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It's official: Vinton transfers water and wastewater system to WVWA



On June 7, officials from the Town of Vinton and the Western Virginia Water Authority signed the official agreement transferring ownership and operation of the Town of Vinton water and wastewater system to the Authority. Shown left to right are : front, WVWA Executive Director Mike McEvoy, former Vinton Mayor and WVWA board member Don Davis, Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty, and council members Keith Liles, Mike Stovall, and Laurie Mullins; back row, WVWA board members Shirley Holland, Richard Caywood (also Roanoke County administrator), Hunter Young, Harvey Brookins, Jr., and John Bradshaw.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, will be remembered as an historic day in the Town of Vinton. After years of debate and several months of negotiations, the Town of Vinton and the Western Virginia Water Authority signed an agreement recognizing the Authority's ownership and operation of the town's public water distribution and treatment system and the sanitary sewer collection system. The agreement takes effect on July 1, 2022.

A special called Town Council meeting at 2 p.m. was marked with an official signing ceremony and a ceremonial "valve turning" in Vinton Town Council

Chambers.

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose and Town Manager Pete Peters welcomed dignitaries from Roanoke County and the Authority who had been involved at one point or another with the transfer and transition.

"We know that in everyone's life there are special occasions that hold significant importance and meaning," said Grose. "I believe the same applies to organizations and governments. Today is one of those meaningful events for the Town of Vinton and the Western Virginia Water Authority. The actions of this day will be long remembered as an important advance-

ment in the history of Vinton.

"Vinton Town Council and the town staff have always worked relentlessly to provide a high quality of life for our citizens," he continued. "We have diligently pursued valued services for our residents, businesses, and visitors by being inventive and resourceful. In order to maintain quality water service in an efficient manner, Vinton Town Council has decided that the time is right to transition ownership and operation of our water system to the Western Virginia Water Authority. For decades, the Town of Vinton has taken great pride in the

See Water & Wastewater System, page 4



A ceremonial "valve turning" was held at the signing of the WVWA/Town of Vinton agreement. Shown left to right are Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton, Town Manager Pete Peters, Councilman Mike Stovall, Mayor Brad Grose, Councilwoman Laurie Mullins, Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty, Public Works Administrative Manager Jill Acker, Public Works Director Bo Herndon, and Councilman Keith Liles.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Western Virginia Water Authority hosted a tour of the Carvins Cove Treatment Facility for Vinton Town Council and staff on June 7, prior to the official signing of the transfer agreement.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Matt Guenter (top) was the first bicyclist to reach Vinton and went on to become the overall winner of the Carilion 70.3 IRONMAN Triathlon. Guenter was greeted by bugler Gary Duerk as he rounded the corner from Washington Avenue onto Pollard Street at RND Coffee.

Bugler welcomes IRONMAN triathletes to Vinton streets

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Talk about encouragement and motivation—for the second year, the bike leg of the Carilion Clinic IRONMAN 70.3 Virginia's Blue Ridge Triathlon came through Vinton, but this year there was an addition to the June 5th festivities—Gary Duerk greeted the cyclists making the turn from Washington Avenue onto Pollard Street with a resounding bugle salute.

Matthew Guenter from Boulder, Colo., was the first bike rider to enter the Town of Vinton, turning the corner downtown at RND Coffee at 9:08 a.m. He went on, after some challenges with equipment during the race, to be named the overall winner of the 2022 IRONMAN event. His total time for the three courses which make

up the triathlon was 4 hours, 17 minutes, and 49 seconds.

Guenter entered the water at Carvins Cove Reservoir at 6:31:14 a.m. in a rolling start and finished that 1.2-mile portion of the race in 24:12 minutes.

He then transitioned to his bicycle just before 7 a.m., riding for 56 miles through Roanoke County, Botetourt County, and Buchanan, then up the grueling five miles of Route 43 to the entrance to the Blue Ridge Parkway. The bike course descended 21 miles on the Parkway to exit at Route 24 in Vinton, continued down Washington Avenue, and eventually on to Walnut and into Roanoke City, ending at River's Edge Park near Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Guenter completed the bike course at 9:24:45 a.m.

Next up was the

13.1-mile half marathon along the Roanoke River Greenway which looped back to River's Edge.

Guenter completed the entire three courses of the race at 10:49:02 a.m. He placed 1st out of 130 men in his age group (25-29), 1st out of 1,085 males competing, and 1st out of the 1,540 triathletes who completed the entire race.

Washington Avenue in Vinton was marked off with cones—allowing riders in the race to use the two center lanes of traffic unencumbered. There were cheering spectators along the route and at each turn in the course. Bugler Duerk's wife, Barbara, was located at the corner of Lee Avenue and Pollard with a clanging bell. Another cheering crowd was stationed at the Vinton Farmers' Market as the riders passed by.

Despite having swum

a mile and biked for dozens more, some of those in the race were actually smiling as they coasted down Washington Avenue. A few were even seen pedaling faster coming down the steep grade to pick up some speed.

The Vinton Public Works, First Aid Crew and Police Department, and many volunteers kept things running smoothly in the town with many streets blocked to through traffic and several churches closed, broadcasting services online. Volunteers from Friends of the Blue Ridge served as bike pointers for the cyclists in Vinton.

The first Carilion Clinic 70.3 IRONMAN triathlon was originally scheduled for 2020 but was postponed due to COVID until June 2021. The IRONMAN race in Roanoke has received national acclaim and has been named as one of the top 10 triathlon courses by competitors after last year's race.

Organizers hope it becomes an annual tradition. Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge partners with Carilion Clinic, the Western Virginia Water Authority, and its local governmental partners (including Vinton)

See IRONMAN, page 4



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VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Council puts in a full day, tours Carvins Cove, signs water agreement, holds public hearing on FY23 budget

Debbie Adams
 dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council had a long, productive, and historic day on June 7. Members started out at 10:30 a.m. with a tour of the Carvins Cove Water Treatment Facility and Carvins Cove Dam, hosted by the Western Virginia Water Authority. The purpose of the trip was to learn more about the water that will soon supply some homes and businesses in Vinton with treated drinking water. The tour was followed by a picnic at the Carvins Cove Reservoir picnic shelter.

Council reconvened in Vinton in the Municipal Chambers at 2 p.m. for a ceremonial valve turning and signing event transferring ownership and operation of the Town of Vinton water and utility systems from the town to the WVWA, effective July 1.

Members concluded the day with their regular first Tuesday Town Council meeting at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers.

First up on the Town Council agenda was a public hearing on the FY2022-2023 budget presented by Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton.

The proposed budget for FY23 totals \$17,744,709, which represents an increase of 28.4% over last year's budget.

Sexton noted that in developing the budget, administration and department leaders had made every effort to tie the upcoming budget to three goals established by Town Council in June 2020 for the Vinton Strategic Plan for 2020-2025:

- Enhance the town's infrastructure and livability
- Maintain an efficient and high-performing government
- Ensure the town's continued financial viability by activity pursuing quality economic development

Sexton reviewed proposed FY23 budget highlights, which include:

- Development of a balanced budget (a legal requirement)
- Investment in personnel with a 5.0% cost of living adjustment for all employees and no change to the employee health plan premiums
- Continued support for Economic Development projects
- Paid off debt to free up operating budget capacity
- Absorb administrative costs associated with selling the utility system to the WVWA
- Full allocation for an aggressive Capital Improvement Plan
- Fund new positions to enhance service delivery, with one new position in the Vinton Police Department, one addition-

al employee in Community Programs, one CIP employee, and one Economic Development/PIO employee— with a net reduction of four employees due to the loss of the Utility System

- Cost Share Budget reduction with Roanoke County involving refuse and E911

General Fund revenues are demonstrating consistent robust growth across all revenue lines including a 30.75% increase in general property taxes. Sexton pointed out that over 50% of expenditures in the General Fund are for the Police and Public Works Departments.

He also noted that the grant fund numbers are a "little wonky" this year with the infusion of \$4.2 million in federal ARPA funding which has been designated for CIP projects and expenses in the transfer of the utility system from the town to the WVWA.

Another significant change to the FY23 budget is the addition of \$2.6 million in Capital Improvement Projects. This fund was practically defunct in past years. Now, mainly with the ARPA funding, the town has been able to fund CIP projects spread across all departments. Most noticeable will be an increase in the paving budget to \$1.1 million (in most years, this number hovers between \$300,000 and \$400,000). Most welcome may be funding of the engineering and design phase of the Mountain View Road project.

Other CIP funds will go to traffic signal improvements throughout the town, Third Street improvements, Vinton History Museum repairs and upgrades, work on the Glade Creek Greenway, much needed audio and visual upgrades in equipment at the Vinton War Memorial, hotel site development, Walnut Avenue public parking construction, and the purchase of various pieces of equipment for different departments.

Sexton also discussed "one of the more exciting stories" of this year's budget, which each time it comes up, leaves members of council almost speechless — the drastic reduction in town debt due to reimbursements from the WVWA and Roanoke County in the amount of \$960,297. That leaves the Town of Vinton debt total in the FY23 budget at about \$213,000.

"It is quite unusual for a governmental body to be in this position," Sexton said.

There were no citizen comments on the proposed budget. Council will take action on the budget at the June 21 meeting.

The FY2022-2023 budget (all 200 pages) may be reviewed online at <https://www.vintonva.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1460>.

www.vintonva.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1460.

Council also held a public hearing to receive public input on a proposed amendment to the current year's budget to appropriate funding for VML 2017 Equipment Purchase payoff, VML 2018 Knuckleboom Lease Purchase, VRA Virginia Water Facilities Revolving Fund GO Bond, street maintenance projects, and projected operational expenses totaling \$1,371,790 in the General, Utility, and Capital Funds. In his presentation, Sexton described this amendment as an end-of-year "clean up item." Council adopted the amendment as revised during the council meeting.

Council adopted a resolution authorizing Town Manager Pete Peters to execute a Grant Subrecipient between the Town of Vinton and the Western Virginia Water Authority, awarding ARPA funds received by the town in the amount of \$5.7 million to the Authority. This action was part of the transfer agreement between Vinton and the Authority.

The Authority will use the funds to make water and sewer infrastructure improvements in the area of Vinton and East County currently served by the town's water and wastewater system. According to Sexton, these plans are already in the works by the Authority. This resolution formalizes the transfer of funds.

Council also adopted a resolution authorizing the town manager to execute a Public Right-of-Way Development and Maintenance Agreement between Greenway Construction, Inc. and the Town of Vinton for access to two properties owned by Greenway Construction at 1323 and 1325 Duke Drive from an undeveloped public right-of-way extending from Duke Drive along the western boundary of the two properties.

Council also issued a proclamation at the June 7 meeting, declaring June 2022 as National Safety Month. This is the 26th anniversary of National Safety Month and the fifth year of its celebration in Vinton. The mission of the non-profit National Safety Council is to eliminate preventable deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the road. Each week in June is dedicated to a different topic. This year the NSC is focused on musculoskeletal disorders, workplace impairment, injury prevention, and slips, trips, and falls.

Donna Collins, director of Human Resources and Risk Management, and town staff have made every effort in the past several years to implement safety programs and training among employees to ensure a safe workplace for staff and the community.

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!

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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"This donation will help fund our annual Summer Reading Program which kicks off on June 4th and runs through mid-August. This year's theme is Oceans of Possibilities. The program is available to all age groups and we appreciate the ongoing support from Rosie's that makes this possible."

Kendra Mathis, Library Director
 Heritage Public Library
heritagepubliclibrary.org

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Every week in 2022 we will donate \$1,000 to a local nonprofit that is providing valuable services in the areas we are located. Helping those communities around us is at the core of our operational philosophy. We truly believe that high tides raise all ships and we are determined to continue to add value to the communities in which we operate.

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE TOWN OF VINTON

Jason Davison

Jason Davison has been working for the Town of Vinton since October 2008. His position is Crew Leader in the Public Works Department and certified Town Arborist. Davison says he loves his job and the opportunity to complete special projects in the town. One of his hobbies is coaching youth soccer. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Alicia, and children Lillian,

Madelyn, Jason Jr., and Jonah. He is originally from New Jersey. The Town of Vinton and The Vinton Messenger are partnering this year to spotlight employees of the Town of Vinton. The town is proud to have these employees on staff and wants to make the community aware of who is working so diligently behind the scenes to make the town look great and operate so successfully. "The Vinton Public Works De-

partment touches the lives of thousands of people every day in a very professional manner," says Mayor Brad Grose. "The dedicated individuals in the department enhance the quality of life in Vinton by maintaining all the systems that provide safety, convenience, recreation, and a pleasing appearance in our town. We are truly blessed to have such skilled, devoted people like Jason Davison in the Vinton Public Works Department."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Five Shades of Grey opens 2022 Mingle Concert series

Five Shades of Grey will be opening the 2022 Mingle at the Market concert series sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce at the Vinton Farmer's Market—"playing awesome rock from the 60's through the 90's and later." Their performance gets underway on the HomeTrust Bank stage at 7 p.m. and concludes at 10 p.m.

The "Food on the Go" food truck is featured this week.

Admission is just \$6 for adults. Kids under 12 are free.

There will be the usual beer garden—ID required. The Chamber asks that you have your ID out and ready for volunteers to check to speed up entry to the event.

Bring your own chair. No pets are allowed. No outside food or drink.

Volunteers from Fisher Financial Services will be helping to facilitate the event.

Sponsors for this year's Mingle at the Market concerts include Oakey's, Coastal Insurance Planning, MemberOne, PFG, Mountain View Real Estate, Fox Radio 910, ServPro, Winters Storage, Bank of Botetourt, the Vinton War Memorial, Blue Ridge Beverage, the Greenway Boothe Real Estate Team, Roanoke County, HomeTrust Bank, the Town of Vinton, Food Lion, the Vinton Messenger, Farmburguesa, Vertex Signs, Magnets USA, Cox, Carilion Clinic, Brad Grose, and KP Strategies.

The second Mingle is already set for June 25, featuring Glam'R Kiti and Adrenaline 6 with Mountain Grille Food Truck. Same time. Same place.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Five Shades of Grey will be performing at the first Mingle at the Market concert on June 11.

PRESENTED BY MemberOne

MINGLE AT THE MARKET

On the HomeTrust Bank stage

JUNE 11TH 7 - 10PM

FIVE SHADES OF GREY
Volunteer group - Fisher Financial Service
FOOD ON THE GO

JUNE 25TH 6 - 10PM

GLAM'R KITI & ADRENALINE 6
Volunteer group - Sassy Sisters Women's Group & Vinton Moose Lodge
MOUNTAIN GRILLE FOOD TRUCK

COME HUNGRY
(Food Truck will be on site)

\$6.00 ADMISSION
(Kids under 12 free)

ID REQUIRED
(please have out and ready for volunteers to check)

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR - NO PETS ALLOWED

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Many thanks for all the prayers, texts, call and good wishes for Mom. Last week she had gallbladder surgery. Hopefully getting rid of that will help her feel better.

Reminder - Mingle at the Market Summer Concert Series kicks off this Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Vinton Farmers Market. The band is Five Shades of Grey

Angie
Chewning

Filling in for Bootie

and Food To Go food truck will be on site, so come hungry!

Congratulations to all the IRONMAN participants and thank you to all the volunteers, planners, and sponsors. I know it was hard to get around town for a bit, but the impact this event has on our area is astronomical - with 2,500 athletes, their families and friends spending money in our local businesses, restaurants and hotels.

See more at
www.vintonmessenger.com

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Slovenian mountain

5. Growl

9. Where things stand

11. Made a sharp sound

13. Female spirit in Irish folklore

15. Deteriorate with age

16. A way to save for retirement

17. The Big Apple

19. Intestinal pouches

21. City in New Hampshire

22. Giving a bad impression

23. Samsung laptops

25. Without (French)

26. Scientist's tool (abbr.)

27. System of one more computers

29. Captures

31. Authentic

33. Female mammal's

nipple

34. Pandemonium

36. Satisfy

38. Arrived extinct

39. Shipborne radar (abbr.)

41. Network of nerves

43. Monetary unit

44. Showed old TV show

46. They help you hear

48. One who eliminates

52. Congress' investigative arm

53. Parties

54. Most supernatural

56. Takes illegally

57. Breathes while asleep

58. Sea eagles

59. German surname

CLUES DOWN

1. Looks at for a long time

2. Solution for diseases

3. Belonging to a thing

4. Former Packers fullback

6. Contemptible person

6. One billionth of a second (abbr.)

7. Helps

8. Final section of the large intestine

9. Invests in little enterprises

10. Look for

11. Unbeliefs

12. Susan and Tom are two

14. Female sheep

15. A poet writes it

18. Affirmatives

20. "Full House" actress Barber

24. Traveled rapidly

26. Long upholstered seat

28. Set wages

30. Peter Gabriel song

32. Sides of a jacket

34. More beautiful

35. Actress Kate

37. Furniture with open shelves

38. Indicate

40. The cost of a room

42. Gets rid of something

43. Impudence

45. No No No

47. Drunkards

49. Middle eastern country

50. High energy lasers (abbr.)

51. Primary component of ribosomes

55. An informal debt instrument

WBMS releases honor rolls for fourth nine weeks

William Byrd Middle School has announced the A and A/B Honor Rolls for the fourth nine weeks

A HONOR ROLL

Sixth grade: Addison Alexander, Kayden Althoff, Caleigh Aremia, Tayler Austin, Kayleigh Barber, Isabella Barrette, Madelyn Barrette, Evyn Bass, Logan Blevins, Jackson Booze, Greyson Bradford, Norah Buck, Stephen Byars, Gabriel Campbell, Ryan Carroll, Hayden Chappell, Wyatt Childress, Isabella Clark, Milton Clark, Jazmine Clifton, Jahniya Coles, Claire Cooper, Bradley Counts, Kayden Creel, Riley Cummings, Isabella Davis, Braylon Dent, Nathan Doan, Keeli Emery, Payton Farmer, Reagan Fike, Alanna Fitzgerald, Adrian Garcia, Peyton Gates, Kyleigh Ginger, Kur Gon, Thalia Green, Michal Hamlar, Mason Hershel, Camryn Hicks, Jude Hinkle, Raelyn Hodges, Landon Hollins, Cooper Kageals, Naleigh Lewis, Ava Lorton, Olivia Marcus, Gray Matthews, Mallory Michalski, Katelyn Mills, Kenley Minnix, Leah Montgomery, Kennedy Moseley, Josephine Mullen, Allen Nunez, Emma Olivit, Emily Pearce, Cooper Peery, Jacob Perez, Anna Perkowski, Jack Petersen, Jenna Petersen, Kendall Ranson, Elliana Ruble, Vivian Schmidt, Enna Schofield, Zoe Sowers, Alyssa Steahly, Kara Sutton, Hadyn Terrell, Emma Thierry, Hope Thomas, Mia Vest, Kolee Walter, Hailey Webster, Jacey Weddle, Emma Whitcomb, Levi Whitcomb, Bindi Whitenack, Ryan Witcher, Sabrina Wray, Hendrix Wright, and Caleb Wrye.

Seventh grade: Alyssa Abdelhadi, Elizabeth Abrams, Erica Barton, Janelle Bibby, Aubrey Blewett, Raegan Bowman, Madelyn Brown, Lane Brunk, Natalie Buck, Ashlyn Cain, Hudson Cain, Emily Clinebell, Addison Collins, Jenna Cruz, Fallon Davis, Colter Dean, Alyssa Dennis, Carina Dibenedetto, Heidi Dixon, Campbell Duff, Hannah Eakin, Colton Edwards, David Foster, Clarissa Gill, Aniyah Harper, Jeremiah Harper, Emmalee Harris, Christopher Hurd, II, Lilly Jarels, Lukas Johnson, Cole Johnston, Evelyn Jones, Britton Jordan, David Krawczyk, Arianna Krista, Scotlyn Leonard, Vincent Liu, Olivia Long, Helena Longstreth, Olivia Lorek, Bradley Martin, Layla Matz, Emma Milliron, Tyler Minnix, Elena Mullen, Sarah Nguyen, Sydney Nichols, Carly Norton, Kendall Norton, Brody Parrish, Jeremy Paul, Sebastian Perdomo, Eric Pierce, Thomas Purcell, Michael Ramos, Janya Rosborough, Jonah Schofield, Willow Seth, Charley Sherburne, Aubrey Sink, Riley Slusher, Elliott Smith, Noah Spradlin, Riley Spradlin, Ramsay Stephens, Bailey Tabor, Zane Telsch, Gavin Thornton, Aubrey Tidrow, Lauren Toney, Nicholas Toney, Izabella Trumble, Sydney Tuck, Owen Webb, Colton West, Heidi Wienke, Aiden Wright, and Maggie Zimmerman.

Eighth grade: Ethan Alexander, Blake Austin, Ainsley Bolen, Braeden Booth, Tyson Brady, Abigail Brigdon, Sophia Brown, Kaylin Bumgarner, Olivia Bustamante, Asher Claybrook, Aiden Cottrell, Ashton

Dillon, Beckham Draper, Jaelyn English, Samuel Geist, Elizabeth Gheen, Keegan Harnish, Macabe James, Cary Jones, Brooke Justus, Tatianna Kubik, Carter Leonard, Emily Ngo, Lilian Perez, Mallory Peroulas, Bethany Pittenger, Alex Ricks, Meisha Robinson, Gabrielle Romeo, Kyle Saccocci, Keith Schult, Jr., Kairi Simms, Jacob Smith, Jarrett Smith, Ethan Sutton, Annabelle Teague, Lucy Whitenack, Darin Witcher, Lennon Wright, and Peyton Wright.

A/B HONOR ROLL

Sixth graders: Bryce Angle, Franklin Apple, Jacob Artrip, Asia Bannister, Katelyn Bennett, Logan Beverage, Allison Bowling, Paxton Brown, Shawn Bunce, Olivia Bush, Mason Campbell, Meranda Dilcher, Morgan Dillard, Dustin Dudley, Lily Duffy, Timothy Duncan, Justin Dunn, Caeden Eanes, Angelyce Enriquez, Gabriel Felty, Logan Ferguson, Debra Gamble, Madison Garman, Blair Godlesky, Carson Gordon, Riley Gregory, Hadyn Grubb, Preslee Hamm, Josiah Harper, Aubrey Harris, Harmony Hedberg, Mirian Hernandez Lemus, Kenleigh Hetherington, Benjamin Hoyos, Jayda Jordan, William Lasecki, Alyvia Lee, Samuel Leftwich, Leona Logan, Reese Mahanes, Jacob Matthews, Luka Mihelcic, Adalie Mills, Mallorie Mullins, Ethan Neville, Alana Niday, Riley Niday, Brooklynn Padgett, Carter Palmer, Caridad Palermo, Riley Rhine, Amy Rickman, Nathaniel Roberts, Lexi Rock, Haleigh Saucedo, Luke Scott, Joshua Serreno, Teagan Simmons, Richard Smith, Brooklyn

Strother, Joseph Suan, Gwen Summo, Cameron Thomas, Isaiah Thompson, Jamari Toler, Jesse Underwood, Chyna Walker, Braelyn Webster, Keenan West, Carson Wheeler, Kaelyn Wheeler, Noah Wheeler, Aaden Whitaker, Haleigh White, Abriel Wilhelm, Jaden Wood, Cayden Wright, Kaydy Wright, Landon Yates, Kevin Zhang, and Gianna Zivelonghi.

Seventh grade: Adok Adok, Lauren Baringer, Ava Betterton, Alanah Bonnell, Tanner Bromfield, Sage Brown, Bridget Carlisle, Riley Carlisle, Andrew Carter, Brianna Carter, Casey Carter, Chase Daugherty, Alexis Davis, Emmalee Dodson, Colten Fore, Jaxon Fowler, Nathaniel Hale, Lanaiya Hardy, Caiden Harnish, Braedyn Henritze, Sophie Hoagland, Mason Jenkins, Stella Jones, Joel Kinney, Reagan Kirby, Austin Kroner, Joseph Madonna, Mia Martin, Ella McCoy, Jackson McCoy, Caden Reynolds, Lilith Mills, Penley Moore, Giovanni Pandolfini, Maggie Peters, Myles Preston, Hope Reynolds, Luke Richardson, Makayla Ring, Liam Robertson, Bruce Robinson, Colin Rodgers, Nathaniel Rucker, Abigail Saritelli, Colten Sheppard, Alexis Short, Colton Sotherden, Aiden St. Clair, Jady St. Clair, Zachary Stiltner, Kaitlyn Tang, Zane Taylor, Anna Teruel, McKayla Tingler, Jakeem Toler, Makayla Vaughn, Kara Watkins, Connor Whitehead, Skye Williams, Peyton Williamson, Makaylah Witt, Leighann Wood, and Isabella Worley.

Eighth graders: Jeremy Abbott, Kyndall Agee, Joshua Al-

len, Logan Andrews, Aiden Barton, Olivia Basham, Kelsey Bell, Sawyer Bolen, Aubrey Booze, Ella Brady, Jacob Bray, Allysa Brooks, Joshua Brown, Caleb Brunk, Kendra Brunk, Austin Bumgarner, Jenna Bunce, Lily Carrell, Destiny Cedillo Wilson, Tyler Chambers, Addison Clark, Xavier Clingenpeel, Sydney Coles, Bladimir Cortes Martinez, Jacob Courtemanche, Matilyn Cox, Sydney Crossan, Evelyn Dickason, Kendall Dodson, Emma Dooley, Isabella Dudley, Paul Ferree, Izabella Fleisher, Katelynn Franks, Cody Gardner, Braelynn Gibson, Chloe Gill, Sofia Gonzalez, Kevin Green, Jr., Benjamin Grimm, Ryleigh Grubb, Keegan Harold, Philip Haroulakis, Craigery Heath, Brooke Hershel, Jaden Holmes, Owen Humphreys, Ryan Hurley, David Hutsonpillar, Taylor Jacobsen, Kasey Kendall, Tate Kotz, Shelby Krawczyk, Kenady Leonard, Iziah Logan, Jr., Kennedy Lohrmann, Kayla Lovern, Elizabeth Martinez, Ryan McIntyre, Collin Mills, Anya Moore, Lindsay Murtaugh, Harman Niday, Jayden Niday, Morgan Odum, Sienna Perdue, Harmony Perry, Tyler Pickeral, Makiya Price, DeShannon Reed, Anna Sanderson, Makenzie Scott, Ava Sexton, Christopher Shively, Bryce Simpson, Taylor Spangler, Kyland Spence, Mallory Summo, Kaeleigh Swan, Evan Tabor, Camden Thepsimuong, Jamez Toler, Zane Vasser, Dixie Venable, Micah Wheeler, Nathaniel Whitney, Emma Williams, Noah Williams, and Angie Zaragoza pena.

Water & Wastewater System

from page 1

development of our own water system, so this decision was not reached lightly and has been years in the making. The transfer of the water system will allow the town to better focus on community development.

In addition, I am convinced that the transfer of the water system will strengthen the Western Virginia Water Authority and make it an even greater asset for the entire Roanoke Valley. "We have recently cel-

See **Water & Wastewater System**, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The tour of Carvins Cove on June 7 included a trip to the Carvins Cove Dam. Shown left to right are Councilman Mike Stovall, Town Manager Pete Peters, Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty, Mayor Brad Grose, Councilwoman Laurie Mullins, and Councilman Keith Liles.

IRONMAN

from page 1

to provide support for this event.

After the inaugural Triathlon in 2021, Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters commented, "Ironman was an amazing event for all of Roanoke and a great event for Vinton to participate in as one of four host localities. This was a great opportunity to showcase

the many wonderful assets the entire region has to offer to several thousand new visitors and is another leap forward with the Roanoke Region's efforts to supplant ourselves as an outdoor destination."

Peters also expressed his appreciation to town staff, especially

the Vinton Police and Public Works Departments, for managing the road closures and ensuring public and participant safety during the race. He also thanked local businesses, churches, and residents for making accommodations leading to the success of the event.

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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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Water & Wastewater System

from page 4

celebrated many successes in the Town of Vinton because of the blessings of God, a hard-working talented staff, and an innovative Town Council," Grose said. "Today is yet another example of what can be accomplished when we work together for the improvement of our community. I am truly grateful to be part of this great achievement and I am very thankful for all those who have worked so intensely to make this day a reality."

Councilman Keith Liles noted that "times have changed, and this is the perfect time" for this agreement. "We are a town, not a water business."

Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty thanked the Public Works Department for their hard work and years of providing quality service for the citizens of Vinton. "This is the best decision for our citizens."

Councilwoman Laurie Mullins echoed those sentiments and also expressed council's desire to do the best for its citizens.

Councilman Mike Stovall spoke of the legacy this council and town staff is leaving with this transfer of ownership to the Authority and thanked all of those who "have their fingerprints on this."

Former Vinton Mayor and WVWA board member Don Davis, long an advocate of the transfer of the town's water and utility system to the Authority, praised a "goal come to fruition." He believes the 5,200 customers of the Town of Vinton will benefit from the transfer and the investment in infrastructure the Authority will be able to make in an aging system. The agreement will allow the Authority to accrue a larger customer base and eliminate redundant expenses. He noted the

"great team effort" in negotiations which began last September and looks forward to serving the needs of customers.

Jason Peters, who represents the Vinton Magisterial District on the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, noted that the water issue has been a concern for a number of years. He believes strongly that for continued economic development in the area, a sustainable water system is paramount. He thanked the mayor and council for moving the negotiations and the process along so quickly. "You are doing the right thing for the citizens and giving them a security everyone should have."

Mike McEvoy, executive director of the WVWA, thanked the town for "trusting us with your customers and system." He promised the Authority will continue to deliver the quality services customers are used to and emphasized his belief that the utility system will become stronger as the entities work together with one vision. He especially thanked Town Manager Pete Peters and Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton for the "incredible hours" they have put into the process and his own staff for making the Authority's largest merger to date, its quickest merger as well.

Vinton Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty read the proposed resolution which was then adopted unanimously by council: "Whereas, Vinton Town Council and Administration desire to provide the best rate and infrastructure stability, service, and water quality for current and future customers and realize the best way to do that is through a regional approach, and

"Whereas, Vinton Town Council at their

meeting on December 7, 2021, adopted Resolution No. 2468 certifying its intention to have formal discussions with the Authority regarding the Authority's ownership and operation of the Town's public water distribution and treatment system and sanitary sewer system, and

"Whereas, the Executive Director of the Authority and Staff, the Town Manager and Staff, along with their respective attorneys have negotiated a Transfer Agreement of the Town's water and sanitary sewer system to the Authority, which has been presented at this meeting, and

"Whereas, the Western Virginia Water Authority at their meeting on April 21, 2022, adopted Resolution No. 445 approving the Transfer Agreement, Town Staff recommends that the Transfer Agreement be executed to formalize said agreement between the parties effective July 1, 2022."

A joint statement from the Town of Vinton and the Authority reiterated the reasons for and advantages of the transfer of ownership and operations. "Working together regionally provides better rate stability, drought protection, infrastructure planning and maintenance for all customers. With this acquisition, customers in the Town of Vinton will receive a high level of service and an investment in water supply, treatment and delivery that is more readily available on the larger scale that the Authority can offer. The town will also be able to focus more of its time and funding on important community development projects such as transportation enhancements, improving the town's walkability, and improving storm water management.

"The Authority's goal is to strategically interconnect the Town of Vinton and Authority systems to provide water primarily from the Carvins Cove Water Treatment Facility which will take place in three phases. Studies, additional testing, and modeling of the Vinton system are already in progress to help make decisions about needed infrastructure improvements and the best combination of water sources to provide excellent water quality to our customers."

Phase I of the Authority's operational plan will take place in early June with the gradual supply of water from the Carvins Cove Facility to the Vinton Downtown Zone (described by Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton as the area downhill from the Vinton War Memorial).

This phase of work will include additional monitoring and testing to help optimize operations to eventually increase the water supplied from Carvins Cove in the Vinton Downtown Zone.

The town and the Authority want customers to be aware that "the water supplied from Carvins Cove is a softer water source than the current supply, meaning it has less hardness which is the measure of dissolved minerals, largely calcium and magnesium, in water. Changes in the hardness of water supply can cause changes in the distribution network as prior deposits of calcium or magnesium can be dissolved more readily by a softer water supply. In the Phase I plan, the water from Carvins Cove Facility will be blended with existing wells to avoid a more dramatic shift in the hardness of the water supply."

One significant ele-

ment to the Authority's operation of the water system involves the level of system flushing required. In the beginning stages of operations, the Authority expects that the flushing volume and frequency will likely be increased. When system flushing is increased, it has the potential to increase the risk for discolored (cloudy) water in the initial phases. While this can be frustrating for customers, this work will help ensure that the existing water distribution network is positioned to provide improved water quality in the long-term operations of the system.

So, while customers may see some cloudy water for a time as the calcium, magnesium, and other chemicals dissolve as the system is flushed, this will be temporary.

Sarah Baumgardner, director of Public Relations for the Authority, does not believe the temporary cloudiness of the water will impact its taste.

In addition, if you are a customer who uses a water softener, over time that softener system may no longer be needed.

Phase II (Parkway Zone) and Phase III (Hardy Road Zone) of the Authority transition plan will require significant infrastructure projects (installation of pumps) in order to serve these areas with Carvins Cove water. Water from existing wells within the town will continue to provide drinking water for these customers.

As for wastewater treatment, the joint statement from the Authority and the town says, "Sanitary sewer for town customers is currently transported through pipes to the Roanoke Regional Water Pollution Control Plant for treatment. Customers will continue to receive the same high level

of service provided by this facility, and the sewer pipe infrastructure in the town will be maintained by the Authority."

Customers in the Town of Vinton will transition to billing by the Western Virginia Water Authority with the July bill and will receive monthly bills based on the prior month's consumption (the town currently bills customers every two months). The last bill to be paid to the Town of Vinton is due June 18. After that, bills will be issued by and paid to the Authority.

The Authority currently meets the drinking water and sanitary sewer needs of a regional population of over 155,000 in the City of Roanoke and the Counties of Roanoke, Franklin and Botetourt. The addition of the approximately 5,200 Town of Vinton customers will provide an even larger base in which to spread the organization's operational and capital expenses – so there is no anticipation of rate increases due to the transfer.

The Western Virginia Water Authority is fully funded by ratepayers. Having a larger base of customers allows the per customer operational and capital expense of maintaining and enhancing the utility system to be minimized. This multijurisdictional model supports economic development in the valley through high quality and quantity of water, sewage treatment capacity and competitive rate structures.

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ANGLICAN

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

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)

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

BAPTIST (COOPERATIVE)

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

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

ECKANKAR

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

FOURSQUARE

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

LUTHERAN

ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH. "The Church Under The Cross", 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday

Vinton Worship Directory

Almighty God

Read Genesis 40:1 through 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation's highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1-14

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.

Woman's Club of Vinton awards scholarship, installs new officers

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton held the annual scholarship presentation and installation of officers on May 24 at the Vinton War Memorial.

The 2022 scholarship for \$1,000 was presented to William Byrd graduate Emilie McCaskill. Each year the club awards this scholarship to a William Byrd senior based on academic achievement, community service, and overall good character.

McCaskill graduates from Byrd with an Advanced Studies diploma and an impressive GPA of 4.36. While earning her high school diploma, McCaskill also earned her Associate of Science Degree from Virginia Western Community College with a 4.0 GPA. She will be attending the University of Virginia in the fall with plans for a medical career.

She is the daughter of Angela Peterson and Mark McCaskill.

In her years at WBHS, McCaskill has served as president of both the Student Council Association and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is a 1,000-point scorer in varsity basketball and captain of the team. She has played varsity tennis for four years and travel basketball.

McCaskill has been a member of the Beta Club, Reindeer Club, Red Cross Club, and the FCCLA. She is active in her church, Vinton Baptist, and has been a member of the church choir and Student Leadership Committee.

She is fluent in English and French and was able to spend part of her summer in 2021 in France in a foreign exchange experience.

And while doing all that, she holds down a job at Kroger.

New Vinton Woman's Club officers for the upcoming year installed during the May meeting include President

Judy Banik, 1st Vice President Maggie Angell, 2nd Vice President Mary Kay Brown, Secretary Vicki Newburn, and Treasurer Lois Creasy.

The club presented gifts of appreciation to outgoing presidents Amber Holdren and Hazel Moody.

The GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton is well-known throughout the community and the area for their generosity and attention to the needs of the community—big or small. Wherever there is a need, they step up to fill it.

One of their most visible projects comes along each April when the club partners with the Vinton Police Department and Vinton Town Council to plant a Pinwheel Garden at the Municipal Building to raise awareness of child abuse.

Club members, as members of the Blue Ridge District, will be busy this summer preparing to host the state GFWC Woman's Club Conference in August at Natural Bridge. Vinton member Kathryn Sowers is serving as the chair.



Emilie McCaskill (on left) was the recipient of this year's GFWC Vinton Woman's Club Scholarship, presented by Vicki Newburn.



PHOTOS BY DANNY ADAMS

The GFWC Vinton Woman's Club installed new officers at their meeting on May 24 at the Vinton War Memorial. Shown left to right are Treasurer Lois Creasy, Secretary Vicki Newburn, 2nd Vice President Mary Kay Brown, 1st Vice President Maggie Angell, and President Judy Banik.

Bank of Botetourt named to American Banker's Top 200 Community Banks in the US

Bank of Botetourt has been recognized as one of American Banker's Top 200 Community Banks in the United States. In its May 2022 issue, American Banker ranked Bank of Botetourt 165th on the list of the country's 200 top-performing publicly traded community banks with assets under \$2 billion, based on three-year return on average equity (ROAE) as of December 31, 2021. Source: Capital Performance Group.

"Bank of Botetourt is honored to be recognized in American Banker's Top 200 list," said President and CEO G. Lyn Hayth, III. "Against the multitude of unknowns from the past several years, our team continued to meet and surpass strategic goals. The culmination of these combined efforts contributed to the bank's strong financial performance resulting in this recognition."

Over the past several years, the bank has been voted best employer and best bank by the Roanoke Times SWVA Liv-

ing, platinum bank by HOME Magazine, and best regionally/locally based bank by The Roanoker Magazine. This recognition from American Banker is further validation of the success the bank has found in focusing on strong relationships with customers and shareholders while leading in corporate citizenship to strengthen the communities where the bank conducts business, Hayth said.

Bank of Botetourt is one of seven Virginia community banks that made the list. Nationwide, the number of community banks continues to decline from more than 8,300 in 2000 to 4,277 as of June 2020.

Bank of Botetourt recently reported profitable first quarter 2022 results with net income of \$1.54 million, or \$0.80 per basic share. At March 31, 2022 select financial information and key highlights included return on average assets of 0.90% and ROAE of 10.41%.

OBITUARIES

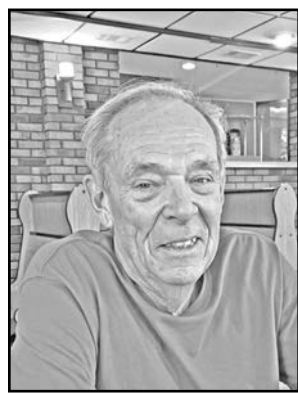
William Frank McConnell

William Frank "Bill" McConnell of Daleville passed away on Monday, May 30, 2022.

He was born in Richmond on August 19, 1948, to the late Albert and Virginia McConnell. Bill grew up in Richmond and graduated from George Wythe High School. After graduation from high school, he attended and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University. Bill moved to Vinton during his job with General Electric and retired from there.

Bill is survived by his loving, caring wife, Diane McConnell; his children, William Bradley McConnell and wife, Olga; Julia Dare Walker Rundle and husband, Reuben; Brent Wood McConnell; Ray Bradley Huddleston and wife, Beth; Thomas David "Tommy" Huddleston and wife, Teresa; and three grandchildren, Ava Knox, Milana McConnell, and Matthew Huddleston.

He served on the Board of Visitors at Chowan University in Murfreesboro, N.C. Bill was proud to serve and donate a scholarship in honor of his mother who loved sports. Like his mother, Bill was an avid sports enthusiast. He especially loved going to or watching college football games. Go Wahoos! He also volunteered with the Karios Prison Ministries and valued the fellowship and friendship of the other volunteers. Bill was an active mem-



ber of Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church for many years. He loved his church family, especially his Sunday School class. Even during his illness, Bill looked forward to participating in his on-line Sunday School class. He was so appreciative of the faithful prayers, calls and cards he received from his church Sunday School class and Karios family.

Bill loved life. He never met a stranger and enjoyed socializing with family and friends. He took great pleasure in participating in family gatherings. Bill missed getting together with family and friends during the pandemic and his illness. He often expressed his gratitude for the love and support he received from them during this time. Bill was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. We are all deeply saddened by his death. He will be truly missed.

Funeral services were held on Monday, June 6, at 2 p.m. at Oakey's East Chapel. The family received friends from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Monday prior to the funeral service.

The family would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the loving care and medical treatment that Bill received from the team of doctors and nurses at Duke. Memorial donations can be made to Duke Cancer Center, 20 Duke Medicine Circle, Durham, N.C. 27710-2000.

K9 Jax



PHOTOS FROM VINTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

K9 Jax of the Vinton Police Department sadly has passed away. He was medically retired from the department in 2016 and has spent his retirement years with his handler, Sergeant of Patrol Christopher Froeschel and his family.



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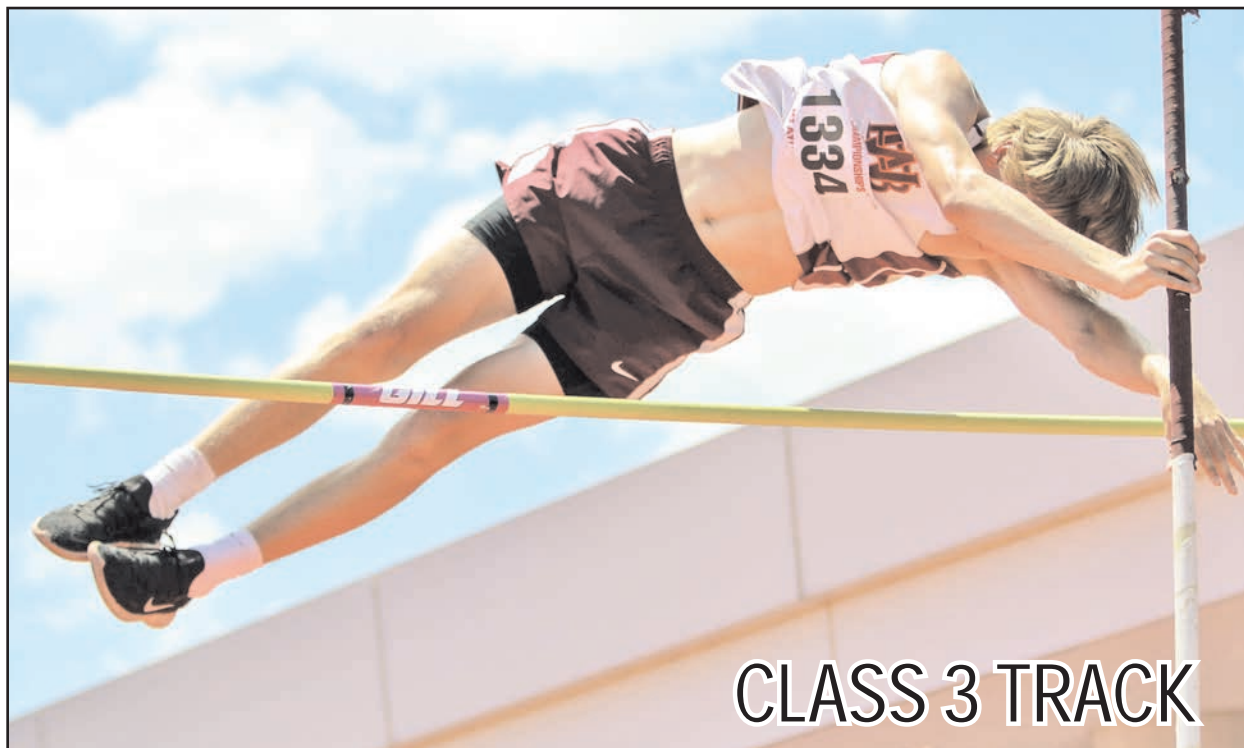
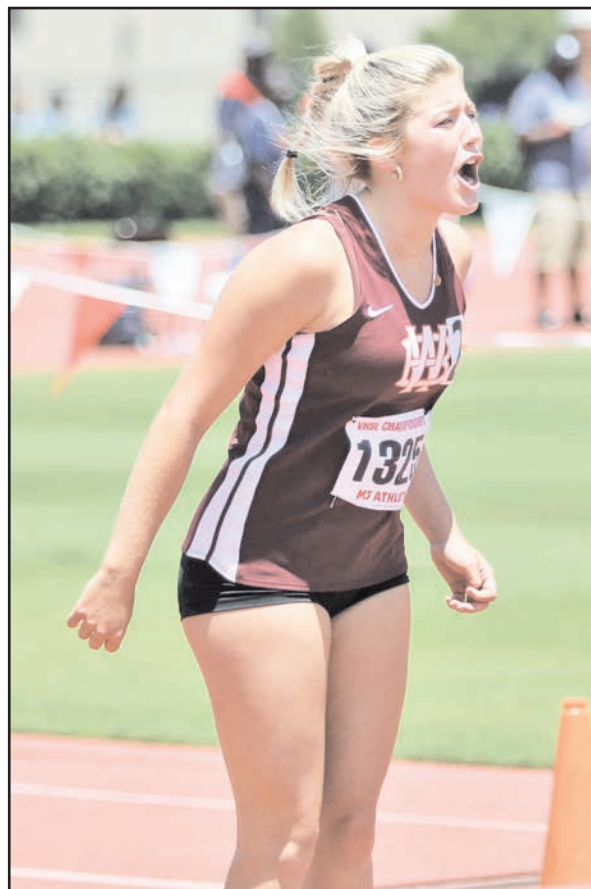
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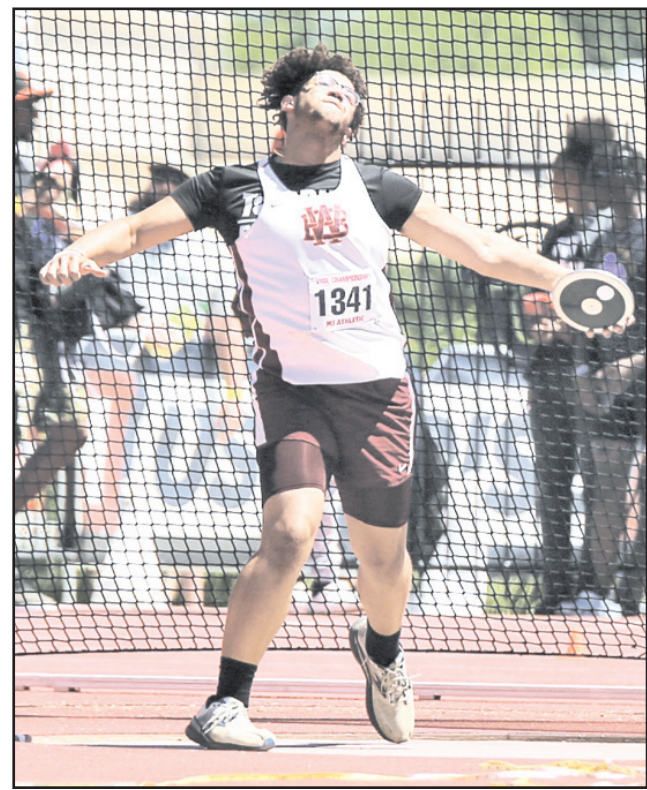
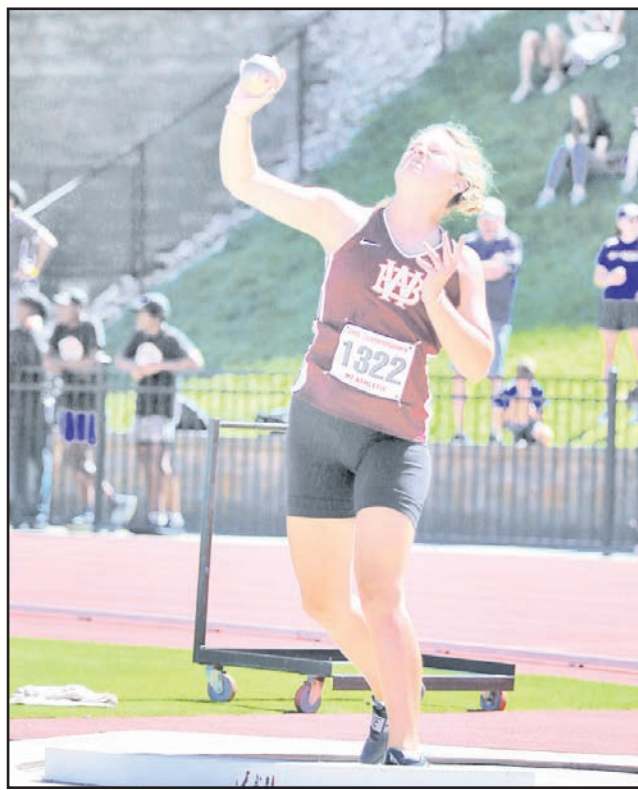
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CLASS 3 TRACK

Action from the state Class 3 track meet at Liberty University last weekend. Clockwise from below right: Caleb Thompson of cuts loose in the discus event, Sydney Blewett is on her way to a second place in the shot put, Sarah Fuchs runs her leg of the 4x100 relay, Remi Figart lets out a yell of encouragement after handing off the baton in the 4x100 and Wyattte Bailey soars over the bar in the pole vault competition.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MARVIN & BARRY COX



Byrd girls take ninth in state Class 3 track meet

The William Byrd girls took ninth place among 36 schools represented at the Class 3 state track meet at Liberty University in Lynchburg last weekend. The Heritage girls and Abingdon boys were team winners.

Heritage scored 60 points to win the girls' championship with Maggie Walker finishing second with 48.5. The Terriers had 29 points, one fewer than eighth place Lakeland and two more than 10th place Cave Spring.

The Terriers best finishes were in the throwing events, both runner-up. Sydney Blewett was second in the shot put with a heave of 38'9". That

was second only to Theresa Breckley of Culpepper County, who won the event at 41' even. In the discus Byrd's Mya Rosser flung the disc 106'2" for a season's best. Breckley also won that event, topping Rosser by a little more than inch at 107' 4".

The top eight in each event scored in the state meet. Mya Rosser also took a fifth in the shot put at 35'1" and twin sister Jaylen Rosser was sixth in the discus at 102' 3". Sela Beatty took seventh in the 100 meters with a time of 13.09.

The girls 4x100 relay team took fifth in a time of 51.09. That consisted

of Remi Figart, Sarah Fuchs, Emma Dalton and Beatty.

Other girls won competed but did not score included Figart with a 10th in the triple jump, Emma Kageals with a 12th in the 300 hurdles, Jaylen Rosser with a 12th in the shot put, Fuchs with a 13th place finish in the discus and the 4x400 relay team of Olivia Hurd, Alexandra Bonilla, Emma Matthews and Kageals, who finished 15th.

The only scorer for the boys' team was Walker Nance, who was seventh in the 110 hurdles with a time of 16.83. Walker was also 11th in the 300 hurdles.

Other competitors included Caleb Thompson with a 13th in the discus, Wyattte Bailey with a 15th in the 400, Jaiden Childress with 18th in the high jump and Dylan Hughes was 28th in the 100. The 4x400 relay team of Bailey, DeShawn Austin, Isaiah Board and Brady Reachy was 13th, running a season's best time of 3:37.07.

"The William Byrd outdoor track and field team would like to thank everyone for their support from the start of the indoor track and field season to the end of the outdoor track and field season," said coach James Pannell.

BOYS SOCCER

continued from page 10

Byrd shots missed just wide on a couple occasions as the game continued nil-nil into the second half. The Demons finally broke the ice with just under 10 minutes to go, then scored an insurance goal in the closing minutes as Byrd pushed for an equalizer.

"I was proud of the boys and their performance in that match as well as the post season play," said Dishman. "To come in as the ninth seed and knock off the top seed is a big deal. We were very close to marketing the region final and a state berth. I am not sure the last time the boys had been that close, but I think this is an awesome moment for the boys and the program."

The Terriers finished with an 8-10-2 overall record and were playing their best soccer at the end of the season.

"The season had it challenges as we dealt with injuries and changes," said Dishman. "From the second match of the season we were missing guys up until the last match of the regular season. The boys did well to adjust and rise to the occasion when called on. As the season got to the end, I felt we were playing well. We had a good run the last couple weeks, beating Staunton River and Fleming on their senior nights. On a tough night physically and emotionally against Northside the guys battled back from 3-1 down to draw in OT with a legit shot to win."

Dishman hopes the late season success will carry over into next season if the players work hard in the off-season.

"We finished the season strong and I feel that sets the tone for moving forward," he said. "Spring seasons can be tough as the school year comes to a close and there are distractions like trips, work and other activities, but the guys stayed focused and continued to build."

The last three years have been tough, no 2020 season, 2021 was shortened and was challenging. This year the guys showed what we are capable of and set the standard for next year. Hopefully we take this experience and use it as motivation to do the same and hopefully progress next year and years to come."

Byrd graduated eight seniors from this year's team.

"Our upperclassmen provided leadership to the group and our younger players stepped up and led as well," said Dishman. "I thank the seniors for all they did and gave and I look forward to what the future holds for them as well as the guys coming up next year. Next year starts now and I am excited to see what we can do."

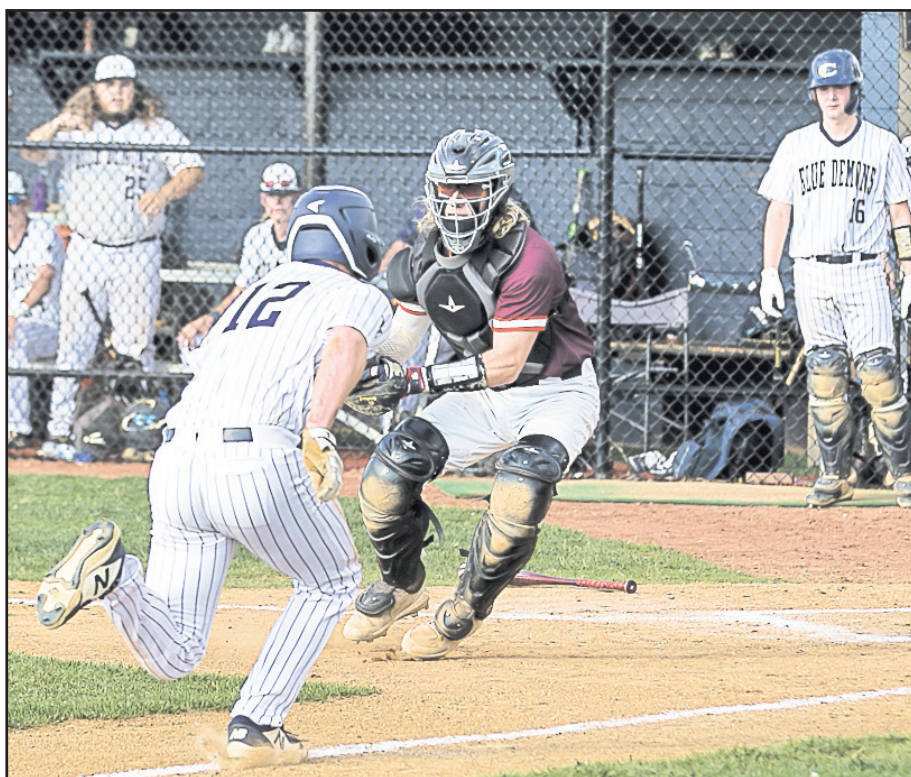


Left, Byrd's Grayson Webb goes up for a header in last week's region game in Christiansburg. Top right, keeper Bricen Lancaster goes high for a save. Below right, Braden Crossan works to keep the ball in bounds.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

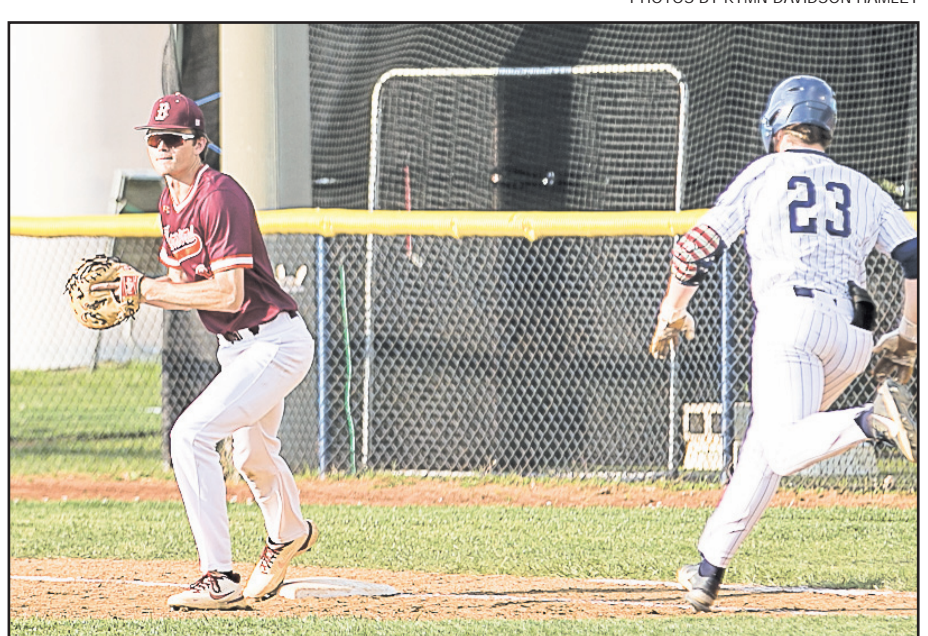
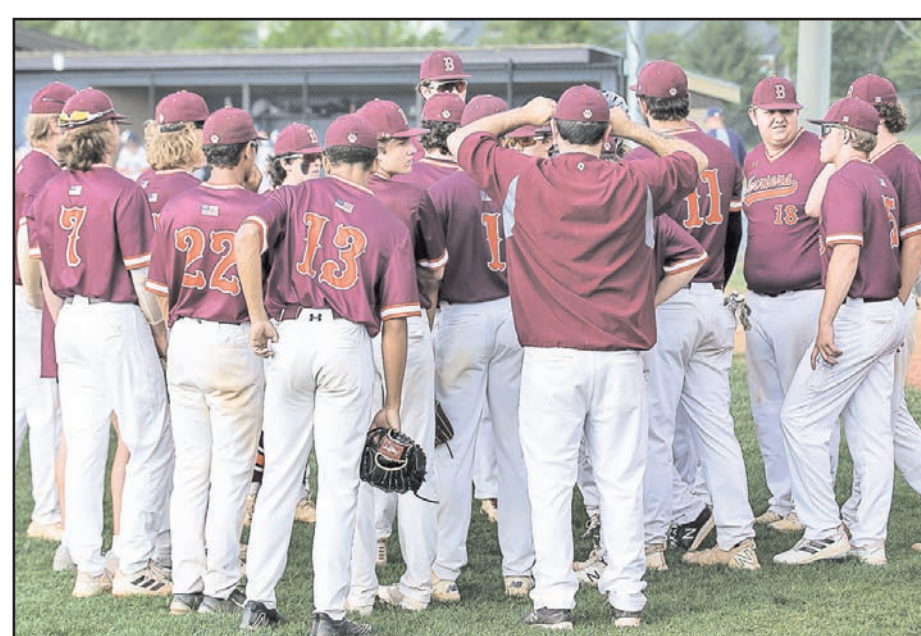
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Action from last week's Region 3D baseball game at Christiansburg. Clockwise from above left: Ian Burnette coasts under a fly ball, Byrd catcher James Purcell is ready to tag out a Demon at the plate, Hunter Sipe pitches for Byrd, Ross Divers makes the putout at first and Byrd coach Jason Taylor rallies the team between innings.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY



Fast start by Demons dooms Byrd baseball in region semifinal

It only took Christiansburg High four batters to take a 4-0 lead over William Byrd in last week's Region 3D baseball game, and that proved to be enough. The Blue Demons took a 10-1 win over Byrd in Christiansburg in the region semi-final.

This was a big game, as the winner was assured a spot in the Class 3 tournament and the loser had their season come to an end. Byrd was the third seed in the tournament and Christiansburg was second, so the Demons got to host the game after both teams scored quarterfinal round wins.

Byrd was retired in the top of the first before Christiansburg went to work in the bottom half of the inning. Terrier starting pitcher Hunter Sipe hit the first batter, and two bunt singles followed to load the bases. That set the table for Christiansburg's clean up hitter, Marshall Basham, and he connected on a grand slam home run to right to clear the bases and give the Demons a 4-0 lead before Byrd recorded an out.

"You can't play from behind against a team like that," said Byrd coach Jason Taylor. "They're too

good a team."

That's how the score stood until the Demons struck for one run in the bottom of the fourth. Byrd got one back in the top of the fifth when Israel Hairston was hit by a pitch, stole second and scored on an RBI single by Sipe.

The Demons put it away in the home sixth. Two batters reached against Sipe to start the inning and Taylor called on sophomore lefty Brogan Dent. He gave up two hits and before the inning was over the Demons had five more runs and a 10-1 lead.

Sipe took the loss, striking out seven in six innings. Dent allowed just one earned run in relief but the big story was Byrd's offense, as the Terriers had just two hits, singles by Sipe and Ian Burnette.

With the loss the Terriers finished the season at 16-6. They were just one win away from a spot in the state after losing 11 seniors and head coach Neil Zimmerman from last year's team. Taylor and his staff did an admirable job in keeping the storied Byrd program in a winning mode.

"I knew what we had, and when I looked at the

schedule I thought we'd win about 14 games," said Taylor. "If someone had told me at the beginning of the season we'd be 16-6 I would have taken that."

Taylor was an aggressive coach, and his team stole 88 bases in 100 attempts for a new school record. The old record was set in 1989 when Byrd stole 76 bases in 81 attempts.

This year also marked the first perfect game in school history, thrown by sophomore Blake Glover against Staunton River. Senior Ethan Hairston set a school record with a nine game hitting streak. The previous record was seven by Steve Sizemore in 1985 and Jason Porter in 1994.

Taylor, who is also the athletic director, took the job with an understanding that the situation would be re-evaluated after one season. He had no trouble juggling both jobs and would like to return to the dugout next spring.

"Roanoke County has no policy against it, and I had plenty of time to do both," he said. "I'll have to sit down and talk to Tammy (principal Newcomb), but if they allow me I'd love to come back."

Hot Titans top Byrd girls

The William Byrd soccer girls caught a hot Hidden Valley team at a bad time and it likely cost them a spot in the state Class 3 tournament. The Titans beat Byrd in the Region 3D semifinal round of play last week at Vinton's Patterson Stadium, 3-0.

Hidden Valley came in as the seventh seed in the region tournament but rattled off four straight wins to take the title. After opening with a win over Carroll County in a play-in game

the Titans beat second seeded Magna Vista, 4-2, third seeded Byrd, 3-0, and then took the championship game over top-seeded Hidden Valley with a 2-0 shutout win. The win over Byrd was a disappointing result for the Terriers, as that kept the locals from advancing to state play.

"We had our chances but unfortunately could not score and their keeper made several nice saves in her shutout," said Byrd coach Molly Cox.

Meanwhile the Titans took a 2-0 lead by the half, then added an insurance goal in the second while frustrating the attacking Byrd girls. With the loss Byrd finished the season at 13-6-1 and just one win away from playing in the state this week.

"We won a region game for the first time in years," said Cox. "I'm not sure of the exact number but I don't remember them winning one since I have coached at Byrd for seven years. Of our six losses three were to Lord Botetourt and two to Hidden Valley who are both competing in the state."

The Terriers graduated just four seniors, Riley Firebaugh, Hannah Sutton, Yulissa Bonilla and Anna Milliron. A dozen juniors will return.

"I'm very proud of our girls and how they competed this season," said Cox. "I'm excited for the future of our program."



Byrd's Ian Sigmon(left) takes the ball from a Demon.

PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY



Senior Anna Milliron fires a shot on goal for Byrd.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Blue Demons end Byrd boys' run

William Byrd's run of upsets in the Region 3D tournament ended one win away from a state tournament berth last week when the boys lost to Christiansburg, 2-0, in tournament semifinal.

Byrd had won two tournament games to that point, both on the road as underdogs including a win over the number one seed, Tunstall. That win propelled the Terriers to the region semifinals, with the winner assured of a spot in the state tournament. However, Byrd was defeated by fifth seeded Christiansburg, 2-0, to seed their season come to an end.

"They were a good team and it was a good match," said Byrd coach Russell Dishman. "I felt we had several chances."

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