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WBHS Renovation and Expansion Project moving forward, classrooms to be ready for fall 2023



The new entrance foyer at William Byrd.



The new front entrance to William Byrd, visible from Washington Avenue.

Debbie Adams
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The William Byrd High School Renovation and Expansion Project continues to move forward. According to Todd Kageals, Director of Facilities

and Operations for Roanoke County Public Schools, “the classrooms are scheduled to be ready by the opening of school this fall.”
Tim Greenway, Vinton’s representative on the School Board, says “they will be finishing up a few items after the new school year begins.”

Currently the library/media center which will become the guidance area, is undergoing massive renovations. In the auditorium, lights and sound have been renovated with new curtains on the

See **WBHS**, page 5

Town Council welcomes new police officer, new Administrative Manager, new Financial Administrator



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Vinton Police Officer Jair De Jesus Ponce (center) was sworn in at the Town Council meeting on Feb. 7. He is shown with Deputy Chief Tim Lawless (left) and Chief Fabricio Drumond.

Debbie Adams
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Vinton Town Council welcomed a new police officer, a new Administrative Manager/Clerk, and a new Financial Administrator at the meeting on Feb. 7. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop 235. The Scouts attended to meet one of the requirements for their Communications Merit Badge. Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond introduced Jair De Jesus Ponce, who was sworn in by Town Manager Pete Peters as Vinton’s newest police officer. “Jair De Jesus Ponce is what I call the example of the American dream,” Drumond said. “Similar to my own journey, Jair is a first-generation

immigrant. Born in the San Luis Potosi, a city located in central Mexico, he came to the United States in 2001. This particular year was a tough year for our nation, but also a year that illustrated that we, as American citizens, come together during difficult times. What a time to come to our nation and witness Americans unite after a tragedy and see citizens lean on faith, family, and American pride. “Like many others before him, Jair and his family moved here for a chance at a better life and a chance for opportunity. Because in this nation, no matter where you’ve been or where you are from, if you work hard, if you believe in yourself, you can dream and be

anything. Because, after all, our nation was built on an American dream. From this nation’s inception to today, it is Americans like Jair that shape this country and make it exceptional. Undoubtedly, Jair’s journey, like many others, had many challenges as you get accustomed to your new home. “Jair first established a home in Texas, then North Carolina, and ultimately found home in the small town of Fries, Virginia, in 2008. Like all immigrants, Jair made the journey of naturalization and achieved what many dream of when he became a naturalized United States citizen. Shortly after high school, Jair continued with his academic journey at Wytheville Community College and ultimately

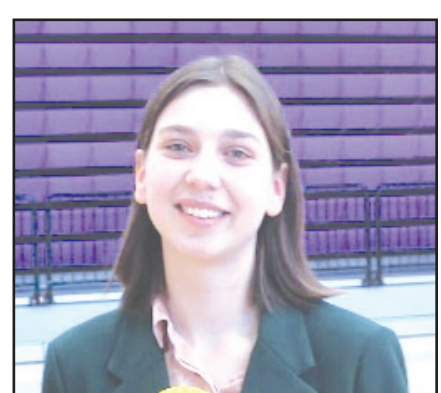
See **Council**, page 5



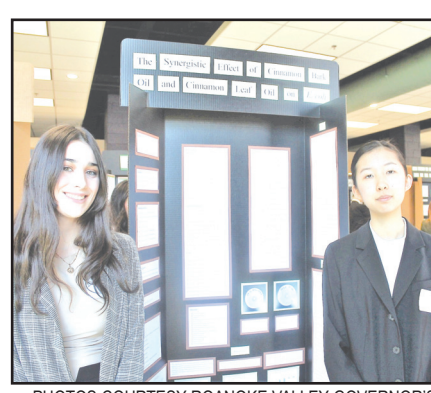
Meera Raichura



Griffin Yakob



Maggie Parkhurst



PHOTOS COURTESY ROANOKE VALLEY GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
Gabrielle Romeo from WBHS (left) and Sophia Zeng from Hidden Valley High School


Byrd students participate in Governor’s School Project Forum

Debbie Adams
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Four William Byrd High School students who are also enrolled in the Roanoke Valley Governor’s School for Science and Technology (RVGS) participated in its annual Project Forum on Feb. 4. William Byrd sophomore Meera Raichura placed first in the Plant Science B category with her project entitled “The Effects of Neodymium Magnets on Plant Growth and Germination.” Her purpose was to test the hypothesis that a neodymium (rare earth) magnet would have an effect on plant growth and health. She attached zero, two, or four magnets to containers where seeds were germinating and compared pigmentation and mass to evaluate their impact. This is her second year in the Governor’s School program. Junior Griffin Yakob placed second in the Computational Biology category with his project on “Determining


the Applicability of Peripheral Blood Biomarkers for Lung Adenocarcinoma Diagnosis.” His research questioned whether a blood test can be used to detect this specific form of lung cancer. This is his third year at the Governor’s School. Senior Maggie Parkhurst placed third in the Computational Biology category with her project “A Machine Learning Diagnostic Tool to Predict Alzheimer’s Disease Using Blood-Based Biomarkers.” Freshman Gabrielle Romeo and her project lab partner, Sophia Zeng of Hidden Valley High School, investigated “The Synergistic Effect of Cinnamon Leaf and Bark Oil on E. coli.” The prestigious Roanoke Valley Governor’s School is a half-day regional public STEM school for highly motivated students in grades nine through 12. It is located on the campus of Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke City. The school is supported by the Virginia Department of Education and seven public school divisions around the Roanoke Valley including Roanoke County (all five high schools), Bedford County, Botetourt County, Craig County, Floyd County, Franklin County, Roanoke City,

See **Forum**, page 6



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Herndon updates council on Public Works projects, asks citizens to park on the odd-numbered side of the street during snow events

Debbie Adams
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Public Works Director Bo Herndon updated Town Council on Feb. 7 on several projects his department is working on or has completed. He and Mayor Brad Grose emphasized that Public Works employees are able to work more efficiently since the water and wastewater utility systems were transferred to the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA), freeing up time previously spent on repairs to water and sewer lines.

Herndon briefed council on replacement of signal lights at all 11 intersections in the town. In the past 18 months, six of the traffic signals have been replaced. He explained that Public Works is waiting for a control panel to be delivered and installed to have the intersection at PFG functioning again. General Manager Mike Maust has allowed employees to exit onto 3rd Street as the town awaits delivery of parts.

A contractor from Texas will begin work on synchronizing traffic signals throughout the town this week. Traffic signal pre-emptions that will allow emergency vehicles to control traffic signals safely in an emergency situation will be installed in March.

Herndon outlined the water line project undertaken on Cleveland Avenue by the WVWA where 1,700 feet of waterline is to be replaced. So far, 450 ft. has been installed. They plan to complete the project in May. Public Works will be working on the storm drains on Cleveland at the same time so that the pavement does not have to be torn up and repaved twice.

He reported that 80% of the roadways in the town have been restriped.

Herndon discussed installation of lines by Glo-Fiber who plans to run 200,000 feet of the fiber above and below ground. This has caused some pavement issues in the Meadows neighborhood. The company is applying temporary patches to the roadway now; once the work is complete, asphalt patches will be applied. Herndon noted that Glo-Fiber is in high demand in Vinton and throughout the valley with some 30 different contractors working on the project.

The director then talked about winter preparedness and the diligent crews who keep the roadways clear. He explained that the town begins tracking winter storm systems 48 hours prior to their predicted arrival to pinpoint when the inclement weather will start. Two crews working 12-hour shifts go into action once the snowfall begins, clearing the main thoroughfares such as Washington Avenue, Hardy and Bypass Roads, and Clearview Drive. The town has four plow trucks and several pick-up trucks with plows. Once the snow ends, the crews get into the neighborhoods.

Herndon said that the CodeRed emergency alert system will soon not only alert citizens and businesses to bad weather but will remind them to park on the odd-numbered side of streets to help snow removal vehicles

that are challenged by narrow streets throughout the town.

He then shared a PowerPoint presentation on three high-profile projects: Garthright Bridge, replacement of the retaining wall and sidewalks at the Vinton History Museum, and storm drain improvements on East Cleveland Avenue.

The Garthright Bridge project got underway in November with road closures of one lane in each direction on the bridge, which went smoothly by all accounts. Most of the work has been underneath the bridge, replacing rusted steel girders, plus expansion joints on the roadway. De-icing chemicals dripping through the expansion joints onto the girders caused the deterioration over time. The metalworks of the bridge are being sandblasted and then painted. Anticipated completion is in March.

Public Works undertook an extensive project at the history museum on Jackson Avenue, replacing a crumbling retaining wall and uneven cracked sidewalks, adding a set of steps, and making improvements to parking. Almost 35 yards of concrete was used during 400 man-hours of work.

The department also resolved a storm drain problem on East Cleveland, eliminating frequent water on the roadway. A large drainage pipe was replaced, and the drainage ditch was stabilized with rip-rap.

The Public Works Director's Report for December 2022 details work the department completed that month. On Dec. 23, three Public Works employees worked 13.5 man-hours, using seven tons of de-icing salt to clear the roads during that weather event.

During that month, Public Works employees completed work orders for two jobs involving storm drain work, and one for drainage. The street sweeper cleaned 145 miles of roadway.

Public Works employees provided support for the town's annual Christmas Parade and Santa Christmas Crawl.

As for Fleet Maintenance, 11 police vehicles were serviced along with four public works light and medium duty vehicles, 17 heavy duty vehicles, six Public Works equipment and trailers, and six state inspections were completed.

In Refuse and Recycling, 284 tons of municipal waste were collected, along with 26.5 tons of residential waste. Curbside recycling collected 18.64 tons of recyclables.

Public Works completed six job orders involving dead animals, nine jobs of sign installation and signal repair, two work orders for tree/brush maintenance, one road closure, and three work orders for pot holes/sink holes. The department also addressed 42 work order tickets for utility markings (Miss Utility).

Council members commended Public Works employees for their continuing hard work and dedication to the citizens of the town. They also pointed out that the department is now able to catch up on projects, and take on new ones, thanks to the purchase of the utility system by the WVWA.



Vinton First Aid Crew member Amanda Styles PHOTO COURTESY OF VINTON FIRST AID CREW

Heroes volunteer here: Vinton salutes its First Aid Crew

Debbie Adams
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Amanda Styles is one of the newest volunteers with the Vinton First Aid Crew. Her classification is EMT-B. She has been with the crew for around seven months.

Styles is from Roanoke. She joined the crew to have "more hands-on experience" since she hasn't been an EMT for long.

"The First Aid Crew offers many training experiences and the people are great to be around," Styles said.

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three children, camping, hiking, and the martial art of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

The Town of Vinton and The Vinton Messenger salute Styles and the other members of the Vinton First Aid Crew (VFAC) for their generous contributions of time and effort to the community.

"We are truly blessed to have the Vinton First Aid Crew in our town," says Vinton Mayor Brad Grose. "The crew has a long history of service to the residents of Vinton and the surrounding area. Many of our citizens have amazing stories about the wonderful service provided to them by the devoted members of the crew."

"A common trait

among individual members of the crew is their desire to serve their fellowman," the mayor said. "The Vinton First Aid Crew offers an opportunity to serve, and it also provides valuable medical training that can truly be lifesaving. There is a strong sense of camaraderie and family in the crew that is rarely duplicated in organizations of its size."

"The citizens of Vinton can rest assured that they will always receive professional and caring service from the dedicated members of our Vinton First Aid Crew."

Thank you for your service, Amanda Styles!

Vinton Valentines – The Stovalls



Vinton Vice Mayor Mike Stovall and wife Patsy PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE STOVALL

Debbie Adams
dadams@mainstreetnewspapers.com

In celebration of Valentine's Day, Vinton Vice Mayor Mike Stovall graciously agreed to share his story of how he and his wife Patsy met. He says it was practically love at first sight – for him.

"My journey with Patsy began about 38 years ago. I first met Patsy when we were on the scene of an accident on the Parkway sometime back in 1985. She was a flight nurse for Lifeguard 10, and I was a police officer with the Vinton Police Department. Once I saw her on the Parkway, I remembered how 'hot' she looked in the flight uniform and I was not steady-dating anyone at the time. The next thing I knew, she vanished in the night."

"What did I do next? I contacted my best friend Monty Williams, who at the time was an ER-Tech at Roanoke Memorial. I wanted him to see if he could find out which flight nurse I was talking about. At the time when Patsy first started as a flight nurse, they pulled double duty. They would go to work in the ER at Roanoke Memorial and then if there was a Lifeguard 10 call, they would leave the ER and go on a flight."

"Remember, back in those days, we did not have cell phones. So, I remember leaving my best friend a message to see if he could assist me locating who that flight nurse was."

"Well, during the time before he went back to work, there was a large spree of break-ins in the Town of Vinton. We had an idea who the suspects were, so we wanted to see if we could run a road check on Cleveland Avenue one morning and see if they would come through the road check possibly with some of the stolen items in their car."

"During the road check, Patsy at the time lived on Stacie Drive with her son, Chris Eddy. She decided on the morning of the road check that she would take Chris to McDonald's, and then take him on to school. He attended Herman L. Horn. When she left McDonald's, she decided to come down Cleveland and cut across to H.L.H."

"I was helping to run the road check when I looked up and said to myself, here comes the flight nurse from Lifeguard," said Stovall. "She pulled up; I identified myself; and she stated to me with a blank look on her face, 'Officer, I do not have my license.'"

"Well, you need to pull over so I can check your license," I told her. "At the time there were no license numbers like today– we ran Social Security numbers. Boom! I found that day who she was and where she lived."

"When did we have our first personal interaction? There used to be a restaurant on 419 called Mac & Maggie's and the hospital employees used to go there after work for drinks," his story continues.

"So, Monty set up a meet and greet. We exchanged numbers and she invited me to her house for our first date. She served iced tea and hard tacos. Halfway through the meal, I had drunk only a little bit of the tea and I had eaten only a small part of the tacos and she said to me, 'You don't like iced tea, do you?' I said, 'No and I also don't like hard tacos; however, I am not here for the food.'"

"We have been married going on 35 years and we have three children: Chris, Page, and Patrick, and two grandchildren Hunter (age 6) and Weston Wayne (age 8 months)," is how he sums it up.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11				12		13			14				
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					43			44					
				45	46								
47	48					49			50	51	52	53	54
55						56				57			58
59						60				61			
62						63					64		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Functions
 - 5. Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart
 - 8. Trigonometric function (abbr.)
 - 11. Secret political clique
 - 13. Type of gibbon
 - 14. Nocturnal S. American rodent
 - 15. Famed American playwright
 - 16. Mesopotamian goddess
 - 17. Abba __, Israeli politician
 - 18. Long ridge of gravel and sediment
 - 20. A place to stay
 - 21. Actor Idris
 - 22. One who behaves in a rebellious way
 - 25. A way to measure movement
 - 30. Distinguish oneself
 - 31. Type of drug (abbr.)
 - 32. Basketball great Baylor
 - 33. Masses of salivary matter
 - 38. Calls balls and strikes
 - 41. Plant that grows along the ground
 - 43. A recreational activity in the air
 - 45. Consumes too much
 - 47. Island nation
 - 49. Pistol
 - 50. Mixtures of soul and calypso
 - 55. Ancient Greek City
 - 56. Similar
 - 57. Roughly trimmed tree trunk used in a Scottish game
 - 59. Semitic fertility god
 - 60. Born of
 - 61. Frogs, toads, tree toads
 - 62. School in the northeast (abbr.)
 - 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 64. "___ the Man" Musical, baseball player
 - CLUES DOWN**
 - 1. Fiddler crabs
 - 2. Discount
 - 3. Partner to "flows"
 - 4. Ethnic group of Laos
 - 5. Beloved "Seinfeld" character
 - 6. Book of tickets
 - 7. The last name of "Hermione"
 - 8. Type of TV package
 - 9. Helps to heal a cut
 - 10. Town in Galilee
 - 12. Actor Horsley
 - 14. "Hocus Pocus 2" actor Ed
 - 19. Bird-loving group (abbr.)
 - 23. They respond when someone is sick
 - 24. Emerged
 - 25. Midway between south and southeast
 - 26. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
 - 27. Unit of work or energy
 - 28. Indicates near
 - 29. Famed river
 - 34. For each
 - 35. News organization
 - 36. CNN's founder
 - 37. They ___
 - 39. Areas off to the side
 - 40. Satisfies
 - 41. A spare bed
 - 42. Legendary singer Diana
 - 44. Frothy mass of bubbles
 - 45. A kind of sorcery
 - 46. River in South Africa
 - 47. Philippine Island
 - 48. County in China
 - 51. S. American plant
 - 52. Beverage containers
 - 53. Edge
 - 54. Protein-rich liquids
 - 58. Moved quickly on foot

2023 Tour Schedule

Sunshine Tours

Let us show you America

DATE	TOUR	PER PERSON PRICE	DATE	TOUR	PER PERSON PRICE
Mar 10 – 12	Philadelphia Flower Show	\$750	Aug 21	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50
Mar 11	Highland Maple Festival	\$90	Aug 24 -26	Strasburg Railroad/ Red Caboose Hotel	\$985
Mar 18	Highland Maple Festival	\$90	Aug 26	Mitchie Tavern/ Swannanoa Mansion	\$95
Mar 18	Asheville Outlets/ Spring Shopping	\$85	Aug 27 – Sep 6	West Coast Baseball	\$4,750
Mar 18	"Ain't To Proud" / Stephen Tanger Center	\$195	Sept 2	North Carolina Zoo/ Asheboro, NC	\$90
Mar 20	Bristol Casino	\$50	Sept 3 – 5	Wind Creek Casino/ Bethlehem, PA	\$540
Mar 20 – 26	Spring Training/ Florida	\$1,965	Sept 6 – 9	Creation Museum/ Ark Encounter	\$865
Mar 25	Vintage Market Days/ Charlotte, NC	\$80	Sept 7 – 10	Myrtle Beach, SC	\$1,070
Apr 2 – 4	Wind Creek Casino/ Bethlehem, PA	\$540	Sept 8 -10	Washington, D.C / Mount Vernon	\$625
Apr 7 – 13	Charleston/ Savannah/ Jekyll Island	\$2,430	Sept 8 – 13	Las Vegas & Grand Canyon Fly / Land	\$2,805
Apr 7 – 8	"Moses" / PA Dutch/ Lancaster, PA	\$490	Sept 9 -16	Trains of New England	\$2,905
Apr 8	Biltmore House & Gardens / Festival of Flowers	\$175	Sept 10 – 16	Best of Ozarks/ Branson/ Eureka Springs	\$1,690
Apr 8	"Aladdin" / Belk Theatre / Charlotte, N.C	\$200	Sept 11 – 23	Nova Scotia / New England in the Fall	\$3,065
Apr 13 – 29	Great Southwest California	\$4,045	Sept 14 – 16	"Moses" / Lancaster, PA / PA Dutch	\$735
Apr 14 – 16	Washington, D.C/ Cherry Blossom Festival	\$640	Sept 15 – 16	Gandy Dancer/ Tygart Flyer	\$480
Apr 15	"Hamilton" / Altria Theatre/ Richmond, VA	\$255	Sept 16 – 22	New England in the Fall	\$1,685
Apr 17	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Sept 16 - 27	America's Southwest Land / Fly	\$4,350
Apr 22	Biltmore House & Gardens / Festival of Flowers	\$175	Sept 18	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50
Apr 23- 26	VA Military Tattoo/ Mermaid Bash	\$1,315	Sept 19 – 23	Vermont in The Fall/ Stoweflake Lodge	\$1,910
Apr 24 – May 3	Texas "Lone Star State"	\$2,435	Sept 19 – 25	Mystery Tour...	\$1,830
May 6	Billy Graham Library/ Stowe Botanical Gardens	\$90	Sept 23	Andy Griffith's "Mayberry Days"	\$85
May 6 – 16	Tennessee Music Pathways	\$4,840	Sept 23 – 24	Washington Nationals Baseball	\$585
May 9 – 12	Tulip Festival/ Holland, MI	\$940	Sept 29 – Oct 1	Neptune Festival/ Virginia Beach, VA	\$685
May 10	Andy Griffith "Mayberry" Mt. Airy, NC	\$85	Oct 1 – 5	Niagara Falls / Toronto	\$1,365
May 10 – 13	Creation Museum / Ark Encounter	\$865	Oct 2 – 8	New England in the Fall	\$1,685
May 11 – 13	"Moses" / Lancaster, PA / PA Dutch	\$735	Oct 3 – 6	Rockin' the Boardwalk/ Virginia Beach, VA	\$1,190
May 12 – 14	New York Springtime	\$1,200	Oct 5	Cass Railroad / Cass, WV	\$195
May 13	North Carolina Zoo/ Asheboro, NC	\$90	Oct 6 – 7	"Moses" / PA Dutch/ Lancaster, PA	\$490
May 15	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Oct 6 – 8	Nashville/ Music City USA	\$1,005
May 20 – 21	Tangier Island	\$470	Oct 7	Billy Graham Library / Stowe Botanical Gardens	\$90
May 21 – 26	Oklahoma Oil/ Osage Nation/ Pawhuska, OK	\$1,405	Oct 7	Bushy Mountain Harvest Festival	\$75
May 26 – 28	Nashville/ Music City USA	\$1,005	Oct 9	Cass Railroad / Cass, WV	\$195
May 27	Mitchie Tavern / Swannanoa Mansion	\$95	Oct 10 – 14	Haunted Halloween/ Boston & Salem	\$1,370
Jun 4 – 7	Resorts Casino & Hotel / Atlantic City, NJ	\$765	Oct 11 – 17	Pioneer Women/ Magnolia Market	\$1,930
Jun 5 – 8	I Love Lucy/ Pennsylvania Grand Canyon	\$1,165	Oct 14	New River Gorge Bridge Day/ Fayetteville, WV	\$100
Jun 6 – 10	Two Stadiums/ Philadelphia/ Baltimore	\$1,480	Oct 14	Carolina Balloon Festival / Statesville, NC	\$85
Jun 9 – 11	Washington D.C / Mount Vernon	\$625	Oct 17 – 20	Oktoberfest in Helen, GA	\$1,290
Jun 9 – 19	Nova Scotia/ Atlantic Provinces of Canada	\$2,650	Oct 23	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50
Jun 15 – 20	White Mountains/ Purple Moose	\$1,825	Nov 3 – 5	Sunshine Tours/ Family Reunion	\$900
Jun 15 – 21	Mackinac Island / Michigan	\$2,030	Nov 9	Southern Christmas Show/ Charlotte, NC	\$90
Jun 18 – 24	Best of the Ozarks/ Branson/ Eureka Springs	\$1,690	Nov 9 – 12	Biltmore House / Smoky Mountain Christmas	\$1,435
Jun 18 – 24	Niagara Falls/ Montreal/ Toronto/ Quebec	\$1,755	Nov 10	Southern Christmas Show/ Charlotte, NC	\$90
Jun 19	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Nov 11	Southern Christmas Show/ Charlotte, NC	\$90
Jun 25- July 13	Hitching a Ride on Route 66	\$4,905	Nov 11	Concord Mills / Bass Pro Shop/ Charlotte, NC	\$85
Jun 26 – 29	Gilded Age of New York	\$2,035	Nov 12 – 18	Florida Keys/ Sunset Celebration	\$3,235
Jun 29 – July 2	Grandkids of Country Music/ Clarksville, TN	\$1,105	Nov 13	Bristol Casino / Bristol, VA	\$50
July 1 – 8	Summer in New England/ Martha's Vineyard	\$1,990	Nov 22 – 25	Macy's Thanksgiving Parade/ New York	\$1,580
July 1 – 10	Hawaii Honolulu/ Waikiki / Aloha	\$5,050	Nov 26 – 29	Wind Creek/ Bethlehem/ New York	\$900
July 2 – 6	Niagara Falls USA / Erie Canal	\$1,470	Nov 29 – Dec 4	Currier & Ives Christmas/ Burlington, VT	\$1,910
July 2 – 16	Canyonlands / Scenic Tour	\$3,655	Dec 1 – 3	Christmas at Myrtle Beach	\$660
July 2 – 30	Alaska/ Canada's Yukon/ Motorcoach	\$7,700	Dec 1 – 3	Radio City Christmas / New York	\$1,365
July 7 – 10	Atlanta Motor Speedway	\$1,020	Dec 1 – 3	Christmas Opryland Hotel	\$1,215
July 10 – 26	Yellowstone T.V Series Tour	\$6,425	Dec 2	Christmastown USA / McAdenville, NC	\$75
July 16 – 19	Wind Creek/ Bethlehem/ New York City	\$900	Dec 2	Premium Outlets / Charlotte, NC	\$85
July 17 – 20	Red Neckin' Toe Tappin/ Pigeon Forge, TN	\$1,490	Dec 2	Grove Park/ Gingerbread House	\$165
July 21 - 23	Nashville/ Music City USA	\$1,005	Dec 3 -7	Bavarian Holidays / Frankenmuth	\$1,090
July 24	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Dec 4 – 8	Christmas Mystery Adventure	\$1,345
July 24 – 27	New York Baseball/ Yankees vs. Mets	\$1,160	Dec 5	Tanglewood Park/ Christmas Lights	\$85
Aug 1 – 20	San Francisco/ California / Pacific NW	\$5,050	Dec 5 – 7	Blue Christmas at Graceland	\$1,460
Aug 3 – 5	"Moses" / Lancaster, PA / PA Dutch	\$735	Dec 6 – 10	Boston's Gingerbread Christmas	\$1,295
Aug 5 – 6	Tangier Island	\$470	Dec 7 – 8	"Miracles of Christmas" / Lancaster, PA	\$490
Aug 8 – 12	Wind Creek/ Encore / Maryland Live Casino	\$1,015	Dec 8 – 10	Radio City Christmas/ New York	\$1,365
Aug 13 – 17	Elvis	\$1,375	Dec 8 – 10	Christmas Opryland Hotel	\$1,215
Aug 13 – 16	Resorts Casino & Hotel/ Atlantic City, NJ	\$765	Dec 9	Biltmore House & Gardens Christmas	\$230
Aug 13 – 24	America's Northwest Land/ Fly	\$4,895	Dec 10 – 16	Joyeux Noel/ Louisiana	\$1,870
Aug 16 – 18	Choo Choo Ch' Boogie / Rocky Gap Resort	\$965	Dec 16	Biltmore House & Gardens Christmas	\$230
Aug 19 – 20	Great Smoky Mountains Railway	\$575	Dec 26 – 31	Christmas Disneyworld/ Universal Sea World	\$1,900

****All pricing is for double occupancy. Please call our office for additional pricing/ information****

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Pick Up Points For All Tours Listed: Roanoke, Blacksburg/Christiansburg, Dublin, Wytheville & Hillsville

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VINTON HISTORY: POODLE SKIRTS

A poodle skirt is a wide swing skirt displaying a design appliquéd or transferred to the fabric. The design was often a coiffed poodle.

Hemlines were to the knee or just below it. The skirt quickly became very popular with teenage girls. Movie stars commonly wore this skirt too, adding to its popularity.

The skirt originated in 1947 in the United States, designed by Juli Charlot. The idea for the skirt began as a last-minute Christmas skirt. With little money and little ability to sew, she made the seamless skirt herself out of felt.

As Charlot's skirt caught on, she was asked to make a dog-themed skirt, as dogs were popular. By the week following the debut of the poodle skirt, Charlot was able to sell the design and eventually opened her own factory.

The poodle skirt



PHOTO BY JUDY CUNNINGHAM

This poodle skirt was donated to the Vinton History Museum by Patsy Millington.

remains one of the most memorable symbols of the 1950s in America.. The

poodle skirt on display at the Vinton History Museum was donated by Patsy Millington.

Stop by and see the poodle skirt on display at the museum, which is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and every first Saturday, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Executive Director of the Vinton History Museum

Subscribe to the Vinton Messenger today! Don't miss a Vinton Issue! 389-9355

OBITUARY

Colls, Constance Forte

Constance Mildred Forte Colls, Beach (Mark) of Cove City, N.C.; 97, of Salisbury, N.C., passed away Monday, February 6, 2023, at The Lutheran Home at Trinity Oaks.

Mrs. Colls was born January 21, 1926, in Schenectady, N.Y., the daughter of the late Mildred Russell Forte and Harold Eugene Forte. She moved to Vinton in 1962 and resided there until moving to



Summersett Memorial Chapel officiated by Pastor Calvin Heath. In lieu of flowers, the family ask for donations to be sent to Trellis Hospice: 101 Hospice Ln, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Colls family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Preceding her in death were her husband William Kenneth Colls on December 1, 2010, and son, Keith A, Colls in April 2012.

Those left to cherish her memories are her daughters Colleen Colls Sudderth (Walter) of Lexington, N.C., and Kristi Colls

Summersett Memorial Chapel officiated by Pastor Calvin Heath.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask for donations to be sent to Trellis Hospice: 101 Hospice Ln, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Charles Hill Community Center

Tai-Chi, Feb. 9 at 9 a.m.; Senior Card Games, Feb. 9, 10:15 a.m.; Line dancing Feb. 14, 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 6 p.m.

Lancerlot Sports Complex

Lancerlot will be hosting a 3-day lifeguard class on Feb. 10-12; Feb. 10 class is from 7 to 10 p.m.; Feb. 11 from 3 to 7 p.m.; and Feb. 12 from 3 to 7 p.m. Includes a 2-year certification, CPR, First Aid, and AED. Cost is \$250.00 for a new certification and \$195 for recert. If only needing CPR/First Aid/ AED training the cost is \$95; for a recert is \$55.00. Please contact Barbara Gee at bahlvt@cox.net.

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors will meet at 3 p.m. on Feb. 14 at the Administration Building on Bernard Drive.

Roanoke County Schools

Schools will be closed on Monday, Feb. 13 for staff development. Kindergarten registration begins.

Rosie's Gaming Emporium

1 North 3 South performs at 8 p.m. on Feb. 10 playing classic rock and roll and southern rock; Rare Form of Lynchburg performs on Feb. 11, at 8 p.m, featuring modern and classic country. Both are free shows for those 21 and older.

Town of Vinton

Tire recycle pick up Feb. 13 and Feb. 14.

Vinton Public Library

Stop by the library and pick up your bird feeder kit Feb. 6-17 with information

See Upcoming events, page 6

The Vinton Messenger

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ourvalley.org

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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.

The Vinton Messenger (USPS 660-020) is published weekly for \$44 a year in Vinton and Roanoke County, \$48 a year in adjoining counties, \$52 a year out of state and the yearly bundle is \$59 a year by Virginia Media Inc. P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Vinton, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE VINTON MESSENGER, P.O. Box 1125, Salem, Va 24153

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

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 Bote-tourt 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.

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. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd

Vinton

Worship Directory

WORDS OF RELIEF
Read Job 15:1 through 22:30

Justin sat in Caleb's apartment, hoping his big brother could provide some words of encouragement. An official letter from his college had arrived, announcing that Justin was on academic probation. Justin never realized those two words would cause his parents so much pain, anger, and disappointment.

Caleb was frustrated. He knew the sacrifices his parents made so that Justin could attend college. College loans, scholarships, and money did not come easy. His parents worked hard at obtaining all the financial aid they could gather. His dad picked up extra shifts at work to cover the cost of books. Now, to hear that Justin "blew it" was more than Caleb could bear. He wanted to explode, but the Holy Spirit urged him to listen. After several moments, Caleb sat down beside Justin and placed his arm around him. Caleb whispered, "Mind if I pray for you?"

Justin grinned, "Thanks, man. I sure could use it!"

But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief (Job 16:5).

Do your words bring comfort or condemnation?

Challenge for Today: Provide comfort and encouragement to someone close to you.

Quicklook: Job 16:4-6

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

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 Wor-

ship 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; cmpe2verizon.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.

Bank of Botetourt banker graduates from Virginia Bankers Association Management Development Program

Bank of Botetourt Merchant Services Officer Chelsea West was among the 36 Virginia bankers who graduated from the Virginia Bankers Association Management Development Program—the largest in person cohort to date.

This program is a five-month, comprehensive training designed for those who have developed a passion for banking, want to enhance their knowledge of the business of banking, and who are motivated to excel in their careers.

West grew up in Roanoke and currently resides in Vinton with

her husband Cody and stepchildren Camden, Riley, and Keenan.

“We are proud of Chelsea and her dedication to learn, expand her network and help the businesses in our communities,” said Laurie Hart, SVP – Chief Strategy & Retail Officer.

The program’s sessions provided information to make participants more effective bankers, ensured that they understand the industry, instilled the notion that strategy and goals are imperative to drive the bank forward, and empowered them to present themselves as

leaders.

West’s focus in her role at the bank is assisting customers with payment options and business solutions through Clover® point-of-sale systems along with a variety of additional options. While she covers the bank’s entire branch network from Fairfield to Salem and Smith Mountain Lake and surrounding areas, West is based out of the Cave Spring Office on Electric Road in Roanoke.

- Submitted by Bank of Botetourt



Chelsea West

PHOTO COURTESY OF BANK OF BOTETOURT

Council from page 1



Antonia Arias-Magallon is the new Administrative Manager/Clerk for the Town of Vinton. She is shown with Vinton Mayor Brad Grose.

obtained a degree in Criminal Science.

“Jair, like myself, because mesmerized and found an early passion for law enforcement. Determined, he moved to the Roanoke area where he fulfilled his childhood dream of being a police officer. Jair attended our very own Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy, a place our officers call home for many months and, upon graduation, he began his journey as a police officer for the City of Salem.

“I met Jair a few years back and took an immediate liking to him. His uniform was impeccable and he carried himself with confidence and pride. While Jair is only getting started with the Vinton Police Department, it feels like

he has been here for some time. I can confidently speak on behalf of the men and women of the Vinton Police Department that we are blessed and honored to have you on our team. I can’t wait until our community gets to know you.”

Peters introduced Antonia Arias-Magallon, Vinton’s new Administrative Manager/Town Clerk, who officially started work for the town on Jan. 23. Her position provides support to the Town Administration and Town Council, the Finance Department as needed, and she serves as the Town Clerk.

“Antonia joins us from Glendale, Mo., where she served as the assistant to the City Administrator, where she was responsible for accounts payable,

preparing RFPs, creating a digital friendly budget which got Glendale its first GFOA budget award, managing events for residents, creating flyers and social media posts, and working with a website developer on redesigning the city’s website,” Peters said.

“Antonia began her professional career in local government as an intern for the City of Hazelwood in May of 2021. She graduated with her B.A. in Political Science from U.W. Stevens Point in 2019 and received her Master’s in Public Administration in May of 2022. Her interest in working for local government began at her internship where she saw the importance of what local governments do for the



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Neil Divers (right) was introduced to Vinton Town Council by Finance Director Andrew Keen. Divers will serve as Financial Administrator.

communities around them. She has always had a love for working with the community. When she was younger, she was a swim instructor and a couple days a week she would teach kids who couldn’t afford classes for free. She and the other instructors would pass out snacks afterwards and hang out with the kids. It not only made their days, but it made hers being able to connect with the kids around her.

“In her free time, Antonia enjoys reading, cooking, and traveling to new places and exploring. A ‘Fun Fact’ about Antonia is that she and her husband have a map of the U.S. and are trying to visit every state at least once together. So far, they have visited 17 states, one of them now being Virginia. Virginia was a place Antonia visited once years ago. Since then, she has wanted to come back and bring her husband with her. Now, she has a great reason to be working for Vinton and can’t wait to grow with the town and get to

know everyone and the community.”

Finance Director Andrew Keen introduced new Financial Administrator Neil Divers.

“Neil will be responsible for the town’s accounts payable duties as well as a number of other accounting tasks,” Keen said. “He comes to us from the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, where he served as an accountant. Prior to working in that role, Neil worked as the bookkeeper and legal assistant for the law office of William Berry, attorney for the Town of Bedford. Neil holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Roanoke College and a Master of Arts in Theology from the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass.

“Neil’s impressive mix of both education and professional experience, much of which was earned in the non-profit and government arenas, make him uniquely qualified to work on our team.

Neil brings to the table experience in accounts payable, accounts receivable, budget and grant monitoring, payroll processing, and many other skills which were honed in the local government space.

“Neil lives with his son Emmet and two dogs in Mount Pleasant. When not at work, he enjoys hiking, traveling, and being outside. I am happy to welcome him to our team.”

Council took action to reappoint Dave Jones to the Vinton Planning Commission for a new four-year term.

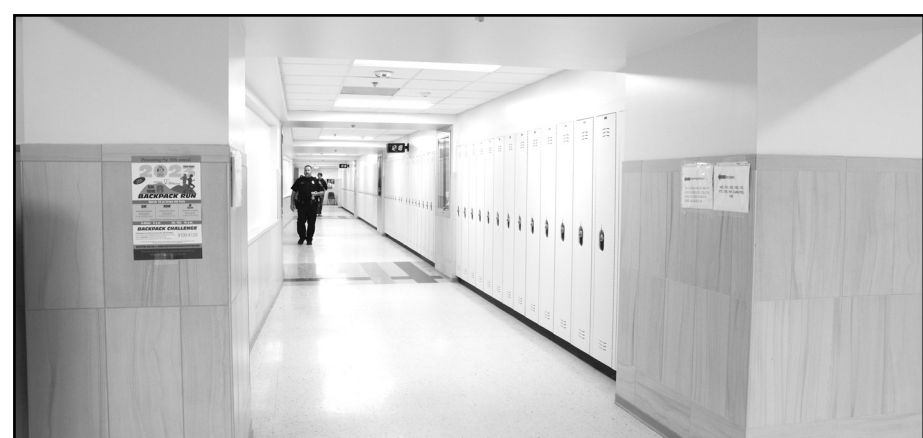
Public Works Director Bo Herndon delivered a report to council from the January Public Works Committee meeting and an in-depth presentation on recent Public Works projects in the town.

Peters informed council that the town just received notice that it had qualified once again for the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award—for the seventh time.

WBHS from page 1



The library/media center is undergoing extensive renovations and will become the guidance office area.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The renovated senior hallway leading from the foyer to the cafeteria is much brighter with a new paint scheme and lockers have been added.

way. Outside, new lights are being installed for the football field.

Greenway, a William Byrd alumnus, says, “It is looking amazing, especially the entrance foyer. That was the part where I wanted some particular work done. It’s the area we as seniors would have the privilege of hanging out at various times during the day. I love the way it turned out.”

Renovations got underway in the late spring of 2021 on the \$30.7 million project.

William Byrd was built in 1969 and has had some piecemeal renovations

in the years since; however, this renovation project is more extensive and involves the first and second floors of the building, entailing some 100,000 square feet with roughly 13,500 square feet of additions.

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

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School Board meets in work session to discuss CTE center costs, error in state budget

Debbie Adams
dadams@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The Roanoke County School Board met in a work session on Feb. 2. The focus was on two main issues—the cost of construction for a new Career and Technical Education center to replace BCAT and an error in the state budget which will leave school systems across the state without millions of dollars in funding.

Chris Phillips, the principal at RRMM Architects in Roanoke, made a presentation to the board on the projected costs of the new CTE center. His firm was hired to consult on cost and square footage estimates. He noted that the simplest way to cut costs would be to reduce the size of the proposed structure from its current 156,000 sq. ft.; however, that would also require eliminating programs.

The estimated cost of the new center is \$90 million—the most costly capital project the county has ever undertaken. The cost per square foot is estimated at \$400.

Vinton's representative on the board, Tim Greenway, commented that he would be in favor of reducing the cost

by \$10 million to closer to \$80 million. (His numbers are based in part on also finding funding for renovations at two antiquated elementary schools in the near future—Glen Cove and W.E. Cundiff—whose programs are impacted by the decades-old open concept classrooms.)

Greenway also emphasized that “we can't afford to undersize this” as a new CTE center would be an economic driver for the region and needs to be large enough in capacity and programming to develop the needed work force.

The total cost for all three projects is currently guesstimated at \$163 million. The School Board hopes for construction to begin on the CTE center in July 2024, so financial decisions need to be made.

A discussion followed on which programs might be added and which might be eliminated at a new CTE center and the effect of those decisions on construction costs. Phillips said that the building trades and Center for Transportation occupy the most space in the projected plans. Building trades also turns away the most student applicants currently due to lack of space.

Several board members and School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely said regretfully that relocating the performing and visual arts programs back to base schools might be the best option. More students would have access to the programs in their individual schools, plus the move would eliminate about 20,000 sq. ft. in the new center.

Windsor Hills board member Cheryl Facciani suggested, with support from others in the meeting, that adding HVAC, collision repair (4,515 sq. ft.), and dental assisting programs (2,460 sq. ft.), would be very beneficial.

Phillips was able to inform her that fortunately the HVAC program is already included in the new CTE plans and figured in the costs. He also quoted figures that showed adding the suggested programs while relocating visual and performing arts back to base high schools would lower the center's footprint by about 8,000 sq. ft.

William Byrd's Navy National Defense Cadet Corps program established this year would eventually move to the more centralized CTE center (where it could grow into a NJROTC program); that space is already included in the proposed plan.

No decisions were made about cutting building square footage or programs. The board has already purchased four parcels off Peters Creek Road for the CTE center.

RCPS Director of Facilities and Operations Todd Kageals said that RRMM is beginning a high-level study on the viability of renovating and/or expanding W.E. Cundiff and Glen Cove to eliminate the open classroom dilemma.

Dr. Nicely and Finance Director Susan Peterson explained the VDOE error which has left school systems across the state with \$201 million less in funding for the remainder of this school year and next. Roanoke County will be short by \$696,947 this year and \$1,721,947 in 2023-2024 unless the state is able to come up with some options to replace the funding. Roanoke County anticipated a surplus in the budget for both years so it is not in the dire straits some other school systems find themselves in.

Several members of the board asked citizens to call their state legislators, urging them to use the “huge” state surplus that is anticipated to resolve the school budget problem.

Vinton Chamber accepting vendor applications for Senior Expo 2023

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce is now accepting vendor applications for the 2023 Senior Services Expo.

This annual event will be held at the Vinton War Memorial on March 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Senior Expo is a fun, informative experience for seniors. You will discover more than 70 vendors who

can help you and your family make decisions about senior care, offering a wide variety of services to help older adults with medical care, home/property maintenance, legal and financial advice, recreational activities and more.

Meet experts throughout the Expo who can help you plan

for and prepare for your future. This is a great resource for anyone who cares about the health and independence of our senior population.

For more information, call 540-343-1364, or email angie@vintonchamber.com.

~ Vinton Chamber of Commerce

Upcoming events

from page 4

on the birding app; attend the discussion of “Ancient Africa Beyond Egypt” on African kingdoms outside of Egypt on Thursday, Feb. 9 from 6 to 7 p.m.; Wondertime for kids on Feb. 9 from 11 a.m. to noon; Open Bridge for experienced players meets on Tuesday, Feb. 14 from 1-4 p.m.; Teen Advisory Group meets on Monday, Feb. 13 from 5 to 6 p.m.; Teen Anime Club, Feb. 13 from 6-7 p.m.; Un-Valentine Party for teens on Feb. 14 from 4 to 6 p.m.; Junior Makers Club meets on Feb. 15 from 4 to 5 p.m.—register to explore architecture and engineering by making a bow and arrow and heart cup tower.

Please submit Upcoming Community News announcements to dadams@mainstreetnewspapers.com.

Forum

from page 1

and Salem City.

RVGS was established as one of the original five Academic Year Governor's Schools (AYGS) in Virginia. As an AYGS program, RVGS receives funding from the participating school divisions and the state. The school is a regional program, operated and governed by the RVGS Regional Board populated by one member of each participating division's local School Boards.

The Roanoke Valley Governor's school opened in 1985 and currently serves 270 students. Interested students apply to the school; admittance is selective. Parents

do not pay a fee for their children to attend; costs are covered by the school districts and the Virginia Department of Education

According to the RVGS, “The building provides a home for collaborative learning by students and teachers. The science labs contain state-of-the-art equipment for use in the science classes and student research projects. Specialty labs for biotechnology, environmental science, chemistry research, nanotechnology, and engineering fabrication are available for student and teacher use. The engineering lab contains a stress/strain

testing apparatus, milling machine, 3-D printers, laser engraving/cutter apparatus, and a range of manufacturing equipment for constructing engineering projects.

Mathematics classrooms provide a space for innovative teaching through technologies such as computer-interfaced data collection equipment, smart panels, and software such as Python.

The regional program allows participating school systems to concentrate resources in one place that all the school districts can take advantage of without the high costs of equipment and programs for individual districts.

In the past, the annual Project Forum has been referred to as “a science fair on steroids.” Students prepare for months for the competition, including the entire month prior to the event.

This year's competition represented several scientific disciplines including Animal Sciences, Plant Sciences, Behavioral and Biomedical Sciences, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Chemistry/Energy/Materials Science, Computational Biology, Earth and Environmental Systems, Engineering Mechanics, Environmental Engineering, Microbiology, and Systems Software.

Vendor Registration is now

Open!

Please visit our NEW website to register for the 2023 Dogwood Festival on April 29, 2023
www.vintondogwoodfest.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINTON DOGWOOD FESTIVAL

Vendor registration now open for Vinton Dogwood Festival

Vendor registration is now open for the 2023 Vinton Dogwood Festival, scheduled for April 29 in downtown Vinton.

Visit the website at <https://vintondogwoodfest.com/> to sign up and the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/vintondogwoodfestival> to stay up-to-date with announcements and events.

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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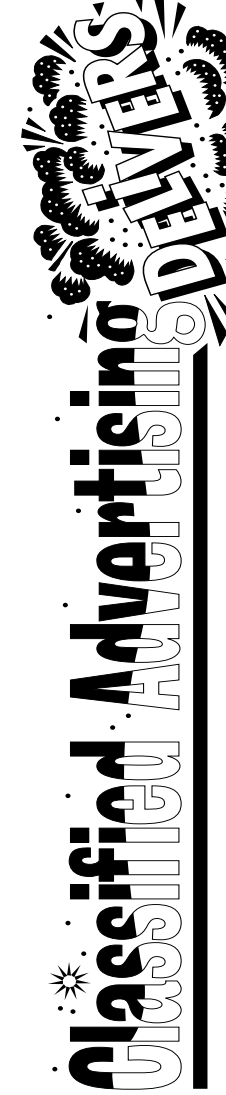
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Left, William Byrd's Grayson Webb(#32) goes high to block a shot against George Wythe in Saturday's Adam Ward Classic in Salem. Center, Israel Hairston(#24) of Byrd guards the paint against the Maroons and, right, Ty Blalock takes it to the hoop in last Friday's game with Northside in Vinton. PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN & SUZANNE WITCHER

Terriers open BRD basketball tournament at home Friday

Byrd will play Franklin County for the third time at 6 pm

The William Byrd boys will open the Blue Ridge District basketball tournament at home on Friday against Franklin County. The tournament will be held on Friday, Monday and Wednesday at the home of the higher seeds.

Byrd comes in as the fourth seed after finishing with a 5-5 BRD record. The Terriers will be trying to snap a three game losing streak after closing the regular season with losses to the district's top two seeds, Northside and William Fleming, around a loss to George Wythe in the Adam Ward Classic at Salem High last Saturday. Last Friday in Vinton the Terriers hung tough against an undefeated Northside team before falling, 67-57. Byrd went down 20-5 at the outset but clawed their way back into the game. The Terriers pulled to within six points in the fourth quarter but couldn't pull even.

"Obviously a huge hole that most won't climb out of, especially when you're playing the number one team in the state," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway. "Ultimately Northside did a great job finishing the deal off. They've got an experienced, deep, talented

squad coached by one of the best to ever do it. Lot of respect for that team and certainly Coach (Bill) Pope. We will likely see them again and we feel like we can play with anybody."

Isaiah Board had 10 points to lead a balanced Byrd attack. Hayden Eads had eight and Israel Hairston, Drew Lindsay and Ty Blalock had half a dozen each.

The Terriers had to turn around and play George Wythe the following day at 10 am in the Adam Ward Classic at Salem High. Wythe is a state contender in Class 1 and the Maroons looked the part, taking a 57-40 win.

"George Wythe is a very fundamentally sound basketball team that plays with a lot of energy and speed," said Greenway. "They are tough, but we couldn't hit the broad side of a barn."

Hairston led Byrd with 16 and Jaiden Childress had 13 points. Byrd made just four of 27 three point attempts, which is just under 15 percent.

"It's just hard to win a basketball game with that kind of performance outside," said Greenway. "It's not that we were taking bad or unselfish shots, we just couldn't

get them to drop. Not sure if it had something to do with our legs from the night before or what. Just wasn't our day."

Byrd had another tough task Tuesday as they played at William Fleming, the district's second place team, and lost 65-45. Lindsay led the Terriers with 12 points on four threes while Hairston had 10 and Board had eight points.

"We just didn't have it," said Greenway. "Fleming gave us a couple opportunities throughout the game where we got the lead back down to single digits, but every time that happened we just couldn't get the momentum to sustain itself. The bottom line was we didn't have the juice we have played with the last month, as we've played pretty well. So we've got to figure out how to get that back."

Byrd finished the regular season with a 5-5 district record and an 11-11 overall mark. They beat Franklin County both times they played them during the season, 55-49 at home and 47-42 in Rocky Mount so that's a good sign for Friday's opening round game of the Blue Ridge District tournament.



Blue Ridge District Basketball Tournaments

BOYS TOURNAMENT

Quarterfinals- Friday, February 10
#6 Staunton River @ #3 Lord Botetourt 6:00 pm
#5 Franklin County @ #4 William Byrd 6:00 pm

Semifinals - Monday, February 13
Winner of #6 vs #3 @ William Fleming 7:30 pm
Winner of #4 vs #5 @ Northside 6:00 pm

Finals Wednesday, February 15
At Higher Seed

GIRLS TOURNAMENT

Quarterfinals- Friday, February 10
#6 William Byrd @ #3 Franklin County 6:00 pm
#5 Staunton River @ #4 Northside 6:00 pm

Semifinals - Monday, February 13
Winner of #6 vs #3 @ Lord Botetourt 6:00 pm
Winner of #4 vs #5 @ William Fleming 5:30 pm

Finals Wednesday, February 15
At Higher Seed



Left, Byrd's Alexis Helton is fouled from behind in Tuesday's game at William Fleming. Right, Sophia Chrisley goes up for a shot against the Colonels. PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Byrd girls open BRD basketball tourney in Rocky Mount Friday

The William Byrd girls will be in Rocky Mount Friday evening to open the Blue Ridge District basketball tournament with a 6 pm game. Byrd comes in as the sixth seed while the host Eagles are third.

Although the Terriers struggled during the regular season, hope reigns eternal as the girls got some key players back from injuries down the stretch. Byrd's 4-18 overall record doesn't indicate the level of talent on the team and coach Randy Bush is hoping the girls can make some noise in the post-season.

The Terriers finished the regular season Tuesday in Roanoke against William Fleming, the top team in the Blue Ridge District. The Colonels took a 66-20 win to finish their district season at 10-0. Alexis Helton led Byrd with six points, Sophia Chrisley had five and Kaylee Makuch had four.

"We did a decent job in the first quarter," said Bush. "We boxed out the best we have done all year but their size and quick-

ness wore us down."

Last Friday at Northside the girls lost to the host Vikings, 49-37. Chrisley and Logan Andrews had 10 points each to lead Byrd while Helton had eight.

"We competed really well but we couldn't sustain down the stretch," said Bush.

If the girls can upset Franklin County on Friday they would play at second seeded Lord Botetourt on Monday.

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Byrd boys win BRD, Region 3D swim championships

The William Byrd boys' swim team is on a roll. Just five days after winning the Blue Ridge District championship the Terriers swam to the Region 3D championship at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center on Tuesday.

Byrd scored 104 points to outswim second place Carroll County, who had 92. Cave Spring was third with 74, followed by Hidden Valley at 71 and Christiansburg with 62 points. The Byrd girls were sixth in the region with Cave Spring and Hidden Valley finishing first and second. The girls finished sixth with only seven swimmers competing.

"We had such an exciting meet at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center," said Byrd coach Krista Martin. "We had almost 20 swims where swimmers set personal records and we have nine swimmers advancing to the state level."

Byrd senior Colin Murtaugh won Region 3D championships in both the 50 Free and 100 Free events. He dominated the 500, winning by over five seconds.

"It is such a joy to watch Colin do what he loves," said Martin. "His strokes were smooth and fast."

The top five swimmers in each event and top four individuals advance to the state meet, along with the top four relays. The state meet is at the Swim RVA facility in Richmond on February 17. Byrd swimmers who qualified Tuesday include Lindsay Murtaugh, Evan Copening, Cole Kovacevic, Bruno DeMelo, Colin Murtaugh, Blake Richardson, Gabby Roemo, Michael Hoyos and Jay Rozenboom.

For the boys, Hoyos finished second in the region in the 200 Free and third in the 500 Free. Richardson was second in the 200 IM and third in the 100 Breast. Kovacevic took third in the 100 Back and Rozenboom was fifth in the 500 Free.

Byrd qualified all three boys' relays for the state. The 200 Free team of Kovacevic, Copening, Hoyos and Murtaugh was second. The 400 Free team of DeMelo, Rozenboom, Owen Humphreys and Richardson was third and the 200 Medley foursome



REGION CHAMPS

The William Byrd swimmers won the boys' Region 3D swim championship at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center Tuesday. Front row, left to right; Evan Copening, Blake Richardson (holding trophy), Owen Humphreys and Jay Rozenboom. Back row, left to right; Michael Hoyos, Cole Kovacevic, Bruno DeMelo, Colin Murtaugh and Keith Schutt.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

of Kovacevic, Copening, Murtaugh and Hoyos was fourth.

For the girls, Lindsay Murtaugh was second in the 100 Free and fifth in the 200 Free. Gabby Romeo took a fifth place in the 100 Fly.

Last Thursday at the Botetourt YMCA the Byrd boys won the Blue Ridge District meet with 92 points. Franklin County, a Class 6 school, was second with 79 and Northside was far behind in third with nine points. The Byrd girls were second with 54 points, with Lord Botetourt winning with 85. Franklin County was third among five schools with 41. Colin Murtaugh was named Blue Ridge District

Male Swimmer of the Year and Martin was named the BRD boys' Coach of the Year.

District champions from Byrd in the boys' meet included Murtaugh in the 50 Free with a time of 23.17 and in the 100 Fly with a time of 55.40, DeMelo in the 100 Free with a time of 1:06.87 and Copening in the 100 Back at 1:03.30. The boys also won two relays, the 200 Free and the 400 Free.

For the girls, Lindsay Murtaugh won the 500 Free in 5:29.05.

"Terrier swimmers really showed up ready to kick off the post season with some great swims," said Martin.



Above left, William Byrd's Colin Murtaugh raced to wins in the 50 yard and 100 yard freestyle events at the Region 3D championship meet on Tuesday. Top right, Gabrielle Romeo swims in the Region 3D 100 yard butterfly, placing 5th in a time of 1:10.01. Below left, Evan Copening placed second in the Region 3D 200 yard IM. Below right, Michael Hoyos swims in the Region 3D 200 yard freestyle final, placing 2nd overall.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING



Big Orange fired up for Region 3D wrestling tournament Saturday

Christiansburg High School will be the site of the Region 3C wrestling tournament on Saturday. Wrestling begins at 10 am and the William Byrd "Big Orange" is hoping for a big day.

"We have been looking forward to this date and the state tournament

date all year long," said coach Thomas Kessler. "We have a lot of hungry and goal driven wrestlers who look to place high in the regional tournament in order to go to the state."

The top four wrestlers in each weight class will advance to the state tour-

nament. That's scheduled for the Salem Civic Center on February 17 and 18, and Kessler feels like the Terriers have a chance to qualify a bunch of wrestlers. And, how well they do this week will have an impact on their chances in Salem.

"In the state tournament it is seeded off of where you finish in the region, so a region champion would get another region's fourth place winner, and a second place finisher gets a third place finisher from another region," said Kessler. "Obviously the better you finish the more favorable matchup you will have in your opening match at the state tournament. Every wrestler on our team has goals of finishing their season at the state tournament."

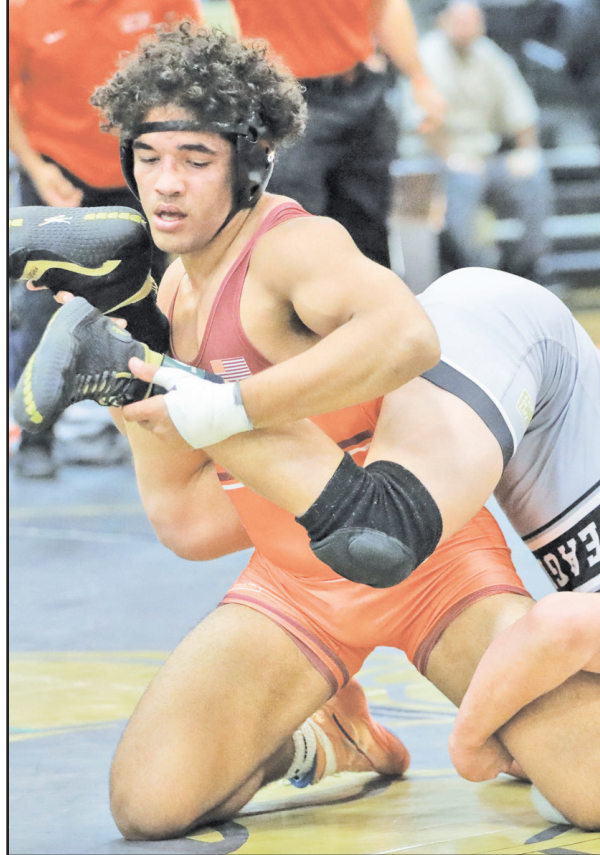
Orange seniors Dominic Pascoe, Landon Barber, Xavier Preston and Dustin Richards are among those who are looking for that extra week of competition to end their careers. Preston came into the state tournament undefeated last year, then won his first three matches to improve to 29-0 and earn a spot on the championship mat. However, Xavier ran into three time state champ Nick Vafiadis of New Kent, and he made it four in a row with a 10-3 win over Preston in the final. Xavier hopes to move up to the top step this year after missing much of the season with an injury.

Also scoring for the

Orangemen last year was Pascoe, who took sixth place at 120. Richards is another who looks to finish strong after taking a back seat to his brother, Hunter, the past couple years. Both are heavyweights and Hunter was a state runner-up last year. This year Dustin was also out with an injury early in

the season but he's been dominant after returning to the mats and his time to shine has come.

"This senior class has probably been the most successful, "win-lose wise," in their senior year that I have had during my 10 years here," said Kessler. "I really hope we can send them out the right way."



Byrd senior Xavier Preston finished second in the state last year and plans to return.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHEE

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