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The Vinton First Aid Crew held their annual Installation of Officers Ceremony and Christmas Dinner on Dec. 7 at the Vinton War Memorial, with special guest--Santa Claus.

Vinton First Aid Crew installs new officers, welcomes a visit from Santa

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Vinton First Aid Crew (VFAC) held their annual Christmas Dinner and Installation of Officers at the Vinton War Memorial on Dec. 7. VFAC President Jason Peters noted that this year marks the 83rd anniversary of the First Aid Crew in Vinton. He thanked members of the crew who continued serving the community during the past years of the pandemic, which brought many changes to the organization. "We had to be fluid," Peters said. "Officers and members were put to the test more in the past two years than in the all the previous years."

Peters and Rescue Chief Chris Sayre introduced the new officers for 2023 and presented several special awards prior to their installation. Trace Poindexter was named "Rookie of the Year" for 2022. Logan Klepal was named "Member of the Year" for 2022. Aaron Albertson was named 2022 "Officer of the Year." The awards are especially meaningful as recipients are chosen by the entire crew. Vinton Mayor Brad Grose installed the VFAC officers for 2023, thanking them for their devotion to their jobs which are so vital to the community. Officers include: Rescue Chief: Chris Sayre

See **First Aid Crew**, page 6



Officers for the Vinton First Aid Crew were installed by Vinton Mayor Brad Grose at the Installation Ceremony on Dec. 7. Shown left to right are: front row, Captain Brandan Arthur, Assistant Chief Aaron Albertson, Rescue Chief Chris Sayre, and Secretary Sandy Sayre; back row, Board President and Assistant Treasurer Jason Peters, Vice President Steve Thrasher, 2nd Lt. Logan Klepal, 1st Lt. Matt Gilfus, Treasurer Mitch Vaughan, and Public Information Officer Margo Karkenny. Not pictured are Sgt. Nicole Vincent and Chaplain Tom Philpott.



Special awards were presented to three members of the VFAC--Trace Poindexter (on left in top photo) shown with President Jason Peters, received the "Rookie of the Year Award." Assistant Chief Aaron Albertson (in bottom photo on left with Jason Peters) was named "Officer of the Year." Second Lt. Logan Klepal (bottom photo on right) was named "Member of the Year." All of these awards are voted on by the entire membership.

Santa brings his magic to the neighborhoods of Vinton



It takes a village to put on a Santa Crawl. Here's the group of town employees, Vinton Chamber of Commerce members, and Santas, Mrs. Clauses, and elves who made it possible.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

In 2020, when the pandemic paused most holiday traditions in Vinton (including the Vinton Christmas Parade), the town and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce came up with a plan to salvage the spirit of Christmas with a Santa Crawl through Vinton neighborhoods.

Now that Santa Crawl, which started as a stopgap measure, has become its own tradition, now in its third year. On Dec. 13, Santa, Mrs. Claus, and their elves followed four different routes through Vinton to deliver candy, coloring books, and toys personally to children, along with treats for family dogs. The routes were published ahead of time to give families the opportunity to plan for Santa's arrival.

The Crawl set off from the Vinton War Memorial at 5:30 p.m. and finished up the routes by 9. Santa's sleighs and wagons were newly decorated with lights galore (and heaters) and loaded with goodies. They were driven by staff from the Public Works Department, and escorted by

See **Santa Crawl**, page 6

Lancerlot and Blue Ridge Figure Skating Club team up presenting Theater on Ice

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Lancerlot Sports Complex and the Blue Ridge Figure Skating

Club teamed up on Dec. 10 and 11 for "Skating Through the Decades" at the Lancerlot ice rink. This is the fifth program the skaters have performed at the venue. According to Meghan Noga, the Lancerlot's ice skating director, the figure skating program and the Blue Ridge Figure Skating Club are both fairly new to the Lancerlot and the area.

The Theater on Ice program began in May 2021 as a chance for skaters to learn choreography, work within a group of all ages and ability levels, and showcase fun, theatrical programs. The figure skating program has evolved from a very successful "Learn to Skate" program at the Lancerlot. Other productions have included "Beetlejuice" in the fall of 2021, "The Wizard of Oz" in the fall of 2022, and "The Nutcracker" in the fall of 2023.

See **Lancerlot**, page 7



Figure skaters from the Blue Ridge Figure Skating Club performed their winter program "Skating Through the Decades" on Dec. 10 and 11 at the Lancerlot.

Cadets from William Byrd participate in Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony at Virginia Veterans Care Center



Cadets from the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps program which is based at William Byrd High School presented a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Salem on Dec. 7. Shown left to right are Cadet Jamie Rowlett, Naval Science Instructor Senior Chief Dave Perrin, Cadet Beth McFalls, Cadet William Sloane, Cadet Katelin Patrick (Unit Commander), Cadet Zackary Charles, Cadet Jordan Davila, Cadet Mason Perdue, Cadet Trevor Robinson, Cadet Terry Nolan, Cadet Noah Nicely, Cadet Mason Truslow, and Cadet Andrew Murphy. They are shown with veterans Robert Bowles (front right), who served in the Marine Corps in Korea from August 1950-September 1951, and Thelmon Witcher, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II from May 1945-July 1947.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Several cadets from the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) based at William Byrd High School participated in a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Virginia Veterans Care Center on Dec. 7, honoring the veterans who reside there. The program included the Presentation of the Colors by the NJROTC Color Guard, the playing of the national anthem, readings on the history of Pearl Harbor Day and President Franklin Roosevelt's joint address to Congress on Dec. 8, 1941, a Flag Folding Ceremony, and the playing of "Taps." After the program, the cadets were able to visit with the veterans at the center. Students participating included Cadets Katelin Patrick (Unit Commander), Jamie Rowlett, Beth McFalls, William Sloane, Zackary Charles, Jordan Davila, Mason Perdue, Trevor Robinson, Terry Nolan, Noah Nicely, Mason Truslow, and Andrew Murphy. The Cadets were accompanied by Senior Chief David Perrin, USN (retired), their Naval Science instructor at William Byrd.

"National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is celebrated on December 7th each year." See **Cadets**, page 7

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Scouts hold Flag Retirement Ceremony on Pearl Harbor Day

Debbie Adams
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Several Boy Scout and BSA scout units joined together at the Vinton Farmers' Market on Dec. 7 for a Flag Retirement Ceremony in observance of Pearl Harbor Day, including Troops 235, 50, 51, and 17, along with Pack 51.

The ceremony had originally been planned for Nov. 11, Veterans Day, at the Vinton War Memorial, but inclement weather forced its postponement.

The Flag Retirement Ceremony included the playing of the national anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, the recitation of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, and the incineration of hundreds of American flags deemed "no longer fit for display."

The United States Flag Code states: "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

The flags retired were collected over time by the scouts and the Williamson Road Northwest Hardware. The number included many from Scout Leader Rick Wimmer, who passed away in 2018, and Kelley Moore, a registered nurse for the VA who passed away in the spring of 2022 and was a devoted volunteer with scouting.

James Doran III, a former Roanoke County firefighter/paramedic/training officer who organized the flag retirement event, estimated that the scouts retired three to four pick-up truck loads of flags over a three-day period.

For this ceremony, the scouts used a drug incinerator from the Roanoke City and Roanoke County police departments instead of the traditional burn barrel. According to scout leader Richard Cohen, "These devices are designed to eradicate drugs and create a very high temperature, so they work well on retiring flags without emitting any of the fumes that burn barrels used to do."

Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond, and Richard "Barry" Hensley were the guest speakers.

Chief Drumond served in the Marine Corps in Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, and in Cuba. Hensley was a colonel in the U.S. Army, now retired, a former board member of the Blue Ridge Mountains Council, former

Council Commissioner, and is currently a guide at the D-Day Memorial.

In his remarks, Hensley talked about honoring, respecting, and taking care of the American flag.

Chief Drumond spoke about "the tragedy of Dec. 7, 1941, and 'American Exceptionalism and those who define the meaning.'"

"American Exceptionalism is a powerful terminology that resonates within the heart of every American citizen, specifically during momentous occasions or in time of need," Drumond said. "It is deep-rooted in the foundation, culture, and faith of our nation. We identify our nation as a democracy of immigrants, a one-of-a-kind union with enormously diverse cultural customs and more unique characteristics than any other country in the world. It is the qualities of every American that shape our nation."

"As a collective group and inscribed in our nation's name, we are all 'United.' We love our land and we believe through God's grace, American Exceptionalism will always prevail. Those that choose to attack our homeland and our American way of life will never prevail because we, the American people, cannot be broken. Tragedies such as Pearl Harbor charge the American spirit and illustrate the proof of American resilience and determination."

"So that brings us to today— National Pearl Harbor Day. Today is a day where we pay tribute in quiet reverence and remember our American values as we pay respect to a tragedy that shook the core of our nation and had a profound impact on an entire generation."

"Eighty-one years ago, Dec. 7, 1941, our beloved homeland was subjected to a Japanese air assault on our Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor. The attack on our homeland will not only be remembered for the tragic loss of American lives, but as a pivotal point in our American history."

"Imperial Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in hopes to not only destroy our Pacific Fleet but to weaken the resolve and the will of every American. The assumption the Japanese made of the Americans was wrong."

"In stark contrast, despite its devastation and enormous loss of life, the attack on Pearl Harbor had the opposite effect. That effect and Japanese

sentiment is captured best by a 1970s film, where I quote, 'I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve.' While the quote in itself is unverified, it remains true. An unprovoked attack enraged the American people. It woke up a sleeping giant. It woke up the fighting spirit of the Greatest Generation."

"Pearl Harbor triggered what would be the entry of the United States into World War II. The day following the attack, President Franklin Roosevelt addressed the American people and in quick succession, Congress declared war against Imperial Japan. In a matter of days, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States."

"In all, over 2,400 lives were lost during the Pearl Harbor attack, 19 U.S. Navy ships and battle ships were damaged or destroyed. Within minutes of the attack, the USS Arizona was critically wounded."

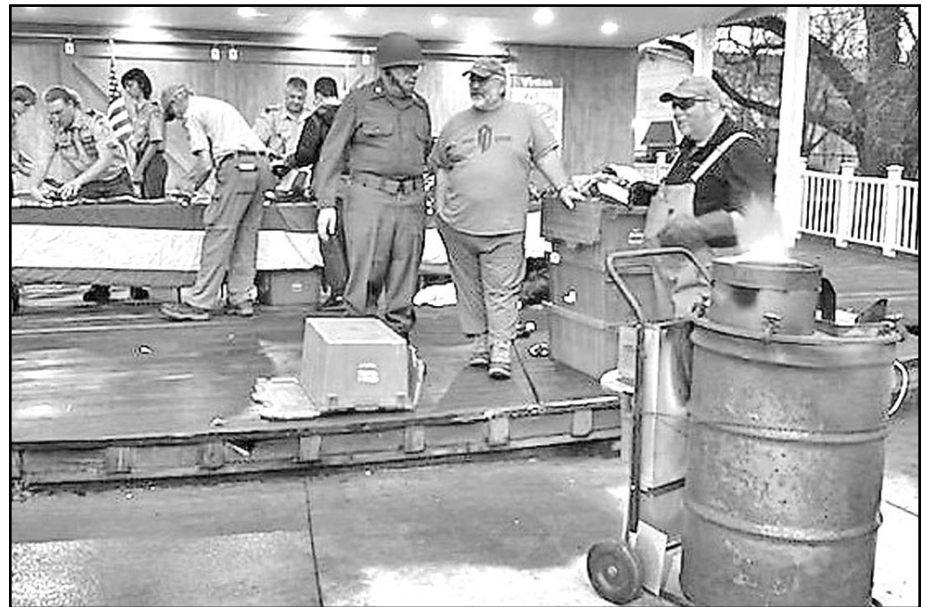
"Lieutenant Commander Samuel Fuqua, a Missouri-born sailor, was eating breakfast when the USS Arizona's air raid system sounded the alarm. He rushed to the quarterdeck only to be met with heavy enemy fire. Despite being concussed from a shell that exploded nearby, Fuqua began directing return fire. A second bomb was catastrophic; it hit the ammunition magazine of the ship killing more than 1,000 sailors. Despite the chaos, he ignored his own well-being, ignored the air assault from incoming Japanese aircraft, and while ankle deep in water, while still holding a cigar in his mouth, led evacuation efforts out of the USS Arizona."

"Fuqua exemplified a warrior's heart and illustrated the tenacity and will to fight despite the danger around him. Now the senior most ranking member of the vessel, he was last to abandon ship. He and fellow service men commandeered a boat and saved additional sailors from the now fuel-enraged harbor. For his actions, Fuqua was awarded the Medal of Honor."

"Army Air Corps pilots George Welch and Kenneth Taylor were awakened by the sound of the initial attack and sprang into action, driving to Haleiwa airfield while dodging Japanese planes. They would be the first two Americans to get airborne in the P-40 fighter



Scouts from Troops 235, 17, 50 and 51, and Pack 51 observed Pearl Harbor Day with a flag retirement ceremony at the Vinton Farmers' Market on Dec. 7.



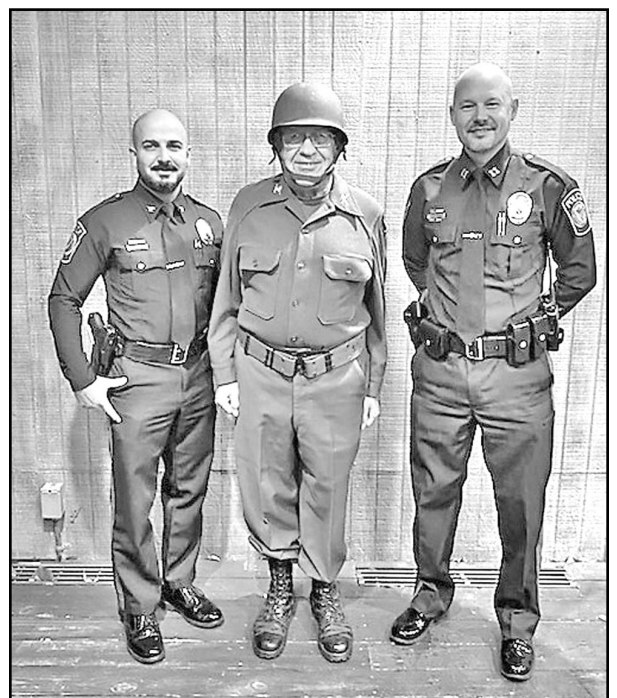
The scouts borrowed a drug incinerator from the Roanoke City and Roanoke County police departments to incinerate the flags being retired.

planes— two American pilots versus hundreds of enemy planes. Both men repelled the enemy's attack, conducted counter dogfighting operations, and destroyed at least six Japanese fighters and bombers.

"Undoubtedly, we suffered a traffic loss of life, a day, as President Roosevelt described it, that will live in infamy. We honor the sacrifices of many and the heroic efforts by all. We salute the Americans of that time, a generation that fought for a better future, a generation that transformed an enemy into our greatest allies. We give thanks to what is defined as the Greatest Generation."

"As Americans, we all have an inherent duty to protect the sovereignty of our nation. Young Americans join organizations that build the integrity and character of the future leaders of our nation. I thank the Boy Scouts, a wonderful organization that paves the road to success—an organization built with a servant's heart."

"As young adults and the next generation of American leaders, continue to hone your skills, maintain the course and be loyal to the community



PHOTOS BY CHASITY BARBOUR

Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond (on left) and Richard "Barry" Hensley (center) were the guest speakers for the flag retirement event. They are shown with Vinton Deputy Chief Tim Lawless.

you serve. "Our communities thrive when people translate their abilities into action. America is better when people put their faith into action. Challenge is part of the process. To get something you never had, you need to do something that you have never done. Never give

up on anything you set your mind to do. Nothing in life worth doing is ever easy. Carry yourselves with the dignity and pride that I know you have and expect the best from yourself. "Always remember that leaders do not set out to be first, instead they set out to serve others."

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

A visit from Rob Saunders is always a fun time. Rob came into town and met for dinner with Tim and Teresa Chewning, Todd and Angie Ross, and Darren Yeatts.

Congrats to Katie Irvin Simmons and Exree Hipp on the beautiful wedding this past week-

end (Dec. 10). Katie is the daughter of Dal and Heather Simmons. The couple met at Roanoke College.

Miss Virginia Victoria Chuah is competing at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. The finals are available on pay-per-

By Bootie and Angie Chewning

view this Thursday night at 7 through Pageantstlive.com. Her talent is ballet en pointe "Swan

Lake"; her platform is social impact initiative, adult autism awareness. Her 20-year-old brother is autistic. We wish her good luck!

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Vinton Chamber in our efforts to promote busi-

ness and community. We have had a great year. And many thanks to everyone who participated in the 2022 Vinton Door Decorating Contest. Make sure to walk or drive through Vinton and take a look at the doors, windows, and storefronts.



Rob Saunders and friends.



Just married – Katie Irvin Simmons and Exree Hipp.



Miss Virginia Victoria Chuah

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

Mount Pleasant Lions host Breakfast with Santa

On Saturday morning, Dec. 10, the Mount Pleasant Lions Club again hosted a community event known as "Breakfast with Santa" at the "Lions' Den" located at 2432 Mayfield Drive in downtown Mount Pleasant.

While the exact starting date for the affair is somewhat murky, it is believed to have begun at least 15 years ago and has continued each year, with the exception of the pandemic years 2020 and 2021.

Santa has in the past arrived on an antique 1938 firetruck which is owned and operated by the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Firefighters. However, this year, due to inclement weather, Santa, played by Lion Kenny Price, greeted children and parents while all were snug and warm inside.

Santa listened attentively to the kids; parents hovered close by; pictures

were taken, and each child received a small stocking gift from an elf, Lion Brenda Musselwhite.

In the kitchen, Lions Steve Wilkinson and Winston Massey manned the sausage skillet, while Lion David Wray concocted biscuits and sausage gravy, and Lions Robert Stutes and Lynn Lantz turned out numerous pancakes.

In addition to the free breakfast of pancakes, sausage and biscuits with gravy, Lion Tommy Moore handed out coffee for the moms and dads, and juice for the youngsters to drink.

There was Christmas music by DJs Sam Murdock and Lion Pat Musselwhite. About every 15 minutes a door prize, drawn by Lion Janet West, was awarded to a lucky person with the adults acting like kids when they won.

The almost official

headcount was about 45 children, and about 45 adults including some firemen and EMTs from Station Number 6, who brought a bright, yellow/green, multipurpose fire-truck which they proudly showed to wide-eyed and excited kids and explained various features to adults.

Also present were a couple of Roanoke County Police Officers and Rimi, a solid black Belgian Shepherd Police Dog, that performs both searches and drug sniffing. Rimi got several obviously appreciated behind-the-ear head scratches and a quickly devoured sausage patty.

The breakfast began at 8 a.m. and concluded at 11; the Lions declared it a success and then cleaned up the debris, getting the meeting place ready for the next group that had it reserved for a holiday fete.

By Lion Mike Ferguson



Santa stopped by the Mount Pleasant Lions Club on Dec. 10 for their annual Breakfast with Santa event.



About 45 children, along with 45 adults, were treated to pancakes, sausage, and biscuits and gravy by the Mount Pleasant Lions—and they got to visit with Santa.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LION ANNE FERGUSON

Firemen and EMTs from Roanoke County Fire Station Number 6 bought their multipurpose fire truck for the children at Breakfast with Santa.

Vinton Police Officer William Holland named Program Coordinator for Roanoke County TRIAD

Vinton Police Community Resource Officer William Holland has been named Program Coordinator for the Roanoke County TRIAD.

TRIAD was formed by the AARP, the International Association of Chief Police, and the International Association of Sheriffs in 2015 to reduce the fear of crime and victimization among our senior citizens. It is a national organization with about 200 chapters in Virginia.

The program has since extended its reach far beyond the law enforcement scope and provides seniors with knowledge from experts in the field of health, finance, and legal representation to name a few.

The TRIAD organization meets with seniors to educate them on topics such as personal safety, scams, and mail fraud. Currently seniors are being targeted with on-line messages concerning "packages

ready to deliver."

"I'd encourage every senior citizen to come to a Roanoke County TRIAD meeting, which is the first Thursday of every month at the Friendship Living Center," Holland said. "It's also my desire to form a TRIAD meeting here in the Town of Vinton sometime in 2023.

"As the new Program Coordinator for the Roanoke County TRIAD, it's my desire to provide additional education to our senior citizens within their respective communities on how not to be a victim or target of crime living in the 21st century," Holland said. "The knowledge provided will help aid our senior citizens with the ability to see, hear, and understand a potential scam. These despicable acts of crime have devastated incomes, families, personal lives, and the ability of our senior citizens to retire with dignity.

"In working with Matt Hall, liaison (Virginia Attorney General's Office), Chief of Police Fabricio Drumond (Vinton Police), and newly appointed Chief of Police Michael Poindexter (Roanoke County Police), we're all doing our very best to bring impactful knowledge and resources to this region.

"In communities where Triad is actively informing seniors about frauds and scams, law enforcement agencies report a drop in the amount of these crimes being committed. Scam artists naturally seek seniors who are uninformed about their frauds."

The Roanoke County TRIAD meeting is the first Thursday of every month from 1 to 2 p.m. at Friendship Living, located at 397 Hershberger Road. There is no charge to attend. All are welcome.

Submitted by Vinton Police Department, The Vinton Messenger



COURTESY PHOTO

Vinton Police Community Resource Officer William Holland has been named Program Coordinator for TRIAD. Shown from left to right are Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, Officer William Holland, and Roanoke City Sheriff Antonio Hash.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. A people of Eastern Afghanistan
 5. Supervises interstate commerce
 8. Touch lightly
 11. Relating to bees
 13. Mauna ____, Hawaiian volcano
 14. Mosuo culture religion
 15. Italian village
 16. Stiff bristle
 17. Wealthy enclave in Rio
 18. Cause to lose courage
 20. Examines animals
 21. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
 22. Gets rid of
 25. Having easily perceived thoughts
 30. Removed surgically
 31. Principle underlying the universe
 32. Popular airline
 33. Antelopes
 38. Peacock network
 41. Utter repeatedly
 43. One from the Golden State
 45. Photographers
 48. Father
 49. Popular BBQ dish
 50. Cavalry sword
 55. Ancient Greek sophist
 56. Atomic mass unit
 57. Afflicted in mind or body
 59. Indian mythological figure
 60. Mild expression of surprise
 61. Jewish spiritual leader
 62. Brew
 63. Doctor of Education
 64. Impudence
- CLUES DOWN**
1. State attorneys
 2. Imitated
 3. Latvian capital
 4. Irish goddess
 5. Taste
 6. Dried
 7. Spanish saloon
 8. Mother of Perseus
 9. Evergreen coniferous trees
 10. Refuse to comply
 12. Negative
 14. Hyphen
 19. A way to record
 23. Not good
 24. One who tends the furnace
 25. Small amount
 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
 27. The whole quantity
 28. __ King Cole, musician
 29. One's opinion
 34. Holds ashes
 35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency
 36. Side-blotched lizards genus
 37. Legislator (abbr.)
 39. Concentrated bombardment
 40. Took for oneself
 41. Nigerian City
 42. Thousands of pounds
 44. Inspired
 45. Secret clique
 46. Expression
 47. Dough made from corn flour
 48. Comedian Carvey
 51. Swiss river
 52. Prejudice
 53. Actor Idris
 54. Resistance fighters
 58. Criticize

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Dec. 15

Lancerlot Holiday Ice Skating: 1-3:30 p.m.
 Vinton Public Library: Gingerbread house building 4-5 p.m., must register; Welcome to the Wise program at 6 p.m.

Explore Park: Illuminights 5-10 p.m.
 William Byrd Middle and High School Choir Concert: Vinton Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 16

Rosie's Gaming Emporium: American Honey performs a free concert beginning at 8 p.m., ages 21 and up.

Lancerlot: Holiday Ice Skating: 1-3:30 p.m., 7-10 p.m.
 Explore Park: Illuminights 5-10 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 17

Rosie's Gaming Emporium: Fuzzy Logic performs at 8 p.m., free show for ages 21 and up

Vinton Library: Roanoke Valley Dulcimers, 10:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Lancerlot: Holiday Ice Skating: 12:15 -2:45 p.m., 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18

Lancerlot: Holiday Ice Skating: 12-3 p.m., 3:30-6:30 p.m.,

7-10 p.m.
 Explore Park: Illuminights 5-10 p.m.
 Monday, Dec. 19

Lancerlot: Holiday Ice Skating: 12-3:30 p.m.

Vinton Library: Teen Anime Club, 6-7 p.m.

Explore Park: Illuminights 5-10 p.m.

Roanoke County Schools: closed until Jan. 3

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Vinton Library: Holiday movie on the patio from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Lancerlot: Holiday Ice Skating: 12-3 p.m., 3:30-6:30 p.m., 7-10 p.m.
 Explore Park: Illuminights 5-10 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 21

Roanoke County: State of the County Address, 7:30-9 a.m., Green Ridge Recreation Center

Lancerlot: Holiday Ice Skating: 12-3 p.m., 3:30-6:30 p.m., 7-10 p.m.

Explore Park: Illuminights 5-10 p.m.

Future Events in Vinton and the

surrounding areas:

Thrasher Memorial UMC: Christmas Eve services are scheduled for Dec. 24 with a family service at 5 p.m. followed by a traditional service at 7:30. There will be one combined service on Christmas Day at 10 a.m. in the main sanctuary.

Vinton Baptist Church: Christmas Eve worship at 5 p.m.; Christmas Day service at 10:30 a.m.

Vinton Wesleyan Church: Christmas Eve Communion Dec. 24 at 4 p.m.; Christmas Day service at 10:30 a.m.

Please submit Upcoming Community News announcements to dadams@mainstreet-newspapers.com.

Vinton Town Council meeting cancelled for Dec. 20

The Vinton Town Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 20, has been cancelled in as much as there are no essential items to come before council currently.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tues., Jan. 3, at 6 p.m.

in Council Chambers in the Municipal Building on Pol-lard Street.

Submitted by Town of Vinton

The Vinton Messenger

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The Vinton Messenger encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified by telephone before publication. The Messenger reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style.

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VINTON HISTORY

Carousel is a word used by knights to describe a game played by Turkish and Arabian horsemen in the 12th Century. The game involved horsemen galloping in a circle while throwing balls from one to another.

Carousel is one of many amusement rides and probably the oldest one. It usually has a rotating circular platform with seats for riders. A mechanism was invented that allowed horses to move up and down as the carousel turns, which simulates an actual horseback ride.

Carousels were very popular in the United States between the 20th Century and the Great Depression. When the economy recuperated, carousel production started growing larger and more exciting.

Today, classic carousels are rare. Of the more than 4,000 carousels built in United States, fewer than 150 survived. Museums and organizations have tried to preserve them. Pictured is a vintage replica of a carousel that also plays Christmas music and is on display at the Vinton History Museum during the holiday season.

Stop by and see the carousel and other vintage Christmas items. The museum is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10 a.m. 'til 2

p.m.
 Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director



PHOTO COURTESY VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM

This vintage carousel is on display at the Vinton History Museum.

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

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

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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 Morning Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

Vinton Worship Directory

THE CHOICE IS MINE

Read 1 Samuel 25:1 through 27:12

David, a fighting machine, was not squeamish about shedding blood. However, before he went into battle, his habit was to seek the Lord's direction. He forgot this wisdom when one fool's decision enraged him.

Nabal, a wealthy man, refused to feed David's men although they had protected Nabal's shepherds. His arrogant remark infuriated David. Blinded by anger, he bypassed the Lord and ordered his men to arm themselves for battle. The plan: Wipe out Nabal and his entire household.

Meanwhile back at the estate, a servant begged Abigail, Nabal's wife, to do something because David had been good to them. She immediately sent food to David and then followed to ask for mercy.

"May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands" (1Samuel 25:33).

When we are wronged, instead of plotting revenge, we could seek the Lord's help to set aside anger and leave vengeance to Him. We should also pray for the offender.

Thought for Today: I can focus on God's blessings or the offense. I can pray or scheme. The choice is mine.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 25:32-34

ECKANKAR

ECKANKAR, THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. The Center was closed during the COVID crisis but is now open. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can 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; cmcp2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Sundays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

UNITED METHODIST

THREE OAKS FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1026 Gravel Hill Road, Vinton, Va. 540-512-8070. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rob Colwell. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.

WESLEYAN

VINTON WESLEYAN CHURCH - 246 E. Jefferson Ave. Pastor Ricardo Rodriguez, 345-3385; Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Sunday School for all ages, 10:00 AM, Wednesday Night Life Ministries - Children - Awana; G-5 Youth Ministry; Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM.

County leaders update community on State of the County and County Schools

The annual State of the County and State of the County Schools reports were delivered by Paul Mahoney, Board of Supervisors chair, and David Linden, School Board chairman, at the Green Ridge Center on Dec. 7.

“The theme of this year’s address is ‘A Vision for Tomorrow,’” said Linden in his address on the school system. “Setting the vision and providing the means to achieve that vision is the job of leadership, and Roanoke County Public Schools is blessed to have an amazing and dedicated group of leaders, starting with my colleagues on the Roanoke County School Board.

“We also are blessed with visionary school leadership starting with our superintendent, Dr. Ken Nicely and his staff. Under his leadership, our school system is consistently ranked among the highest in the region and the Commonwealth in terms of graduation rate, annual test scores and student academic accomplishments.

“Every school system across the country is working to recover from the devastating impacts of the pandemic. Our school system was among the very few across the state and nation, that maintained a high level of in-person instruction throughout the pandemic.

“This visionary effort paid off – the majority of our students did not suffer significant academic loss. When you compare test scores pre-pandemic to post-pandemic, you’ll see that the majority of our students already have just about returned to their pre-pandemic levels of academic performance – well above current statewide averages. Roanoke County Public School students are excelling in the classroom and these results prove it. We still have work to do, because we are committed to lifting every student, but we are working from a solid foundation of practice and success.

“I want to take this moment to express our thanks and appreciation to every single staff member who helped our students succeed. We can’t say enough about how much we appreciate our teachers, instructional assistants, bus drivers, nutrition associates, administrators, maintenance staff, and central office staff for all their hard work during the pandemic.

“Visionary educational leadership is much more than just recovering academic performance,” Linden continued. “As you probably know, our vision is to prepare all students to be Opportunity Ready. Dr. Nicely and his team are taking this vision even further.

“We have begun a pilot program for our Opportunity Ready Graduate certification program. We’re putting our reputation behind our graduates. A graduate who has earned an Opportunity Ready certification has developed proficiency in key success skills— Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking. If you receive a job application from a graduate with an Opportunity Ready certification, we hope you will give this graduate a greater level of consideration.

“It is this type of innovative leadership that makes Roanoke County Public Schools among the first School Divisions of Innovation as part of the Virginia is for Learners Innovation Network.

When it comes to developing a vision for tomorrow, innovation is critical.

“Many of you are familiar with our Burton Center for Arts and Technology. This is an amazing center that has produced outstanding graduates. Many of these graduates have become your employees. Burton celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. The problem is we’ve outgrown Burton. The building is in a flood plain and we simply don’t have the room to expand.

“We need a larger, modern, state-of-the-art center for career and technical education programs. It’s time to be innovative.

“We are extremely proud that we are moving forward with the development and eventual construction of an all-new career and technical education center. Already, we have secured the land for this brand-new facility that will provide our students and staff the space they need to not only provide opportunities for the programs of today, but also create even more opportunities for the programs of tomorrow.

“We’re working with the Board of Supervisors to find innovative new ways to fund what will be the largest single construction project in the history of Roanoke County Public Schools. Roanoke County students deserve to learn in a modern, functional facility using industry-level equipment, and we’re working together to make this new center happen as soon as possible.

“I’d like to take this moment to thank the career and technical education citizens advisory committee for their hard work this past year and all the businesses that provided input on our career and technical education programs as we develop the vision for this new career and technical education center.

“We are teaching and training your future workforce. We hope you will support our efforts as we build the vision of tomorrow for our CTE programs.

“However, our needs don’t stop at Burton. We have two elementary schools that are in desperate need of replacement right now— Glen Cove and W.E. Cundiff elementary schools. Both schools were constructed in 1971 with open concept classrooms.

“I’m a realtor. Open concept is great for houses, but they’re terrible for classrooms. Look around where we are now. Imagine each table is a classroom. How well would you learn with all these different classrooms doing different instruction at the same time?

“Learning can be a messy, noisy, and active process. Our students, especially elementary students, have to be able to get up, move around, make noise, and be able to make a few messes. That’s very hard to do in an open concept space when you’re disturbing other classrooms and other students.

“And then there are the security



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton was well represented at the annual State of the County and County Schools address at the Green Ridge Recreation Center on Dec. 7. Shown left to right are: Councilman Mike Stovall, Vinton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Chewning, Assistant Town Manager/Treasurer Cody Sexton, Executive Assistant/Town Clerk Susan Johnson, Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters, Mayor Brad Grose, Economic Development Specialist Marshall Stanley, Chamber Executive Assistant Kathryn Sowers, Planning and Zoning Director Anita McMillan, Finance Director Andrew Keen, Councilwoman Laurie Mullins, Public Works Director Bo Herndon, Councilman Keith Liles, Deputy Police Chief Tim Lawless, Board of Supervisors member representing the Vinton Magisterial District Jason Peters, and Vinton Capital Projects Manager Jamie Hurt. School Board representative Tim Greenway was in attendance, but is not pictured.

concerns. Sadly, we are reminded again and again that the safety and security of our school buildings must be a top priority. Wide open classroom spaces are a bad idea for schools.

“We must be innovative and find a way to not only fund our new CTE Center, but also replace these two schools right away. The longer we wait, the costs get even higher and higher.

And remember, there are more schools that are getting older and in need of significant renovation or replacement.

“For many years, the Board of Supervisors has stated that our schools are the crown jewel of the county and for very good reason—our schools and our teachers are among the best in the state. We need to keep this crown jewel polished and updated.

“It’s like your smartphone—when you first get one, you have the latest technology, but after a few years, that smartphone starts to become out of date. A few years after that, it’s barely working and it’s time to upgrade.

“It’s time for a serious upgrade for some of our school facilities. Think of it as investing in Roanoke County and in the economic development of our community. When a new business is searching to find a community to build a new facility or relocate from somewhere else, what are some of the top features they’re looking for? One is the workforce. What does the current workforce look like? Is there an available, skilled workforce available to fill the jobs that will be created?

“Two, and perhaps more importantly, are the schools. How strong is the local school system? Are these schools noted for academic accomplishments? Are the school facilities modern and up-to-date? Businesses are looking for thriving, successful communities where families will want to relocate, and we need to make

sure our schools are places where families will want their children to learn.

“While I’m talking about economic development and workforce development, I want to remind you about our very successful Student Registered Apprenticeship program. Some of you currently are hosting student apprentices and we thank you for partnering with us. We need many more businesses to partner with us to provide apprenticeship opportunities.

“Creating and achieving a vision for tomorrow takes teamwork. Here in Roanoke County, we are so very fortunate to have a close relationship between the school board and the board of supervisors. This isn’t the case in many counties across the Commonwealth. While we have discussions and different ideas for how make the vision of tomorrow a reality, in the end the school board and the board of supervisors are moving forward with one goal in mind—to make Roanoke County the best place in Virginia to live, work, learn and play.”

Linden’s address was followed by remarks from Board of Supervisors Chair Paul Mahoney, who described several economic development achievements which have taken place in the past year, including more than \$170 million in new project announcements and investments along with creation of over 550 new jobs.

He mentioned in particular North American Specialty Laminations in the Cave Spring area (a \$2 million investment), a Lowe’s distribution center in Roanoke County’s Valley TechPark (\$11 million), Wood Haven Technology Park (\$10.5 million), Galen School of Nursing in the Oak Grove area, opening of the Lewis Gale Regional Health System Blue Hills ER in Bonsack, the Carilion Psychiatry and Behav-

iorial Medicine outpatient services relocation to Tanglewood Mall, the re-imagining of the Tanglewood Mall and Route 419 Corridor, and the opening of Burlington, Skechers, Chili’s Grill and Bar, and Popeyes in the Tanglewood area. He noted the \$60 million in transportation funding for improvements along Route 419, and \$370 million in Roanoke County.

Another topic was outdoor recreation including 40 tournaments and races hosted by the county in 2022 and record-breaking attendance at Explore Park events.

Mahoney detailed uses of the \$18.3 million the county received in ARPA funding for broadband expansion, funding of storm-water management and public safety projects and equipment, enhancement of cyber security, and construction of water and sewer extensions.

He listed the four legislative priorities the board has chosen to focus on in 2023:

Additional resources and funding to localities for school capital needs, capital grant funding, and economic development workforce grants for career and technical education capital projects.

Using available state funds to continue the operation and expansion of Catawba Hospital and support mental health and public hospital needs.

Utilizing state funding to improve the access and affordability of reliable broadband services and promoting the goal of statewide coverage.

And advocating for funding for the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport to support a runway extension and other improvement to foster economic development growth.

Roanoke County, Roanoke County Schools, The Vinton Messenger

Celebrating The Town of VINTON!


The Town of Vinton, a community nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, welcomes you to our community. Vinton, a town rich with history, has over the years found itself to be one of a few communities that continue to relish the past by offering an environment of a comfortable lifestyle with the feeling of being a part of a large community family. The town, with its proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Smith Mountain Lake, provides many opportunities for those who wish to stop and shop at our local farmers market or one of our unique specialty shops.

If festivals are your interest, the Vinton area hosts several festivals throughout the year from the Vinton Dogwood Festival to the Vinton Fall Festival. Each festival offers its own unique atmosphere. When you are away from home it’s always nice to feel as if you never left.

The Town of Vinton provides small town character with urban services and amenities located nearby. The small town atmosphere is characterized by a low crime rate; small, locally, and regionally owned businesses; and moderately priced homes. Views of the mountains and Blue Ridge Parkway abound.

Vinton represents the ideal type of community, small enough to provide a feeling of belonging, yet progressive enough to provide the facilities, services, and conveniences that are necessary to make a community feel like home to its citizens.

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Lancerlot from page 1

of Oz” in the spring of 2022, and “Holiday Show” last winter.

This weekend’s program featured music from the decades of the 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s, with both group and 19 soloist performances. Their coach is Addalai Clark, the head figure skating coach for the Lancerlot.

The 60’s songs featuring the skaters as a group were “Come Together,” “The Beat Goes On,” and “Do You Believe in Magic?”

Soloists featured in the 60’s segment of the program included: Isabella Fagiani in “The Song is Love”; Sophia Rush in “These Boots Were Made for Walking”; and Savannah Colleluori in “Black Bird.”

Songs from the 70’s included “September,” “Right Back Where We Started From,” and “Last Dance” for the group performances, as well as soloists Kenzie LaVenture skating to “Tiny Dancer”; Paige Sykes, “Dancing Queen”; Tess Notebaert “Same Old Song and Dance”; Bella DeGonzague, “Everlasting Love”; Jordan Lucas, “Your Song”; Brynn Leigh, “S.O.S.”; and Cheka Brindle, “Bennie and the Jets.”

Eighties songs included “We Built This City,” “Straight Up,” and “You Make My Dreams Come True” for the group performances. Soloists included Elliana Foutz performing “Bette Davis Eyes”; “Willow Cooper, “Material Girl”; Marley Sparling, “Sweet Dreams”; and Faith Baker, “Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go.”

Nineties songs included “Dreams,” “Wannabe,” and “Believe.” Soloists performing were “Amanda Kelly with “Zombie”; Hannah Thompson, “Basket Case”;

Irena McCormick, “Smooth”; and Ella Paulos, “Thunderstruck.”

Clark says the ice skaters have been working on the “Skating Through the Decades” program for 18 weeks with both on and off the ice practices. Some of their practice time is spent in the Lancerlot’s aerobics studio, practicing choreography and synchronization using the mirrors there.

Noga says that one of the goals of the figure skating program is to eventually take part in competitions. She remembers traveling

to Chicago, Vermont, and other destinations to compete “as a kid.”

Students in “Skating Through the Decades” ranged in age from 7 to 25. In a previous figure skating show, one skater was age 56. The Learn to Skate program at the Lancerlot accommodates those of all ages. Noga says that if ice skating is “on your bucket list” it’s not too late to take up the sport.

Students come from all over the valley and beyond— Christiansburg, Floyd, Blue Ridge, Montvale, Vinton, Roanoke, Fincastle,

and more.

The next Learn to Skate session begins on Jan. 7 with two 45-minute sessions at 12 and 12:45. They offer beginner, adult, and advanced classes which last for six weeks. Learn to Skate classes teach the fundamentals of ice skating and provide a foundation for figure skating, hockey, and speed skating.

For more information, visit the Lancerlot website at www.lancerlotsportscomplex.com or the Facebook page.

The Blue Ridge Figure Skating Club is working towards full club recognition and membership in the United States Figure Skating Association. They are working with the Lancerlot by hosting and sponsoring figure skating programming including Learn to Skate and Theatre on Ice.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Figure Skating Club, they also have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/blueridgefigureskatingclubva>.



Figure skater Sophia Rush skated to “These Boots Were Made for Walking” from the ‘60s.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Meghan Noga (on left) is the ice skating director at the Lancerlot Sports Complex. Addalai Clark is the head coach for ice skating at the Lancerlot and the Blue Ridge Figure Skating Club.

Cadets from page 1

celebrated annually on Dec. 7,” Cadet Patrick said. “The day commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii during World War II. 2,403 American servicemen lost their lives and over 1,200 servicemen were injured during this attack.”

Patrick 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, coast guardsmen, and reservists. Your service has helped keep our country and its citizens safe and free. To America’s World War II patriots here, we will never forget your courage under considerable fire and seemingly insurmountable odds. Because of you, our future remains bright. We owe you an immeasurable debt and we can’t thank you enough for answering the call of duty when Lady Liberty needed it the most. Let’s also take a moment 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.”

Cadet Murphy next described the historical events of Pearl Harbor. “On Dec. 7, 1941, the U.S. naval base on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, was subject to an attack that was one of the greatest military surprises in the history of warfare. In less than two hours, the U.S. Pacific Fleet was devastated, and more than 3,500 Americans were killed or wounded. The attack on Pearl Harbor catapulted the United States into World War II. The American people were outraged. Though diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan were deteriorating, they had not yet broken off at the time of the attack. Instantly, the incident united the American people in a massive mobilization for war and strengthened American resolve to guard against any future lapse of military alertness.

“Early in the afternoon of Dec. 7, President Roosevelt and his chief foreign policy aide, Harry Hopkins, were interrupted by a telephone call from Secretary of War Henry Stimson and told that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. At about 5 p.m., following meetings with his military advisers, the President calmly and decisively dictated to his secretary, Grace Tully, a request to Con-

gress for a declaration of war. “On Dec. 8, at 12:30 p.m., Roosevelt addressed a joint session of Congress and, via radio, the nation. The Senate responded with a unanimous vote in support of war; only Montana pacifist Jeanette Rankin dissented in the House. At 4 p.m. that same afternoon, President Roosevelt signed the declaration of war.”

Cadet Charles then read Roosevelt’s Joint Address to Congress.

“Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

“It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace. The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

“Yesterday the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island. Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area.

“The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well un-

derstand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation. As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory. I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

“Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the

inevitable triumph— so help us God. I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.”

Cadet Davila next narrated the Flag Folding Ceremony with Cadets Rowlett (flag folder) and Ragnone (flag holder). Davila dedicated each fold to soldiers who founded and fought for this nation, reading a list of wars the armed forces engaged in throughout the history of the United States. The flag folding ceremony also honors first responders and the families of those who serve.

After the program, the cadets were able to visit with veterans Robert Bowles, who served in the Marine Corps in Korea from August 1950-September 1951, and Thelmon Witcher, who served in the U.S. Army dur-

ing World War II from May 1945-July 1947 and hear their experiences.

The visit to the VVCC was facilitated by Maeghan

Hubbard, their Director of Activities, who commented that “it was a wonderful program, and our guys really enjoyed it!”



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Navy cadets were able to visit with veterans like Robert Bowles after the Pearl Harbor program. Bowles served in the Marines during the war in Korea.

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From the Pulpit

Pastor Jo: As we enter the season of Advent, Luke 1:5-7 introduces us to John the Baptist who was predicted to come and prepare the way for the Messiah, through his parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth. Because of them, John the Baptist, was born.

"5 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. 7 But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years."

God used this old couple to fulfill God's will and promises. Everyone played a very important role as a bridge to the coming of Jesus Christ. We are the bridge as well, until Christ comes back in final victory.

Therefore, let us prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord in this season. As we hear the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, we want to be

reminded that God is capable of doing anything. So, let us be hopeful and excited about what God will do for us, for our families, our church, and the world in the Advent season.

Pastor John: God did an amazing thing through the old couple. God brought life from a barren womb--Elizabeth became pregnant when she thought she never would.

For the second Sunday of Advent, the story gets more exciting. This time, an engaged couple becomes the focus. Another child is conceived but not from a barren womb. Instead, a virgin will conceive.

Mary and Joseph were engaged when she was visited by Gabriel, the same angel who came to Zechariah. Luke 1:35 (NRSVUE) says this: "The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God'."

You want to talk about success stories? Both of these couples were pretty incredible. All four of these Biblical characters demonstrated humility, submitting themselves to God's

plan, no matter what the cost.

Think about Mary's final response to Gabriel in Luke 1:38 (NRSVUE): "Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'"

How are you submitting to God's plan for you this Advent season? Are you simply going through the motions just like every Christmas season: making a list, shopping, attending parties, wrapping gifts, decorating, writing cards, etc.? How can you prepare for Christmas a little differently this year? Perhaps we can focus more on the greatest success story ever born. His name is Jesus. Not only did he change the world; he wants to change your world--here and now. Will you let Him?

Pastor John: At some point after Mary's encounter with Gabriel, she made the trek to the hill country of Judea to visit Elizabeth. This was a three-month retreat. Even though Elizabeth stayed home, Mary brought a new dynamic into her house. Two pregnant ladies connected to praise God and support each other. After all, this was the first pregnancy for

both of them, offering plenty of room for conversation. There was one significant difference with these ladies. Elizabeth was "well along in years" and Mary was a young virgin. Both of them were carrying miracle children for sure -- John the Baptist and Jesus the Christ. Mary and Elizabeth recognized their unique circumstances, and they praised God.

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be [a] fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Then Mary said in her Song

of Praise,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

By Pastor John Hemming and Pastor Seong Jae Jo, Thrasher Memorial UMC

Fall birding offers unique opportunities to appreciate migrating birds

Each fall, millions of birds pass through the Commonwealth during their fall migrations south, offering Virginians opportunities to see hawks, songbirds, and more.

"Virginia is in the East Coast flyway, in the path of birds headed south for the winter. Right now, you can see lots of birds at any place at any time," said Robyn Puffenbarger, a Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteer who is passionate about bird-watching.

"This is a big time for warblers, vireos, and shore birds," said Puffenbarger, who suggests simply watching the birds outside your window. "Anywhere there is scrub brush where birds can eat and hide from a predator, you'll see birds. If you can go to the Eastern Shore, Skyline Drive, or any place where you can hike or drive to be at elevation, you'll see a lot of birds."

"Observing birds is a wonderful way to connect with nature, and it is an activity you can do almost anywhere," said Michelle Prysby, director of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program. "I love that even our most urban areas have birds to enjoy -- peregrine falcons nest atop tall buildings in downtown Richmond."

Virginia has approximately 400 bird species, according to Prysby, who appreciates the challenge of learning to identify

different species she sees in her neighborhood.

"Seeing and hearing different kinds of birds also helps me mark the seasons," she said. "For example, in October, I'll start hearing the white-throated sparrows sing, and as winter approaches, I'll see dark-eyed juncos in my yard."

Nighttime lights, such as street lights and lamp posts, can confuse migrating birds, causing them to become disoriented and collide with buildings and windows or to become so exhausted they are vulnerable to other threats. Lights-out projects involve coordinated efforts to darken urban lights to help birds.

"If people in urban areas are interested in helping birds on migration, they can get involved with lights-out projects," Puffenbarger said.

Another way to help birds is by planting native plant species to create favorable habitats in your landscape.

"To increase your chances of observing a diversity of bird species in your yard, use native plant species in your landscaping to provide seeds and fruit for birds to eat, perching spots, and hiding spots from predators," said Prysby. "Native plants also host a diversity of insects, which birds eat and use to feed their young. Keeping cats indoors is important because predation by cats has an enormous impact




Winter Birds

Here are a few bird species to look for this fall and winter in Virginia



Purple Finch (male)
Will come to feeders for black oil sunflower seeds



Red Breasted Nuthatch
Can climb down trees head first



Snowy Owl
Sometimes spotted in VA during irruptions, usually along the coast



Cardinal (male)



Blue Jay



Dark-Eyed Junco



American Goldfinch



Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker (male)



Tufted Titmouse



White-Throated Sparrow
White-crowned color form



White-Throated Sparrow
Tan-crowned color form



American Robin



Bald Eagle
Look around bodies of water where they build nests



Sharp-Shinned Hawk
Forest dwelling, will raid bird feeders



Red-Tailed Hawk
Likes to perch in the trees by the interstate waiting for fresh roadkill



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Master Gardener Program

on bird populations." As raptors, which are predatory birds, migrate overhead this fall, Virginians can see incredible species such as red-tailed

hawks and bald eagles. Hawk watches, where people organize to monitor and count migrating raptors, offer a great opportunity to see birds and learn from knowledgeable volunteers.

"Raptors are ecological indicators," said Brian Hirt, a Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer who has been observing raptors for 25 years and is a hawk watch volunteer at the Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory. "When certain species suffer because of land loss or another issue, it affects the food chain. Raptor populations can show if something is wrong."

During his years as a hawk watch volunteer, Hirt has seen bald eagle populations increase firsthand.

"Twenty-five years ago, I might see 10 or 15 bald eagles during the entire migration season," said Hirt. "Now, with the recovery of the population, our record is 50 in one day."

"The more you learn about raptors, the more interesting they become,"

Hirt said. "They have such unique abilities. For example, the peregrine falcon is the fastest animal on the planet. It can reach 240 miles per hour as it dives. A red-tailed hawk coasting at 3,000 feet can spot a squirrel on the ground. Their eyesight is eight to 10 times better than a human during the day."

Hirt recommends looking for a rare golden eagle this winter. "Golden eagles have a whole different demeanor than other raptors and they have terrific hunting abilities," he said. "Most of the golden eagles we see in Virginia have migrated down from Canada and overwinter here."

Hawk watch sites are located in the mountainous western part of Virginia as well as Kiptopeke State Park on the Eastern Shore. To learn more about hawk watches and find a location near you, search on the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources website.

Although it is rare, the snowy owl can also be seen in Virginia dur-


ing periods where populations "irrupt," or leave their northern habitats in large numbers for reasons scientists don't fully understand.

"The birding community gets excited about snowy owls," Puffenbarger said. "They don't come every year, but your best bet to see them is on Assateague or Chincoteague Island as they fly down the coast in fall and winter."


Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners and Virginia Master Naturalists work in communities across the commonwealth to share knowledge and implement research that advances the well being of all Virginians. Through the strength of local partnerships, they contribute real solutions to the horticultural and environmental issues facing Virginia's communities. Virginia Cooperative Extension brings the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the Commonwealth.

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General Information

Historical Society debt still owed

To whom it may concern By Roger Davis. In 2018, I contracted restoring a cabin for the Craig County Historical Society. I was presented with an appraisal that stated the cabin was 80% complete. After starting the foundation, I was able to inspect the cabin materials. The logs were in very bad condition due to being stored for 20 some odd years with three other deteriorating cabins. The termites had destroyed a lot of the logs, this was going to require a lot of extra work and materials. After discussing this with several historical society members and notifying them that there would be an extra charge to this restoration, I was told to continue. This project went from a restoration to a total rebuild. I had to collect parts and pieces of other structures from all around the county, including a large log barn that I had to demo and dismantle. I have restored about 20 of these cabins this one being the most difficult I have ever done. Restoration time is usually about 6 months for one of these cabins, this one took almost a year. After completing this project, I submitted a bill for \$5000 dollars for extra time and labor. The Craig County Historical Society voted and approved but two of the Historical Society members decided I did not deserve this and I was not paid. The two Historical Society members were disrespectful and hard to work with throughout the whole project. I restored the other cabin in town about 20 years ago with no problems. The Holstein cabin will stand for many years as a testament to my hard work and skills- I believe I should be paid for it. I want to give special thanks to the people that contributed to this project: Rob Bradley, Rob Givings, Mary & Pete Hutchinson, Joel Johnston, Randy Zimmerman, Ed Mattox, and Karen Barnheart.

Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3465 WEBSTER ROAD, BLUE RIDGE, VA 24064.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 26, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$105,539.12 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 070000271. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on January 9, 2023, at 12:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEING THAT CERTAIN 0.713 ACRE, AS SHOWN ON HTAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY JACK G. BESS, C.L.S., FOR GERALDINE B. CARTER, DATED APRIL 3, 1980. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsa.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsa.com. VA-359323-1.

Legals - City of Radford

Cellco Partnership

and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 25.5 feet on a 38-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 200 Jefferson Street, Radford, City of Radford, VA 24142 (37-08-09.00.- 80-32-59.97). Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Kayla Lauer, k.lauer@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

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Above left, Jaiden Childress rises above the crowd to score against Hidden Valley last week. Above right, Isaiah Board splits the Titan defense. Below, Hayden Eads shoots a three for the Terriers.

PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

Terriers down Demons for 2nd straight win

The Big Orange Classic wrestling tournament is scheduled for this weekend but it isn't as big as usual. The tournament, normally held over two days, will be a one day affair on Saturday with wrestling beginning at 9 am.

The reason for the change is the continuing construction at William Byrd High School. This year the Big Orange will be held in the middle school gym, just across the parking lot from the high school. A total of 18 teams are scheduled to attend.

"The high school is currently under construction and power will be getting turned on and off during our winter break so we had to find a new home for the tournament this year," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler. "Thankfully the middle school is allowing us to use their gyms and we are very thankful for their hospitality. Next year we will be back in the high school and we will have it over two

days."

Byrd is coming off a sixth place finish in the Titan Toughman Tournament, held over two days at Hidden Valley High School last weekend. Glenvar, a Class 2 school, finished first among 27 schools entered.

"We really grew a lot from week one to week two of the season," said Kessler.

Byrd had three third place finishers, Dominic Pascoe at 120, Stephen Underwood at 157 and Aiden Lucas at 215.

Pascoe and Underwood both made the semifinals before losing, then wrestled back to win the consolation bracket. Pascoe beat Mason Hylton of Glenvar in the consolation final with a 2:50 pin to improve his record to 6-2.

Underwood won a 7-3 decision over Thomas Maxwell of Rockbridge in the 157 third place match. Stephen is now 8-3.

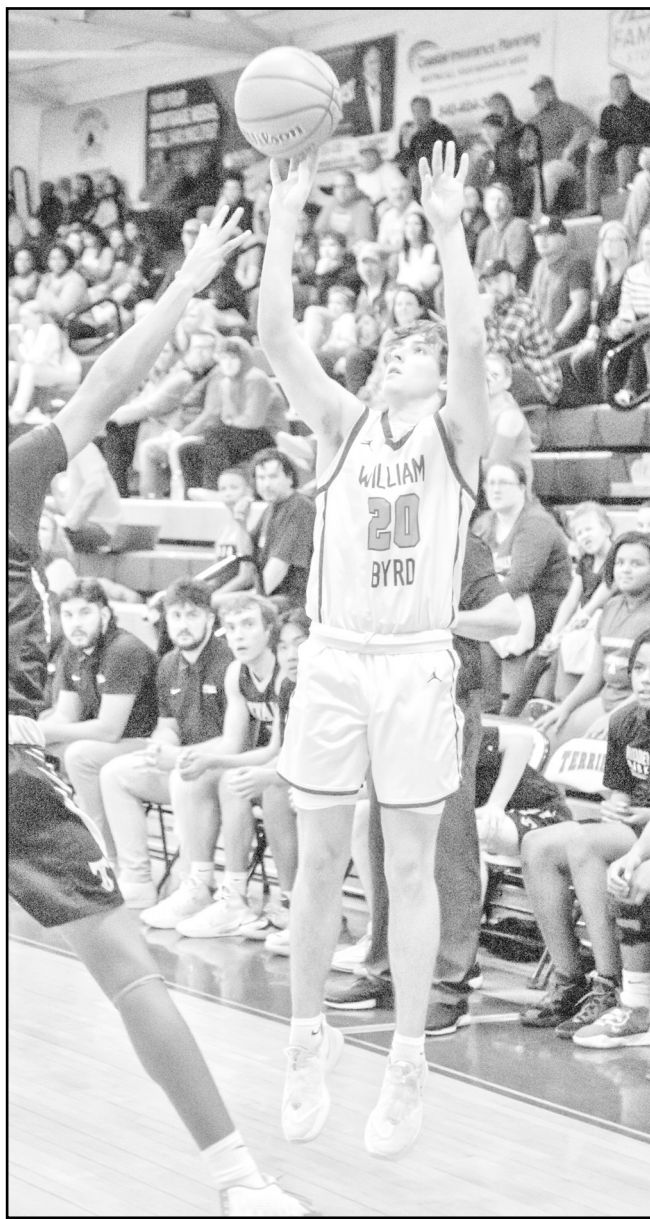
At 215, Lucas lost to Dalton Oxley of Lord Botetourt in the

quarterfinals but rallied back to win four straight matches in the consolation round, including a 7-2 win over Abdullah Mastrogianni of Blacksburg in the third place match.

Darin Witcher also made the semifinals at 106 and finished fourth. Gage Cockran took a fifth at 126 while Curtis Dillon, at 132, and Landon Barber, at 165, took sixth places.

"Curtis Dillon and Landon Barber both were super impressive, only wrestling in their second tournaments of their careers," said Kessler. "They both placed sixth out of 27 teams. Both guys have worked so hard and listened to coaching well, it's a testament to how they practice every day."

After the Big Orange the Terriers will be at Northside next Wednesday. Then, after Christmas, they're entered in a holiday tournament at Heritage on December 29 and 30.



Girls are in Cave Spring Christmas event next week

The William Byrd girls will be entered in the Knights' Christmas Classic basketball event over three days next week. The tournament runs from December 21-23.

Byrd will open on Wednesday, December 21, with a 2 pm game against Staunton River. On the

22nd they play E.C. Glass at 2 pm and on Friday, the 23rd, they play Floyd, also at 2 pm.

The girls were scheduled to play at home against Hidden Valley on Wednesday of this week, but results were too late for publication. That was their first game in eight days.

Indoor track team runs in big meet at Liberty University

The William Byrd High School indoor track team traveled to their second indoor track meet of the season last Saturday 10th at Liberty University for the Liberty Flames High School Invitational. The meet had over 60 schools from the states of Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina.

On the ladies' side Sydney Blewett finished 40th overall in the 55m dash with a time of 7.92 and Maddie Simmons finished in the top 60 with a time of 8.21. Grace Onwi finished 42nd overall in the 300 meter dash with a time of 45.61.

Olivia Hurd state qualified in the 500m dash with a time of 1:23.60 and a 13th place finish while

Alexandra Bonilla finished 34th with a time of 1:37.01. The 4x200m relay of Blewett, Simmons, Olivia Bustamante and Allyson Mavredes finished 19th overall with a time of 1:58.87.

In the field events, McKenna Paradis finished 19th in the shot put with a throw of 26'07 and McKinley Figart was 49th with a throw of 19'06.

On the boys' side Dylan Hughes finished 28th overall in the 55m dash with a time of 6.89 and Noah Thompson finished 60th with a time of 7.06. In the 300m dash DeShawn Austin was 56th overall with a time of 38.44.

Wyatte Bailey state qualified in the 500 meters

with a time of 1:09.35 and a seventh place finish and Donald Mullins was 19th overall with a time of 1:14.20.

In the relays, the boys 4x200 meter team of of Hughes, Brady Reachy, Noah Thompson and DeShannon Reed finished ninth overall with a time of 1:35.93. The 4x400 meter relay of Bailey, Mullins, Austin and Jhaquin Johnson finished 14th with a time of 3:46.88.

On Saturday December 17th the William Byrd Track and Field Team will travel to Liberty University for the Liberty University Christmas Invitational, which will begin at 9:30 am.



Left, Byrd's Seth Elmore glides over a hurdle at Liberty University last week. Right, Sydney Blewett takes off in the 4x200 relay.

PHOTOS BY BARRY COX



Big Orange Classic is one day at the middle school

The Big Orange Classic wrestling tournament is scheduled for this weekend but it isn't as big as usual. The tournament, normally held over two days, will be a one day affair on Saturday with wrestling beginning at 9 am.

The reason for the change is the continuing construction at William Byrd High School. This year the Big Orange will be held in the middle school gym, just across the parking lot from the high school. A total of 18 teams are scheduled to attend.

"The high school is currently under construction and power will be getting turned on and off during our winter break so we had to find a new home for the tournament this year," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler. "Thankfully the middle school is allowing us to use their gyms and we are very thankful for their hospitality. Next year we will be back in the high school and we will have it over two days."

Byrd is coming off a sixth place finish in the Titan Toughman Tournament, held over two days at Hidden Valley High School last weekend. Glenvar, a Class 2 school, finished first among 27 schools entered.

"We really grew a lot from week one to week two of the season," said Kessler.

Byrd had three third place finishers, Dominic Pascoe at 120, Stephen Underwood at 157 and Aiden Lucas at 215.

Pascoe and Underwood both made the semifinals before losing, then wrestled back to win the consolation bracket. Pascoe beat Mason Hylton of Glenvar in the consolation final with a 2:50 pin to improve his record to 6-2.

Underwood won a 7-3 decision over Thomas Maxwell of Rockbridge in the 157 third place match. Stephen is now 8-3.

At 215, Lucas lost to Dalton Oxley of Lord Botetourt in the quarterfinals but rallied back to win four straight matches in the consolation round, including a 7-2 win over Abdullah Mastrogiovanni of Blacksburg in the third place match.

Darin Witcher also made the semifinals at 106 and finished fourth. Gage Cockran took a fifth at 126 while Curtis Dillon, at 132, and Landon Barber, at 165, took sixth places.

"Curtis Dillon and Landon Barber both were super impressive, only wrestling in their second tournaments of their careers," said Kessler. "They both placed sixth out of 27 teams. Both guys have worked so hard and listened to coaching well, it's a testament to how they practice every day."

After the Big Orange the Terriers will be at Northside next Wednesday. Then, after Christmas, they're entered in a holiday tournament at Heritage on December 29 and 30.

Above left, Byrd's Darin Witcher (orange singlet) battles Emmanuel Marin-Mend of Patrick Henry in the 106 semifinal of the Titan Toughman Tournament. Above, Stephen Underwood has a hold of Joel Swanson of Northside in the 157 pound semis and, below, Dominic Pascoe tries to escape the hold of Brady Hand of Christiansburg in the 120 pound semifinal.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Vinton Christmas Door Contest winners announced

The results are in from the judges. The Town of Vinton has announced the winners in its annual Door/Storefront Decorating Contest.

Drive through Vinton and take a look at all the decorations on the streetlights, businesses, and municipal properties, along with all the

beautiful homes decked out for the holidays.

Submitted by Chasity Barbour, Town of Vinton Community Programs Director

Coming in first place with "Best All Around" is the Vinton Public Works Department (located on Third Street).

Pretty Paws Dog and Cat Grooming Salon won the award for "Best Window Lights." It is located on North Pollard.

Creative Occasions on Lee Avenue received the award for "Best Visual."

Earthworks Pottery on South Pollard won the award for "Most Creative."

"Most Festive" went to the Vinton Municipal Building, also on South Pollard.

Participants in this year's 2022 contest included:

- Citizen's Upholstery
- Creative Occasions
- Earthworks Pottery
- Leonard's
- Pinnacle Financial Partners
- Pretty Paws Dog and Cat Grooming Salon
- RND Coffee
- Rustic Creations
- The Hemp Mill
- Twin Creeks Brewing Company
- Vinton History Museum
- Vinton Municipal Building
- Vinton Police Department
- Vinton Professional Hair Stylist
- Vinton Public Works
- Vinton War Memorial
- Wood's Automotive



PHOTO BY CHASITY BARBOUR

The Vinton Public Works Dept. was named "Best All Around" in the 2022 Door/Storefront Decorating Contest.



Earthworks Pottery on South Pollard Street was named "Most Creative" in this year's Vinton Door/Storefront Decorating Contest.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Creative Occasions on East Lee Avenue was awarded "Best Visual" in the 2022 Vinton Door/Storefront Decorating Contest.



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