Boaz did not offer a big kindness in any special way to Ruth, a woman from a foreign country. He was just offering what he could at the dinner table as an ordinary life.

God calls us as His children and invites us to his table, an open table, where there is no discrimination or

favoritism. On that table, no one is special or exceptional. God's grace is everywhere for everyone. I want us to lift our confession to our God saying that every moment and every breath in my life is the grace of the Lord.

The most important thing is that God is showing grace to us at every moment of our lives whether we are aware or not. Nevertheless, the reason we do not realize it is that we think that we receive God's grace only in a special moment and in a special way, in my way, in a way that I want or expect.

As I said, every moment is a moment of God's grace. Therefore, I believe that now it is our duty and responsibility to find, experience, and enjoy the grace of the living God through every moment of our daily lives. Ruth was a woman who found favor in the eyes of Boaz and of the Lord. Have we found favor in God's eyes? That's my question for you to ponder as we reflect on God's grace in our lives and in our church.

By Pastor Seong Jae Jo, Associate Pastor at Thresher Memorial United Methodist Church, as part of the series on "Favorite Bible Characters"

Rail Yard Dawgs from page 2

sell and the church expressed an interest in continuing the partnership in some form, as a "ministry to the community." He says they have the facility available, which sits empty for the most part during weekdays.

The church contributes not only the space but monetary donations from its individual members and daily snacks. Russell says that once COVID ends, there are church members who would like to assist by volunteering to work with the program.

Davis emphasized that the Boys and Girls Clubs program is more than childcare—its focus is on youth development. Students currently arrive about 2:30 p.m., delivered by school buses. They complete about an hour of homework. Unit Director Moore works closely with the two elementary schools and teachers on the academic needs of each student, analyzing data to determine where to focus tutoring. Then the fun activities begin

with a broad array of activities.

Students qualify for the Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA program by academic or financial need. Davis says the goal for the program at Vinton Baptist is to eventually serve 50 students.

Davis credits much of the expansion of the afterschool programs to grants from the 21st Century Grant program through the Department of Education and to Rebekah Meadows' 100% success rate in obtaining the grants applied for. The 21st Century grants provide funding for community learning centers to provide academic, artistic, and cultural enrichment opportunities for students during non-school hours.

During the meeting, she focused on the finances of the program and the uncertainty of depending upon grants to keep the programs running year to year. It is a competitive grant with some limitations on spending. For instance, administrative costs cannot be covered by the

funds. Also, the grants aren't awarded until late summer, leaving them at a disadvantage in recruiting employees. Staffing has become their No. 1 challenge. And, as always, federal programs are always "on the chopping block" for legislative action.

Davis wants to develop a more sustainable, long-term plan for the afterschool programs that is not solely dependent upon grant funding—acquiring sources of gap funding for years in which they might not receive a substantial grant. So, she came to the Town of Vinton asking for assistance. She hopes the town can provide some of the extra funding the program needs on an annual basis.

The Town of Vinton is now developing its budget for the next fiscal year. It does allot a portion of town funds each year to support valuable community programs. Mayor Grose and Peters promised to bring the needs of the Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA to the attention of council.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Rail Yard Dawgs brought along some stuffed animals collected in December at their Teddy Bear Toss theme game and distributed them to the Boys and Girls Club students. Some were bigger than the students. The Rev. Travis Russell from Vinton Baptist admires one student's choice of bears.

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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.

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FOUR SQUARE
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

Vinton

Worship Directory

WORDS OF RELIEF
Read Job 15:1 through 22:30

Justin sat in Caleb's apartment, hoping his big brother could provide some words of encouragement. An official letter from his college had arrived, announcing that Justin was on academic probation. Justin never realized those two words would cause his parents so much pain, anger, and disappointment.

Caleb was frustrated. He knew the sacrifices his parents made so that Justin could attend college. College loans, scholarships, and money did not come easy. His parents worked hard at obtaining all the financial aid they could gather. His dad picked up extra shifts at work to cover the cost of books. Now, to hear that Justin "blew it" was more than Caleb could bear. He wanted to explode, but the Holy Spirit urged him to listen. After several moments, Caleb sat down beside Justin and placed his arm around him. Caleb whispered, "Mind if I pray for you?"

Justin grinned, "Thanks, man. I sure could use it!"

But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief (Job 16:5).

Do your words bring comfort or condemnation?

Challenge for Today: Provide comfort and encouragement to someone close to you.

Quicklook: Job 16:4-6

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

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; cmpe2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Sundays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir

7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, 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.

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Terriers swim to boys' Region 3D championship

The William Byrd boys scored 165 points to outdistance second place Cave Spring and win the Region 3D swim title Tuesday. The girls finished sixth among 10 teams at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center with Hidden Valley winning the girls' title.

"What a memorable night!" said Byrd coach Krista Martin. "The meet was a perfect note to end on for six of our seniors. There were some great swims and some tears. These 12 seniors are a very special group of athletes. I think the world of them and I have loved every second spent getting to know each of them through the years."

Six of the 12 Byrd seniors qualified for the state meet on February 19 in Richmond. In all 10 boys and one girl, Emma Copening, will be swimming in Richmond. The boys who will advance include Aiden Brinkley, Dawson Brinkley, Evan Copening, Colin Murtaugh, Nathan Miller, Matthew Hoyos, Michael Hoyos, Cole Kovacevic, Griffin Horacek and Austin Nielsen. The top five individuals and top four relays in each event advanced.

Byrd had two first place relay teams. The 200 Free team of Miller, Dawson Brinkley, Nielsen and Murtaugh won with a school record time of 1:30.92 and the 200 Medley team of Aiden Brinkley, Nielsen, Murtaugh and Dawson Brinkley also finished first.

Individually, Aiden Brinkley was Region 3D Champ in the 200 IM, Murtaugh was Region 3D Champ in the 100 Fly and Nielsen took first in Region 3D in the 100 Breast."

Other top five finishes included the following:

Dawson Brinkley-3rd in the 200 IM and 2nd in the 100 breast;

Evan Copening-5th in the 200 IM and 4th in the 100 breast;

Emma Copening-5th in the 200 IM and 3rd in the 100 breast;

Colin Murtaugh-2nd in the 50 free;

Nathan Miller-4th in the 50 free and 4th in the 100 free;

Matthew Hoyos-4th in the 100 fly and 4th in the 500 free;

Michael Hoyos-5th in the 500 free;

Austin Nielsen-2nd in the 500 free;

Cole Kovacevic-4th in the 100 back;

Griffin Horacek-3rd in the 100 back;

Aiden Brinkley-2nd in the 100 back.

"The energy tonight was awesome," said Martin. "The swimmers really supported one another and gave each race their best effort. I'm so proud of them."



Region 3D Champs

The William Byrd boys are Region 3D swim champions. Front row, left to right, are Evan Copening, Blake Richardson, Jay Rozenboom, Bruno DeMelo, Jesse Smith and Austin Nielsen. Back row; Aiden Brinkley, Colin Murtaugh, Dawson Brinkley, Cole Kovacevic, Matthew Hoyos, Michael Hoyos, Griffin Horacek, Elliott Gaines and Nathan Miller. Below left, Austin Nielson wins the 100-yard breaststroke at the Region 3D championship meet. Below right, Emma Copening swims to a third place finish in the 100 yard Breaststroke Tuesday.

ACTION PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING



BRD CHAMPS

The William Byrd girls won the Blue Ridge District track championship in Lynchburg last weekend. Front row, left to right; Madison Tuck, Maddy Simmons and Kendall Gordon. Back Row, left to right; Riley Roth, Sela Beatty, Remington Figart, Emma Dalton, Sydney Blewett, Elizabeth Dixon, Kendall Gordon and Chloe Harrilla.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Byrd girls win BRD indoor track title by wide margin

The William Byrd girls dominated the Blue Ridge District indoor track meet last Saturday, winning the championship by 82 points. The boys tied for third among the six district teams at Heritage High School in Lynchburg.

Byrd's girls finished with 136 points to 54 for second place Northside. The Terriers dominated the meet from start to finish, with Chloe Harrilla being named BRD female Athlete of the Year.

Byrd opened the evening with a sweep in the high jump with Remi Figart winning with a height of 4'8". Harrilla finished second at 4'6", Mailiegh Redmond finished third and Emily Fisher was fourth.

In the long jump Harrilla won with a jump of 16'3" and Sela Beatty took fifth at 15'9.75". In the triple jump Harrilla was third with a jump of 31'9" and Figart took fourth at 30'11".

Sydney Blewett won the shot put with a throw of 34'8" while Madison Tuck finished third at 27'9" and McKenna Paradis finished fifth with a throw of 24'10".

In the running events Beatty won the 55m dash with a time of 7.47 seconds while Figart finished fourth in 7.87 seconds. Emma Dalton finished second in the 300m with a time of 47.25 seconds, Beatty was second in 47.42 seconds and Figart finished third with a time of 47.67 seconds.

In the 500m dash Emma Gordon finished second with a time of 1:31.20 seconds and Kendall Gordon finished third in 1:31.25. Riley Roth was third in the mile in 6:51.79. The 4x200m relay of Blewett, Madison Tuck, Maddy Simmons and Emma Dalton won with a time of 2:01.91.

Staunton River won the boys' championship with

148 points, followed by William Fleming with 97. Byrd tied Franklin County for third with 62 points.

Dylan Hughes finished fifth in the 55m dash for Byrd with a time of 6.82 and third in the 300m dash with a time of 40.23. In the 500m dash Wyatt Bailey was fourth in 1:16.32.

In the 1000m run Braden Crossen finished fourth with a time of 3:13.89. In the 55m hurdles Walker Nance took second in 8.58. The 4x200m relay of Hughes, Noah Thompson, Jordan Johnson, and Brady Reathy was second with a time of 1:45.42.

In the long jump Hughes finished third with a jump of 19'6.75", and in the triple jump Nance was third with a jump of 37'11.5".

The next stop for the Byrd indoor team will be the Region 3D meet at the Roanoke College Cregger Center in Salem on Saturday, January 19.



Left to right, Byrd's Ethan Hairston drives by a Colonel defender, Peyton Fuchs looks to pass and Trevor Ruble splits the defense in the Terriers' game with William Fleming in Vinton Friday.

PHOTOS BY PAULA GREENWAY

Terriers host Eagles Friday with spot in BRD tournament on the line

The William Byrd boys will host Franklin County in a district basketball game Friday with a shot at making the Blue Ridge tournament. The tournament starts Monday at the sites of the top two seeds.

The tournament was originally supposed to start on Friday with a six team format. However, due to postponements due to weather and health concerns, this week was needed for makeup games and it was decided to make it a four team tournament instead, with the fifth and sixth place teams being left out.

William Fleming, Northside and Lord Botetourt have clinched the first three seeds, with the order of seeding still to be determined. William Fleming is at LB tonight and if the Colonels win they're one, Northside is two and Botetourt is three. However, if LB wins tonight all three are tied with two district losses and they would go to the tie-breaker for seeding.

Franklin County is currently in the fourth spot, but they're coming to Vinton Friday to play William Byrd. If the Terriers lose, Franklin County gets the

fourth seed in the district tournament. However, if Byrd wins that game they're tied with Franklin for the fourth spot, and it appears the Terriers would grab that spot by the tie-breaker with a better record against common opponents.

Byrd comes into the game with an 8-13 overall record after a very busy week. The Terriers played five games in the span of eight days, going 2-3.

After losing to Northside last Tuesday they bounced back on Wednesday night with a 51-27 win over Staunton River in Moneta. Ross Divers led Byrd with 13 points.

On Friday Byrd played host to Fleming and dropped a 59-45 decision. Byrd trailed by just three points at the half but Fleming outscored the Terriers, 22-7, in the third period and that was the difference. Ethan Hairston had 14 points and Trevor Ruble had six.

On Saturday Byrd took the floor for the fourth time in five days when the Terriers played at Amherst. That was a late addition to the schedule when Liberty could

not find time to make up a game previously postponed due to health concerns at the Bedford school.

Instead of coming out tired, the Terriers came out smoking with a season-high 46 points in the first half. Byrd led by as many as 30 in the first half and went on to a 75-54 win. Cam Richardson led the team with 19 points, Israel Hairston had a dozen and Ethan Hairston had 11.

After two days off Byrd played at Lord Botetourt Tuesday and dropped a 69-61 game to the Cavaliers. Richardson led the team with 16 points, Ethan Hairston had 11 and freshman Hayden Eads had eight.

"We fought hard and left everything out there, it just wasn't enough," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway. "Botetourt shot the ball very well."

If things don't work out for Byrd Friday, it won't be the end of the season.

"I think we're locked in for a region spot," said Greenway. "I'm anxious to see what happens. I really think we're playing our best basketball of the season right now."

Girls will open BRD tournament Monday in Moneta

The William Byrd girls appear to have a district berth in their pocket as they prepare to play at Franklin County Friday night. The Blue Ridge District tournament begins Monday at the sites of the top two seeds.

Only four teams will be in the BRD tournament this year with Staunton River, Lord Botetourt and William Fleming taking the top three seeds. William Byrd is currently 3-6 in the district while Franklin County has two wins. If the Eagles beat Byrd on Friday night both teams will have three district wins but Byrd would have the edge in the tie-breaker and take the fourth spot. That would give them a first round game against undefeated Staunton River in Moneta Monday.

The key game for Byrd making the district tournament was a Saturday afternoon win over Franklin County in Vinton. The Terriers took a 45-40 win as Emilie McCaskill scored 15 points and Alexis Helton and Mya Rosser had nine each.

"Fifteen hours after a very physical matchup and down two starters, the girls played with heart and played with the next player up mentality," said Byrd coach Randy Bush. "I'm very proud of how hard they played and played as a team."

The night prior the girls were at William Fleming, dropping a 60-37 decision. Fleming led by just four at the half, 24-20, but outscored the Terriers 36-17 in the second half to pull away. McCaskill had 17 and Riley Firebaugh had seven for Byrd.



Left, William Byrd's Riley Firebaugh fires up a shot in Saturday's win over Franklin County. Right, Byrd's Alexis Helton scraps for a loose ball with two Eagle opponents.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

"A very physical game," said Bush. "The wheels fell off in the second half and we did not respond very well, but the girls did not give up. We just didn't get it done."

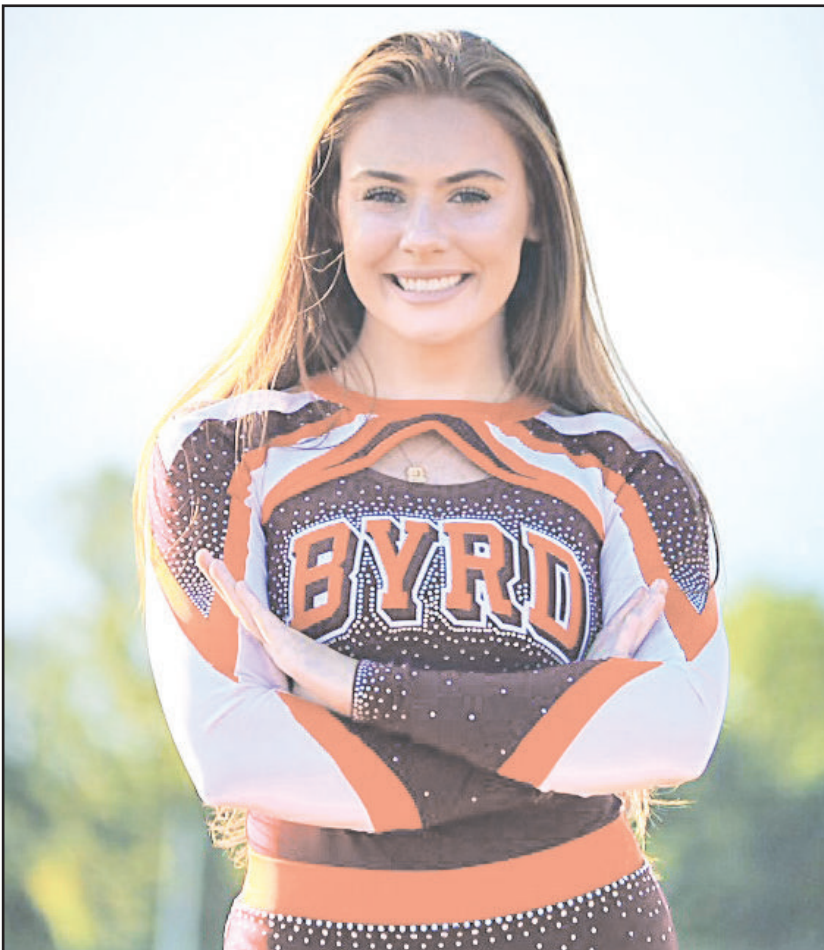
On Tuesday the girls were home for a game against Lord Botetourt and

the Cavaliers had too much firepower, winning 57-24. McCaskill had 14 but no one else had more than three.

"We did some things well but not enough of the little things to go against a very good LB team," said Bush.

That loss gave Byrd a 9-12 over-

all record with a game at William Fleming scheduled for Wednesday night to wrap up the regular season. After Monday's district semifinals the BRD tournament championship game will be Wednesday, February 16.



All-State William Byrd's Jasia Wheeler has been named to the Virginia High School League All-State cheerleading team. Jasia is a second team selection in Class 3.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Region 3D wrestling at Northside Saturday

William Byrd senior heavyweight Hunter Richards(right) will be looking for a Region 3D championship when the Terriers compete in the region tournament Saturday at Northside High School. Action will begin at 10:30 am, with the top four in each weight class advancing to the state Class 3 tournament at the Salem Civic Center on February 18 and 19.

PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY



Bank of Botetourt posts 2021 results; board votes to increase dividend following last month's stock dividend

Buchanan-based Bank of Botetourt announced today has filed its Call Report with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and reports the following unaudited financial results for year ended December 31, 2021.

Net income for the fiscal year ended 2021 amounted to \$6,879,000, exceeding budget expectations. This amount compares to \$4,631,000 for the same period of 2020, representing an increase of \$2,248,000 or 48.5%. The increase in annual earnings is primarily attributed to less than anticipated contribution to the allowance loan losses and more revenue than projected from the Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP") and

mortgage lending activities.

Both basic and diluted earnings per share amounted to \$3.58 at December 31, 2021 compared to \$2.44 one year prior. Book value was \$29.40 at December 31, 2021 as compared to \$27.43 at December 31, 2020. Both earnings per share and book value for the comparative periods have been adjusted to reflect the 10% stock dividend paid on December 17, 2021.

As a result of the exceptional financial performance, the board of directors voted to increase the quarterly dividend payment from \$0.18 to \$0.185 per share, or \$0.74 per share annualized, payable on February 18, 2022 to shareholders of record Feb-

ruary 11, 2022. This represents an increase in dividend payment of 2.8%.

For the three months ended December 31, 2021, the bank reported net income amounting to \$1,501,000 or \$0.77 per basic share in the fourth quarter. This amount compares to a net income of \$1,326,000 or \$0.70 per basic share, for the same period last year.

At December 31, 2021, total consolidated assets amounted to \$662,229,000, an 11.0% increase from \$596,595,000 at December 31, 2020, or \$65,634,000. Total net loans decreased \$28,766,000, or 6.3%, from \$454,665,000 at December 31, 2020 to \$425,899,000 at December 31, 2021.

Total deposits at December 31, 2021 amounted to \$597,122,000, compared to \$535,547,000 at December 31, 2020, an increase of 11.5% or \$61,575,000.

At December 31, 2021, select financial highlights include:

- Return on average assets of 1.06%
- Return on average equity of 12.12%
- Total deposit growth of 11.50%
- Total asset growth of 11.04%
- Net loans decreased 6.3%

• Community Bank Leverage Ratio of 9.14%

• Strong liquidity position

• Outstanding Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP") loans of \$6.0 million at December 31, 2021 with deferred PPP loan servicing fees balance of \$460,000

• Nine consecutive years of increased dividend payments

• Largest community bank headquartered in the Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area

President & CEO G. Lyn Hayth III stated, "Bank of Botetourt posted excep-

tional financial results for 2021, exceeding budget expectations. SBA forgiveness of PPP loans and the subsequent revenue recognition contributed to our successful financial results. In addition, strong and consistent revenue generated by our mortgage loan activity added to our profitability. Shareholders were rewarded with a 10% stock dividend in December and on January 26, 2022, the board of directors voted to increase the dividend payment to our shareholders from \$0.18 to \$0.185 per share."

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys seeks donations during winter months

Did you spend time reorganizing your home during the recent winter weather? Goodwill Stores and Attended Donation Centers are ready to receive donations of clothing and household items from your reorganizing and post-holiday purge.

Donations tend to decrease during the cold, winter months, but Goodwill needs your donations all year long. Find your local Goodwill store and details on hours by visiting www.goodwillvalleys.com/locations/.

"People in our communities benefit from the generosity of the public when they entrust Goodwill with their donations," states Jim Forer, Vice President of Donated Goods at Goodwill Industries of the Valleys. "There is a tremendous amount of pride, dignity, self-respect that comes from being able to earn a paycheck and provide for your family. When someone donates to Goodwill, they provide funds for job training and employment programs. This helps people in our community obtain the skills needed to find work, get a better job, or

gain greater independence."

Revenues from donated items directly support Goodwill training and employment services. Your donations given to Goodwill help eliminate poverty through empowering individuals, strengthening families, and inspiring communities. Goodwill depends on your generosity to support our mission, and your donations help give a hand up to individuals throughout our communities in Central, Southwest and Southside Virginia.

Goodwill Classes and Career Services are available to individuals throughout Goodwill's 35-county, 14-city service area. Its mission is to eliminate poverty through empowering individuals, strengthening families, and inspiring communities. In 2021, Goodwill served 38,446 youth, adults, and seniors, placed 670 people into jobs, and helped individuals attain 2,949 industry recognized credentials that will allow them to be more competitive in their job search and to find higher paying employment.

Goodwill helps individu-

als increase their skills and assist with their job search. They can receive help online or in-person at Goodwill Career Centers and Workforce Satellite Offices.

Upcoming classes and event include:

Feb. 14: Financial Literacy & Readiness, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Online: Basic Computer Skills, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Danville Career Center: Introduction to Microsoft Word, 11 a.m. to noon, Online: Professional Communication, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Online

Feb. 15: Email Essentials, 1 to 2 p.m., Online


Visit www.goodwillvalleys.com for more information.

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