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WBHS Class of 2022 recognized at Distinguished Honors Banquet

Debbie Adams
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William Byrd High School recognized the accomplishments of the Class of 2022 at the Distinguished Honors Banquet on May 9. The ceremony and dinner were held in the main gymnasium at the high school.

WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb welcomed the students and their parents. "Tonight, we are here to celebrate you—the Class of 2022," she said. "You have worked really hard to get where you are."

During the ceremony, Emilie McCaskill and Emiliano Gonzalez were named Best All Around Female and Best All Around Male for the WBHS Class of 2022.

According to William Byrd Assistant Principal Marcee Cook, "Best All Around" is a coveted honor based first on academic success, and second on who best represents good character and investment in their school and community. "These young people have also participated in a variety of academic and extracurricular activities and the selections are determined by a faculty nomination and vote."

Department Awards were also presented. Each department selects an outstanding senior who maintains good academic standards in the department, displays good

character, and contributes constructively to the class, department, and school. They are recommended by teachers and determined by a consensus vote by the teachers of that department. The names of the department award recipients are kept secret until the night of the banquet.

Department Award recipients for 2022 include:

- Art: Samantha Shrader
 - Band: Annabelle Moore
 - Business: Hannah Sutton
 - Choir: Anya Hunter
 - Drama: Victoria Lovern
 - English: Daniel Letz
 - Family and Consumer Science (FACs): Bryson Crawford
 - French: Emilie McCaskill
 - Latin: Emiliano Gonzalez
 - Marketing: Micah Kiker
 - Math: Hannah Sutton
 - Physical Education: Hunter Richards
 - Science: Emilie McCaskill
 - Social Studies: Grace Saunders
 - Spanish: Grace Saunders
 - Technology Education: Austin Nielsen
 - Yearbook: Cassidy Wrye
- Newcomb recognized several students with special awards:
- Chloe Harrilla was recognized as Top Terrier for the Class of 2022. "The Top Terrier is nominated by students,



Emilie McCaskill was named Best All Around Female 2022 at the WBHS Honors Banquet. She also won the Department Awards for French and Science, the Blue Ridge District Academic Award, and was recognized for completing her Associate's Degree at VWCC while completing her high school diploma. Vicki Newburn from the Vinton Woman's Club presented the Best All Around Female Award to McCaskill.



Emiliano Gonzalez was named Best All Around Male for 2022 at the William Byrd Honors Banquet on May 9. His award was presented by Chris McCarty of the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club. Emiliano also received the Department Award for Latin.



WBHS 2022 Art Department Award winner Samantha Shrader



WBHS 2022 Band Department Award winner Annabelle Moore

See Honors, page 4

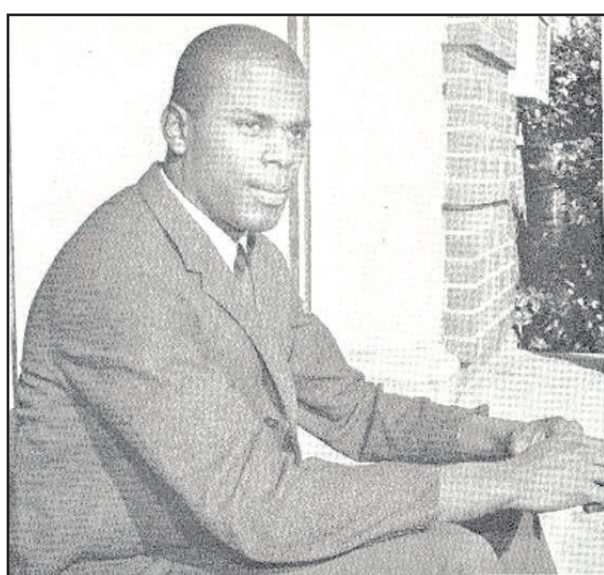


PHOTO FROM VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM ARCHIVES

The 1967 William Byrd yearbook nicknamed James Childress "Mr. Everything" for the many honors that he won in his one year at the school.

Community loses a legend – James 'Hoolie' Childress; he never met a stranger and touched the lives of many

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James "Hoolie" Childress excelled in football, basketball, and softball. The plaque next to his retired No. 31 jersey reads: "All State, All American, 30.9 points per game, 16 rebounds per game, 1741 career points, scoring a record 59 points against Covington in 1967." He was named All City/County Football Player of the Year for two years, All American Team in basketball and All State in softball.

He was listed among the top 100 high school play-

ers at William Byrd, Childress excelled in football, basketball, and softball. The plaque next to his retired No. 31 jersey reads: "All State, All American, 30.9 points per game, 16 rebounds per game, 1741 career points, scoring a record 59 points against Covington in 1967." He was named All City/County Football Player of the Year for two years, All American Team in basketball and All State in softball.

He was listed among the top 100 high school play-

See James 'Hoolie' Childress, page 8

Vinton and Bonsack teachers honored with prestigious Apple Awards



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Three Vinton-area teachers were recognized at this year's Golden Apple Awards Ceremony. Shown left to right in photo are Roanoke County School Board Chair David Linden, Bonsack Principal Leanne Leftwich, Elementary school Red Apple winner Missy Peroulas from Bonsack, Green Apple winner Tracey Addison from WBMS, Vinton's representative to the School Board Tim Greenway, Middle School Red Apple winner Matt Bartley from WBMS, and WBMS Principal Todd Kageals.

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Three Vinton-area teachers were recognized at the Roanoke County Public Schools Education Foundation Golden Apple Awards Ceremony on May 4. The annual Apple Awards recognize outstanding educators in the county schools. Vinton and Bonsack teachers won three of the five awards presented.

This year's Apple Awards Ceremony was held during National

Teacher Appreciation Week.

RCPS Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely said, "Being nominated for the Golden Apple means that somebody has noticed what you are doing—you are truly setting the pace and are an example for everyone. We appreciate what you do."

The top award—the Golden Apple—is the highest honor presented annually to a teacher in Roanoke County Schools. The Red Apple Awards are presented to the top finalists at the

elementary, middle and high school levels. The Green Apple goes to a teacher who has been teaching for three years or less.

William Byrd High School and Middle School Choir Director Matt Bartley received the Red Apple Award at the middle school level.

Missy Peroulas from Bonsack Elementary won the Red Apple Award at the elementary school level.

The Green Apple Award recipient was English teacher Tracey Addison from William

Byrd Middle School.

The 2022 Golden Apple Award went to Amber Benson from Northside Middle School. Benson also has been named the nominee from Roanoke County Public Schools for the Virginia Teacher of the Year.

The high school level Red Apple Award was presented to Brian Harris from Hidden Valley High School.

Kim Frampton, who is the president of the RCPS Education Foundation, noted that over 60 applications were narrowed down to 17 finalists for the Golden Apple Award and seven finalists for the Green Apple Award. She was assisted by Education Foundation board member Julian Harf in presenting this year's awards.

Other Golden Apple finalists from Vinton-area schools include Melissa Alderman from W.E. Cundiff, Jeanine Poyner from Herman L. Horn, and Erin O'Donnell from WBMS.

Other Green Apple finalists from Vinton-area schools include Haley Leftwich from WBMS, Grace Russell from W.E. Cundiff, and Adriana Strum from WBMS.

Teachers are nominated for the Apple Awards by parents, students, colleagues, and the community. Those who are nominated are invited to complete an application form. Several finalists are chosen and required to submit a short video of a typical classroom lesson and answer a narrative based on award criteria. Then the five winners are chosen by a selection committee made up of Foundation Board members, admin-

See Awards, page 6

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Sutton, Gonzalez named WBHS Prom Queen and King



WBHS seniors Emiliano Gonzalez and Hannah Sutton were voted Prom King and Queen for 2022 by their classmates at Byrd. They were crowned at the Prom on May 7.



This year's William Byrd High School Prom was held at the Hotel Roanoke.



This year's William Byrd Prom was followed by After Prom "Under the Sea."

Debbie Adams
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Hannah Sutton and Emiliano Gonzalez were crowned Queen and King of the 2022 William Byrd High School Prom on May 7.

Prom King and Queen candidates are nominated by the staff at William Byrd and voted on by the Senior Class.

This year's other nominees for Prom Queen included Victoria Watts, Chloe Harrilla, and Emilie McCaskill. Ross Divers, Trevor Ruble, and Rider Hinkle were nominated for Prom King.

"Hannah and Emiliano are very deserving students who represent the Senior Class well," said WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb.

This year's prom was held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. The theme for 2022 was "Night of

Lights."

"Cherrybell Farrington, the Junior Class sponsor, and her prom committee did a fantastic job organizing the prom with decorations, food and music," Newcomb said. "It takes hours upon hours, days and months before, to orchestrate such an event. The prom committee and Mrs. Farrington should be commended for a job well done!"

WBHS was able to return to its tradition of an After Prom celebration this year. All juniors and seniors are invited to After Prom, whether they attend the prom or not. Volunteers, including parents and William Byrd staff, decorate the lower level of the high school and the cafeteria elaborately for the event. The theme for 2022 was "Under the Sea." There are prize drawings throughout the evening and those who stick it out until 1 a.m. on Sunday morning

receive a free After Prom T-shirt.

Newcomb gave a special thanks to Randy Nicely who has worked with After Prom for nine years.

"His numerous hours of work behind the scenes each year have transformed our school into many adventures throughout the years for After Prom," Newcomb said. "Also, Shea Davis, the PTO After Prom chair, put together an amazing time.

"Alicia Spangler, our faculty representative for After Prom, deserves a gold medal," said Newcomb. "Her artistic ability and vision come to life at After Prom. The theme she chose, and the design, transformed our school into an adventure under the sea."

"Thanks to all the volunteers and those who made donations! We had 475 students attend Prom and After Prom."

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VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DAR reaches recycling goal, five Trex benches on their way to Vinton

The Roanoke Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (RVC-DAR) has been working on a community recycling project since last summer, with the goal of collecting 500 pounds of soft plastics and films in order to receive a park bench from the Trex Corporation. (Five hundred pounds amounts to about 40,500 plastic grocery bags.) The plan was to place the new bench along the Glade

Creek Greenway Phase II Trail in Vinton.

The DAR partnered with the Town of Vinton and the Precision Fabrics Group (PFG) to collect the plastics by April 2022. Recycling bins were placed at the Municipal Building and the Charles R. Hill Community Center so that the public could contribute as well.

The organization far surpassed the original goal and collected enough recyclables for five benches, which will be delivered over the summer.

The question now is where to place those additional benches.

DAR member Sharon Menzies headed up the project, along with Regent Cindy Higgins.

"Thank you to all of you," was Menzies' message to those who contributed. "The NexTrex plastic film recycling challenge was a great success! The project time ended April 30.

Enough plastic was recycled to award the Roanoke Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution five

Trex benches. It will be decided where the benches will be placed after their summer arrival and honor plates are placed on each bench."

A formal RVC-DAR Certificate will be presented to Precision Fabrics Group (PFG), the Town of Vinton, and the Vinton and Blue Ridge Food Lion stores to recognize all the community support.

"This has been a wonderful community project and RVC-DAR thanks all of you for your participation and support," Menzies said.



"Thank you to Rosie's for their support to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and our mission to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide. With chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, AFSP is a voluntary health organization with a nationwide presence that gives those affected by suicide a nationwide community empowered by research, education and advocacy to take action against this leading cause of death. Please join the fight to stop suicide at AFSP.org."

Ellen Shannon, Area Director
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
AFSP.org



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Through the charitable program, Rosie's Gives Back, Colonial Downs Group has made **monetary and in-kind donations of more than \$2,300,000**, and has logged over 2,500 service hours in Virginia communities.



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SPOTLIGHT ON TOWN OF VINTON STAFF

Dana Boyd is the Community Programs Supervisor for Sales and Events for the Town of Vinton. She began working for the town in November 2018.

Boyd works with clients to ensure that their events go as planned, whether corporate or private. She answers inquiries from potential clients and meets with them to demonstrate what the Vinton War Memorial has to offer to

sell them on the venue. She and her co-workers set up and decorate for events.

Boys enjoys spending time with her family and four "fur" children. When times allows, she loves being outside

"The Special Programs department is a very important part of the staff/team in the Town of Vinton," says Vinton Mayor Brad Grose. "The members of the department are

often the main contact that people have with our town. The Special Programs staff does a wonderful job in representing our town in a very positive manner. The department is always busy, but they take time to provide personal service for our special programs as well as private personal events. We are very fortunate to have highly qualified, dedicated individuals in the Community Pro-

grams Department that take pride in representing the Town of Vinton."

The Town of Vinton and The Vinton Messenger have united to "Spotlight the Town of Vinton Staff" during their birthday months. The town is proud to have these employees on staff and wants the community to see who is behind the scenes making the town look great and operate efficiently.



Dana Boyd

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sale of Vinton water system to WVWA brings changes to utility bills

Debbie Adams
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Since the Town of Vinton and the Western Virginia Water Authority have agreed to a transfer of ownership of the town's water and wastewater system from the town to the WVWA on July 1, many changes have been underway behind the scenes.

However, one major change will become evident to customers this month—changes in billing procedures. Customers now make their payments to the Town of Vinton once every two months. When the WVWA takes over, billing will become monthly, and customers will make their payments to the WVWA.

In its most recent billing cycle, the town sent out notices of the changes that will occur with the transfer of billing to the Authority.

Because of the timing of the transition of customer data to the Water Authority, the billing schedule is being altered between now and

August. The customers will experience the following bill cycles:

In May, customers have received or will receive a bill for consumption since the last reading date in February. That bill is due on May 18, and payable to the Town of Vinton. (This covers utility service from the beginning of February to the beginning of April.)

In June, customers will receive a bill for consumption since the last reading date in April. That bill is due June 18 and payable to the Town of Vinton. (This covers utility service from the beginning of April to the middle of May.)

However, in July, customers will be mailed a bill for approximately one month of service. That bill will be due on July 25 and will be payable to the Western Virginia Water Authority. (This will cover utility services from the middle of May to the third week of June.)

Moving forward, customers will receive regular

Important Information About Your Residential Utility Bill

As your utility service transitions from the Town of Vinton to the Western Virginia Water Authority, the number of days in your billing cycle and your payment location will change.

- 1. In May,** you will be mailed a bill for consumption since your last reading date in February. That bill will be due May 18 and payable to the **Town of Vinton.**
- 2. In June,** you will be mailed a bill for consumption since your last reading date in April. That bill will be due June 18 and payable to the **Town of Vinton.**
- 3. In July,** you will be mailed a bill for approximately one-month of service. That bill will be due July 25 and payable to the **Western Virginia Water Authority.**

Questions? Contact the Town of Vinton
540.983.0608
vintoninfo@vintonva.gov
www.vintonva.gov

SUBMITTED PHOTO

MONTHLY bills from the Water Authority.

The Water Authority will remit the proceeds of that third bill back to the Town since the usage occurred prior to July 1.

According to Vinton Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton, the bill insert in the May utility bills explains these upcoming cycles. He also notes that "even though there is an extra billing cycle, we are only billing for the service used. This is not a double bill."

In the "Message" section

of the bill due on May 18, customers will see a note that "If you paid a deposit on your utility account, it has been applied to your account."

According to Sexton, that statement applies to residents who have become customers since 2011 when \$100 deposits began being required for opening new utility system accounts.

"The deposits were applied to the people who paid them," Sexton says. "We did not start taking deposits until fall of 2011, so

only people who began service after then will have received the deposit refund."

If you are one of those customers who made the \$100 deposit, that deposit was applied to your account with the most recent bill.

Sexton says the reason for applying the deposit to the bill is "to help mitigate having to issue a large number of deposit refunds after July 1st.

These refunds will greatly reduce or even fully eliminate the amount due this billing cycle for those

selected individuals and possibly carry into the next billing cycle.

"This will have the added benefit of providing some relief to the customers in real time when tax bills and other expenses may be hitting," Sexton added.

If you have any questions about billing, call the town at 540-983-0608. More details are available about the transfer of the utility system from the town to the WVWA by visiting the town's website at www.vintonva.gov.

Roanoke Valley Dulcimers perform at History Museum

The Roanoke Valley Dulcimers definitely en-

hanced the atmosphere at the Vinton History Muse-

um on May 7. Eight of the 10 regular members per-

formed a one-hour concert in what is the dining room at the museum. With tight quarters at the museum, the audience took seats in the dining room, the adjacent kitchen, office, and hallway. Some stood.

The original plan was to play on the front porch or under the gazebo, but steady rain moved the musicians and their audience indoors.

Carla Fosbre, Earl and Ronda Vanover, Carla Mayhugh, Mary Beth Layman, Jesse and Cathie Shelor, and Gloria Howell shared their talents, some beautiful music, some stories, and some details about their instruments and dulcimer history

during the performance.

Mayhugh said that she moved to the Roanoke area from Pennsylvania during the pandemic and assumed the chances of finding a dulcimer group to play with were slim to none but happened upon the Roanoke Valley Dulcimers group.

The group got their start just across the street in the upstairs meeting room of the Roanoke County Vinton Branch Library in 2015. With the pandemic they were forced to retreat from public practices and moved to Zoom. As restrictions have eased, they took up practicing at the Thrasher Memorial UMC picnic shelter and finally in

April were able to return to the library.

They performed for the Korean Church at Thrasher Memorial UMC in February and now have more performances scheduled after the History Museum during the summer and fall.

The museum performance featured old-time traditional Appalachian and Irish tunes, hymns, folk songs and more, including the standard "Wildwood Flower." They included several rousing songs, but some that were poignant and reminiscent of the Civil War, such as "Soldier's Joy," and "Ashokan Farewell."



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Roanoke Valley Dulcimers performed at the Vinton History Museum on May 7. Shown left to right are: front, Ronda Vanover, Carla Fosbre, and Jesse Shelor; standing Earl Vanover, Cathie Shelor, Mary Beth Layman, Carla Mayhugh, and Gloria Howell.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. As fast as can be done
5. WC's
9. Religious retreat
11. Warfare
13. One you wouldn't expect
15. Disease-causing micro-organisms
16. For each
17. Grammatical term
19. One point east of southeast
21. ___ Dern, actress
22. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)
23. Shampoo
25. Scale drawing of a structure
26. An enclosure for confining livestock

27. Goat-like mammal
29. Cigar
31. Appear
33. "Westworld" actress ___ Rachel Wood
34. Leaked through
36. The highest adult male singing voice
38. Musical group ___
39. Aurochs
41. Crazy (Spanish)
43. Swiss river
44. Strains
46. Frock
48. Found in most body tissues
52. Cool!
53. Reasons behind
54. Christian recluse

56. Removes
57. Repents
58. Horses
59. Tailless amphibian

CLUES DOWN

1. Not awake
2. Type of dessert
3. They ___
4. Retired Coast Guard admiral
5. Gene positions
6. Exclude
7. One who is bound
8. Where drinks are served
9. Small vipers
10. Blackbird
11. Adventurer
12. Shade
14. A way to gain
15. A salt or ester of boric acid
18. Monetary units

20. Removed
24. "My country, tis of ___"
26. Horses
28. Drives back by force
30. Bold, impudent behavior
32. Rates
34. Types of nerves in males
35. A ridge of sand created by the wind
37. Wind instrument
38. Pakistani city
40. Dry or withered
42. Delivered a speech
43. Peak
45. Small waterbird
47. Days falling in mid-month
49. Elvis' daughter
50. Flat and smooth
51. Dallas Cowboys great Leon
55. What cows say

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Proud is an understatement! My daughter, Abbie Bell Lewis, graduated from Roanoke College with a Bachelor of Science – Sports Marketing Degree on Saturday. It was a wet, miserable day, but I would sit through any weather to watch her walk across that stage. Those joining us for the soggy day were Drake and Hannah Lewis, David Lewis and Guinn Nexsen (Myrtle Beach), Valerie, Kyle, Chase and Cade Hendricks (Richmond) Suzanne and Jim Bell and Greg Boitnott. Later that day we celebrated with even more family and friends! Thank you all so much who joined up. Pictured with Abbie (at right) are two of her dear friends that also graduated on Saturday, Devon Lee and Sydney Swift.

Angie Chewning

Filling in for Bootie

Another proud moment – cousin Hallie Chewning graduated summa cum laude from Liberty University with a B.Ed in Elementary Education. She received the Dr. Karen L. Parker Award for displaying excellence in education, Christian testimony, organization, and work ethic. She was also awarded the Delta Kappa Gamma Virginia Scholars Award for meeting the criteria set forth for a key woman educator. This fall, she will be teaching fifth grade reading and social studies in Roanoke County at Burlington

Elementary School. Hallie is the daughter of Tim and Teresa Chewning and sister to Hannah! Congrats!

I know a wonderful Vinton family in need of some help! They are looking to hire an RN or LPN to work in their home in Vinton to take care of their son Logan. Day shift 7 a.m.- 7 p.m.; night shift, 7 p.m.-7 a.m. Both positions are needed. Hours can be tweaked, the hours to eight hour shifts if needed but preferably someone that can do 12.

Logan is paralyzed from the neck down and is ventilator dependent. They are desperately trying to find a caring, dependable nurse. For more information, please contact Care N Home owner Anne Hogan.



Mount Pleasant Lions Club tidbits

At its last meeting the Mount Pleasant Lions Club presented Lion Robert Stutes with a 15-year chevron that had been awarded by Lions Clubs International. Stutes has for several years honchoed the club's Peace Poster Contest. The contest, for middle school age students, is an opportunity for kids to develop their artistic skills by graphically imagining and drawing a poster based on a theme given by Lions International. Monetary awards and a pizza dinner by the club and possible scholarships from the State Lions hierarchy are the

incentives for the young artists to work hard on their creations.

The following ongoing projects were noted:

- Lions Anne Ferguson, Tommy Moore and Janet West reported that they had completed May's packing of 56 bags for the Garden City Elementary School Pack-a-Snack program

- Lion Kenny Price volunteered to take a bag of 50, kids-size socks to both Stewartville and Goodview Elementary Schools

- The first 2022 maintenance work session at the historic Ke-fauver Cemetery was complet-

ed with two large bags of trash collected and the grass around the concrete enclosure being trimmed

Plans were then reviewed for the annual Smith Mountain Lake picnic on May 22, where District Governor Eric Mills, of the Vinton Breakfast Club, will install the incoming officers. This is one of the highlights for club members each year. Finally, an initial discussion was held about holding a Mount Pleasant neighborhood National Night Out.

By Lion Mike Ferguson



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lion Robert Stutes was honored for his service to the Mount Pleasant Lions Club with a 15-year chevron from Lions Club International. He is shown with Mount Pleasant Lions Club President Anne Ferguson.

Honors

from page 1

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

•Five students were awarded the Blue Ridge District Academic Awards for having the highest GPA and the most awarded school letters: Riley Firebaugh, Haley Day, Trevor Ruble, Emilie McCaskill, and Emma Copening. Each high school

selects its top five.

•Hunter Richards and Remi FiGart were recognized as the 2022 B'Nai Brith Award school winners for William Byrd High School. The B'Nai Brith awards are given each year to a male and female winner from among 19 schools in the Roanoke Valley. The awards are viewed locally as the area "Heisman trophy" of high school awards. The student-athletes are judged differently than most awards of this kind. The award is weighted 40 percent on athletic success, 40 percent on academic success and 20 percent on community service. Richards and FiGart will compete with the winners from the other 18 schools for the prestigious award.

•Emilie McCaskill was recognized for completing her Associates Degree at Virginia Western Community College while completing her high school diploma.

•Maddie Tuck and Landon Niday were honored as the 2022 Dog Pound leaders. Each year the Senior Class nominates and votes for two students to lead the award-winning school-spirited, rowdy, but fun, student spirit and cheering section known as the

Dog Pound.

Candidates for valedictorian were announced at the banquet. Valedictorians have achieved a cumulative GPA of 4.0 or higher during their high school years. In recognition of that accomplishment, the students were presented with their Valedictorian Stole to be worn at graduation, their Valedictorian Certificate, an Honor Graduate gold tassel, and an Advanced Diploma pin.

Class of 2022 valedictorians include: Alexa Rae Aquino, Isabel Burnett, Gentry Carle, Emma Copening, Haley Day, Ross Divers, Haley Firebaugh, Riley Firebaugh, Emiliano Gonzalez, Ethan Hairston, Chloe Harrilla, Griffin Horacek, Matthew Hoyos, Jocelyn Hunter, Carlee Hutchens, Micah Kiker, Devin Liu, Jaiden Lorton, Victoria Lovern, Emilie McCaskill, Wesley Nance, Landon Niday, Austin Nielsen, Timber Raines, Joshua Roop, Jaylen Rosser, Mya Rosser, Trevor Ruble, Daniel Sarver, Grace Saunders, William Sayers, Hunter Sipe, Ashlyn Stover, Hannah Sutton, Charles Trogdon, Jr., Madison Tuck, Lana Turner, Amber Vaughn, Cadence Wilkerson, and

Kassidy Wrye.

Distinguished Honor Graduates with GPAs of 3.5 or higher were also recognized and presented with an Honor Graduate Gold Tassel. (Starred * names also received Advanced Studies Diploma pins.)

Distinguished Honor Graduates for 2022 include: *Sela Beatty, *Tyler Begasse, *Chayton Behrens, *Yulissa Bonilla Guacheta, *Mackenzie Browne, Bryson Crawford, *Emily Dalton, Bronwyn Fenimore, *Kaitlyn Ferguson, *Remington FiGart, *Jade Fleitz, *Mackenzie Foley, *Peyton Fuchs, *Sarah Fuchs, Elisha Gayles, *Nevaeh Guenther, *Abigail Gunn, *Wills Halliwill, *Catherine Harless, *Jacob Hilliard, Kaiya Hoagland, *Keely Hoal, Sean Hoey, Anya Hunter, *Elsie Kincer, *Daniel Letz, *Brysen Lish, Amaris Markham, *Jayson Marvin, *Madeline Miller, *Robert Miller, *Anna Mil-liron, Natalee Mills, *An-nabelle Moore, *Hunter Muddiman, *Jenna Nicely, *Shivani Patel, Hunter Richards, *Matthew Scavelli, *Natalie Schneider, *Samantha Shrader, Damien Chaos*Smith, Faith Smith,

Greta Walls, *Verity Watkins, *Victoria Watts, *Travis West, *Claire Wray, and *Cross Yonce.

BETA Club members were recognized at the honors ceremony. BETA Club is a national honor and service organization that has been a part of William Byrd since 1960. Students with a 3.75 GPA at the end of their junior year are invited to join. If a student decides to become a member, they participate in volunteer activities in the school and in the community.

BETA Club members in the Class of 2022 received BETA Club pins; those who completed 10 hours of volunteer service also received a BETA cord to wear at graduation and are indicated with an * before their names: *Alexa Rae Aquino, *Tyler Begasse, *Isabel Burnett, Gentry Carle, *Emma Copening, *Emily Dalton, Haley Day, *Ross Divers, *Bronwyn Fenimore, *Remi FiGart, *Haley Firebaugh, *Riley Firebaugh, *Jade Fleitz, *Emiliano Gonzalez, *Ethan Hairston, *Wills Halliwill, *Catherine Harless, *Chloe Harrilla, *Kaiya

See Honors, page 5

The Vinton Messenger

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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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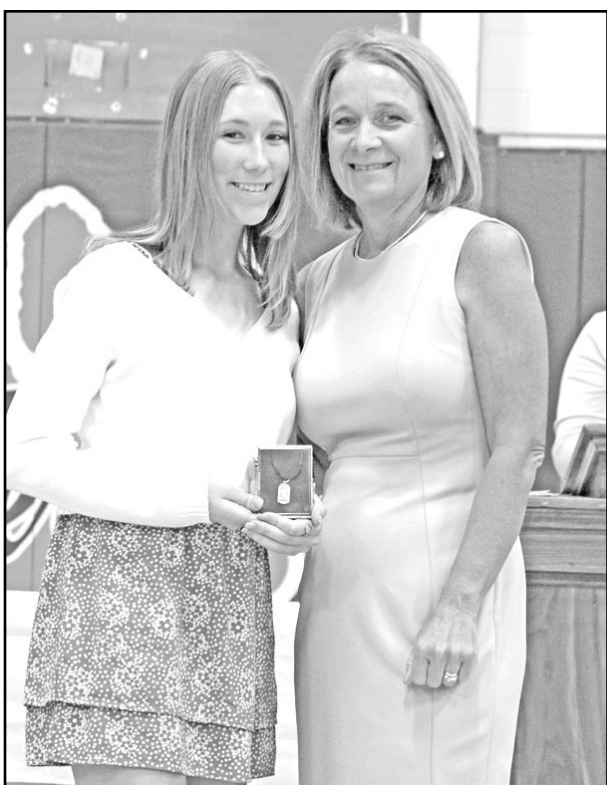
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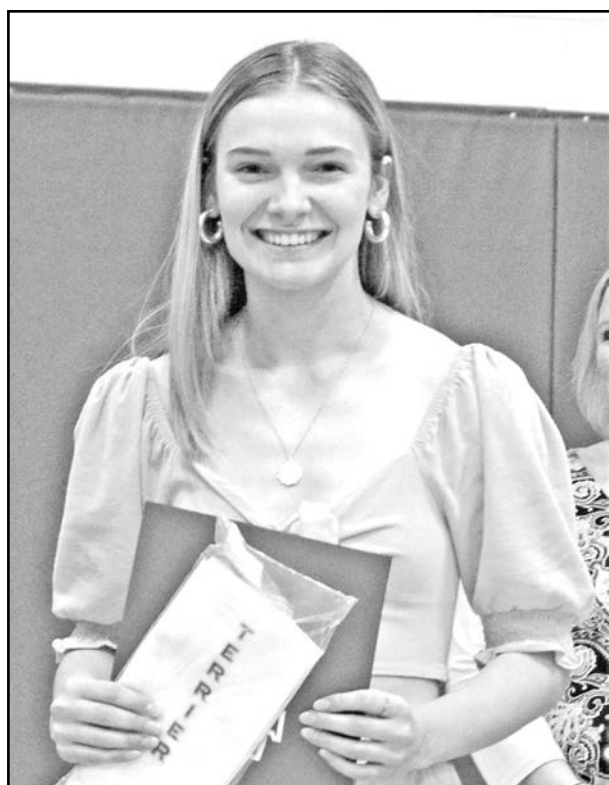
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Honors from page 4



WBHS 2022 Business and Math Departments Award winner Hannah Sutton



Top Terrier for 2022 Chloe Harrilla



WBHS Choir Department Award winner for 2022 Anya Hunter



Dog Pound leaders for 2022 Landon Niday and Madison Tuck

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS



WBHS 2022 Drama Department Award Winner Victoria Lovern



2022 WBHS English Department Award winner Daniel Letz



Family and Consumer Sciences Department Award winner for 2022 Bryson Crawford



Marketing Department Award Winner for 2022 Micah Kiker



Social Studies and Science Departments Award winner for 2022 Grace Saunders



Technology Department Award winner for 2022 Austin Nielsen



Yearbook Department Award winner for 2022 Cassidy Wrye



William Byrd B'Nai Brith school winners for 2022 Hunter Richards and Remi FiGart. Richards also won the Department Award for Physical Education.



Blue Ridge District Academic Award winners for 2022 (left to right): Haley Day, Emma Copening, Trevor Ruble, Riley Firebaugh, and Emilie McCaskill.

Hoagland, *Keely Hoal, *Sean Hoey, *Griffin Horacek, *Matthew Hoyos, *Jocelyn Hunter, *Carlee Hutchens, *Micah Kiker, *Brysen Lish, *Devin Liu, *Jaiden Lorton, *Victoria Lovern, *Amaris Markham, *Jayson Marvin, *Emilie McCaskill, *Madeline Miller, *Robert Miller, *Hunter Muddiman, *Wesley Nance, *Jenna Nicely, *Landon Niday, *Austin Nielsen, *Timber Raines, *Joshua Roop, *Jaylen Rosser, *Mya Rosser, *Trevor Ruble, *Daniel Sarver, *Grace Saunders, *William Sayers, *Natalie Schneider, *Samantha Shrader, *Hunter Sipe, *Ashlyn Stover, *Hannah Sutton, Charles Trogdon, Jr., *Madison Tuck, *Victoria Watts, *Cadence Wilkerson, and *Kassidy Wrye.

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

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

"This young lady has been quite busy during her high school years," Newburn said. "During her senior year, she stepped up to serve as the SCA President and became a member of the BETA Club. Other highlights of her four years include: Leo Club (11th-12th grades), hosting two French Exchange students in October 2019 and going to France for Foreign Exchange in July 2021. Being fluent in French made this experience truly memorable.

"Emilie has been a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes since freshman year. She played on the varsity girls basketball team serving as team captain. She received accolades for being the leading scorer in 10th and 12th grades. She was recognized for being a 1,000-point scorer. She was also 1st Team All-District. On the varsity tennis team, she had the most singles wins and the highest GPA on the team.

"Emilie is a hard-working and determined young woman who loves to lead in organizations, sports, and her church. She served as a student intern at Vinton Baptist Church. From 10th-12th grades she served on the Vinton Baptist Student Leadership Committee; she worked in Vacation Bible School, and she sings in the Vinton Baptist Choir.

"She volunteered for Feeding Southwest Virginia from April through July 2020, working on the Café to Grow Truck, providing food to impoverished neighborhoods in Roanoke at the most critical time during COVID, so I know her 70 plus hours were appreciated.

"This goal-oriented student has accomplished all of this, and she has held a part-time job at Kroger since the summer of 2020. She is organized, manages her time well, and always serves as a team leader."

Chris McCarty from the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club and Lions Zone 1 Chairman presented the Best All Around Male Award to Emiliano Gonzalez.

"In 2020 the Vinton Host Lions Club merged with the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club and I am happy to continue the tradition they started in presenting the Best All Around Male Award," said McCarty.

He described Emiliano as well-rounded. He has played in the band for six years, including three years in Marching Band, three years in Jazz Band, and three years in Concert and Symphonic Band. He's also an athlete, playing travel soccer for four years and high school soccer for three years.

He is involved in the community by being a Boy Scout with highlights including being a Patrol Leader and a Senior Patrol Leader with Troop 210. He has also reached the ultimate goal in Scouting by becoming an Eagle Scout. He was named District Eagle Scout of the Year for 2022.

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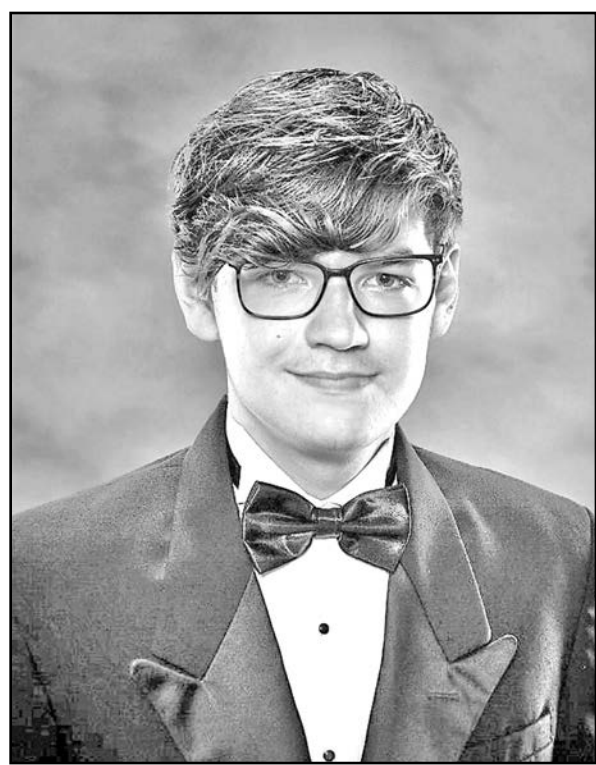


PHOTO COURTESY OF PRESTIGE STUDIO/LIFETOUCH

EventZone art scholarship winner Hunter Muddiman

Muddiman wins EventZone Art Scholarship

The EventZone has announced the winner of its annual \$1,000 Scholarship for the Arts— Hunter Muddiman, a senior at William Byrd High School and BCAT.

He plans to attend the Savannah College of Art and Design this fall. He has been an artist since

childhood and has received many state recognitions for his artwork.

Muddiman plans to pursue a career as an artist with Walt Disney Imagineering in the future.

“Good luck with your art, Hunter!” is the message from the EventZone.

Awards

from page 1

istrators, teachers, parents, and community members.

“Several Foundation Board members served on the selection committee and watched every video from our finalists. I can tell you that the selection process was extremely difficult, and the committee was very impressed with every one of our finalists,” Frampton said.

The Roanoke County Education Foundation was initially formed to help young people in Roanoke County Schools meet some of their educational and personal goals. The Foundation provides student scholarships for graduating seniors, but

also provides teacher grants for innovative classroom projects and financial support for educational projects and programs—and they sponsor the Golden Apple Awards recognition program.

Dr. Nicely thanked the Foundation and their volunteers not only for sponsoring the Golden Apple Awards, but for their fundraising efforts through the annual Back Pack Run and the Golf Tournament. He also thanked the School Board for their annual donation of \$10,000 to the Education Foundation and their ongoing support of the Foundation’s programs.

Vinton Palooza scheduled for May 14

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce has come up with a new event for 2022—the Vinton Palooza—scheduled for Saturday, May 14, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial.

Vinton Palooza features music from two great bands— the Jared Stout Band and The Kings. Admission is \$10. Tickets are available only at the gate. Kids under 12 are free.

There will also be yard games,

an adult beverage garden sponsored by Blue Ridge Beverage, food vendors Lazy Days BBQ and Charlie Tropical, and craft vendors, including Sports Haven, Inc., MemberOne, Nyxocket-Shop, Faith Greene, Susan Beall, United Healthcare, Pampered Chef, Cristal’s Inoque Collection, Joann Clemmer, and Nishi Food Mart #8.

Sponsors include MemberOne Federal Credit Union, Oakey’s,

Coastal Insurance Planning, PFG, Mountain View Real Estate, Fox Radio 910, ServPro, Winters Storage, Bank of Botetourt, the Vinton War Memorial, Blue Ridge Beverage, Greenway Boothe Real Estate Team, Roanoke County, HomeTrust Bank, the Town of Vinton, Food Lion, The Vinton Messenger, Farmburguesa, Vertex Signs, Magnets USA, Cox Communications, Carilion Clinic, and Mayor Brad Grose.

Vinton Police greet the public at ‘Pizza with the Police’

On April 28, the Vinton Police Department, along with the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, hosted its second community outreach event, this one at New York Pizza.

“The coordination of Sgt. Michael Caldwell and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce staff made this event possible at one of our long-standing Town of Vinton restaurants, New York Pizza,” said Police Chief Fabricio Drumond. “The event was another opportunity for community members to have lunch with their community servants or ‘pizza with the police.’ New York Pizza graciously created a special lunch pricing specifically for the event. Like any other event, this was an open invitation to all those in our community who wanted to attend.”

“In attendance from the Town of Vinton were our elected body, the Town of Vinton administrative

staff, and local business owners and partners,” Drumond said. “During the entire event, the designated dining room section remained full of guests. There, officers could lunch alongside Town of Vinton residents and the aforementioned members.

“Like our own family dining table, the ability to eat with one another always facilitates open dialogue and provides the perfect opportunity to share ideas that genuinely foster meaningful conversations,” Drumond continued. “Many in our community are pleased with the initiative and the opportunity to connect with their police officers. Similar to notable events such as Coffee with a Cop (CwC), this event removed the officer from their traditional community role and introduced a casual atmosphere for both residents and officers to get to know one another and talk about anything important

to the individual resident.

“This type of connection is invaluable to the officers,” Drumond added. “Each event allows us to learn a lot about community needs and how the community perceives us and feels about the level of service we provide. Our goal will always be to continue to strengthen relationships and continue to give an opportunity to allow residents to meet their public servants and share their thoughts with us. After all, it is only through a collaborative effort that we can be successful in maintaining public safety for our community.”

Vinton Town Council member Laurie Mullins commented, “I think this was a great event. I really like and admire how Chief Drumond is involving the community. Being visible is important, especially in a small town like ours.”

The location of a third outreach event will be announced soon.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Vinton Police Department and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce held their second community outreach initiative on April 28, this time at New York Pizza in Vinton. Shown are Capt. Brandon Alterio and Jason Boothe, president of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce.

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



From the Pulpit

We Want Children

Pastor B. Failes at Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church in Vinton will be retiring in June after 38 years of ministry. He is known as a great storyteller and is using his last few sermons to share the stories of his ministry.

Here are some excerpts from his May 8 sermon – “We Want Children.”

In my very first appointment as a pastor, I had two churches, one at 9 a.m. and one at 11. I would go from one to the other; sometimes I had to speed a little, but I never got a speeding ticket. It was a little country road, back off the beaten path, so there wasn't a lot of police traffic on the road.

When I met with the Church Council for the very first time, I asked, “What is it that you want me to do for you while I am pastor? And they gave a very simple answer. They said, “We would like to have children in the church.”

Now the church was full of youth; we had a great youth group. We took trips here and there. We went to Atlanta on a mission trip. We went to Toronto.

But they wanted children. The youngest person in the church was 11, which means that for 11 years the nursery had been darkened.

At the first Church Council meeting we prayed for God to send us children, at a picnic, every time that we had had an opportunity, I would say, “Please God, send children” and God was good.

We had a family come with four kids—who were like angels. When they left the mother told me she was so embarrassed—they were so unruly. She said, “I don't think we can come back if we're going to be the only kids here—maybe you get more kids.”

Another family came with three children. They said, “We want a church where our kids don't stick out and aren't singled out.”

We kept on praying and every time we would gather we would pray that God would send us children.

The parsonage had a big “Methodist Parsonage” sign identifying it as a help for every person going down the road. So anytime of the day or night we would hear our doorbell ring.

One night Jan and I sat down for dinner and the doorbell rang. When we went to the door, there stood a woman—tall, with long dark hair—Sharon. She had in her arms a small child that was probably 1; standing just off to her left was another. Standing right underneath her arm was a young girl whose head almost touched the feet of the baby. I thought Sharon looked pregnant.

She was on her way to family in Texas. She drove a car pulling a small trailer and needed a place to stay overnight. The campground she stopped at asked more than she could pay. “Can you help?” she asked.

I called the other campground in town, who had

a spot for \$10 a night. We got them settled; Sharon said, “I'll see you at church in the morning.” They always say that. I didn't expect to see her.

Right before services, Sharon and her children walked in, down to the front, and sat in almost the front seats. Her little boy Ben—cute as a button—wore bells on his shoes that rang when he walked. He was sort of hyperactive and I think that's one of the ways she kept up with him. He had a little pink bunny—almost brown from being drug through dirt and mud. During the service he ran the bunny up and down the top of the pew. All I could see was the bunny.

At the end of the service, I asked about her plans. She didn't think she could make it to Texas before the baby was born, so we went over to the campground, talked to the owner, and secured a monthly rental.

I asked Sharon, “How was church this morning?” She said it was great but the lady behind her asked her never to come back. She said we really don't want your kind of people in our church and pointed out that her hair was so long and so dirty that she had stained the pew with the oils from her hair. I knew who it was, so later that week I went by to see her. “Is it true that you asked her never to come back?” She said, “Yep, we don't want that kind of people in our church.”

I said, “You realize we've been praying for children every Sunday and then

we have children, and you don't want them?”

She said, “I don't want those children.”

“Maybe we don't want you”—it came out of my mouth before I thought. I was young and bold and brash. She never came back to church while I was pastor. She was the second largest giver in that congregation. A lot of people were angry with me. I said I didn't tell her not to come back; I said if I had to choose between the two, I knew who I would choose.

Sharon had her baby. About three or four weeks after, we had a baptism service; it was the first baptism service they had in that church in over 11 years. We baptized all four kids and Sharon herself.

I went to the family who had been the first to visit with the four kids and said, “Hey, we've got kids now.” They came to church; they called their friends and said “Hey, let's go.”

Several moms came to me one day and said, “You know, no kids have been in the nursery for 11 years, have you been down there?” Toys were outdated and dirty. The cribs were not fit for kids to lay in; they wanted to redo the whole room.

I called the chair of the trustees and said, “They're going to paint the room, re-carpet the room, buy all new cribs toys, and it's not going to cost the church a dime.”

He just asked, “What color are they going to paint it?” I told him as far as I knew it would be the only color that we use—

United Methodist Nursery color. It was beautiful when they got done and filled with kids.

(The summer after I left, 36 children under the age of 12 were sent to summer camp from a church that averaged just over 60 in attendance.)

One Sunday, Sharon wasn't in church. I stopped by the campground to check on her. When I pulled in, I noticed the empty spot where her trailer usually was. I went to the owner, and he said “She left this week; she mentioned something about Texas.” I've never heard from her again; I've never seen her; I do not even remember her last name anymore.

Maybe she was an angel. She was indeed a gift from God. We prayed for children and children came. God hears our prayers.

The church prayed hard for kids; we prayed every time we got together; we prayed every time we met; we prayed every time we had a fun event; we prayed at every meeting; we prayed everywhere, that God would send us children.

So, what are you praying for today? Because God will hear your prayers. But God works in God's time.

I'm not a patient person. I'm one of those people who likes things now. I have learned over the past few years that the best way for me to get what I want for Christmas is go ahead and buy it and wrap it and put it under the tree and say it's from Jan. She's done an excellent job shopping for me to last two years be-

cause if I want something, I want it, and I want it now.

God delivers but on God's time. We don't know how long the Israelites were in Egypt, but generations of Israelites cried out for deliverance before Moses was raised up; they cried out for the promised land, but it took them 40 years to get there.

So, keep praying for what you want and expect God to act—when God's ready to act. Know that it will be coming in some way, shape, or form, but it might not be at all what you want.

The church prayed for children, but in their mind's eye they had envisioned nice little children who would sit in the pews and never flinch or wiggle or squirm; they would never look at their cell phones.

God will give you what you want, but it may not be what you envision, but what God envisions.

Sometimes God puts people in your path that change everything. They change the way you see the world; they change the way you see yourself; they change the way you see God.

Sharon changed that church forever. She was there for about four months and the church was never the same afterwards—even to this day; she left a mark on it, on its people, and on me.

People sometimes come into your life for a moment and then they are gone. Sometimes they are angels; sometimes they are pilgrims; sometimes they are pastors.

Mandatory 10-digit dialing begins May 14

Mandatory 10-digit dialing (3-digit area code + the 7-digit telephone number) begins May 14 for Virginians living in the 540 area code region.

Local calls made with just seven digits will not be connected.

This is the second step in a June 2020 relief plan approved by the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to phase in the

new 826 area code. Permissive 10-digit dialing for the 540 area code region began November 13, 2021.

The 540 area code encompasses the northwestern and southwestern portions of Virginia; some of the larger cities include Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Culpeper, Fredericksburg, Front Royal, Harrisonburg,

Radford, Roanoke, Salem, Staunton, Waynesboro and Winchester.

In the coming months, the inventory of available phone numbers with “540” as the area code is expected to run out.

The SCC approved an overlay, which is the addition of another area code (826) to the same geographic region served

by an existing area code (540). Beginning June 14, 2022, new telephone lines or services may be assigned numbers using the new 826 area code.

The good news: residents and businesses that already have phone numbers will get to keep them. No one's 540 phone number will change.

Alarm, security, and elevator

services and equipment currently located in the 540 area code and programmed to dial only seven digits must be updated or reprogrammed to dial the area code + telephone number for all calls in the 540 area code.

For more information on this topic, visit: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/540-Area-Code-Exhaust-Relief](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/pages/540-Area-Code-Exhaust-Relief).

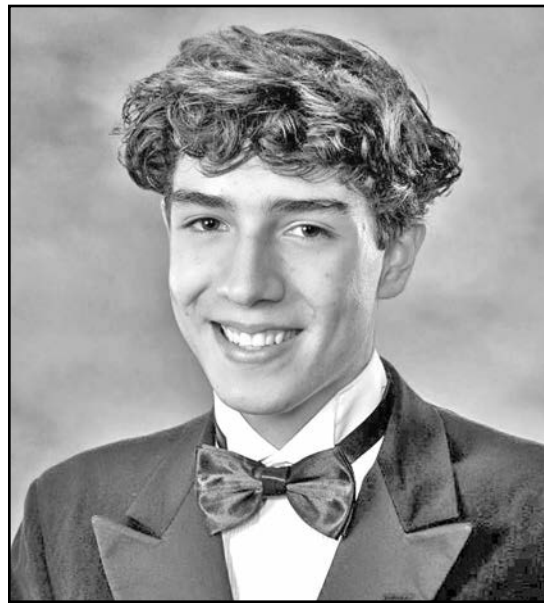


PHOTO COURTESY OF PRESTIGE STUDIO/LIFETOUGH

Emiliano Gonzalez

BBB honors 13 Virginia high school seniors as Students of Integrity

Better Business Bureau (BBB) Serving Western Virginia honored 13 area high school seniors at the 19th Annual Students of Integrity Scholarship Awards Dinner held on April 27 in Roanoke, including Emiliano Gonzalez, a student at William Byrd High School. Gonzalez plans to attend Georgia Tech in the fall and major in materials science engineering.

Each student was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship at the event that recognizes students for demonstrating ethics through leadership, community service, and overall personal

integrity.

Since the program's inception in 2003, BBB has received more than 2,400 scholarship applications from over 150 schools and awarded \$227,000 in scholarships to 243 deserving students throughout Western Virginia.

The BBB Student of Integrity Scholarship Awards Program recognizes students that share a common truth: everything that they say and do represents a choice, and their decisions help to determine the shape of their lives.

Each year, a total of 150 public and private high schools, as well as home schools, within the BBB 32-county service area are invited to participate by selecting their own Students of Integrity to submit entries to the BBB.

The 2022 BBB Student of Integrity Scholarship Program has been sponsored by area businesses that are eager to acknowledge the character, integrity, and ethical behavior of these future leaders. To see a full list of sponsors, visit <https://www.bbb.org/local/0613/scholarship>.

IRONMAN 70.3 returns to Roanoke and Vinton

Carilion Clinic's IRONMAN 70.3 “Ride the Ridge Race” is back this year on June 5.

Once again, there will be some road closures in and around the Vinton area that day as the bike portion of the race comes through town.

The route follows Washington Avenue/Rt. 24 from the Blue Ridge Parkway, to a left on South Pollard Street, a right on Lee Avenue, and a left on Walnut Avenue to the town limits and continues into Roanoke City.

Road closures and traffic detours are expected to be in place between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 5 including:

- Washington Avenue/Gus Nicks Blvd.—closed between Bypass Road and King Street
- Poplar Street—closed from Madison Avenue to Jackson Avenue
- Maple Street—closed from

Madison Avenue to Jackson Avenue

- Lee Avenue—closed from Maple Street to Railroad Avenue

- Railroad Avenue—closed from Lee Avenue to 1st Street

- Walnut Avenue—closed from Railroad Avenue to 8th Street

- 1st Street—closed from Cleveland Avenue to Walnut Avenue

- 2nd Street—closed from Cleveland Avenue to Walnut Avenue

The Town of Vinton asks citizens to take note of the route and plan accordingly.

IRONMAN 70.3 kicks off at Carvins Cove Reservoir at 6:30 a.m. with a 1.2-mile swim. The swimming segment opens with a rolling start where athletes self-pace based on anticipated total swim time.

Once out of the water, athletes

will take on the 56-mile bike course from Carvins Cove into Botetourt County towards the Town of Buchanan, an epic five-mile climb on Route 43 to the Blue Ridge Parkway entrance for a 21-mile ride along closed roads to the Town of Vinton at Route

24. The bike section of the race then continues into Roanoke City to River's Edge Park.

The final segment of the IRONMAN 70.3 is a 13.1-mile run along the Roanoke River Greenway following the Roanoke River back to River's Edge

Park.

Organizers are expecting the first finisher at around 10:20 a.m.

Participants are expected to complete the entire 70.3-mile route in 8 hours and 30 minutes.

James 'Hoolie' Childress from page 1

ers in the United States in one magazine at the time and was nominated for the prestigious B'nai B'rith award given to outstanding senior student athletes at area high schools based on athletics, scholarship, and personal life.

"James had great athleticism in all sports," said Coach Steve Lonker, who was in his beginning years as head football coach at WBHS when Childress attended. "He had the ability to anticipate plays and the flow of the game so that he could position himself to be in the action. He could change gears during a play."

Childress played end on defense, split end on offense; he kicked off and kicked extra points.

"He could take two steps and kick the ball 60 yards into the end zone," said Lonker. "He could throw the ball 60 or 70 yards but declined to play quarterback because of a bad knee. He could shore up a whole line on defense. He could have played any position on the team."

"He was very low-key," said Lonker. "He didn't show it if he got upset; he managed his emotions to his advantage. He was also a hard worker."

A sports article in The Vinton Messenger that fall of 1966, describes Childress's "brilliant play" in action in football against Roanoke Catholic.

"Childress booted

the extra point to give Byrd a 19-6 advantage. Only minutes later, Childress—who plays both offense and defense equally well—to Coach Steve Lonker's delight—batted a Dan McKeever pass into the air, caught it on the Celtic 10, and literally walked into the end zone for Byrd's final touchdown."

Childress grew up in Vinton, the third child of James Warren Childress Sr. and Virginia Mae Childress, with six sisters and one brother. He attended Craig Avenue Elementary School, Carver High School in Salem, and then graduated from William Byrd.

In the days before integration, Childress and other Black students in Vinton attended school at G.W. Carver, with a long bus ride to and from school, especially with after school sports practices.

"We left home in the dark, and came home in the dark," said Childress.

G.W. Carver was dissolved as a high school in 1966 with integration and Childress transferred to William Byrd for his senior year.

Childress was one of only seven Black students in his class at the time. His athletic reputation preceded him and his head coach from Carver, Roland Malone, made the transition with him, appointed assistant coach at WBHS.

Malone eventually became the first Black head basketball coach at a predominantly white school (WBHS) in the Roanoke Valley.

A Vinton Messenger article from the 1967 basketball season entitled "Childress leads Wm. Byrd Terriers on Round Ball Rampage, Four Straight," noted that Childress had scoring totals of 31, 32, and 33 points in the first three games of the season and ended game four with 38 points.

"With the kind of basketball he's playing this early in the winter, Childress stands a good chance of setting some sort of scoring record that may stay on the books for a long time in the future," was the understatement made by the sports writer.

The caption next to his photograph in the yearbook reads: "James Childress, selected as Byrd's Most Valuable Player, proved his exceptional ability in both football and basketball. Breaking the City-County Record for scoring in basketball, 'Hoolie' earned the respect and admiration of everyone. This distinction is given to a player by his teammates."

After high school, Childress attended Bluefield State College where he served as basketball team captain during his junior and senior years and was part of the starting line-up

for every varsity game his entire four years at BSC. He averaged 19 points and 12.5 rebounds per game throughout his collegiate career.

At Bluefield State, Childress was a member of the first team for All Conference in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) in 1968 and again in 1971. He was honorably mentioned in the WVIAC in 1969 and 1970. In 2012, he was inducted into the Bluefield State College National "B" Club Hall of Fame.

After college, Childress took up baseball, traveling on weekends to tournaments across the region and around the country. A business administration major at BSC, he took a job with General Electric in Salem after college and sometimes returned from baseball tournaments just in time to make it to work on Monday morning. Childress retired from GE after more than 30 years of service.

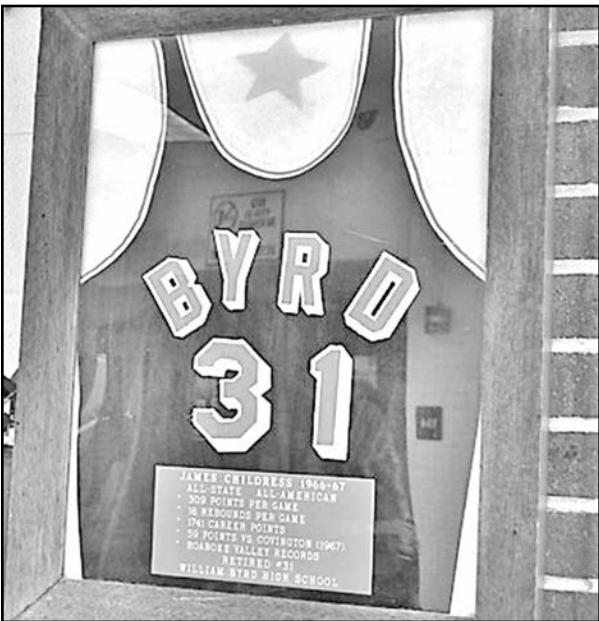
Eventually, Childress became an amateur softball umpire, working at the Moyer Sports Complex in Salem for many years, and excelled there as well. He was inducted into the United States Specialty Sports Association Virginia Hall of Fame in 2006 as a softball official, having retired from umpiring to follow his son's sports career.

Childress was a Deacon at First Baptist Church of Vinton where he served as Superintendent of Sunday School, was a member of the Men's Club, sang in the church choir, and served as President of the Baptist Men's Union for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter Diane C. Johnson, his sister Beatrice Childress, and his in-laws Crayton Craig, Sr., and Blanche Craig.

He is survived by his

wife Phyllis Craig Childress, who he met at GE, his son James Childress III, his stepdaughter Charlene Mitchell, his sisters Bernice Robinson, Lena (Glenn) Dent, Nannie Childress, Theresa Childress, and Harriet Childress, his brother Harry Childress, his sister-in-law Deborah Craig, brothers-in-law Crayton Craig, Jr., and Nathaniel Craig, family adopted sister Evelyn Macauley, and a host of other family members and friends.



Childress' basketball jersey was retired at WBHS.



Childress went on to play basketball at Bluefield State College. He was inducted into the Bluefield State College National "B" Club Hall of Fame in 2012.



James Childress (right), his coaches, and teammate prepare to play.

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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.

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

LUTHERAN
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

ON GUARD
 Read 1 Chronicles 7:1 through 9:44

It was a great privilege and honor to be one of the men chosen to be gatekeepers at the entrance to God's house. Even more awesome was the responsibility of four principal gatekeepers who guarded the rooms and the treasuries.

They would spend the night stationed around the house of God, because they had to guard it; and they had charge of the key for opening it each morning (1 Chronicles 9:27).

No doubt some nights must have felt especially long, but falling asleep while on duty was not an option. The gatekeepers needed to remain alert to any sound or movement that might indicate the treasures they guarded were in danger.

Today many churches install electronic security systems, although they probably rely on a person to make sure all the windows and doors are locked each night. But when it comes to guarding that which is most important—our children and youth—nothing can replace the prayers of parents and the church family.

Challenge for Today: Ask the Lord for the name of a young person He wants you to safeguard with prayer.

Quicklook: 1 Chronicles 9:22-27

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; cmcp2verizon.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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THE FINCASTLE HERALD The Vinton Messenger THE NEW CASTLE RECORD SALEM TIMES REGISTER News Messenger RADFORD News Journal

Auctions

Notice of Public Sale

Notice is hereby given that Storage King USA 201 Berkley Rd.NE. Roanoke VA 24012 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (Virginia Statute 55). The sell will take place at the website Storage Treasures.com on 05/17/2022 at 9:00 am. The sale will be conducted on Storage Treasures.com, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (2907004316) on the behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on Storage Treasures.com. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 15% buyer's premium will be charged as well as a \$ 100 cleaning deposit per unit. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. 295-Travis Davidson-household goods: 225 Marcus Harrison-household goods.

Auction Notice

Affordable Mini Storage, LLC. 1250 Lee Highway, Roanoke VA 24019 Date: Saturday, May 14, 2022 Time: 9:30 a.m. Units: J27, J28, P06, J08, and G09

Cash only. Buyer has 24 hours to remove items from unit. Cody Manspile, Auctioneer VAL# 2907004430

For Sale - Botetourt County

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ITEM #1: Anchor Storage Building; 12' x16' wood frame and siding with shingle roof; Fair Condition

ITEM #2: Leonard Storage Building; 10' x16' wood frame with metal siding and roof; Fair Condition

Both items can be seen in Fincastle, on Academy Street across from the Library. SEALED BIDS should be mailed or hand-delivered to: PURCHASING DEPT BOTETOURT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, VA 24083

Envelope must be clearly marked: BIDS ON ITEM # 1 and/or #2 and should include the contact information of the bidder.

Bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on May 25th Items are sold as is/where is; Buyers are responsible for removal of the item within 14-days.

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Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No. CL22000727-00 Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street Christiansburg, VA 24073

YINGQIU ZHANG v. LI JIA

The petitioner's object of this proceeding is to obtain a divorce of bond of matrimony from the Defendant on the ground of having lived separate and apart for a period exceeding one year. It appearing by affidavit that the Defendant's last known address was 1101 Joyce Street, Apartment 2318, Arlington, Virginia 22202, the Defendant's present whereabouts are unknown, and diligence has been used by the Plaintiff to ascertain in what county or city the Defendant is without effect, it is ORDERED that the defendant appear before this court on July 20, 2022 and protect her interests herein.

It is further ORDERED that the foregoing portion of this order be published once a week for four successive weeks in the News Messenger, a newspaper published in Montgomery County, Virginia, and having general circulation in Montgomery County, Virginia, and a copy of this order is to be posted at the front door of the Montgomery County Court House of Virginia.

May 4, 2022 Erica W. Conner Clerk of Court

ADVERTISE!

Legals - Botetourt County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Case No. CL22000143-00 BOTETOURT COUNTY 1 WEST MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 219, FINCASTLE, VA 24090

FLORIARES DE LA CRUZ ANTIVOLA v. LINDY MICHAEL SANTOS MONTANA, JR

The object of this suit is: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that LINDY MICHAEL SANTOS MONTANA, JR appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MAY 16, 2022.

APRIL 15, 2022 Tommy L. Moore Clerk

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SPORTS

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Girls beat NS in OT

Maddy Simmons scored with 3:15 remaining in overtime to give the William Byrd girls a big win over Northside in soccer Tuesday night at Northside.

The game was even throughout with neither team being able to score. Both teams had opportunities but the score remained nil-nil through regulation and head to OT. The first five minute overtime was scoreless as well before Simmons ended the game off a pass from Emma Gordon for the winning goal, and Byrd was able to hold Northside off for the final three minutes to pick up the win.

Kadence Fernatt had eight saves on the night to pick up the shutout. With the win the Terriers improved to 4-3-1 in the Blue Ridge District and 9-4-1 overall.

Byrd will host William Fleming in Vinton on Friday, and on Monday Franklin County will be here for a makeup game. That will end the regular season.



Ian Sigmon passes the ball for Byrd.

PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY

Boys rally to tie on "Senior Night"

The William Byrd boys rallied to tie Northside on "Senior Night" at Vinton's Robert A. Patterson Stadium Monday. The game ended in a 3-3 draw.

Northside scored late in the first half to draw first blood. The Vikings piled on two more goals in the second half to take a 3-0 lead, and Byrd's keeper was injured on the third goal. Things were looking bleak at that point for the home team, but there was still plenty of time remaining.

Byrd closed the lead to 3-1 when Braden Crossan was brought down in the box and converted a penalty kick. Crossan had a hand in the next goal as well, crossing the ball to Dexter Gaines who headed the ball in on the back post to cut the lead to one.

The Terriers tied the game near the end of regulation. Ian Sigmon took a shot that the keeper was unable to hold, and as the ball straddled the line Dylan Hughes banged it home for the equalizer to send the game into overtime.

"In the overtime, the guys kept the pressure up and we created a lot of chances and near misses," said coach Russell Dishman. "We were unable to get the fourth, but I was really proud of the guys resiliency as they dealt with an emotional moment and had to control their composure as the intensity of the match increased."

Byrd stands at 5-7-2 after the tie and 2-4-2 in the Blue Ridge District. The Terriers are scheduled to play at William Fleming Friday night, and on Monday's they'll make up a previously postponed game with Franklin County on Monday in Rocky Mount.



Anna Milliron controls the ball for the Byrd soccer girls.

PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

Lax teams host JF at Byrd tonight

The William Byrd girls and boys lacrosse teams took on two of the top programs in the Roanoke Valley in the past week and came out on the short end both times. Both the girls and boys lost to Patrick Henry in Vinton last Thursday, then traveled to Salem on Tuesday and dropped both ends of a doubleheader.

The girls put up a great fight against PH at Patterson Stadium last week. The Patriots opened a 9-4 lead by the half but the Terriers outscored PH after intermission, 8-5, to make a game of it before falling, 14-12.

Down 12-5, Byrd had the home crowd roaring with seven consecutive goals to tie the game at 12-12. A late game penalty gave the Patriots the advantage and they made the most of it, scoring two late goals to pull out the win.

Ashlyn Stover had five goals to lead Byrd. Olivia Hurd had three and Anika Hylton scored two. Haley Firebaugh had seven saves in the crease.

In the second game the Byrd boys were no match for a strong PH team, falling 24-2.

"PH is a state caliber team that has been playing together for years," said Byrd coach Will Satterfield. "Our guys did not go quietly. I was proud of the composure this team has developed this year. That's a tough situation to be in and I was glad with the way we handled that adversity."

On Tuesday in Salem the girls opened with a 15-3 loss to a solid group of Spartans. Hylton had two goals and Firebaugh had six saves.

The boys game wasn't any closer, as Salem raced to a 14-0 halftime lead before taking their foot off the gas pedal.

"Another great team and program that has been around for a while," said Satterfield. "We came out flat and Salem took advantage of it. I was proud with the composure again, but we have some ground to make up. Our guys have made tremendous strides this year and building a program like we are at Byrd takes time, and you'll experience some bumps along the way."

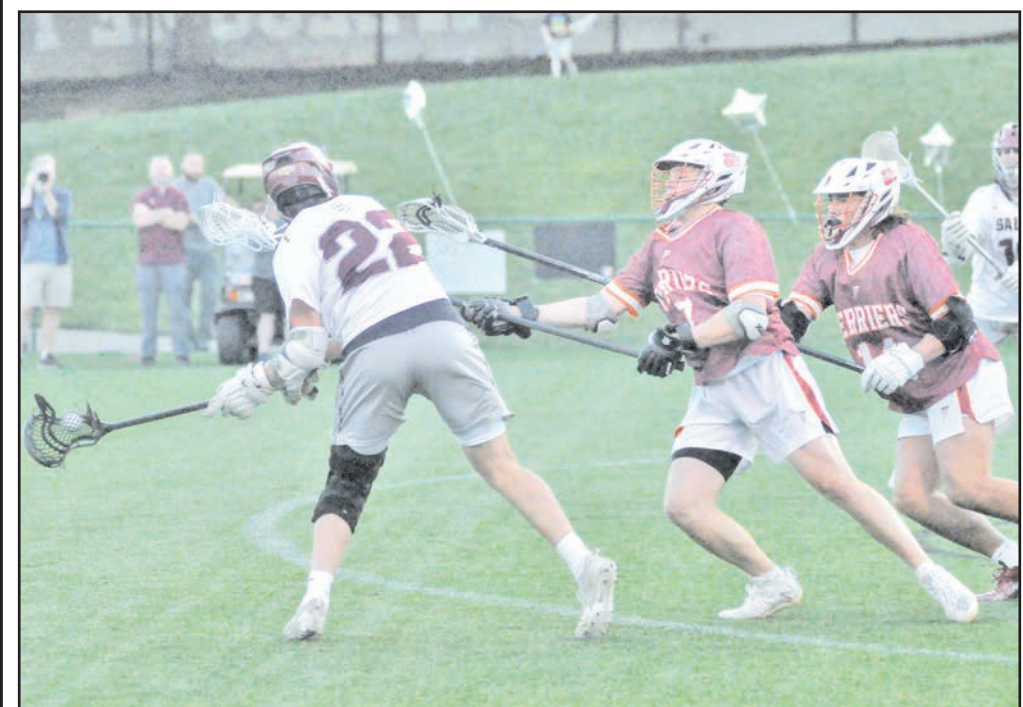
Things won't get any easier today when the Terriers host Class 4 Jefferson Forest, who always has a good program. The girls will open play at 5:30 pm with the boys to follow at Patterson Stadium.

On Saturday the boys have a rare weekend game, hosting Franklin County at 11 am.



Above, William Byrd's Ashlyn Stover(#10 left) and Olivia Hurd defend a Patrick Henry girl in last week's game in Vinton. Below, Byrd's Cole Spencer(#7) and Ian Vest cover Salem attackman Jake Massey in Monday's game at Spartan Field.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



COSMO

Above, Riley Roth (left in photo) and Grace Owni run the mile in Saturday's Cosmo Track meet at William Fleming High School. Right, Walker Nance flies through the air in the triple jump competition.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

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Mya was second in the shot put with a throw of 33'4.75" and Jaylen took third with a throw of 31'.

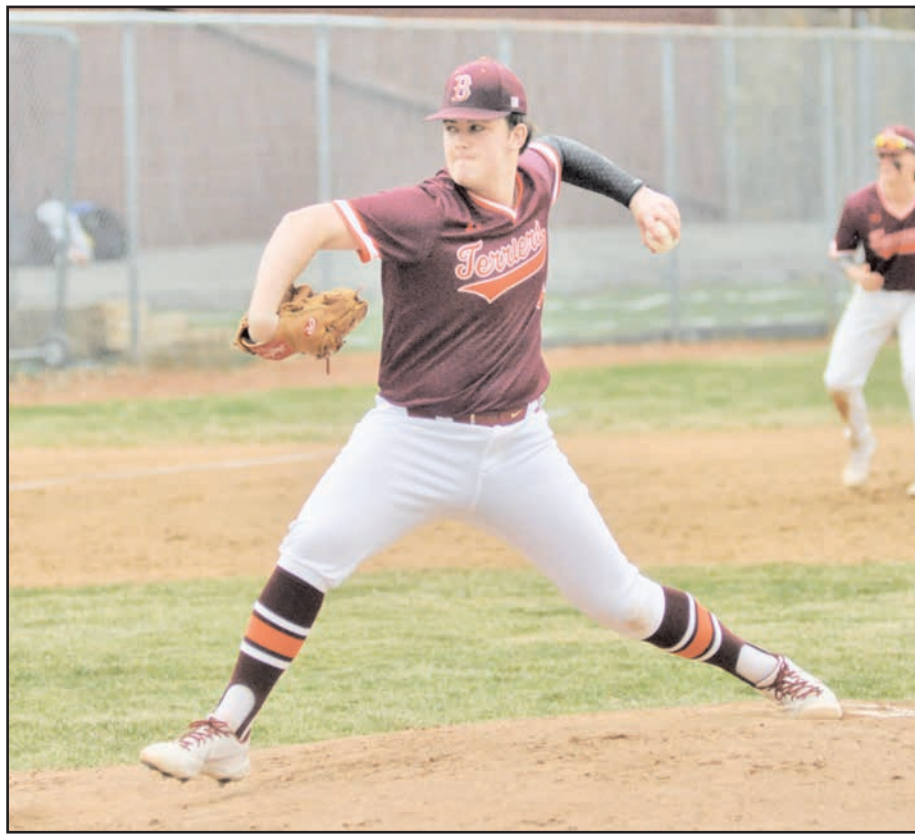
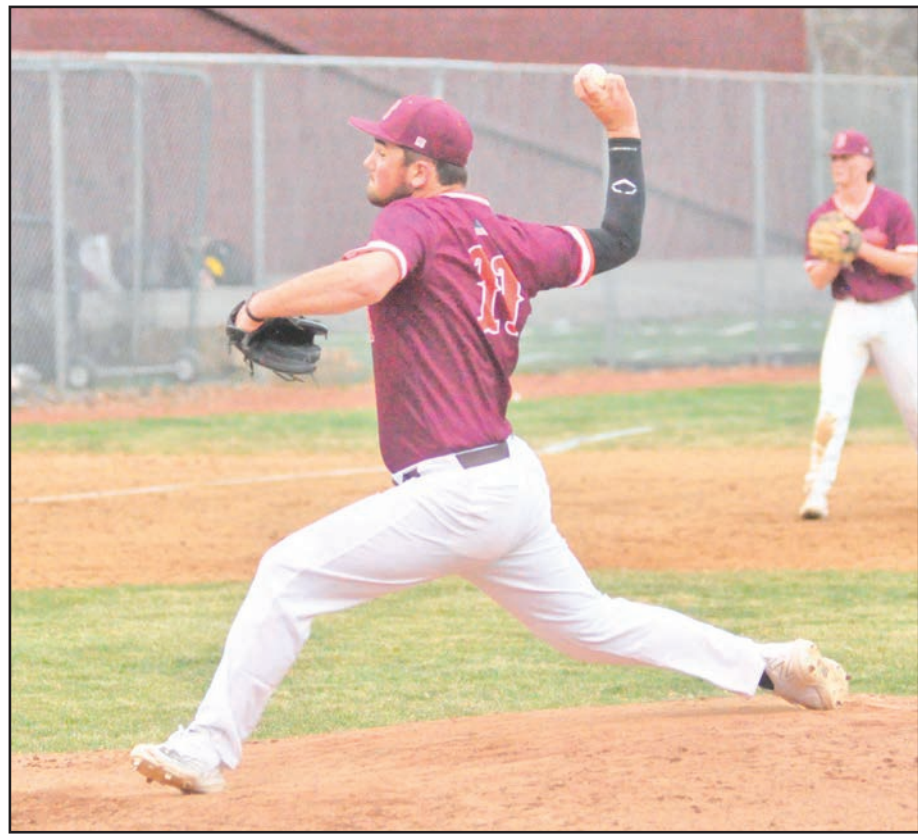
For the boys, Brady Reachy finished fifth in the Junior 100 meters with a time of 12.14. Wyatt Bailey was the Junior 400m champion with a time of 52.53 and Bodie Gonzalez was fifth in the Junior 400m with a time of 53.95. Walker Nance finished fifth in the 110m hurdles and the 4x400m relay of Bailey, Isaiah Board, DeShawn Austin and Gonzalez won with a time of 3:45.50.

Ethan Haston finished second in the long jump with a leap of 38'10 and took third in the pole vault with a height of 8'. Bailey also finished fourth in the pole vault with a height of 8'.

Nic Bustamante was fourth in the Junior discus with a throw of 112'11 while Caleb Thompson was sixth with a height 111'8 .

Hunter Richards finished fourth in the Senior shot put with a throw of 39'2.25".

The Terriers were scheduled to host a meet on Wednesday of this week with Lord Botetourt, Bassett, Glenvar, North Cross and Martinsville expected to attend. This Saturday the Terriers are at Blacksburg and the Blue Ridge District meet will be at Franklin County High School on Saturday, May 21.



Blake Glover, left, pitched a perfect game in a win over Staunton River while Hunter Sipe, right, held Northside to five singles in a win Monday. PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Strong pitching puts Byrd in the hunt for district championship

Two strong pitching performances have put the William Byrd baseball team in the running for the Blue Ridge District regular season title. Byrd will have some key games in the coming week as they battle for position in the coming Region 3D tournament.

Last Thursday at Staunton River Terrier sophomore Blake Glover pitched a perfect game in a five-inning, 11-0 win over the host Eagles. Glover struck out five of 15 batters faced, didn't walk or hit anyone and no one committed an error behind him in the field. It was the first perfect game by a Byrd pitcher that anyone could remember.

James Purcell led the offense against River with three hits in three at bats, including two doubles, to drive home two runs. Evan Mullen had two runs bat-

ted in.

On Tuesday at Northside senior Hunter Sipe pitched a gem as Byrd defeated a strong hitting team of Vikings, 13-4. Hunter pitched a complete game with eight strikeouts while allowing just five hits, all singles. He didn't walk anyone and just two of Northside's four runs were earned.

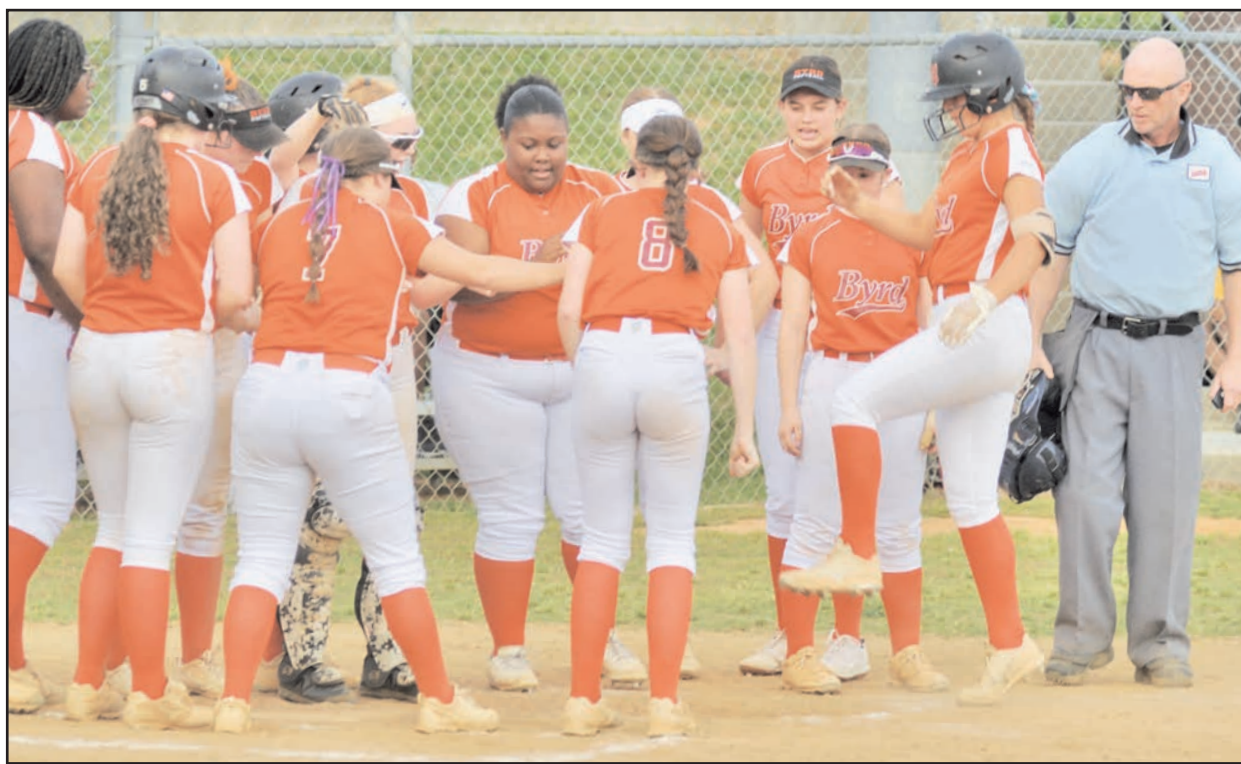
The Terriers jumped on top early in this one, scoring two runs in the top of the first and four more in the second for a 6-0 lead. They led 10-3 after five innings and put a crooked three on the board in the top of the seventh before Northside scored one more run in the bottom to close out the game.

Sipe not only pitched a great game, he also had three hits and five runs batted in at the plate. Ethan

Hairston had four hits as well, Trenton Sayers had two hits and two RBIs and Purcell doubled, walked three times and was hit by a pitch.

With the win Byrd improved to 6-2 in the district and 13-4 overall. The Terriers will host last place William Fleming tonight in a 5:30 pm "Senior Night" game. That was moved up from Friday due to threat of rain.

On Monday Byrd will host Franklin County at 7 pm, following a 4:30 pm jayvee game, in a showdown that could tie the two at the top of the BRD if the Terriers pull out a win. The Eagles are 7-1 in the district after losing to Lord Botetourt on Tuesday night.



William Byrd's Brooklyn Peters (right with helmet) has a welcoming party at home plate after blasting a home run in last week's game with Staunton River. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Terriers hit the long ball but don't win close games

The William Byrd softball team fell to 6-1 with close losses to two of the best teams in the Blue Ridge District in the past week. Byrd lost to undefeated Staunton River and Northside, both in Vinton.

Last Thursday the Terriers slugged two home runs but still lost to Staunton River, 7-4. Sydney Blewett and Brooklyn Peters hit solo shots and Haleigh Vaughan knocked in a run and had two hits for the Terriers before the Eagles took the lead off Terrier pitcher Chloe Varney, who pitched six innings.

On Tuesday the girls played host to Northside and lost a heartbreaker, 4-3. The Vikings broke a 3-3 tie in the top of the seventh and that proved to be the winning run.

Varney was on the mound again for Byrd and gave up just four hits in the loss. Byrd had five hits, including two more home runs by Peters, who had three hits on the day.

The loss dropped Byrd to 6-12 on the season and 1-7 in Blue Ridge District play. The Terriers were scheduled to play last place William Fleming on Wednesday in Roanoke, and on Monday Franklin County is here.

Girls can clinch Blue Ridge District tennis with sweep of Franklin County today

The William Byrd tennis teams will be busy today as both the boys and girls play doubleheaders with Franklin County. The girls will be home and the boys will head to Rocky Mount.

The girls can clinch the Blue Ridge District regular season with a big day against the Eagles. The Terriers are 6-0 in district play while Franklin has lost just once. A sweep by the Terriers would clinch the district and a split would keep them in first place with a week to go.

Last Thursday in Vinton the girls took an 8-1 win over visiting Lord Botetourt. Singles winners were Makenna Jacobsen, Emilie

McCaskill, Grace Saunders, Timber Raines and Ashley Begasse. Byrd swept the doubles with Lexi Aquino and Jacobsen at one, McCaskill and Saunders at two and Raines and Begasse at three.

"All matches were very solid," said coach Kayla Mitchell-McCroskey. "We are very proud of the girls this year. We are rocking it out."

On Tuesday in Moneta the girls improved to 6-5 overall with a 6-3 win over host Staunton River. Aquino, McCaskill and Raines won singles matches and Byrd swept the doubles.

The Terriers were scheduled to host William Fleming on

Wednesday of this week, followed by today's home doubleheader with Franklin County. Next week Northside is here Monday, the girls are at Fleming Wednesday and Basset comes here for a non-district match a week from today.

Meanwhile, the boys were still looking for their first win of the season after losing to Lord Botetourt last week, 9-0. The Terriers were scheduled to play William Fleming in Roanoke in a doubleheader Wednesday and both teams were yet to win a BRD match, so something had to give.

The boys play Northside at Walrond Park next Monday to wrap up the regular season.



Byrd number one Lexi Aquino serves one up last week. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Back to School

If your child is entering 7th grade they must have the Meningitis, HPV, and Tdap vaccines in order to enroll. Talk to your doctor and vaccinate them now!

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William Byrd senior Hunter Richards puts the shot in Saturday's Cosmo track competition at William Fleming. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Rain can't damper Cosmo track meet

The annual Cosmopolitan Club Track Meet was held at William Fleming High School last week and the Pulaski County boys and Patrick County girls came up team winners in the Senior Division on a rainy day in Roanoke.

The big meet included a class for middle school teams, a Junior Division for ninth and 10th graders and a Senior Division for juniors and seniors. The top eight finishers in each event scored. For Byrd the Junior Division 4x400m relay of Riley Roth, Grace Owni, Alexandra Bonilla and Liz Dixon took second place with a finishing time of 4:53.61.

Remi Figart finished fourth in the Senior high jump with a height of 4'8", fourth in the long jump with a jump of 15' and third in the triple jump with a jump of 31'6".

Gracie Mick won the pole vault with a height of 7'6". Mya Rosser was runnerup in the discus with a throw of 101'7" and twin sister Jaylen Rosser finished third with a throw of 99'5".

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