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W.E. Cundiff celebrates Veterans Day

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

W.E. Cundiff Elementary School in Vinton honored veterans on Veterans Day, November 11, with a ceremony in the school gym. Principal Ashley McCallum thanked the veterans present—including parents and grandparents of Cundiff students.

“We would like to thank you for making the sacrifices necessary to protect and secure the freedoms of this great nation,” McCallum said. “It is an honor to have you here today.”

Students Grayson Bell,

Hanna Counts, Bella Cooke, Aaliyah Vorst, and Alex Davidson recited a poem entitled “Thanks to the American Warriors,” followed by the Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Honor Guard presenting the colors, accompanied by bagpiper Keenan Slusher.

Cundiff music teacher Ellen Hannan and Rick Elliott, Supervisor of Music and Performing Arts for Roanoke County Schools, performed the national anthem on trombones.

The W.E. Cundiff Flag Team (William Fitzgerald,

Abbey Hedrick, Cally Lutz, Rosalina Martinez, Collyns Terrell, and Mason Weeks) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The fourth and fifth graders, with flags waving, and accompanied by librarian Tracey Patterson on the piano, performed the classic “Fifty Nifty United States.”

McCallum then introduced 6th District Congressman Ben Cline who commented that growing up in Lexington, he, too, had learned and performed the “Fifty Nifty United States.” He noted that Veterans Day is a very special



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

These students led the Veterans Day program at W. E. Cundiff Elementary on November 11; front row left to right Alexandra Davidson, Aaliyah Vorst, Bella Cooke, Hanna Counts, and Grayson Bell; back row, Mason Weeks, Collyns Terrell, Cally Lutz, Rosalina Martinez, Abbey Hedrick, and William Fitzgerald.

See **Veterans Day**, page 10



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Cadets in the William Byrd High School Navy National Defense Cadet Corps program honored veterans at Brandon Oaks on November 11, Veterans Day. Shown left to right, front row, are guest speaker Air Force Lt. Gen. Tom Miller, Cadet Trevor Robinson, Cadet Mason Perdue, Cadet Alexis Cook, Cadet Katelin Patrick, Cadet Faith Carter, and Senior Chief Perrin; back row, Cadet Cole Binner, Cadet Noah Nicely, Cadet Zackary Charles, and Cadet William Sloane.

William Byrd High Navy cadets honor veterans at Brandon Oaks

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Cadets from the William Byrd High School Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) program participated in the Veterans Day ceremony at Brandon Oaks on November 11 to honor the service and sacrifices of veterans who are now residents there.

The cadets provided the Color Guard, sang the national anthem, and conducted a Flag Folding Ceremony.

Brandon Oaks Arts and Education Director Tresa Walko thanked “all those among us who, despite the risk and sacrifice, raised their hand to serve and defend this beautiful country—our veterans, active-duty service members, guardsmen, and reservists. Your service has helped keep our country and its citizens safe and free.”

She asked for a moment of silence “to remember and honor the fallen, prisoners of war, those

missing in action and those who have served and are serving this great nation’s armed services today and to acknowledge those families of service members and veterans who help shoulder the weight of war and the burdens of sacrifice. To the mothers, fathers, spouses and children of our military men and women—thank you. Your love, support and resilience are the backbone of this nation, and that must never be forgotten.”

She introduced the cadets and their instructor, Senior Chief David Perrin USN (retired). Cadets participating in the program included Katelin Patrick (William Byrd High School), Noah Nicely (Hidden Valley), William Sloane (Northside), Trevor Robinson (WBHS), Zackary Charles (WBHS), Mason Perdue (Northside), Alexis Cook (Cave Spring), Cole Binner (Cave Spring), and Faith Carter. While the NNDCC program is based at William

See **Navy Cadets**, page 3



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Cadets from the WBHS Navy National Defense Cadet Corps conducted a Flag Folding Ceremony at the Veterans Day program at Brandon Oaks on November 11. Cadet Cole Binner (Cave Spring High School) was the narrator; Cadet Noah Nicely (Hidden Valley High School), the folder, and Cadet Faith Carter (William Byrd High School), the holder.

Vinton honors its employees who are veterans

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The Town of Vinton honored its employees who have served or are serving in the military with a veterans luncheon on November 9 at the Vinton War Memorial.

Town employees who have served in the Armed Services include Chief of Police Fabricio Drumond, Public Works employees Kevin Orange and Jimmy Brown, Police Det. Cpl. Silas Chapman, Sgt. Brandon Alterio, and Officer Jesse Dibble along with Vinton Mayor Brad Grose.

Mayor Grose served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 during the Vietnam era, stationed in Korea, achieving the rank of Sergeant E-5. He worked as an electronics technician and in tech/supply. He was elected to Vinton Town Council in 2000 and has served the town as mayor since 2004.

Jimmy Brown served stateside in the Marine Corps for three years. He has worked in the Vinton Public Works Department since November 2, 2020, and holds the position of Chief Mechanic.

Kevin Orange served in the U.S. Army from 1982 through 1986 with the rank of E-4. He was in light infantry and stationed in Georgia and Kentucky. He has worked in the Public Works Department for 17 years, currently as Stormwater Technician.

Police Chief Drumond served

in the United States Marine Corps from 2002 to 2006. He earned the rank of Sergeant, E-5, and was stationed in Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was deployed to Africa, Cuba, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He was trained as an assault man. He has

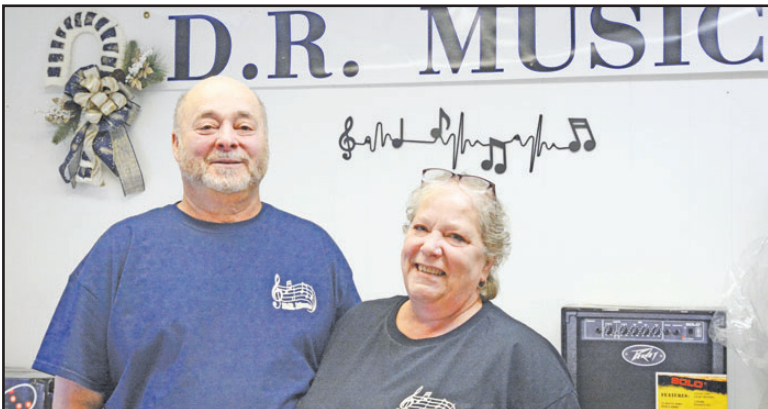
See **Veterans**, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Town of Vinton hosted a luncheon at the Vinton War Memorial for its employees who are veterans of the armed services. Shown left to right are: front, Det. Cpl. Silas Chapman, Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, Police Chief Fabricio Drumond; back row, Chief Mechanic Jimmy Brown, Stormwater Technician Kevin Orange, and Sgt. Brandon Alterio.

Vinton Business of the Week—D.R. Music is back



Donnie and Rhonda Wray and D. R. Music are back. They have reopened the business at 128 North Pollard Street in Vinton. Their 36 year-old business was displaced by the catastrophic fire in downtown Vinton on July 2.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Wrays have rebuilt their inventory and offer stringed instruments, including guitars, for sale; school, band, and orchestra instruments for rent; a full range of band accessories, music lessons, and instrument repairs.

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Donnie and Rhonda Wray (the “D” and “R”) of D.R. Music have been in business in Vinton for about 36 years. Most of that time was spent in the historic building at the corner of South Pollard Street and East Lee Avenue. That building (constructed in 1915) was heartbreakingly destroyed in the catastrophic fire in downtown Vinton on July 2, with D. R. Music displaced.

Turns out that was only temporary. The Wrays have now reopened their business just a block down the street, at 128 North Pollard. Donnie says they moved to the quieter, uncongested end of Pollard in a building which provides ample parking for customers and students on the street and behind the building. It was important to them to stay in Vinton.

D.R. Music is a “full line music store.” They rebuilt their inventory and continue to sell guitars and other stringed instruments and a full line of band accessories; they have drums and keyboards and music books; they rent school, band, and orchestra instruments as well; and they have returned to teaching music lessons (guitar, bass, and others) and repairing instruments—all to the relief of band students and parents and the community at large.

Donnie started out play-

See **D.R. Music**, page 5



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Town Council welcomes new employee in new position, Route 24 Bike/Pedestrian Plan adopted

Debbie Adams
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Vinton Town Council was introduced to Marshall Stanley, their new Economic Development Specialist, serving in a newly created position, at their Nov. 15 meeting.

Town Manager Pete Peters said that the position was created to “bolster the town’s ongoing economic development efforts to enhance our recruitment efforts to fill in retail and destination businesses that we would like to develop in the town, as well as to improve the external communication and messaging we would like to do more of.”

Stanley started working for the town on Nov. 14. He will work closely with the business community and assist in technical small business development.

Peters noted that Stanley is not a stranger to the town and its staff. In his previous position as Economic Development Specialist in Roanoke County, he worked on several projects with the town.

Stanley grew up in the Roanoke Valley. He is a 2018 Cum Laude graduate of the University of Lynchburg earning a Bachelor’s degree in communication with a concentration in social influence. He developed his interest in community building when he began working for the Office of Community Involvement at the University of Lynchburg, as well as serving as a marketing public relations intern with the City of Lynchburg Office of Economic Development and

Tourism.

Before coming to Roanoke County, Stanley was employed as a program liaison for the Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board and then as an Administrative Associate with the City of Lynchburg’s Office of Economic Development and Tourism.

He is also a graduate of Leadership Roanoke Valley and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Basic Economic Development Course. He seeks further education in local government and economic development as he works for the Town of Vinton.

Peters commented that Stanley is a good fit for the town with his “passion for local government.”

Stanley enjoys hiking, kayaking, and exploring new trails in the region. He is a devoted fan of the Salem Red Sox and the Rail Yard Dawgs. He and his brothers are “on a mission to visit as many Major League ball parks as possible across the nation.”

After a public hearing, Council adopted the much-discussed Amendment to the Town of Vinton Comprehensive Plan to adopt and incorporate by reference the Town of Vinton GAP Summary, otherwise known as the Route 24 Bike/Pedestrian Plan of May 2022, after a public hearing. The Planning Commission had unanimously passed the amendment at their meeting on Nov. 3.

Assistant Planning and Zoning Director Nathan McClung and staff have put an enormous amount of

time effort into completing this project over the past two years, working with a consultant, two steering committees, and members of the community through public meetings and a public survey.

The project has resulted in a toolkit of potential bicycle and pedestrian improvement types for Vinton, encompassing much of the town within the Washington Avenue, Bypass Road, Cleveland Avenue, and Pollard Street loop. The focus of the plan has been on making Vinton a more “walkable” community.

McClung said that adopting this amendment ensures that the recommended improvements will be eligible for future transportation grant funding through the VDOT process and solidifies and legitimizes the work of the steering committees, town staff, and citizens who participated in the creation of the plan itself.

Planning and Zoning Director Anita McMillan briefed council on an inter-governmental agreement between the City of Roanoke and the Town of Vinton relating to Roanoke’s Glade Creek Stream Restoration Project.

The Roanoke City project aims to reduce e. Coli and sediment loads within the Roanoke River. This will require stabilizing and restoring approximately 2,921 linear feet of Glade Creek, a tributary of the Roanoke River. The project is funded in part by Virginia DEQ Stormwater Local Assistance Funds (SLAF) and entails repairing stream features and bank structure, grading



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Marshall Stanley (center) has been selected as Vinton’s Economic Development Specialist. He was introduced to Town Council at their November 15 meeting and is pictured with Mayor Brad Grose (on left) and Town Manager Pete Peters.

for floodplain reconnection, increased flood storage, and establishment of a riparian buffer.

Rocks, boulders, and other natural features will be installed to improve Glade Creek’s hydraulic, geomorphic functions and instream habitat. Vegetation will be trimmed; more will be planted. Soil will be removed. A temporary construction easement staging and laydown area will be used. Some of the Vinton properties affected are on Gus Nicks Boulevard, Wayne Street, and the West Madison Avenue right-of-way.

The project was under discussion by Vinton Town Council because it involves properties located in Vinton, Roanoke City, and Roanoke County. It has been in the works since Feb. 2021.

Peters updated council on the Garthright Bridge maintenance project which began this week. He reported that

traffic has been flowing well on the bridge and at the intersection of Pollard Street and Washington Avenue.

Finance Director Andrew Keen had some excellent financial news to report. Along with \$14 million in cash, the town has some \$3.3 million in investments. Those investments include money market funds, CD’s, trust funds, and others, which have been experiencing minimal growth due to the current interest rate environment.

Keen said he tasked himself with researching options available to better use the town’s monies, keeping in mind the three pillars of the town’s investment policy: preservation of principal, maintenance of liquidity, and maximizing the return on funds.

He surveyed financial institutions in the town to determine what options might exist which would give a better return on investments

without risking loss of principal and wouldn’t tie the funds up for a significant amount of time. He was looking for strategic moves that would make the most of the town’s dollars not needed for immediate operations.

As a result, the town was able to move some money from the utility fund which had been in a checking account earning zero percent interest to a four-month investment fund with an interest rate of 3.8 %. That will earn the town \$25,000 over the four months and is renewable for a year.

Another money market, with funds “just shy of \$1.6 million earning 0.40% interest” was moved within the financial institution it has been invested with and will now earn 2.75% interest—a one year yield of \$44,000.

The next town council meeting is scheduled for Dec. 6.

School Board showcases Bonsack Elementary; Herman L. Horn, Mount Pleasant receive grants

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The Roanoke County School Board spotlighted

Bonsack Elementary School at its meeting on November 10. Principal Leanne Leftwich, Assistant Principal Stephanie Burris, and mas-

cot Bobby the Bobcat gave a presentation on the school, its programs, and its successes.

“I feel like a proud par-

ent,” Leftwich said.

Bonsack Elementary opened near the border with Botetourt County in 1999. The current enrollment is approximately 340 students. The school houses the regional program for Preschoolers with Autism (eight students). Nine different languages are spoken at the school.

Bonsack has received awards from the VDOE, including the Virginia Department of Education Exemplar Award. The school is known for its strong academic performance, its high staff retention rate, its dynamic teachers who have been recognized as finalists or winners of the Golden Apple Award for the past four years, its pilot program for Student Led Conferences, and its fundraising for the American Heart Association.

This year a new playground is set to be installed at Bonsack Elementary, along with an LED sign.

Third grader Emma Grace Reedy told School Board members that her favorite things about Bonsack are “the teachers who are kind and helpful, my fun Encore classes, and fun clubs. I miss Ms. Leftwich on weekends; she gives the best hugs.”

Parent Bonnie Reedy said, “Bonsack goes above and beyond every day,” and “Bonsack doors are always open to parents.”

School Board Chairman David Linden and School Board member Tim Greenway noted the “tremen-

dous community pride” the area feels for its elementary school.

In other Vinton-area school news from the School Board meeting, Finance Director Susan Peterson announced that Brittany Akers, a Special Education teacher at Herman L. Horn Elementary, has been awarded a VDOE STEM Competition Team Grant.

The grant will be used to support students’ math development by providing high-interest, hands-on STEM-related activities through participation in the First Lego League (FLL) Challenge. Students in 4th and 5th grade will be eligible for the team. The grant

will cover the cost of staff stipends, team registration, travel, and program materials. This is the second year they have received this grant, having received the first \$5,000 grant in 2021-2022.

Staff recommended approval of the grant and appropriation of \$4,952 from the Grant Fund.

School Board Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely also announced that Mount Pleasant Elementary School received a \$5,000 grant for Title I schools from Burlington, which has opened a new store at Tanglewood Mall. The funds will be used in the classrooms. He and Principal Jill Garland accepted the check.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RCPS

Bonsack Elementary School was recognized by the Roanoke County School Board at the meeting on November 10. Principal Leanne Leftwich gave the presentation accompanied by mascot Bobby the Bobcat.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. KEN NICELY

Burlington opened a new store at Tanglewood Mall on November 11 and presented a \$5,000 grant to Mount Pleasant Elementary School for classroom resources. Shown left to right are Roanoke County School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely, Mount Pleasant Principal Jill Lane, and Burlington store manager Jodie Byrd.



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Herman L. Horn Elementary commemorates Veterans Day

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Herman L. Horn Elementary School honored veterans not once, but twice this year, with programs for the public on November 10 and the HLH staff and students on November 11. As is tradition, the school was highly decorated for the occasion, including the Wall of Honor naming veterans who have served or are serving in the military and their branch. The names were submitted by students and staff to honor friends and family.

Third and fourth graders and the SCA, under the direction of music teacher Jaime Walsh, presented the program, which was organized by the Veterans Day Committee—Kristin Gonzalez, Jessica Keene, Crystal Lineburg, Megan McCoy, Kristen Witt, and Neil Zimmerman.

SCA President Evan Bays welcomed veterans to the program and expressed the thanks of the student body for “your service to our nation and for protecting our freedom. We remember those who paid the ultimate price for this nation.”

Student Landon Nichols shared the history of Veterans Day.

“World War I ended 104 years ago, on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918,” he said. “This day became known as Armistice Day to honor those who fought in World War I. In 1954, President Eisenhower proclaimed November 11 as Veterans Day to recognize all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces during wartime or peace. This year marks the 104th anniversary of World War I. Today, we celebrate Veterans Day and honor those who have served to defend our freedom.”

HLH students performed the traditional song for each branch of the Armed Forces and shared some of the history of each.

Landry Cain described the

Army as “the oldest branch of the military. It traces its origins to the Continental Army and was established in June 1775 during the Revolutionary War, which led to our independence from England. The Army is the largest of all the military branches.”

Student Spencer Boyd shared the history of the U.S. Marine Corps, which “also has its roots in the Revolutionary War. It originally was founded to serve as infantry units aboard naval vessels. Today, the Marines serve as a force of readiness, able to move at a moment’s notice to any part of the world. The few, the proud, the Marines.”

The history of the United States Navy was presented by Delaney Blewett who described it as “the largest naval fleet in the world. The Navy has its roots in the Revolutionary War but played a much larger role in the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. The mission of the Navy is to protect the freedom of the seas.”

Harper Cain explained

the story of the United States Air Force, “originally part of the Army. It became a separate military branch in 1947 and is the largest and most technologically advanced air force in the world. In addition to airplanes, the Air Force maintains the nation’s missile and aerospace defense system. Aim high!”

Sunnie Sorensen told the audience that “The United States Coast Guard was created in 1790 to serve both as a coastal defense force and a maritime safety patrol. The Coast Guard provides assistance to ships in distress and maritime law enforcement.”

The Veterans Day assembly concluded with the singing of “America for Me” and “God Bless the USA.”

Roanoke County School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely attended the November 11 program, along with Vinton’s School Board representative Tim Greenway, Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond, Sgt. Brandon Alterio, Lt. Michael Caldwell, and Cpl. Dustin Bray.



First grade teacher Kristin Gonzalez, who has served in the Coast Guard, received a bouquet of flowers from her daughters during the Veterans Day program at Herman L. Horn.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond (seated) and Sgt. Brandon Alterio were recognized at the Veterans Day program at Herman L. Horn. Drumond is a Marine Corps veteran; Alterio served in the Air Force.

Vinton Community Thanksgiving Service to be celebrated at Vinton Wesleyan

The traditional Vinton Community Thanksgiving Service will be on November 20, at 6 p.m. at Vinton Wesleyan Church, 246 East Jefferson Avenue in downtown Vinton.

The event is open to all Vinton churches and the Roanoke Valley community.

The churches and organizations that have confirmed their participation are Campbell Memorial Presbyterian, Lynn Haven Baptist, Parkway Church on the Mountain, Vinton Baptist, the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club and Vinton Wesleyan Church.

Special music, scripture reading, and prayer will be provided by the churches.

The speaker will be the Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor of Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church. The music will be provided by church staff and the congregation members.

The public is invited to attend this annual event. Vinton Wesleyan is just across the street from the Roland E. Cook Lofts, with ample parking available.

Submitted by Vinton Wesleyan Church and Vinton Baptist Church

Vinton Wesleyan holding silent auction of Christmas Nativity sets

Vinton Wesleyan Church will be holding a Silent Auction of 175 Nativity sets along with other Christmas items (220 total) in the fellowship hall on Sunday, November 20 and Sunday, November 27 from 1 to 5 p.m.

These items were donated by Sharon Hammack in memory of her mother, June Perkins, who collected the Christmas items over many years.

Proceeds from the silent auction will

benefit Vinton Wesleyan Church Missions.

Vinton Wesleyan is located at 246 East Jefferson Avenue in downtown Vinton. Use the ramp entrance on South Pollard, across from the Roland E. Cook Lofts.

Call 540-345-3385 for more information.

Submitted by Vinton Wesleyan Church

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Angie & Bootie Chewning

Happy One Year Anniversary to Drake and Hannah Lewis. The couple celebrated by attending a Clemson game over the weekend. They even made the Dabotron and got to meet C.J. Spiller.

In the photo, you will find the crew of William Byrd High School filmmakers working with Carol Webster in producing a documentary about WBHS and Vinton. Who knows, there may be another Steven Spielberg or George Lucas right here in Vinton.

My brother, Dr. George (Buddy) Bell and I (Bootie) were honored to be interviewed for the production—remembering our days growing up in Vinton and going to the Vinton schools. It was a lot of fun remembering how Byrd used to be and the activities we participated in made our years at Byrd memorable and fun—so much so that I cried at graduation along with the friends made from first through 12th grades. We started at Roland E. Cook for first grade through fifth, William Byrd Jr. High for 6th and 7th grades. Then

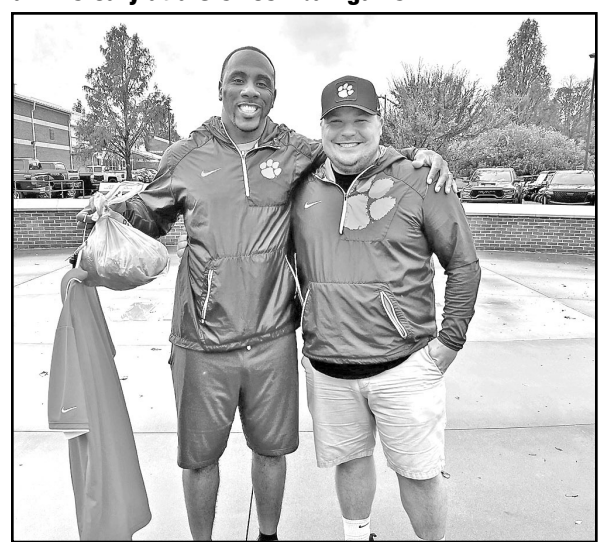
on to “The Hill” from 8th through 12th.

Thanks to all the teachers, principals, coaches, cus-

todians, cafeteria ladies, and the community. As they say, it takes a village and that’s what we had ...



Drake and Hannah Lewis celebrated their first anniversary at a Clemson ball game.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

Drake Lewis with C.J. Spiller at Clemson.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOOTIE CHEWNING

Filmmakers from William Byrd High School working on a documentary about WBHS and Vinton, with interviewees Bootie Bell Chewning and Buddy Bell.

Navy Cadets

from page 1

Byrd, students at all Roanoke County high schools are eligible for the program.

Cadets Patrick and Cook led the residents in singing the national anthem, followed by the posting of the colors by the Color Guard William Sloane, Zackary Charles, Trevor Robinson, and Mason Perdue. Cadet Chaplain Noah Nicely delivered the invocation.

Cadet Lt. Commander Katelin Patrick, the Unit Commander, opened the ceremony by saying, “When Francis Scott Key wrote the ‘Star Spangled Banner’ almost 200 years ago, he called America, ‘the land of the free and the home of the brave.’ Those words are as true today as they were then. Throughout this nation’s history, America’s soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen have bravely answered the call to defend our freedom, to aid our friends and allies, and to turn back aggressors. We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the more than 650,000 American service members who died in battle or the 1.4 million who were wounded. We can, however, recognize and thank the 25 million veterans still living today.”

“On behalf of all the cadets, it is our privilege to say, ‘thank you’ and to let you know that we appreciate you for your service and honor you for your sacrifices. The price of freedom is high. We cannot afford to forget those willing to pay it.”

Patrick explained the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day. While

Veterans Day honors all veterans, “Memorial Day, held in May, is a time to reflect on and honor veterans killed in defense of our great nation.”

“Veterans Day was initially Armistice Day, named in recognition of the 1918 armistice that unofficially ended WWI. On June 1, 1954, Congress officially renamed it Veterans Day to include those who served after WWI.”

Cadet Charles further explained the history of Veterans Day, which is always held on November 11, regardless of the day of the week it falls on. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the armistice with Germany went into effect.”

The Flag Folding Ceremony followed, led by Cadet Binner, who explained that the portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars representing the states of veterans, of all generations, who served in uniform.” He narrated as Cadets Nicely (folder) and Carter (holder) folded the flag.

The First Fold – In honor of the 13 original colonies and the forefathers who founded this great nation. (Each fold is followed by “We salute you.”)

The Second Fold – To the men who died in the War for Independence.

The Third Fold – To those men who fell in the War of 1812, to preserve our freedom.


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Black Swan yearbook earns prestigious Trophy Class award

The 2021-2022 Black Swan yearbook staff at William Byrd High School, for the second year in a row, has won Trophy Class and earned a Superior rating in the Virginia High School League (VHSL) state competition. The Trophy Class is the highest honor a publication can earn at the state level.

Kassidy Wrye was the editor in 2021-22. Editors for 2022-23 are Madison Burks and Sydney Haddox. Teacher Christie Acker is the yearbook sponsor.

“Our theme, ‘Work In Progress,’ was inspired by the construction [at William Byrd] and how students and staff rallied de-

spite the upheaval,” Acker said. “The colors palette was inspired by the traffic cones, neon safety vests and caution tape of the construction crews. The design shows students breaking through barriers and making the best of the challenges like displaced classrooms and Covid restrictions. The Black Swan staff felt the building renovation was an excellent metaphor to represent the students and staff; and we all see the value of improving ourselves and our learning environment. We are all a ‘Work in Progress.’”

The VHSL evaluator said, “Kudos on a great book during what sounds

like a challenging year for your school, working through the pandemic and construction. You should be proud of creating a keepsake that captures your school year in a diverse and engaging way, from your design, to photographs, to writing.”

The VHSL also said, “Your academic coverage was solid. Compared to many other books I’ve critiqued, your coverage has been the most comprehensive I’ve seen,” and “Solid photography all around.”

Submitted by Christie Acker, Black Swan yearbook sponsor and an instructor at WBHS



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRISTIE ACKER

Last year’s Black Swan yearbook staff won the prestigious Trophy Award and a Superior rating from the VHSL. Pictured are 2021 Editor Kassidy Wrye (zooming in from her dorm at Virginia Tech), along with (left to right) sophomore Camryn Dullaghan, junior Carter Dullaghan, sophomore Jenna Matthews, 2022-23 editors Madison Burks and Sydney Haddox (both seniors), and juniors Taryn Hodges and Natalie Blevins. Not pictured are junior Grace Woodcock and graduate Jayden Lorton.

D.R. Music

from page 1

ing music—especially the banjo—but then turned to the retail music business. The Wrays established the Vinton Old Time Bluegrass Festival in the 1980’s which drew large crowds to the Vinton Farmers’ Market for 20 years. In fact, Donnie says the festival is the reason there is a stage at the Farmers’ Market—designed by then Assistant Town Manager Bob Benninger and built for the free concerts.

D.R. Music is open from 11 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

For more information on D. R. Music check out their Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/DR-](https://www.facebook.com/DR-MUSICCENTER/)

MUSICCENTER/, their website at <http://drmusiccenter.com/index.html> or call 540-345-8548.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The new D.R. Music location is on the quiet end of Pollard Street with ample parking for customers.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Clip a small piece
 - 5. Enter forcibly
 - 11. Southwestern Native American tribe
 - 12. Helps you smell better
 - 16. Sun or solar disk
 - 17. Low frequency
 - 18. Former Houston football player
 - 19. Federal crime
 - 24. Home to Boston (abbr.)
 - 25. Approval
 - 26. Those who fight an establishment (abbr.)
 - 27. ___ student, learns healing
 - 28. Indian groomer of horses
 - 29. Line where two pieces meet
 - 30. One might be brief
 - 31. Type of sword
 - 33. Knife for fruits or vegetables
 - 34. Stinkhorns
 - 38. Stroke
 - 39. Industrial process for producing ammonia
 - 40. Sir ___ Newton
 - 43. Wild goat
 - 44. Muslim ruler
 - 45. Scottish ancestor
 - 49. Hat
 - 50. Horse mackerel
 - 51. Alcoholic accompaniment
 - 53. Tech department
 - 54. Manifesting approval
 - 56. Upper bract of grass
 - 58. Of I
 - 59. Large wading bird
 - 60. Military prisons
 - 63. Famed American cartoonist
 - 64. Rise
 - 65. Greek God of war and courage
 - CLUES DOWN**
 - 1. Sewing needles
 - 2. Functionary
 - 3. Induces vomiting
 - 4. The finger farthest from the thumb
 - 5. Not moving
 - 6. Sports official
 - 7. Water purification process (abbr.)
 - 8. University of Dayton
 - 9. Indo-Malaysian evergreens
 - 10. High schoolers' math course
 - 13. Yankovic is a weird one
 - 14. Adversaries
 - 15. Merchandisers
 - 20. Radioactive metal (abbr.)
 - 21. Atomic #52
 - 22. The back
 - 23. One-time computer giant
 - 27. Female of a horse
 - 29. Football's big game (abbr.)
 - 30. Vehicle
 - 31. Single Lens Reflex
 - 32. It's becoming more prevalent
 - 33. Political action committee
 - 34. Makes lightbulbs
 - 35. Natural home of an animal
 - 36. In bed
 - 37. Superman villain
 - 38. The Golden State
 - 40. One who leads prayers in a mosque
 - 41. They accompany a leader
 - 42. Atomic #18
 - 44. Electronic countermeasures
 - 45. The appearance of something
 - 46. Connecting line on a map
 - 47. Deep red color
 - 48. Secret affairs
 - 50. Drenches
 - 51. Contains music
 - 52. Expression of surprise
 - 54. Intestinal pouches
 - 55. Where birds are born
 - 57. ___ and behold
 - 61. Cools your home
 - 62. The First State

Veterans

from page 1

been employed by the Vinton since 2009 and was appointed Chief of Police in December 2020.

Sgt. Brandon Alterio served in the U.S. Air Force from 2008-2014 and reached the rank of Staff Sergeant. He joined the Vinton Police Department in March 2019.

Det. Cpl. Silas Chapman served in the U. S. Army infantry from 1997 to 2008 with the rank of Staff Sergeant E-6. He was stationed in Germany, the Middle East, Fort Benning, Georgia, and also in Texas and California. He has been with the Vinton Police Department for seven years.

Officer Jesse Dibble served in the United States Navy from 1994-1996. He is the founder and director of the Master Sergeant George A. Bannar Jr. Scholarship. Bannar was a high school friend killed in action in 2013 as a Special Forces Medic.

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually in his memory to graduating JROTC cadets at Orange County High School.

Dibble is also co-founder and vice president of the “Queen City Rucking for 22,” a veterans and first responders-based nonprofit designed to align veterans and first responders with outreach programs to reduce veteran and first responder suicides.

He was sworn in as a member of the Vinton Police Department in May 2022.

The veterans luncheon was organized by Human Resources and Risk Management Director Donna Collins, Community Programs Director Chasity Barbour, and Community Programs Supervisor Amanda Payne.

Collins thanked the veterans for their service to the United States and also to the Town of Vinton.

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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.

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Hurd runs in state CC, commits to VMI



Olivia Hurd(#693) runs in the state Class 3 cross country race at Green Hill Park. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Green Hill Park in west Roanoke County was the site of Virginia High School League state cross country championships last Saturday. Both girls and boys in Classes 1, 2 and 3 competed on a beautiful Virginia day at the spacious park just west of Salem as senior Olivia Hurd of William Byrd wrapped up an outstanding high school cross country career.

The course at Green Hill was fast and dry despite heavy rains the day prior. The Class 3 girls' race opened the day at 10:30 am and Abingdon's Makaleigh Jessee won the individual title in 18:21. Abingdon also won the girls' team title, followed by Maggie Walker and Spotswood.

Hurd finished 20th among 103 girls in the race with a time of 20:12.37. Olivia was in the top 10 to 12 runners at the first mile marker. As the race went toward the second mile the top two finishers separated themselves from the pack and ran away from them all.

"The competition was close and not many places changed hands over the next mile," said Byrd coach Eric Royal. "I know she was disappointed in not finishing in the top 15 but knew she ran the best race she could on that day. That is something we talk about throughout the season. Look for something good in the race and 'Keep Moving Forward'."

Olivia earned her third "state rock," a tradition Royal started in 2007. On Sunday Hurd committed to VMI to continue her education and running career.

"I am so excited for her and the opportunities that she will have by running at the next level," said Royal.

Abingdon also won the boys' Class 3 team title. In Class 2 the Alleghany girls and Central High of Wise boys won state titles and in Division 1 the George Wythe girls and Lebanon boys are state champs.



BASKETBALL SEASON NEAR

The winter sports season is less than two weeks away and William Byrd basketball teams have preseason scrimmages scheduled as they prepare for their openers. Tonight, Thursday, the Byrd girls will host Rockbridge in a scrimmage while the boys are at Rockbridge. Next Tuesday, November 22, the boys host Jefferson Forest and the girls are at Forest for a scrimmage. Season openers are November 29 against Cave Spring with the girls at home and the boys at Cave Spring. Last Friday(above) for Veterans Day the girls had a "boot camp" style workout. "Huge thanks to Sgt. Cooke, Corporal King, and Lance Corporal Grace King for coming in and leading our girls in the workout," said assistant coach Samantha Webster. "We saw toughness, fight, grit, and determination from this group today, but the best thing of all is we saw teamwork and supporting one another to make sure everyone finished. We are so grateful to all of our veterans out there that we are able to have the freedoms we have today. Thank you for your service and sacrifice."

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hale brothers help Randolph-Macon to NCAA playoffs

William Byrd High School graduates Matt and Nick Hale are in the playoffs. The former Terrier football standouts are on the undefeated Randolph-Macon College team that will open the NCAA Division III tournament Saturday at noon at Day Field in Ashland, VA against SUNY Cortland.

The Yellow Jackets are 10-0 and Old Dominion Athletic Conference champions with a 7-0 conference record, and they're ranked 16th nationally in Division III. SUNY Cortland, from New York state,

is the ninth ranked team in Division III.

The Hale brothers, who are twins, are seniors and both have been on the All-ODAC Academic team. Nick is a running back who has rushed for 719 yards on the season and scored 10 touchdowns. He had the best game of his college career last Saturday when he rushed for 148 yards and two touchdowns in a 38-17 win over arch-rival Hampden-Sydney.

Matt is the starting center for the Jackets and the anchor on an offensive line that has averaged 267

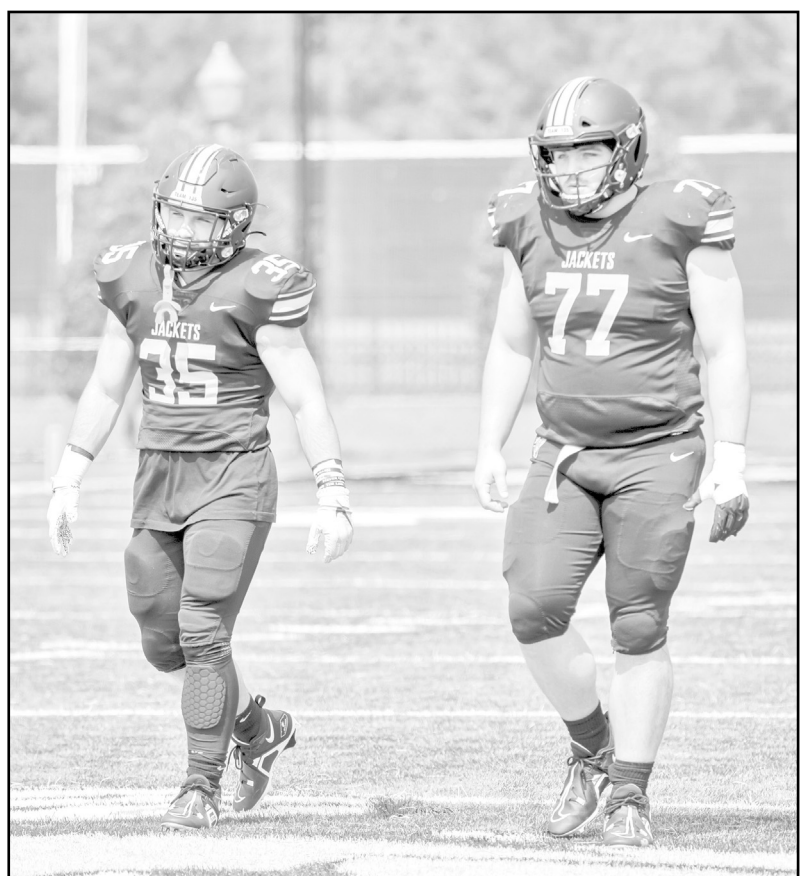
yards rushing per game. Their father, Mark, was also an offensive lineman for the Yellow Jackets during his undergraduate days at Randolph-Macon and he also served as an assistant coach for William Byrd High under former coach Jeff Highfill.

The Yellow Jackets will be making their fifth appearance in the NCAA Playoffs and will be hosting for the second time. R-MC earned the right to host Washington & Jefferson in 1984 when the tournament field was just eight teams.



Twin brothers Matt and Nick Hale, both William Byrd graduates, will be playing for Randolph-Macon this Saturday when the Yellow Jackets host an NCAA Division III football playoff game. Above, Matt(#77) and Nick(#35) escort mother Terena on "Senior Day" as proud father Mark, left, and older brother Macon, right, join them at midfield. Right, Matt snaps the ball. Below right, Nick and Matt are on the field together. Below, Matt(#77 right in photo), helps spring Nick for a big gain against Bridgewater.

R-MC PHOTOS BY FRANK STRAUS



Veterans Day from page 1

holiday because “honoring veterans has been important as long as our country has been a country,” with 20 million veterans alive today who have served in both war and peace. He told the students that Congress puts a priority on legislation for veterans.

“We take care of those who took care of us,” Cline said. “Congress is always looking for more ways to help veterans. Our Republic is blessed that there are so many who put service above self. We honor them for their courage and sacrifice. It is an honor to be in the company of heroes today.”

McCallum noted that students had been working on the Veterans Day program and rehearsing their patriotic songs since the first week of school.

Each branch of the armed services was recognized separately with a special guest reciting the creed of their branch, as the student body performed the traditional branch song. Five fifth grade students who had veterans attending the program were selected to fly the branch flag on stage.

Officer Smith, a Student Resource Officer who has served at Cundiff, read “The Title” which says: “It cannot be inherited. Nor can it ever be purchased. You and no one alive can buy it for any price. It is impossible to rent, and it cannot be lent. You alone, and our own, have earned it with your sweat, blood, and lives. You own it forever—the Title, ‘United States Marine.’” Students then performed “The Marine Hymn” while student Bella Cooke flew the Marine flag.

Officer Stritesky, Cundiff’s current SRO, read the “Army Creed”: “I am an American soldier. I am a warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army values. I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade. I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained, and proficient in my warrior tasks. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself. I am an expert, and I am a professional. I stand ready to employ, engage and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat. I am

a guardian of freedom and the American way of life. I am an American soldier.”

Students sang “The Army Goes Rolling Along,” followed by “This is My Country” as student Sophie Jones presented the Army flag.

W.E. Cundiff parent Jeremy Obenchain, of the Coast Guard (parent of first grader Olivia Obenchain), read the Coast Guard Creed, “I am proud to be a United States Coast Guardsman. I revere that long line of expert seamen who by their devotion to duty and sacrifice of self, have made it possible for me to be a member of a service honored and respected, in peace and in war, throughout the world. I never, by word or deed, will bring reproach upon the fair name of my service, nor permit others to do so unchallenged. I will cheerfully and willingly obey all lawful orders. I will always be on time to relieve, and shall endeavor to do more, rather than less, than my share. I will always be at my station, alert and attending to my duties. I shall, so far as I am able, bring to my seniors, solutions, not problems. I shall live joyously, but always with due regard for the rights and privileges of others. I shall endeavor to be a model citizen in the community in which I live. I shall sell life dearly to an enemy of my country, but give it freely to rescue those in peril. With God’s help, I shall endeavor to be one of His noblest works—a United States Coast Guardsman.”

Students then performed “The Coast Guard Song” while Jace Remine flew the Coast Guard flag.

Parent Joanna Heaps (mother of Olivia, Carter, and Wyatt) presented the “Navy Creed” which states, “I am a United States Sailor. I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me. I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world. I proudly serve my country’s Navy combat team with Honor, Courage, and Commitment. I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.”

Students performed “Anchors

Aweigh” while Cashton Nute presented the Navy flag.

James Page, grandfather of fourth grader Archer Smith, read the Air Force Creed: “I am an American Airman. I am a warrior. I have answered my nation’s call. I am an American Airman. My mission is to fly, fight, and win. I am faithful to a proud heritage, A tradition of honor, and a legacy of valor. I am an American Airman, Guardian of freedom and justice, my nation’s sword and shield, its sentry and avenger. I defend my country with my life. I am an American Airman. Wingman, leader, warrior. I will never leave an Airman behind; I will never falter; and I will not fail.”

Students then sang “The Air Force Song” and “Thank you Soldiers” while Josiah Buck waved the Air Force flag.

“No Veterans Day program would be complete without mentioning those who gave all for the freedoms we enjoy in America,” Principal McCallum said. “Those who gave their lives in the service of their country are owed a debt of gratitude we could never repay. If you lost a buddy or a family member in battle, please know that we honor them now.”

Student Grayson Bell said to the veterans in closing, “We, the students of Cundiff Elementary School, would like you to know that we consider it a privilege to show you honor today. We thank you for your service to our country, and we hope that you know how much we all love our veterans. Some day in the future our generation will be running this country. As scary as that may seem to all of us right now, we want you to know that we love this country, and we look to the bright tomorrows of America. Some of us may be soldiers, sailors, coast guardsmen and airmen as well. When we look back at our years here, we will all be able to say that we met our first role models at Cundiff Elementary School’s Veterans Day program. Thank you for being our guests today.”

The program concluded with the always poignant playing of “Echo Taps” from two corners of the gym by Cundiff music teachers Ellen Hannan and Andrew Kaerwer.



Cundiff music teacher Ellen Hannan and Roanoke County Supervisor of Music and Performing Arts Rick Elliott performed the national anthem on trombones at the Veterans Day assembly.



Congressman Ben Cline, who represents the 6th District, was the guest speaker at W.E. Cundiff’s Veterans Day program on November 11.



Veterans and their W.E. Cundiff student stand to be recognized during the Veterans Day program.



Student Cashton Nute flies the Navy flag during the Veterans Day program at W.E. Cundiff. PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vintonites join Veterans Day Parade in Roanoke



Members of the Roanoke Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, which meets in Vinton, joined the festivities at the Virginia Veterans Parade in Roanoke on November 12. They brought along their new banner, and several veterans related to their members.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Several groups from Vinton joined in the Virginia Veterans Day Parade celebration in Roanoke City on Nov. 12.

The Roanoke Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution gathered at the Roanoke City Market Building to honor veterans and wave at the parade passing by. They featured their new banner, and several veterans of their own—

CW4 US Army (retired) Gordon Menzies and Lt. Col. Air Force Reserves Heather Menzies, husband and daughter of past Regent Sharon Menzies, along with Army Sgt. Paul Richard Gascoyne, who served in World War II, father of DAR member Lisa Gascoyne.

The William Byrd High School Marching Terriers band joined with the other Roanoke County high school bands from Glenvar, Hidden Valley, Cave Spring,

and Northside, to march and perform together as one unit in the parade. WBHS Band Director Dan Plybon said the schools each learned the music on their own and then came together for the first time the morning of the parade. It looked and sounded like they had been practicing together for months.

The highlight of the parade was the flyover by the United States Air Force 27th Fighter Squadron F-22 Raptors to kick-off the parade.



The William Byrd Marching Terriers joined the other Roanoke County high school bands to march as one unit in the Veterans Day Parade. PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS



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