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William Byrd reaches halfway point in major renovations

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

William Byrd High School is about halfway through a major renovation project which began in the late spring of 2021 and scheduled to be completed in August 2023. The \$30.7 million project currently remains on schedule to meet that completion date. The school will be re-opening in phases over the next 12 months until renovations are finished.

William Byrd was built in 1969 and has had some piecemeal renovations in the years since; however, this renovation project is more extensive and involves the first and second floors of the building, entailing some 100,000 square feet with roughly 13,500 square feet of additions. Renovations are complete in

several areas of the building. English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and some Marketing classes will start out the school year in the main building. Some other classes will be meeting in the 12 learning cottages (providing 24 classrooms) when school opens.

The goal of the design/build team from Avis Construction and Hughes and Associates Architects & Engineers has been to make the Vinton school “look and feel like a new school without building a new school; to make the Byrd facility more cohesive, modern, and up-to-date—to look like a school that was built all at the same time.”

The transformation in the school is nothing short of amazing. Principal Tammy Newcomb says one of the things she loves most about the renovations is the brightness of the interior. The

walls throughout most of the building are lined with a subdued gray tile. The tile floors – new throughout the building – also have a grayish tone with patches of maroon – one of the school colors, along with orange.

The front entrance of the building is undergoing massive renovations. The Hall of Fame trophies and jerseys, which have been located in the front lobby for decades, will now be found in wall inserts built down the main hallway to the cafeteria.

The furniture is updated and innovative. For instance, the student desks in the math classrooms have whiteboard tops for students to use for calculations. There are no more electric and cable cords dangling from the ceiling or stretched across the

See **Renovations**, page 6



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Renovations are being made to the front entrance and front lobby of Byrd.

National Night Out celebrated in Vinton and Mount Pleasant



The grilling team at work at National Night Out in Vinton – Police officer Justin Baker and Town Manager Pete Peters, with Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce President Jason Boothe.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The first Tuesday in August is celebrated across the nation and the world as “National Night Out,” a time for citizens and law enforcement officers to come together informally to build re-

lationships. The Vinton/Mount Pleasant area held two National Night Out events in 2022— one sponsored by the Vinton Police Department at the Charles R. Hill Community Center in Vin-

ton, the other at Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, hosted by the Mount Pleasant Lions Club. Despite the heat, big crowds were at both events. Both included hot dogs prepared by law enforcement of-

See **National Night Out**, page 6



Law enforcement officers at the Mount Pleasant National Night Out. PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS



This year's Marching Terriers band has 24 seniors who will be graduating. Here they are at Away Band Camp at Camp Bethel in Fincastle on July 30: Sam Ferris, Latriva Pierce, Jake Blevins, Maggie Parkhurst, Jack Powell, Emily Jones, Lake Paul, Reagan Dillard, Elijah Dillon, Aiden Williams, Matthew Klugas, Landon Bruner, Xavier Vaughn, Sage Kushman, Holly Mills, Thomas McGregor, Kyle Colvin, Ashton Kanode, Corinna Pittenger, Kaiden Shuder, Cadin Byrd, Logan Brown, Jon Farmer, and Jason Cox.

Marching Terriers band marches on through the heat and the rain to prepare for new season



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS
From left, Aiden Williams, Becca Radford, and Maggie Parkhurst are a featured trio in the “Ready or Not” band program.

The William Byrd High School Marching Terriers spent much of July battling the extremes of weather to learn their new band program for the 2022 marching band season. They will be performing at football games, pep rallies, parades, and marching competitions almost every week throughout the late summer and

fall. Band Home Camp was held July 18-22 at William Byrd High School – in the school and on the parking lot – with two sessions daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The band traveled to Camp Bethel in Fincastle for Away Camp from July 24 through July 30. Rookie band mem-

See **Terriers March**, page 5

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Thrasher KIDS salute law enforcement officers with Cookies for Cops



Officer Kristina Wilhelm and K9 Ghost visited the Thrasher KIDS group on July 31.



The Thrasher KIDS walked to the Vinton Police Department at the Municipal Building to deliver cookies.



Officer Andrew O'Connor gives the Thrasher KIDS a tour of the Vinton Police Department.



The children at Thrasher baked over 200 chocolate chip cookies to salute local police officers for their service to the community.



K9 Ghost visits with the children at Thrasher.

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The Thrasher KIDS group at Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church spent their Sunday morning on July 31 baking cookies and making cards for members of the Vinton and Roanoke County Police Departments. The children baked about 200 chocolate chip cookies in the church kitchen, then boxed them for delivery. Their purpose was “to salute the brave men and women of our community to thank them for their service.”

While the cookies were baking and cooling, the group was treated to a visit from Officer and K9 Handler Kristina Wilhelm and K9 Ghost from the Roanoke County Police Department. Thrasher’s Children’s Director Kristen Smith introduced and welcomed them.

Ghost is a beautiful, solid black, 4-year-old German Shepherd dually trained to detect explosives and to patrol. He lives with Wilhelm and her family. Wilhelm has been a K9 handler with Roanoke County for about 10 years. Ghost began his K9 training with another officer who subsequently left the force for a job training dogs to be deployed overseas.

Before she brought Ghost into the church fellowship hall, Wilhelm asked and answered some questions about dogs in general and K9s in particular. She noted that while Ghost is a German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherds also make good K9 dogs.

The time it takes to train a dog as a K9 officer varies, depending upon the natural inclinations of the dog. Wilhelm said Ghost is a highly motivated dog who likes to “work, work, work.”

A working K9 is typically bred for its dexterity, ability to focus, intelligence and athleticism. Prospective police dogs are tested to see how they

respond to a variety of scenarios before they are selected by a law enforcement agency, based on their own needs. Once selected for work, the K9 undergoes rigorous training for tasks such as apprehending suspected criminals and sniffing out narcotics or explosives.

When Wilhelm brought Ghost to meet the group, he was very sociable, playful and anxious to demonstrate his skills. Wilhelm says his main motivator is his favorite chew toy, not food. She asked one member of the group to hide the empty cartridge of a gun for him to detect and then placed a gun high up on top of a box mounted to the wall herself. Ghost was successful in locating the weapons in both instances and amazed the children with how high he can jump.

Ghost has a kennel at Wilhelm’s home, where he stays when they are not working the 10-hour evening shift. He eats once a day. His diet is mostly dry food—chicken and duck—sometimes mixed with hot water in colder months.

Wilhelm says Ghost trains with her each day to maintain his skills, especially in obedience.

He has his own protective ballistic vest, especially fitted just for him, labeled with his name and serial number, donated by Spike’s K9 Fund at a cost of about \$2,500. The organization is dedicated to providing these vests (made in Canada) to police K9 dogs.

Spike’s K9 Fund, a non-profit, was founded by James Hatch, a retired Naval Special Warfare Operator. As a K9 handler on several deployments, his life was regularly spared by the work of K9s – one of the most memorable was Spike. On his final deployment, the night he was critically wounded, the K9 saved Hatch’s life while losing his own. From that evening on, Hatch oriented his life

around the training, care and preservation of working dogs. In addition to working as the founder and president of the fund, he works with local law enforcement and has adopted a former service dog in need of medical attention.

Spike’s K9 Fund also donated an obstacle course to Roanoke County for training police dogs. It is located at the Public Safety Center on Cove Road. The course helps prepare the dogs for situations they encounter in the line of duty. The K9 Training Obstacle Course for Roanoke County was built in July 2020. K9 handlers and dogs from around the region train there together every other Wednesday.

The county has six K9 dogs, five male and one female. Some specialize in narcotics. Others in explosives and detecting weapons, including locating gun casings. Others are used for search and rescue, especially involving missing children or dementia patients.

Wilhelm and Ghost received the Officer of the Month Award in April 2021 from the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce for tracking and capturing an assault suspect through the woods— he eventually surrendered.

At the end of the morning on July 31, the Thrasher KIDS hiked from the church to the Vinton Police Department to deliver the cookies they had baked. Sgt. Silas Chapman and Officers Andrew O’Connor and Brandon Settles were on hand to greet them and provide a tour of the police department. Officer Wilhelm had also been gifted with containers of cookies to be distributed to other Roanoke County officers on duty that day.

For more information on Spike’s K9 Fund visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/spikesk9fund/> or the website at <https://spikesk9fund.org/>.



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SPOTLIGHT ON TOWN STAFF

“The Vinton Public Works Department 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 in the Vinton Public Works Department.”

One of those Public Works employees is Banks Bradford. His position with the town is Equipment Operator III, the streetsweeper. He keeps the streets of Vinton swept five days a week, unless it is raining or very, very cold, or if he is assisting another Public Works crew.

Bradford says he loves working for the Town of Vinton, where he has been employed since February 27, 2018.

His hobbies include riding motorcycles, camping, and woodworking. He enjoys spending time with his large family which includes his wife, four adult children (two daughters and two sons), and his six grandchildren (three boys and three girls).

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



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Banks Bradford keeps Vinton clean with the newly wrapped street sweeper.

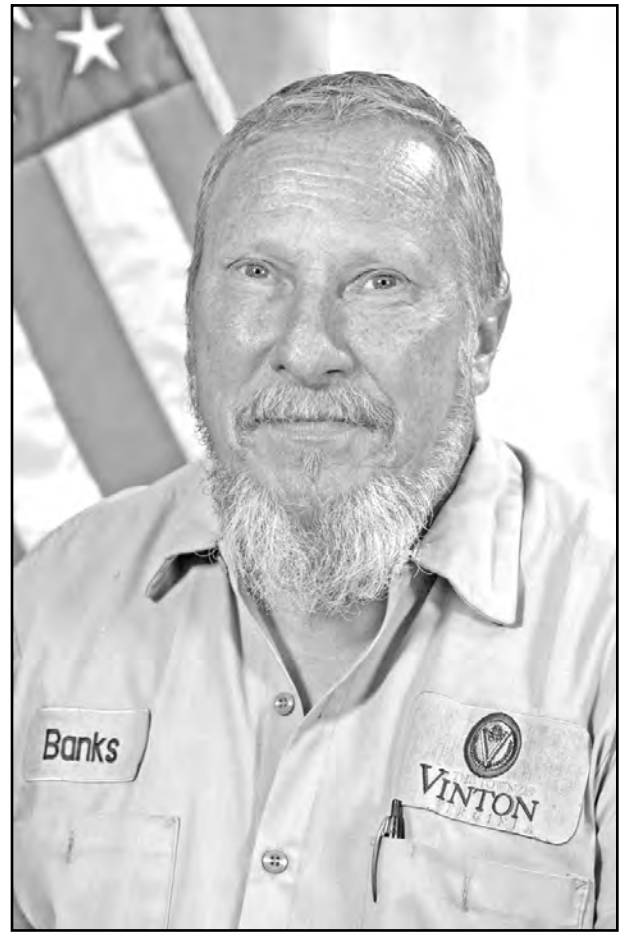


PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

Banks Bradford – Public Works Department.

Vinton, Roanoke County honor first responders to tragic Vinton fire

Roanoke County and Town of Vinton officials recognized public safety personnel and others involved in responding to the July 2 fire in downtown Vinton at a ceremony at the Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Station No. 2 in Vinton on August 2.

Town Manager Pete Peters welcomed the crowd which filled the bay of the fire station and included firefighters, rescue squad members, law enforcement, Public Works employees, town and county staff, and local government officials.

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose delivered remarks on the disastrous event and the response of both professionals and the community to the fire.

“On July 2, 2022, the Town of Vinton suffered a tragic blow to its downtown business section and to the memories of many of our citizens,” Grose said. “An intense fire destroyed one of the more iconic buildings in our community.”

“We thank God there was no loss of human life; regrettably, some pets did perish in the heartbreaking event, and there was significant loss of property.”

“The fire will be long remembered as part of Vinton’s history and so will the actions of many courageous, hardworking, devoted people who responded on that tragic day. Although it was certainly a sad day, it was also a time that exposed some very positive qualities about the Vinton/Roanoke community. Every aspect of the horrific event; from the initial quick and professional response, continuing in the teamwork and cooperation that was displayed throughout the entire day, to the immediate community response, was inspiring and encouraging! Those involved seemed to know exactly what needed to be done to control the impact of the fire. Most importantly, everyone flawlessly achieved their individual roles in an important team effort.”

“The Town of Vinton is truly indebted to all of those who performed so professionally and unselfishly during an extremely difficult time in our town.”

“I certainly want to thank our first responders—the Fire Departments, Rescue Squad, Police Department and Public Works Department for their tireless efforts as they worked throughout the night and into the next day to contain the blaze. I also want to thank the other members of our town staff who responded and showed their support in so many ways. On behalf of the Vinton Town Council,

the town staff and all our citizens, I want to personally and sincerely express our deep gratitude to everyone that participated in the response to this sad event.

“It has truly been heartwarming to see the businesses and citizens of Vinton respond to the needs of those directly impacted by the fire. Several restaurants— McDonalds, Big Belly Pizza, Rosie’s Gaming Emporium, Firehouse Subs, and Deb’s Lemonade— provided food and drinks for everyone working at the scene. Many of our citizens have donated money and clothing to help their neighbors during this terrible time.

“I’m sure that we will recover from this tragic experience, I pray all those that were affected by the fire will find comfort as we move forward together! May God continue to bless all of you!”

Jason Peters, Vinton’s representative to the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, and its vice chair, also spoke at the ceremony.

“On month ago today, many in this room were on scene working to evacuate residents, ensure the safety of the downtown area, and extinguish a fire that destroyed or damaged some of the more recognizable buildings in the heart of downtown Vinton,” Peters said. “The fire was a tragic loss for the residents who were displaced. In the end we are fortunate there was no loss of human life, though sadly several pets were lost to the fire.”

“It was a long night and day for everyone involved, coupled with hot and humid weather conditions. While this fire marks a sad time for Vinton, I feel a sense of pride in the response by so many in this room who would likely say, ‘We were just doing our jobs.’

“Having served 30 years as a volunteer EMT for the Vinton First Aid Crew, I can’t emphasize enough the tremendous amount of coordination it takes in response to a fire such as this one. Between Roanoke County Fire & Rescue and staff, town administration, mutual aid fire units, and businesses located in the downtown district, it truly ‘took a village’ to respond that day.”

Peters thanked Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Chief Travis Griffith and Roanoke City Fire and EMS Chief David Hoback for the quick response of their departments, commending them as “exceptional public servants.”

He also recognized Roanoke County Building Commissioner Morgan Yates who was on scene all day, working alongside public safety staff and the

Town of Vinton staff to determine the safety of the building and surrounding buildings. Unfortunately, it was determined that an emergency demolition of the structure was necessary.

“I have my own personal memories of the building,” Peters said. “As a volunteer EMT, we trained in that building, conducting tabletop exercises and meetings. Without the work of so many in this room today, the fire could have taken out an entire block.”

Chief Griffith presented a timeline of the events on July 2.

“At 1:54 a.m. on July 2, a call came into the Roanoke County Communications center stating that ‘there is a building on fire with flames coming from the windows.’

“At 1:56 a.m. a Vinton police officer arrived and reported heavy fire and smoke coming from D.R. Music. Wagon 2 and Medic 23 from the Vinton Station, along with the Vinton Police Department, arrived and made the decision to split the crews to notify and evacuate residents at 103 East Lee Avenue and 206 South Pollard Street.

“At 2:01, the request was made to Roanoke City for assistance, knowing this was going to be a prolonged event and would require numerous resources.

“By 2:11 a.m., all occupants from the nearby exposures were accounted for and were safe. This was due in part to the quick thinking and hard work of initial arriving personnel— police and fire crews. During this time, suppression efforts were being made on the D.R. Music building as well as trying to prevent fire spread to the other exposures.

“By 3:06 a.m. the decision was made to pull all personnel out of the buildings and to use ladder trucks to provide master streams for fire suppression. Fourteen minutes later there was a catastrophic collapse in the D.R. Music location as the second floor collapsed onto the first floor. Through coordinated efforts of all personnel on scene, the fire was determined to be knocked down at 5:54 a.m.

“The effort involved six fire engines, three ladder trucks, five ambulances, numerous supervisors, and 50-60 personnel.

“Regional cooperation helped make this a successful outcome with no injuries to residents or firefighters.”

Roanoke County Administrator Richard Caywood praised the county’s “outstanding public servants.”

He also commented on the importance of partnerships between local govern-



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Members of the Vinton Fire Department were among those first responders recognized at a ceremony at Fire Station No. 2 on August 2. Shown left to right are Master Paramedic and Firefighter Wayne King, Firefighter/EMT Ethan Walton, Captain John Ferron, Firefighter/EMT Sam Hughes, and Firefighter/EMT Zane Callahan. Captain Ferron and Hughes were among those fighting the fire in downtown Vinton on July 2.

ments, like the town, Roanoke City, and Roanoke County, which “enable us to work better to serve our citizens.”

He placed special emphasis on the partnership the town and county share with the Western Virginia Water Authority. On July 1, the town’s water and sewer utility system officially transferred to the Water Authority, which turned out to be more of a blessing than anyone could have predicted.

“Phase 1 of the water system operation plan was successfully implemented in the downtown and western portions of the Town of Vinton on June 7,” Caywood said. “Vinton’s Chestnut Avenue well

was turned off, shifting water supply for customers in the downtown district to a blend of water from the Craig Avenue well, Carvins Cove, and Muse Spring.

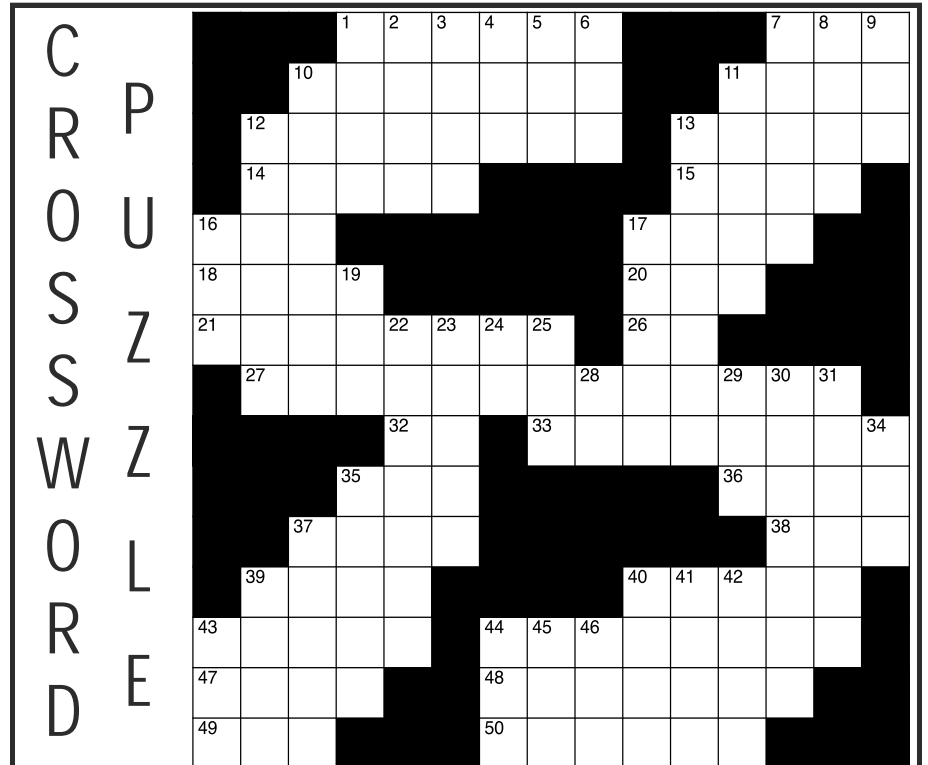
“There is no doubt that because of this transition, fire and rescue had an ample supply of water to sustain their operations of July 2. Otherwise, it is likely the water supply would have run out.”

Caywood recognized Travis Lane, Senior Manager for Capital Projects for the Water Authority who “has been working on the existing and future plans to bring Carvins Cove into the Vinton service area. Future phases of the water transition plan will include significant infrastructure

projects in order to serve the entire area with water from Carvins Cove.”

Caywood also acknowledged Water Authority CEO Mike McEvoy and Director of Public Relations Sarah Baumgardner.

“This partnership with the Water Authority had a great impact on the response to this fire, as the outcome could have been significantly worse. Because water from Carvins Cove had been interconnected with the Town of Vinton and was available, we didn’t face running out of water. Fortunately, our community takes a regional approach, resulting in the best possible outcome in a bad set of circumstances.”



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Disco light
- 7. London radio station
- 10. Aerospace Co. Morton
- 11. Capital of Puglia, Italy
- 12. A phantom or apparition
- 13. Packed wine
- 14. The ocean below 6000 meters
- 15. 1st dynasty: AKA Xia
- 16. Every
- 17. Six (Spanish)
- 18. His ark
- 20. Segment or a circle
- 21. Pres. Johnson or Obama
- 26. 12th Greek letter
- 27. The First Lady

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fish of the genus Alosa
- 2. Rock singer Turner
- 3. Muslim weight from 1 to 5 pounds
- 4. Turkish unit of weight
- 5. Bovine genus
- 6. Popular shade tree
- 7. The principal foundation of matter
- 8. La ___ Tar Pits
- 9. Spanish hero soldier
- 10. Brains egg-shaped grey matter
- 11. Fundamental
- 12. Bast
- 13. Small angels
- 16. Not or
- 17. S Pacific island group
- 19. Ad ___: impromptu
- 22. Gen. ___ DeGaulle
- 23. Hasidic spiritual leader
- 24. Aluminum
- 25. Considerate and solicitous care
- 28. Popular Canadian phrase
- 29. Consumed food
- 30. Hayfields
- 31. About Andes
- 34. Secondary School Certificate
- 35. Pen maker Castell
- 37. Brand of clear wrap
- 39. Past tense of bid
- 40. Resort city on Lake Biwa
- 41. Big Bear was chief
- 42. A group of cattle
- 43. The bill in a restaurant
- 44. People of the Dali region of Yunnan
- 45. One point S of due E
- 46. Pig genus

Blue Ridge Baptist hosting Gospel Plowboys

Blue Ridge Baptist Church at 2410 Hardy Road in Vinton will host the Gospel Plowboys bluegrass band on Sunday, August 14 at 5 p.m.

The Gospel Plowboys is a bluegrass gospel group dedicated to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and His saving grace. The group was founded by David Murph, after two years of diligent prayer. He had a passion for seeing people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior—"Plowing the ground, planting the seed... that Christ died for you"

The band is known for dressing in denim bib overalls, white shirts, and red ties—in tribute to the 1930s when bluegrass music was becoming popular.

Dress is casual. There is no charge for the concert, but a cash love offering will be taken.

For more information on the Gospel Plowboys, visit their website at <https://gospelplowboys.com/> or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GospelPlowboys

For more information on the concert, email the church at brbcvinton@gmail.com.



PHOTO COURTESY GOSPEL PLOWBOYS

The Gospel Plowboys bluegrass band will be performing at Blue Ridge Baptist Church on August 14 at 5 p.m.

Dog Days of Summer Aug. 27 at Lancerlot

The Lancerlot Sports Complex in Vinton will host the third annual "Dog Days of Summer" on Saturday, August 27 from 2 to 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend the free event to cool down and have fun with their furry friends on a hot summer day.

"What better way to let your best friend beat the extreme heat during these dog days of summer by chilling out at coolest place around!" is the message from the Lancerlot.

Each year the event includes a Dog Swimming Pool and a Dog Park on

Ice—dogs and their owners are allowed to swim in the Lancerlot's outdoor pool and skate together on the indoor ice rink. The outdoor pool will be open for dogs and their owners only.

If you don't have a dog yet, Dog Days of Summer is the perfect opportunity to adopt a pet of your own. As in previous years, Lancerlot will host a dog adopt-a-thon in conjunction with Angels of Assisi, the Salem SPCA, the Regional Center for Animal Care & Protection (RCACP) and Virginia German Shepherd Rescue.

There will be over 20 dog-themed vendors, offering photography, food, toys, training, day care, grooming, free services, door prizes, and more.

Food and drinks will be available.

"It's been great hosting and watching the event grow over the years," said Lancerlot Sports Complex General Manager Joe Miller. "It's really such a fun and cool event for all dogs and their owners to attend. We hope that many dogs find a loving family and a new home during the adopt-a-thon. Our goal for this event is to offer something different and unique for all dogs and owners alike across

Virginia's Blue Ridge."

The title sponsor for this year's event is the Town of Vinton. Co-sponsors include Freedom First Credit Union, Oakey's Pet Funeral

Home & Crematory, and Noah's Ark Animal Complex.

The Lancerlot is located at 1110 Vinyard Road, across the street from Sports-Complex.

Rosie's.

For more information, call the Lancerlot at 540-981-0205, e-mail info@lancerlotsportscomplex.com, or visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LancerLotSports-Complex>.

The Vinton Messenger

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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
DALE RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 7165 Cloverdale Rd., Roanoke, 24019; beside the Boteourt Athletic Club. Leave message 992-4385. Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Please come visit us in person or get to know about us first by visiting our web page: daleridgechurchofchrist.net. Updated each week with a new sermon by Mike Mazzalongo, four minutes of video showing our nearly six acres of land and our beautiful, functional inside facilities, articles, events, news from Christian sources around the world and here locally plus much, much more. See how many ways Dale Ridge is "Reaching Out There" to the Roanoke Valley with the "Good News of Jesus. By clicking on "visit us virtually" real time access to our Worship services is available via your computer, a tablet or smartphone: Just follow the instructions. We believe in the Inspired Word of God which is as relevant today as it was when it was written. We believe the Holy Spirit is a gift to every Christian upon their response to the Gospel as demonstrated by the 3000 obedient souls in (Acts 2:38). We believe Jesus is the only author of our salvation. (Acts 4:12) Have you been looking for a church family that is progressive, outside the box thinkers, led by the Holy Spirit into all truth. (John 16:13). You will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. (John 13:35) Real time contact thru our website via email.
CHURCH OF CHRIST VINTON - 2107 Feather Road, Vinton. Terry Hodge, Minister, 540-890-1170. Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m., Sunday

Vinton

Worship Directory

DILIGENCE

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)

Shy away from scripture because it makes you aware of your faults? While it does do that, it also identifies what we can do to set things right. Along with reproof and correction, the Bible teaches us in the way of the righteous and the forgiveness of Christ.

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

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.eck-va.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

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

LUTHERAN
ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, "The Church Under The Cross", 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

NAZARENE
FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmpc2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 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.

Students at Title I schools to receive free meals; all others will resume the regular lunch program

Students attending Title I schools in Roanoke County will receive free school meals this year as part of the federal Community Eligibility Provision meal program.

These six schools met the requirements based on the school's economically disadvantaged status:

Burlington Elementary

Herman L. Horn Elementary
Masons Cove Elementary
Mount Pleasant Elementary
Mountain View Elementary
W.E. Cundiff Elementary

Parents with children attending these schools do not need to apply for free meals.

All other schools will resume the regular school meals program. Daily lunch for students

will be \$3 and breakfast will be \$1.50. Milk will cost 50 cents.

Parents wanting to apply for free meals should submit an application online at <https://family.titank12.com/application/new?identifier=9XRGHE>. A link to this page is available on the Roanoke County Public Schools website at www.rcps.us under "Quick Links."

The final state budget provided funding to eliminate reduced co-pays for students eligible for reduced-price meals. Therefore, both free and reduced students will receive free meals.

Roanoke County Public Schools has transitioned to a new online meal payment system called Titan. Any school lunch funds that remained

in previous accounts through MySchoolBucks have been rolled into Titan. Parents can create their online school payment accounts by going online to <https://family.titank12.com>.

School lunch menus are available online at <https://family.titank12.com>. Parents can print monthly menus from this site.

Terriers March from page 1



The color guard was the winner of this year's Band Camp Olympics at Away Camp in Fincastle.

bers, percussion, and the color guard had their own separate camps as well.

Band Director Dan Plybon has emphasized in past years the importance of the away camp in giving students the opportunity to bond as a group as they work, eat, and socialize together.

While band members spent long hours learning the music, doing marching drills, and learning dance routines, Plybon and the dedicated parent volunteers made sure there was time for fun and socializing in the evenings. There was the annual Band Olympics – won this year by the color guard – water balloon battles, a lip sync competition, musical chairs, Alumni Night, and more.

Plybon thanked the adult volunteers who have assisted with the marching band. "These young people are very lucky to have a great team of supporters standing with and behind them."

This year's program is entitled "Ready or Not" and features music about the joys of childhood and playing, a time of innocence when there is nothing to worry about. "It's too bad we don't remember how to be a kid and don't remember that joy," said Plybon in introducing the program when performed on Parents Day, the grand finale of Away Camp.

The program includes: "Pop Goes the Weasel (with nursery rhyme "Ring around the Rosy" and "London Bridges"), a ballad, and "Rain, Rain, Go Away."

Props for this year's "Ready or Not" field program center around a playground scene with swing sets, trees, and sliding boards.

Band members had basically just two weeks to learn the music and choreography for the program. Practice sessions will continue in the coming weeks, with their first performance of the program at the first home football game on September 9.

"I am looking forward to a dynamic season!" Plybon said.

This year there are 24 seniors in the marching band. At the end of Away Camp, they took the traditional Senior Walk together across the practice field at Camp Bethel, ending with many hugs and some tears.

Student leaders this year are (* indicates seniors):

Corps Commander: Sam Ferris*
Drum Major: Latriva Pierce*

Brass Captain: Jake Blevins*
Woodwind Captain: Maggie Parkhurst*
Drumline Captain: Jack Powell*
Color Guard Captain: Emily Jones*
Adult leaders include:
Asst. Band Director: Jordan Downing
Percussion Instructor: Kaylan Rowe
Color Guard Instructor: Jenny Swartzel
Band Booster Leaders include:
President: Heather Wray
Vice President: Joe Eline
Treasurer: Beth Radford
Secretary: Kellie Powell

The Marching Terriers will be participating in several band competitions this fall beginning in September. The annual competition at Byrd – the Blue Ridge Festival of Bands – is scheduled for October 29 at Patterson Stadium.

Here is the roster for the 2022 Marching Terriers (* indicates seniors):

Flutes: Maggie Parkhurst*, Lake Paul*, Tatiana Kubik, Reagan Dillard*, and Dixie Venable

Clarinets: Becca Radford, Noah Williams, Callie Lusk, Dillon Colgan, Cary Jones, and Blake Shively

Bass Clarinet: Elijah Dillon*
Saxophones: Aiden Williams*, Devin Colgan, Isaac Fedor, and Matthew Klugas*
Trumpets: Landon Bruner*, Xavier Vaughn*, Griffin Yakob, Ceiliann Baldwin, Matthew Kalb, and Ryan McIntyre
Mellophone: Dagan Miller

Trombones: Sage Kushman*, Tyler Matthews, Sam Geist, Holly Mills*, and Draven Flinchum

Euphoniums: Thomas McGregor* and Josh Allen

Sousaphones: Sam Ferris*, Jake Blevins*, Kyle Colvin*, and Annika Hoagland

Front Ensemble Zep Shelor, Ashton Kanode*, Corinna Pittenger*, Kaiden Shuder*, Kayleigh Taylor, Kaylynn Wilson, and Cadin Byrd*

Bass Drums: Logan Brown*, Keith Schult, Nevaeh Davila, and Braeden Booth

Tenors: Mary Wray and Aidan Eline
Snares: Jon Farmer* and Jack Powell*

Color Guard: Emily Jones*, Jason Cox*, Marissa Camper, Genna Paul, Anibeth Dixon, Chloe Gill, Catherine Underwood, and Nevaeh Carroll

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Angie Chewing

Filling in for Bootie

Oh, Happy Day! Or I should say Oh, Happy Birthday! Sunday, at the beautiful Woodland Place, one heck of a celebration was held for Carolyn Campbell's 80th birthday! Friends and family came from near and far to celebrate this very special lady! Stories were told about the birthday lady by family and friends. Dinner was amazing from Cast & Pints, music was wonderful from Tim Martin and Brian Wheeling. A great time was had by all! Thank you for including us!

A Happy Birthday shout out to Mom, Bootie. She turns 86 on August 5! Send her a shout out!!

Congratulations to Doug Pence for being inducted into the Roanoke-Salem Baseball Hall of Fame! Well deserved! Doug is definitely one of a kind! Those coached by him will never forget him! Thank you, Doug, for all you have done for our community!



Bootie, Carolyn Campbell and Kim Horn, Carolyn's daughter

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Doug Pence

Inducted 2022

H. Douglas Pence was an enthusiastic baseball coach serving as both an assistant coach at William Byrd High School, with six different head coaches, as well as serving as the head coach of the American Legion Post-3 North team for five years. He also coached AAU and travel baseball for an additional ten years. Upon his retirement from WBSB, he stepped back into coaching with two other former Byrd baseball coaches as he helped tutor the young men in Roanoke City's Breckenridge Middle School on the fundamentals of the game of baseball.

Doug introduced the Terrier baseball program to the Boston '95, which won much of the Byrd baseball equipment and uniforms, as well as the large scoreboard in right centerfield at Terrier Field. He helped add a locker room area with individual lockers for each player as well as a weight room area to strengthen their bodies. Doug's commitment to William Byrd baseball is unmatched and he will forever be tied to the success of the Terrier baseball tradition.

Baseball has always been and will continue to be in his blood and his passion for the game of baseball will be remembered by everyone who comes into contact with him around the diamond.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The Marching Terriers performed for their families and guests on Parent Day at Away Camp.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

This year's marching band program is "Ready or Not" about the joys of childhood with a playground theme.

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Renovations from page 1



Math classes at WBHS are now equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including whiteboard desk tops for students.



The second floor hallways are now wide and bright at William Byrd.



Renovated FACES classroom for teaching life skills.



Principal Tammy Newcomb, a William Byrd graduate, leaves her initials and graduation year in the newly poured concrete – which will be covered during renovations.



Work has begun on the media center that will swap places with the guidance suite.



Renovations are underway in the bandroom at William Byrd.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

floors to be able to access technology.

The FACES suite has been re-configured and modernized with academic, technical, and life skills classrooms. There is a new Navy Leadership program suite where the JROTC classes were previously housed.

There are more – and more spacious – workrooms and offices for staff members.

Even sections of the building not undergoing extensive renovations have been improved. The old auxiliary gym has new padding, paint, lighting, and a glass exterior door. The weight room is massive. The wrestling area will also be able to accommodate special programs such as club meetings, AP testing, etc.

The restrooms throughout the building have finally come into the 21st century.

Newcomb says that perhaps her favorite features in the renovated areas of the school are the skywalks above the gymnasium which will benefit students with special needs who perhaps are overwhelmed by the loudness and activity level in the gym but can now participate and watch special events and programs from above.

The media center is moving down the hall to the former guidance office location and vice versa. Work crews are now working there. The band room has been upgraded with offices enlarged and new flooring installed. There will eventually be a dedicated music room for the choir program.

The cafeteria was renovated fairly recently but is getting new lighting.

Concrete was being poured in several areas of the building on a tour on August 1 which included Vinton's representative to the School Board Tim Greenway and Assistant Principal Travis Anderson. Newcomb, a William Byrd graduate, left her mark for posterity in the concrete in the front lobby (the concrete will be covered up when completed).

School opens on Thursday, August 11. WBHS will have an enrollment of 1,200 served by a staff of 137 employees in total. The administrative staff remains the same with Newcomb as principal, Travis Anderson and Marcee Cook as assistant principals, and Philip Martin as dean of students.

National Night Out from page 1

officers—the Vinton Police (along with Town Manager Pete Peters) grilled in Vinton; the Roanoke County Sheriff's Department did the cooking in Mount Pleasant.

The Vinton celebration featured music from DJ Flex, a bouncy house from Dave's Moon Walks, a visit from McGruff and Scruff, games, free lemonade from Deb's Frozen Lemonade, and snow cones, along with fire trucks and police vehicles.

Vinton Town Council cancelled the regular council meeting and joined the crowd for National Night Out.

The Mount Pleasant National Night Out included a ton of food from the Lions Club and the community, face painting, a petting zoo, music, fire trucks, an armored police vehicle, and an antique 1932 fire engine.

National Night Out was founded in 1984. The first annual National Night Out involved 2.5 million neighbors across 400 communities in 23 states. Some 38 years later, 38 million neighbors gather for celebrations in 16,000 communities. In Virginia alone, there were 119 participating towns and cities in 2022.

Mount Pleasant Lions Club Ppresident Anne Ferguson said they were very pleased with what was the first National Night Out celebration for the community in many years. Vinton always throws a great party for this special occasion and August 2, 2022, did not disappoint.



Local dignitaries at the Vinton National Night Out (from left) Phil North from the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, Councilmen Keith Liles and Mike Stovall, Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty, Councilwoman Laurie Mullins, Mayor Brad Grose, Police Chief Fabricio Drumond, and U.S. Marshal Thomas Foster.



The Roanoke County Sheriff's Department did the grilling at the Mount Pleasant National Night Out from the Community Outreach Mobile Unit.

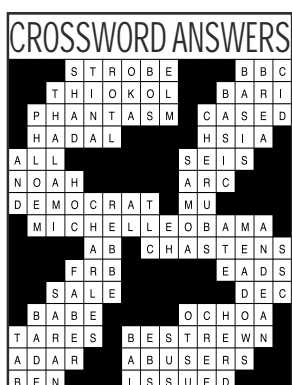


Mount Pleasant Fire and Rescue had several fire engines on display, including this antique engine from 1932, which is still driven in parades.



Vinton Mayor Brad Grose and two of his grandchildren enjoyed the festivities at the Vinton National Night Out.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS



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Right are the Roanoke County Cup champion William Byrd Terriers. Left to right; Evan Mullen, Colin Murtaugh, Nathan Carter, Maddox Wolfe, Clayton Gilmore and Kobe Turner. Below, tournament medalist Gilmore tees off.



PHOTO BELOW BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Terriers win the Roanoke Co. Cup at HVCC Gilmore is medalist in nine hole match

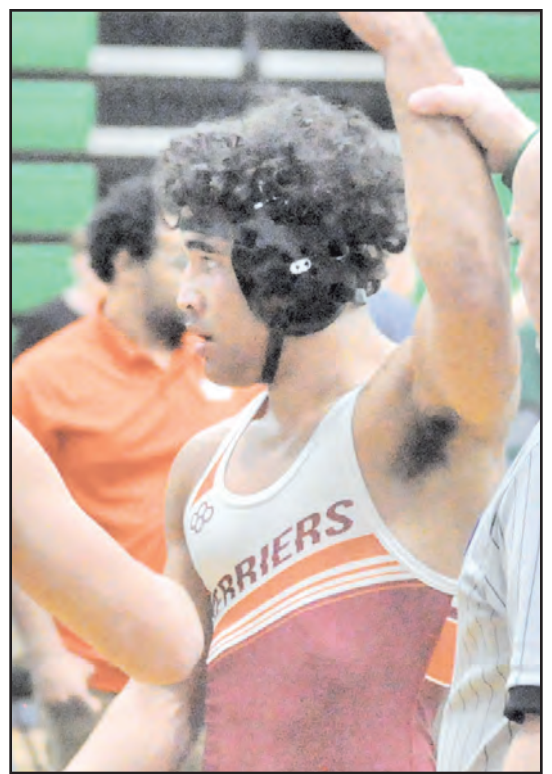
The William Byrd golf team opened the fall season with a big win on the first day of August. The Terriers outshot three Roanoke County opponents in a match at the Hidden Valley Country Club to win the Roanoke County Cup.

The match, originally scheduled for 18 holes, was trimmed to nine after a threat of inclement weather. Byrd's Clayton Gilmore was medalist with a score of 38 and the Terriers shot 163 as a team to pick up the win. Northside was second at 167, Glenvar shot 173 and Hidden Valley came in at 182.

Gilmore's score of 38 was three over par for the front nine. Also scoring for the Terriers were Maddox Wolfe at 40, Nathan Carter with 41 and Kobe Turner with a 44. Evan Mullen carded a 45 and Colin Murtaugh shot 50.

The Terriers were back in action Tuesday for a match at Forest Park hosted by Bassett High School. The Terriers will compete in the Botetourt Metro Tournament at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club in Daleville next Tuesday.

The Botetourt Metro will include most area teams and tournament director Jeff Sprinkle has also invited some other strong teams from around the state to make for the best competition possible. The tournament is a one-day affair and replaces the long-time Bob McLeland Metro Tournament, which was discontinued during the COVID pandemic.



XAVIER PRESTON

Byrd's Preston wrestles in national tournament

William Byrd wrestler Xavier Preston recently competed in the Free Style and Greco National Championships in Fargo, North Dakota. Xavier represented the state of Virginia as state champ in the junior division, the oldest class, at 170 pounds. Preston won two and lost two in the Greco Tournament at Fargo.

"He didn't finish the way he wanted to but he wrestled tough and we are proud of the way he represents our team and our school," said Byrd wrestling coach Thomas Kessler. "He has been working his butt off this off season and has been training all spring and summer four to five times a week."

Xavier was a state runnerup at 160 as a junior, finishing 29-1, and will be a senior at Byrd this coming season.



High School Football Practice opens The William Byrd football team opened practice last week as they prepare for the coming season, which begins on August 26 with the season opener at Liberty High. Above left, Terriers watch intently as the team goes through opening day drills, and right coach Brad Lutz instructs the team on line. Byrd's first scrimmage is next Friday, August 12, when the Terriers host Glenvar. PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

William Byrd coaches, players conduct football clinic for kids

The William Byrd High School football team conducted a free camp for kids in Vinton last week. Over 100 kids attended with instruction from Byrd coach Brad Lutz, his staff and Terrier players.

The camp was held from Monday through Wednesday last week and was free to all participants. Both JV and Varsity players helped kids run through stretches

and drills for offense and defense. Coaches and players broke the kids into groups of positions and ran stations like tackling dummies, catching footballs, causing fumbles and an obstacle course at the end of the week.

All participants received a free t-shirt, donated by the Vinton Booster Club, and both boys and girls ages 6-12 were encouraged to attend. Coach Lutz talked to the

little Terriers about the importance of listening, giving your best, and working as a team.

Players formed a tunnel at the end of team camp on Wednesday and congratulated the little Terriers with a popsicle. The camp is an annual affair to support the youth of the community and to bring excitement to football.



Action from the William Byrd football camp for kids at Patterson Stadium last week, conducted by Byrd coaches and players. PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER



SPORTS

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Above left is the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2022. Left to right; Tyler Lumsden, guest speaker George Canale, Ryan Gilleland, Doug Pence and Eric Altizer. Above right, Hall of Fame vice president Gary Walthall(right in photo) presents Pence with his plaque. Below left, Doug has his family, seated closest to the wall, in stitches with one of his colorful stories and, below right, are some of the many members of the "Byrd Family" who attended the banquet.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Byrd's Pence among five new members of S-R Baseball Hall of Fame

Members of the William Byrd baseball family helped fill the Salem Civic Center Community Room last Sunday night to honor their newest Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Famer, Doug Pence.

Former Cave Spring, Virginia Tech and big league slugger George Canale was the guest speaker for the event, the first in two years after COVID cancelled the 2021 banquet. Pence was inducted along with Auburn coach Eric Altizer, Jefferson Forest and UVA pitcher Ryan Gilleland, Cave Spring and Clemson pitcher Tyler Lumsden and the late Keith Mayhew, a standout pitcher for Ferrum College. Renee "Butch" Craft received the

Wayne LaPierre, Sr. Award for community service.

The honorees were inducted in alphabetical order for their acceptance speeches, and Pence went last. You could say they saved the best for last as Doug had the crowd in stitches with his one liners and entertaining stories. Players and coaches from Byrd from many seasons attended to watch one of the giants of the program be inducted into the Hall.

Pence served as an assistant coach for six different head coaches at Byrd. He's credited with introducing the distinctive Byrd "B" on the team caps and was instrumental in constructing the field house at Walthall

Park. A plaque honoring Doug is on the field house wall and there was a special ceremony at Terrier Field when it was affixed.

Doug also coached American Legion ball in the Roanoke Valley and most recently he volunteered to help coach the kids at Breckenridge Middle School in Roanoke with two former Byrd coaches, Rodney Spradlin and Gene Riggs, with former coach Gary Walthall keeping the book for a team that was comprised of virtual beginners.

"We had a great turnout, and a lot of it was because of Doug," said Walthall.

Self is Bellamy Award winner, Terriers' Sipe is a finalist; Byrd's Sayers is first recipient of Kelvin Bowles Scholarship

Below left, the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame presented its annual Ray Bellamy Award last week between games of the Senior doubleheader at Salem Memorial Ballpark. The award goes to the Player of the Year in the Hall of Fame coverage area, and the winner was Mason Self of Christiansburg. Left to right are finalists Preston Crowl of Franklin County, Nate Hall of Christiansburg, Lord Botetourt's Owen Prince, Self, Bennett Shealar of Blacksburg and Peyton Smith of Jefferson Forest. William Byrd's Hunter Sipe was a finalist but was not present for the photo. Below right, William Byrd senior Trenton Sayers was the recipient of the first Kelvin Bowles scholarship. Bowles was a charter member of the Hall of Fame Board of Directors in 1991 and served until his passing in February. He was a past owner of the local Carolina League baseball team and a long time Major League scout. Sayers plans to play for Ferrum College this year in Bowles' home of Franklin County. The family requested that "Love of the Game" be a primary consideration in the selection of the scholarship recipient. Here Trenton accepts the award from Hall of Fame vice president and former William Byrd High School coach Gary Walthall.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Byrd players participate in "The Last Inning" baseball game

Salem Memorial Ballpark was the site of the annual "The Last Inning" baseball doubleheader last Saturday. The games featured graduated seniors from Roanoke Valley high schools split into four teams for a doubleheader.

The games, sponsored by the Salem Red Sox and the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame, were initiated in 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic wiped out the spring high school baseball sea-

son. The games gave the seniors a chance to get on the field one last time, and it was so popular it was decided to make it an annual affair.

The first game was a rout, as the Green team beat the Red team 15-1. Several of the more accomplished pitchers for the Red team were not able to play and that accounted for the lop-sided score. The Green team consisted of players from Salem, Northside, North Cross and Auburn

while the Red was comprised of Lord Botetourt, Franklin County, Alleghany and Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy.

In the second game the Navy Blue team, with players from Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Glenvar, defeated the Gray team 5-2. The Gray was stocked with players from William Byrd, Jefferson Forest, Hidden Valley, Eastern Montgomery and Cave Spring.

Byrd had two players on the Gray squad, Trenton Sayers and Ethan Hairston. Sayers pitched three scoreless innings, striking out three and allowing no walks and three hits. He went 0-for-2 at the plate.

Hairston led off for the Gray team and went 1-for-2 with a single, a walk and a stolen base. Also, Byrd coach Jason Taylor served as one of the three coaches for the West team.



Byrd graduates Ethan Hairston(left) and Trenton Sayers(center) competed for the Gray team in last Saturday's "The Last Inning" event at Salem Memorial Ballpark. Byrd coach Jason Taylor(right) served as one of the coaches for the team.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN