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The Vinton Messenger

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One of the balloon puppets in the Bonsack Elementary 2022 Balloons over Bonsack parade honored the students from the University of Virginia who lost their lives on Nov. 13.

Bonsack fifth graders stage 'Balloons over Bonsack' parade

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The fifth graders at Bonsack Elementary School held their annual "Balloons over Bonsack" parade on November 22. This is a STEM project which began back in 2016. Students are asked to design and create a balloon puppet to represent one of the gigantic balloons from the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

On the afternoon before schools dismiss for the Thanksgiving holiday, the fifth graders form a parade and walk the halls as students from grades K-4 applaud and cheer them on.

Teacher Laura Muncey says the idea came from a similar project presented by Mason's Cove Elementary teachers at a Share Fair several years ago.

The "Balloons over Bonsack" parade grew from another Bonsack Elementary tradition in which the fifth graders walk the halls on the last day of the school year cheered on by students in the lower grades.

The project starts off each year with students reading "Balloons over Broadway" by author Melissa Sweet with li-

brarian Rose McCarthy to learn about the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The book tells the story of Tony Sarg, the puppeteer and marionette master who created the first Macy's upside-down puppet parade balloons in 1928, and which have become the parade's trademark in the years since.

McCarthy also introduces students to the Macy's parade website so they can research the balloons which have been featured throughout the history of the parade and which ones were to be featured in 2022.

Students in groups of two to four took on the "Design Challenge" of creating a balloon "puppet" to represent one of the balloons in the parade, or one of their own choosing.

There was a rubric with specific guidelines. There had to be at least one balloon used, but not more than four, with all balloons connected to the "puppet."

Students had to include at least one defining feature of the original balloon they were trying to duplicate. For instance,

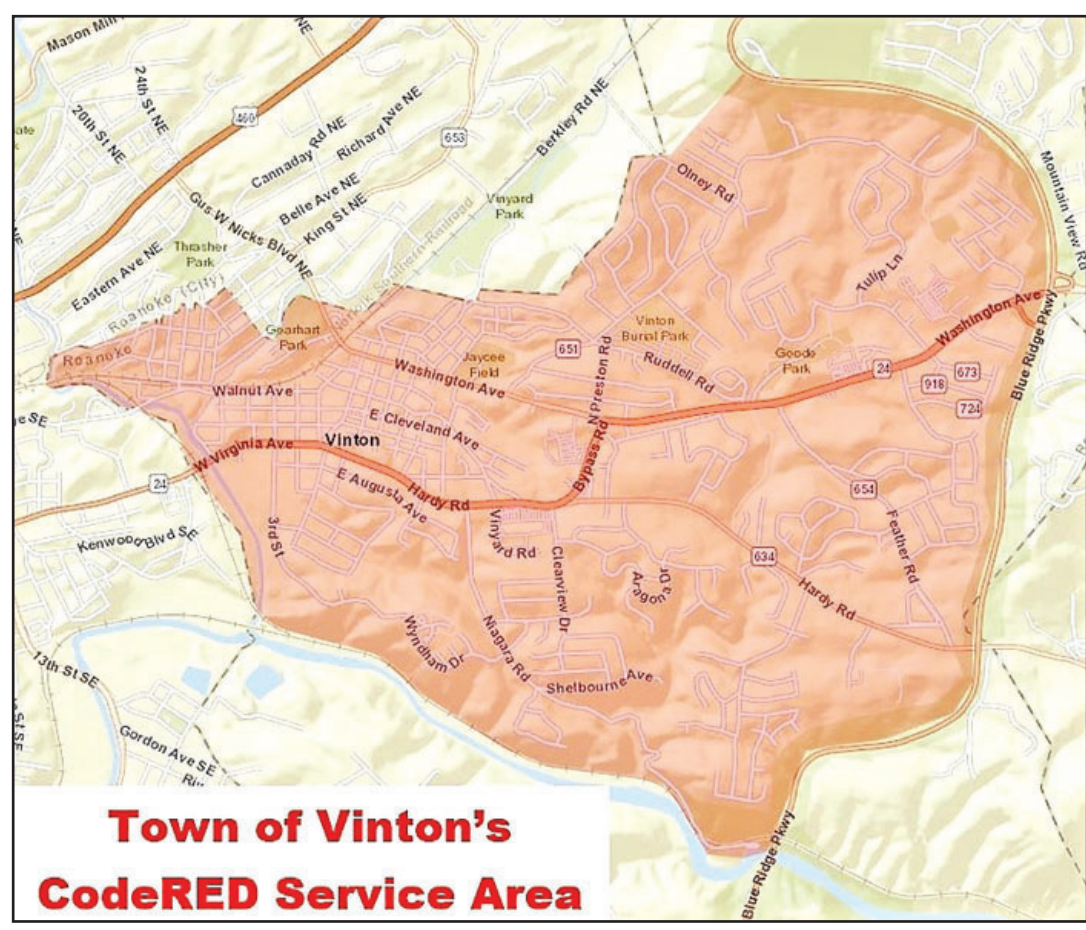
See **Balloons**, page 6



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Minions in the Balloons over Bonsack parade on Nov. 22.

Town of Vinton to provide CodeRED alert system



Town of Vinton's CodeRED Service Area

PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

The map indicates the service area for CodeRED. Citizens may begin signing up for the service immediately.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council and Town Manager Pete Peters wanted a way to notify all its citizens and businesses of emergency situations, along with those in nearby East Roanoke County. After an extensive review of mass emergency alerting systems, the town has contracted with CodeRED, with the system going live on Thursday, Dec. 1.

CodeRED is a high-speed emergency notification system provided by OnSolve. According to the town, public safety officials across the United States have credited CodeRED notifications with saving lives, locating missing children, apprehending wanted criminals, and issuing timely evacuations in cases of natural disasters and severe weather.

The CodeRED system will now serve as the backbone of Vinton's emergency plan-

ning and communications outreach. The platform will allow the Town of Vinton to communicate with registered residents, businesses, and town personnel by informing them of emergencies which will better protect life and property. CodeRED was selected for its reliability and accuracy, as well as the system's widespread usage across North America.

The town anticipates using the system to notify residents of evacuation notices; criminal activities; shelter in place/lockdown alerts; missing child/person alerts; boil water advisories; road closures due to construction, accidents, special events, or other issues; notifications of hazardous traffic or road conditions, natural disaster information, and more.

Notifications will be delivered in the form of cell phone and landline telephone calls, text messages, emails, posts to social media, and mobile app

messages. Citizens may select the best option (s) for themselves. The CodeRED system will even leave messages on your answering machine or on voicemail. If your line is busy, CodeRED makes a total of three attempts to connect.

You must register for the service; however, registration is quite simple. Individuals add their landline phone numbers, cell phone numbers, and/or email addresses to receive notifications.

Town staff highly recommends registering with a "managed account" which can be updated when necessary, although there are also "Single Sign-on" accounts and "Non-managed" accounts available.

In registering for a managed account, you create a username and password, then add your name and address, your phone number (s) and/or email address.

Residents and businesses

See **CodeRED**, page 4

Vinton Business of the Week – La casa Del Burrito Taco Shop



Angel Vasquez is one of the owners of La Casa Del Burrito Taco Shop, along with his brother Edgar. Angel's wife Roxy manages the restaurant.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

La Casa Del Burrito Taco Shop is located at the corner of W. Virginia Avenue and 2nd Street in Vinton.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Brothers Angel and Edgar Vasquez opened La casa Del Burrito Taco Shop in Vinton in 2018—their first business. The original plan was to open the restaurant in Rocky Mount, but they ultimately chose their spot at 515 2nd Street because of its location along Virginia Avenue, a main thoroughfare in Vinton, and the availability of the building—plus a business-friendly town government.

The brothers saw a need for "a fast, authentic, southwestern taco shop" in the area. Their aim was to bring the taste of San Diego, the southern California flavor, to the Roanoke Valley, in contrast to the Tex-Mex style readily available locally.

For a time, the family operated a food truck as well, but then decided to open another "brick and mortar" establishment in Rocky Mount, which took the food truck's place.

Hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The restau-

See **Taco Shop**, page 6

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Vinton History Museum enters 'Dogwood Tree' in Fashions for Evergreens competition, hosting Holiday Open House

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Last year, the Vinton History Museum won second place in the annual Hotel Roanoke Fashions for Evergreens competition. The event is a fundraiser for the United Way of Roanoke Valley, having raised over \$85,000 over the past decade.

In 2021, the museum submitted an application to join the event, but was put on a waiting list. Someone dropped out at the last minute, giving the museum the opportunity to enter the competition.

Being a winner in the 2021 competition allowed the museum a spot in this year's contest—one of about 26 entries.

The theme last year was "Victorian Christmas," using ornaments that had been donated to the museum by Nancy Morris.

The museum staff and volunteers came up with this year's theme while they were decorating that one, brainstorming about using the dogwood as their inspiration. Dogwoods traditionally represent kindness, stability, and determination, plus Vinton is famous for its Dogwood Festival, beginning in 1955. Hotel Roanoke staff told the volunteers that there has never been a Dogwood-themed tree in the competition before as far as anyone recalls.

Volunteers, members of the museum's board of directors, and museum Executive Director Judy Cunningham formed a committee to come up with a detailed design and then decorate the tree—including Debbie Pitts, Mary Beth Layman, Ann Hewitt, Julie Tucei, Jan Dickens, Judy Kelly, Ann Anderson, and Aaron Layman.

Cunningham, Pitts, Layman, Hewitt, Tucei, and Anderson showed up bright and early at the hotel on Nov. 21 to spend the day working on the 10-foot tree, which was provided by the Hotel Roanoke.

The tree was wrapped with several strings of lights, including sets of cascading, twinkling lights which had been donated to the museum, festooned with many white and pink dogwood garlands discovered on clearance at discount prices last March at local retailers, glittering ribbon also on sale, and a beautiful lace skirt for under the tree.



The Vinton History Museum "Dogwood Tree" is now on display at the Hotel Roanoke Fashions for Evergreens competition. Stop by (or go online) and vote for the People's Choice award among the 26 trees on display. You can tour Fashions for Evergreens through New Year's Day.

The Fashions for Evergreens trees will be on display at the Hotel Roanoke during the holiday season until New Year's Day. The community is encouraged to tour the display and cast a monetary vote for their favorite tree with proceeds benefitting the United Way. The People's Choice winner will be announced on New Year's Day. (You may also vote online.)

Layman says one of the benefits of being invited to provide a tree for Fashions for Evergreens is the publicity it brings to your cause or organization.

Mark Frye and his Creative Occasions Events, Flowers, and Gifts, located on Lee Avenue in downtown Vinton, have participated in Fashions for Evergreens for several years and have a tree on display this year as well.

The Vinton History Museum is located at 210 E. Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton. It is usually open Monday, Wednesday,



Vinton's Creative Occasions Flowers, Gifts and Events, owned by Mark Frye, also has a tree on display again this year at the Hotel Roanoke.

Friday, and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 23 through Jan. 3.

The museum will be holding its annual Holiday Open House on Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is invited to visit the museum and see the vintage holiday décor throughout the museum along with artifacts numbering in the thousands.

The Gift Niche at the Vinton History Museum offers unique and one-of-a-kind items. Museum volunteers have been busy making personalized holiday baskets. Holiday décor items are available and museum items commemorating the Town of Vinton also make great gifts.

Some special gift suggestions from the Vinton History Museum include:

The Town of Vinton Tapestry Throw
"My Story Begins Here" Vinton T-shirts
Collector Vinton Christmas ornaments



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Volunteers and staff from the Vinton History Museum, including Julie Tucei, decorated the Dogwood Tree at the Hotel Roanoke on Nov. 21.

Roland E. Cook notecards
Commemorative Bricks at the Vinton History Museum Pergola

Vintage William Byrd High School "Black Swan" yearbooks from various years

Vinton History Museum memberships, annual, lifetime, and corporate

The Vinton History Museum will be selling gift baskets and Christmas items at the 'Holiday Pop-Up' at the Vinton Farmer's Market on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Contact the Vinton History Museum at info@vintonhistorymuseum.org or 540-342-8634. Or drop by the Vinton History Museum at 210 E. Jackson Avenue on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum also has two Facebook pages packed with information and history—"Vinton History Museum" and "Vinton Memories & History."

Lancerlot ice skating sets the scene and mood for the holidays

If you need some Christmas spirit, stop by the Lancerlot Sports Complex to see their extravagant Winter Wonderland of holiday decorations—trees, lights, and inflatables—and do some ice skating on selected afternoons and evenings from now through the end of December. In fact, there are open-skating hours afternoons and/or evenings every day except Christmas Day. All ages and skill levels are welcome. If you are the victim of slippery skating feet, they even have ice skating walkers.

For more information, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/people/LancerLot-Sports-Complex/100064077820837/> or their website at www.lancerlotsportscomplex.com.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Lancerlot is celebrating the holidays with public holiday skating.

Blue Ridge Figure Skating Team/Lancerlot presents figure skating Theatre on Ice program on Dec. 10 and 11

The Blue Ridge Figure Skating Team and Lancerlot Sports Complex presents

SKATING THROUGH THE DECADES

With music from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s

LANCERLOT SPORTS COMPLEX
1110 VINYARD RD.
VINTON, VA 24179

DECEMBER 10, 2022 - 6:15P
DECEMBER 11, 2022 - 1:15P

\$5 ADMISSION
CHILDREN 5 AND YOUNGER FREE

SUBMITTED BY BLUE RIDGE FIGURE SKATING TEAM AND LSC

The Blue Ridge Figure Skating Team and the Lancerlot Sports Complex will present their Theater on Ice program "Skating Through the Decades" Dec. 10 at 6:15 p.m. and again Dec. 11 at 1:15 p.m. Performances will be at the Lancerlot in Vinton.

The figure skating show will include four group performances to hits from the 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's with an additional 18 solo programs from local figure skaters.

Take a look at the Blue Ridge Figure Skating Face-

book page at <https://www.facebook.com/blueridgefigureskatingclubva/> for a preview of some of the program by this new figure skating club.

Tickets are \$5 at the door; children 5 and under are free.

The Lancerlot Sports Complex is located at 1110 Vinyard Road in Vinton, across the street from Rosie's Gaming Emporium and behind Lake Drive Plaza shopping center.

Submitted by Blue Ridge Figure Skating Team and LSC

HISTORIC FINCASTLE ARTS & CRAFTS HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

9:30 – 3:00 Free Entry

FINCASTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

ROUTE 220, FINCASTLE, VA

HOMEMADE ART AND CRAFTS FOR ALL INTERESTS!

CodeRED from page 1

in Vinton and East Roanoke County can learn more about, and register for, the CodeRED system by visiting: www.vintonva.gov/CodeRED-Alert-System.

You may register online at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BF360905066D>; with your Smartphone by texting "TOVAlerts" to 99411; scan the QR Code on the flyer with your phone camera; or call 540-983-0601 and select CodeRED assistance from the menu.

There is no charge for citizens to use the service. The town will be picking up the tab as an annual expense in its budget.

"CodeRED's robust system will provide Vinton officials with a reliable, easy-to-use technology to enhance our emergency preparedness plans," said Mayor Brad Grose.

The town also pur-


chased the CodeRED Weather Warning system, an automated weather warning technology that delivers phone calls, text messages, and emails to registered residents, businesses, and town personnel within the direct path of severe weather. The CodeRED Weather Warning system is an opt-in service that notifies those registered of tornado, flash flood, and severe thunderstorm warnings just moments after an alert is issued by the National Weather Service (NWS).

Only authorized Town of Vinton officials will have access to send notifications within the CodeRED system. Vinton Planning and Zoning Coordinator Julie Tucci will be the main point of contact. Other officials with access and shared responsibilities will include Town Manager Pete Peters, Associate Planner Fayula Gor-


don, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police Mandie Baker, Public Works Administrative Manager Jill Acker, and Economic Development Specialist Marshall Stanley.

CodeRED is an enhanced communications system. The Town of Vinton will continue to provide emergency information to local TV, radio, and newspapers, as well as to Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Initially all phone numbers listed in the "white pages" are entered by the vendor into the CodeRED system, but the database does not include cell phone numbers or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone (Internet calling) numbers. So, please don't assume your information is in the system. The limited personal information you provide is protected within the CodeRED system.



Keeping Our Citizens Informed.



REGISTER FOR CODERED ALERTS!



Sign up for the CodeRED notification system to receive alerts and updates during emergency events.

All citizens and businesses are encouraged to register.

REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BF360905066D>

REGISTER ON YOUR SMARTPHONE:
Text "TOVAlerts" to 99411 or scan the above QR Code with your phone camera.

FOR CITIZENS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS:
Call 540-983-0601 and select CodeRED registration assistance from the menu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.vintonva.gov/CodeRED-Alert-System

PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

Visit www.vintonva.gov/CodeRED-Alert-System for more information.

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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White Family at Blue Ridge Baptist on Dec. 11

Blue Ridge Baptist Church with the White Family Christian Blue Ridge Baptist is located invites the community to "Celebrate the Birth of Our Savior" Gospel singers on Dec. 11 at 11 a.m. at 2410 Hardy Road. All are welcome.

Celebrating the Birth of Our Savior

The White Family



Sunday, December 11 at 11 a.m.
Blue Ridge Baptist Church
2410 Hardy Road, Vinton, VA 24179

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

NO LONGER A STRANGER

Read: Ephesians 1:1 through 3:21

Being a stranger in a new setting always causes a little anxiety. There are new faces and places. There are strange smells and sounds. There are new sights. The more foreign the land, the more intense these differences seem. Having a guide, someone who is familiar with the place and who can introduce us to new people, is very helpful.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household (Ephesians 2:19).

At one time, we were all strangers to God's kingdom and to His promises. But in Christ, we find our way. He has "brought us near" when once we were "far off." It is through His blood that He has brought us into the Kingdom. Because of Him we are no longer strangers and foreigners, but we are fellow citizens in God's house.

Like a guide, Jesus is the one who has bought our passage and shown us the way. Because of Him, we can claim the status of being part of God's household.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank God for bringing you into His Kingdom.

Quicklook: Ephesians 2:11-22

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at 540-473-2741 or email tfrye@ourvalley.org

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 Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

UNITED METHODIST

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

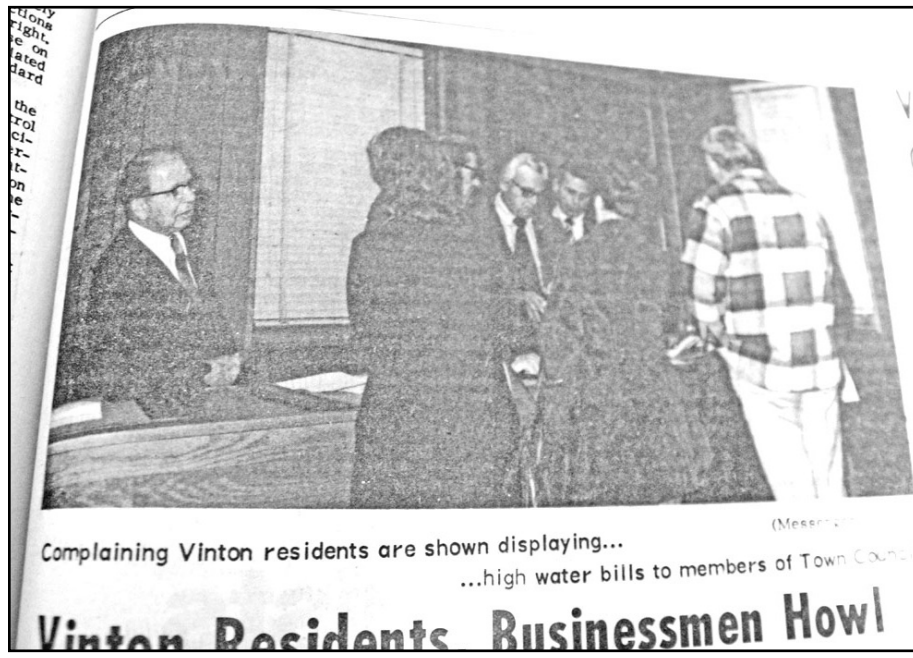
WESLEYAN

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



Remembering Vinton

with the Vinton Historical Society



Complaining Vinton residents are shown displaying...
...high water bills to members of Town Council.
Vinton Residents Businessmen Howl

Citizens demanded relief from higher than usual water bills.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Fifty years ago in November 1972, incumbent Republican President Richard M. Nixon and Democrat George McGovern were running for the presidency. Spiro Agnew was Nixon's running mate; Sargent Shriver was on the ballot for vice president with McGovern. The Vinton Woman's Club offered voters rides to the polls. Those who needed a ride were asked to register by postcard.

A mock election held statewide among 58,000 junior and senior high school students gave the Nixon/Agnew ticket 72% of the vote. Archie Bunker received 87 write-in votes.

There was "unusually heavy" voting on Election Day at the two Vinton precincts, both of which went for Nixon (930 votes in East Vinton and 735 in West Vinton). McGovern received 319 votes in East Vinton and 251 in West Vinton. Caldwell Butler won election in the 6th District congressional race.

George Cadd, 84, was so adamant about casting his ballot

that the Vinton First Aid Crew transported him to the polls.

William Byrd High School students and faculty were holding their annual United Way fund drive and, in 1972, raised \$1,046, exceeding past records. Principal Robert Patterson said the goal was to raise about 25 cents per student. The school had an enrollment of 1,052 that year. Coach Roland Malone's class averaged \$3 per student. The Roanoke Valley United Fund Campaign raised \$1.4 million in total.

"I am extremely proud of our students for their accomplishment, but I am not at all surprised," said Principal Patterson. "The students and faculty here at Byrd have always eagerly accepted their community responsibilities and have faithfully responded to the call to fulfill their duties as good citizens."

Also, in November of '72, Vinton Town Manager Don Smith recommended that Vinton Town Council add another meeting each month. That would mean council would meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month—a schedule they still maintain in

2022. Meetings had become too lengthy and town business had become more complex.

The Nov. 1 edition of The Vinton Messenger reported that Mayor Gus Nicks, who suffered a heart attack at his furniture store on Oct. 19, 1972, was out of intensive care and improving, but remained at Lewis-Gale Hospital. By Nov. 8, Nicks was back at home recuperating.

William Byrd High School was holding parent-teacher conferences from 1 to 8 p.m. to help solve problems (learning, discipline, or otherwise) that students might have and talk about career and college plans.

In November 1972, the Vinton Police received a grant for \$2,556 to purchase four portable radios.

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service was held at Thrasher Memorial UMC on Thanksgiving Day at 9 a.m.

Plans were announced for Vinton's first Christmas Parade with the theme "Putting Christ Back in Christmas." The parade was to kick off at 10 a.m. in downtown Vinton and proceed to Lake Drive Shopping Center, where there would be an "old-

fashioned carol sing."

A 45-mile stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway was closed from 7 p.m. each night to 7 a.m. each morning due to an "increase in illegal activities" on the Parkway in the Roanoke area, and an "insufficient" staff of park rangers.

A variety show was planned at the high school to showcase outstanding talent in the area—both students and members of the "older generation." The program was organized by Bootie Chewning who performed "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and Mildred Scott.

The Roanoke County School Board approved a request from the County Council of PTAs to provide a sex education program for all county students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The program was entitled "Human Growth and Family Living." The proposal was sent on to the State Board of Education for approval.

Turkeys at H&H Supermarket were selling for 39 cents a pound, sweet potatoes for 15 cents a pound, and hams for 75 cents a pound during the holiday season in 1972. Jars of baby

food at Kroger were seven cents each.

The lead headline in the Vinton paper on Nov. 29 was "Vinton Residents, Businessmen Howl about Unusually High Water Billings." Apparently, the billings had doubled and even tripled. Bills that had totaled \$10 had jumped to \$27. Some were as high as \$62.

The initial response from Town Council was that "the water has been used and you will pay the bills." At one point "everybody got mad" and took their bills up to the council desk to show the members the differences in their last two bills." In the end, council decided to have the meters checked.

By the end of November 1972, Mayor Nicks was able to stop by The Vinton Messenger office for a visit and promote the first community performance of "The Messiah" at Thrasher Memorial. Jim Reynolds, president of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, announced that all new Christmas lights and decorations had been purchased to replace most of the "older, wind-swept" decorations that had short-circuited.



PHOTOS FROM THE VINTON MESSENGER ARCHIVES

Prices for Thanksgiving foods were a bargain in 1972.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Angie Chewning

There is nothing like family for the holidays! Thanksgiving was so much fun with everyone joining us for dinner. Valerie, Kyle, Chase (Let's go, Hokies) and Cade Hendricks, Amber and Lindsey Wells were all in from Richmond. Also joining us were Suzanne and Jimmy Bell, Bootie Greg Chewning, Drake and Hannah Lewis, Abbie Lewis, Vickie and Kent Smith and Jerry Franks.

Congratulations to Mark Frye on returning to the White House. What an honor to not only be chosen once but twice to decorate America's house! You make us so proud!

The GFWC Vinton Woman's Club served dinner to the guests at the Ronald McDonald House in Roanoke Tuesday night providing a home-cooked meal. While at the house they visited with the guests and contributed tab tops and gift cards.

If you are looking for someone to help this season, the GFWC Toter Woman's Club and GFWC Vinton Woman's Club members are collecting new sweat suits for the VA Hospital in Salem. They really need larger sizes for men and women. You are welcome to drop them off at the Vinton Chamber of Commerce office.

We hope to see everyone at the Vinton Christmas Parade Thursday, Dec. 1. Tree Lighting is at 6 p.m. and the parade starts at 7 p.m.



The Chewning family Thanksgiving 2022.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

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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Balloons from page 1

if the real Macy's balloon had a red nose, they needed a red nose on their puppet.

The balloon puppet was required to hang down from strings like a marionette puppet. Each puppet had to be at least 12 inches tall, not counting the strings. The balloon creations also had to stay connected and in one piece for the duration of the parade.

Students were instructed to brainstorm and sketch a blueprint for their balloon puppets and a list of the supplies they would need. The design had to be reviewed by a "parade manager" of designated school personnel.

Materials options— in addition to balloons and string— were straws, craft sticks, ribbon, recyclables (paper towel rolls, lids, tubes, etc.), various kinds of paper, pipe cleaners, felt, or brads. Students were also allowed to use glue, tape (minimized or hidden), markers, crayons, and staples. They were also allowed to use a balloon pump to inflate their balloons.

Once done, the groups were asked to evaluate the complications they experienced in carrying out the project.

The most memorable entry this year, and the one leading the parade, was the

balloon honoring the three University of Virginia Cavaliers who were victims of gun violence at UVA on the night of November 13.

Other balloon puppets this year included the Pillsbury Doughboy, Hello Kitty, Pikachu, Elf on a Shelf, Spot from the Good Dinosaur, Minions, the Death Star from Star Wars, Snoopy, Jack Skellington, Toothless, Charizard, an Artemis rocket, Stitch, Kirby, Chase from Paw Patrol, and Bluey, along with Snoopy and Woodstock.

Students in the lower grades lined the walls as the parade wound through the hallways, clapping and cheering for all the participants and most likely looking forward to a future day when they would be the ones showcasing their own balloons.

Bonsack staff facilitating the project this year were fifth grade teachers Laura Muncey, Suzanne Witcher, and Christi Stanley, along with librarian Rose McCarthy. Fifth grade parents were credited with donating the supplies for the STEM project.

Check out The Vinton Messenger Facebook page to see all of the balloons in this year's parade.

Taco Shop from page 1



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Angie Chewning, Executive Director of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, designed the restaurant's logo which appears on the website and Facebook pages.

rant is closed on Sunday and Monday.

The reason for those early hours is that the restaurant sells breakfast—think breakfast burritos and combos— all day long. In fact, the entire menu is available all day long.

Angel's wife Roxy, who manages the operations, says that their appeal to customers is that they are a "mom and pop" shop where everything is made fresh and made to order. They are not a chain restaurant, but a small business, and doing very well at it. Part of that is their reasonable prices. Tacos start at \$2; breakfast burritos at \$4. There's food for the kids— chicken tenders or cheese quesadillas with fries.

At La casa Del Burrito Taco Shop you place your order at the counter for take-out or eat in dining.

The restaurant has a huge menu. Roxy says that among the most popu-

lar items are the California burritos and Mulitas— made with two tortillas, not one, with a variety of fillings. Every other Wednesday they sell out of their special four quesabirria tacos which come with a dipping broth for \$8.99.

Fresh fruit waters (pineapple, melons, mango, and more) are also popular with customers.

Almost everyone who comes through the door seems to be a regular customer from the Fed Ex driver to members of the Vinton Police Department located just a block away.

For more information check out the website at <https://la-casa-del-burrito-taco-shop.business.site/> and their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/people/La-casa-del-burrito-taco-shop-Mexican-food/100036470055607/> or call 540-206-3683.

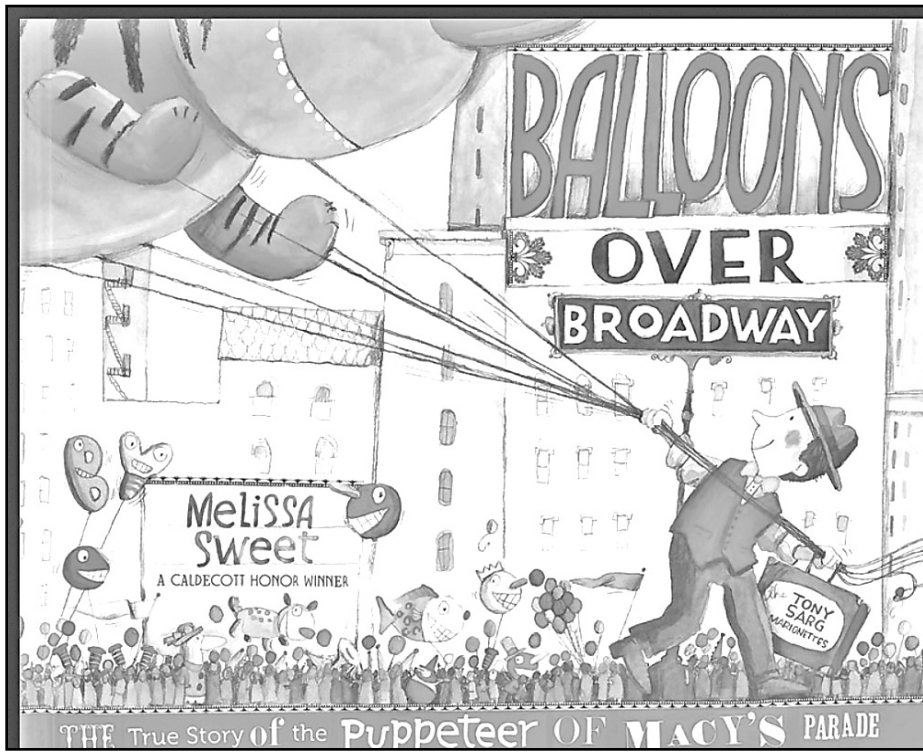


PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Balloons over Bonsack STEM project is based on the book "Balloons over Broadway" which tells the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Registration open for Gauntlet 2023

Registration is now open for the ninth annual Gauntlet Business Program and Competition.

Entrepreneurs with bold ideas, who have a business idea that needs a jumpstart, or a business that is ready to scale, are invited to take action and accelerate their entrepreneurial ideas into reality.

The Gauntlet 2023 is sponsored by The Advancement Foundation, based in Vinton. It is Virginia's largest business program and competition and offers a proven formula to assist entrepreneurs in the development of their business idea, an opportunity to collaborate with entrepreneurs across the region, individual pairing with a mentor, and connection to a myriad of other resources designed to support new and expanding businesses.

The Gauntlet has empowered more than 700 entrepreneurs, developed and connected a mentor network of 250 professionals, and awarded over \$7 million in resources including grants, cash, and in-kind prizes.

The Gauntlet ignites opportunities through business training, mentorship opportunities, scaling strategies, and entrepreneurial ecosystem building. Anyone can participate in this competition for over \$300,000 in cash and prizes.

Virtual classes begin on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

For more information about The Gauntlet and to apply online, visit www.TheAdvancementFoundation.org/Gauntlet.

Submitted by The Advancement Foundation

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Cornmeal Cookies

From the kitchen of "Singing Heart Woman" Gerri Reynolds Wade, a birthright member of the federally recognized Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia

Cornmeal Cookies
 Ingredients:
 1/3 tsp. salt
 1/2 cup sorghum or black molasses (may substitute honey or maple syrup)
 2 large eggs, beaten
 1 and 3/4 cups flour
 3/4 cup margarine
 3/4 cup sugar
 2 tsp. vanilla
 1/2 cup cornmeal
 2 tsp. baking powder
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream salt, sugar, and margarine. Add vanilla, beaten eggs, molasses. Beat well until creamy. In separate bowl mix together flour, cornmeal, and baking powder. Add dry mix to



creamy mix. Blend well. Pat or drop dough from tablespoon onto greased baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 12-15 minutes until golden brown. Enjoy!

This recipe has been modernized with the use of margarine instead of lard. Feel free to use lard for a good jolt to the arteries!

CROSSWORD ANSWERS									
S	L	R	F	O	N	S	C	H	
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OBITUARY

Hackworth, John Edward, Sr.

John Edward Hackworth Sr., 82, of Goodview, went home to be with His Lord as the sun came up on Saturday, November 19, 2022, which happened to be his favorite day of the year, opening day of rifle season for deer hunting. John was surrounded by his wife, Phyllis, with whom he shared 59 years, and their three children as he peacefully inherited all that is promised to those who call upon the name of Jesus Christ for salvation.



John taught architectural drafting, industrial arts, and woodworking at William Byrd High School for 30 years and was loved by students and fellow teachers alike. He lived a full, rich life finding joy in watching sports, hunting and fishing, and his wife's great cooking. He especially loved coaching wrestling and the

young men whose lives he was able to impact along the way.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Beatrice Hackworth.

Together, John and Phyllis shared a blessed life and built a large, beautiful family. In addition to his wife, John is survived by their daughter, Terrie Bowser, and her husband, David; daughter, Cindy Moran, and her husband, Tim; and son, John Jr., and his wife, Karla; 11 grandchildren, Laura and Matt Bowser, Emery Driver, Jordan, Timothy, Hannah, Spencer, and McKenzie Moran, Abigail Hackworth Mooney, Maggie and Jake Hackworth; and one great-granddaughter, Juliette.

His family invited all those who loved John to celebrate his life at Lynn Haven Baptist Church at 1501 East Washington Avenue in Vinton at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 26, 2022. The family received friends for one hour prior to the service and again afterward.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to Good Samaritan Hospice of Roanoke at 2408 Electric Road, Roanoke, VA 24018. They took wonderful care of John in his final hours. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.Oakeys.com. Arrangements were by Oakey's Vinton Chapel, (540) 982-2221.

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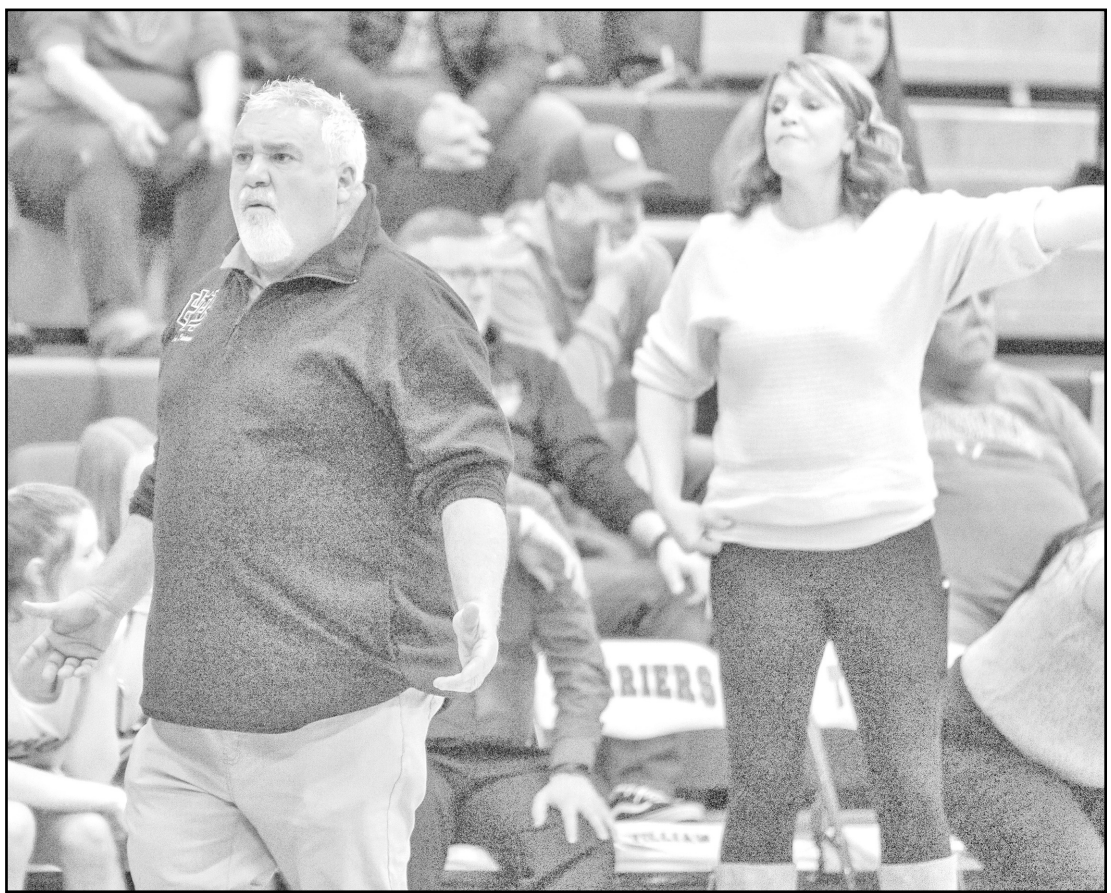
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Above left, William Byrd's Samantha Martin drives to the basket in Tuesday's season opener in Vinton. Above, coach Randy Bush and assistant Brandy Helton are puzzled by a call. Left, Logan Andrews drives on a Knight defender.

PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

Knights win girls' opener

The William Byrd girls have a busy week as they open the basketball season with three games in four days. The girls debuted with a loss to Cave Spring on Tuesday, and Wednesday they were scheduled to play at home against Christiansburg. A busy week continues with a game at Bassett this Friday.

On Tuesday in Vinton Cave Spring took the season opener, 49-26. The Terriers trailed by just two points at the half, 21-19, before the visiting Knights took control after intermission.

"We got off to a good start, but did not do the things in the second half that we did in first half," said Byrd coach Randy Bush.

Freshman Logan Andrews led Byrd in scoring in her first varsity game with nine points. Samantha Martin had seven, Alexis Helton scored six, Jada Johnson had three and Kanzi Lee hit a foul shot. The Terriers are playing without senior point guard Sophia Chrisley, who is still recovering from a broken leg she suffered during the soccer season.

"These girls have a great work ethic so we will continue to learn and get better," said Bush.

Defending champs look strong in season debut with Byrd

When you're a young team with a starting lineup of players who never previously started a varsity game, who do you want your season opening opponent to be? Probably not the defending state champion.

That was the task the William Byrd boys faced as they opened the season before a packed house at Cave Spring Tuesday. The host Knights were Class 3 state champions a year ago and are generally considered the top team in the division to open this season.

That was the challenge the Byrd boys had Tuesday and Cave Spring didn't disappoint as the Knights

raced to a 62-34 win. It was a tall order, literally, to start the season for the Terriers.

"They have four guys 6'4" or taller, and they can shoot threes," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway. "We knew it was going to be a tough opener. We've been playing Cave Spring to start the season since I was on the team."

The first half didn't go well. The Knights led 18-4 after one quarter, hitting three three-pointers, then upped the advantage to 34-14 by the half. The Terriers didn't quit and hung tough after intermission

but by that time the game had already been decided.

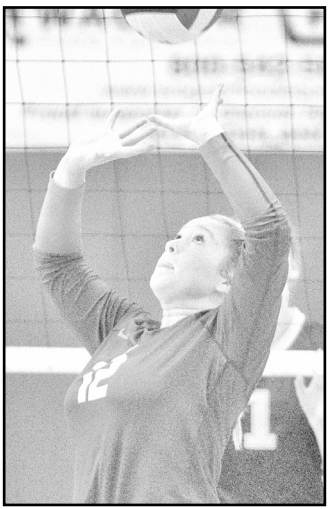
"It was a tough opponent but we know what we have to do to get better," said Greenway. "We have our work cut out for us."

Junior Ty Blalock led the Terriers with nine points. Jaiden Childress and Hayden Eads had eight each and Isaiah Board had five.

The Terriers game originally scheduled for Friday against Christiansburg has been postponed with the Demons still in the football playoffs. Next Tuesday, December 6, Cave Spring returns the trip to Vinton.

ALL 3-D

The All-Region 3D volleyball team was recently announced and William Byrd senior setter Carsyn Kotz(Iright) was named to the first team. Byrd also had a second teamer in junior Terran Brown and Ella Ashworth, a senior, was honorable mention.



Pro Box Lacrosse team opens Dec. 30

When the new "Salem Mayhem" box lacrosse team debuts on December 30 at least three of the players will be familiar to local lax fans. Former Old Dominion Athletic Conference players Joey Dishaw, Chad Fisher and Josh Davis are all on the roster for Salem's newest professional team.

The Mayhem is one of nine teams in the Professional Box Lacrosse Association (PBLA) debut season. Also in the league are three teams located in New York state, the Elmira Renegades, Syracuse Spark and Binghamton Bombers. The Jim Thorpe All-Americans are in Pennsylvania, the Trenton Terror are in New Jersey, Hampton, VA is home to the Hammerheads, Charlotte, NC has the Bootleggers and the New England Chowderheads will split time between Manchester, New Hampshire and Springfield, Massachusetts.

"As an organization, we are absolutely thrilled about having a team in Salem," said PBLA commissioner Steve Donner. "Both the city and the community itself have a long history with the sport of lacrosse, and we know that the PBLA will help add to that illustrious tradition by bringing America's fastest growing, and most exciting professional sport to the city of Salem"

Box Lacrosse is a mix between regular lacrosse and ice hockey. The dimensions of the playing surface are the same as hockey but the game is played on artificial turf. There are boards surrounding the playing surface, like hockey, and each team will field six players at a time, a goalie with two defensemen and three forwards.

"Every seat is going to be a good seat for this fast-paced action!" said Wendy Delano, Salem's Director of Civic Facilities. "The Indoor lacrosse set-up will be a perfect fit in our facility and it will be exciting to see the Salem Civic Center look somewhat like it did in the old pro hockey days with the dasher boards, protective panels, and fast-paced action."

The Salem Mayhem roster features elite athletes under the guidance of Coach Lindsay Sanderson. He is the former general manager and head coach of the Philadelphia Wings, and he is a member of both the Ontario and Canadian Lacrosse Halls of Fame.

A player draft was held to stock the team and Kyle Leeming, a goalie from Virginia Wesleyan, was the Mayhem's first round pick. There was also a tryout camp in Raleigh to fill out a roster of about 20 players and three men with local ties were selected from

about 60 who tried out. Dishaw and Fisher both played for Roanoke College while Davis played for Virginia Wesleyan. All three were teammates at Salem High for three years.

"I was on line one day and saw this advertisement about a new league," said Davis. "Then I saw there was going to be a team in Salem so I decided to try out. I got a call from coach Sanderson and he asked me if I knew of anyone else in the area and I told him I knew some guys for sure."

Fisher had just moved back to the area after spending four years in Montana. Chad has been an ice hockey player since he was a kid and he feels that will

be a big benefit with the Mayhem.

"I've played ice hockey all my life and the size of the playing surface and the boards are the same," he said. "Box lacrosse originated in Canada, and it's a lot like hockey."

The game is more physical than lacrosse played outside, and Dishaw found that out in a hurry at the



tryouts. "Cross checking is legal," he said. "I wasn't expecting that and I got hit pretty good, but you also have more padding in box lacrosse. You have pads to protect your kidneys and ribs and I never wore pads like that in high school or college."

The Mayhem will be back in Raleigh for a training camp this weekend, and they'll practice in Salem on the 17th and 18th before the season opener against Hampton at 7 pm on Friday, December 30. The Mayhem will play seven home games through April 1 as well as seven road games. The local players will receive \$500 per game along with travel and equipment expenses.

Tickets for Salem Mayhem games will go on sale November 23 at 10 a.m. Single Game Tickets are \$15, \$20, and \$25. Season Tickets are \$99 and \$149. Tickets can be purchased at the Salem Civic Center Box Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Byrd swimmers in meet at C'burg Sat.

The William Byrd swimmers hit the water for the first time this season as they competed in a meet at the Gator Center on Monday. The Terriers took Patrick Henry and Hidden Valley in their season opener.

The boys' team split in their meet, defeating Hidden Valley, 50-30, but losing to PH, 66-28. In the girls' meet Patrick Henry beat Byrd, 68-26, and Hidden Valley took a 74-20 victory.

"Monday was a great way to kick off the season," said Byrd coach Krista Martin. "We had a few swimmers complete their very first competitive swim meet and the returning swimmers did a great job showing our new swimmers the ropes. I was also really proud of all the team spirit. I don't think there was a single event where someone wasn't at the end of the lane cheering."

Team captain Colin Murtaugh won two events, taking the 200 IM and 100 Fly. For the girls, Lindsay Murtaugh won the 500 Freestyle.

The Terriers will be back in the pool Saturday for a big meet at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center. Next Monday, December 5, Byrd is back at the Gator Center for a meet.

"My hopes for the season are fast swimming and lots of great memories made for these kids," said Martin.

Big Orange wrestlers open with River Rumble at SRHS Saturday

The William Byrd "Big Orange" wrestling team will open the season Saturday when the Terriers compete in the annual "River Rumble" at Staunton River High School. The tournament is traditionally the opening event for many high school teams.

Byrd coach Thomas Kessler and staff have been working hard to get the grapplers ready in the new wrestling room at the school. It's a source of pride for the team and made things a lot easier for everyone involved.

"This year has been a great year already due to our new wrestling room," said Kessler. "It's something for our current wrestlers and wrestlers of the past to be proud of. The older generation of Big Orange Wrestlers used to have to carry the heavy mats up the stairs into the old study hall room every day for practice. Then they transitioned into the cafeteria every day, then into the old auxiliary gym and then into a field house at the stadium.

"Now, we have our own space inside the school. I am super thankful for the new renovation and happy that our kids and our program have a new home inside the building."

This year's team will be led by returning seniors and two-time state placers Xavier Preston and Dominic Pascoe. Xavier has been runner-up in the state the last two years and is ready to cap off his senior year by capturing the elusive state title he has been working for. He will be up a weight class at 175 and should be one of the best 175 pound wrestlers in any division of the state. Dominic is a two-time fourth place wrestler and his aim is to place

above that mark his senior year at 120.

"Both have had a great preseason and have been working their butts off in the new wrestling room," said Kessler.

At 106 freshman Darrin Witcher is looking to make some noise this year. Kyle Kalinke looks to come back from injury at 113 that derailed his previous season and, at 126, junior Gage Cockran, a state placer and two-time qualifier, bumps up two weight classes and looks to get back on the state podium.

Curtis Dillon is a newcomer at 132 who is looking to get some matches under his belt and compete for the first time and at 150 Byrd returns a state qualifier in junior Bricen Lancaster. Also at 150, and possibly 144, is freshman Sawyer Bolen.

At 157 sophomore Stephen Underwood has put in a lot of hard work in the off season and is ready to make it pay off. Landon Barber, a newcomer at 165, has grappling experience but not in the wrestling realm. Landon has done jiu-jitsu.

Sophomore Graylen Castleberry and freshman Ben Waid look to battle it out at 175. At 190 and 215 Byrd has four guys who can wrestle up or down. Sophomore Aiden Lucas, who is a state qualifier from last year at 195, looks to move around to find out which weight fits him best. Senior Alex Reamey was banged up last year and looks to cap his senior year off with some solid wrestling while junior Brycen Nielsen and freshman Evan Tabor have been grinding it out all year and look to keep getting better each week.



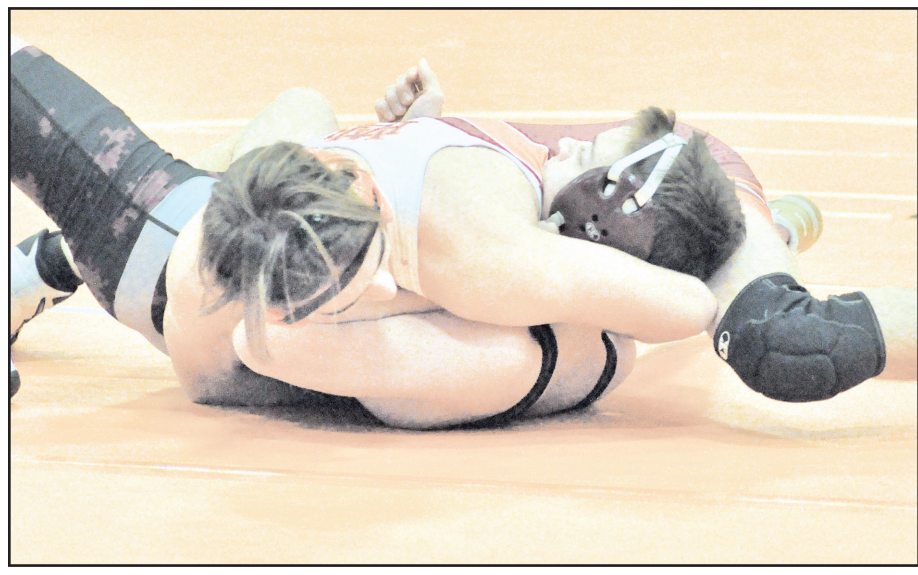
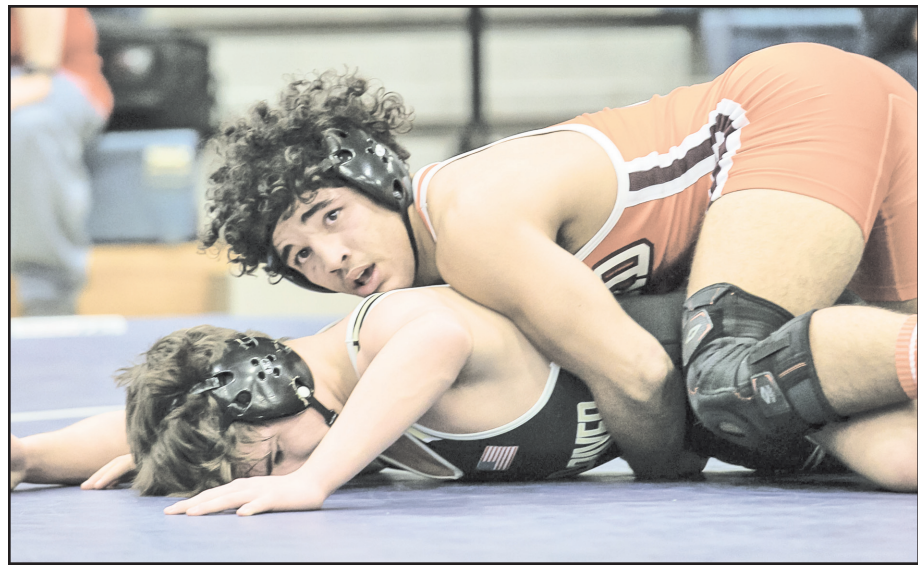
The Big Orange wrestlers don't have to carry their mats anymore thanks to their brand new wrestling room inside the school. SUBMITTED PHOTO

At heavyweight senior Dustin Richards looks to fill the shoes of his big brother, Hunter, who held the heavyweight spot for the last four years.

"Dustin's last healthy year was his freshman year at 220 and he was highly successful," said Kessler. "A lot of people have forgotten about him because his sophomore and junior year

he did not see the mat. Dustin is a solid wrestler who is going to surprise some people this year who thought the reign of Richards was over at heavyweight."

After Saturday's tournament in Moneta the Big Orange will complete in the "Titan Toughman" tournament at Hidden Valley on December 9 & 10.



Xavier Preston(left, on top) and Dominic Pascoe(right, pinning his man) are the top returnees for the Big Orange wrestling team.

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